

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD

2024 Annual Report



Background

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by leading the certification standards in midwifery. The AMCB fulfills this mission through three primary activities: developing and administering a validated certification exam to assess the entry-level competencies of nurse-midwives (CNM) and midwives (CM); requiring a mandatory certificate maintenance and re-certification program for all AMCB certified CNM/CMs and maintaining professional discipline.

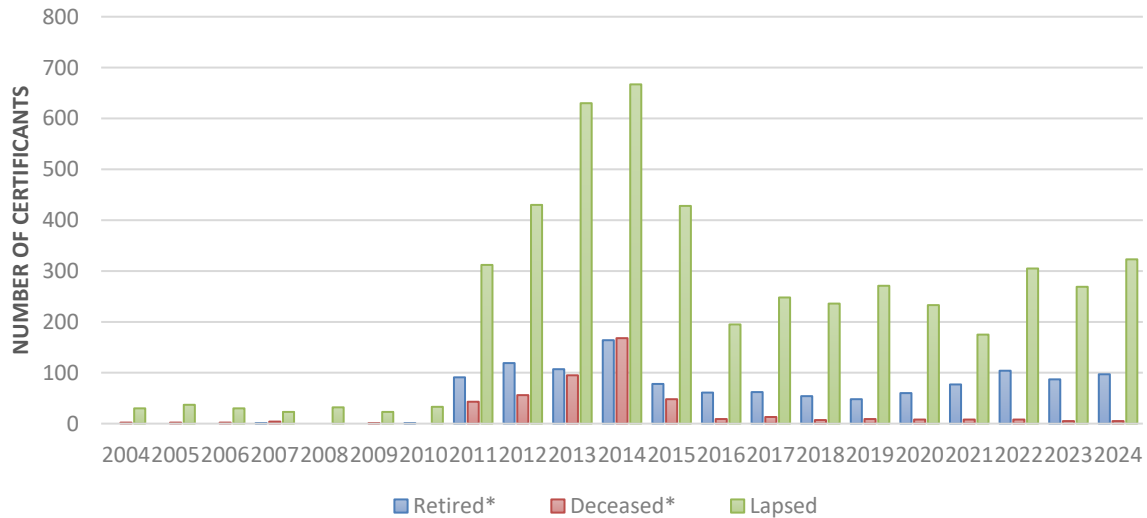
Since 2002, the AMCB has been accredited through The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs mandates that NCCA accredited organizations adhere to modern standards of practice in the certification industry. Both the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) and Certified Midwife (CM) certification programs are accredited by NCCA through 12/31/2026.

Recertification

From 2015 to 2020, the annual number of midwives choosing to retire ranged from 1.7% to 2.4%. This number began to rise in 2021 to 3% and again in 2022 to its highest point of 4.2%. There was a slight decrease to 3.9% in 2023 and another decrease to 3.5% in 2024 (See Table 1 and Figure 1). These nominal fluctuations are expected as the workforce ages.

Table 1. Percent of Certificants to Recertify and # Retired: January 1, 2006-December 31, 2024			
Year of Recertification	# Of Certificants Eligible to Recertify	% Recertified	# Chose to be put in Retirement Category
2006	551	93%	
2007	495	93.7%	
2008	458	92.1%	
2009	427	93.4%	
2010	402	90%	
2011*	1,563	84.4%	87 (5.6%)
2012	2,748	77.4%	115 (4.2%)
2013	2,063	64.3%	100 (4.8%)
2014	2,680	69.5%	147 (5.5%)
2015	3,120	84.3%	54 (1.7%)
2016	1,535	85%	36 (2.3%)
2017 [€]	2,093	86%	48 (2.3%)
2018	1,859	85%	45 (2.4%)
2019	2,388	88.6%	33 (1.4%)
2020	3,186	91.6%	35 (1.1%)
2021	1,937	88%	58 (3.0%)
2022	2,469	83%	104 (4.2%)
2023	2,223	84%	87 (3.9%)
2024	2,785	85%	97 (3.5%)
*Beginning in 2011 all certificants were required to begin recertifying. Before this, anyone certified prior to 1996 did not have to meet recertification requirements.			

**Figure 1: AMCB Recertification Statistics
2004-2024**



Beginning in 2011 all certificants were required to begin recertifying. Before this, anyone certified prior to 1996 did not have to meet recertification requirements.

*Accounts marked as Retired or Deceased can occur any time within cycle, years listed are when they are moved, not necessarily certification expiration date

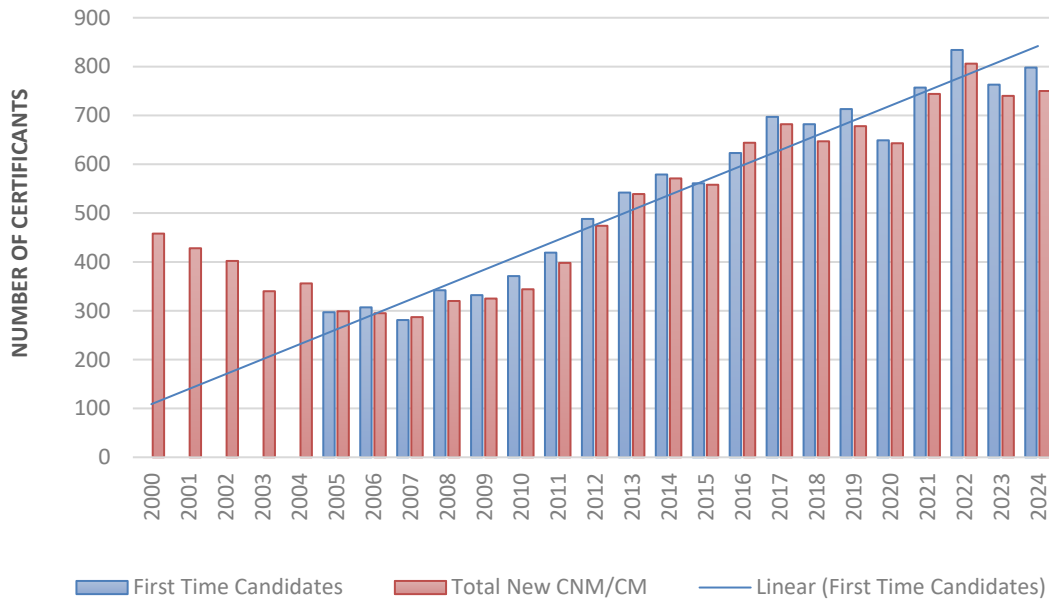
New Certification

The national certification exam (NCE) has been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) since 2005. AMCB's testing partner; PSI Services, offers testing 52 weeks of the year, 5 days each week and at least one Saturday per month in all 50 states within the U.S. Candidates for certification are able to take the examination at their convenience at any of PSI's 260 plus testing sites as soon as their application is approved. Candidates receive official pass/fail results at the conclusion of their examination. AMCB then issues a formal certificate as well as wallet-sized certification card for ease in documenting current certification.

In 2023, the increase in the number of newly certified CMN/CMs was 1.4%. This is an increase from (8.2%) in 2023 (see Table 2, Figure 2). As more and more new midwifery programs are opened across the U.S, upward trends are likely to follow over the next few years to meet the rising demands for competent, well-trained midwives. Additional details by state can be found at: <https://www.amcbmidwife.org/about-amcb/research-reports>.

Table 2. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants 2000-2024					
Year	First Time Candidates	Total New CNM/CM	New CNM	New CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease) in new CNM/CM
2000		458	451	7	N/A
2001		428	422	6	(6.6%)
2002		402	400	2	(6.1%)
2003		340	335	5	(15.4%)
2004		356	341	15	4.5%
2005	297	299	293	6	(16%)
2006	307	295	291	4	(1.3%)
2007	281	287	285	2	(2.7%)
2008	342	320	318	2	10.3%
2009	332	325	323	2	1.5%
2010	371	344	339	5	5.5%
2011	419	398	392	6	13.6%
2012	488	474	467	7	16%
2013	542	539	536	3	12.1%
2014	579	571	563	8	5.6%
2015	561	558	547	11	(2.3%)
2016	623	644	632	12	15.4%
2017	697	682 ^ξ	677	5	5.9%
2018	682	647	642	5	(5.1%)
2019	713	678	665	13	4.8%
2020	649	643	639	4	(5.2%)
2021	757	744	737	7	15.7%
2022	834	806	799	7	8.3%
2023	763	740	736	4	(8.2%)
2024	798	750	738	12	1.4%
Note: Total New CNM/CM includes successful first time and repeat testing					
ξ Overall increase in new CNM/CMs since 2000 is 64%					

**Figure 2: Annual Number of New Certificants
2000-2024**



Exam Pass/Fail Rates

As required by NCCA in 2015, pass/fail statistics are now included in the AMCB Annual Report. As reported below in Table 3, the overall pass rate for all exam attempts in 2024 was 73.0%, decreased from 79.7% in 2023. This data does not differentiate first time versus repeat test attempts (which can lower the overall pass rates). In 2022 for example, the first-time pass rate was 83% with a repeat pass rate of 72.2%. Likewise in 2023, the first-time pass rate was 84% and repeat pass rate was 59% and in 2024 the first-time pass rate was 80% and the repeat pass rate was 51%. Several midwifery programs continue to have 100% first-time pass rates: 5 in 2021, 8 in 2022, 7 in 2023 and 5 in 2024.

Table 3. Additional Information on CNM and CM Certificants, 2015-2024						
Year	Total Candidates Examined	Pass Rate	Fail Rate	Total Number of CNMs Certified	Total Number of CMs Certified	Total Number of Certificants
2015	610	560/91.8%	50/8.2%	11,111	99	11,210
2016	687	648/93.9%	42/6.1%	11,728	100	11,628
2017 [€]	754	682/90.5%	72/9.5%	11,752	99 [€]	11,851
2018	802	648/80.8%	154/19.2%	12,111	101	12,212
2019	877	677/77.2%	200/22.8%	12,465	116	12,581
2020	772	643/83.3%	129/16.7%	12,805	119	12,924
2021	918	744/81%	174/19%	13,382	123	13,259
2022	992	806/81.3%	186/18.7%	13,798	130	13,904
2023	928	740/79.7	188/20.3	14,065	131	14,196
2024	1037	757/73.0	280/27.0	14,358	139	14,497
[€] Note decrease in CMs due to 3 conversions to CNM and 3 whose certification lapsed						

Activities and Updates

2024 was a productive year for AMCB as the Board, CEO, and staff maintained the standards of excellence and carried on the important work of the organization. Noteworthy accomplishments included:

- The Transition to Professional Midwifery Practice program began in January 2024. This program automatically enters all new certificants into a drawing for a free two-year ACNM membership (AMCB pays the membership fees to ACNM directly). In 2024 there were 118 National and Affiliate memberships given away (20% of the total new AMCB certificants).

The AMCB Board and staff attended a Strategic Planning Retreat in November where they established new Core Values for the organization. These values include:

Integrity – Commitment to appropriate transparency, honesty, and fairness, as an ethical organization of excellence in midwifery.

Accountability – Ensure public safety by setting the standard for midwives and encouraging excellence by embracing the responsibility to deliver quality certification, recertification, and discipline processes.

Respect – Valuing and treating all employees, public, candidates, and certificants with dignity and worth, regardless of their background or perspective by creating an environment of inclusiveness, professionalism, and consistency for all.

Board Member Changes

In 2024 we welcomed a Bridget Howard, DNP, MSN, CNM, FACNM as our new President-Elect and celebrated Linda Hunter, CNM, EdD, FACNM as our outgoing President. We also welcomed Elle Schnetzler, DM, CM, FACNM as the new Secretary, Ron Fancher, CNM as the new CMP Chair, Sarah McCullough, CNM, FNP-C as the new Examination Committee Chair, Mary Barger, CNM, PhD, MPH, FACNM, as the Chair of the Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee, and finally, Suzanne Staebler, DNP, NNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN as a Professional Liaison.

Specific President and CEO Activities

In 2024, the CEO and myself attended ACNM business and board meetings via zoom and participated in several brainstorming meetings with ACNM, ACME, and the ACNM Foundation. AMCB was able to begin the Transition to Professional Midwifery Practice program. This program automatically enters all new certificants into a drawing for a free two-year ACNM membership (AMCB pays the membership fees to ACNM directly). In 2024 there were 118 National and Affiliate memberships paid for by AMCB. It is our hope that this program will help boost membership in ACNM moving forward. We will continue to keep these lines of communication open.

During the fall 2024 AMCB board meeting, the CEO, Board, and AMCB staff had a retreat to review vision and mission of AMCB and create Core Values for the organization.

Summary

There has been continued success at AMCB in 2024. Two in-person meetings occurred which were productive. We thanked past board members for their years of service and welcomed new board members. We welcomed 757 newly certified midwives into the workforce in 2024, bringing the total CNM/CMs to 14,497. As more midwifery programs become accredited, it is anticipated this trend will continue to meet the growing need for competent, well-trained midwives.

We had much to celebrate in 2024 but there is still ongoing work to be done, relationships to build and support to offer. AMCB continues to be well positioned with excellent dedicated leadership and staff to support this ongoing work. I am grateful for the volunteer service of our board and committee members and proud to serve as your president.

The 2024 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

Bridget Howard, DNP, MSN, CNM, FACNM (President)

Elle Annalise L. Schnetzler, DM, CM, FACNM (Secretary)

Barbara Graves, CNM, MN, MPH, FACNM (Treasurer)

Sarah McCullough, CNM, FNP-C (Examination Committee Chair)

Ronald Fancher, CNM (Certificate Maintenance Program Committee Chair)

Brie Thumm, PhD, CNM, RN, MBA, FACNM (Research Committee Chair)

Mary Barger, CNM, PhD, MPH, FACNM (Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee Chair)

Suzanne Staebler, DNP, NNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN (Professional Liaison)

Robert Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MPH, MS, MBA, MA, CRNA (Professional Liaison)

Dominique Delma, MD (Professional Liaison Member)

Clarissa Huard, MPH, CLC (Consumer Member)

Carrie D. Bright, IOM, CAE (Ex-officio Member: AMCB CEO)