

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD

2020 Demographic Report



Background/Introduction

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 Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM) and Certified Midwives (CM); requiring a mandatory certificate maintenance program and recertification for all CNM/CMs; and maintaining professional discipline.

Reporting demographic trends within the midwifery profession provides insight into how the midwifery workforce is adapting to meet contemporary healthcare needs. AMCB maintains a secure database containing demographic data of all AMCB-certified midwives. Analysis of this data provides a snapshot of the CNM/CM workforce that is summarized in this report. As of August 19, 2020, there were a total of 12,990 AMCB-certified midwives in the United States of which 12,872 (99.09%) were CNMs and 118 (0.91%) were CMs. Variation in total responses to each demographic data point reflects changes in data collection methodology over time and participants' choice whether to answer each item. General demographic, employment, and education data of CNM/CMs are reported herein to provide a reference for describing the demographic characteristics of the CNM/CM workforce.

General Demographic Data

The majority of CNMs/CMs were between the ages of 30 and 69, with approximately half (54.1%) under age 50 and half (45.9%) over age 50. 633 CNMs/CMs over age 70 (4.89%) have continued to meet requirements for certification. Approximately 99% of AMCB-certified midwives were female. The majority of CNMs/CMs identified as White (85.52%) and as non-Hispanic or Latino (89.78%), with midwives who identified as Black or African American being the next most common group (6.85%). This represents a small increase in the number of midwives who identify as Black or African American from the 2019 sample (6.31%). Other self-reported minorities comprised less than 5% of the total sample. Although the majority of AMCB-certified midwives identified English as their primary language (96.29%), approximately 30% provided services in Spanish and 8% provided services in other languages. It is not possible to determine whether this reflected the wide availability of interpreter services or languages actually spoken by the midwife.

Age		
	<i>n</i>	%
20-29	374	2.89
30-39	3278	25.3
40-49	3357	25.91
50-59	2393	18.47
60-69	2920	22.54
Over 70	633	4.89

Sex		
	<i>n</i>	%
Female	12837	98.86
Male	98	0.75
Other	9	0.07
I choose not to respond	41	0.32

Race		
	<i>n</i>	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	75	0.58
Asian	216	1.66
Black or African American	890	6.85
More than one race	80	0.62
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	25	0.19
White or Caucasian	11104	85.52
Other Race	168	1.29
I choose not to respond	426	3.28

Ethnicity		
	<i>n</i>	%
No, Not Hispanic/Latino	11651	89.78
Yes, Hispanic/Latino	614	4.73
I choose not to respond	712	5.49

Primary Language is English		
	<i>n</i>	%
No	543	4.18
Yes	12443	95.82

Provides Services in Another Language*		
	<i>n</i>	%
English	8147	63.15
Spanish	3683	28.55
Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, other varieties)	135	1.05
French or French Creole	18	0.14
Other Language	918	7.12

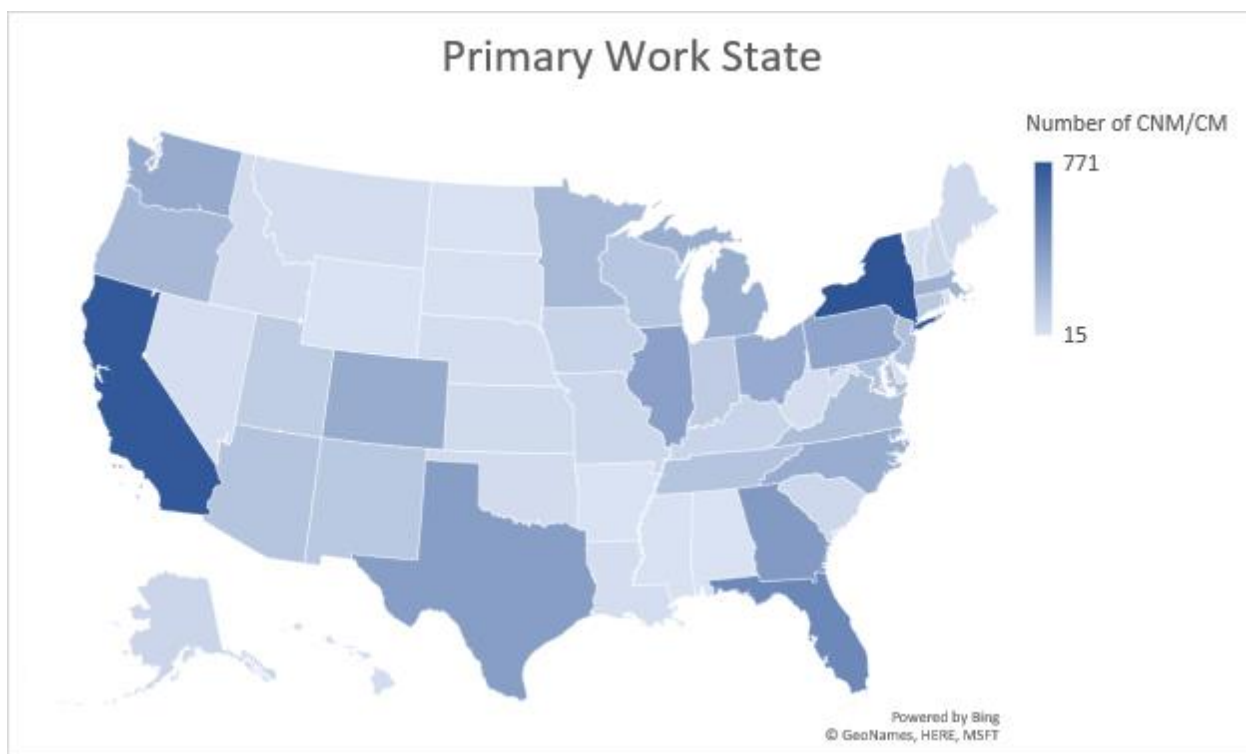
*select all that apply

Employment Data

The majority of AMCB-certified midwives identified as working in full- or part-time midwifery positions (78.64%). There was a slight increase in midwives who are employed in a discipline other than midwifery when compared to 2019 data (10.31% and 8.95%, respectively). 82.94% of full-time CNMs/CMs reported receiving an annual salary between \$75,000 and \$149,999, and 93.55% between \$60,000 and \$249,999. The majority of full-time midwives (53.52%) earned between 100,000 and 149,999. Most midwives lived and worked in the same state, with the majority living and working in California or New York. There was wide variation in the number of practicing AMCB-certified midwives in other states. This may reflect state regulations, location of accredited midwifery programs, and/or population density.

Midwifery Employment Status		
	<i>n</i>	%
Employed as a full-time midwife (35 hours or more per week)	5471	57.67
Employed as a full-time midwife and employed in a second midwifery job (either part-time or full-time)	205	2.16
Employed as a part-time midwife (34 hours or less per week)	1785	18.82
Employed, but not in the discipline of midwifery	978	10.31
Not employed during the past year for reason OTHER than retirement	332	3.50
Retired	288	3.04
Other	428	4.51

Salary Range for Midwifery-Related Work				
	Full-time		Part-time	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Less than \$30,000	190	3.06	330	17.32
\$30,000 - \$39,999	36	0.58	127	6.67
\$40,000 - \$49,999	53	0.85	184	9.66
\$50,000 - \$59,999	66	1.06	225	11.81
\$60,000 - \$74,999	275	4.42	321	16.85
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1829	29.43	441	23.15
\$100,000 - \$149,999	3326	53.52	252	13.23
\$150,000 - \$199,999	384	6.18	22	1.15
\$200,000 - \$249,999	7	0.11	0	0.00
\$250,000 - \$499,999	20	0.32	2	0.10
\$500,000 - \$999,999	5	0.08	0	0.00
\$1,000,000 or more	24	0.39	1	0.05



Education and Certification Data

AMCB-certified midwives hold a variety of degree types, perhaps because of the diversity of degrees held prior to entering the profession. This represents the breadth of knowledge held by CNM/CMs. The majority of CNM/CMs earn graduate degrees in midwifery or nursing, with a smaller percentage earning doctoral degrees. Most AMCB-certified midwives have been certified for 25 years or less (83.53%), with 29.54% of those having been certified for 5 years or less. This represents an increasing number of new entrants into the profession.

Number of Years Certified		
	<i>n</i>	%
0-5 Years	3837	29.54
6-10 Years	2188	16.84
11-15 Years	1354	10.42
16-20 Years	1702	13.10
21-25 Years	1770	13.63
26-30 Years	927	7.14
31-35 Years	579	4.46
36-40 Years	433	3.33
41-45 Years	163	1.25
46-50 Years	37	0.28

Academic Degrees*				
	Examination (2015-2020)		Recertification (before 2015)	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Precertification			59	0.27
Certificate			42	0.19
Associate, Nursing	880	8.99	1638	7.51
Associate, Not Nursing	179	1.83	239	1.10
Bachelor's Midwifery			3	0.01
Bachelor's, Nursing	2853	29.16	5463	25.04
Bachelor's, Not Nursing	1332	13.61	2269	10.40
Master's, Midwifery	2095	21.41	4683	21.46
Master's, Nursing	1827	18.67	4880	22.37
Master's, Not Nursing	94	0.96	321	1.47
Master's, Not Nursing, Midwifery, or Public Health	54	0.55		
Master's, Public Health	70	0.72	363	1.66
Post-Masters Certificate			905	4.15
Doctorate (any type e.g. DNP, PhD, etc.)	246	2.51	949	4.35
Other	155	1.58	3	0.01

*select all that apply

Conclusion

Monitoring and describing demographic trends within the midwifery profession documents how midwifery is changing to meet the demands of an increasingly diverse society. This report provides a snapshot of AMCB-certified midwives in the United States as of August 19, 2020. Data to consider monitoring in the future include trending types of degrees earned, the rate of growth and diversity of new entrants to the profession, salary fluctuations over time, and the impact of changing state regulations on the geographic distribution of CNMs/CMs. While this report is limited by self-report bias, temporal variation of data collection instruments and methodology, and lack of available comparable historical data it represents a repository of valuable information to describe and trend the attributes of AMCB-certified midwives.