

# ACNM Department of Advocacy and Government Affairs Grassroots Advocacy Resources

## State Fact Sheet: Massachusetts

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the national organization representing the interests of certified nurse-midwives (CNM) and certified midwives (CM) practicing in the United States. CNMs and CMs are highly trained providers who earn graduate degrees and must pass a national certification examination to demonstrate that they meet ACNM's core competencies, which meet or exceed international recommendations for midwifery care. Midwives are trained to offer a full range of primary health care services for women from adolescence beyond menopause.

**Number of AMCB Certified Midwives, 2015: 425**

**Number of CNM/CM Attended Births, 2013: 10920**

**Percent of all births attended by CNMs/CMs, 2013: 15.22%**

**Percent of all vaginal births attended by CNMs/CMs, 2013: 21.87%**

Midwifery services are provided in partnership with women and families in diverse settings such as ambulatory care clinics, private offices, community and public health systems, homes, hospitals and birth centers. According to the CDC, in 2012 the vast majority of midwifery-attended births occurred in the hospital setting (94.8%). Other birth locations included birth centers (2.6%), home births (2.6%), and approximately 0.1% in a clinic or other setting.

**Number of Birth Centers in State, 2015: 2**

A 2012 meta-analysis of midwifery outcomes when compared to labor and delivery care provided by physicians concluded that there was no difference in CNM versus MD care and, for some variables, that midwifery care demonstrated better outcomes. The study concluded that midwifery care "is safe and effective" and urged that midwives "should be better utilized to address the projected health care workforce shortages." ACNM considers the scope of midwifery practice to include primary care, gynecologic and family planning services, preconception care, care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, care of the normal newborn during the first 28 days of life, and treatment of male partners for sexually transmitted infections. Midwives provide initial and ongoing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis and treatment. They conduct physical examinations; prescribe medications including controlled substances and contraceptive methods; admit, manage and discharge patients; order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests and order the use of medical devices. Midwifery care also includes health promotion, disease prevention, and individualized wellness education and counseling.



**State Scope of Practice Statement:** The scope of practice for nurse-midwives is defined to include: "(a) Assessing the health status of women and infants by obtaining health and medical histories, performing physical examinations, and diagnosing health and developmental problems.(b) Instituting and providing health care to patients in a continuous manner, helping patients develop an understanding of the importance of following a prescribed therapeutic regimen, and arranging patient referrals to physicians or other health care providers.(c) Providing instruction and counseling to women, their families, and other patient groups concerning the promotion and maintenance of personal health during pregnancy and the post-natal period.(d) Acting in collaboration with other health care providers and agencies to provide coordinated services to women and their families.(e) Managing the care of women with normal pregnancies during the labor, delivery, and post-partum period.(f) Assessing the growth and development of infants.(g) Managing diagnostic and therapeutic regimens for contraception and acute and chronic gynecologic illness.(h) Such other additional professional activities as authorized by the guidelines under which a particular nurse midwife practices" [244 Mass. Code Regs. 4.26].

**Regulatory Environment (Autonomous Practice, Collaborative Requirement, or Supervisory):**

Massachusetts is an independent practice state, meaning any required relationships with a physician or other provider do not rise to the level of a contractual agreement.

**Medicaid Coverage:** Medicaid covers approximately half of all births in the United States, with the percent ranging from 20 to over 60 percent among states. As such, it is a key payer for midwifery services and it is critical that midwives understand when their patients may qualify for Medicaid coverage, what services are covered, and how to get paid for their services to Medicaid beneficiaries. The fee-for-service Medicaid reimbursement rate for midwives is currently 100% of the physician rate for independent providers.

**Regulatory Board:** Board of Registration in Nursing

[www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/.../nursing](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/.../nursing)

**Recognized Midwifery Credentials:** CNM

**Midwifery Education Programs:** Baystate Medical Center

**Source:** ACNM Web Site. [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org). Accessed 10, 2017: URL:

<http://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/ccLibraryFiles/Filename/000000005600/ACNMStateFactSheets8-21-15.pdf>

