

WHY NORTH CAROLINA NEEDS CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIVES (CPMs)

What is a Certified Professional Midwife?

- The CPM is a credential administered by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) and accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. CPMs specialize in maternity care in low-resource settings, specifically homes or birth centers.
- The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) stresses that in order to protect the public, it is important to regulate and license CPMs, and the practice of midwifery. Regulation should enable CPMs to practice autonomously within the midwifery scope in any setting.
- CPMs are licensed in 37 states (including TN, SC & VA), and the number is growing.

CPM Care = Increased Access, Lower Cost, Improved Quality

- According to the National Vital Statistics Reports, home birth rates in North Carolina increased by 15% from 2018-2019 and 22% from 2019-2020, this increase has persisted and there are not enough midwives to meet the increasing demand; often turning expectant parents to unassisted deliveries.
- Studies have shown that low-risk deliveries with CPMs have similar rates of infant mortality compared to low risk hospital births, while resulting in far less medical intervention, fewer low birth weight babies, fewer c-sections, and significant savings on state health care costs.
- Non-physician maternity care providers, such as CPMs, help to address workforce shortages by providing care to rural and under-served areas. They are also prepared for diverting low-risk deliveries away from hospitals in time of natural disasters or pandemics.

INCREASED ACCESS

- 27 of North Carolina's 100 counties do not have a maternity ward.
- Many childbearing people in NC have over 60-minute drive time to hospitals with Maternity Centers
- According to the March of Dimes, 17% of women in NC receive inadequate prenatal care.
- The US anticipates a shortage of OB/GYNs of 18% (9,000) by 2030 and 25% (15,000) by 2050.
- NC's childbearing population is expected to increase by 30.04% by 2030

LOWER COSTS

- Childbirth is the #1 reason for hospitalization in the U.S.
- 23% of all hospital discharges are related to childbearing, accounting for \$110 billion health care dollars
- 41% of births in NC were paid for by Medicaid in 2020, according to Kaiser Family Foundation
- By 2027, if midwives were leading care for 20% of births, savings would reach \$4 billion

IMPROVED QUALITY

- A study of 10,609 planned home and birth center births, 2015-2020, the c-section rate was 4.7%.
- According to the March of Dimes, the low risk c-section rate in NC for 2019 was 22.5%
- 26.8% of NC births were medically induced.
- Rising maternal mortality rates – In 2021, North Carolina's maternal mortality rate was 27.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to federal data. That's 16% higher than the national rate.
- 10.8% of births in NC are Preterm according to the March of Dimes, giving a "D" report card
- Countries with the lowest infant mortality (and lower costs) rely on midwives as the primary maternity care providers for the majority of childbearing people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Visit our resource page at www.ncforcps.org



