


CHAPTER OF



AMERICAN COLLEGE  
of NURSE-MIDWIVES  
With women, for a lifetime®

**Midwives Myths and Misconceptions**

**MYTH:** Certified Nurse-Midwives only deliver babies at home.

**FACT:** The majority of births attended by Certified Nurse-Midwives occur in hospitals. In 2002, 97 percent of Certified Nurse-Midwife attended births occurred in hospitals, 1.8 percent in freestanding birth centers and 1.1 percent in the home.

**MYTH:** Certified Nurse-Midwives patients cannot receive pain medication in labor.

**FACT:** Both IV pain medication and epidural anesthesia are available during births attended by Certified Nurse-Midwives.

**MYTH:** Nurse-midwives only take care of pregnant women.

**FACT:** Of all visits to Certified Nurse-Midwives, 90 percent are for primary care which includes gynecologic care. Examples of this kind of care include annual exams and reproductive health visits.

**MYTH:** Midwives are not certified.

**FACT:** Certified Nurse-Midwives are Certified & Licensed by the State of Illinois. There are currently 43 American College of Nurse-Midwives accredited nurse-midwifery education programs in the United States. Four of these are post-baccalaureate certificate programs and 39 are graduate programs.

**MYTH:** Insurance doesn't pay for midwifery services.

**FACT:** All major insurance companies and Medicaid cover midwifery services.

**MYTH:** Certified Nurse-Midwives lack the education and training necessary to provide safe care for women and infants.

**FACT:** Recent national studies have shown that outcomes for nurse-midwifery care in the U.S. have exceeded the national average. Nurse-Midwives, working in collaboration with physicians, have achieved excellent outcomes, as evidenced by a low cesarean section rate and a low pre-term birth rate.