

3. ISSUES FACING MARYLAND FAMILIES IN MATERNITY CARE

Overview.

Families in Maryland have limited access to midwifery care, have widely differing likelihoods of negative outcomes based on race, and have poor outcomes in general in comparison with the nation. Women in Maryland have particular difficulty obtaining safe, legal homebirth and reasonable access to documentation and postpartum and postnatal care.

1. Homebirth Statistics:
 - Rates increased by 29% between 2004 and 2009.¹
 - In 2009, 0.72% of all US births were home births.²
 - Between 2004 and 2009, 62% of all states had an increase in the percentage of home births.³
 - The choice to birth at home is gaining popularity in Maryland; approximately 500 women across Maryland chose homebirth in 2011.⁴
2. Access to licensed midwives is limited, causing many families in Maryland to choose licensed midwives from other states, use unlicensed midwives, or choose unassisted birth. These options are often inconvenient and sometimes unsafe.
3. Available maternity care practitioners and facilities:
 - only 1 freestanding Birth Center in Maryland serving Baltimore and Annapolis; severely inadequate for the need across the state.
 - 8 MD counties have fewer than 5 practicing OBs (Allegany, Calvert, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Worcester).⁵
 - 2 counties have no practicing OBs (Garrett and Somerset).⁶
 - 6 counties do not have a labor and delivery unit in any of their hospitals (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Worcester).⁷Women in these counties do not have reasonable access to prenatal, birth, and postnatal care providers.

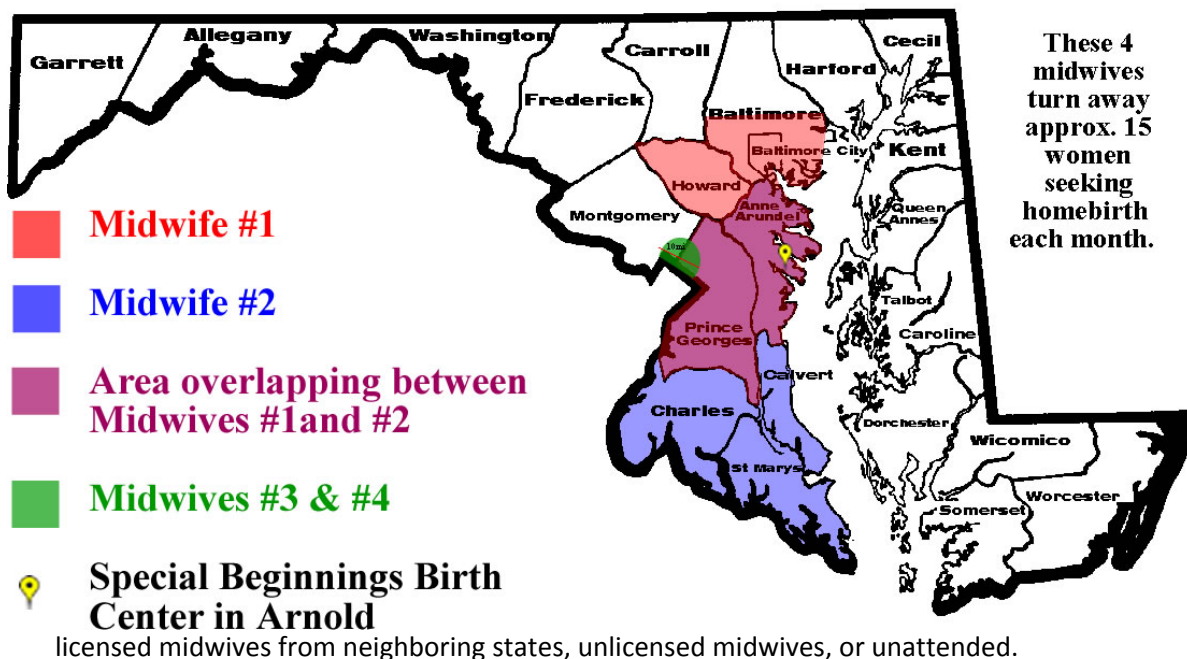
CNMs by County⁸

This list does not differentiate by nurse midwives who provide well women care and maternity care. The number providing maternity care is much lower and the number providing homebirth maternity care is lower yet (currently 4; see chart with homebirth midwife service areas).

Allegany 1	Dorchester 1	Saint Mary's 1
Anne Arundel 12	Frederick 5	Somerset 0
Baltimore 23	Garrett 0	Talbot 2
Baltimore City 24	Harford 6	Washington 7
Calvert 1	Howard 12	Wicomico 1
Caroline 1	Kent 1	Worcester 0
Carroll 3	Montgomery 28	
Cecil 1	Prince Georges 8	
Charles 2	Queen Anne's 2	

4. Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) are the only licensed midwives who can legally attend homebirths in Maryland.
 - Although Maryland currently has 220 CNMs, only 5 chose to attend home births in Maryland in 2011.^{ix} (In 2012, the number is lower (4) due to investigation into transfers of a local homebirth CNM. The loss to the community is great and felt primarily in Baltimore where the need has been high. There is now only one CNM who serves the southern portion of Baltimore county.)
 - Four (4) licensed midwives is insufficient to meet the projected demand of 500 or more homebirths in 2012.
 - Of the 409 homebirths reported to the MD Dept of Health in 2010, less than 200 (<50%) were attended by CNMs.^x The other half were presumably attended by

Homebirth CNM and Birth Center Availability in MD



¹ MacDorman M.F. (2012)

² MacDorman M.F. (2012)

³ MacDorman M.F. (2012)

⁴ Walker, A.K. "Home birth supporters seek to ease midwife rules," The Baltimore Sun. January 29, 2012. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-home-births-20120125,0,6029167.story>

⁵ Maryland State Board of Physicians.

⁶ Maryland State Board of Physicians

⁷ Maryland State Board of Physicians

⁸ Lambson Rodney, Database/Website Administrator, Maryland Board of Nursing. Personal communication.

^{ix} Per Mairi Rothman, CNM, Maryland

^x Pash, B. "Home-born baby boom causes concern," MarylandReporter.com, online publication. December 5, 2011. <http://marylandreporter.com/2011/12/05/home-born-baby-boom-causes-concern/#ixzz1oCNjxvrp>