RESEARCH ISSUES PERTAINING TO BIRTH CENTERS
A PROVIDERS PROSPECTIVE

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Midwifery Photos Courtesy of Sterner Turner Media and Thomas De Clerk
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GROUP
BIRTH CENTER CARE IMPROVES BREASTFEEDING OUTCOMES

Breast feeding has long lasting benefits on for the both baby and the mother.

According to the National Immunization Survey Report published by the CDC in 2010 the national rates for African American Initiation is 54.4%.

The CDC U.S. 2012 Breastfeeding Report Card reports the National rate of six month exclusivity is 16.3% and in the District of Columbia only 14.4%.

FHBC rate Six Month Exclusive (Only Breastmilk) Breastfeeding Rate - 46%
## MIDWIFERY CARE AT BIRTH CENTERS IS SAFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Birth Centers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cesarean Rate</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal mortality</td>
<td>0.75/1000</td>
<td>0.3/1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality</td>
<td>14/100,000*</td>
<td>0</td>
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*Live births

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Such confidence, in turn, builds self-esteem and starts the young family off on thinking of pregnancy, birth, and family health as wellness, not disease.

Client: “The fact that they encourage you to be involved and responsible about you and your family’s health”
Client: “The care was personalized, it feels like a family here. Instead of feeling like my pregnancy was a medical condition, I feel like it was an awesome natural event.”
MIDWIFERY CARE AT BIRTH CENTERS AFFECT COSTS

If even 10 percent (400,000) of the 4 million women who give birth in the U.S. each year delivered their babies in Birth Centers, the savings in facility fee payments alone would be at least $2.6 Billion Annually!
“For all U.S. women, the maternal death ratio is almost 5 times as high as it should be, and for African American women, it is more than 10 times what it should be.”
During Labor
• 4.5% referred to hospital in labor prior to admission to birth center
• 12% referred to hospital in labor after admission to birth center
• 94% of transfers to hospital were non-emergency e.g. prolonged labor
• Less than 1% (0.9%, n=140) required emergency transfer during labor

After Birth
• 2.0% of mothers transferred after giving birth (0.4% were emergency)
• 2.2% of infants transferred after birth (0.6% were emergency)
• Premature Rupture Of Membranes
• Prolonged Labor
• Obesity
Benefits of group prenatal care
Psychological benefits to clients and society
Cost and reimbursement issues
Disparity
Clinical Issues
COMPLETING THE CIRCLE
BIRTH CENTER MIDWIFERY

• Safe and Effective
• Economical
• Psychologically Beneficial
Birth Centers:
The Best!
Kept Secret!
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