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Medicaid and Maternal Health:

Federal Policy Approaches to Address Maternal Health

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June 8, 2021

2021 NASEM Health Equity & Maternal Mortality Workshop



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INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAID INNOVATION

MISSION

Improve the lives of Medicaid enrollees

Develop, implement, and diffuse innovative and evidence-based models of care



Promote quality, value, and equity



Engage patients, families, and communities



VISION

Provide independent,
unbiased, nonpartisan
information

Inform Medicaid policy

Improve the
health of the nation





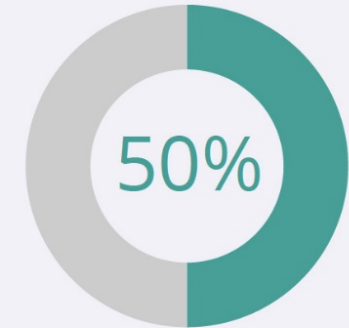
What Does the Data Tell Us?

Nearly 20%

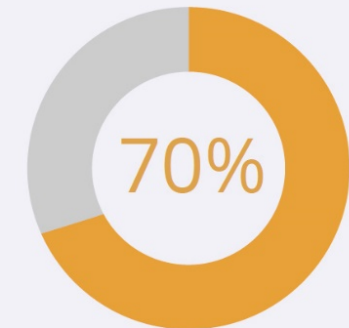
of infant deaths are closely linked to preterm delivery and low birthweight with persistent disparities.

“For every maternal death, more than 100 women – an estimated **52,000 women per year** – experience severe maternal morbidity.”

Medicaid plays a critical role in the health of low-income women:



*Nearly **50 percent** of all births are covered by Medicaid.*



***70 percent** of women enrolled in Medicaid are of reproductive age, 15-49 years.*

Maternity Care Deserts in the U.S.

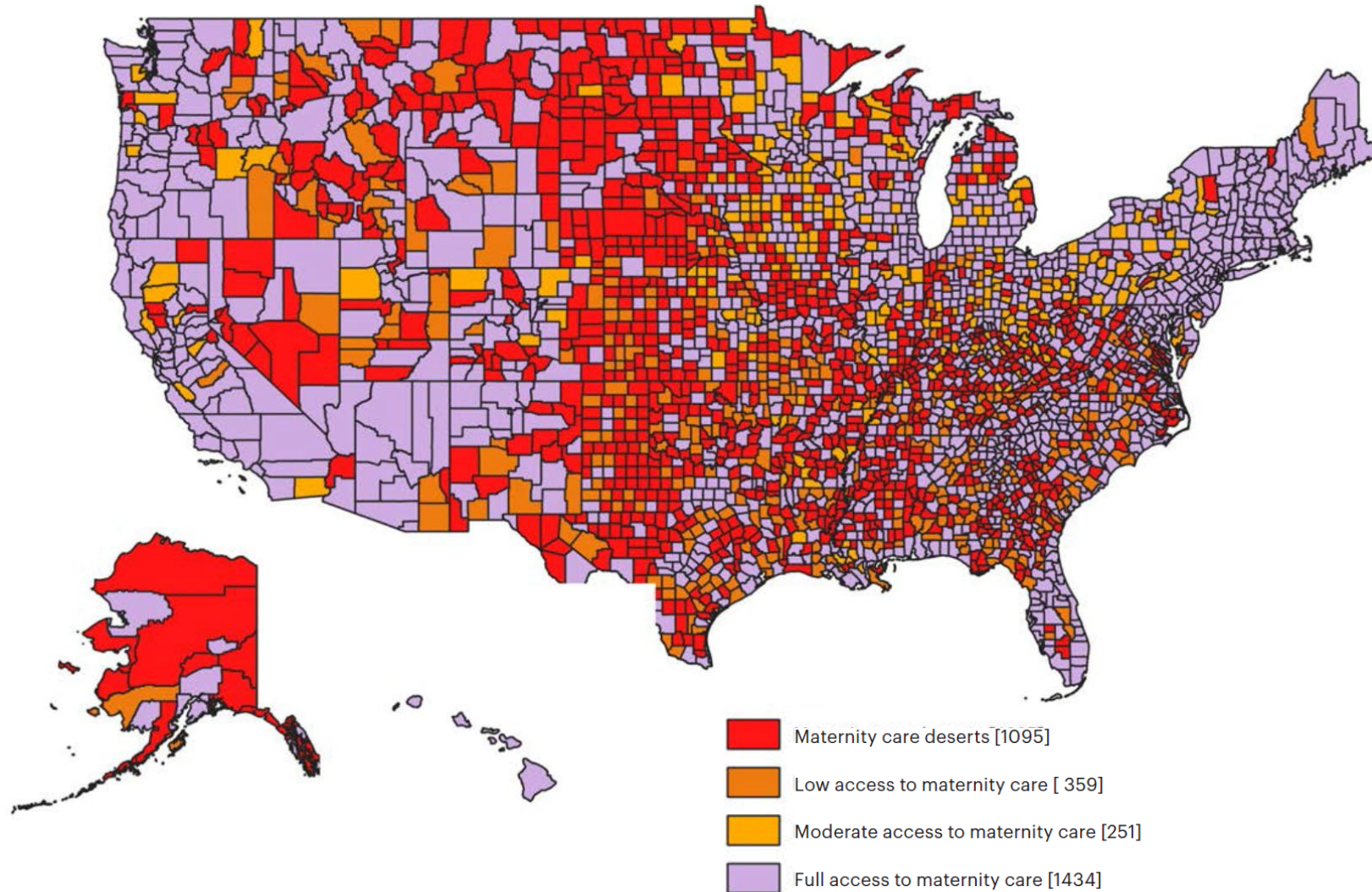
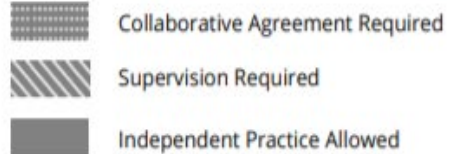


Figure 3. U.S. Births Attended by Nurse-Midwives and State Variation of Scope of Practice for CNM Care, 2018

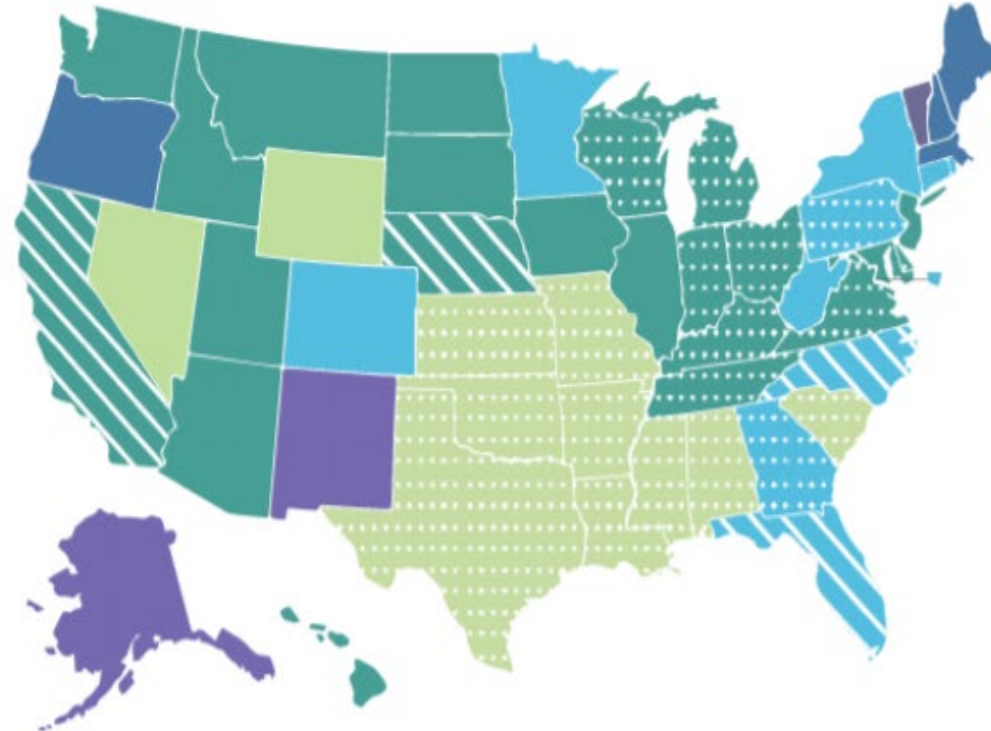
U.S. Births Attended by Certified Nurse-Midwives



Scope of Practice for Certified Nurse-Midwives



Source: Institute for Medicaid Innovation (2020). *Improving Maternal Health Access, Coverage, and Outcomes in Medicaid*.



Currently, about **9 percent** of all births in the U.S. are attended by CNMs.

“

In 2017, approximately **0.5 percent** of births in the U.S. occurred in birth centers.¹¹³

”



Hospitals with midwives had a...

↓ **74%**
lower rate of labor induction.

↓ **75%**
lower rate of augmentation of labor.

↓ **12%**
lower rate of cesarean deliveries in
hospitals with midwives.⁶³

In CNM patients...



The risk of cesarean delivery
in individuals who have
never before given birth was
reduced by **30 percent**

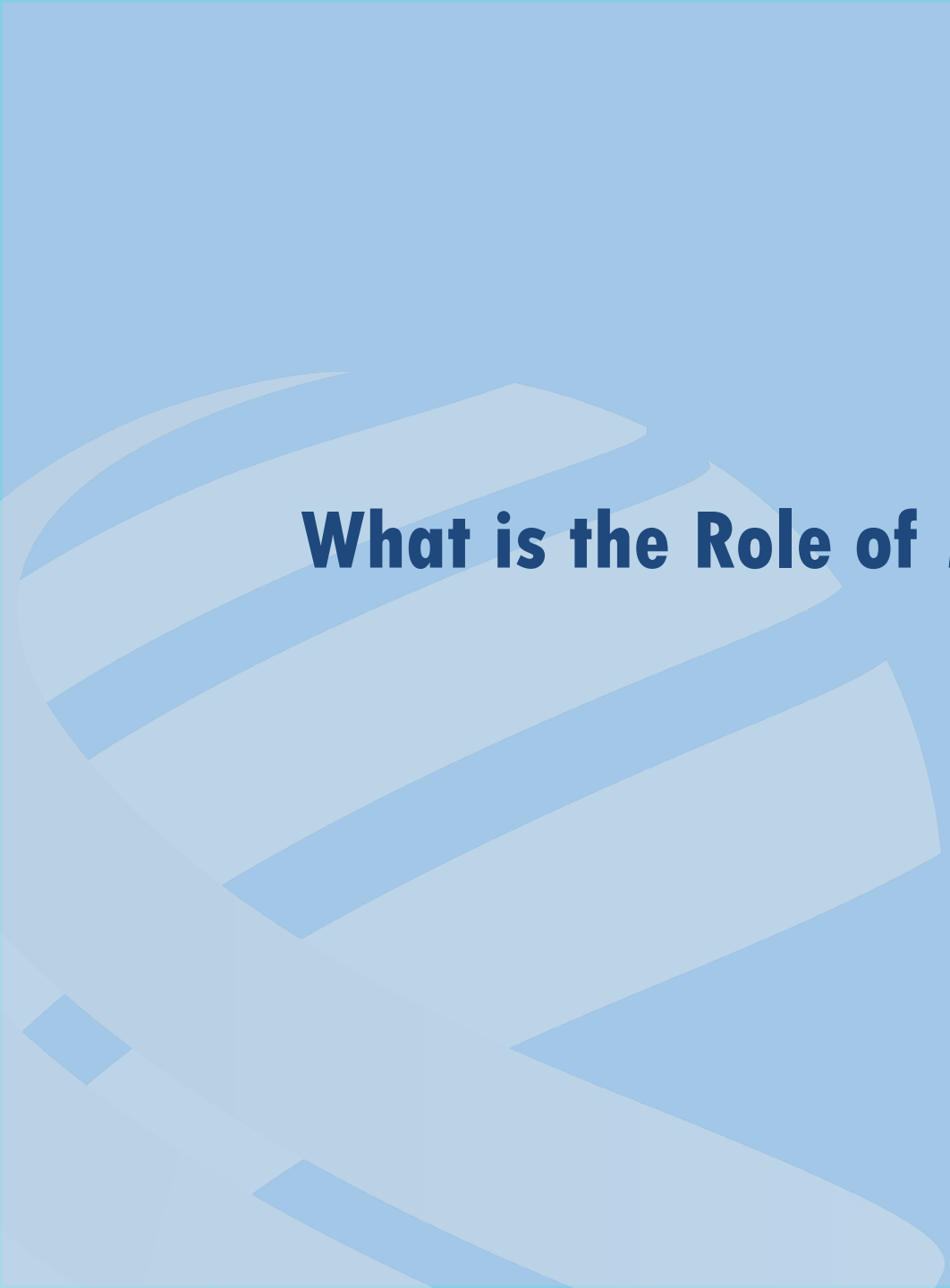
...and a nearly **40 percent**
lower risk of cesarean
delivery in individuals who
*have already given birth.*⁶²



Ratio of Obstetricians & Midwives

	USA	Australia	Netherlands	UK
Live births/year	3,885,500	305,000	163,800	754,000
Obstetricians^a	35,586	1,742	931	2,600
Midwives^b	12,436 ^c	14,280	3,221	21,500
Total providers	48,022	16,022	3,752	24,100
MW/OB Ratio	0.34/1	8.19/1	3.46/1	8.27/1
Maternal Mortality (per 100K births)	17.4	6	5	7

a. Licensed/registered midwives and obstetricians; these number do not reflect GP/FP physicians, who were not included because of lack of data. **b.** There are 3 types of midwifery certifications in the United States. Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM; n=12,331) and Certified Midwives (CM; n=105) are certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB, 2019).



What is the Role of Midwifery-Led Models of Care?

Strong Start: Improving Birth Outcomes

Evaluation of Midwifery-Led Birth Centers for Pregnant and Birthing People in Medicaid

- Decrease in C-Section Rate
- Decrease in Low-Birthweight Rate
- Decrease in Pre-Term Birth Rate
- Decrease in Costs

REVERSING THE U.S. MATERNAL MORTALITY CRISIS

A Report of the Aspen Health Strategy Group



Foreword by Kathleen Sebelius and Tommy G. Thompson

Edited by Alan R. Weil and Alexandra J. Reichert

“Any effort to understand and address the crisis of maternal mortality **must include a focus on Medicaid**, the role it has played, and the role it can play in the future.”

- Jennifer E. Moore, PhD, RN, FAAN
and Karen Dale, MSN, RN



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Aspen Health Strategy Group Five Observations



Better outcomes are within reach.



The medical model of birth **does not** meet women's needs.



Racism and racist policies are at the root of the maternal mortality crisis.



Payment and regulatory structures **overemphasize the medical model**.



High rates of maternal mortality **reflect our limited investment** in women's health.

5

BIG IDEAS

for addressing the United States'
maternal mortality crisis

- Make a national commitment to lower maternal mortality and morbidity rates
- Build and support community care models
 - Redesign insurance around women's needs
 - Tackle the racism that undermines women-centered maternity care
 - Invest in research, data, and analysis





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OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAID STAKEHOLDERS TO ADVANCE MIDWIFERY-LED MODELS OF CARE

Advancing high-value, evidence-based perinatal models of care require each Medicaid stakeholder to conduct a self-assessment to identify their individual role before they can establish an action plan to support the collective effort. This infographic serves as an environmental scan to highlight the different types of stakeholders who are essential to that effort. It requires each stakeholder to look broadly outside of their space to identify opportunities and challenges to elevate the identified facilitators and mitigate barriers to achieve success.





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