

MIDWIVES AND MOTHERS IN ACTION (MAMA) CAMPAIGN

State-Directed Study Demonstrates Significant Cost-Savings & Improved Outcomes With the Care of Certified Professional Midwives (CPM)



Midwifery Licensure and Discipline Program in Washington State: Economic Costs and Benefits¹

Cost Savings with CPM Care Demonstrated by Washington State data:

- **Total savings to WA Medicaid are approximately \$1.6 million per year** when facility fees and reductions in costly medical procedures achieved by CPM care are factored in
- **At least \$236,000 per year** in savings to Medicaid when women give birth at home or in free-standing birth centers in the care of CPMs – a very conservative estimate **reflecting only cesarean section reduction**
- **Combined (public and private insurer) savings** to the health care system for cesarean reduction alone are an estimated **\$1.35 million per year**
- **Cost savings to Washington State** from the care of CPMs is approximately **10 times the cost of administering the state licensing program**
- **Cost savings achieved** with CPMs attending **just under 2% of the births** in the study period
- Subsequent analysis by Washington State shows **\$3939 savings per out-of-hospital birth**

Improved Outcomes for Women and Infants with CPM Care Demonstrated:

- Significantly **lower cesarean section rates** with the care of CPMs
- Significantly **fewer low-birth weight babies and babies born prematurely** with the care of CPMs, all indicators for improved outcomes, especially for vulnerable populations
- Significantly **higher breast-feeding rates** with the care of CPMs, with the accompanying demonstrated health benefits for mothers and infants extending throughout lifetimes
- Improved outcomes achieved with rates of intrapartum and neonatal mortality comparable to low-risk hospital births

The Study:

- Commissioned by the Washington State legislature to determine whether the costs of administering the state's midwife licensing program are offset by economic benefits of the care provided by CPMs
- Conducted by Health Management Associates under contract by the WA State Department of Health
- Includes all costs associated with CPM care, including those associated with hospital transfers when necessary
- Team included a health economist, physician, obstetric nurse, public health professional, and other experts
- HMA used the Department of Health's First Steps Database of Medicaid claims and other healthcare economic indicators, as well as a thorough literature review, to perform the study and establish its conclusions

¹ "Midwifery Licensure and Discipline Program in Washington State: Economic Costs and Benefits" – http://www.washingtonmidwives.org/assets/Midwifery_Cost_Study_10-31-07.pdf