

2017 Arkansas Licensed Lay Midwife Data Summary Report



Compiled by:
Women's Health Section
CPHP Epidemiology

ADH – Women’s Health

2017 Arkansas Licensed Lay Midwife Data Summary

The data used in this summary includes information reported by Licensed Lay Midwives (LLM) in Arkansas. LLMs are required to submit monthly reports per the Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas (“Rules and Regulations”). These Rules and Regulations are promulgated under the authority of Arkansas Code Ann. §§ 17-85-101 Et Seq. and Arkansas Code Ann. §§ 20-7-109. Under these Rules and Regulations, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) “shall monitor perinatal outcomes of home births attended by LLMs and publish these statistics annually.”¹

Licensing requirements vary from state-to-state and there is currently no national standard for reporting data regarding lay midwife statistics. In Arkansas, an LLM may provide midwifery care only to healthy women who are at low risk for the development of medical or obstetric complications of pregnancy or childbirth.²

The 186 outside-of-hospital births attended by an Arkansas LLM in 2017 represent 0.5% of the 37,094 live births reported in Arkansas in 2017.³ Table 1 (see below) provides information regarding the number of LLMs in Arkansas and the number of births attended by LLMs in Arkansas as well as the number of perinatal and maternal deaths reported by Arkansas LLMs in the last five (5) years. Table 2 (see below) provides information regarding the number of clients who entered into care with an Arkansas LLM in 2017, the number of clients who transferred out of LLM care and the number of out-of-hospital births attended by an Arkansas LLM in 2017.

Arkansas LLM 5-Year Summary

Table 1:

| | <u>2013</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Number of Arkansas LLMs as of December 31 | 28 | 27 | 30 | 27 | 28 |
| Clients Who Delivered Outside of the Hospital WITH an Arkansas LLM in Attendance | 279 | 245 | 250 | 250 | 186 |
| Perinatal Deaths Reported by Arkansas LLMs ^A | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 ^B | 1 |
| Maternal Deaths Reported by Arkansas LLMs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

^AOn July 30, 2017, Act 168 of 2017 went into effect. Act 168 changed the definition of “stillbirth” to mean an unintended, intrauterine fetal death occurring in Arkansas after a gestational age of not less than 12 completed weeks. (This is a change from a gestational age of not less than 20 weeks.)

^BData in this report was corrected in May 2019 from the previous report prepared for the Board of Health.

Arkansas LLM Client Outcomes January 1 – December 31, 2017

Table 2:

| | |
|--|------|
| Total Number of Clients Who Contracted Care with an Arkansas LLM | 262 |
| Clients Who Transferred Out of LLM Care Before Labor (Medical) | (22) |
| Clients Who Transferred Out of LLM Care Before Labor (Non-Medical) | (20) |
| Clients Who Transferred Out of LLM Care During Labor | (31) |
| Clients Who Delivered Outside of a Hospital WITHOUT an LLM in Attendance | (3) |
| Clients Who Delivered Outside of the Hospital WITH an Arkansas LLM in Attendance | 186 |

¹Source: Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas (Section 603).

²Source: Rules and Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas (Section 104.1).

³Source: Arkansas Health Statistics Branch Query System, Arkansas Department of Health, as of 3/14/19. This is provisional data and subject to change.