

Safety in Birth Begins with Midwifery Care

“In terms of quality, satisfaction, and costs, the midwifery model for pregnancy and maternity care has been found to be beneficial to women and families, resulting in good outcomes and cost savings. ... With its focus on pregnancy as a normal life event and health promotion for women of all ages, the midwifery model of care is an appropriate alternative or complement to the medical approach to childbirth.”

American Public Health Association, “Supporting Access to Midwifery Services in the United States (Position Paper)”, *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 91, No. 3, March 2001.

“It is inherently unwise, and perhaps unsafe, for women with normal pregnancies to be cared for by an obstetric specialist. ... Midwives and general practitioners, on the other hand, are primarily oriented to the care of women with normal pregnancies, and are likely to have more detailed knowledge of individual women.”

Murray Enkin, et al, *A Guide to Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

“It is the finding and vision of the Taskforce that the midwifery model of care is an essential element of comprehensive health care for women and their families that should be embraced by, and incorporated into, the health care system and made available to all women.”

Dower CM, Miller JE, O’Neil EH and the Taskforce on Midwifery, *Charting a Course for the 21st Century: The Future of Midwifery*. San Francisco, CA: Pew Health Professions Commission and the UCSF Center for the Health Professions. April 1999.

“Midwives are the most appropriate primary health care provider to be assigned to the care of normal birth.”

Maternal and Newborn Health/Safe Motherhood Unit of the World Health Organization, *Care in Normal Birth: A practical guide*. World Health Organization, 1996.

“Midwives attend the vast majority of births in those industrialized countries with the best perinatal outcomes...”

Coalition for Improving Maternity Services, *The Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative*, 1996