



NZ COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES_(INC)

The New Zealand College of Midwives

The New Zealand College of Midwives is the only professional body specifically for New Zealand registered midwives.

The NZCOM promotes midwifery standards of practice and ongoing education courses for Midwives once they are registered. It represents and advocates for midwifery and women's health interests to government, health organisations, consumer groups and the general public

Background information and latest statistics: (* Source Statistics New Zealand, 2009/NZCOM)

Every year our membership grows and today the College represents nearly 90% of practicing Midwives. There are 2700 Midwives at present practicing in New Zealand, up from 2500 in 2009

- 99.9% of women have a midwife present at the birth of their child
- 64,000 births were registered in New Zealand in the year ended June 2010

(In 2009, there were 62,927 babies born in NZ compared with 56,515 in 2001)

- New Zealand mothers and babies have better outcomes than Australia and the UK on most measureable maternity outcomes *(source: Women's Business, The History of the NZ College of Midwives 1986-2010, by Karen Guilliland and Sally Pairman)*

Other noteworthy figures from Statistics NZ show that in the June 2010 year:

- there were 64,120 live births
- the number of normal births increased
- the birth rate was 2.2 births per women, about half of the peak of 4.3 births per woman in 1961 but higher than many other western countries
- births exceeded deaths by 35,280
- the number of neonatal and infant deaths continued to decrease

2010 is the twentieth anniversary of the passing of the Nurses Amendment Act which provided the legislative framework for midwives to return to the autonomous practice (without supervision of a doctor) they had in 1971

Midwives are highly educated health professionals with strong and effective accountability frameworks supporting practice
With the support, information and knowledge Midwives share with women, a new born baby has the best possible start in life