



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Yolanda Landon
Office: (240) 485-1822
E-mail: ylandon@acnm.org

New Study in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* Shows Midwifery Education Benefits Graduates, Clinical Sites, Universities and Consumers

In addition, study shows that midwifery graduates typically earn more than labor and delivery nurses

Silver Spring, MD—Investment in midwifery education benefits graduates as well as stakeholders within their communities, according to the latest research published in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. These findings come at a critical time as national and state policymakers grapple with how best to improve access to primary care and preventive and wellness services.

Authors Kathleen Fagerlund, CRNA, PhD, and Elaine Germano, CNM, DrPH, created a unique tool that determines the benefits and costs of midwifery education. To test the tool's effectiveness, a prototype midwifery education program was created to measure costs and benefits to four groups: students, clinical sites, academic institutions that house midwifery programs and taxpayers who may subsidize midwifery education. After the costs were included, the research showed that midwifery graduates received significant benefits—including higher income levels than their labor and delivery nurse counterparts over the span of a 35-year career. The other three groups demonstrated a positive net benefit and internal rate of return on their investment in midwifery education as well.

These findings could be used to recruit more students into the midwifery profession and to encourage academic institutions to establish or maintain midwifery education programs. An increase in midwifery graduates would help expand the availability of primary care and women's health services, one of the key public health challenges that highlighted in the context of national health care reform efforts.

Copies of this article from the September/October issue of the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health (JMWH)* are available by request by contacting ACNM Communications Manager, Yolanda Landon, at (240) 485-1822 or via email at ylandon@acnm.org. For more information on subscription or online access to the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* visit www.jmwh.org.

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For more information, please contact Yolanda Landon, Communications Manager, at (240) 485-1822 or via email at ylandon@acnm.org.

With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations.

8403 Colesville Road, Ste. 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374 • Phone: (240) 485-1800 • Fax: (240) 485-1818 • www.midwife.org