

2019-2021 Arkansas Licensed Lay Midwife Data Summary Report



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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 Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas (“Rules”). These Rules are promulgated under the authority of Arkansas Code Ann. §§ 17-85-101 Et Seq. and Arkansas Code Ann. §§ 20-7-109. Under these Rules, 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

Table 1 provides information regarding the number of LLMs in Arkansas, the number of births attended by LLMs in Arkansas, and the number of perinatal and maternal deaths reported by Arkansas LLMs in the last three (3) years.

Table 2 provides information regarding the number of clients who entered care with an Arkansas LLM, the number of clients who transferred out of LLM care and the number of out-of-hospital births attended by an Arkansas LLM.

Arkansas LLM 3-Year Summary

Table 1:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of Arkansas LLMs as of December 31	28	30	25
Clients Who Delivered Outside of the Hospital WITH an Arkansas LLM in Attendance	201	237	268
Perinatal Deaths Reported by Arkansas LLMs ^A	5	2	5
Maternal Deaths Reported by Arkansas LLMs ^B	0	0	0

^APerinatal deaths include the death of a fetus ≥ 12 weeks gestation and of a newborn up to 30 days after delivery

^BMaternal deaths include the death of a woman during pregnancy and up to 30 days after delivery

Arkansas LLM Client Outcomes Summary

Table 2:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total Number of Clients Who Contracted Care with an Arkansas LLM	302	328	407
Clients Who Transferred Out of LLM Care Before Labor (Medical)	(35)	(26)	(52)
Clients Who Transferred Out of LLM Care Before Labor (Non-Medical)	(22)	(12)	(34)
Clients Who Transferred Out of LLM Care During Labor	(36)	(49)	(38)
Clients Who Delivered Outside of a Hospital WITHOUT an LLM in Attendance	(8)	(4)	(7)
Clients With an Unknown Delivery Outcome (Not with an LLM in attendance)	0	0	(8)
Clients Who Delivered Outside of the Hospital WITH an Arkansas LLM in Attendance	201	237	268

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

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