
About the American Association of Birth Centers

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What is AABC?

The American Association of Birth Centers is a multi-disciplinary membership organization comprised of individuals and organizations who support the birth center concept. As the nation's most comprehensive resource on birth centers, AABC works on multiple levels to:

- Provide a national forum for birth center issues;
- Conduct ongoing research on normal birth and care in birth centers;
- Promote and maintain the nationally recognized Standards for Birth Centers;
- Advocate for reimbursement of facility and professional fees to birth centers;
- Develop and distribute marketing resources and materials;
- Offer networking opportunities for birth center professionals and support staff;
- Endorse national birth center accreditation through the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers;
- Provide continuing education credit opportunities at AABC conferences;
- Promote quality assurance systems and services for birth centers;
- Develop sources of affordable liability insurance;
- Present education sessions on clinical and business topics specific to birth center operation.

AABC's Mission

The American Association of Birth Centers promotes and supports birth centers as a means to uphold the rights of healthy women and their families, in all communities, to birth their children in an environment which is safe, sensitive, and cost effective with minimal intervention.

The mission shall be accomplished by:

- Fostering excellence in birth centers through development and evaluation of evidence-based standards of care;
- Supporting the development of birth centers that subscribe to the AABC birth center model of care;
- Encouraging all member centers to attain birth center accreditation;
- Serving as an information resource on birth centers;
- Encouraging the participation of professionals, institutions, and families who support the AABC mission;
- Working actively with associations that are interested in the provision of wellness oriented maternity services;
- Influencing policy issues at the national, regional and local levels.

Who are AABC's Members?

Membership is available to birth centers, individuals, consumers, associations, or corporations who agree to the basic principles of the Association regarding standards of care and safety, non-intervention in the process of natural childbirth, a personalized approach to the care of families, elimination of unnecessary cost and the participation of qualified midwives and physicians.

AABC offers its members:

- Access to the AABC's List Serves for members - an exclusive email discussion list for AABC's members;
- Membership directory - available in both print format and on-line;
- Membership newsletter;
- The AABC Perinatal Data Registry (originally known as the AABC Uniform Data Set) - a national data collection system on normal birth;
- Member discounts on AABC's comprehensive birth center manuals, publications, workshops, convention and other conferences;
- Access to member-only areas of AABC's website - www.BirthCenters.org;
- National resource center for birth center information;
- A national forum for birth center issues;
- Continuing education credit opportunities at AABC conferences;
- Consultation services on birth center development;
- The annual Birth Institute conference;
- Workshops on starting a birth center;
- Ongoing national research on birth center care;
- Promotion of quality assurance systems and services for birth centers;
- Nationally recognized evidence-based standards for birth center care;
- Promotion of reimbursement of facility and professional fees to birth centers;
- Marketing resources and materials;
- Networking opportunities for birth center professionals.