

Developments in Improving Maternity Care

A BirthNet Fact Sheet

- 2003 -- **The Cochrane Library** publishes a systematic review of continuous support for women during childbirth www.maternitywise.org/prof/laborsupport/index.html
"Continuous labour support reduces a woman's likelihood of having pain medication, increases her satisfaction and chances for "spontaneous" birth, and has no known side effects."
- 2002 -- **The Maternity Center Association** publishes *Listening to Mothers: Report of the First National U.S. Survey of Women's Childbearing Experiences* www.maternitywise.org/listeningtomothers/index.html
"The Listening to Mothers Survey found good news in several important areas. ... In other areas, although the news is good for most women, the survey uncovered troubling concerns for a smaller proportion. And survey results identify other concerns that are widespread."
- 2000 -- **American Public Health Association** adopts position paper "Supporting Access to Midwifery Services in the United States" www.apha.org/legislative/policy/Pols2000_rev.pdf -- #20004, p. 7:
*"... takes a position in support of the expansion of midwifery as a key strategy to improving access to care for childbearing families for the purpose of increasing their health care options and thereby to the subsequent improvement of birth outcomes.
"Recommend ... assured access to midwives and the midwifery model of care."*
- 1999 -- **Maternity Center Association** publishes its "Rights of Childbearing Women" www.maternity.org/:
"We must ensure that all childbearing women have access to information and care that is based on the best scientific evidence now available, and that they understand and have opportunities to exercise their right to make health care decisions."
- 1999 -- **Pew Center for the Health Professions** publishes *The Future of Midwifery* http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/pdf_files/midwifry.pdf:
"... 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."
- 1999 -- **National Organization for Women** adopts a resolution endorsing the midwifery model of care and defines birth options as reproductive rights www.cfmidwifery.org/now_res.html:
"... reproductive freedom not only includes the ability to decide whether or when to bear children, but also the right to devise a birth plan with a medical provider of their choice in either a hospital or an alternative setting such as a freestanding birth center or private residence ..."



BirthNet

Educating the public to improve
maternity care for all women

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