

MIDWIFERY AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

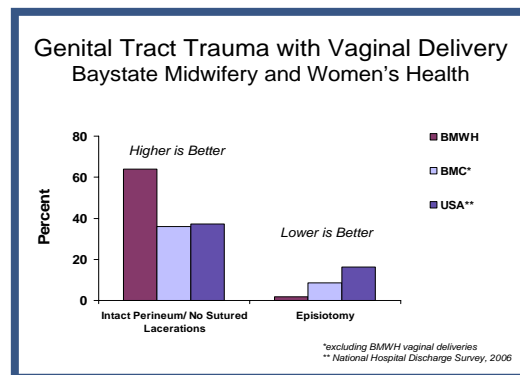
Where we've been...

Baystate Midwifery and Women's Health (BMWH) was established in 1985. Since then, the certified nurse-midwives (CNM) in the practice have delivered over 8,500. Care is provided by the 13 CNMs in the practice at 6 sites in the Springfield area. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Benchmarking Program, initiated in 2004, was established to improve and maintain the quality of midwifery care provided to women and babies by CNMs, and to promote awareness of "best practices." Midwifery practices across the United States participate on a voluntary basis. Identifying best practices through benchmarking allows all who participate in the process to improve and adapt the care they provide in order to obtain superior outcomes, high satisfaction, patient safety, effectiveness, and efficiency.

Where we are now...

BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER Baystate Midwifery and Women's Health was recently recognized by the American College of Nurse-Midwives Benchmarking Program for attaining the lowest rate of genital trauma during vaginal deliveries in 2007. This is the second year in a row that Baystate Midwifery and Women's Health achieved these results and received this national recognition.

Eighty-six midwifery practices participated in the ACNM Benchmarking Project in 2007, representing almost 50,000 births. Baystate Midwifery and Women's Health achieved a 64% rate of intact perineum in the cohort of practices that perform more than 500 deliveries a year. Results were presented at the Annual Meeting of the ACNM in June in Portland, Oregon. Other quality indicators evaluated include rates of induction of labor, primary cesarean section, vaginal birth after cesarean success, epidural use, and breastfeeding initiation.



Where we are going...

Minimizing genital tract trauma during delivery results in less discomfort, greater breastfeeding success, and faster recovery for new mothers. Baystate Midwifery and Women's Health is utilizing internal audit mechanisms to identify clinical approaches that minimize genital tract trauma, such as maternal position for delivery. These "best practices" will be incorporated into both the Baystate Midwifery and OB/GYN resident training programs.