

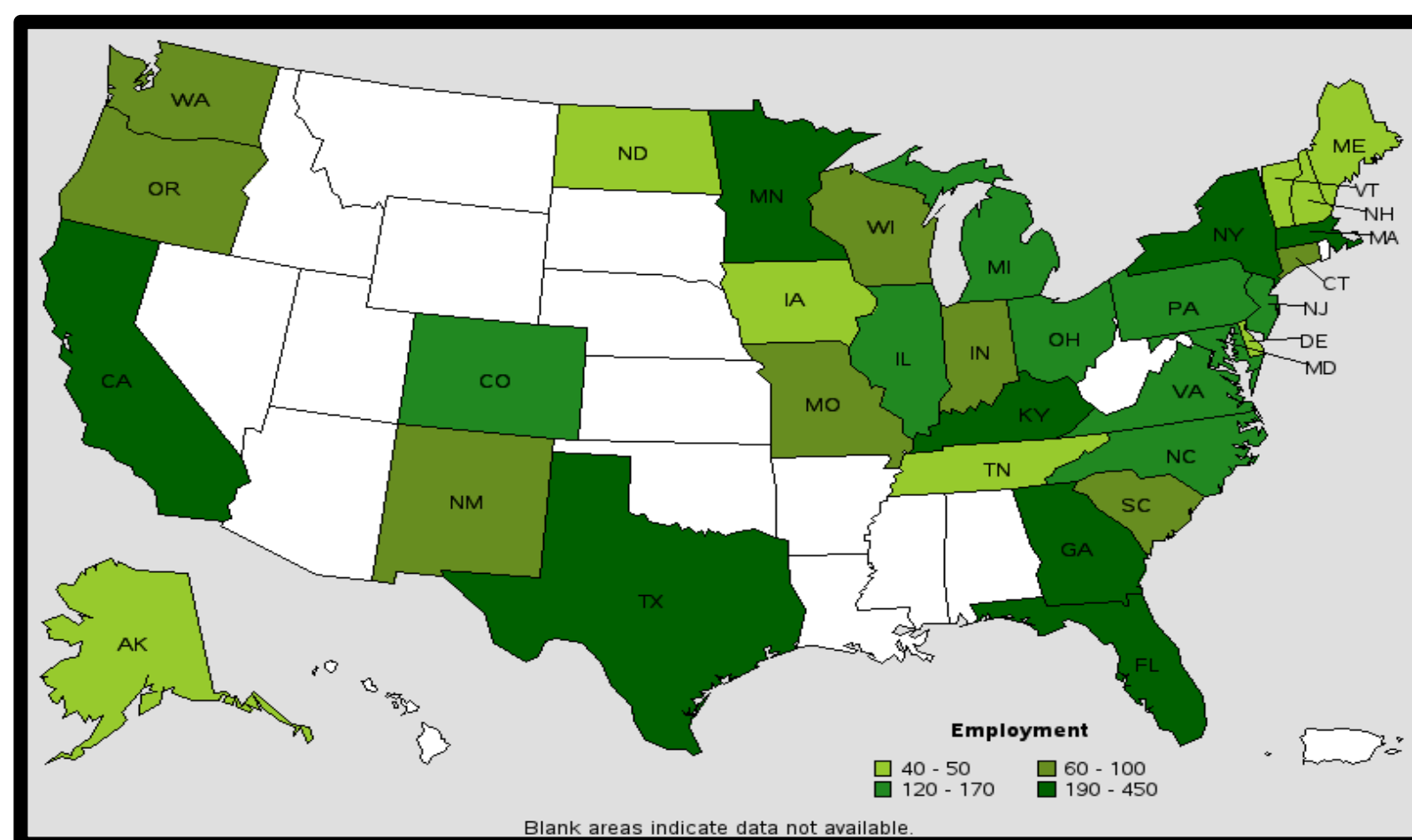
# The Nature and Scope of Nurse-Midwifery Practice in One U.S. State: Implications for Global Midwifery

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## Background

- Midwives are the backbone of maternal-infant care across the globe.
- There are over 11,000 CNMs in the USA.
- Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) are known to give care that is as good or better than that of other obstetrical providers (Rateliff, 2002).
- Higher rates of uncomplicated vaginal deliveries, breastfeeding success, and patient satisfaction are associated with midwifery care (Johnson & Daviss, 2005).
- There are ~490 CNMs in the state of Texas (Resident Births, 2011).
- Little is known about the nature and scope of nurse midwifery care – particularly to the underserved populations in Texas.
- The **purpose** of this research was to understand the scope and nature of the practice environment surrounding CNMs in Texas



Number of Certified Nurse Midwives By U.S. State  
Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291161.htm>

## Research Questions

- For CNMs in Texas-
- What is the nature of the practice environment?
  - What are the key legislative issues?
  - What is the current market place value?
  - What factors have been most influential in practice success?
  - What are the greatest barriers to practice?

## Sample

- All nurse-midwives in the state of Texas certified through the American Midwifery Certification Board (n=490)
- English-speaking
  - Computer access

Baylor University Institutional Review Board approved (#717761-1)



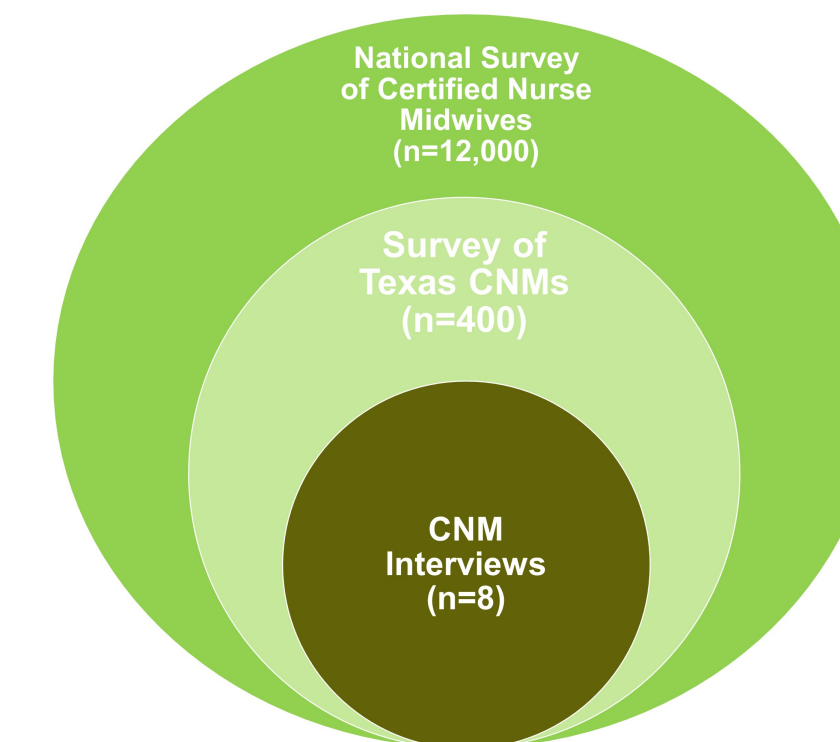
## Methods

### ONLINE SURVEY

- Online Survey adapted for use in this study (Hastings-Tolsma et al, 2014)
- Survey piloted (N=15)
- Email containing a URL link to the survey sent to Texas CNMs
- Survey available for 3 weeks with 2 reminder emails
- Survey administered through REDCap data management system

**SURVEY** explored 8 areas of interest (160 items)

- Demographics/Background
- Employment Profile
- Clinical Practices
- Practice Leadership
- Consultation/Credentialing/Liability
- Prescriptive Authority
- Teaching Students
- Practice Satisfaction/Future Trends



**QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW** of a subset of CNMs (N=8)

- Individual performed via telephone/mobile device
- 45 minutes or less in length
- Questions explored: barriers to successful midwifery practice, legislative concerns, strategies to promote midwifery practice
- Transcribed, analyzed for themes using open source coding



Less than 5% of CNMs believe the Texas Board of Nursing should regulate midwifery practice.



A majority of midwives claim they are working at full capacity.



Less than half of CNMs believe midwives should have a practice agreement with a physician

## Results

**Response Rate: 33%**

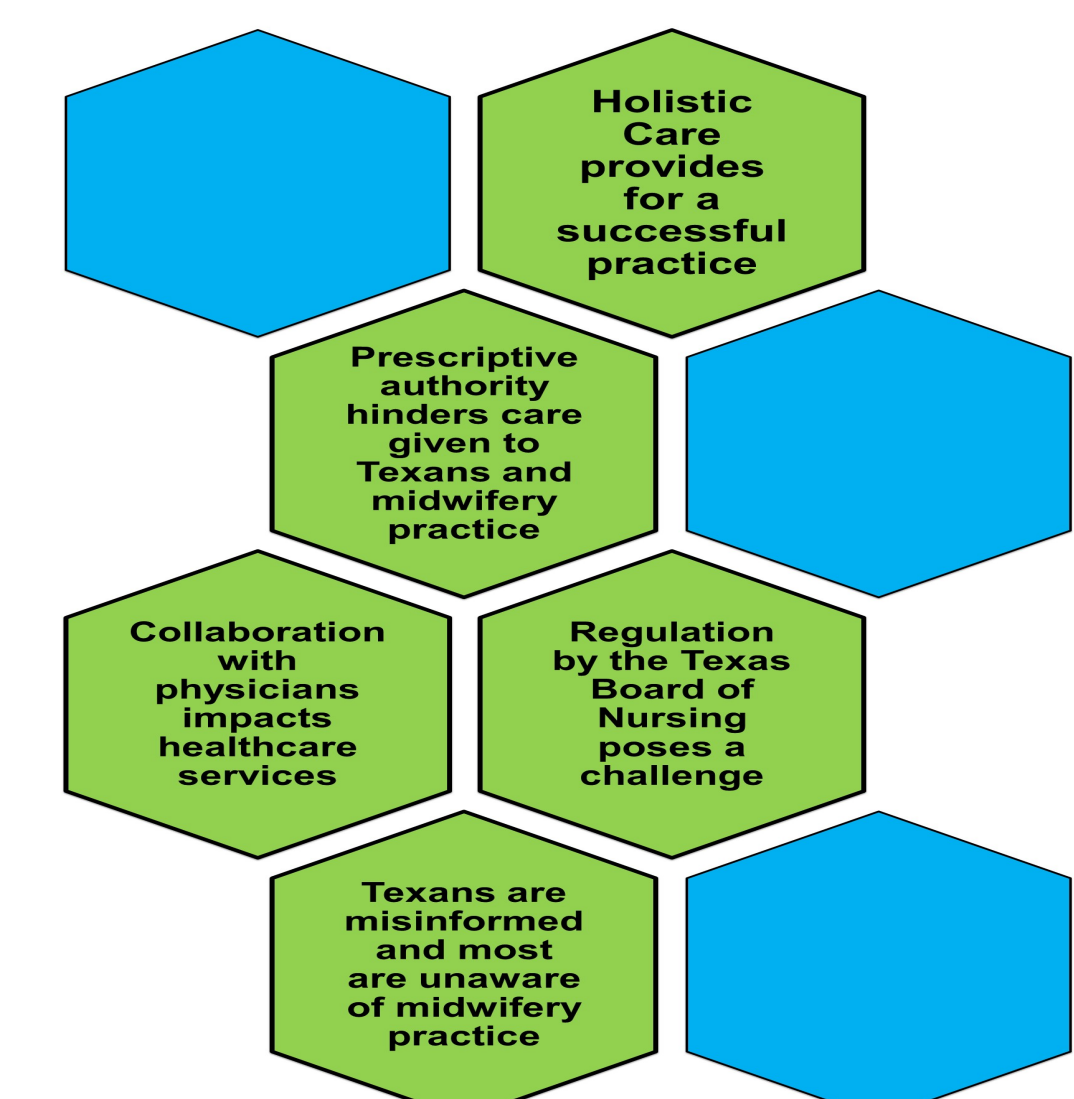
### Demographics

- 92% white
- Nearly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> are over 55 years of age (29.3%)
- 64.5% are employed full time in midwifery
- 21.3% work in a hospital/medical center setting
- Well over half (53.6%) care for vulnerable and underserved populations

### Key Survey Findings

- 38.4% of CNMs practice in large urban settings
- 19.4% care for 20 or more patients in a clinic day
- Most midwives (76%) care for low to moderate risk patients
- Most midwifery practices consult with 1 or more physicians (78.8%)
- 22.1% of CNMs do not carry professional liability insurance
- CNMs teach a wide variety of students (nurse practitioner, midwifery, basic, medical)
- Most (80.5%) teach midwifery students less than 25% of the time
- Few (4.3%) believe midwifery should be under the Board of Nursing
- **Top legislative priorities:**
  - Independent prescriptive authority (77%)
  - Hospital admitting privileges (51.1%)
  - Elimination of physician supervisory language in hospital bylaws (52.5%)
- **Future of Midwifery**
  - Nearly half (43.9%) believe they have the ability to influence health care in Texas
  - Majority (58.3%) positive about midwifery in the state of Texas.

### Qualitative Interviews: 5 Themes



## Implications

- Texas CNMs reflect an aging workforce with a crisis looming as retirement nears.
- Strategies to increase midwifery pipeline numbers are needed.
- Texas is one of the fastest growing states in the nation with large numbers of vulnerable and medically underserved. Barriers to midwifery practice exacerbate access to healthcare problems.
- Strategies to encourage midwifery practice in medically underserved areas are needed.
- CNMs do not reflect the ethnic diversity of Texas which is a “majority-minority” state.

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