

Preventing Infant Morbidity and Mortality

Historically, Black American babies have an infant mortality rate that almost triples the national average. Currently, the national infant mortality rate for Black babies is 14 per 1000, compared to a rate of 5 per 1000 for White babies, 3 per 1000 for Asian babies, and 6 to 9 per 1000 for Hispanic babies.

Black babies are also disproportionately affected by low-birth weight, premature births and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Black women still need support to initiate breast feeding and to continue lactation past five months.

ICTC teaches the community midwife model of care to aid families, communities and health care professionals in addressing this disparity. Our community-based midwives bring cultural sensitivity, understanding, breast feeding support, and commitment to infant and maternal health to their communities.

improving birth outcomes

ICTC helps to reduce infant morbidity and mortality, and to empower the families that we serve through the following:

Pregnancy Support

Free Pregnancy Testing, Prenatal Care, Blessing Ways, Midwifery Care, Childbirth Preparation Classes, Labor Support, Massage, Breastfeeding Promotion, Referrals and Advocacy

Postpartum Care

Postpartum Care, Doula Services, Home Visits, Parenting Circles, Breastfeeding Support, Naming Ceremonies

Training Programs

Midwifery, Doula, Conferences, Sistah Care

Membership

ICTC is an international organization with members and chapters both throughout the world and within the United States. Join us in making a difference by becoming a member today. Your membership entitles you to a 20% discount on conference registrations, access to the members-only discussion board, and the semi-annual newsletter. You can become a member by registering on our website, www.blackmidwives.org, or by printing and mailing the membership form. Your generous donations to support the work of ICTC are greatly appreciated.

Visit Our Website

ICTC's website—www.blackmidwives.org—profiles the legacy of the Black midwife and her contributions to public health. It provides support and resources for practicing and aspiring midwives, as well as awareness about infant mortality. It is a torch of light for those seeking inspiration and truth.



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ICTC

International Center for Traditional Childbearing



*An infant mortality prevention,
breastfeeding support and
midwifery training
non-profit organization*

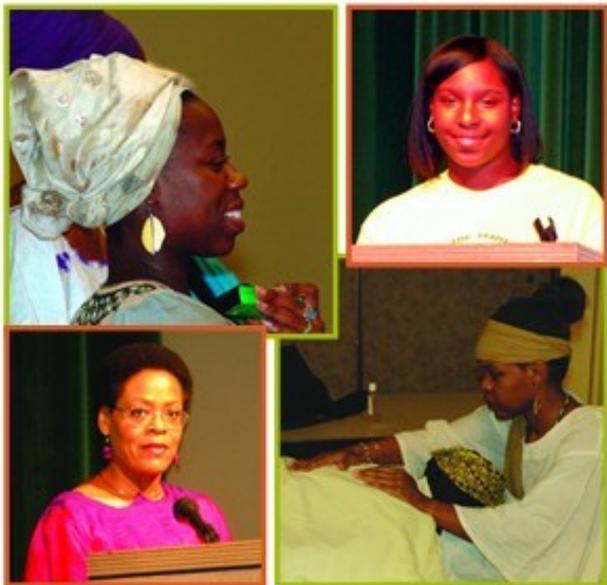
Healthy Babies are Everyone's Business

Our History

The International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC) is a non-profit infant mortality prevention, breastfeeding support and midwife training organization, comprised of women and men who want to improve birth outcomes and provide training opportunities in their communities.

Incorporated in 1991, ICTC was founded by Shafia M. Monroe in concert with the national support of educators and midwives. For more than a decade, ICTC has built bridges that link national organizations with grassroots movements, and professionals with lay health workers. Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, chapters are forming throughout the world and country.

ICTC creates opportunities for communities to learn evidence-based infant mortality reduction strategies. It also trains and organizes volunteers to support families during pregnancy and in the postpartum period. Annually, the organization brings midwives and healers together to find solutions to improve birth outcomes, increase breast feeding, and mentor persons aspiring to become midwives.



Training Programs

ICTC offers resources, training and support services to community midwives, doulas, childbirth educators, peer breastfeeding counselors, doulas, and those aspiring to these positions.

Rites of Passage Midwifery Training (RPMT)

RPMT is a 24-month direct-entry midwifery training program highlighting the midwifery practices of Africa, the Caribbean and the southern United States. The curriculum incorporates strong academics, blending public health with the community midwife philosophy. RPMT is perfect for students interested in learning midwifery from a cultural and international perspective. RPMT prepares students to sit for the NARM exam.

Full Circle Birth Companion/Doula Training

This three and a half-day program provides training in the following topics: prenatal information, nutrition, labor and delivery coaching techniques, massage, postpartum recovery, breast feeding savvy, and promoting one's business. Participants must meet specific requirements before registering.

Black Midwives and Healers Conference (BMHC)

The conference is a vibrant gathering of dedicated midwives and healers who share skills, build camaraderie, and mentor aspiring midwives and healers. BMHC draws health professionals from around the world.

Sistah Care Youth Program

Sistah Care—a sistahhood of young women dedicated to learning, serving and celebrating life—is a 10-month intensive health career preparatory and high school retention program for students interested in maternal and child health. Sistah Care provides academic skill-building, cultural awareness, clinical skills and community service activities to help students better understand the fields of midwifery, nursing and medicine. Upon receiving a certificate of completion, a student can offer labor and postpartum support. Participants must meet specific eligibility requirements.

Other Services

ICTC also offers workshops on the history of Black midwives, the Birth Forum Speakers Series, and a computer lab for perinatal and health research.

Mission of the International center for traditional Childbearing

The mission of ICTC is to reduce the premature deaths of infants by empowering families to take charge of their prenatal experience, to promote breastfeeding, and to increase the number of maternal and child health care providers, particularly indigenous midwives. ICTC brings families and health care professionals together to collectively support healthy pregnancies, reduce mature births, and provide direct services.