

In many progressive states, direct entry midwifery is becoming legal again. These states require midwives to go through a licensing process. However, though midwives are increasing in numbers and have better outcomes by far, they still find extreme prejudice in North American society. Though doctor's and midwives both lose babies – meaning that even the best of care cannot stop neonatal or postnatal deaths – only the midwives are persecuted in criminal courts. Midwives have been interviewed on television news shows when they have lost a child. All people view the death of a newborn as tragic, so this type of publicity can destroy a midwife's career. Unfortunately, it is the societal belief that modern medicine is superior that causes the stigma for midwives. We know that there has been a smear campaign against midwives for over 100 years. Despite all this negativity, midwives still practice and provide superior care for low risk pregnancies.