

The Economic Pie

Birth represents the most important chunk of the economic pie of the medical establishment. That is assuredly the main reason why malpractice insurance is extremely difficult or impossible for midwives and birth centers to obtain. Without coverage, midwives and birth centers are under the whole risk of birth, and since babies die occasional regardless of the care received, they are staking their personal livelihood and possibly their family's to serve the families they work with. Medical doctors control these malpractice insurance companies, so by denying midwives access to insurance they can hamstring or reduce their competition. In the United States the cost of health insurance continues to rise. Safe and inexpensive alternatives are available, and as the statistics bear out, more and more women are choosing to birth with midwives. According to the research the Anderson's presented, there is no question that midwifery services are both safer and more cost effective. Because of these social and economic issues, many HMO's are staffing their maternity wards with midwives.