



## **Child Birth Centers Program**

### ***December 2016***

In Washington State, Childbirth centers (CBC) provide care before, during and after delivery to low-risk mothers-to-be. The centers are designed and medically equipped to provide care for the mother and newborn in a home-like setting and includes accommodations for support persons during the birthing process. Many CBCs look and feel like a residential home and strive to provide mothers and their families with a sense of comfort, privacy and safety. CBCs offer an alternative birthing setting to traditional hospital births and home births.

The department licenses and surveys Childbirth Centers to assure care is provided within established health and safety standards established by [chapter 18.46 RCW](#) and [chapter 246-329 WAC](#). The department enforces the standards by periodically conducting unannounced inspections and investigating complaints of these centers.

### **Services**

- Services are provided in a house or building organized to provide necessary staff and facilities to support the birthing process.
- Services are limited to mothers-to-be who do not have medical conditions that may complicate the birth. Women with complications must be transferred to a hospital to handle the accompanying risks for the mother and the child.
- Babies are delivered in CBCs by licensed Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives.
- CBCs provide birthing information, education and resources to their clients and communities.

### **Quick Facts**

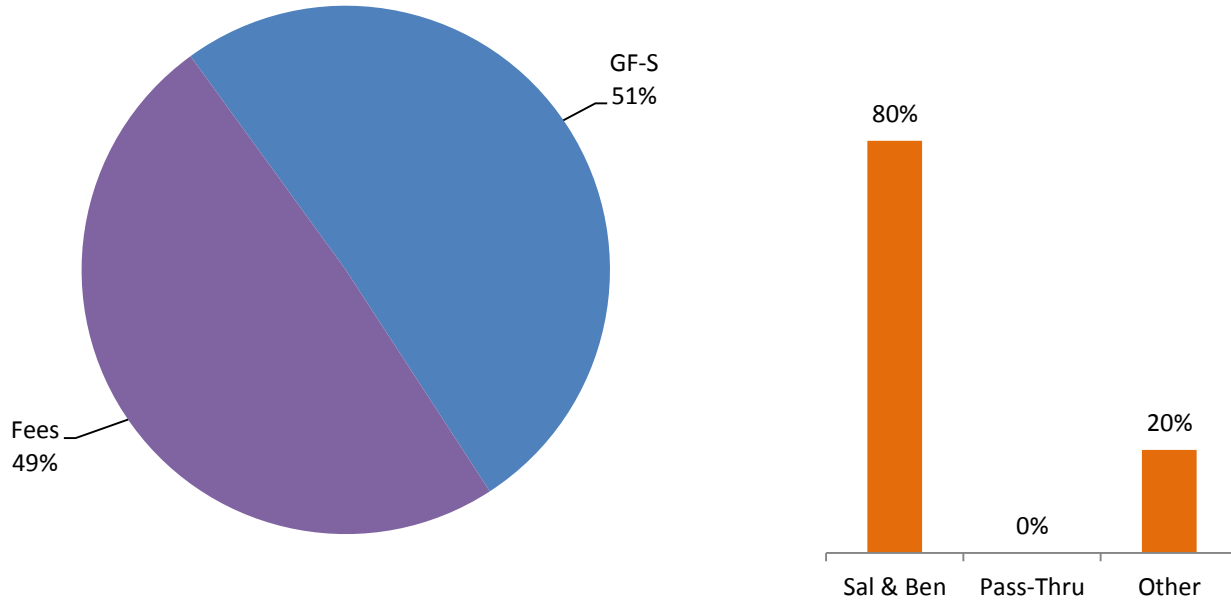
- There are 18 Childbirth Centers in Washington.
- The current annual licensing fee is \$713 (last increase in 2008).
- Licensing fees do not cover the costs of planned compliance surveys. The program is supplemented with \$31,000 from the state general fund.

### **Stakeholders**

- Midwives Association of Washington State: [www.washingtonmidwives.org](http://www.washingtonmidwives.org)
- Midwives of Washington (Nurse-Midwives): <http://www.midwivesofwa.org>

**2015-17 Biennium**

**Child Birth Centers Program Fiscal Information**



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	31,000	0	0	30,000	61,000	49,000	0	12,000