

Midwives and OBs in the Headlines

Open up your search engine. If you are using a search engine affiliated with your email or other stored personal information, you'll get the best results by logging out first and using the search engine from a fully blank slate.

Try typing in a few search terms along the lines of "Obstetrician license revoked," "midwife on trial," "Obstetrician charged with," "midwife in jail," etc. Please stick to American providers and American media sources for this part of the practice.

What are a few headlines...

re: Obstetricians

re: Midwives

Choose 1-3 cases of both midwives and obstetricians charged in years dating back to the year 2000 to do some further investigation. Pick one you felt was the most interesting for the following exercise.

Midwifery Cases

Their names, place of practice, year charged :

What were they charged with?

Who brought the charges against them?

Was this an allegedly repeated offense or a one-time incident?

How many years was this person in practice before being charged with this alleged offense?

Where did you find the coverage of this case (journalistic sources)?

What are some terms used to describe this midwife and their practice :

How was the autonomy of their clients around risk, choice, responsibility, choice of this care provider, etc. discussed in your sources?

What were the outcomes of this accusation and trial (if there was one) for this person's practice? Were they fired? Were they stripped of their license? Were they jailed and for how long? Were they allowed to keep their academic positions? What are they doing now (if the trial + possible punishment are over)?

How was the overall practice of midwifery discussed in your sources? Was this case discussed as a representation of the profession as a whole or as an individual situation by an individual actor?

What was the last line in a few of the articles about this case?

Did you find this person's name and case cited in other articles discussing the merit of the practice of midwifery as a whole - it's benefits, risks, viability, validity - as an example or warning to others who may choose to be cared for by a midwife?

Any other thoughts about this case?

Obstetrical Cases

Their names, place of practice, year charged :

What were they charged with?

Who brought the charges against them?

Was this an allegedly repeated offense or a one-time incident?

How many years was this person in practice before being charged with this alleged offense?

Where did you find the coverage of this case (journalistic sources)?

What are some terms used to describe this obstetrician and their practice :

How was the autonomy of their clients around risk, choice, responsibility, choice of this care provider, etc. discussed in your sources?

What were the outcomes of this accusation and trial (if there was one) for this person's practice? Were they fired? Were they stripped of their license? Were they jailed and for how long? Were they allowed to keep their academic positions? What are they doing now (if the trial + possible punishment are over)?

How was the overall practice of obstetrics discussed in your sources? Was this case discussed as a representation of the profession as a whole or as an individual situation by an individual actor?

What was the last line in a few of the articles about this case?

Did you find this person's name and case cited in other articles discussing the merit of the practice of midwifery as a whole - it's benefits, risks, viability, validity - as an example or warning to others who may choose to be cared for by an obstetrician?

Any other thoughts about this case?

Wider Coverage

Take a few moments to take one of the journalistic sources of your information and run a search within that site.

What is their wider coverage of the profession of midwifery? Do they have both positive and negative stories? How are other midwives portrayed in their coverage? What is the underlying theme of their coverage of midwifery and likely out of hospital care? What are some similar key words or phrases cited within those articles?

What is their wider coverage of the profession of obstetrics? Do they have both positive and negative stories? How are other OBs portrayed in their coverage? What is the underlying theme of their coverage of obstetrical led birth care and hospital based birth? What are some similar key words or phrases cited within those articles?

How many times were midwives referred to as "experts" in the articles you sourced? ____ out of ____

How many times were obstetricians referred to as "experts" in the articles you sourced? ____ out of ____

Can you find similar articles on cases outside of the US? What are some of the details of those cases and how they were treated and covered in media sources? Did they have similar outcomes as the actors in the US based cases.

If there is a discrepancy in how these cases are treated and covered, are the clues as to why within the text itself as to why that is?

Do you notice a difference in the discussion around the risks of pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenting discussed differently in articles

...between midwifery care and obstetrical care?

...between US births and those in other countries?

How often was the specific type and place of training/education/certification referenced in articles about the cases charged against

...midwives ____ out of ____ articles

...obstetricians ____ out of ____ articles

How was that training referenced/explained?

Pulling out 5-10 articles around midwifery criminal cases and obstetrical criminal cases within the past 20 years, what are some personal adjectives used to describe the practitioners under question (i.e. "qualified," "excellent," "skilled," "reckless," "dangerous," "kind," "warm," "brilliant," "knowledgable," "selfish," "trustworthy," "untrustworthy," etc.)

Final thoughts...