

CHANGES IN THE PRACTISING MIDWIVES DENSITY PER 100 HOSPITAL BEDS
IN EUROPEAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

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OBJECTIVES

Our aim was to examine the numbers of practising midwives per 100 hospital beds in European OECD countries.

METHODS

Indicators analysed regarding numbers of practising midwives and total hospital beds were derived from the 'OECD Health Statistics 2021' online database, for the period 2000-2018. 24 European OECD countries were grouped and compared according to type of healthcare system (Bismarckian-type, solidarity-based health insurance system versus Beveridge-type national health system). The comparison was focused especially on years 2000, 2010 and 2018. Data were calculated for 100 hospital beds.

RESULTS

In 2000, the average number of practising midwives was 3.7 per 100 hospital beds in countries having a Bismarckian-like, and 8.8 per 100 hospital beds in countries with a Beveridge-like system. The difference was not significant (p=0.153). In 2018, the average number of practising midwives was 5.9 per 100 hospital beds in countries with a Bismarckian-like and 16.6 per 100 hospital beds in countries with a Beveridge-like system. The difference was not significant (p=0.055). Between 2000-2018, the average number of practising midwives per 100 hospital beds increased from 3.7 to 5.9 (+62 %) in countries having a Bismarckian-like system while in countries with a Beveridge-like healthcare system the increase was from 8.8 to 16.6 (+89 %). During the same period, the average number of practising midwives per 100 hospital beds in all OECD countries increased from 5.6 to 9.7 (+72 %). As for the countries, the highest number of practising midwives was found by Sweden also in 2000 (19.1) and 2018 (35.8). The lowest number was reported by the Netherlands (2.1) in 2000 and by Slovenia (2.6) in 2018.

CONCLUSIONS

Between 2000 and 2018, Beveridge-like systems showed a higher increase in the number of practising midwives per 100 hospital beds compared to countries using the Bismarckian model. The difference was not significant.

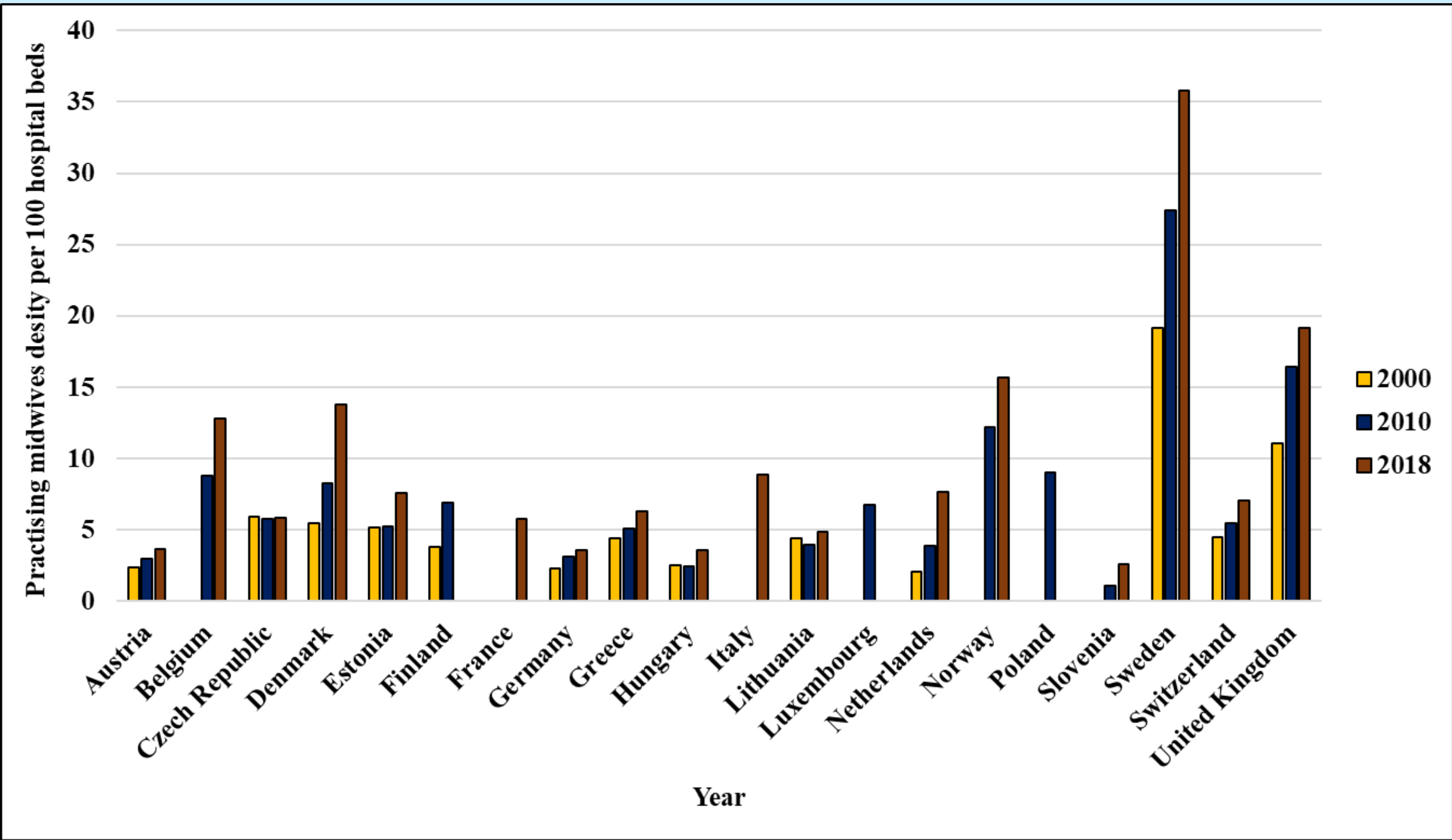


Figure 1.
Changes in the practising midwives density per 100 hospital beds in Europe (2000-2018)

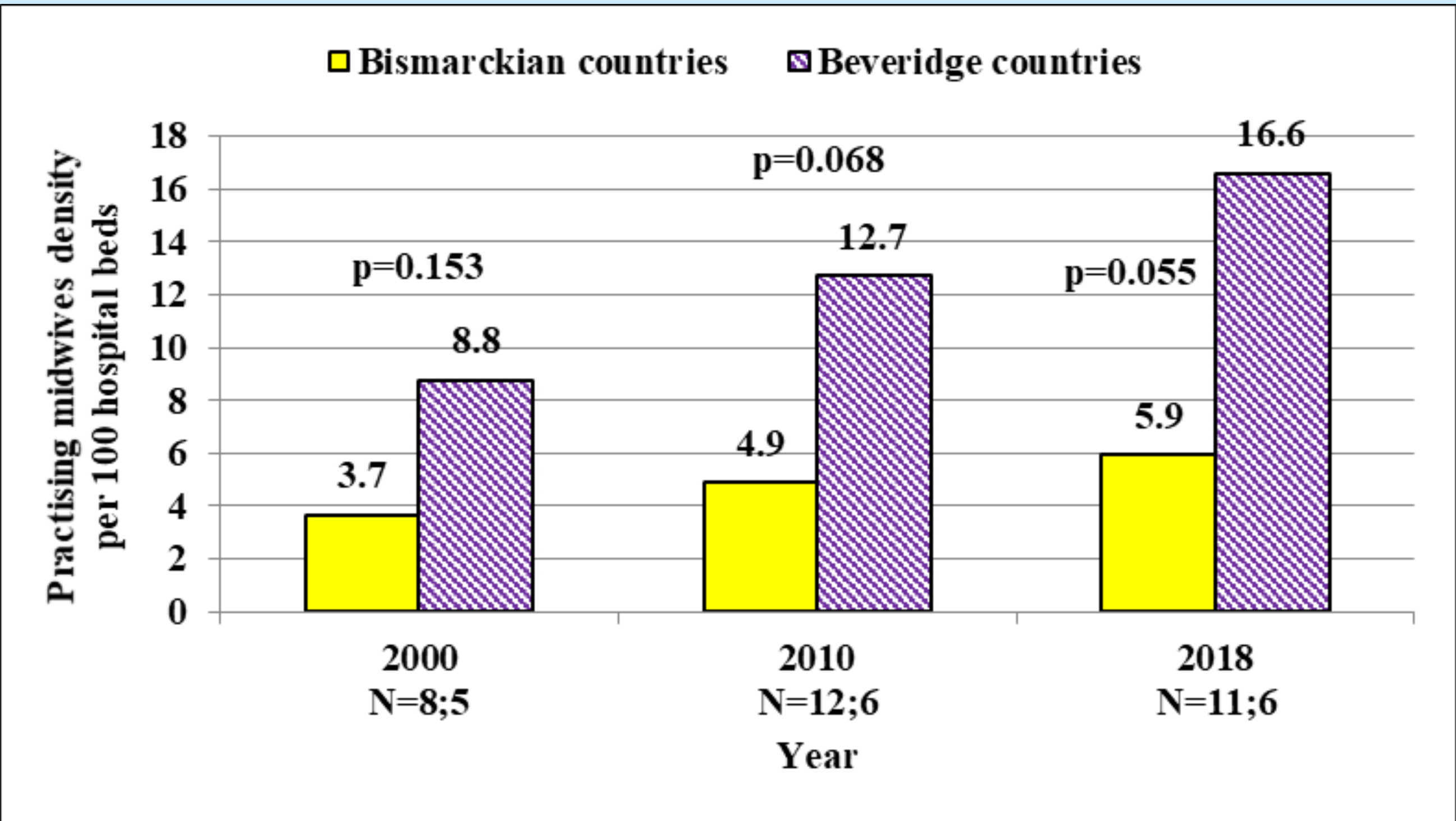


Figure 2.
Comparison of changes in the practising midwives density per 100 hospital beds in Bismarckian and Beveridge countries (2000-2018)

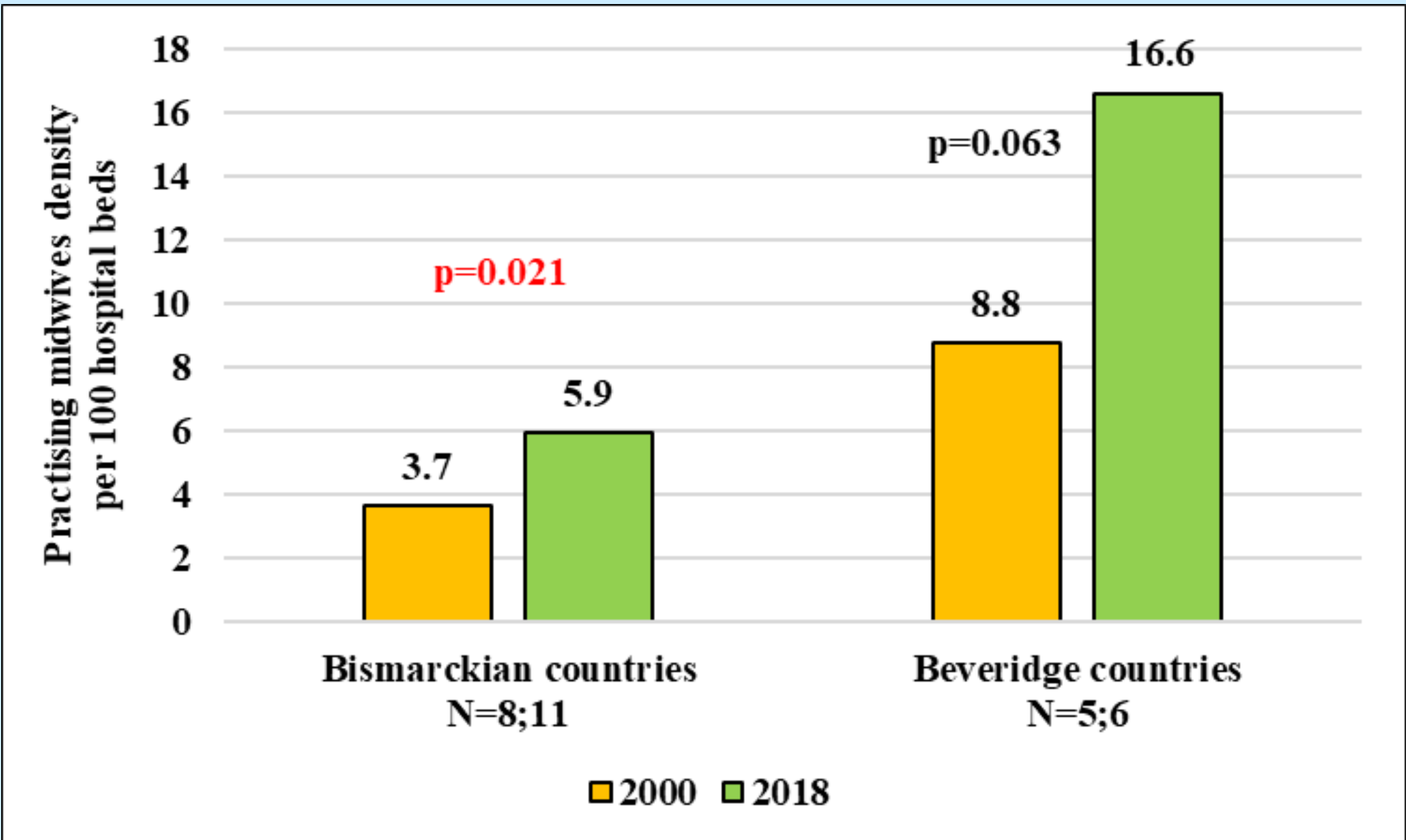


Figure 3.
Changes in the practising midwives density per 100 hospital beds within Bismarckian and Beveridge countries (2000-2018)



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