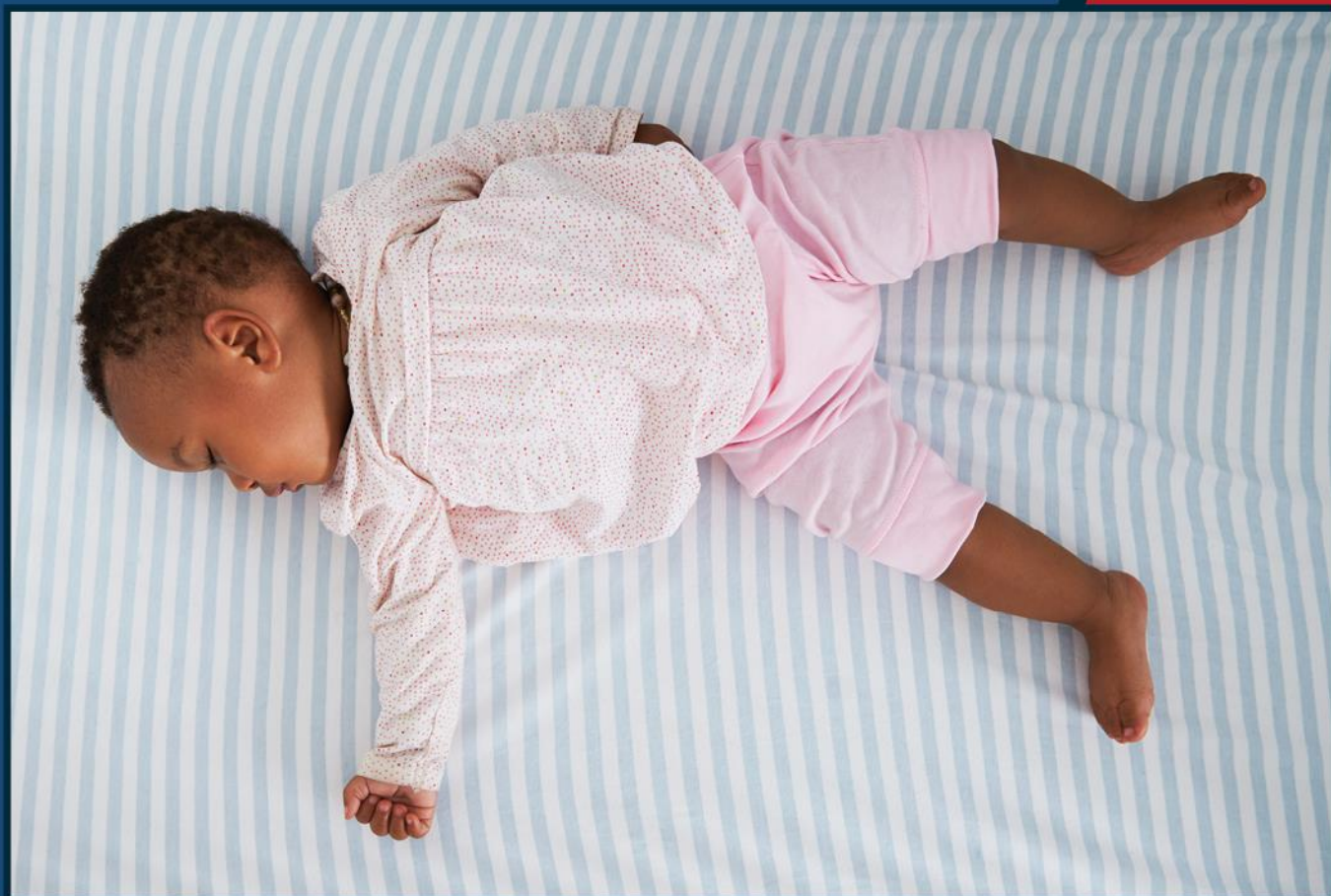


GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Newborn Safe Haven Program

Annual Status Report 2020

Submitted to the Council of the District of Columbia
January 31, 2021



D.C. Child and Family Services Agency

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MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Newborn Safe Haven Program Annual Status Report 2020

Introduction

The Newborn Safe Haven Amendment Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-158; D.C. Official Code § 4–1451.01 *et seq.*) allows a parent who resides in the District of Columbia to surrender a newborn infant 14 days old or less to staff at designated hospitals (Authorized Receiving Facilities or ARFs), in the District of Columbia, confidentially and without fear of prosecution, if there is no evidence of child abuse or neglect. Hospitals are required to notify the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) immediately when a newborn is surrendered under the law. CFSA takes custody of the newborn from the hospital within 23 hours of notice. CFSA then provides foster care services to the newborn while seeking a permanent home through adoption.

The law requires the Mayor to submit an annual status report giving an update on the number of newborns in the District of Columbia surrendered under the law within the reporting year. This status report to the Council of the District of Columbia fulfills the requirement.

Status Report

Following are CFSA's responses to questions found in the D.C. Official Code § 4–1451.07- Status Report section.

- **Number of newborns surrendered and dates of surrender**
There were no newborns surrendered under *The Newborn Safe Haven Amendment Act of 2010* in 2020.
- **Services provided to surrendered newborns**
There were no surrendered newborns in 2020.
- **Outcome of the care provided for each surrendered newborn**
There were no surrendered newborns in 2020.
- **Number and disposition of cases of surrendered newborns**
There were no surrendered newborns in 2020.

Activities

Information and trainings were facilitated by the staff responsible for the Newborn Safe Haven Program on the following dates:

- Presentation and dissemination of materials in a CFSA All Staff Webinar training on June 24, 2020
- Presentation and dissemination of materials on a panel discussion via virtual platform with the Visiting Lecture Series on Perinatal Pediatrics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center on July 2, 2020
- Presentation to CFSA Hotline staff via virtual platform was conducted on July 13, 2020

- Presentation and dissemination of materials were provided to the staff of four of the five Healthy Families/ Thriving Communities Collaboratives of the Office of Community Partnerships via virtual platforms on September 17, 18, 21, and 24, 2020

During 2020, information on the Newborn Safe Haven law was disseminated to approximately 249 medical professional and social work staff.

In 2021, coordinated interoffice trainings will continue to include the Child Protective Services Administration, the Office of Community Partnerships, and the Office of Youth Empowerment. These trainings will ensure that social workers are continuously aware of the policies and procedures relating to the Newborn Safe Haven Program. The training will be conducted by the staff responsible for the Newborn Safe Haven Program with the support of the CFSA Child Welfare Training Academy. The trainings will be offered at varied times and through various modalities to ensure all tours of duty are covered and to complement all learning styles.

Information about the program can be found on CFSA's website at <http://cfsa.dc.gov/service/safe-havens-newborns>. Safe Haven locations can be found in the *DC Safe Haven General Information* publication found on CFSA's website.