

SAFE Birth VA

2025 Annual Report to the General Assembly



Introduction

SAFE Birth VA (Standardized Approaches for Emergencies in Birth – Virginia), a Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative (VNPC) initiative ordered through [HB2753/SB1279](#), ensures the greatest possible standards of maternal care across healthcare facilities in the Commonwealth. Through this initiative, the VNPC will work with all Virginia hospitals that have a labor and delivery unit or emergency department, freestanding emergency departments, and birthing centers. The goal of this work is to equip facilities with evidence-based emergency protocols, checklists, and templates for identifying and responding to a wide range of obstetric emergencies.



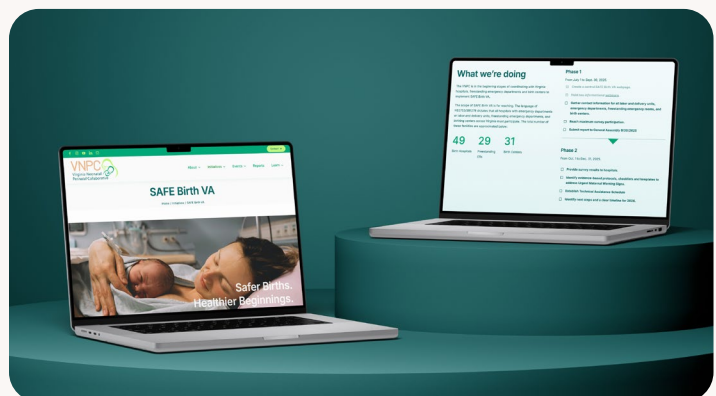
Progress to Date

Since the SAFE Birth VA initiative formally kicked off on July 1, 2025, the VNPC has been hard at work developing the infrastructure for the initiative. In just a few short months, the VNPC has created a webpage for the SAFE Birth VA efforts, hosted informational webinars to foster awareness of the initiative, and has begun collecting data to better understand the landscape of maternal and infant health services in Virginia. This section details the VNPC's efforts between July 1 and September 30, 2025.

Phase One (July 1 to September 30, 2025)

SAFE Birth VA Webpage

To lay the foundation for the SAFE Birth VA efforts, and to provide a singular space for information sharing, the VNPC developed a SAFE Birth VA webpage. The webpage launched on July 1, 2025, and provides an overview of the SAFE Birth VA initiative, details step-by-step information about SAFE Birth VA efforts, and shares critical information for facilities participating in the initiative. Currently, webpage visitors can see the steps completed by the VNPC for Phase One, as well as the actions that will be taken by the end of 2025. Visitors can also find recent data reports by the VNPC and access the VNPC's Quality Improvement Survey on the webpage: www.govnpc.org/initiatives/safebirthva/.



Informational Webinars

To share information about SAFE Birth VA, the VNPC hosted two informational webinars about the initiative for required facilities. These webinars helped ground attendees in the VNPC's mission while also growing an understanding of the purpose and need for SAFE Birth VA. Always using data-driven approaches, the VNPC shared data representing the deliveries that occurred in Virginia in 2024 and showcased

400

People Attended
the Webinars

the rate of obstetric complications that occurred during delivery within the past five years. The VNPC then shared how the integration of the Maternal Mortality Review Team's (MMRT)

recommendations and the VNPC's data led to the establishment of SAFE Birth VA. As a call to action, attendees were provided with links to the VNPC's many communication channels as well as the VNPC's Quality Improvement Survey (see below), so that they can collaborate with the VNPC to give every mother and infant in Virginia the best possible care and start to life.



The SAFE Birth VA webinar slides are available at <https://govnpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/For-Web-SAFE-Birth-VA-learning-session.pdf>.

VNPC Quality Improvement Survey

The VNPC launched the [Quality Improvement Survey](#) on July 15, 2025 in an effort to better understand the current landscape of services in Virginia, while also evaluating facilities' preparedness to participate in the SAFE Birth VA initiative. Participating facilities were asked to provide contact information for future SAFE Birth VA efforts, while also providing critical information about their facilities.

The VNPC's Quality Improvement Survey collected information on important topics, such as:

- Facility Services and Bed Capacity
- Previous Quality Improvement Efforts
- Past Engagement with the VNPC
- Current Implementation of AIM Patient Safety Bundles
- Facility Knowledge on Various Maternal and Infant Care Topics
- Facility Interest in Various QI Initiatives

As of September 15, 2025, 66 responses have been received. Preliminary findings are noted below. A full analysis of the survey data will be completed and published by the VNPC once the survey closes.

Early analysis of the survey data shows that, while many facilities have engaged with the VNPC and show a strong level of preparedness, there is still room to grow.

The following sites have completed the survey to date and are represented in this preliminary analysis:

→ Augusta Health	→ Fauquier Health	→ Sentara Port Warwick ED
→ Bon Secours St. Mary's	→ Harbour View Medical Center	→ Sentara Princess Anne Hospital
→ Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital	→ HCA Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center	→ Sentara RMH Medical Center
→ Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center	→ Henrico Doctor's Hospital	→ Sentara Simulation Center
→ Bon Secours Southside Medical Center	→ Inova Alexandria Hospital	→ Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center
→ Brookhaven Birth Center	→ Inova Fairfax Hospital	→ Southampton Medical Center
→ BSMH St. Francis Medical Center	→ Inova Loudoun Hospital	→ SOVAH Danville
→ Buchanan Birth Center	→ Johnston-Willis Hospital	→ Stafford Hospital
→ Carilion Clinic	→ LewisGale Pulaski	→ Twin County Regional Hospital
→ Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital	→ Mary Washington Healthcare	→ University of Virginia Hospital
→ Carilion Giles Community Hospital	→ Norton Community Hospital	→ UVA Health Culpeper Medical Center
→ Carilion New River Valley Medical Center	→ Riverside Regional Medical Center	→ Valley Health Paige Memorial Hospital
→ Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital	→ Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital	→ Valley Health Shenandoah Memorial Hospital
→ Carilion Tazewell Community Hospital	→ Riverside Walter Reed Hospital	→ VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital
→ Centra	→ Russell County Hospital	→ VCU Health Tappahannock Hospital
→ Centra Southside Community Hospital	→ Sentara Bell Harbour FSED	→ VCU Medical Center
→ Clinch Valley Medical Center	→ Sentara CarePlex Hospital	→ VCU Health Arlington
	→ Sentara Halifax	→ Warren Memorial Hospital
	→ Sentara Lake Ridge Freestanding ED	→ Wythe County Community Hospital
	→ Sentara Leigh Hospital	
	→ Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital	
	→ Sentara Norfolk General Hospital	
	→ Sentara Obici Hospital	

Facility Characteristics

62%

of facilities have labor & delivery units

81%

of facilities have emergency departments

32%

of facilities have neonatal intensive care units

20%

of facilities have special care nurseries

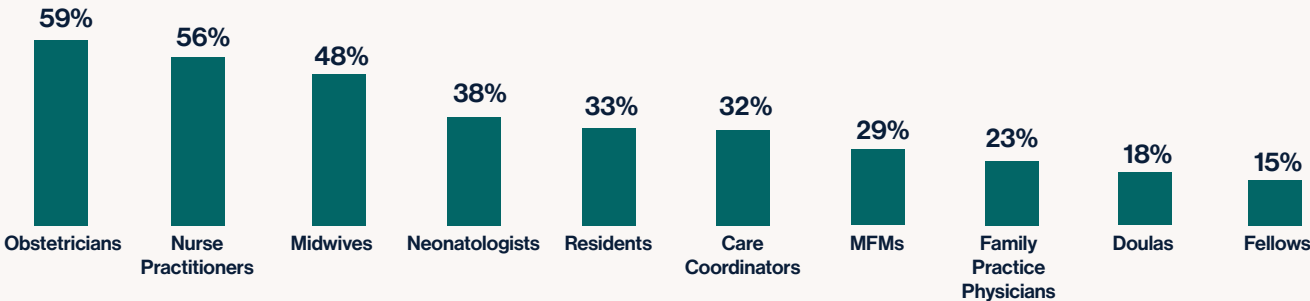
55%

of facilities have well-baby units

Median Number of Beds per Unit Type:

- Labor & Delivery: **11**
- Emergency Department: **21**
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: **23**
- Special Care Nursery: **5**
- Freestanding Emergency Department: **12**

Percentage of Facilities who Report Having the Following Members on their Care Teams:



Quality Improvement History

 On average, facilities have engaged in VNPC activities **5 times**

 **71%** of facilities reported having a formal model for quality improvement in place

Top Five Most Common Ways Facilities Have Engaged with the VNPC:

61%
Attended
VNPC
Webinars

44%
Accessed
the VNPC
Website

39%
Received the
VNPC
Newsletter

38%
Attended
VNPC
Events

29%
Participated in the
VNPC's Obstetric
Hemorrhage Efforts

The majority of facilities have engaged in quality improvement for **10+ years**

Average Participation in Quality Improvement Projects:


Physicians
50% Participation


Direct Patient Care Staff
85% Participation


Unit Leadership
85% Participation


Executive Leadership
Willing to Allocate Any
Necessary Staff Time and Efforts

58%
of facilities expressed
interest in a VNPC site visit

74%
of facilities expressed high or very high interest in receiving
help in implementing the AIM patient safety bundles

AIM Patient Safety Bundles Most Commonly Implemented (Partially or Fully)

83%
**Obstetric
Hemorrhage**

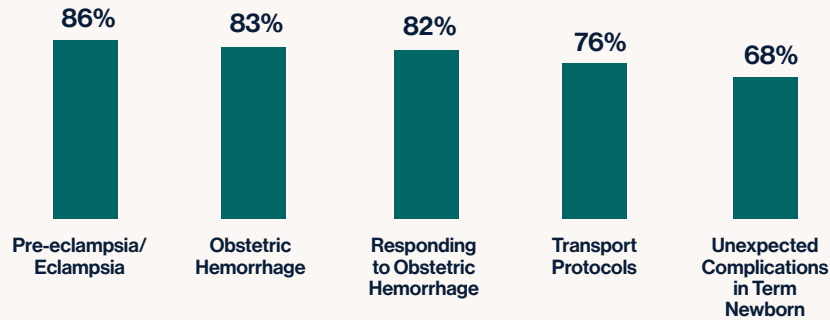
82%
**Severe
Hypertension
in Pregnancy**

53%
**Sepsis in
Obstetric Care**

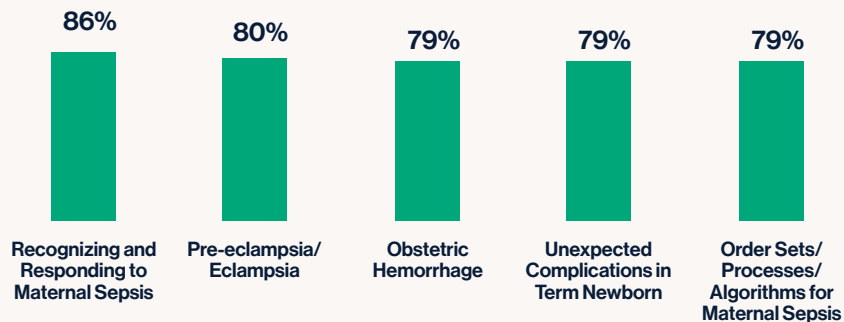
52%
**Safe Reduction
of Primary
Cesarean Birth**

52%
**Perinatal Mental
Health Conditions
(SMILE)**

Facilities Reported Having the Most Knowledge (High or Moderate Knowledge) of:



Facilities Reported Having the Most Interest in Learning About:



Upcoming Work

Phase Two

(October 1 to December 31, 2025)

Phase Two of SAFE Birth VA will kick off on October 1, 2025, and last through the remainder of the year. Throughout this phase, the VNPC will continue to move towards ensuring that all facilities are well prepared to address obstetric emergencies as they occur. During Phase Two, the VNPC will:

1 Provide survey results to hospitals

2 Identify evidence-based protocols, checklists, and templates to address urgent maternal warning signs

3 Establish a technical assistance schedule

4 Identify next steps and a clear timeline for 2026

Recommended Funding

To fully implement all components of the SAFE Birth VA initiative, the VNPC recommends allocating \$300,000 in funding for the upcoming fiscal year. These funds would be used as detailed in the budget table below.

Budget Item	Details	Budget Amount
VNPCSAFEBirthCoordinator	1 FTE with fringe	\$117,300
Data Coordinator	0.5 FTE with fringe	\$48,300
Supplies to support hospitals and this initiative	Hemorrhage supplies/bag, resuscitation kits for preterm babies, printed protocols and checklist, etc.	\$60,000
Travel to EDs, freestanding EDs, birth centers and L&Ds	Relationship building, training, and education. Travel costs in accordance with VCU per diem rates and travel guidance.	\$25,000
Communication, training, and education supplies	Posters for awareness, print-outs for staff/patients, SME presenters for training, development of training aids, communication about maternal health urgent warning signs, etc.	\$45,000
Data resources	Data tools, survey resources, data software, dashboard	\$4,400
Total:		\$300,000

Conclusion

SAFE Birth VA marks the next step in obstetric health and safety in Virginia. Through collaboration between the VNPC and their many partners, Virginia is embarking on a journey towards a safer and healthier standard of care for all pregnant and parenting mothers and is ensuring that all infants have the best possible start to life. More information on the SAFE Birth VA initiative will be continually provided on the SAFE Birth VA webpage (www.govnpc.org/initiatives/safebirthva/).