

Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visits for All Marylanders: Summary for Policy Makers on SBI 56/HB334

A critical gap exists in care for birthing parents and newborns in the six weeks between hospital discharge and the first postpartum doctor's appointment when almost 25% of deaths from pregnancy-related complications occur. Universal newborn nurse home visits for all Marylanders can fill this gap.

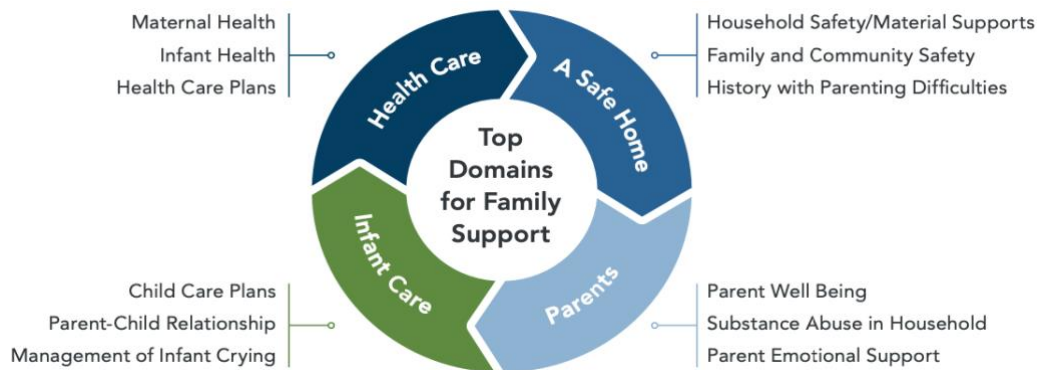
What SBI 56/HB334 Does

SBI 56/HB334 will require MDH to create a program based in local communities to offer the Family Connects model to all Maryland families with newborns. The bill requires reimbursement for the service by commercial insurance payers (a new source of funds) and Medicaid. MIA will establish a reimbursement rate.

Family Connects: An Evidence-Based Model that Reduces Stigma

The Family Connects model offers health and wellness checks for all birth parents and newborns in a community at home with a well-trained nurse at no charge to families. Visits are made about three weeks after the baby's arrival. Families are connected to services to meet the needs they identify during the visit.

Care for Families Aligns with State Integrated Health Improvement Strategies and Maryland Moms



What is included in a nurse visit?

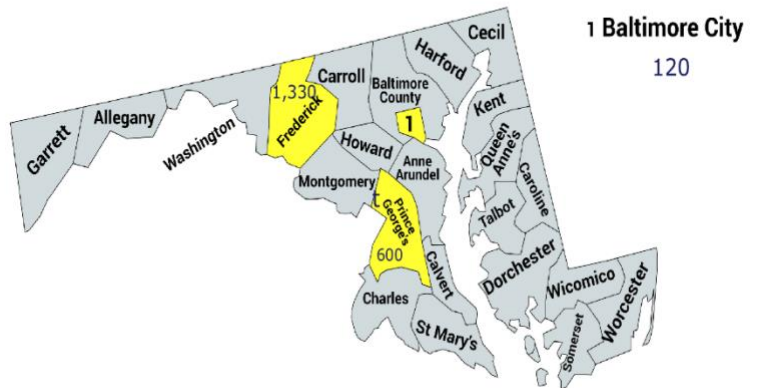
- Comprehensive assessment based on the factors above
- Full assessment of the baby, blood pressure and incision or wound check for birthing parent
- Screenings for postpartum depression and anxiety and intimate partner violence
- Risks are rated 1-4 with the most urgent or emergent needs rated as 3s and 4s.
- Case management for warm connection to referrals, as needed.



The Case for Nurse Postpartum Visits

- [Research](#) shows a return of **\$3.17 for every \$1 investment** for infant emergency department use and overnight hospital stays.
- **Reduced racial disparities** for maternal anxiety/depression child maltreatment investigations, and other impacts.
- Ability to **reduce postpartum health care costs** for birthing parents.
- **98%** patient satisfaction
- **100%** of families with risk identified received at least one referral. Top referrals were for health care, household safety and materials support, and mental health care.

FY 2024 Number of Families Served



What Families Say

- *“I’m a nurse and I didn’t realize my headaches were from postpartum preeclampsia – diagnosed after the nurse checked me.”*
- *“The nurse identified that my son was in respiratory distress, and we quickly went to the emergency department.”*
- *“My blood pressure was extremely high, and she helped me get care when I was reluctant.”*
- *“This visit was helpful because I was alone with no friends.”*
- *“She gave me information I did not know, even after having multiple children.”*
- *“The nurse helped me understand my baby blues and was supportive with breastfeeding.”*
- *“I remembered her education on postpartum anxiety when my symptoms started. I reached out to get connected to support and got care right away.”*