



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

<https://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org>

National Safe Haven Alliance

P.O. Box 12631
Glendale, AZ 85318
(623) 428-1308
Crisis Hotline (1-888) 510-BABY



DATE: April 28, 2025

CONTACT: Heather Burner, Executive Director
623-428-1308
hburner@nationalsafehavenalliance.org

Over 5,000 Infants Safely Relinquished Across the U.S. Under Safe Haven Laws

April is Safe Haven Awareness Month Across the US

GLENDAL, Ariz.— More than 5,000 infants have been safely surrendered across the United States since the introduction of Safe Haven laws in 1999, according to data compiled by the National Safe Haven Alliance, a nonprofit that supports parents and providers, promotes the laws, and provides education to the community.

These laws, enacted in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands, allow parents to relinquish unharmed newborns anonymously at designated locations such as hospitals, police stations, and fire stations without fear of legal repercussions. [PBS: Public Broadcasting Service+111Alive+1](#)

Originally established to prevent infant abandonment and infanticide, Safe Haven laws have contributed to a 13% reduction in overall infant homicide rates since their nationwide adoption. The CDC reports a nearly 67% decrease in homicides occurring on the day of birth, highlighting the laws' effectiveness in providing safe alternatives for parents in crisis. [Infant Homicides Within the Context of Safe Haven Laws — United States, 2008–2017 | MMWR](#)

Despite these successes, the utilization of Safe Haven laws varies significantly across states. For instance, Texas has recorded 252 surrenders since 2009, with 21 in 2020 alone. In Iowa, 76 infants have been surrendered since the law's enactment over two decades ago. [We Are Iowa+3KCCI+3KCCI+3](#), Georgia has seen 79 surrenders in 20 years, with fluctuations potentially linked to public awareness efforts [WHO 13+111Alive+11AP News+1111Alive+2KHOU+2KSAT+2](#), and Nebraska has seen its first infant safely surrendered since the recent expansion of its law and public awareness efforts. [First Baby Safely Surrendered Under Nebraska's Expanded Safe Haven Law](#). 56 infants have also been surrendered through the utilization of infant relinquishment devices located at hospitals and fire stations. [First Safe Haven Baby Box in northeastern Oklahoma officially ready for use | News | fox23.com](#)

While Safe Haven laws provide a critical safety net, experts emphasize the need for increased public education and support services to ensure parents are aware of and can access these options. The National Safe Haven Alliance operates a 24/7 helpline available for parents and providers in need of immediate support. Please call 1-888-510-BABY(2229). For more information on Safe Haven laws and resources, visit the National Safe Haven Alliance at www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org.