



# SAFE SLEEP SUCCESSES: STORIES FROM FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS

Telling Stories to Save Lives



# KEY FUNDING PARTNER

## FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The National Center is funded in part by Cooperative Agreement Number 2 UG7MC28482-08-00 from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as part of an award totaling \$2,400,997 annually with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



# HOUSEKEEPING

Before we get started

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- This webinar is being recorded and will be available on the National Center's webpage (URL: [www.ncfrp.org](http://www.ncfrp.org)).
- Participants are muted. Use the question-and-answer box to ask questions.
- Due to the large number of participants, the speakers may be unable to answer all questions. Unanswered questions will be answered and posted with the recording.
- Contact the National Center (email: [info@ncfrp.org](mailto:info@ncfrp.org)) for any tech problems.





# EVALUATION

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/32BRMMX>





## Welcome and Introductions

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### **Carri Cottengim, M.A.**

Health Scientist

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry

Division of Reproductive Health

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# SUID and SDY Case Registry: (CDC-RFA-DP23-0006)

## New Notice of Funding Opportunity coming in March

- **Multi-component**
  - Component A: SUID
  - Component B: SDY
  - Component C: Data-informed Prevention
- **Forecasted at:** <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345851>
  - Subscribe to **receive updates**



Introduce state and local fatality review partners and processes.



Highlight connectivity between fatality review and infant safe sleep efforts in jurisdictions.



Share strategies for promoting infant safe sleep.



Identify upcoming opportunities to support infant safe sleep surveillance and prevention.



## PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES



# Speakers

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## South Dakota Child Death Review



**Brianne Edwards, PA**  
Lach's Legacy



**Jill Munger, RN, BSN**  
Statewide CDR Coordinator  
South Dakota Department  
of Health

## Cook County, Illinois Child Death Review



**Kyran Quinlan, MD, MPH**  
Professor  
Director, General Pediatrics  
Rush University Medical Center



**Gina Lowell, MD, MPH**  
Associate Professor  
Director  
Community Health for Pediatrics  
Rush University Children's Hospital



**Felicia A. Clark, BA, ABMDI**  
Community Partnership Approaches  
for Safe Sleep (CPASS)  
Rush University Children's Hospital

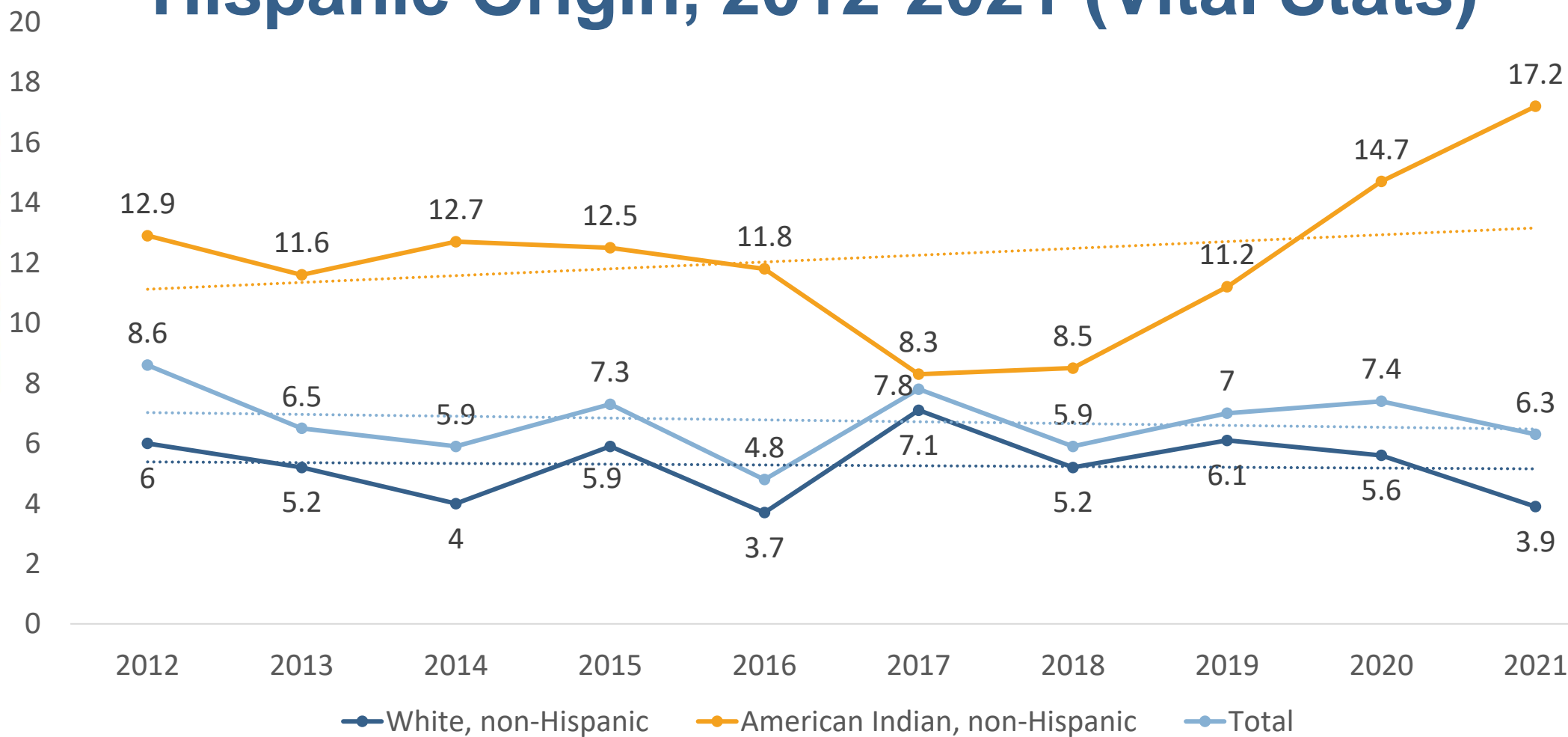


SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

February 22, 2023  
Child Death Review Data to Action



# Ten-Year Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2012-2021 (Vital Stats)





[illegible]



# State Action Plan

## State Action Plan

**Implementation Timeframe:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### NPM 5

- A) Percent of infants placed to sleep on their backs
- B) Percent of infants placed to sleep on a separate approved sleep surface
- C) Percent of infants placed to sleep without soft objects or loose bedding

**State Priority Need:** Safe Sleep

- Objectives:** 1) Reduce the number of SUID deaths related to unsafe sleep environment from 139.8/100,000 in 2019 to 103.9/100,000 by 2025 (NVSS).  
2) Increase the percent of infants placed to sleep without soft objects or loose bedding from 55.8% in 2020 to 57.2% by 2025 (PRAMS).

**Facilitator:** Jill Munger (DOH – MCH Infant Domain Coordinator/CDR Coordinator)

**Workgroup Members:** Alyssa Christensen (Avera McKennan Nurse Manager; Postpartum & Newborn Nursery), Bette Schumacher (CNS Sanford NICU), Laura Nordbye (DSS Childcare Services-Licensing Program Manager), Audrey Rider (SDSU Extension-Early Childhood Field Specialist), Kaylyn Davis (Statewide CDR abstractor/West River NVDRS abstractor, BHSSC) Bri Edwards (Family Advocate, Lach's Legacy) Paul Forney (Research Assistant, Avera Research Institute, Pine Ridge) Christine Catts (DOH-MCH Women's Domain Coordinator/Maternal Mortality Review Abstractor) Teah Bell, RN (DOH-CHN, Pine Ridge)

## State Action Plan Strategy 5.1

Strategy 5.1:  Disseminate culturally appropriate safe sleep educational materials, resources, and messages via social media and print.	Activities	Status	ESM	Responsible person(s)
	Continue to post safe sleep messages on For Baby's Sake and DOH Facebook pages.			Chris Jill
	Continue to place ads in parenting magazines and professional journals.			Chris Jill
	Continue to disperse safe sleep infographic (with data from CDR) to providers and partners across the state.			Workgroup members





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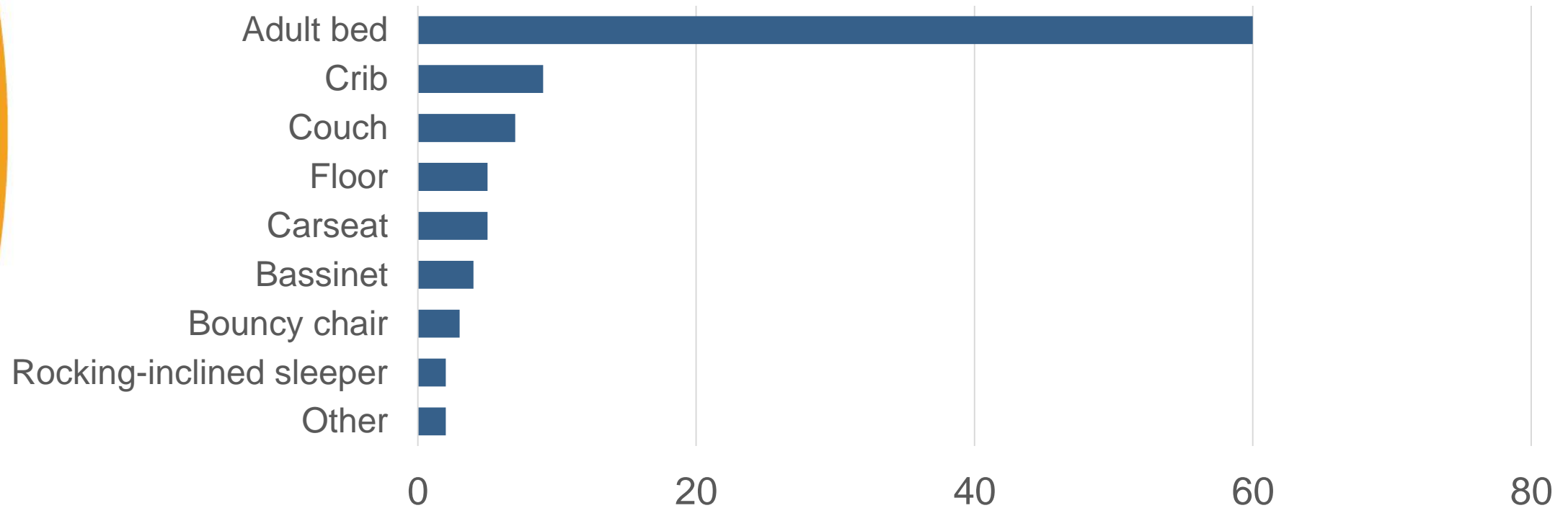
# For Baby's Sake Website

<https://forbabysakesd.com/>





## Sleep Place Where the Infant Deaths Occurred (CDR 2017-2021)



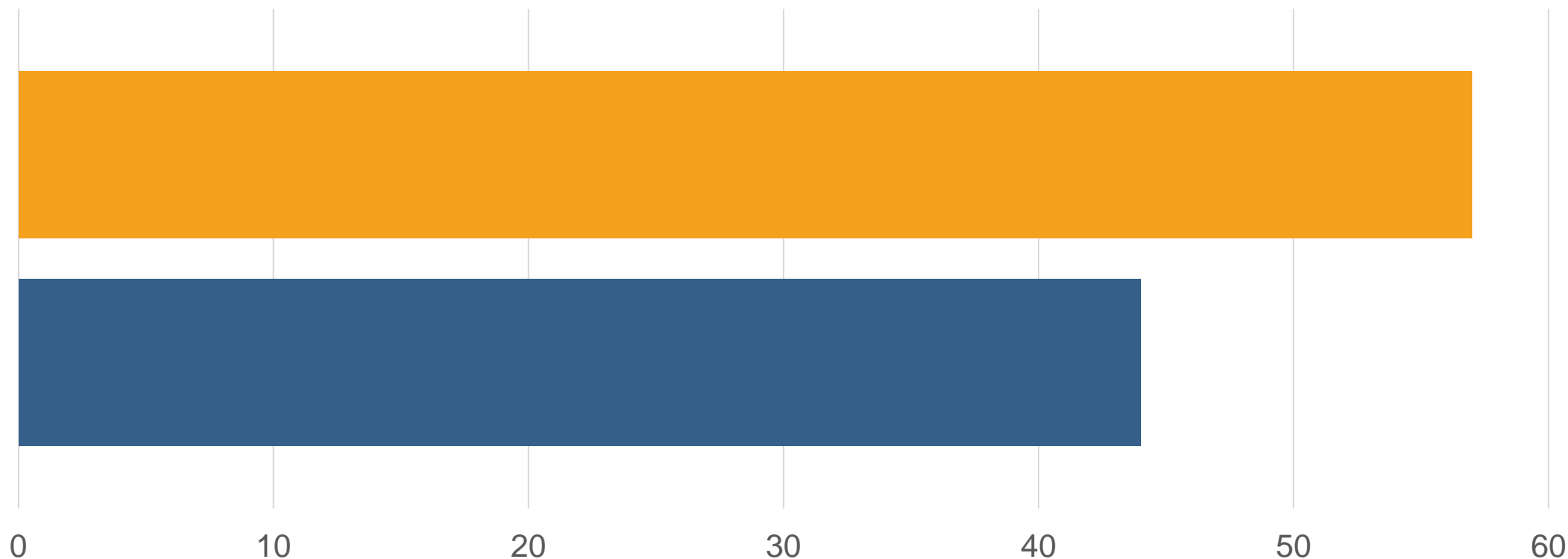


# Client-Centered Infographic





## Safe Sleep Every Sleep (CDR 2017-2021)



■ Number of infants that had a crib, portable crib, or bassinet in the home

■ Number of infants that had a crib, portable crib, or bassinet in the home, yet died in an unsafe sleep environment



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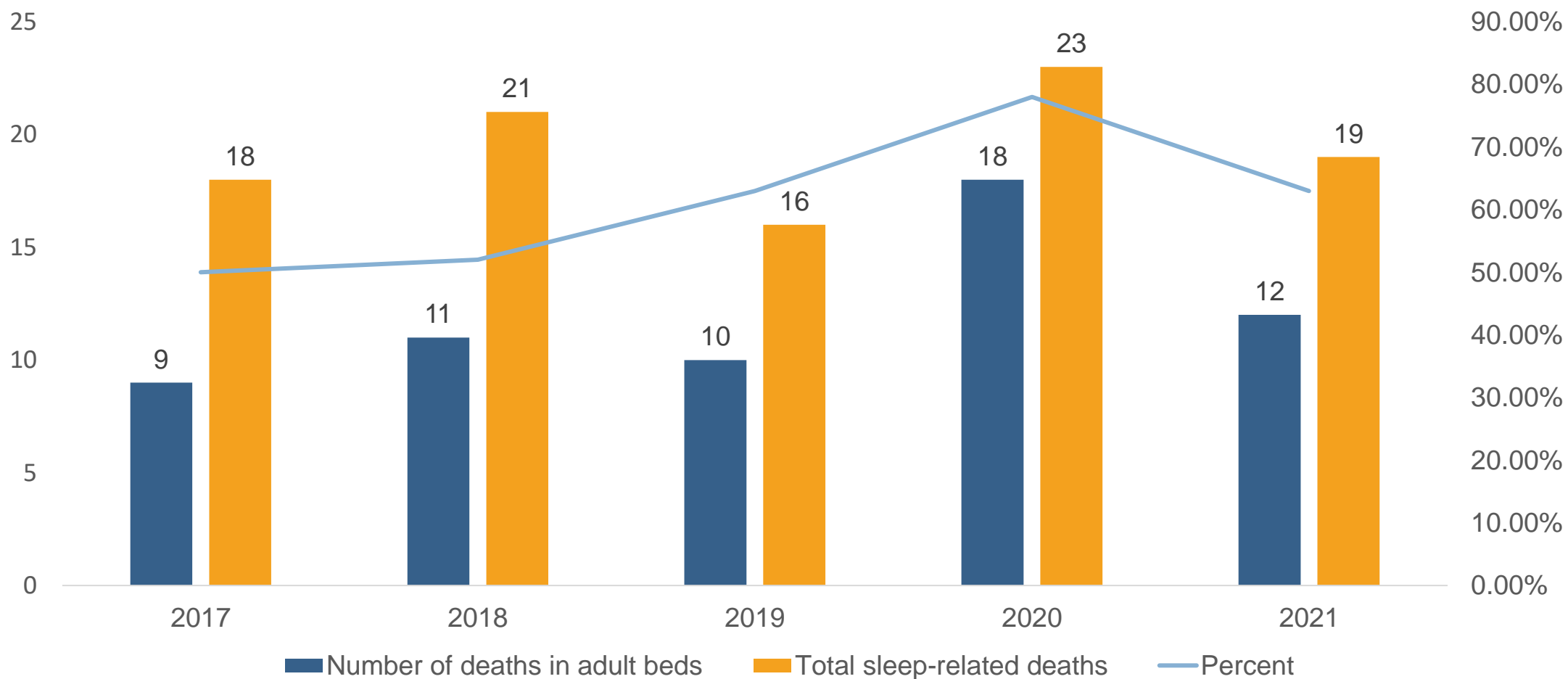
# New 2023 Infographic Design







## The number of infant deaths occurring in an adult bed (alone or bed-sharing)



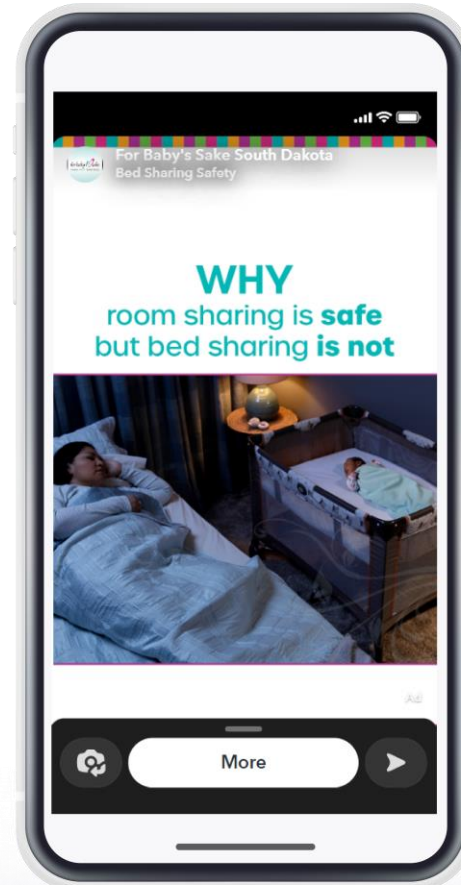


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# Snapchat Advertisement: Addressing Bed Sharing Safety

505,165

Impressions



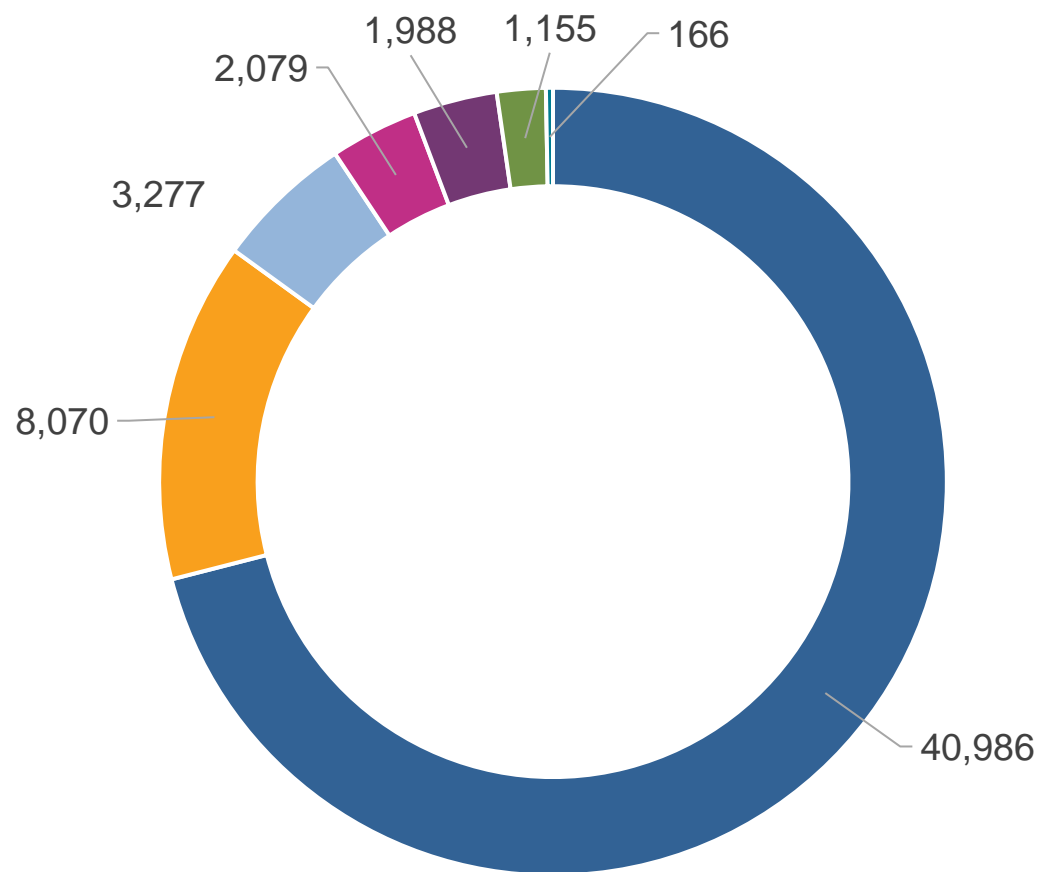
9,050

Swipe Ups





## Number of infant births by race: 2017-2021 (Vital Stats)

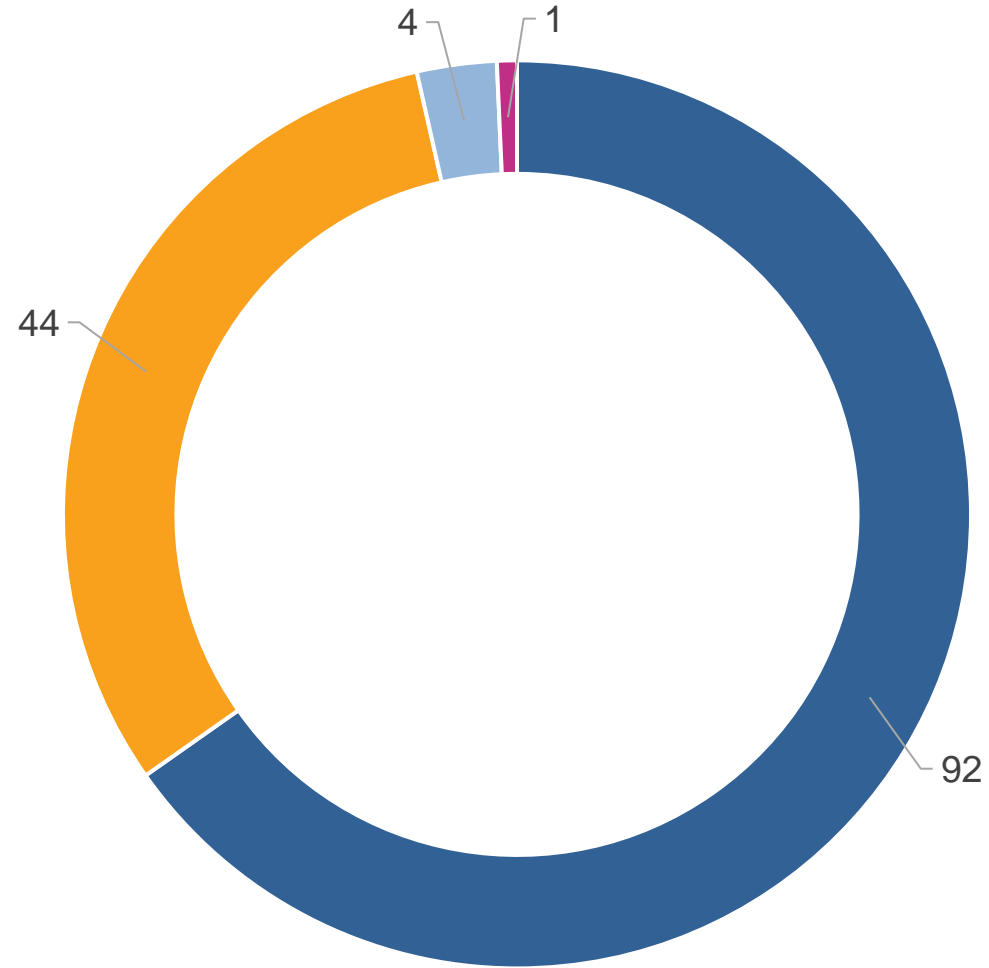


- White, non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Black, non-Hispanic
- Unknown

- American Indian, non-Hispanic
- Multi-racial, non-Hispanic
- Other



## Number of infant deaths by race: 2017-2021 (CDR)

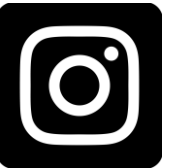
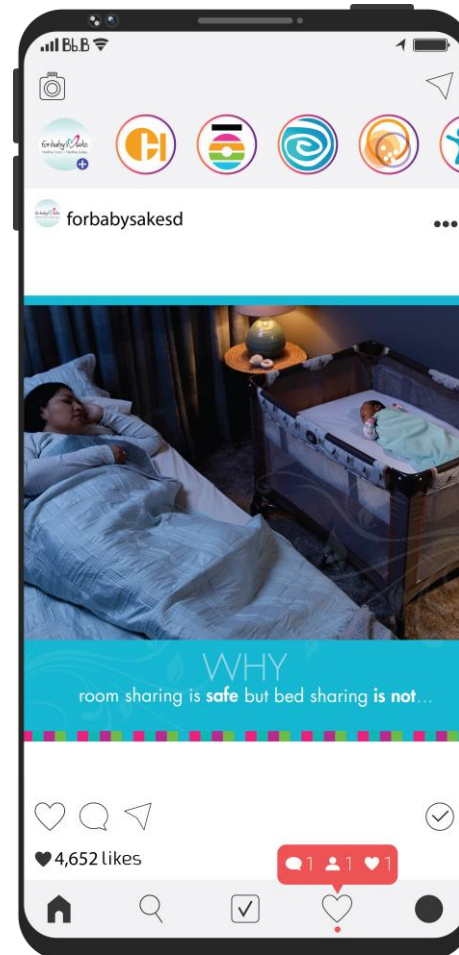


■ White ■ American Indian ■ Black/African American ■ Pacific Islander



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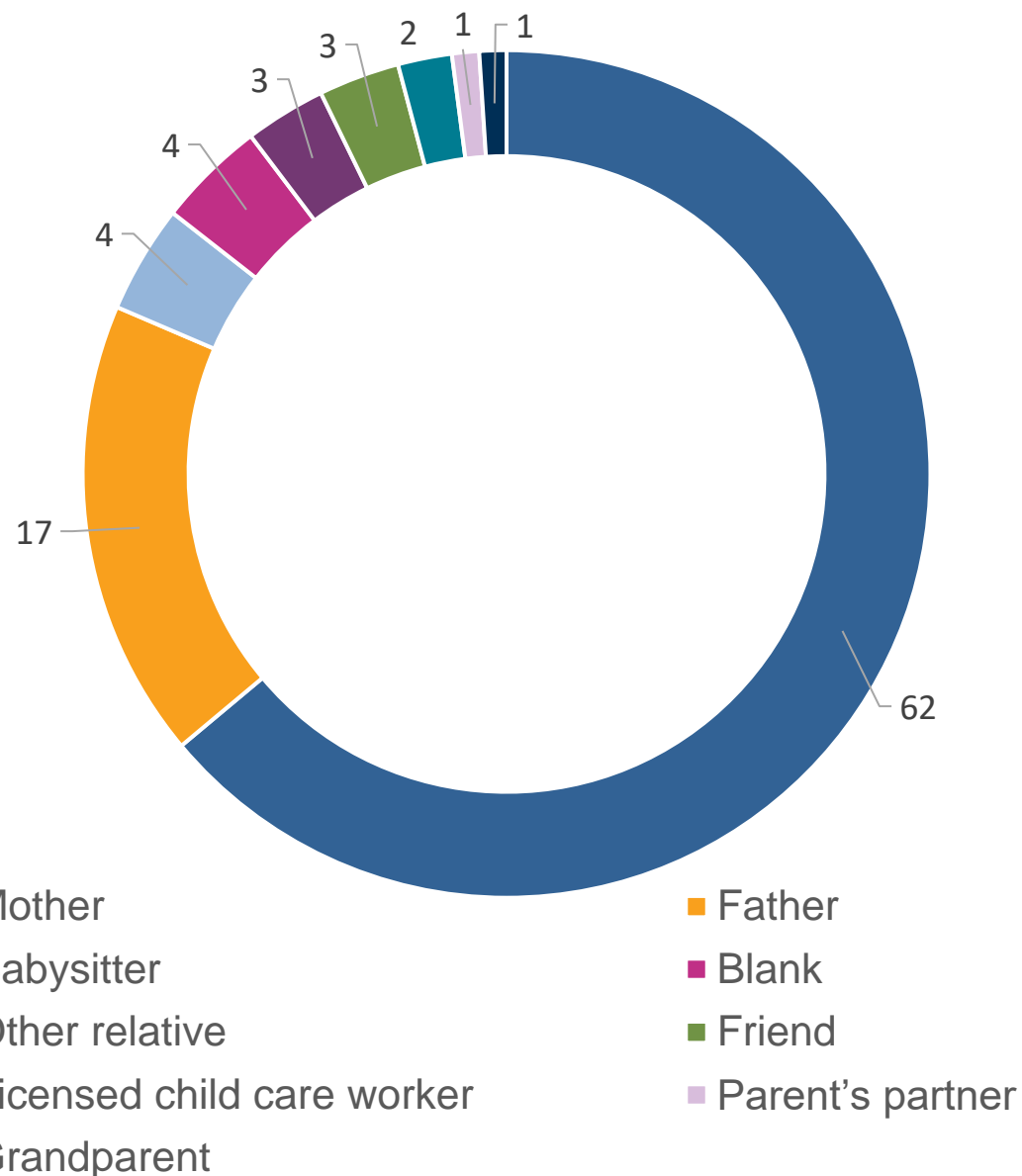
# For Baby's Sake Facebook/Instagram Posts







## Caregiver when sleep-related death occurred: 2017-2021 (CDR)





## State Action Plan Strategy 5.3

Strategy 5.3:  Collaborate with diverse, multi-sector organizations/ agencies to promote safe sleep	Activities	Status	ESM	Responsible person(s)
	Explore new opportunity Today's Baby with SD WIC program			
	Partner with Cribs for Kids and all SD birthing hospitals to promote bronze safe sleep certification within their system.		% of birthing hospitals that receive information on certification process that become safe sleep certified.	Alyssa Bette Jill



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# Cribs for Kids Hospital Safe Sleep Certification



Bronze



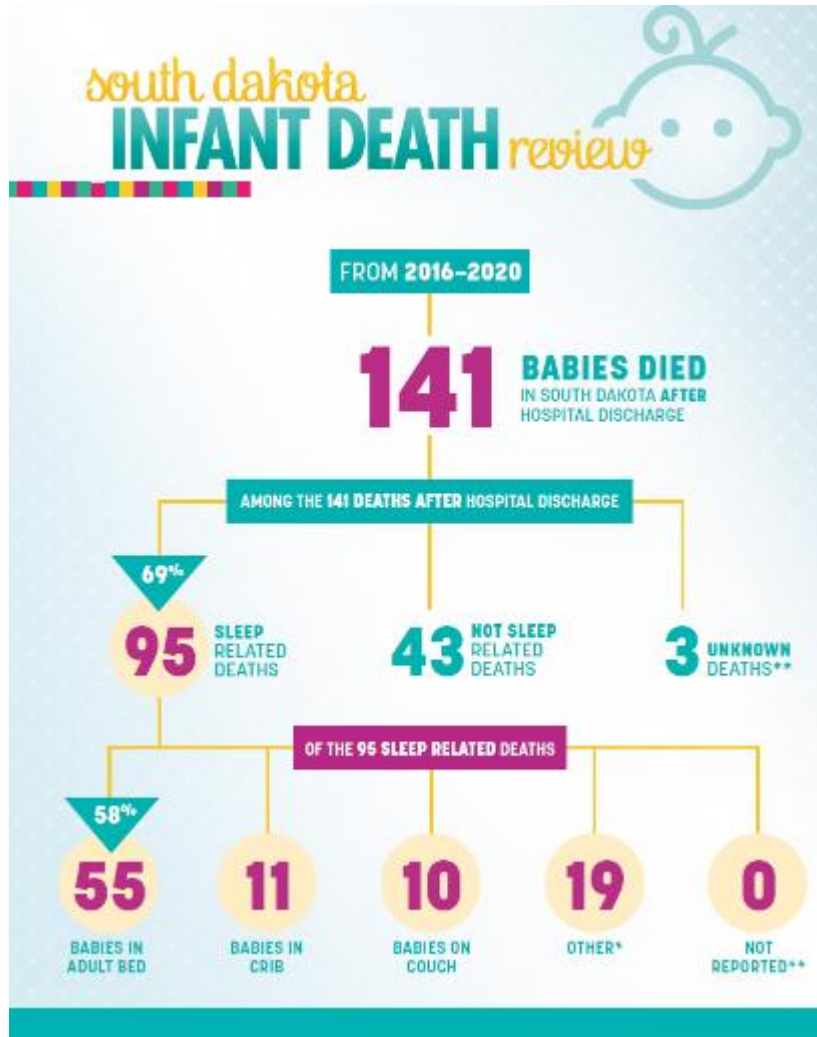
Silver



Gold



# Provider-Centered Infographic





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## South Dakota Medicine Journal Advertisement

*Safe sleep practices  
can save lives.*



**NEARLY  
8 OUT OF 10  
INFANT DEATHS  
OCCURRING  
AFTER HOSPITAL  
DISCHARGE WERE  
IN AN UNSAFE SLEEP  
ENVIRONMENT.**

*Here's how you can help:*

- 1 Ask a parent or caregiver about the American Academy of Pediatrics' "Back to Sleep" or "Safe Sleep" guidelines. For more information, visit [www.aap.org/safesleep](http://www.aap.org/safesleep).
- 2 Keep the infant's head and face clear of any objects, including blankets, pillows, or stuffed animals. The infant should be placed on a firm, flat surface.
- 3 Do not use a car seat or stroller for sleeping. The infant should be placed in a car seat or stroller only when the infant is being transported.
- 4 Do not use a baby's crib or cot for sleeping. The infant should be placed in a crib or cot only when the infant is being transported.
- 5 Do not use a baby's car seat for sleeping. The infant should be placed in a car seat only when the infant is being transported.

South Dakota Department of Health 2013





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# For Baby's Sake Facebook Post

**NEARLY 8 OUT OF 10 INFANT DEATHS**

*(after discharge from birth hospitalization)*

**OCCURRED IN AN UNSAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT.**

*Every infant in South Dakota  
should have a safe place to sleep.*

*If a family is unable to afford an  
approved crib, contact the  
South Dakota Department of  
Health at 1-800-305-3064.*



This is what safe  
sleep looks like

Source: SD Infant Death Review 2016-2020 data.

for baby's  sake  
Healthier moms + Healthier babies





## State Action Plan Strategy 5.2

<b>Strategy 5.2:</b>  <b>Collaborate with diverse community partners to provide Child Death Review and disseminate findings to all South Dakotans.</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>ESM</b>	<b>Responsible person(s)</b>
	Work with team from Johns Hopkins to translate CDR findings into actionable, evidence-informed recommendations			Bri Jill Kaylyn
	Work with Medical Examiners and law enforcement to provide infant death investigation and SUIDI form training to those that conduct the investigations.			Jill Kaylyn



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LACH'S LEGACY



# DATA INTO ACTION

THE ROLE OF  
NONPROFITS

[WWW.LACHSLEGACY.ORG](http://WWW.LACHSLEGACY.ORG)





# LACH'S LEGACY

CONNECTION. COMFORT. HOPE.

FIGHTING SIDS IN SD



# ABOUT US

01

## **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

Sending care packages to SD families who have experienced the unexpected loss of an infant

02

## **SIDS & SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS**

Promoting SIDS and safe-sleep awareness

03

## **RESEARCH FUNDING**

Contributing funds to a variety of SIDS-related research

EST.

## **ESTABLISHED IN 2008**

In memory of Lachlan, first as a program of the CJ Foundation and then as an independent 501(c)3 in 2017



## **PARTNERED WITH DOH**

Joined safe-sleep workgroup and Child Death Review Team



# 01. BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT







## • CARE PACKAGES

- LISTS OF LOCAL RESOURCES
- BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS/CATALOG
- GRIEF DIGEST
- PAMPHLETS ON GRIEF, GRIEVING CHILDREN, SUPPORTING YOUR MARRIAGE
- BOOKS: WATERBUGS AND DRAGONFLIES, SIDS AND INFANT DEATH SURVIVAL GUIDE, A THOUSAND POUNDS
- PRAYER CARDS
- COMFORT ITEMS: TEDDY BEAR, BATH BOMB, SIDS MAGNETS, COLORING BOOK WITH PERSONALIZED DRAWINGS

## • SUPPORT GROUPS

## • SPIRITUAL RETREAT

## • CONNECTING GRIEF COMPANIONS





# Run for Their Lives!

In-person and virtual 5K run/walk and silent auction event held on Mother's Day as a place for families to gather and remember their children.



# A Thousand Pounds: Finding the Strength to Live and Love under the Weight of Unbearable Loss

★★★★★ (18)

#1 New Release in Grief & Bereavement

A **Memoir** of grief after life-changing loss.  
A **Companion** to those in the trenches of grief.  
A **Journey** to authentic integration, peace, and hope.

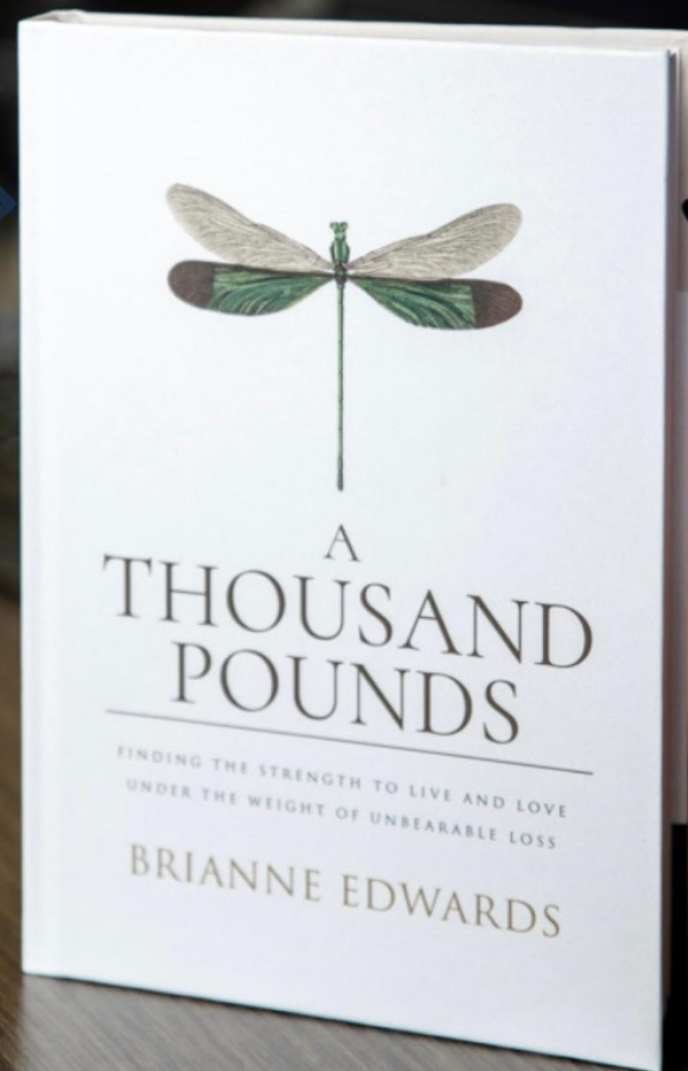


endorsement by:  
**Dr. Richard Goldstein, M.D.**

Director of Robert's Program on  
Sudden Unexpected Death in Pediatrics,  
Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School



[WWW.ATHOUSANDPOUNDSBOOK.COM](http://WWW.ATHOUSANDPOUNDSBOOK.COM)





# 02.

## SIDS AND SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS



## SAFE SLEEP SUMMARY

### STRONGEST RECOMMENDATIONS

- Back to sleep for every sleep
- Use firm, flat, non inclined surface
- Human milk (breastfeeding) reduces risk of SIDS
- Room share with your baby, but don't bed share
- Nothing but the baby in the bed
- Offer a pacifier
- Get regular prenatal medical care
- Follow immunization recommendations
- Give baby supervised awake tummy time

### THINGS TO AVOID

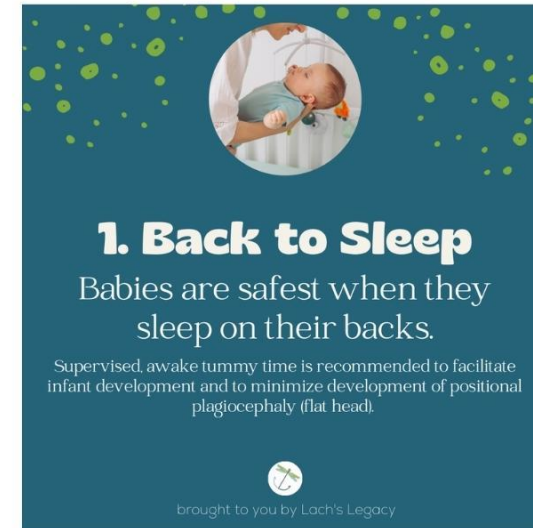
- Smoking, alcohol, and drug use
- Cardiorespiratory monitors for babies
- Overheating your baby
- Commercial devices that are not consistent with safe sleep recommendations

### UNCERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Swaddling is not shown to reduce the risk of SIDS. Baby should no longer be swaddled when he/she is able to roll



# SOCIAL MEDIA





# BILLBOARDS



**OCTOBER  
2019 & 2020**

# 2021 BILLBOARD

**THERE ARE  
3,500  
SLEEP RELATED  
INFANT DEATHS  
EVERY YEAR IN THE US**

Reduce the Risk:

**SAFE SLEEP. EVERY SLEEP.**

A newborn baby with dark hair is shown in profile, sleeping peacefully with a pacifier in its mouth. The baby is wearing an orange and white striped onesie.

The logo for Lach's Legacy, featuring a green anchor icon and the text "LACH'S LEGACY" in a serif font.

A newborn baby is lying on their back in a white crib. Surrounding the baby are seven red circular callouts, each containing a safe sleep guideline. At the bottom of the billboard is a red banner with the text "SAFE SLEEP. EVERY SLEEP." and the Lach's Legacy logo.

- SLEEPING ON BACK
- NO LOOSE BEDDING
- NO BUMPER PADS
- AVOID OVER-BUNDLING
- ALONE IN CRIB
- ROOM SHARE
- DON'T BED SHARE

**SAFE SLEEP. EVERY SLEEP.**

The logo for Lach's Legacy, featuring a green anchor icon and the text "LACH'S LEGACY" in a serif font.



# 2022 BILLBOARDS



## SAFE SLEEP. EVERY SLEEP.

From 2016 - 2020

73% of sleep-related  
infant deaths in SD were  
potentially preventable



&



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



# 2022 BILLBOARDS



**ROOM SHARE.  
DON'T BED SHARE.**

Bed sharing with an  
adult is one of the top  
causes of infant death  
in SD



&



# COFFEE SLEEVES



## IT'S NATIONAL COFFEE DAY

**NEXT UP:  
SIDS & INFANT LOSS  
AWARENESS MONTH**

Find these sleeves  
on your coffee cup  
at the following  
Rapid City locations:

The whole month of October  
**CREATE AND MARKET  
BISTROS  
AT MONUMENT HEALTH  
HOSPITAL**

October 15th  
**BLACK HILLS BLENDS**

October TBD  
**ALTERNATIVE FUEL**



# October is Infant Loss Awareness Month

One of the greatest gifts to give a bereaved parent is that of remembrance.



Oliver Henry Jasinski  
2/4/15 - 6/25/15  
4.5 months



Cooper Mitchell Keszler  
7/21/15 - 7/22/16  
1 year, 1 day



Jack Evan Theodore Lathrop  
8/21/17 - 10/21/17  
2 months



Aspen Marie Harper  
1/12/09 - 10/3/09  
8.5 months



Wyatt Joseph Gesinger  
3/25/15 - 4/25/15  
1 month



Reece Walter Richards  
7/28/18 - 9/26/18  
2 months



Xander Craig Solvie  
10/1/09 - 1/27/10  
3.5 months



Jessalyn June O'Connor  
3/21/19 - 1/3/20  
9.5 months



Beckham William Erenberg  
1/4/15 - 9/26/15  
8.5 months



Lachlan Jon Edwards  
6/21/07 - 5/12/08  
10.5 months



Erin Ann Myscowski  
11/29/08 - 2/10/09  
2.5 months



Taten Reed Moran  
3/23/10 - 9/23/10  
6 months



Aiden Jason Holm  
11/15/17 - 11/27/17  
12 days



Mack Victor Mazurle  
11/21/17 - 4/1/18  
4 months



Parker Nell Grant  
10/7/03 - 12/29/03  
2.5 months



Jack Alvin Ellis  
3/20/07 - 7/29/07  
3.3 months

Join us in remembering  
these Black Hills Cuties

Facebook.com/Lach'sLegacy  
605-254-4967 | Lachslegacy.org

 **LACH'S  
LEGACY**  
CONNECTION. COMFORT. HOPE.  
FIGHTING SIDS IN SD

## GIVING FACES TO SIDS

Black Hills Parent Magazine:  
Join us in remembering these Black Hills Cuties



# 03.

## RESEARCH FUNDING





**AVERA SAFE PASSAGE**

Dr. Amy Elliott

Prenatal Alcohol  
exposures/  
environmental factors  
and SIDS risk



**ROBERT'S PROGRAM  
BOSTON CHILDREN'S**

Dr. Hannah Kinney  
Dr. Richard Goldstein

Brain stem and  
serotonin abnormalities  
in sudden unexplained  
pediatric deaths



**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**

Dr. Rachel Moon

Factors that influence  
safe sleep practices



# INVOLVE YOUR NONPROFITS TO TURN DATA INTO ACTION!

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Invite. Encourage.  
Partner. Coordinate.  
Elevate.  
Turn data into action.





**THANK YOU**



# Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

## Cook County Report 2019



CCMEO

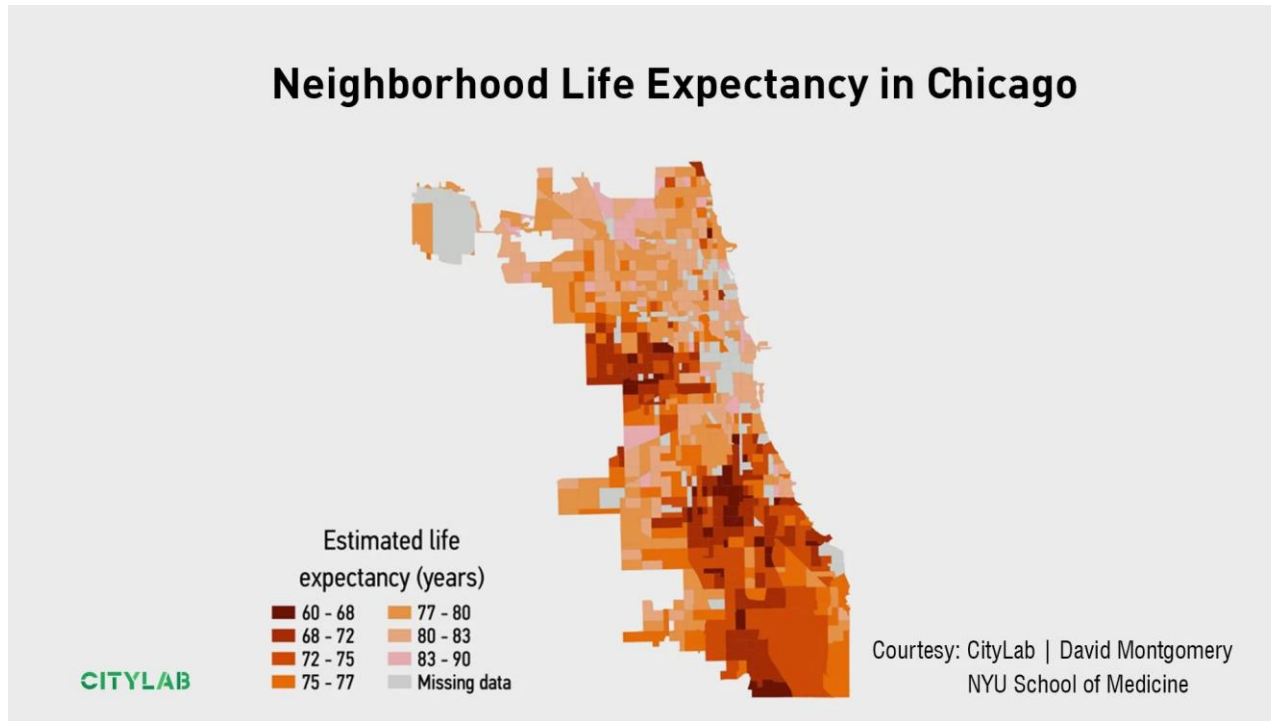
## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP APPROACHES FOR SAFE SLEEP: *CPASS CHICAGO 2022*

### *REACHING COOK COUNTY'S COMMUNITIES MOST IMPACTED BY SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH (SUID)*

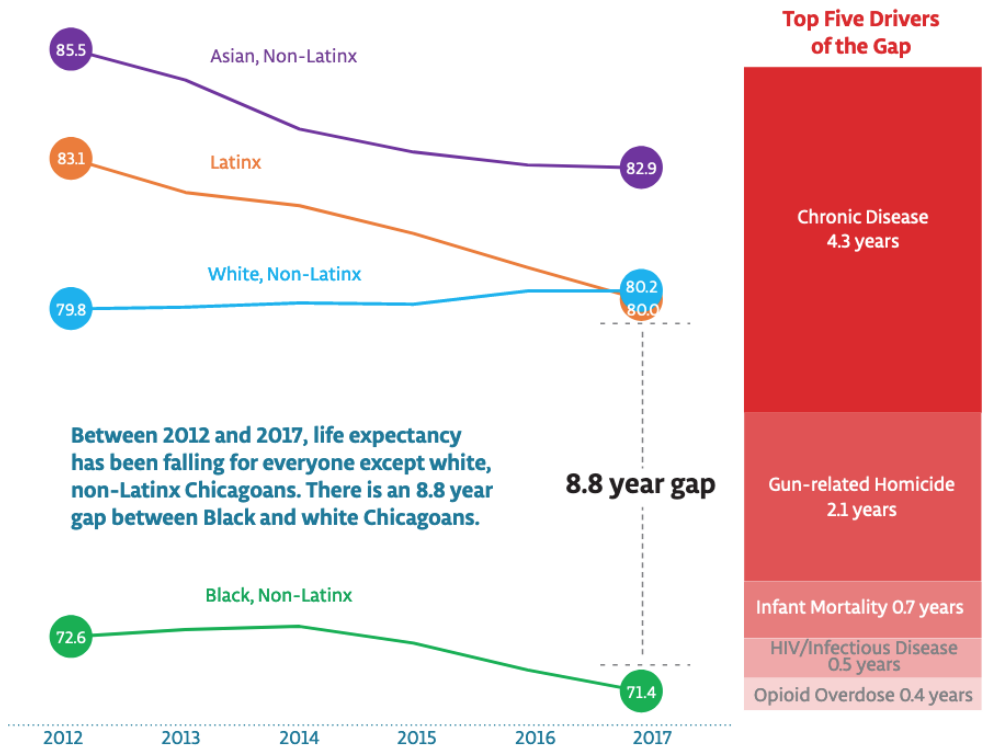
*A Family Focus-Rush Partnership*

Felicia Clark D-ABMDI  
Darren Harris  
Christie Lawrence DNP, RNC-NIC, CNS  
Gina Lowell MD, MPH  
Kyran Quinlan MD, MPH

# INFANT MORTALITY IS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> LEADING DRIVER OF THE LIFE EXPECTANCY GAP IN CHICAGO

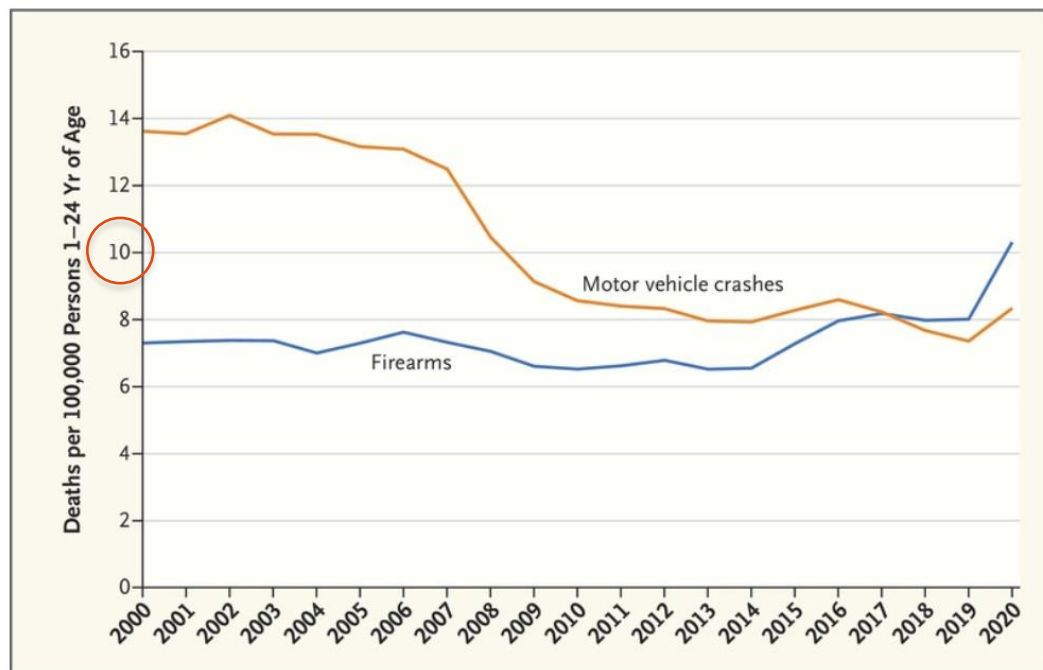


CHICAGO'S LIFE EXPECTANCY GAP, 2017

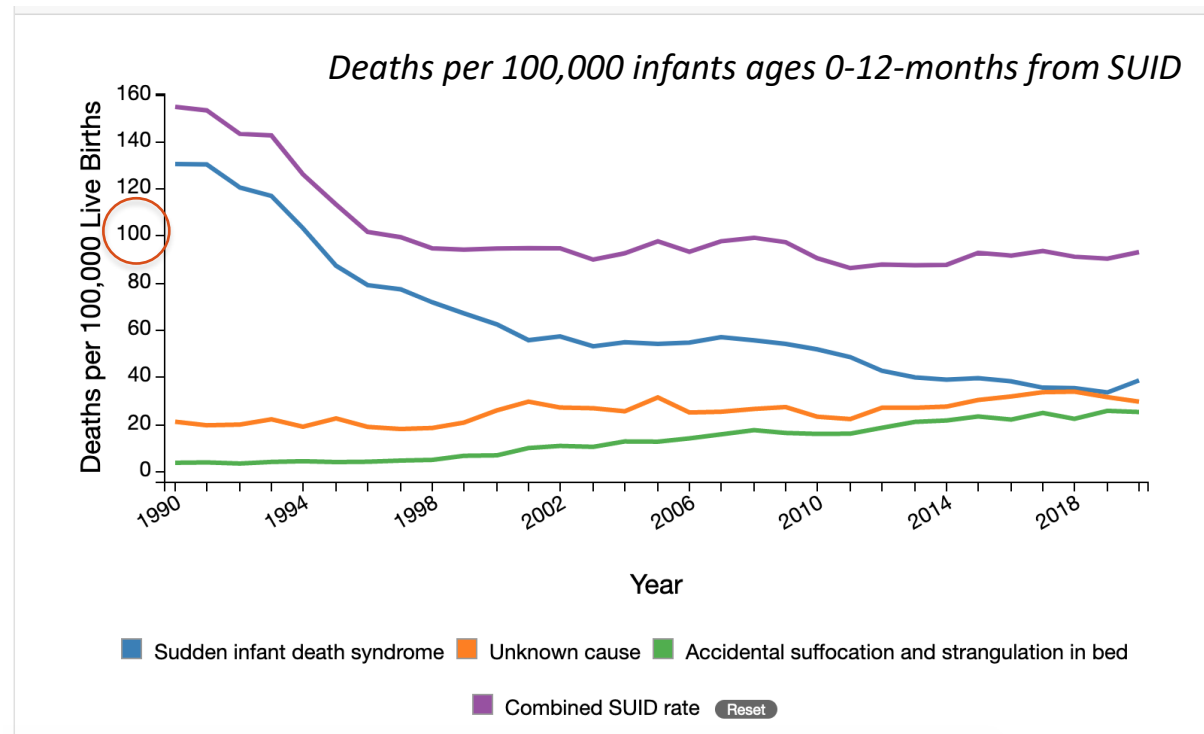


Data source and figure from Healthy Chicago 2025  
Closing Our Life Expectancy Gap, 2022

# RATES AND PERCEIVED RISK



Deaths per 100,000 persons ages 1-24-years from MVC and Firearms



*Our society is justifiably aware of the risk of death to children from motor vehicle crashes and firearms, however **remains far less aware of the risk of death to infants from SUID** – despite a 10 times risk to infants.*



# VOICES OF CHILD HEALTH IN CHICAGO - 2022

**Figure 1.** Most frequent unsafe infant sleep practices reported by Chicago parents and the proportion of parents who reported engaging in each

**58% OF CHICAGO PARENTS ENGAGED IN ONE OR MORE UNSAFE INFANT SLEEP PRACTICES**



# Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

## Cook County Report 2019



CCMEO

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP APPROACHES FOR SAFE SLEEP: *CPASS CHICAGO 2022*

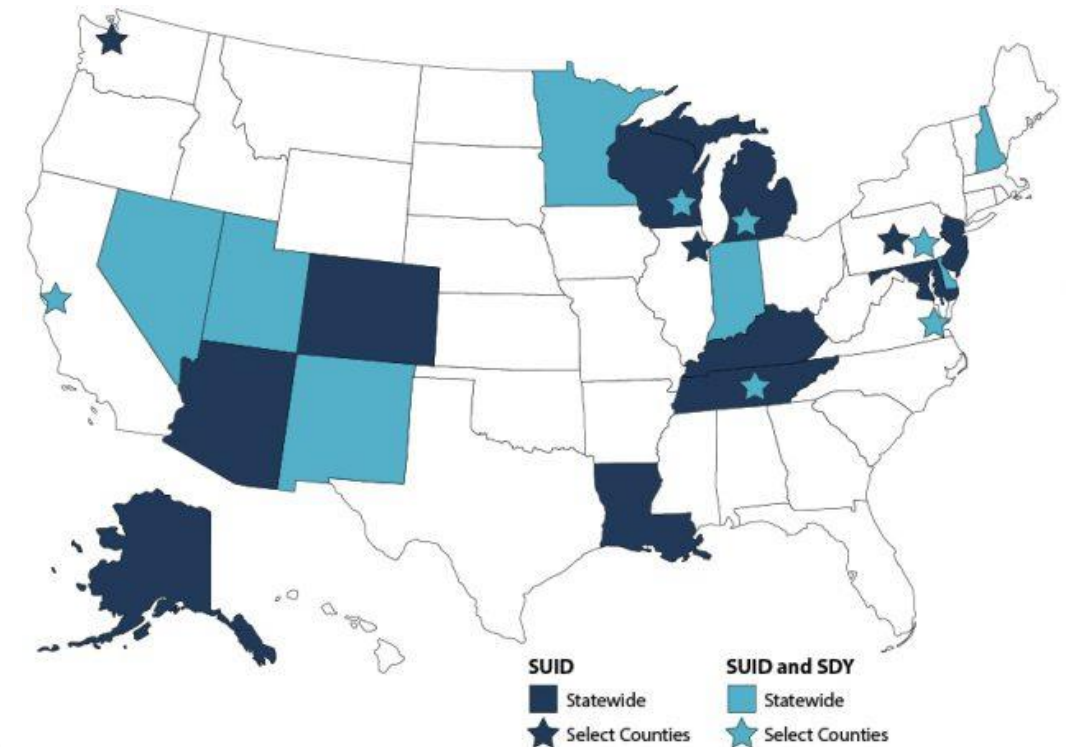
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Kyran Quinlan MD, MPH

# What is the SUID Case Registry?

- As part of the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) and Sudden Death in the Young (SDY) Case Registry, CDC's Division of Reproductive Health supports SUID monitoring programs in 22 states and jurisdictions, covering about 1 in 3 SUID cases in the United States.
- The SUID and SDY Case Registry builds on [child death review](#) programs and uses the [National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention's Case Reporting System](#), bringing together information about the circumstances associated with SUID and SDY cases, as well as information about investigations into these deaths.
- Participating states and jurisdictions use data about SUID and SDY trends and circumstances to develop strategies to reduce future deaths.



*Cook County's SUID Case Registry began in 2019*

# Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

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## Cook County Report 2019



CCMEO



## What is SUID? And what happened to SIDS?

SUID is the term used to describe **S**udden **U**nexpected **I**nfant **D**eaths. These deaths used to be called SIDS. The causes of unexpected infant deaths in Cook County are now more accurately described as either due to suffocation, or undetermined, if no cause can be determined after thorough investigation. Most SUID occur during sleep and these SUID are commonly referred to as sleep-related infant deaths.

## Nearly every week in Cook County an infant dies suddenly and unexpectedly.

In Cook County today, the greatest threat to the lives of infants ages 30 days old to 1 year is SUID. These deaths typically occur during sleep and frequently involve an unsafe sleep environment. In 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began funding work across the U.S. to collect detailed information on the circumstances of these deaths to help prevent them. In 2019, this work began in Cook County, and this report details Cook County's 2019 SUID data to inform communities, providers and families of this public health threat to infants and to encourage potential prevention strategies.

# The Sleep Environment

## Safe sleep

Placing infants on their back to sleep has been the cornerstone of preventing SIDS since 1994. Greater understanding of other hazards in an infant's sleep environment have emerged over the past two decades — including sleeping with another person, sleeping with soft bedding, and sleeping on a sleep surface that is not a safety approved mattress. All of these situations have been found to be risks associated with SUID.

**An infant sleeping safely is defined as:**

- On their back
- In their own crib or bassinet
- With nothing in the crib or bassinet



# 2019 Cook County SUID

In 2019, 49 infants younger than 12 months died suddenly and unexpectedly. Forty-five of these deaths occurred during sleep. This report details the circumstances of these 45 sleep-related infant deaths.

Of the 45 sleep-related infant deaths, eight occurred due to suffocation and 37 were undetermined. All sleep-related infant deaths with complete\* case information had one or more unsafe sleep factors.

*\*Two out 45 sleep-related deaths had incomplete case information*

**Total deaths: 49**

**Sleep related deaths: 45**

- Suffocation: 8
- Undetermined: 37

**100%**

**All 45 sleep-related SUIDs occurred in an unsafe sleep environment.**

## 2019 Calendar

The red circles on the calendar represent the days that infants died suddenly and unexpectedly in 2019.



# Sleep-Related Infant Deaths (45)

## Unsafe sleep factors

33%

Or 15 infants were found on their stomach in their sleep space.



49%

Or 22 infants were sleeping with another person, increasing their risk of suffocation.



78%

Or 35 infants were found in places NOT approved for infant sleep.



91%

Or 41 infants were found with soft bedding in their sleep space.



Number of infants found in each location:

- 24 Adult beds
- 4 Couches
- 1 Car seat
- 2 Inclined sitting/sleeping products\*
- 4 Other

\*Inclined sleep products for infants have been recalled. See this article from Consumer Reports: [bit.ly/inclined-sleeper-safety](https://www.consumerreports.org/sleeping-safety/inclined-sleeper-safety/)



Soft bedding includes pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, blankets, bumper pads, plush toys or stuffed animals.

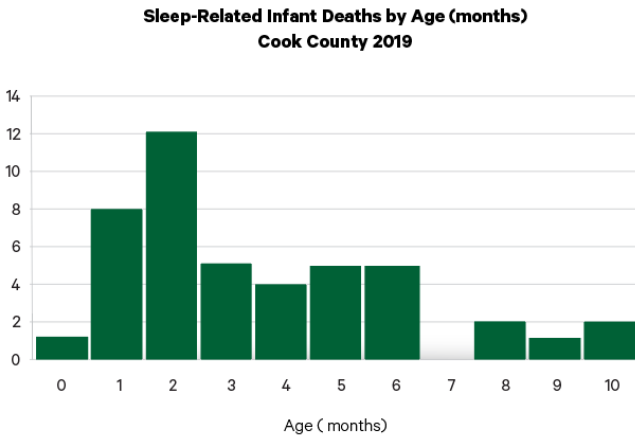


# Sleep-Related Infant Deaths (45)

## Demographics

### Age

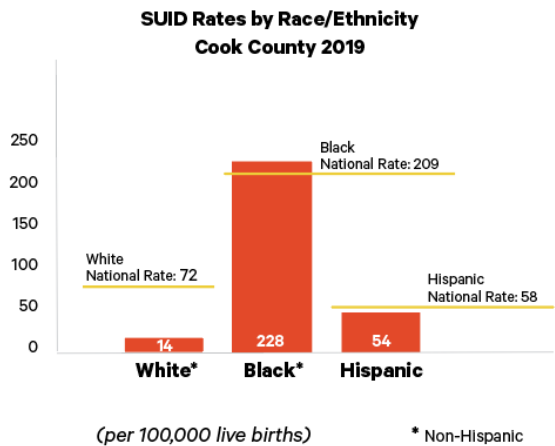
Though SUID may occur anytime between birth and 12 months old, there is a peak in SUID between the ages of 1 month and 4 months.



### Race and ethnicity

Nationally, SUID occurs more than twice as often among Black, non-Hispanic infants, and about half as often among Hispanic infants, as compared to white, non-Hispanic infants.

In Cook County, however, SUID occurred 16 times more often in Black infants, and nearly 4 times more often in Hispanic infants, when compared with white infants.



2019 SUID Disparities

	Cook County			United States		
	White*	Black*	Hispanic	White*	Black*	Hispanic
Sleep-related SUID	3	33	9	1,425	1,214	575
Births	21,627	14,468	16,770	1,972,635	580,525	983,479
Rate (per 100,000 births)	14	228	54	72	209	58
Rate Ratio (compared to white infants)	Referent	16.4	3.9	Referent	2.9	0.8

\* Non-Hispanic

# Sleep-Related Infant Deaths (45)

## Risk Factors

Two known risk factors for SUID are prematurity and tobacco smoke exposure.

20%

of SUID occurred among infants who were born prematurely.

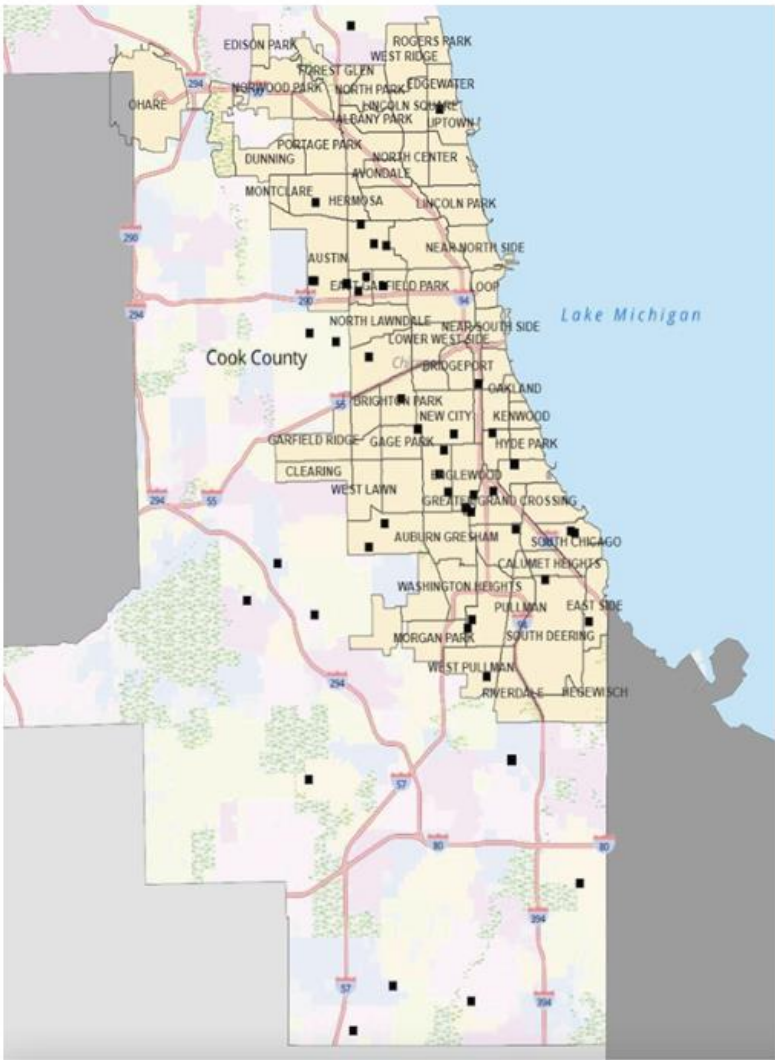
33%

of SUID occurred among infants who had prenatal and/or current smoke exposure.

## Geographic distribution

Though SUID occurs throughout Cook County, mapping cases in 2019 clearly reveals a clustering of SUID on the county's West and South sides.

Map to the right:  
Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths  
Cook County 2019  
Each square represents an infant death



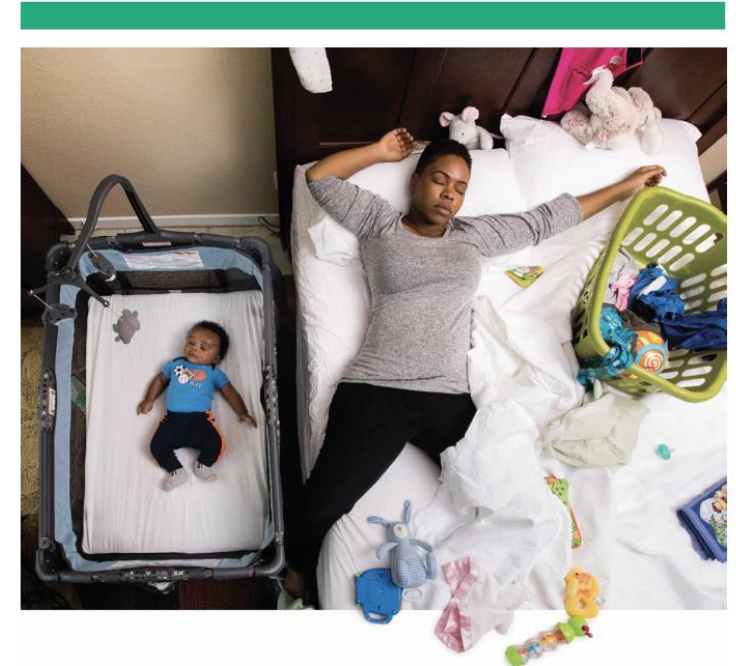
# Moving Forward

There has been very little progress in preventing SUID over the past 20 years. SUID rates in the U.S. have remained nearly unchanged. In Cook County, that means one infant dies suddenly and unexpectedly every week.

Cook County's SUID typically occurred when infants were not in a safe sleep environment: infants were often bed-sharing with one or more adults or children, and soft bedding was frequently used. What is not known, however, is how often these sleep circumstances occur on a routine basis for all infants in Cook County — and why many infants survive in an “unsafe” sleep environment while those who died from SUID did not.

Cook County's SUID occurred disproportionately among Black and Hispanic infants on the city's South and West sides, and within neighborhoods with historical disinvestment and high economic hardship. Prematurity, prenatal and household cigarette smoke exposure are among the cited risk factors for SUID and these occurred frequently among Cook County SUID. The intersection of these circumstances coupled with an unsafe sleep environment only partially explains the substantially higher rate of SUID for Black and Hispanic infants.

Community health is the collective well-being of its people, and disparities in health indicators across communities are typically driven by inequitable access to necessary resources. We must understand and address that the health of a community that is home to an infant is also part of the environment that may place an infant at risk for — or protect them from — SUID. SUID prevention thus means addressing the root causes of health inequities — alongside promoting safe sleep strategies that work — to protect our infants, families and communities.



**IT MIGHT NOT BE PRETTY.  
BUT IT CAN BE PEACEFUL.**

Getting sleep with a newborn is not easy. But when babies are put to bed in their own, clutter-free space, it's safer for them and offers peace of mind for you.

Help baby sleep safely so you can sleep soundly.  
[healthychildren.org/safesleep](https://healthychildren.org/safesleep)

American Academy  
of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



# Partnering for prevention

Preventing SUID starts with information sharing and collaborating with communities that hold a disproportionate burden of SUID. Continuing the work of the Cook County SUID Case registry is an important step in identifying, collecting and analyzing SUID data. Communicating this data in partnership with public health departments, health care entities, community organizations and other networks, will be essential to enabling collaboration with communities in efforts towards prevention. By initiating dialogue with families and those who support them, we can gain a deeper understanding of the circumstances within our communities, and can help create better pathways to prevention efforts.

## Chicago resources

**Everthrive Illinois** is a champion for health equity, focused on advocating for access to high-quality health care for women, children and families in Illinois. Through campaigns, strategic partnerships and community engagement, Everthrive continues to advance maternal-infant health equity. [everthriveil.org](https://everthriveil.org)

**Family Connects Chicago** is a public health, nurse home visit service available to Chicago families with newborns. Currently in its pilot phase, Family Connects Led by the Chicago Department of Public Health, Family Connects Chicago nurses provide a comprehensive spectrum of in-home support, guidance and connections to resources that offer family support inclusive of safe sleep guidance. [healthychicagobabies.org/family-connects/](https://healthychicagobabies.org/family-connects/)

**The Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)** study in Chicago is a community-based approach to identifying services and support system issues families experienced that may have contributed to fetal and infant losses. FIMR interviews families who've experienced such loss, processes learnings and makes system recommendations to promote better outcomes. FIMR's Interdisciplinary Community Action Team works to create meaningful change by addressing gaps in services, programs and advocate for supportive policies. [ncfrp.org/fimr/](https://ncfrp.org/fimr/)

**HealthConnect One** advances equitable, community-based, peer-to-peer support for pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and early parenting. They provide breastfeeding peer counselors and community based doula support — promoting protective factors for healthy babies and families. [healthconnectone.org](https://healthconnectone.org)

**Kids In Danger (KID)** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by fighting for product safety. KID was founded in 1998 by the parents of 16-month-old Danny Keysar, who died when a recalled portable crib collapsed around his neck in his Chicago child care home. KID's mission is to save lives by enhancing transparency and accountability through safer product development, better education and stronger advocacy for children. KID disseminates its monthly recall digest to share accurate and timely child product recall information. [kidsindanger.org](https://kidsindanger.org)

**The Fussy Baby Network** provides in-home or virtual support from infants specialists, who support families struggling with infant crying, feeding and sleeping. [erikson.edu/services/fussy-baby-network/](https://erikson.edu/services/fussy-baby-network/)

**Westside Healthy Start** program at ACCESS supports families from Chicago's West Side neighborhoods of North Lawndale, Austin, Humboldt Park, East and West Garfield Park, providing expecting and parenting families with preconception, prenatal and postpartum services to improve the health outcomes of the mother, baby and family. With the support of a dedicated care team, they partner with community members to reduce the infant mortality rate and empower families to create stronger, healthier communities. [achn.net/services-programs/westside-healthy-start/](https://achn.net/services-programs/westside-healthy-start/)

## Regional resources

**Illinois' Home Visiting** programs support healthy, thriving pregnant and parenting families with young children through support services that include parent coaching, education and connections to infant and early childhood health and early learning resources. Home Visiting programs routinely incorporate safe sleep education for families with infants, and IL MIECHV has supported infant safe sleep through the development and tracking of safe sleep benchmarks since 2018. [igrowillinois.org](https://igrowillinois.org)

**SIDS of Illinois, Inc.**, offers a range of services including grief and bereavement support, educational programs and materials for families and professionals, and supports research efforts to eradicate SUID. [sidsillinois.org](https://sidsillinois.org)

## National resources

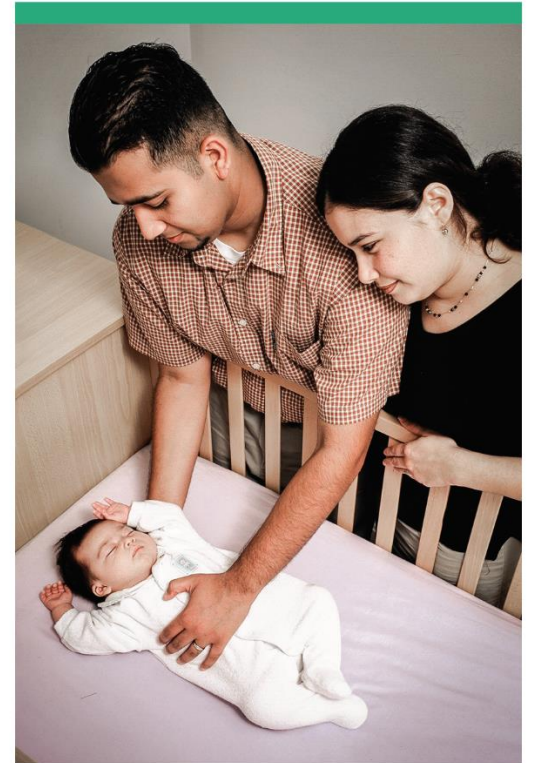
**AAP Safe Sleep Toolkit:** [safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/resources/sids-awareness-toolkit](https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/resources/sids-awareness-toolkit)

**AAP policy statement:** Find the latest recommendations for infant sleep from the AAP's Task Force on SIDS. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/5/e20162938>

**Cribs for Kids:** Find cribettes and safe sleep education resources for families in your communities, as well as information on how to become a safe sleep champion at this resource for health care and community providers. [cribsforkids.org/](https://cribsforkids.org/)

**Healthychildren.org:** Find information on your infant's sleep concerns from this AAP web resource. [healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/sleep/Pages/default.aspx](https://healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/sleep/Pages/default.aspx)

**Safe to Sleep:** Find education resources and campaign materials at this NIH web resource for organizations. [safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/](https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/)



Scan the QR code to  
view our safe sleep video:





# Executive Summary

## Background

Each year in the United States, approximately 3,500 infants die suddenly and unexpectedly before their first year. These Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) are the leading threat to life between 1 month and 1 years old. For the past two decades there has been little progress in preventing these deaths. However, beginning in 2019, SUIDs in Cook County was added to a national surveillance system to shed light on the circumstances of these deaths and provide information that could aid in prevention. This is the first annual report of the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death-Case Registry for Cook County.

## Findings

In 2019, 49 infants who resided in Cook County died suddenly and unexpectedly. Of these, 45 deaths were sleep-related. Here are a few more key findings:

- All 45 sleep-related deaths involved the baby being in an unsafe sleep situation.\*
- Forty-one out of the 45 infants (91%) died with soft bedding or items in their sleeping environment.
- Nearly half, or 22 out of the 45 infant deaths, died while sleeping in a bed with another person.
- Eight of the sleep-related deaths (18%) were from suffocation.\*\*
- Most infants (78%) died before the age of 6 months with a peak at 2 months.
- Nine out of 45 infants (20%) had a history of prematurity.
- The rate of sleep-related infant death among Black infants was 16 times higher than among white infants. Hispanic infants died at a rate 4 times that of white infants.\*\*\*
- SUID were more frequently seen on the West and South sides of Chicago.

## Conclusion

About once a week in Cook County, an infant dies unexpectedly, typically in an unsafe sleep situation. There is a large racial and ethnic disparity among these deaths, with Black and Hispanic infants dying at rates 16 and 4 times than that of white infants respectively. Much work is needed to raise awareness of these tragedies and effectively promote safe infant sleep practices to help prevent them.

*\*43 babies died in unsafe sleep situations. There were two sleep-related deaths that did not have complete case information.*

*\*\*Thorough review of these deaths in the Cook County Child Death Review System determined they were caused by "possible suffocation" or "suffocation."*

*\*\*\*Throughout this report, Black non-Hispanic and white non-Hispanic infants are referred to as Black and white infants respectively.*

The data in this report are from the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death-Case Registry (SUID-CR) system for Cook County, which is housed at Rush University Medical Center in close affiliation with the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. The details of each case are extracted from the Medical Examiner's Lablynx data system. The categorization of each case with regards to cause (e.g., Suffocation, Possible Suffocation or Undetermined with Unsafe Sleep Factors) was determined in a CDC-defined process during the discussion of the case at the Child Death Review.

**For more information, please email Rojin Ahadi, MPH, at [Seyedeh\\_R\\_Ahadi@rush.edu](mailto:Seyedeh_R_Ahadi@rush.edu).**



**CCMEO**

## Contributors

### **Rush University Medical Center**

Kyran Quinlan, MD, MPH — *Principal Investigator*

Gina Lowell, MD, MPH — *Co-Investigator*

Abbey Mastroianni, MPH

Seyedeh Rojin Ahadi, MPH

### **Cook County Medical Examiner's Office**

Eric Eason, MD

Michael Eckhardt, MD

Felicia Clark, D-ABMDI

# Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

## Cook County Report 2019



CCMEO

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP APPROACHES FOR SAFE SLEEP: *CPASS CHICAGO 2022*

### *REACHING COOK COUNTY'S COMMUNITIES MOST IMPACTED BY SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH (SUID)*

*A Family Focus-Rush Partnership*

Felicia Clark D-ABMDI  
Darren Harris  
Christie Lawrence DNP, RNC-NIC, CNS  
Gina Lowell MD, MPH  
Kyran Quinlan MD, MPH

# BECOMING CPASS CHICAGO



North Lawndale community



## Perspectives

- Felicia Clark, former Child Death Scene Investigator for the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office
- Darren Harris, Center Director, Family Focus
- Christie Lawrence, Rush College of Nursing, NICU Nursing Education Leadership
- Gina Lowell, Kyran Quinlan, pediatricians and investigators for the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Case Registry for Cook County

*Community Partnership Approaches for Safe Sleep (CPASS) is a 1 year grant funded by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, and Amazon for children's hospitals to partner with CBOs serving pregnant and parenting families. CPASS Chicago is a Family Focus-Rush partnership led by Felicia Clark, Darren Harris, Christie Lawrence, Gina Lowell and Kyran Quinlan.*



# BARRIERS TO SAFE SLEEP: FAMILY EXPERIENCES IN CHICAGO

## Physical Environment

Lack of space

- Can't fit crib

- Using crib for storage

- Choosing crib for toddler sleep

Sharing with other families

- Having to live by others' rules

Lack of heat

- Keep baby close to keep warm

Bugs/Rodents

- Keep baby close to keep safe

Staying with others/Change in environment

- No arrangements made for safe sleep

- Fathers may not have cribs with them when baby stays overnight

## Safety

Neighborhood violence/Domestic violence

- Feels safer if baby is right next to parent

- If something happens, baby is close

Shelter living

- Fear baby will be taken

- Cribs unavailable in some shelters

## Education

Mothers typically "know" the ABCs

Fathers/others may not be present during education in hospital/clinic

SIDS is something that just happens (cannot prevent)

Non-urgency of the problem

## What matters

Getting to school in the morning

- Harder if always up/down with baby overnight

Rewarding/satisfying to have baby close

Bonding

Better sleep (on stomach)

## Experience/Expectations

Nothing happened with other babies (who were in "unsafe" sleep)

SIDS – is something that just happens (cannot prevent)

Non-urgency of the problem

*We collectively described our experiences with families that inform our lens when holding conversations about SUID and Safe Sleep with parents. **Listening and letting families lead centers our approach.***

# FLYERS AND QR CODE SIGN-UP

## CPASS CHICAGO SLEEPS SAFE!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP APPROACHES FOR SAFE SLEEP



**FREE SAFE SLEEP KITS FOR EXPECTING FAMILIES!**

- ☐ PORTABLE CRIB WITH A FITTED SHEET
- ☐ SLEEP SACK (WEARABLE BLANKET)
- ☐ SOOTHIE
- ☐ SLEEP BABY SAFE AND SNUG BOARD BOOK
- ☐ ABC'S OF SAFE SLEEP BOOKLET/MAGNET



SCAN TO SIGN UP!

**SIGN UP TODAY FOR A SAFE SLEEP KIT!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LANGUAGE: ENGLISH SPANISH

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT IS CPASS CHICAGO?

CPASS CHICAGO is a partnership between Family Focus and Rush University Children's Hospital.

Funded by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Injury Free Coalition for Kids and Amazon, CPASS CHICAGO will distribute 200 Safe Sleep Kits to help families have what they need for safe sleep.

Sign up today and a FREE Safe Sleep Kit will be delivered to your home in 2-4 weeks.

After you receive your Safe Sleep Kit, the AAP will reach out to you to complete a survey about Safe Sleep.

Questions? Sign up or call 847-801-9508, and our CPASS Community Educator will reach out to you!

### WHY SAFE SLEEP?



Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID for short - otherwise known as SIDS) is still the leading cause of death for babies. In our communities, one baby dies every week from SUID.

Sleeping safely helps protect babies - by always placing babies on their back, in their own crib or bassinet, with nothing else in the crib - no bumpers, blankets, pillows or stuffed animals - SUID may be prevented.






### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

The National Institute for Health Care Quality (NICHQ) has an interactive guide to learn more about creating a safe sleep space for your baby.

Scan the QR code below to learn more! Scan the QR code below to watch our Safe Sleep Video!




Sign up or call 847-801-9508 and our CPASS Community Educator will reach out to you!



### FREE SAFE SLEEP KIT SIGN-UP

Watch our Safe Sleep Video and Sign Up for a FREE Safe Sleep Kit!  
Kit includes a Crib for Kids Cribette, Snoozette Sleep Sack, Soothie, Sleep Baby Safe Board Book, and Safe Sleep Guidance - and will be delivered to your home in 2-4 weeks!

#### Safe Sleep for Babies



Name \*

Short answer text

Email \*

Short answer text

Address \*

Long answer text

Phone number \*

Short answer text

Please share your thoughts about our Safe Sleep Video

Long answer text

We created a flyer with a QR code that linked to our electronic form to sign-up for safe sleep kits, as well as information about CPASS Chicago, Why Safe Sleep, and Where to Learn More. Both the flyer and electronic form allowed parents to sign up for the kit, view our Safe Sleep Video and provide their thoughts.

# EVENTS AND OUTREACH



Our community partner and community educator used multiple methods to find neighborhood outreach opportunities to reach families at resource-filled celebratory events.

Networking during events typically opened doors to more events and education opportunities.

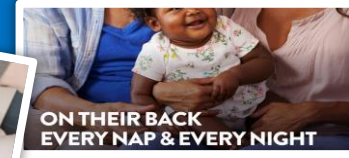




*Salem Baptist Church, Citywide Baby Shower, Roseland community, Chicago*

# CPASS CHICAGO SLEEPS SAFE!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP APPROACHES FOR SAFE SLEEP



*Bethel New Life, Senior Living, Austin community, Chicago*



*Life Changing Community Outreach Center, Austin community, Chicago*



*I thought it was very informative. I **didn't know this was common within our community** amongst my demographic*

*I feel as though the safe sleep video is extremely helpful because **I'm able to hear the point of view from a parent who has lost her child** due to unsafe sleeping. This video has now alerted me on what not to do with my baby and how I can avoid unsafe sleeping.*

*As a first time mom, I am very concerned with keeping my child safe. **To realize that black infants have a higher rate of dying by sleeping with adults is eye opening.** This has opened my eyes to how important it is to have my child sleep in her own bed when she arrives.*

*This video is very informative, growing up babies slept with family members, **I wanna break that cycle**, I want my baby to have a baby bed for **safety most of all***

*Being a first time mom when the lady said "you would never think it'll happen to you until it does" it stuck out to me. **Preparation is key!** Having a crib for my baby is the safest option*

*The video was very helpful im a first time mom and **actually planned on sleeping with my baby** in my bed but now that I see the video I see that its not safe helped me a lot to understand the danger of sleeping with my baby thank you*

*I feel that's good to know I am a new mother and that's something I needed to understand that baby sleeps in own crib **I have lost a nephew** due to SIDS*

*It kinda made me sad and cry a little bit , mainly because **I never knew** some of the things they were saying! And unfortunately my daughter sleeps with me! Now it has me a little scared and worried*

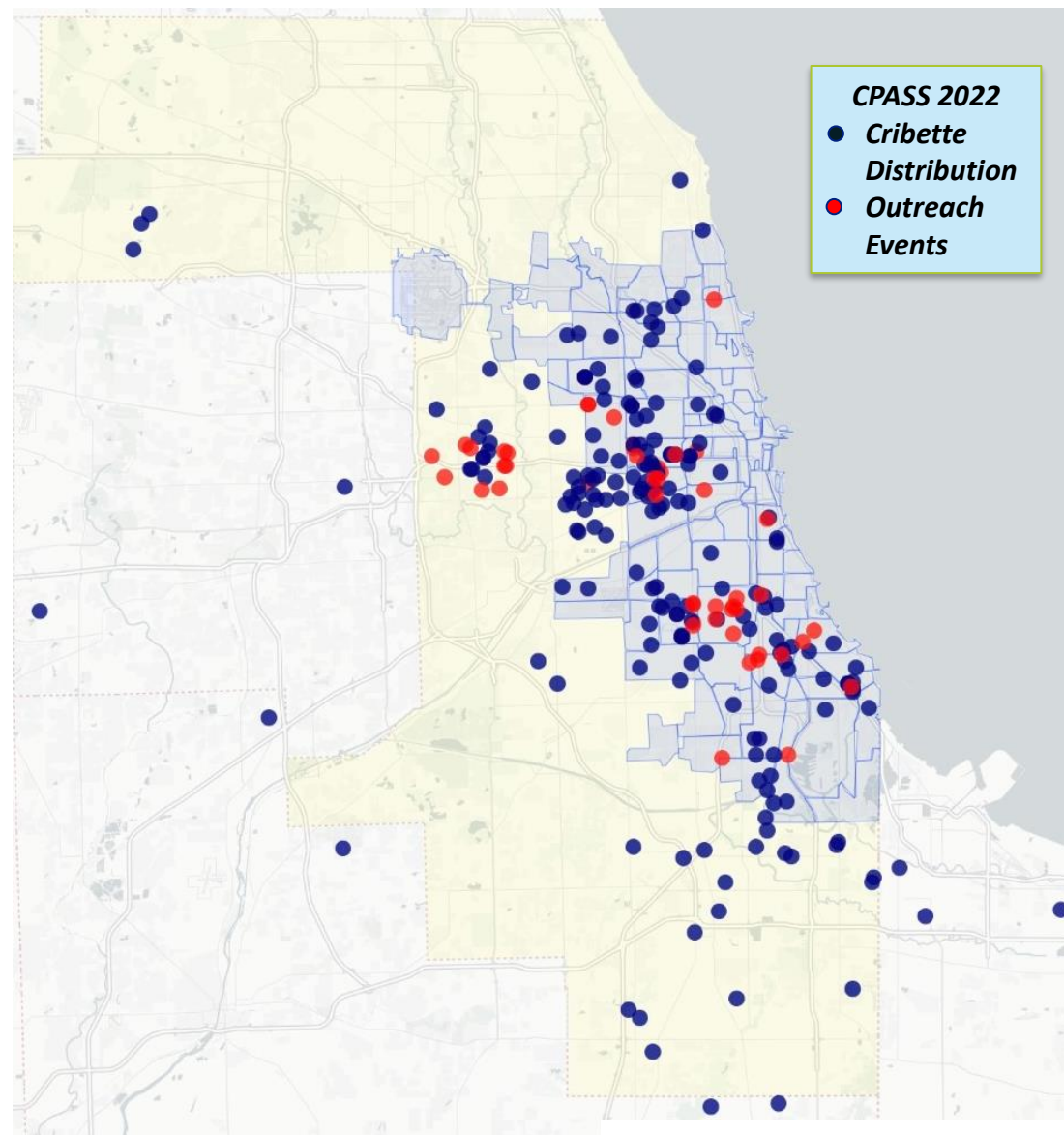
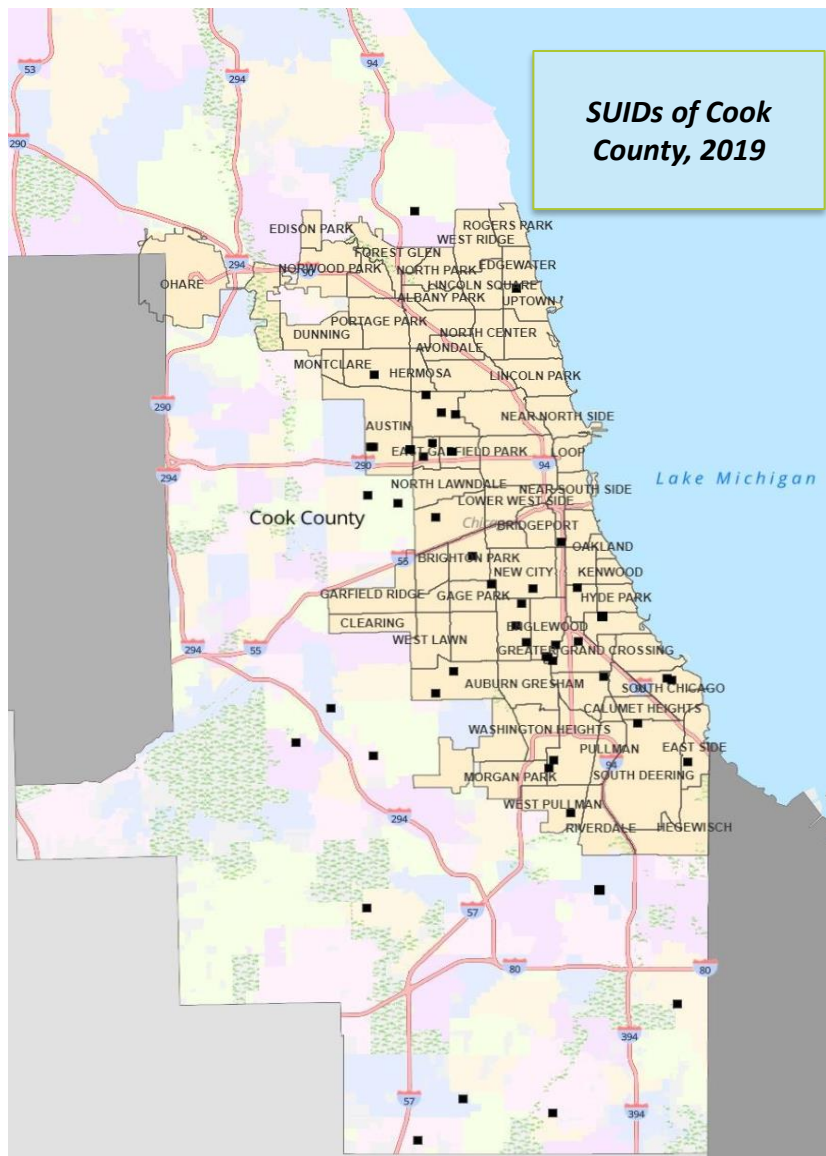
*Scan to watch  
our safe sleep  
video*



*Scan to watch  
our safe sleep  
video*

*Parent reflections\**

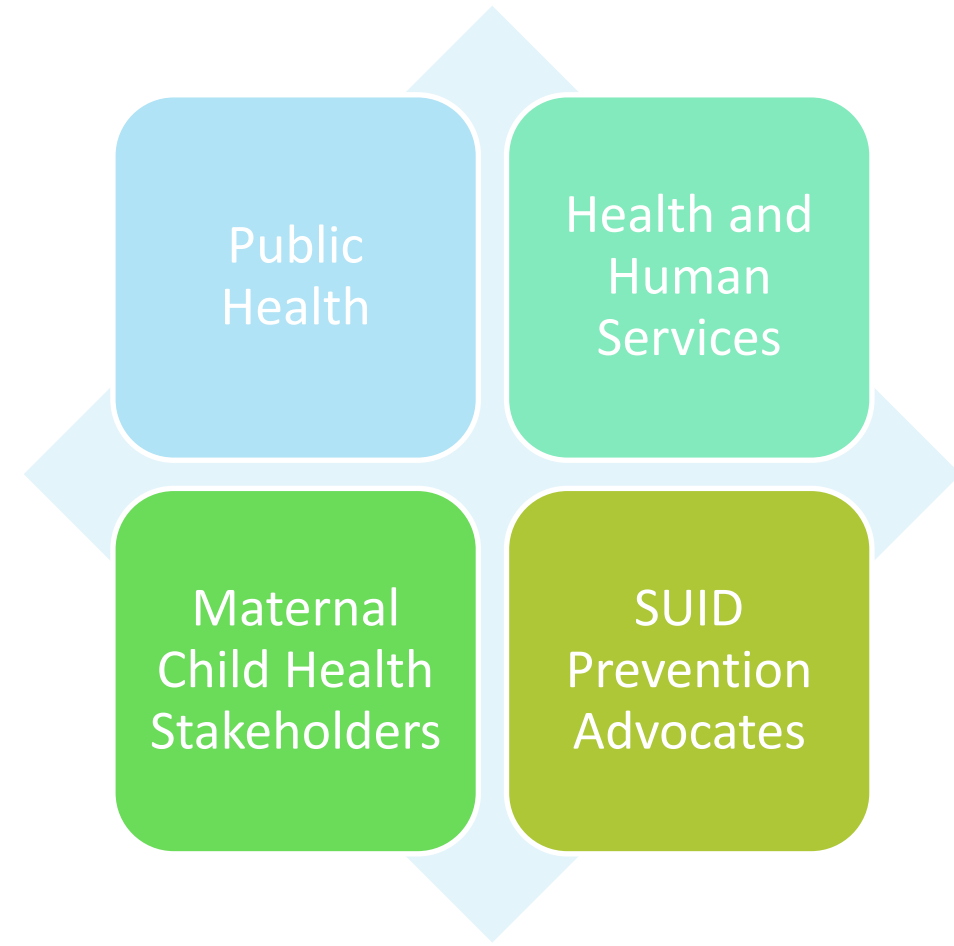
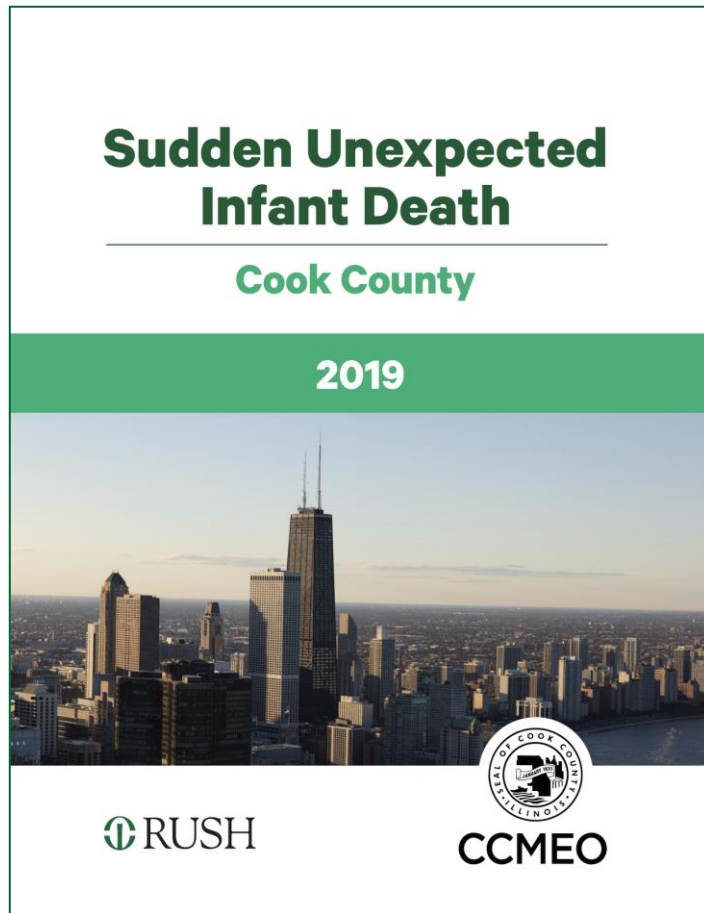
*\*selected from 170 responses*



## CPASS CHICAGO 2022

Reaching Cook County's Most Impacted Communities

# 2019 Cook County SUID Report Dissemination





# QUESTIONS

WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL?



## USE THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER BOX

The box is located at the bottom of the screen



## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

All unanswered questions will be answered and posted on the National Center's website (URL: [www.ncfrp.org](http://www.ncfrp.org)).





# EVALUATION

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/32BRMMX>



# Upcoming Webinar

## Building Relationships Between Fatality Review Teams and Schools

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Wednesday, March 15, 2022, 2:00-3:00 PM ET



## CONTACT INFORMATION



2395 Jolly Rd., Suite 120  
Okemos, MI 48864



Phone: 800-656-2434



[info@ncfrp.org](mailto:info@ncfrp.org)



[www.ncfrp.org](http://www.ncfrp.org)

A dark silhouette of a person with long, flowing hair, positioned in the center of the frame. The person appears to be looking away from the camera, with their hair blowing in the wind. This silhouette serves as a background for the text and the button.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

[www.ncfrp.org](http://www.ncfrp.org)