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SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATH (SUID)

ANNUAL REPORT

January through December, 2008

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) describes the sudden death of an infant (a child under one year of age) which remains unexplained following autopsy, review of medical records and death investigation performed by the medical examiner. Characteristically, these deaths occur quickly and usually during a sleep period; in most cases, the baby seems healthy.

These deaths were formerly attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, but recognition by the medical community of limitations in detecting accidental and non-accidental asphyxia in infancy has led to a nationwide change in diagnostic terminology. As a consequence, the use of "SUID", a diagnostic term which encompasses the possible contribution of asphyxia as well as other avoidable injuries to sudden infant death, is gradually replacing the "diagnosis" of SIDS, and is now the major cause of death in babies from one month to one year of age. During calendar year 2008, there were thirty-five (35) deaths attributed to SUID in West Virginia.

Medical examiner investigators identify risk factors for SUID, including hazardous sleeping environments such as co-sleeping, very soft or uneven bedding surfaces and heavy bedding, as well as other known risk factors such as maternal smoking during pregnancy; and record those findings on death certificates and in autopsy reports, to be available to public health and safety professionals.

The following tables offer summaries of the demographics and identified risk factors of those deaths occurring in West Virginia during calendar year 2008. Demographics and risk factors include the month of death, county of residence, age at death, sex of child, death by race, the position of the infant when found, type of bedding, smoking status of

mother, prenatal care information, co-sleeping information, prematurity, low birth weight, and breast feeding. Research shows that breast feeding, firm bedding, placing the infant on his/her back to sleep in an appropriate infant sleep product such as a crib, not smoking cigarettes, and not co-sleeping with the infant can be effective preventive measures in reducing both SIDS and SUID. In particular, adult co-sleeping, a very prevalent caretaker behavior, appears to pose very significant risk for SUID.

The Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health has been an ongoing participant in the national *Back to Sleep* campaign since its inception in 1996 and in disseminating pertinent, current information about other risk factors such as co-sleeping, early prenatal care, maternal smoking during pregnancy, etc. The Office continues to make ongoing efforts to provide current, relevant educational material statewide to health care providers as well as parents, grandparents and other caregivers of West Virginia's newborns.

WEST VIRGINIA SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATH REPORT JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 2008

DEATHS BY MONTH

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	2	2	3	7	35

DEATHS BY SEX OF INFANT

DEATHS BY RACE OF INFANT

Male	Female	Total	White	Black	Bi-Racial	Unknown	Total
18	17	35	32	2	1	0	35

DEATHS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

Berkeley	Boone	Cabell	Clay	Harrison	Jackson	Kanawha
3	1	3	1	1	1	4
Logan	Marion	Mason	McDowell	Mercer	Monongalia	Nicholas
1	5	1	1	2	1*	2
Ohio	Putnam	Raleigh	Randolph	Taylor	Wood	Wyoming
1*	1	1	1	1	1	2

*birth county – out of state death certificate

DEATHS BY AGE OF INFANT IN MONTHS

<1	1-2	3	4-5	6-7	8-12	Total
5	15	7	5	1	2	35

DEATHS BY BIRTH WEIGHT*

Normal	Low	Unknown	Total
33	2	0	35

*Normal: \geq 2500 grams Low: $<$ 2500 grams

DEATHS BY GESTATION*

Full Term	Premature	Unknown	Total
23	11	1	35

*Full Term: \geq 37 weeks Premature: $<$ 37 weeks

DEATHS BY CO-SLEEPING			
Co-Sleeping	No Co-Sleeping	Unknown	Total
22	11	2	35

DEATHS BY TYPE OF PRENATAL CARE				
Early Prenatal Care	Late Prenatal Care	No Care	Unknown	Total
21	12	0	2	35

DEATHS BY TYPE OF FEEDING				
Breast Feeding	Bottle Feeding	Both	Unknown	Total
0	32	1	2	35

DEATHS BY TYPE OF BEDDING*			
Appropriate Bedding	Hazardous Bedding	Unknown	Total
1	32	2	35

*any bedding other than crib without risks considered hazardous

DEATHS BY POSITION OF INFANT AT TIME OF DEATH				
On Back	On Side	On Stomach	Unknown	Total
18	10	5	2	35

DEATHS BY SMOKING STATUS OF MOTHER DURING PREGNANCY			
Smoking	Non-Smoking	Unknown	Total
22	12	1	35