2020-2022 Child Death Review: Infant Mortality Summary

PARTNERS FOR FAMILY HEALTH LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

The Louisiana infant mortality rate from 2020-2022 was 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. The U.S. infant mortality rate during the same period was 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. Louisiana has the third highest infant mortality rate in the country.

The leading causes of infant death in Louisiana include conditions originating in the perinatal period, sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) which primarily occurs in the sleep environment, and congenital anomalies.

The Louisiana Child Death Review Panel reviews all unexpected deaths for infants. The leading cause of unexpected (or injury-related) death for infants is sudden unexpected infant death.

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH (SUID)

In Louisiana, a yearly average of 115 infant deaths before the age of one are due to injury. Ninety of those deaths were due to sudden unexpected infant death.

The most common risk factors present among these deaths are:



Infants sleeping with other people



Infants sleeping in something other than a crib



Infants sleeping with loose toys or bedding

Other risk factors include:
- × Infants in a stomach or side-sleeping position
- × Preterm birth or low birth weight
- × Cigarette smoke in the home
- × Alcohol, drug, or tobacco use during pregnancy

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- **All healthcare professionals** should receive education on safe infant sleep practices.
- **Model safe sleep environments** in clinical, childcare, and community settings. This includes setting up safe sleep displays in clinic waiting rooms, workplaces, churches, and learning centers.
- **Explore and share** the Give Your Baby Space website, a statewide campaign that teaches caregivers the safest ways for babies to sleep.
- **Healthcare providers should screen for and recommend safe sleep practices** during all visits, including the prenatal period through the first year of the infant's life.

QUICK FACTS

2.5x
increased likelihood of black infant deaths compared to white infants

1-3 Months
the age most sudden unexpected infant deaths occur in Louisiana

87%
of sudden unexpected infant deaths occurred when the infant was sleeping with others

79%
of sudden unexpected infant deaths occurred when the infant was sleeping in something other than a crib or bassinette

71%
of sudden unexpected infant deaths in which the infant was sleeping with loose bedding or toys

Learn more in the 2020-2022 Child Death Review.