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

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)

About 3,500 babies in the United States die suddenly and unexpectedly each year. Sudden unexpected infant deaths or SUID, often happen during sleep or in the baby's sleep area, and include sudden infant death syndrome, accidental suffocation, and other unknown causes. In 2009, CDC funded awardees to establish the SUID Case Registry, a population-based SUID monitoring program.

Sudden Death in the Young (SDY)

Sudden deaths in the young occur from birth to age 20, and are deaths in youth believed to be in stable health or with acute illnesses that would not be expected to cause death. In 2013, CDC and the National Institutes of Health began collaborating on the SDY aspect of the SUID and SDY Case Registry, which expanded the population of the previously established SUID Case Registry to include children and adolescents.

SUID and SDY Case Registry Activities

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 surrounding SUID and SDY cases, as well as information about investigations into these deaths. Participating states and jurisdictions conduct the following activities:

- Improve the quality and consistency of SUID and SDY investigation data. Helps standardize the process of determining cause of death. As a result, states are able to more accurately monitor SUID and SDY rates to develop data-informed prevention activities.
- Monitor SUID and SDY rates and improve understanding of factors that may affect risk. Monitoring rates is vital to tracking progress toward reducing SUID and SDY and identifying risk factors.
- Use data about SUID and SDY trends and characteristics to carry out actions to reduce future deaths, including:
  - Educating parents & caregivers about safe sleep for babies.
  - Training hospital staff on safe sleep recommendations.
  - Supporting policy changes that require childcare centers to apply safe sleep recommendations.

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