



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Office of the Secretary

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Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cabinet Secretary

May 16, 2012

The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler, Senate President  
West Virginia Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 229-M  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The Honorable Richard Thompson, Speaker  
West Virginia House of Delegates  
State Capitol Building, Room 234-M  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear President Kessler and Speaker Thompson:

As required by West Virginia Code §16-1-6(p), regarding Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID), please find enclosed the SUID Report for January through December, 2009. This report is provided by the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health's Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Prevention Project.

If additional information is needed, you may contact Anne Williams, Director, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, via telephone at (304) 356-4442 or e-mail at [Anne.A.Williams@wv.gov](mailto:Anne.A.Williams@wv.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Lewis".

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cabinet Secretary

MJL/djc

Enclosure

cc: Marian Swinker, MD, MPH  
Nancye Bazzle  
Anne Williams  
Gregory M. Gray  
Darrell Holmes

# Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) West Virginia 2009



May 2012



Bureau For Public Health  
Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health  
350 Capitol Street, Room 427  
Charleston, WV 25301

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SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATH (SUID)  
ANNUAL REPORT

January through December, 2009

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. SUID is now the major cause of death in babies from one month to one year of age. During calendar year 2009, there were thirty-two (32) deaths attributed to SUID in West Virginia.

Medical examiner investigators identify SUID risk factors that include hazardous sleeping environments such as co-sleeping/bed-sharing, very soft or uneven bedding surfaces and heavy bedding, as well as other known risk factors such as maternal smoking during pregnancy. The findings are recorded on death certificates and in autopsy reports, for the use of 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 2009. 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 during pregnancy, smoking status in the home, prenatal care information, co-

sleeping/bed-sharing information, gestation, birth weight, breast/bottle feeding and birth score. 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/bed-sharing with the infant can be effective preventive measures in reducing both SIDS and SUID. Particular factors, including hazardous bedding, co-sleeping/bed-sharing, maternal smoking during pregnancy and smoke exposure in the home, appear to pose very significant risks 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/bed-sharing, 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 SUIDS (SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATH)  
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 2009**

DEATHS BY MONTH												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	0	3	3	2	2	5	4	3	3	2	4	32

DEATHS BY SEX OF INFANT			DEATHS BY RACE OF INFANT				
Male	Female	Total	White	Black	Bi-Racial	Unknown	Total
17	15	32	28	2	2	0	32

DEATHS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE						
Berkeley	Calhoun	Clay	Fayette	Greenbrier	Harrison	Jefferson
4	1*	1	3	2	2	1
Kanawha	Lincoln	Logan	Marion	McDowell	Mercer	Monongalia
4	1	2	1	1	1	3
Ohio	Pocahontas	Wood				
1	1	3				

\*infant died in Ohio

DEATHS BY AGE OF INFANT IN MONTHS						
<1	1-2	3	4-5	6-7	8-12	Total
5	13	7	5	2	0	32

DEATHS BY BIRTH WEIGHT*			
Normal	Low	Unknown	Total
28	4	0	32

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

DEATHS BY GESTATION*			
Full Term	Premature	Unknown	Total
27	5	0	32

\*Full Term: >=37 weeks Premature: <37 weeks

DEATHS BY CO-SLEEPING/BED-SHARING			
Yes Co-Sleeping/Bed-Sharing	No Co-Sleeping/Bed-Sharing	Unknown	Total
17	12	3*	32

\*includes 1 ME chart not reviewed and 1 out of state death

DEATHS BY TYPE OF PRENATAL CARE				
Early Prenatal Care*	Late Prenatal Care	No Care	Unknown	Total
18	12	0	2	32

\*first trimester

DEATHS BY TYPE OF FEEDING				
Breast Feeding	Bottle Feeding	Both	Unknown	Total
2	24	4	2*	32

\*includes 1 ME chart not reviewed and 1 out of state death

DEATHS BY TYPE OF BEDDING			
Appropriate Bedding	Hazardous Bedding*	Unknown	Total
1	29	2**	32

\*any bedding other than crib without risks

\*\*1 ME chart not reviewed and 1 out of state death

DEATHS BY POSITION OF INFANT WHEN FOUND				
On Back	On Side	On Stomach	Unknown	Total
11	5	12	4*	32

\*includes 1 ME chart not reviewed and 1 out of state death

<b>DEATHS BY SMOKING STATUS OF MOTHER DURING PREGNANCY</b>			
Smoking	Non-Smoking	Unknown	Total
20	12	0	32

<b>DEATHS BY SMOKING STATUS IN THE HOME</b>			
Smoking	Non-Smoking	Unknown	Total
24	6	2*	32

\*1 ME chart not reviewed and 1 out of state death

<b>DEATHS BY BIRTHSCORE*</b>			
Low	High	Unknown	Total
21	10	1	32

\*scores above 99 considered high