



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Office of the Secretary
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Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

February 25, 2016

The Honorable William P. Cole III, President
West Virginia Senate
State Capitol Complex
Building 1, Room 229M
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The Honorable Tim Armstead, Speaker
West Virginia House of Delegates
State Capitol Complex
Building 1, Room 228M
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear President Cole and Speaker Armstead:

As required by West Virginia Code §16-1-6(p), regarding Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths (SUID), please find the enclosed SUID report for calendar years 2012 and 2013. This report is provided by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources through the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health.

If additional information is needed, you may contact Christina Mullins, Director, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health at (304) 356-4292 or via e-mail at christina.r.mullins@wv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Bowling".

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

KLB:vc

Enclosure

cc: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP
Anne Williams
Christina Mullins
Steve Harrison
Clark Barnes
Legislative Library



West Virginia Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths (SUID) 2012-2013

November 2015

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED/UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATH (SUID)

ANNUAL REPORT

January through December 2012

and

January through December 2013

Sudden unexpected infant death is any infant death (a child under one year of age) that is unexpected and initially unexplained. Sudden unexplained infant death describes the sudden death of an infant 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. Both are referred to as SUID since all are unexpected and most are ultimately determined unexplained.

These unexplained deaths were formerly attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), 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, has gradually replaced 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 2012, there were twenty-six (26) resident SUID deaths and during calendar year 2013, there were thirty-eight (38) resident SUID deaths reported by the West Virginia Health Statistics Center. These infant deaths were identified with a cause of death listed on the death certificate as ICD codes R95–R99 (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Other Sudden Death, Cause Unknown and Other Ill-Defined and Unspecified Causes of Mortality) and W75 (Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed). These unexpected/unexplained infant deaths are the deaths included in this report.

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 and smoke exposure in the home. 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 to West Virginia resident infants during calendar years 2012 and 2013. Data reporting sources include the West Virginia Health Statistics Center, West Virginia Birth Score Program and West Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Demographics and risk factors include the month of death, county of residence, age at death, sex of infant, race of infant, the position of the infant when placed to sleep and position found, type of bedding, smoking status of mother during pregnancy, smoking status in the home, prenatal care initiation, co-sleeping/bed-sharing, gestation, birthweight, Birth Score, Medicaid status and caretaker impairment.

Research shows that firm bedding, placing the infant on his/her back to sleep in an appropriate infant sleep product such as a crib, not smoking cigarettes prenatally or exposing infant to second hand smoke and not co-sleeping/bed-sharing with the infant can be effective preventive measures in reducing SUIDs. Findings show that particular risk 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 and are the most modifiable risks.

The Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH) has been an ongoing participant in the national *Back to Sleep* campaign since its inception in 1996 and now participates in the expanded *Safe to Sleep* campaign. The Office continues to disseminate pertinent, current information about risk factors such as co-sleeping/bed-

sharing, early prenatal care, maternal smoking during pregnancy, infant exposure to second hand smoke and a safe sleeping environment. The Office also 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 infants.

WEST VIRGINIA SUIDs
Sudden Unexpected/Unexplained Infant Deaths
January through December 2012

Deaths by Month												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
5	0	1	3	6	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	26

Deaths by Sex of Infant			Deaths by Race of Infant				
Male	Female	Total	White	Black	Bi-Racial	Unknown	Total
16	10	26	20	3	3	0	26

Deaths by County of Residence							
Cabell	Clay	Harrison	Jackson	Kanawha	McDowell	Mercer	Mingo
3	1	1	2	5	1	1	1
Monongalia	Nicholas	Putnam	Roane	Tyler	Upshur	Wayne	Wood
1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3
Total							
26							

Deaths by Age of Infant in Months						
<1	1-2	3	4-5	6-7	8-12	Total
7	7	4	6	0	2	26

Deaths by Infant Birth Weight*			
Normal	Low	Unknown	Total
19	6	1**	26

*Normal: ≥ 2500 grams Low: < 2500 grams

**out of state birth with no information available

Deaths by Gestation*			
Full Term	Premature	Unknown	Total
21	4	1	26

*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
12	11	3	26

*includes 1 out of state death – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Type of Prenatal Care				
Early Prenatal Care*	Late Prenatal Care	No Care	Unknown**	Total
23	1	1	1	26

*entered first trimester

**includes 1 out of state birth with no prenatal care information available

Deaths by Type of Bedding			
Appropriate Bedding	Hazardous Bedding*	Unknown**	Total
2	21	3	26

*any bedding other than crib without risks

**includes 1 out of state death – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Position of Infant Placed to Sleep				
On Back	On Side	On Stomach	Unknown*	Total
15	3	3	5	26

*includes 1 out of state death – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Position of Infant When Found				
On Back	On Side	On Stomach	Unknown*	Total
11	4	6	5	26

*includes 1 out of state death – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Smoking Status of Mother During Pregnancy			
Smoking	Non-Smoking	Unknown	Total
15	10	1*	26

* includes 1 out of state death – no PNC information available

Deaths by Smoking Status in the Home			
Smoking	Non-Smoking	Unknown*	Total
20	3	3	26

*includes 1 out of state death – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Birth Score*			
Low	High	Unknown	Total
14	8	4	26

*scores above 99 considered high

**includes 3 out of state births – Birth Score not done in out of state facility

Deaths by Infant Medicaid Status			
Yes	No	Unknown	Total
22	3	1	26

Deaths by Caretaker Drug/Alcohol Impaired			
Yes	No	Unknown	Total
9	13	4*	26

*includes 2 out of state deaths – no death scene investigation information available

January through December 2013

Deaths by Month												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	0	5	4	3	3	5	4	2	3	6	2	38

Deaths by Sex of Infant			Deaths by Race of Infant				
Male	Female	Total	White	Black	Bi-Racial	Unknown	Total
25	13	38	33	4	1	0	38

Deaths by County of Residence						
Berkeley	Cabell	Calhoun	Clay	Fayette	Grant	Greenbrier
3	1	1	1	2	1	1
Hampshire	Hardy	Harrison	Kanawha	Logan	Marshall	McDowell
1	1	2	3	2	1	2
Mercer	Mineral	Mingo	Monongalia	Nicholas	Pleasants	Preston
1	1	2	4	1	2	1
Taylor	Wood	Wyoming	Total			
1	2	1	38			

Deaths by Age of Infant in Months						
<1	1-2	3	4-5	6-7	8-12	Total
6	19	4	6	2	1	38

Deaths by Infant Birth Weight*			
Normal	Low	Unknown	Total
31	7	0	38

*Normal: ≥ 2500 grams Low: < 2500 grams

Deaths by Gestation*			
Full Term	Premature	Unknown	Total
29	9	0	38

*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
20	16	2	38

*2 out of state deaths – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Type of Prenatal Care				
Early Prenatal Care*	Late Prenatal Care	No Care	Unknown	Total
32	5	0	1	38

*entered first trimester

Deaths by Type of Bedding			
Appropriate Bedding	Hazardous Bedding*	Unknown**	Total
3	33	2	38

*any bedding other than crib without risks

**includes 2 out of state deaths – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Position of Infant Placed to Sleep				
On Back	On Side	On Stomach	Unknown*	Total
22	4	6	6	38

*includes 2 out of state deaths – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Position of Infant When Found				
On Back	On Side	On Stomach	Unknown*	Total
16	6	6	10	38

*includes 2 out of state deaths – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Smoking Status of Mother During Pregnancy			
Smoking	Non-Smoking	Unknown	Total
23	15	0	38

Deaths by Smoking Status in the Home			
Smoking	Non-Smoking	Unknown*	Total
30	4	4	38

*includes 2 out of state deaths – no death scene investigation information available

Deaths by Birth Score*			
Low	High	Unknown	Total
14	18	6	38

*scores above 99 considered high

**6 out of state births – no Birth Score information available

Deaths by Infant Medicaid Status			
Yes	No	Unknown	Total
30	4	4	38

Deaths by Caretaker Drug/Alcohol Impaired			
Yes	No	Unknown	Total
8	24	6	38

*includes 2 out of state deaths – no death scene investigation information available