



# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (ACCDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

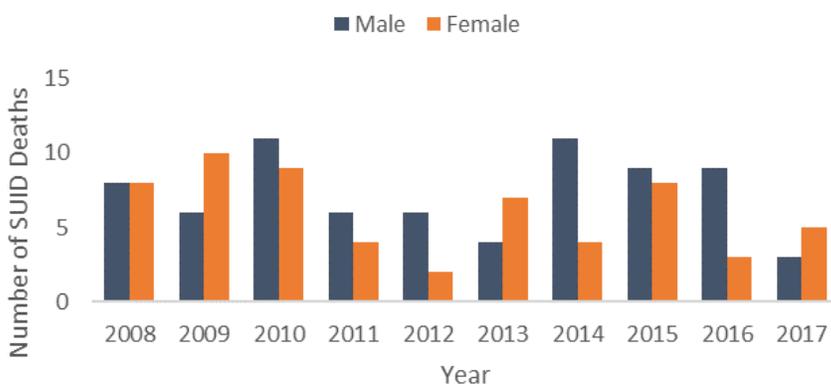
Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) consists of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), unknown causes, and unintentional suffocation/strangulation in bed. In 2017, 3,600 SUID cases were reported in infants less than 1 year old in the U.S. Major national risk factors include unsafe sleep locations and positions, low socioeconomic status, and low maternal education level.

In Allegheny County, 133 SUIDs occurred from 2008 through 2017, an average of 13 deaths per year. The psychological and emotional impact of a single SUID on family and community is significant. Many infant safe sleep deaths can be prevented by following safe sleep recommendations: sleeping alone, faceup, on a firm-surface, and in an uncluttered crib.

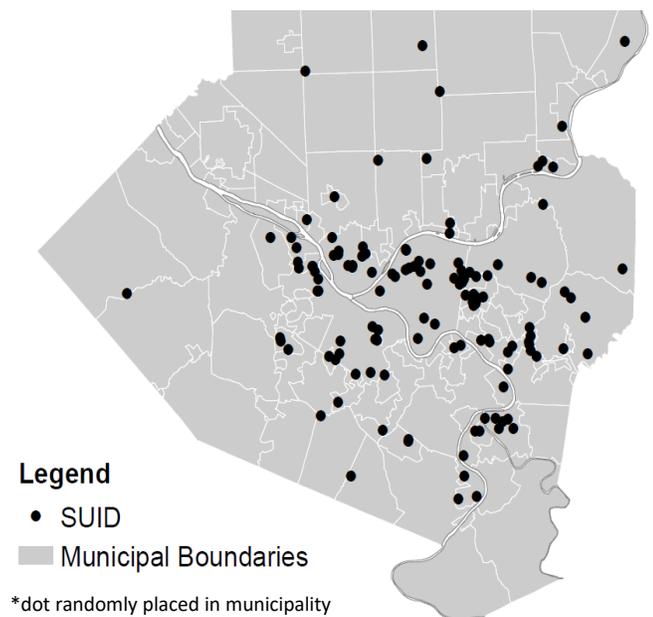
## In Allegheny County, from 2008 through 2017:

- 133 infants  $\leq$  1 year died from SUID.
- 56% of infants dying from SUID were African Americans
- 55% of decedents were males.
- The SUID rate was 5.6 times higher for African Americans than for whites.
- 84% of SUIDs occurred in an unsafe sleep location

SUID Among Allegheny County Residents by Sex, 2008-2017



SUID Among Allegheny County Residents by Municipality of Residence, 2008-2017





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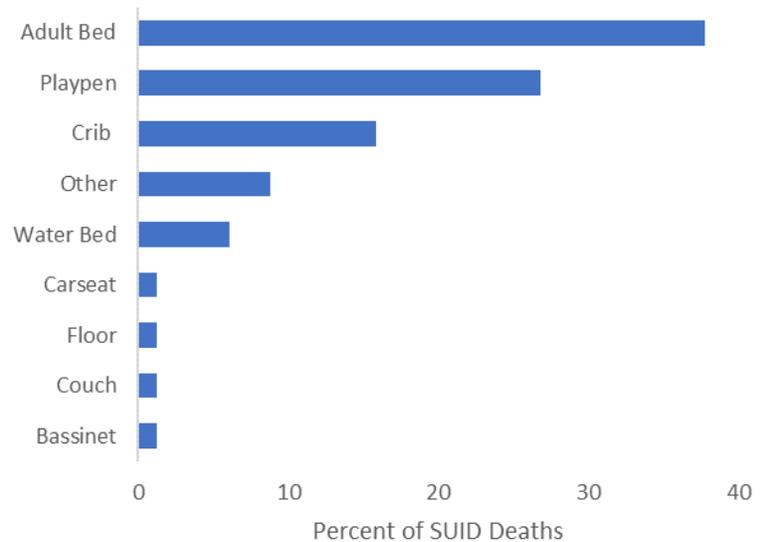
## AC CDRT Recommendations

- Promote safe sleep education in Allegheny County WIC offices
- Promote the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations for safe infant sleeping environments
- Collaborate with Cribs for Kids to increase targeted infant safe sleep public education campaigns in Allegheny County
- Continue working with City of Pittsburgh EMS to identify homes lacking safe sleeping places for infants and provide a Pack N Play from Cribs for Kids

### Encourage all EMS agencies to:

- 1) implement a rapid infant safe sleep assessment
- 2) provide infant safe sleep education when the rapid assessment reveals risk
- 3) assist caregivers in obtaining a crib if indicated

Infant Death by Sleep Place in Allegheny County,  
2008-2017



## SUID Risk Factors Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017

- 84% of cases involved sleep locations that were not cribs
- 39% of reviewed cases involved maternal smoking at some point during the pregnancy
- 20% involved an infant sleeping on side or stomach
- 12% involved lack of supervision or distraction