



Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Program

Program Description

SIDS stands for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. It is the sudden and unexplained death of a baby under 1 year of age. The State mandates that the coroner reports all presumptive Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths to the Department of Health Services. Subsequently, Public Health Nurses (PHNs) provide grief and bereavement case management services to parents and family members, foster parents, and other childcare providers. The SIDS Program staff provides outreach and training on SIDS risk reduction, which focuses on the importance of placing healthy infants to sleep on their backs, providing a smoke-free, safe-sleep environment and disseminating information about other identified risk factors.

Important Things to Know

- SIDS is one of the leading causes of infant death.
- Most SIDS deaths happen in babies who are under 6 months old.
- Babies placed to sleep on their stomach (prone position) are much more likely to die of SIDS than babies placed on their backs to sleep.
- Babies are more likely to die of SIDS if they are placed to sleep on top of soft bedding, or if they are covered by soft bedding.
- Babies are more likely to die of SIDS if they are exposed to second hand smoke.
- African American babies are 2 times more likely to die of SIDS than white babies, and 2.5 times more likely to die compared to the rest of the population.

For more information, please call (213) 639-6457
or visit <http://lapublichealth.org/mch>
and click on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Program.



