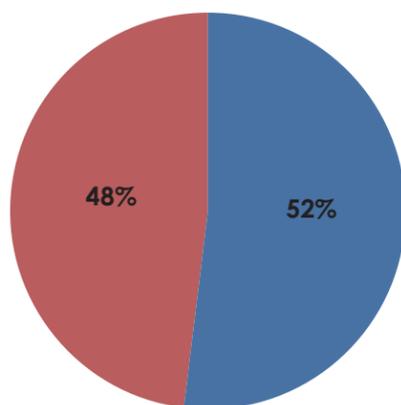


Characteristics of the environment surrounding sleep-related deaths (continued) Dallas County, 2007-2011

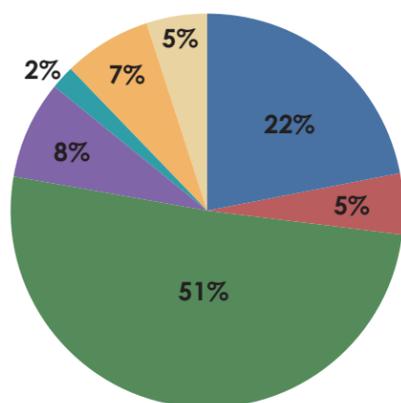
Bed-sharing



- Shared sleep surface at time of death
- No or unknown if shared sleep surface at time of death

Just over half (52 percent) of the infants that died in sleep-related incidents were sharing a sleep surface with another person or pet. Infants were nearly 2.5 times more likely to have shared a sleep surface if no crib was available.

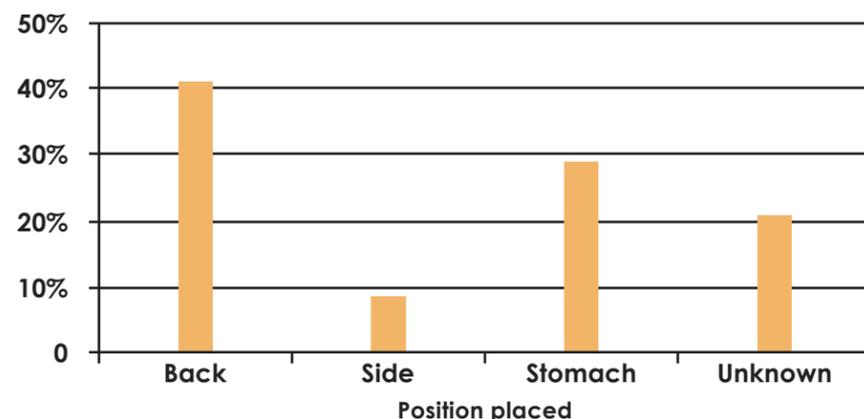
Place infant found



- Crib
- Bassinette
- Adult bed
- Couch
- Carseat
- Other
- Unknown

More than half of the homes (54 percent) had a crib. However, more than three quarters (78 percent) of infant sleep-related deaths occurred in a sleeping place other than a crib. The most common surface for an infant to be found on was an adult bed.

Position infant was placed in to sleep



Even with recommendations to place healthy babies on their backs for sleep, less than half (43 percent) of infants who died in sleep-related incidents in Dallas County were placed on their backs.

Dallas County CDRT

Child Death Review Team
2014

Brief Report
Sleep-related
Infant Deaths
2007-2011



INTRODUCTION

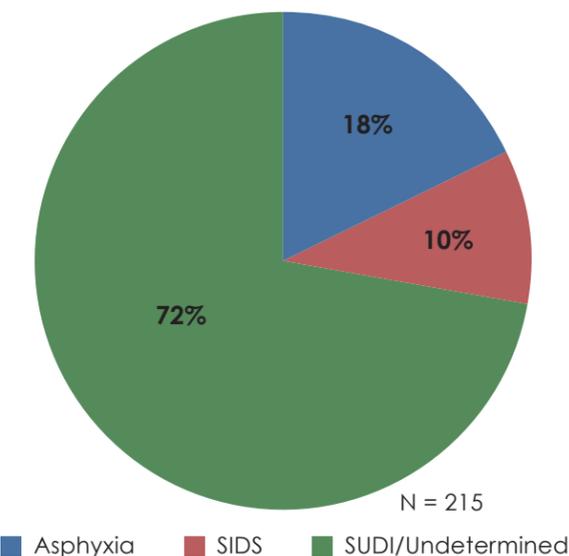
The Dallas County Child Death Review Team (CDRT) is a long standing multidisciplinary group of experts that reviews all child deaths to better understand how and why these children are dying. This report focuses on sleep-related infant deaths and uses the findings to make recommendations to help prevent other deaths and improve the health and safety of children.

A sleep-related infant death is defined as an infant less than 1 year of age with no underlying potentially fatal medical condition or other non-sleep related injury that dies unexpectedly during sleep. It includes accidental suffocation, positional asphyxia (e.g., wedging between a wall and bed), SIDS (sudden infant deaths syndrome) that cannot be explained after autopsy and investigation and SUDI (sudden unexplained death of an infant) or other unexplained deaths in a sleeping environment.

This brief report is meant to provide some key information about the infants, their caregivers and the environments surrounding sleep-related deaths over a 5-year period in Dallas County.

From 2007-2011, there were 215 sleep-related infant deaths in Dallas County. The overall rate of sleep-related death has remained relatively unchanged between 2007 and 2011, averaging about 1.0 per 1,000 live births.

Sleep-related infant deaths Dallas County, 2007-2011



Nearly one in five (18 percent) sleep-related deaths was due to overlay by another person or animal, suffocation or asphyxia, all of which are potentially preventable.

How to use this data: Many of the factors in sleep-related deaths can be changed and with this change is the potential to reduce additional sleep-related infant deaths.

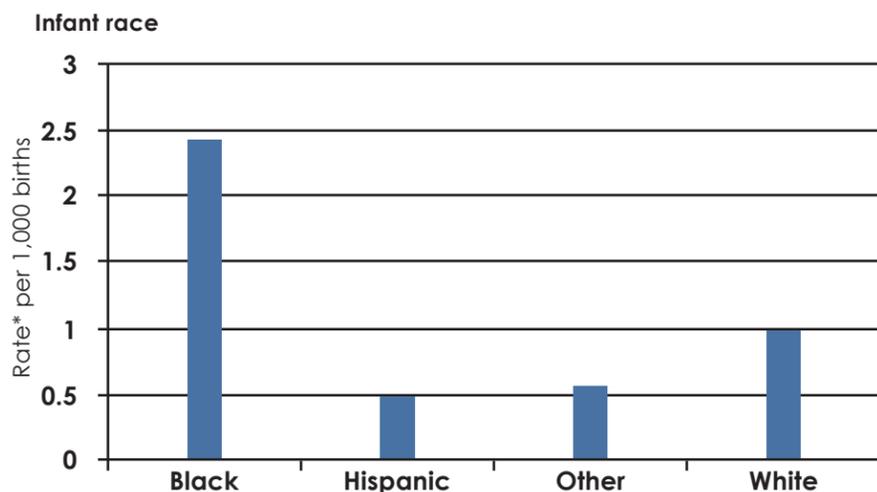
More than half of infants were sharing a sleep surface. **Infants are safer sleeping alone.**

More than half of infants were not placed to sleep on their back. **Infants are safer sleeping on their back.**

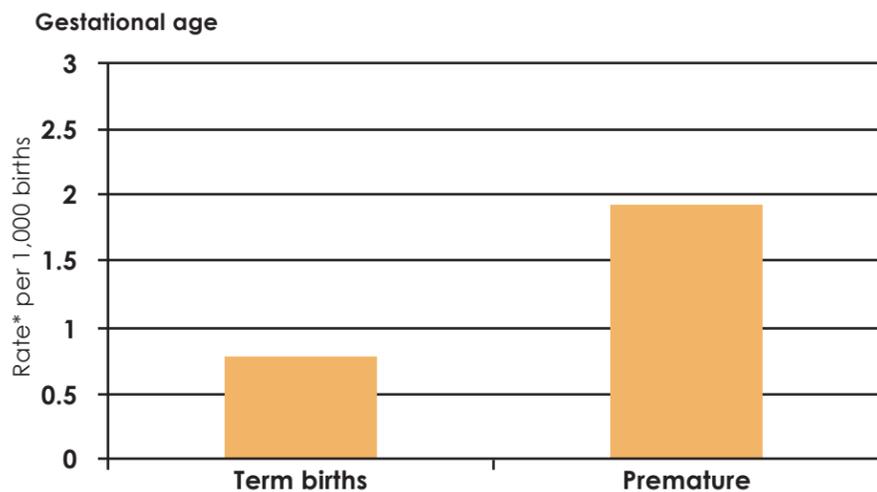
More than one in three infants was exposed to cigarette smoke. **Infants are safer in a smoke-free environment.**

Characteristics of the infants in sleep-related deaths

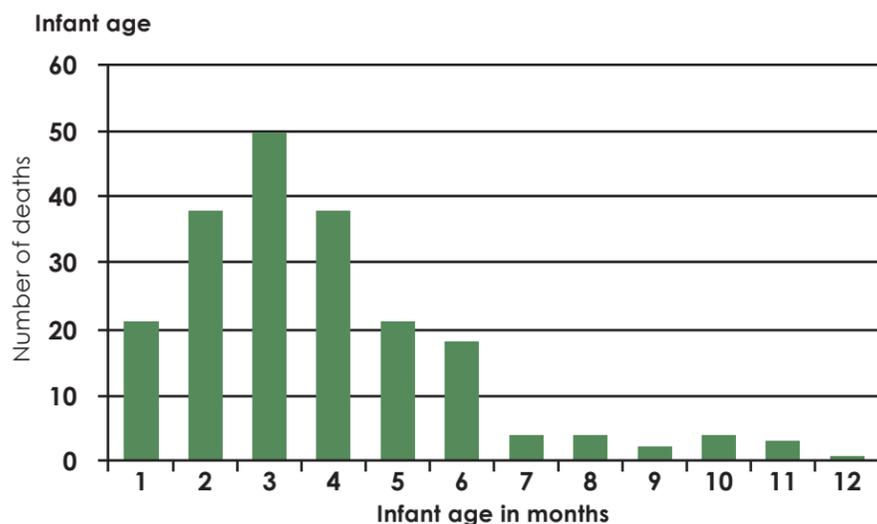
Dallas County, 2007-2011



Black infants in Dallas County were 2.5 times more likely to die in sleep-related incidents than White infants and 5 times more likely than Hispanic infants.



Infants born prematurely (< 37 weeks gestation) were more than 2.5 times more likely to die while sleeping in the first year than infants born at term (> 37 weeks gestation).

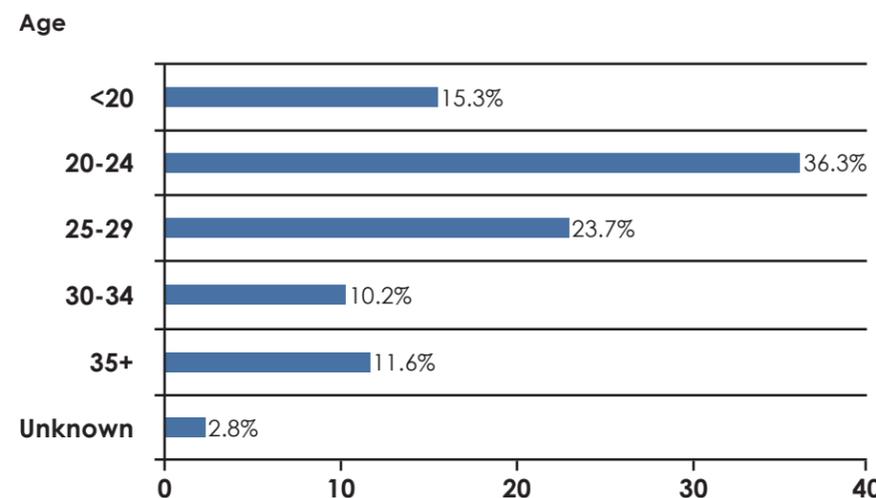


The peak age for infants that die in sleep-related environments was 3 months of age.

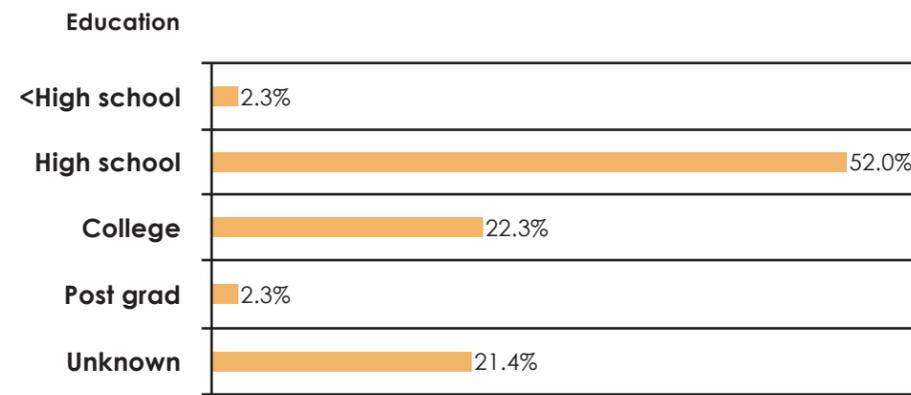
*Rates are reported as average annual infant death rates.

Characteristics of the caregivers of sleep-related infant deaths

Dallas County, 2007-2011



The primary caregiver of infants who died in sleep-related incidents was more likely to be between 20-24 years than any other age group.

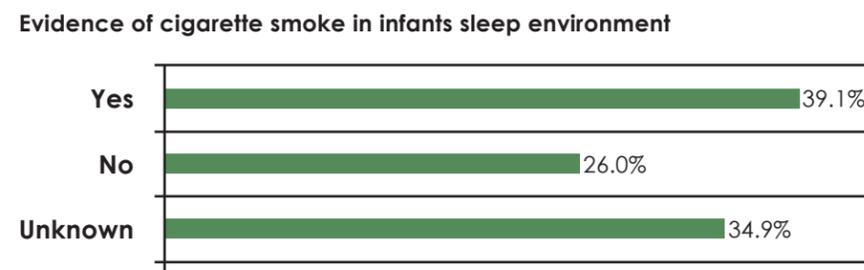


Over half of the caregivers of infants that died in a sleep environment had a high school diploma.

Characteristics of the environment surrounding sleep-related deaths

Dallas County, 2007-2011

It is important to create a safe sleep environment in order to reduce preventable infant deaths. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Institute of Child Health and others recommend not only placing a baby on their back each time they are put to sleep but to place the infant in a safety-approved crib with a firm mattress free from items such as pillows, blankets, bumper pads and toys. Breastfeeding and room-sharing but not bed-sharing are also recommended. Infants should not be exposed to smoking, alcohol or drugs during pregnancy or after birth.



More than one-third of the infants that died in sleep-related events were in environments where there was evidence of cigarette smoke.