From 2013-2017 there were 61,245 babies born to South Dakota mothers.

Of these 61,245 babies, 396 babies died, giving a 6.5 infant mortality rate.

Among the 396 babies that died, 151 babies died after hospital discharge, and 245 babies died before hospital discharge.

Among the 151 deaths after hospital discharge, 95 deaths were sleep-related, and 56 deaths were not sleep-related.

Of the 95 sleep-related deaths, 48% were babies in an adult bed, 19% were babies in a crib, and 12% were babies on a couch.

17 other deaths and 3 unknown deaths were not reported.

** UNKNOWN DEATHS (whether sleep-related or not) and NOT REPORTED: Not included in the denominator for percentage calculations.
safe sleep practices CAN SAVE LIVES!

WHERE 95 SLEEP RELATED INFANT DEATHS OCCURRED AFTER HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

- **48%** BABIES IN ADULT BED
- **13%** BABIES IN CRIB
- **12%** BABIES ON COUCH
- **17%** OTHER (5 CAR SEAT, 2 CHAIR, 4 BASSINET, 5 FLOOR, 1 ROCK 'N PLAY)
- **3%** NOT REPORTED

7 OUT OF 10 INFANT DEATHS OCCURRED IN AN UNSAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT.

what can WE DO?

1. American Academy of Pediatrics’ “Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment” should be distributed to healthcare workers who should discuss the recommendations with parents of newborns before discharge from the hospital. ForBabySakeSD.com/training/healthcare-provider-training
2. Every infant in South Dakota should have a safe place to sleep. If a family is unable to afford an approved crib, contact the South Dakota Department of Health at 1-800-305-3064.
3. Infants should be placed on a firm sleep surface (e.g., mattress in a safety-approved crib) covered by a fitted sheet with no other bedding, bumper pads, or soft objects to reduce the risk of suffocation and SIDS.
4. Infants should sleep in parents’ room, close to the parents’ bed, but on a separate surface designated for infants, ideally for the first year, but at least for the first six months of life.
5. Soft objects and loose bedding should be kept away from infant’s sleep area to reduce risk of SIDS, suffocation, entrapment and strangulation.


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