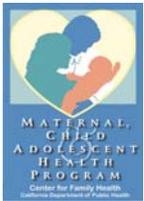


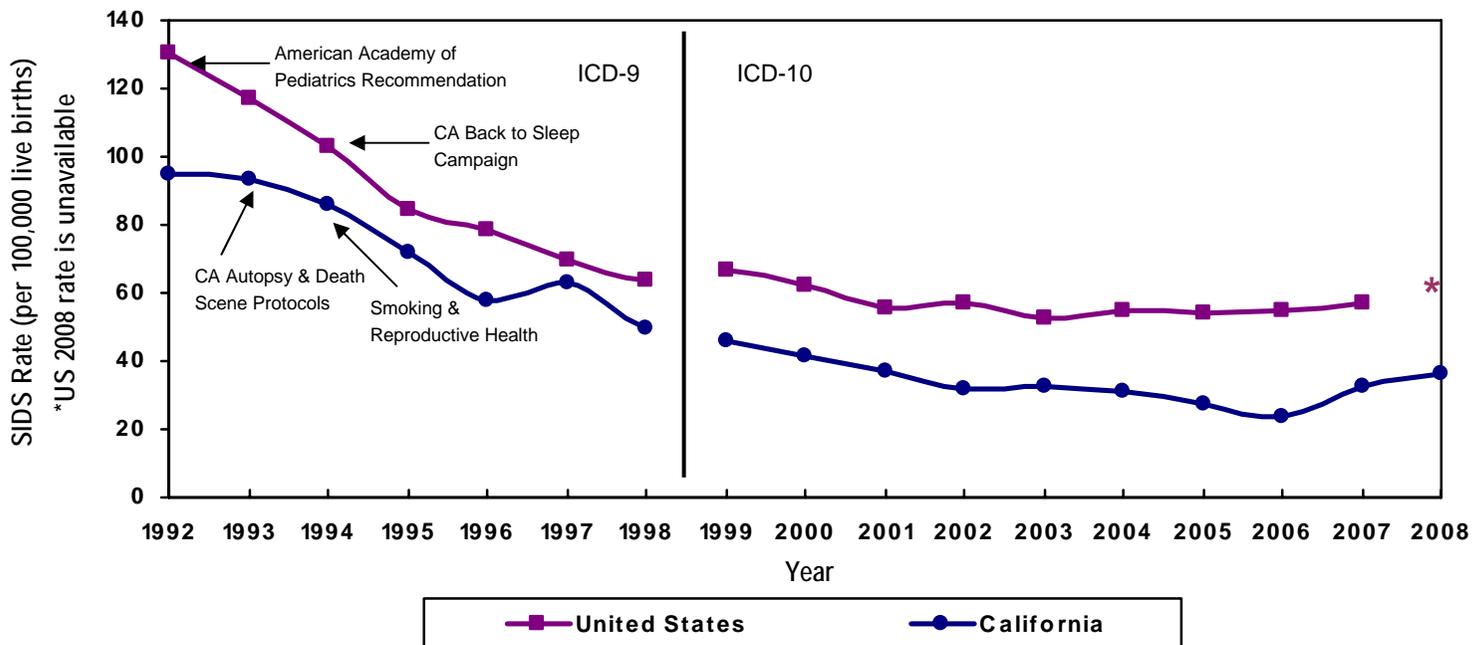


# FACTS ABOUT SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) MORTALITY IN CALIFORNIA, 2008



- SIDS is the sudden death of an infant under one year of age which remains unexplained after a complete postmortem investigation, including autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical history.
- In 1989, the Governor of California signed the first four SIDS bills into law. In 1992, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended changing an infant's sleep position from stomach to back/side to reduce their risk of SIDS. Between 1992-1998, SIDS rates in California declined 47% compared to a 51% decline nationally. The initiation of the national campaign promoting "Back to Sleep" (1994) and the anti-smoking legislation in California (AB99) have also helped reduce SIDS rates. With the introduction of the International Classifications of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) starting in 1999, SIDS death rates cannot be compared to previous years because the definition changed. California's SIDS rates declined 29% between 1999-2007 compared to 27% nationally. Some of the decline between 1999 and 2007 in California may be due to differential criteria for coding SIDS deaths at the county level.
- In 2008, 201 infants died from SIDS in California, representing a rate of 36.4 (per 100,000 live births), an overall increase of 12.7% from 2007.<sup>1</sup> Additional years of data are needed to better understand the validity and potential explanations of the rate increase.
  - Three-year SIDS rates for Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego counties have seen an increase between the two time periods, 2005-2007 and 2006-2008. SIDS rates in Los Angeles increased 104%; rates in Sacramento increased 26%; and San Diego SIDS rates increased 21% between 2005-2007 and 2006-2008.

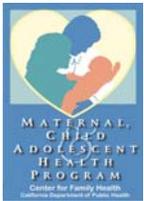
Rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Death  
United States<sup>2</sup> & California, 1992-2008



- In 2008, SIDS was one of the top five leading causes of infant death (birth to one year of age) in California.
- For all postneonatal infants (aged one month to one year), SIDS was the second leading cause of death in 2008 in California.

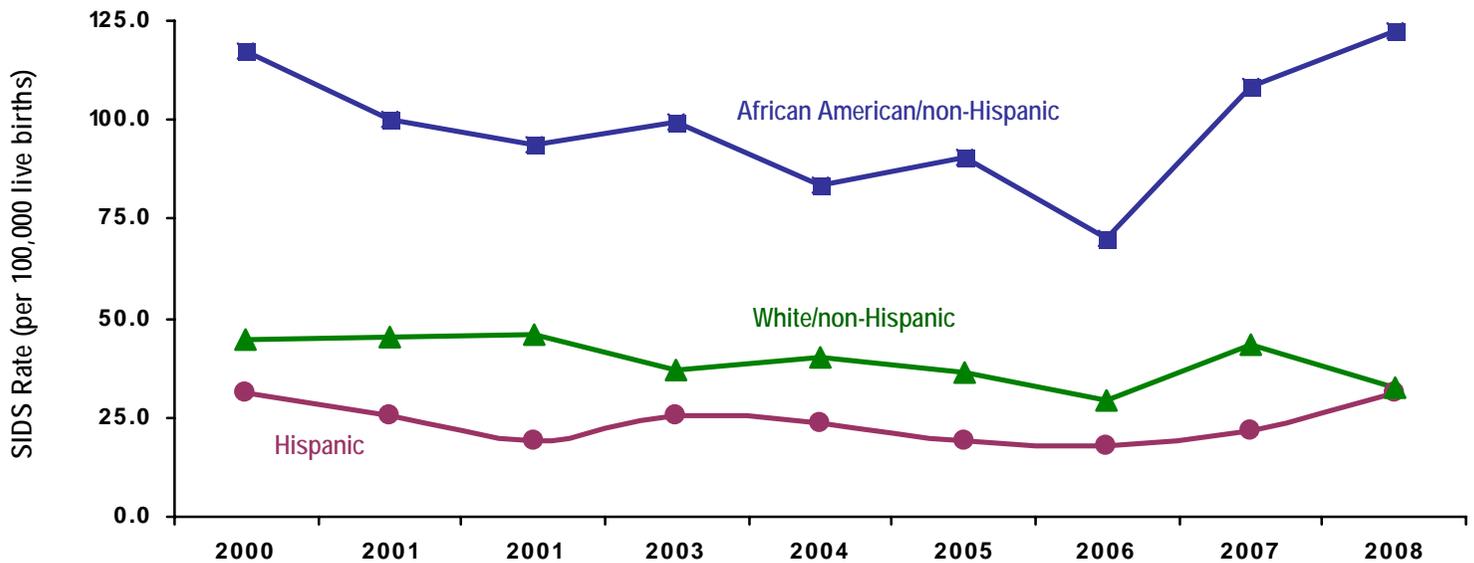


# FACTS ABOUT SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) MORTALITY IN CALIFORNIA, 2008 (continued)



- Male infants are more likely to die from SIDS than female infants. In California in 2008, males accounted for 58% of all SIDS deaths, while females represented 42%.
- Data for 2008 shows a seasonal pattern for SIDS in California. Forty-five percent of babies died during the 4-month time period, November through February. Twenty-nine percent of SIDS babies died during the 4-month time period, March through June, and 25% died in the months of July through October. Seasonal patterns have not been seen since 2001.
- There is a distinctive age pattern for SIDS. In California in 2008, the highest percentage of SIDS occurred when the infant was between 1 and 5 months, with 83% of SIDS babies dying before the age of 6 months.
- The rate of SIDS among low birthweight (LBW) infants (weighing less than 2500 grams or 5lbs, 8oz.) was 77.4 (per 100,000 live births) in California in 2007 compared to a rate of 30.1 (per 100,000 live births) for babies born with a normal birthweight.<sup>3</sup>
- Infants from different racial/ethnic groups have different risks of dying from SIDS. In 2008, the African American/non-Hispanic SIDS rate was almost four times that of the White/non-Hispanic and Hispanic SIDS rates. SIDS rates (per 100,000 live births) by race/ethnicity in California are as follows:

Rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) by Race/Ethnicity  
California Residents, 2000-2008



- Younger mothers have a greater risk of having a baby die from SIDS than older mothers. Births to mothers less than 21 years old accounted for 14% of live births yet 28% of SIDS deaths in California in 2007.<sup>3</sup> The rate of SIDS among babies born to mothers less than 21 years old was 68.4 (per 100,000 live births) compared to a SIDS rate of 28.1 (per 100,000 live births) for mothers over the age of 20 in 2007.<sup>3</sup>

SOURCE/NOTES: <sup>1</sup> California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical and Death Statistical Master Files, 2008. Data reported are from this source unless otherwise noted and are most recent available. <sup>2</sup> Data for 1990-1998: Monthly Vital Statistics Report, United States Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics Birth and Death Records, 1980-1999. Kochanek KD, Smith BL. Data for 1999-2004: National Vital Statistics Reports - Year 1999 (Vol. 49, No. 8), Year 2000 (Vol 50, No.15), Year 2001 (Vol 52, No. 9), Year 2002 (Vol 53, No. 17), Year 2003 (Vol 54, No 13), Year 2004 (Vol 55, No 19), Year 2005 (Vol 55, No 16), and Years 2006-2007 (Vol 58, No 1). Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. <sup>3</sup> California Department of Public Health, Birth Cohort File, 2007 (most recent available).