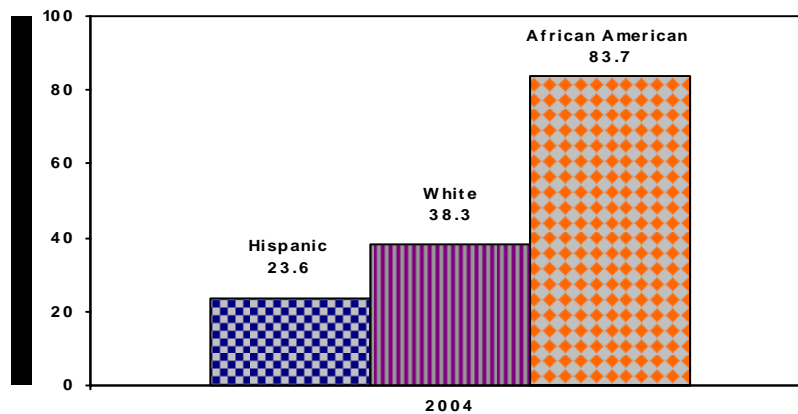


FACTS ABOUT SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA, 2004

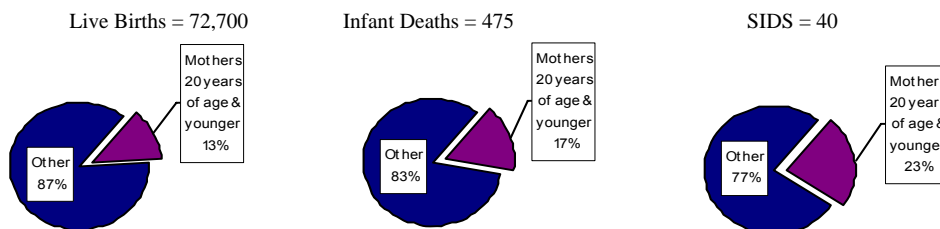
- SIDS is the sudden death of an infant under one year of age which remains unexplained after a complete postmortem investigation, including autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical history.
- 171 babies died from SIDS in California in 2004 representing a rate of 31.4 (per 100,000 live births), an overall decrease of 3% from 2003.¹
- In 2004, SIDS was the fourth leading cause of death among all infants (birth to one year of age).
- For all postneonatal infants (aged one month to one year) including White, African American, & Hispanic postneonatal infants in 2004, SIDS was the second leading cause of death.
- Male babies are more likely to die from SIDS than female babies. In 2004, males accounted for almost two-thirds of all SIDS deaths, while females represented more than one-third.¹
- Babies from different racial/ethnic groups have different risks of dying from SIDS. In 2004, the African American (non-Hispanic) SIDS rate was over twice that of the White (non-Hispanic) SIDS rate and over three times the Hispanic SIDS rate. The SIDS rate (per 100,000 live births) by race/ethnicity is as follows:^{1,3}
 - Hispanic 23.6 ▪ White (non-Hispanic) 38.3 ▪ African American (non-Hispanic) 83.7

**Rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
By Race/Ethnicity, California Residents, 2004^{1,3}**



- Unlike in some earlier years, data for 2004 show no seasonal pattern for SIDS.
- There is a distinctive age pattern for SIDS. In 2004, the highest percentage of SIDS occurred when the infant was between 1 and 5 months, with 81% of SIDS babies dying by the age of 5 months.¹
- Younger mothers have a greater risk of having a SIDS death than older mothers. The prevalence of SIDS among babies born to mothers 20 years of age and younger was 55 (per 100,000 live births) in 2003.² Births to mothers less than 20 years old accounted for 13% of live births yet 23% of SIDS deaths in 2003.²

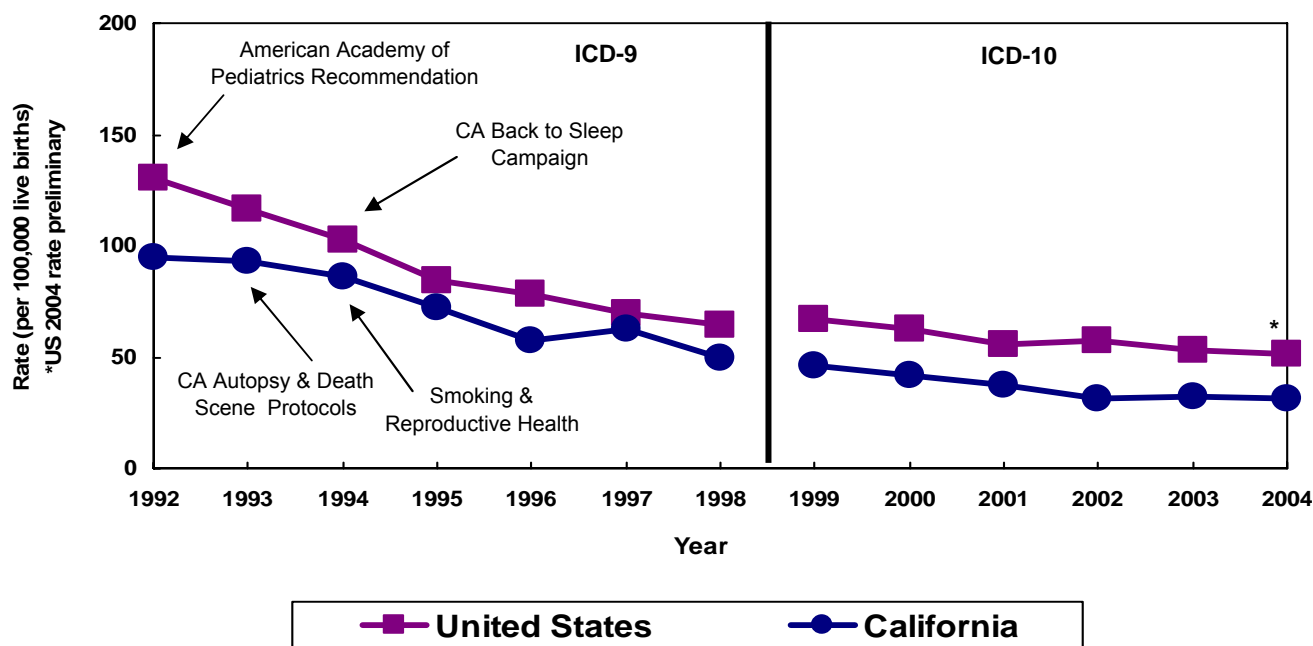
**Number and Percent of Live Births, Infant Deaths and SIDS Deaths for
Mothers 20 Years of Age and Younger, California Residents, 2003²**



FACTS ABOUT SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA, 2004 (continued)

- The prevalence of SIDS among low birthweight (LBW) babies (weighing less than 2500 grams or 5lbs, 8oz.) was 81.3 (per 100,000 live births) in 2003.² The prevalence of SIDS among LBW babies born to mothers aged 20 years and younger was 174.2 (per 100,000 live births).² This rate, based on fewer than 20 events, is unstable and should be interpreted with caution.
- In 1989, the Governor of California signed the first four SIDS bills into law. In 1992, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended changing infant's sleep position from stomach to back/side to reduce the risk of SIDS. Between 1992-1998, SIDS rates in California declined 47% compared to 51% 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. Under ICD-10, it was expected that states would see a slight increase in SIDS rates. However, California's SIDS rate has continued to decline with a 31% decrease between 1999-2004 compared to 23% nationally, but some of the decline in California may be due to counties using different definitions of SIDS.

**Rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Deaths
United States⁴ and California¹, 1992 - 2004**



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California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Program

11344 Coloma Road, Ste. 560

Gold River, CA 95670-6304

916-851-SIDS (7437) • 800-369-SIDS (7437) • FAX 916-851-5937

info@californiasids.com • www.californiasids.com

SOURCE/NOTES: 1. California Department of Health Services Birth Statistical and Death Statistical Master Files, 2004. Data reported are from this source unless otherwise noted and are most recent available. 2. California Department of Health Services, Birth Cohort File, 2003 (most recent available). 3. SIDS rates are infant deaths in 2004 due to SIDS divided by total live births by race/ethnicity in 2004 times 100,000. 4. 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), and Years 2003 - 2004: Preliminary Data for 2004 (Vol 54, No 19). Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics.