

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome California, 2011

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (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.

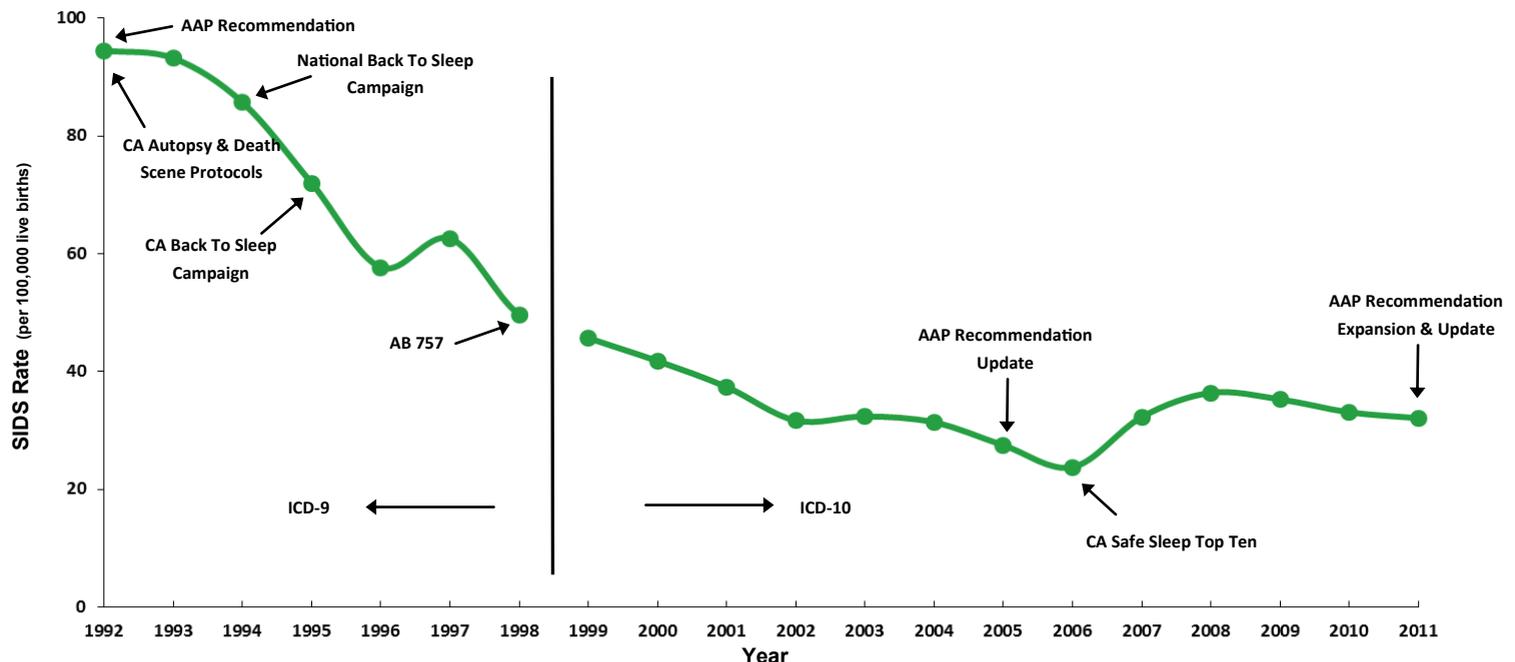
SIDS Data in California in 2011

In 2011, 161 infants died from SIDS in California, representing a rate of 32.1 (per 100,000 live births), a decrease of 3 percent from 2010 and 30 percent since 1999 when the rate was 45.7 (per 100,000 live births).

The figure below shows California SIDS rates from 1992 to 2011. The rise in SIDS rates beginning in 2007 may be related to a change in diagnostic methodology, such as variance in death scene investigations and application of underlying cause of death diagnoses.

Beginning in 1999, SIDS rates cannot be compared to previous years because rules classifying SIDS as the underlying cause of death changed with the introduction of the 1999 update to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10).

Rate of SIDS in California, 1992-2011



Data Source: California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical and Death Statistical Master Files, 1992-2011.



Highlights

- ▶ SIDS was the third leading cause of infant death (birth to one year of age) in 2011.
- ▶ For all postneonatal infants (aged one month to one year), SIDS was the second leading cause of death.
- ▶ The African-American/non-Hispanic SIDS rate was almost three times that of the White/non-Hispanic rate and four times that of the Hispanic SIDS rate.

► SIDS and Gender

Male infants continue to be more likely to die from SIDS than female infants. In 2011, California data show male infants accounted for more than half, 54 percent, of all SIDS deaths.

► Age at Death

There is a distinctive age pattern for SIDS. In California in 2011, the highest percentage of SIDS occurred when the infant was between 1 and 5 months, with 75 percent of deaths due to SIDS occurring before the age of 6 months.

► Seasonality of SIDS

An increased SIDS risk has been linked to the cold, winter months. Parents often place extra blankets or clothes on infants for extra warmth, possibly increasing the risk for SIDS. In the past, SIDS deaths have been more common during the winter season; however, data for 2011 did not show a seasonal pattern for SIDS in California.

SIDS Risk Reduction

In 1989, the Governor of California signed the first of four SIDS bills into law. These laws launched California SIDS services, education, and research. In 1998, California passed Assembly Bill 757 requiring hospitals to provide parents of newborns with SIDS risk reduction information, furthering California's effort at reducing infant deaths due to SIDS.

In 1992, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended changing an infant's sleep position from stomach to back/side to reduce their risk of SIDS. In 1994, the national campaign promoting "Back to Sleep" was launched and in 1995, California launched a statewide risk reduction campaign including "Back to Sleep". Between 1992 and 1998, SIDS rates in California declined 47 percent. In 2005, the AAP updated the "Back to Sleep" recommendations to further reduce the risk of SIDS and in 2006 California launched the "Safe Sleep Top Ten"¹ messages including the updated AAP recommendations.

On October 18, 2011, the AAP released the policy statement, "SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Expansion of Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment." These recommendations updated the 2005 AAP recommendations related to SIDS risk reduction, including recommendations on a safe sleep environment that can reduce the risk of all sleep-related infant deaths, including SIDS. The 2011 AAP recommendations and other SIDS risk reduction resources can be accessed at the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health SIDS Program website².

For more information

- SIDS by County, 2009-2011: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSByCounty2007-09.pdf
- SIDS by Race/Ethnicity, 2007-2011: www.cdph.ca.gov/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSByRace-Eth2005-09.pdf
- SIDS by County, 2008-10 and 2009-11: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSByCounty2006-08and2007-09.pdf
- SIDS Rolling Averages 1999-2011: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSRollingAverages1999-09.pdf
- SIDS California Rates Graph: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-CaliforniaRatesGraph.pdf
- ¹California SIDS Program: <http://www.californiasids.com>
- ²Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health SIDS Program Website: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Pages/default.aspx