

SLEEP-RELATED INFANT DEATHS

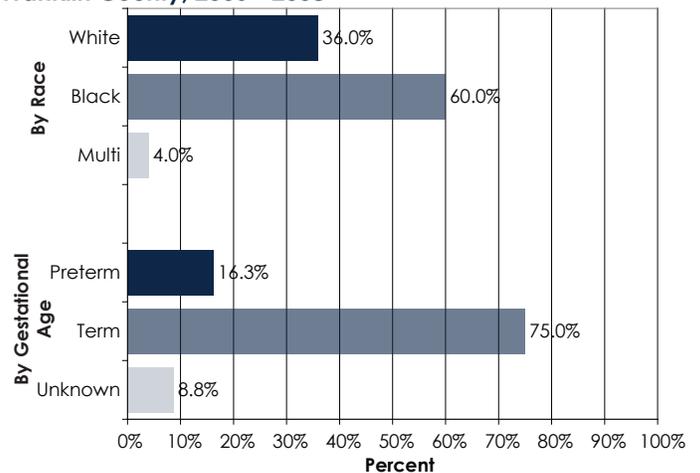
The Franklin County Child Fatality Review (CFR) program reviewed the reports of 80 infants who died in their sleep from 2006 through 2008. Of these, 12 (15%) were diagnosed as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The remaining 68 were sudden unexplained infant deaths (SUIDs) diagnosed as accidental suffocation, positional asphyxia, overlay or of undetermined cause (cause unknown). Many of these deaths can be prevented. This brief presents key points on circumstances surrounding all 80 sleep-related infant deaths in this three year time period.

About the Babies and their Mothers

- Blacks carry an unfair burden of poor birth outcomes. In 2006-2008, 26% of births were to black mothers, yet black infants represent 60% of all sleep-related deaths. (Figure 1)
- 75% of sleep-related deaths in Franklin County were to infants who were born at term (born at 37 or more completed weeks). (Figure 1)
- In almost three-fourths of all infant sleep-related deaths in Franklin County, the infant's primary caregiver was between the ages of 20 and 34.
- Of all infant sleep-related deaths in Franklin County, 71% of caregivers had a high school diploma or higher.

FIGURE 1

ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS
Franklin County, 2006 - 2008



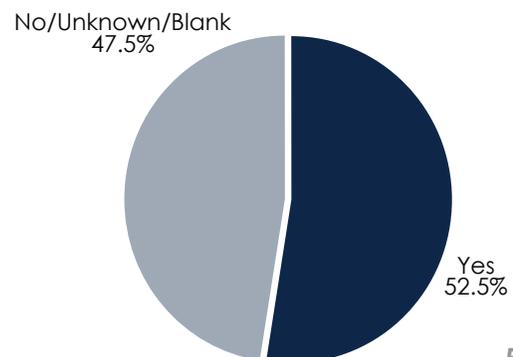
Note:
Preterm is under 37 completed weeks gestation.

Smoking During Pregnancy (Figure 2)

- About 15% of live births in Franklin County were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, yet 53% of infant sleep-related deaths were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.

FIGURE 2

ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY
MOTHER WHO SMOKED DURING PREGNANCY
Franklin County, 2006 - 2008



According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), babies of mothers who smoke during pregnancy are at 3 times greater risk for SIDS.

The *Franklin County Child Fatality Review* is a community planning process in which a team of experts from various community systems and agencies convene to review the circumstances around potentially preventable deaths in Franklin County children under the age of 18.

Franklin County Health Indicator Brief: Sleep-Related Infant Deaths

Risky Sleep Conditions

- Over 60% of all sleep-related infant deaths in Franklin County report bed sharing (infants and adults sharing the same bed to sleep). (Figure 3)
- Over 30% of all sleep-related infant deaths in Franklin County are to infants placed on their side or stomach. (Figure 4)
- In almost half of all sleep-related infant deaths in Franklin County, babies have been found sleeping in an adult bed. (Figure 5)

The AAP recommends that babies do not bed share. The safest place for a baby to sleep is in a separate sleep surface (crib, bassinet, cradle) next to the parent's bed.

FIGURE 5

ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY SLEEP PLACE FOUND AT TIME OF DEATH
Franklin County, 2006 - 2008

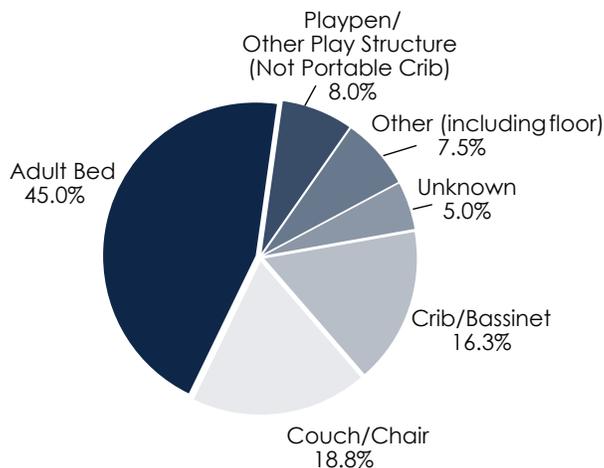


FIGURE 3

ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY ANY BED SHARING
Franklin County, 2006 - 2008

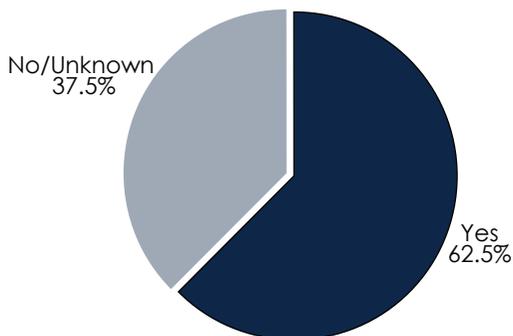
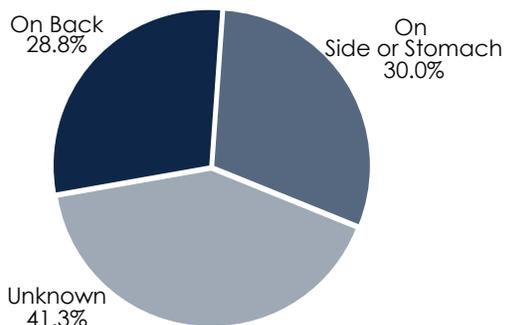


FIGURE 4

ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY POSITION PLACED TO SLEEP
Franklin County, 2006 - 2008



According to the AAP, babies who sleep on their stomachs or sides have 2-3 times greater risk of sleep-related death than babies placed on their back.

Remember the ABCs of safe sleep!
Babies are safest:

Alone;
On their **B**acks;
In their own safety approved **C**ribs

Concept developed by the Baltimore City Health Department

For complete safe sleep recommendations see "What does a Safe Sleep Environment Look Like?" from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (www.nichd.nih.gov).

Sources: Ohio Department of Health, Vital Statistics Data, Analysis by Columbus Public Health
Franklin County Child Fatality Review, Analysis by Columbus Public Health

Note: Majority of information is self reported by caregiver.