

SLEEP-RELATED INFANT DEATHS

INTRODUCTION

The Franklin County Child Fatality Review Team (CFR), a diverse, expert, community-based group reviews reports of all sleep-related infant deaths in order to learn more about preventing them in the future. When a baby under one year of age dies during sleep, this is called a sleep-related infant death. From 2009 through 2011, there were 79 sleep-related infant deaths in Franklin County, many of which could have been prevented. The information in this data brief is meant to provide an overview of key points on the circumstances surrounding these deaths over the three-year period.

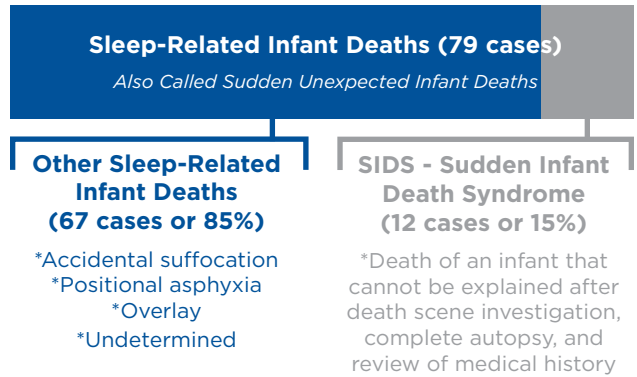
ABOUT THE BABIES

- During 2009-2011, less than one-third (29%) of births in Franklin County were to Black mothers, yet Black babies represent almost half (49%) of all Franklin County sleep-related infant deaths.
- Infants born at term (37 or more completed weeks of gestation) represent almost 80% of all Franklin County sleep-related infant deaths during 2009-2011.

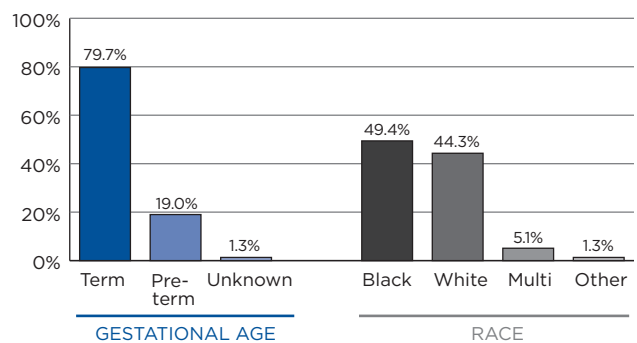
ABOUT THE BABIES' CAREGIVERS

- During 2009-2011, 14% of births in Franklin County were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, yet among all sleep-related infant deaths, 43% of infants' mothers smoked during pregnancy.
- Among all sleep-related infant deaths in Franklin County during 2009-2011, over 60% of the infants' caregivers had at least a high school education.
- Among almost three-fourths (72%) of sleep-related infant deaths in Franklin County during 2009-2011, the infants' primary caregivers were between the ages of 20 and 34 years.

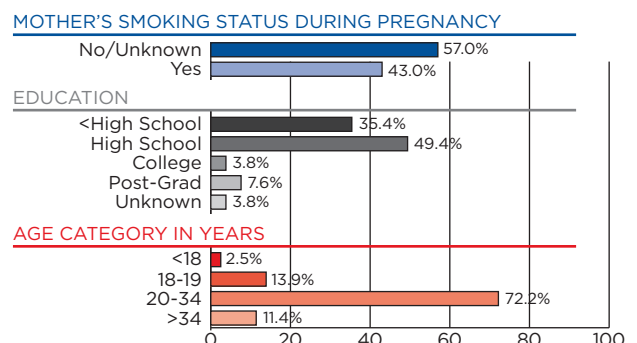
DEFINING SLEEP-RELATED INFANT DEATHS



SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY RACE & GESTATIONAL AGE OF INFANT; FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2009-2011



SLEEP-RELATED INFANT DEATHS BY CHARACTERISTICS OF CAREGIVERS; FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2009-2011



UNSAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENTS

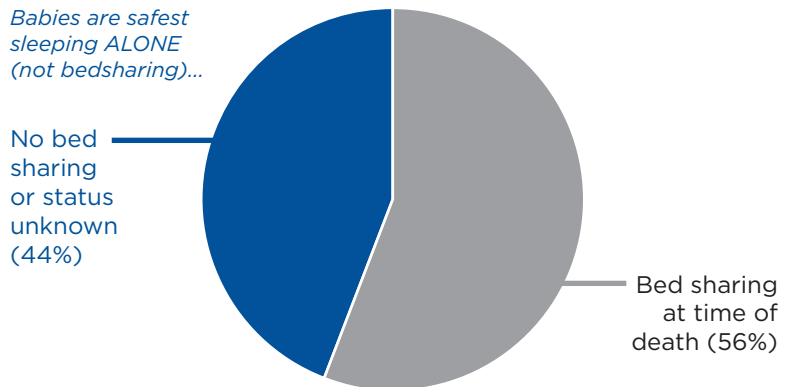
Recommendations from multiple public and private organizations¹, supported by strong and consistent scientific evidence, state that babies are safest sleeping ALONE, on their BACKS, in their own safety-approved CRIB. Other best practices include avoiding smoke exposure during pregnancy and after birth, keeping soft objects and loose bedding out of the crib, and breast-feeding.² Columbus Public Health promotes these standards to parents, caregivers, and health care professionals.

From 2009 through 2011, in Franklin County:

- Almost 56% of all sleep-related infant deaths occurred among infants who had shared a sleep surface (with another child, adult, and/or pet).
- Despite the recommendation that all healthy infants be placed on their backs to sleep, the Franklin County CFR team found that only 47% of the cases they reviewed had been placed on their backs.
- Three fourths (75%) of all sleep-related infant deaths occurred among infants found sleeping in a place other than a crib.

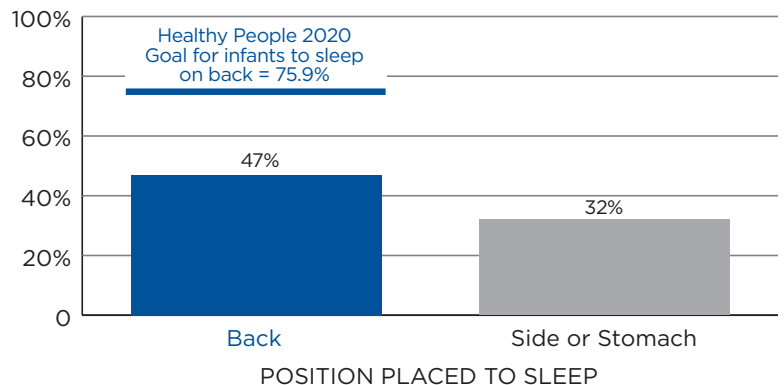
ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY BED SHARING; FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2009-2011

Babies are safest sleeping ALONE (not bedsharing)...



ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY POSITION PLACED TO SLEEP; FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2009-2011

Babies are safest sleeping on their BACKS...



*Sleep position in 21% of the 2009-2011 Franklin County sleep-related infant deaths is categorized as unknown

REFERENCES:

1. American Academy of Pediatrics, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and multiple local and state health departments across the country
2. "SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Expansion of Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment," Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Task Force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, October 17, 2011.

SOURCES:

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

ALL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY PLACE FOUND; FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2009-2011

Babies are safest in a safety-approved CRIB...

