

2019-2021 Child Death Review: Infant Mortality Summary



THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

The Louisiana infant mortality rate from 2019-2021 was 7.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. The U.S. infant mortality rate during the same period was 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH (SUID)

A yearly average of 117 infant deaths before the age of one are due to injury. 8 out of 10 (92) of those deaths were due to SUID.



The most common SUID risk factors present among these deaths are:



Sleeping with other people



Sleeping in something other than a crib



Sleeping with loose toys or bedding

Other risk factors for SUID include:

- × Stomach- or side-sleeping position
- × Preterm birth or low birth weight
- × Cigarette smoke in the home
- × Alcohol, drug, or tobacco use during pregnancy

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- **All health care professionals** should receive education on safe infant sleep practices.
- **Discuss safe sleep** with your patients and their families. Discussions should be culturally appropriate, respectful, and nonjudgmental.
- **Model safe sleep environments** in clinical, childcare, and community settings. This includes setting up safe sleep displays in clinic waiting rooms, workplaces, churches, and learning centers.
- **Explore and share Give Your Baby Space**, a statewide campaign that teaches caregivers the safest ways for babies to sleep. Healthcare, public health, and community partners are encouraged to explore check out the website and share it with families: GiveYourBabySpace.org.
- **Healthcare providers should screen for and recommend Safe sleep practices** during all visits including the prenatal period through the first year of the infant's life.

QUICK FACTS

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Fewer infant deaths from 2019-2021 if Louisiana had the same infant mortality rates as the rest of the country

2x

Increased likelihood of Black infant deaths compared to white infants

1-3 Months

The age most SUID deaths occur in Louisiana

85%

of SUID deaths in which the infant was sleeping with others

83%

of SUID deaths in which the infant was sleeping in something other than a crib or bassinette

70%

of SUID deaths in which the infant was sleeping with loose bedding or toys

Learn more in the [2019-2021 Child Death Review](#).