

KIDS NETWORK

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network

The tragedy of infant death touches hundreds of Kansas families every year. The Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network (KIDS) supports individuals who have experienced such a loss, as well as organizations working to reduce the risk of infant death through education, training, and research. A major focus of the Network's outreach is promoting safe sleep practices through such initiatives as: creating a statewide Safe Sleep Instructor Plan, Safe Sleep Community Baby Showers, Cribs for KIDS, safe-sleep education for new and expectant parents, and safe-sleep training for health and child care providers.

STRATEGIES

Research and Training

- Support research into SIDS
- Train healthcare providers
- Train child care providers

Family Support

- Provide infant products for needy families
- Provide hospital and home visits

Community Baby Showers



THE NEED

The death of an infant creates a ripple effect, taking a tremendous toll on the parents, as well as their network of family and friends. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is the leading cause of death in the United States for infants between the ages of one month and one year, but there are ways families can decrease the risk. KIDS Network works to prevent the risk of SIDS by providing education on safe sleep practices, offering cribs to families in need, and supporting research on the underlying causes of infant mortality.

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OUR SOLUTIONS

Create a statewide infrastructure of safe sleep instructors to provide safe sleep education preconceptionally, prenatally, at birth, and through the first year.

Community Baby Showers teach the ABCs of safe sleep, importance of breast feeding, tobacco cessation, and ensure that expectant mothers are connected to Medicaid and medical providers.

Nurses, doctors, social workers, EMTs, home visitors, and other practitioners and community members are trained to spread awareness of safe sleep techniques.

Cribs are provided for families in need.

Collaboration among state and local entities (e.g. Maternal and Child Health Home Visiting, churches, civic groups) enhances service and support.

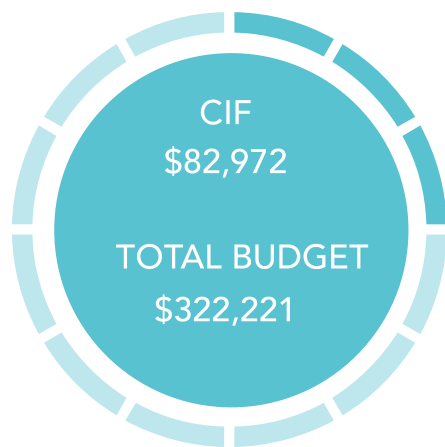
Research on SIDS, both behavioral and physiological, is supported and put into practice.

“Safe sleep instructors, in combination with community baby showers, create a point of contact for families and pregnant women to educate about safe sleep, reducing tobacco use, and increasing breast feeding. All are shown to reduce infant mortality.” ~Christy Schunn, KIDS Network

EVALUATION PRACTICES: The KIDS Network contracts with an external evaluator at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Evaluations measure knowledge and behavioral changes of safe sleep, service delivery, and outcomes. Evaluation practices have been modified to collect more complete, reliable, and valid data. Data are collected at various points depending on service delivery setting during the continuum of care for parents/caregivers, child care providers, and medical professionals. Evaluation findings inform program changes for continuous quality improvement and service delivery. Findings are disseminated in publications, the website, conferences, and board meetings.

EVIDENCE BASE: Innovative Program. KIDS Network Grant is actively working to establish an evidence-base for their practices by conducting rigorous research using appropriate comparison methodologies, and submitting findings to peer-reviewed journals.

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The Kansas Infant Mortality Rate reached its lowest level in 2015, at 5.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, below the Healthy People 2020 target. Overall, 230 infant deaths were reported in 2015 to KDHE, the lowest number ever reported.

98% of mothers who attended a community baby shower planned to place their infant to **sleep in a safe location**, like a crib or bassinet

98%

90% of mothers plan to create a "safe" sleep environment for their infant by using only a **firm mattress and fitted sheet** in the sleep area

90%

98% of mothers reported that they will **talk about safe sleep with others** who may put their child down to sleep

98%

811

mothers attended community baby showers



POPULATION SERVED

Prenatal to Age 2	7,219
Ages 2-5	0
Ages 5-12	0
Ages 12-18	44
Ages 18+	625
Parents	7,219
Professional Development	5,958



LOOKING BACK

KIDS Network strengthened partnerships with private and public organizations to promote safe sleep practices.

KIDS Network has ongoing collaboration with the Breastfeeding Coalition and tobacco cessation programs.

Altered education and outreach content to include newly marketed sleep aids that do not adhere to safe sleep standards.

LOOKING FORWARD

KIDS Network will continue to find ways to most effectively disseminate information around the state.

KIDS Network is planning for evaluation efforts to be revised:

- Stratify findings by parents or professionals
- Develop assessment tools by caregiver, safe sleep instructor, and professional
- Revise curriculum to fit audience

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"[KIDS Network] provides bereavement support and community education to reduce infant mortality; specifically sleep related deaths, congenital defects, and issues surrounding prematurity."

~Christy Schunn