

KIDS Network Grant

Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network



“*The misconception is that infant mortality happens to one specific population... it happens to people of all socio-economic groups, all races, all education levels.* ~ Christy Schunn, KIDS Network

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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. This is achieved through multiple innovative initiatives, including: Safe Sleep Community Baby Showers; Cribs for KIDS; safe-sleep education for new and expectant parents via hospital, home visit, or birthing center; and safe-sleep training for healthcare and child care providers.

STRATEGIES

■ Research and Training

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

■ Community Baby Showers

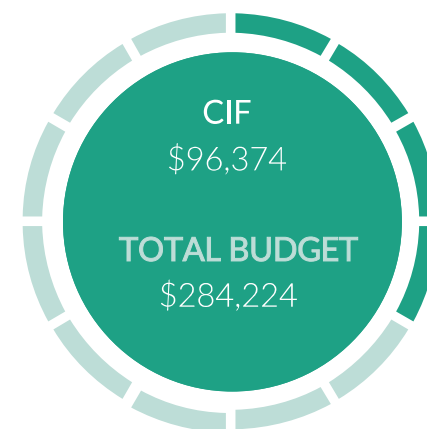
■ Family Support

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

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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, providing cribs to families in need, and supporting research on the underlying causes of infant mortality.



OUR SOLUTIONS

- **Community Baby Showers** teach the ABCs of safe sleep (alone, on the back, in a clutter-free crib).
- **Nurses, doctors, social workers, EMTs, home visitors, and other practitioners and community members** are trained to spread awareness of safe sleep techniques.
- **Families in need** receive cribs.
- **Collaboration among state and local entities** (Healthy Start Home Visiting, churches, civic groups) enhances service and support.
- **Research on SIDS**, both behavioral and physiological, is supported and put into practice.

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POPULATION SERVED

1,570 CHILDREN



1,500 prenatal
to 2 years



70
Ages 5 to 12

17,028 COMMUNITY MEMBERS



3,123 providers were
trained on safe sleep
and bereavement



1,500 caregivers were
educated about safe
sleep at Safe Sleep
Community Baby
showers and Safe Sleep
instructor trainings



13,405 were reached through
professional meetings and
KIDS community events

24 Safe Sleep
instructors were
trained in 14
cities across
Kansas, and
conducted
trainings for
378 others.

5.9

Last year, Kansas
recorded its
lowest-ever infant
mortality rate. 5.9
per every 1,000
live births.

24

914 parents at a
single hospital
(Lawrence
Memorial) viewed
the video on safe
sleep, distributed
throughout the state.

914

92

92% of mothers
planned to create
an environment
for safe sleep
after attending the
Sedgwick County
Community Baby
Showers.

Evaluation Practices: The KIDS Network contracts with an external evaluator at the University of Kansas School of Medicine (Wichita). Evaluation practices 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 their findings to peer-reviewed journals.

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LOOKING BACK

- Trained 24 additional safe sleep instructors statewide
- Four Community Baby Showers, attended by 455 pregnant mothers
- Working on continuum of care, from OBGYNs before conception to hospital nurses to pediatricians
- Survey through Kansas Hospital Association to better target efforts
- Strategic plan meeting in May to guide next five years
- Scholarly publications in conjunction with KU School of Medicine (Wichita)
- Zero to One video series and curriculum through Kansas Health Foundation
- Community fundraising events, including golf tournament and memorial walk



LOOKING FORWARD

- Presenting at international conference in Uruguay (one of 12 states participating in international movement)
- Would like to add 5-10 more SSI instructors every year, targeting counties with highest infant mortality rates, highest poverty and lowest education
- Applying for grant to look at racial disparities in infant mortality
- Will continue to disseminate information around the state and nationally
- Loss of CIF money would eliminate paid staff crucial to maintaining organizational infrastructure