



## CONTACT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### State Child Death Review Board: Infant mortality rate up slightly in 2016

*The KIDS Network continues intervention efforts to reduce the number of infant deaths.*

(Wichita, Kan.) – The 2018 Annual Report from the Kansas State Child Death Review Board (SCDRB) reports that the rate of infant deaths, which includes newborns through one year of age, was up slightly at 6.2 deaths per 1,000 live births from 6.1. The report also concludes, 75% of sleep-related deaths occurred in an unsafe sleep location. The board notes the large number of infants who sleep in less than ideal circumstances is a continued concern as some of these deaths may have been preventable had the infant been in a safe sleep environment.

“Too many babies are dying before their first birthday,” says Christy Schunn, Executive Director of Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network. “While we have made progress over the last many years, the KIDS Network remains committed to working with partners across Kansas to continue intervention efforts to decrease infant mortality and protect the lives of our state’s youngest and most vulnerable citizens.”

While the root causes in infant mortality are complex, the high incidence of infant deaths can be attributed to stress, poverty, lower education levels, and higher teen pregnancy rates. Confronting the complex factors that contribute to infant mortality needs a collaborative and committed community effort to bridge these gaps.

On Saturday, October 13, 2018 the KIDS Network will partner with Wichita Black Nurses Association and local sororities to host an interactive and educational **Safe Sleep Community Baby Shower**. Expectant parents and their support people will learn the ABCs of Safe Sleep— all babies should sleep **A**lone, on their **B**acks, and in **C**lutter-free **C**rib. The pregnant women who attend the shower and receive the safe sleep training will receive a free portable crib and a wearable blanket, based on availability.

Do you know someone who could benefit? Encourage them to attend the Safe Sleep Community Baby Shower on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at South Central Boys and Girls Club, 2400 N. Opportunity Drive, Wichita, KS 67219.

The KIDS Network is a non-profit agency serving individuals who have been touched by the tragedy of infant death or SIDS in Kansas, in addition to, those individuals or organizations who strive to reduce the risk of infant deaths by providing supportive services, community education, professional training and supporting associated research.

### **Characteristics of the SIDS deaths in Kansas, 2016**

- 96% had one or more elements of unsafe sleep
- 76% were not sleeping in a crib/bassinet
  - 84% of whom had a crib or bassinet in the home
- 60% were sleeping in an adult bed
  - 73% of whom were co-bedding
- 4% were sleeping on a couch, while co-bedding
- 52% were documented as not being placed on the back to sleep (recommended position)
- 72% were less than 4 months old

(source: *State Child Death Review Board 2018 Annual Report* <http://bit.ly/2zwopGB>)

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