



Safe Sleep Saves Lives

October is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month. Approximately 3,500 infants die annually in the United States from sleep-related infant deaths, including SIDS. This month, join NICHQ in raising awareness about safe sleep and breastfeeding recommendations.

All families want what's best for their babies. That's why it's vital that health professionals empower families to openly discuss their concerns about safe sleep and breastfeeding recommendations with knowledgeable sources so they can make informed decisions about their caregiving.

- Share updated safe sleep recommendations from the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#).
- Watch a recent [Healthy Start Ambassador Training](#) by the Healthy Start Technical Assistance and Support Center (TASC) where attendees learned the latest statistics, trends, and practices in safe sleep and risk reduction, including the American Academy of Pediatrics' 2022 Recommendations for Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment



Safe Sleep Resources & Tools

Check out NICHQ's official online guide to ensuring safe infant sleep. We're sharing the tools and knowledge to work toward eliminating SIDS and other sleep-related deaths. Find strategies and interactive resources to promote safe infant sleep guidelines, along with lessons learned to empower health professionals, community advocates, and families across the country to be champions of safe sleep.

[SAFE SLEEP 101](#)



Safe Sleep and Breastfeeding Community Learning

While sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) and breastfeeding are public health issues across population groups, significant disparities exist across race, ethnicity, and geography. To center the lived experiences of communities, many MCH programs are shifting to community-driven work to promote safe sleep and breastfeeding, including the [National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep Improvement and Innovation Network \(NAPPSS-IIN\)](#). As NAPPSS-IIN concludes its fifth year of breastfeeding and safe sleep work, three key lessons have emerged about the value of community voice in breastfeeding and safe sleep quality improvement.

[READ MORE](#)

NICHQ will convene six Community of Practice (CoP) groups from September 2022-March 2023. CoPs include Birthing Professionals, Community Advocacy Organizations, Community-Based Home Visitors, Early Childcare Providers, First Responders, and Researchers. Each group will convene twice to continue to address policies, improve skills, and learn from each other's experiences in the areas of safe sleep and breastfeeding.

[VIEW SCHEDULE](#)



Safe Sleep and Equity

Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and low-income families are disproportionately impacted by sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) and SIDS. These glaring inequities are rooted in systemic barriers caused by structural racism.

Read recommendations for how health professionals and improvement initiatives can better support the health and well-being of Black families from three NAPPSS-IIN faculty experts.

[READ MORE](#)

NICHQ Initiatives to Reduce Sleep-Related Infant Deaths

[National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep Improvement and Innovation Network \(NAPPSS-IIN\)](#)

NAPPSS-IIN is an initiative to make infant safe sleep and breastfeeding the national norm by aligning stakeholders to test safety bundles in multiple care settings to improve the likelihood that infant caregivers and families receive consistent, evidence-based instruction about safe sleep and breastfeeding.

[Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project](#)

In partnership with HRSA MCHB, the Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC), coordinated by NICHQ, conducts a variety of activities (e.g., topical webinars, cohorts, learning academies, training and certification scholarships, individualized technical assistance, virtual and in-person meetings) aimed at strengthening and enhancing Healthy Start projects' ability to reduce infant mortality rates and maternal and infant health disparities in their communities.