FAST FACTS
Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) in 2020

This Fast Facts focuses on cases of SUID in the U.S. in 2020. SUID is a term for the sudden and unexpected death of an infant (<1 year of age) in which the cause was not obvious before investigation. The three types of SUID covered in this Fast Facts are sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), suffocation and strangulation in bed (SSB), and other deaths from unknown causes (unknown cause).

**Magnitude of SUID**

On average, 9 infants died as a result of SUID every day in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUID Type</th>
<th>Cases of SUID in 2020</th>
<th>Proportion of SUID deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIDS</td>
<td>1,389 (41%)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSB</td>
<td>905 (27%)</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown Cause</td>
<td>1,062 (32%)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The rate of SUID in the U.S. decreased by 8 percent from 2006–2020.

**SUID Cases by Race and Ethnicity, 2019–2020**

The rates of SUID overall and SUID due to unknown causes are higher among non-Hispanic Black/African American infants.

**SUID Cases by Sex, 2020**

Male infants accounted for nearly 6 in 10 SUID cases.

**SUID Cases by Weekday, 2020**

Slightly more cases of SUID occurred on Saturdays and Sundays.

**SUID Cases by Geographic Area, 2020**

The SUID rate was higher among infants living in non-metro areas.
SUID rates are highest in Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas.

Notes and References

Data on SUID were retrieved from the CDC Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (CDC WONDER) Underlying Cause of Death, 1999–2020 database. ICD-10 codes used for data retrieval were SSB (E913.0; W75), SIDS (798.0; R95), and unknown cause, (799.9; R99). The SUID rate was retrieved by combining SSB, SIDS and unknown cause deaths. Date accessed: April 15, 2022. Accessed from: https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html

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