



SIDS and Vaccines

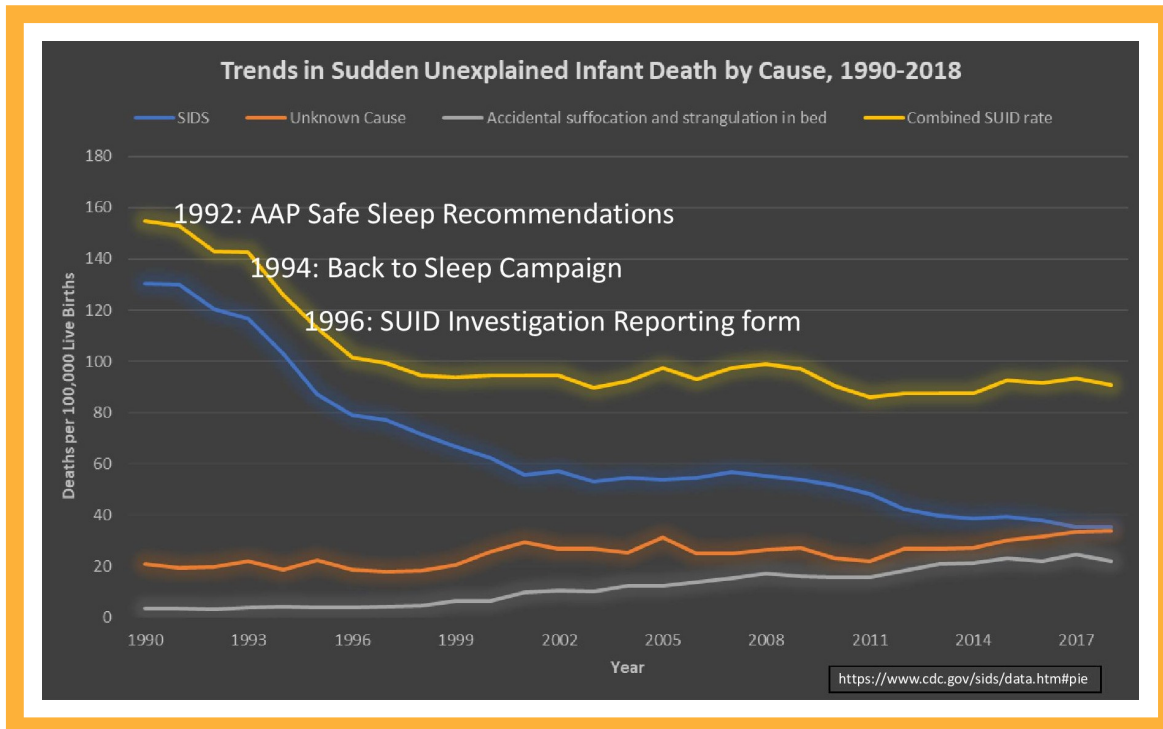
WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Vaccines do not cause sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

It is recommended that infants receive a number of key vaccinations such as the Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations. This age range is also the peak age for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

The timing of the 2 month and 4 month shots and SIDS has led some people to question whether they might be related. However, studies have found that vaccines do not cause and are not linked to SIDS [1].

FDA and CDC continually monitor vaccine safety through several systems. Numerous studies have found no evidence of a link between SIDS and vaccines.



A review of VAERS data from 1990-97 found a decline in deaths reported to the system similar to the overall decline in deaths from SIDS following implementation of the “Back to Sleep” program, leading researchers to conclude a coincidental, temporal association rather than causation[2][3]. Because we vaccinate millions of infants, SIDS will occur just by chance alone. One study examined the probability of coincidental SIDS after vaccination and did not note an increased probability in the time period following vaccination [4].

Studies have shown immunizations may have a protective impact against SIDS.

- A 2007 meta-analysis of nine research studies found that immunizations halve the odds of SIDS [5].
- Similarly, a 2001 study in the United Kingdom found immunization lowered the odds of SIDS[6].
- A 1995 study in New Zealand found unimmunized infants had a higher risk of SIDS[7].

CALL TO ACTION

- Promote vaccinations to constituents and friends/family in social media posts, newsletters, and town hall meetings.
- Support pro-immunization legislation.
- Vote against bills that would weaken Iowa's immunization laws.

As vaccinations have been added to the recommended schedule over the years in America, the incidence of SIDS has trended steadily downward.

SOURCES:

[1] <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/sids.html>

[2] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25057654>

[3] <https://adc.bmj.com/content/73/6/498>

[4] <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/115/6/e643.long>

[5] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17400342>

[6] <https://www.bmj.com/content/322/7290/822.short>

[7] <https://adc.bmj.com/content/73/6/498>



Iowa Immunizes is a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to protecting the health of Iowans through vaccination of children and adults. Iowa Immunizes is supported by Iowa Public Health Association. www.iowaimmunizes.org