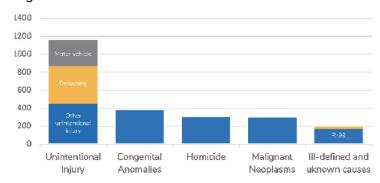
# Childhood Death **Statistics**

### **Leading Causes of Death**

Ages 1-4: US 2021



Data Source: National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC

## **10 Leading Causes of Death**

US, 2021, Both Sexes, All Ages, All Races



Data Source: National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC

#### **Unexplained Pediatric Deaths: Webinar Training Series**

• Six-hour, on-demand training offering F CEMs/CEus at NO cost for all professionals involved in the investigation, certification, or care of families after the sudden death of a child.

published consensus guidelines.

 Addresses the specific roles of pathologists, medical examiners/ coroners, death investigators, first responders, law enforcement, emergency department professionals as well as the roles of the pediatrician and primary care physicians in the follow-up care of families. • Utilizes didactic learning and video simulations based on

NO

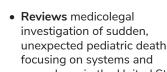
COST

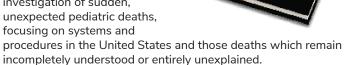
UNEXPLAINED PEDIATRIC DEATHS:

**Unexplained Pediatric Deaths: Investigation.** 

**Certification and Family** Needs Elizabeth Bundock and

Tracey Corey, Editors



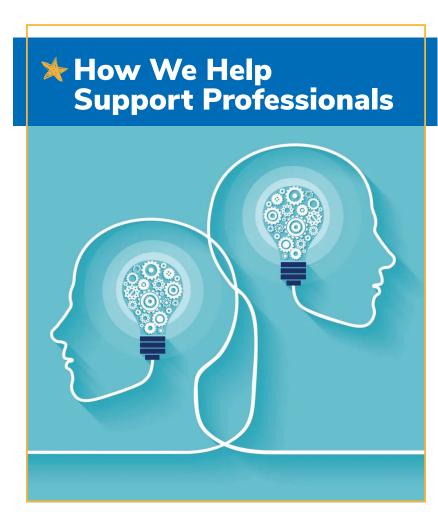


- Discusses the evolution of our understanding and practice in the area of sudden, unexpected pediatric death investigation, covering the changing philosophies and medical theories as to causation and changing investigative and certification strategies.
- Provides procedural guidance for investigation, autopsy, and ancillary testing; certification and reporting; and key considerations for prevention and research, and working with family members and other professional team members.



publication available online. DOWNLOAD IT NOW.





The SUDC Foundation is the only organization whose purpose is to raise awareness, fund research and serve those affected by sudden unexplained death in childhood (SUDC). The SUDC foundation provides all services at NO COST to the people it serves.

## **★ What Is SUDC?**

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood

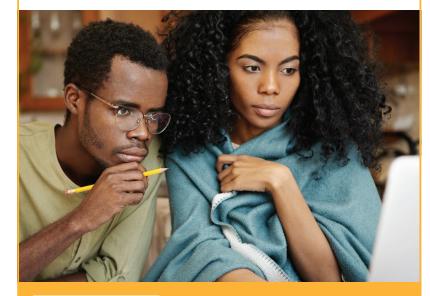
#### **Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC)**

is a category of death in children between the ages of 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy.

SUDC-type deaths are those considered not suspicious after a comprehensive investigation by a Medical Examiner. SUDC is a category of death whose causes currently elude science.

According to the CDC, 450 children in the U.S. were affected by sudden unexplained death in 2021, occurring in:

- **249** children ages of 1-4 years
- ★ 50 children ages of 5-9 years
- **★ 44** children ages of 10-14 years
- **★ 107** teens ages of 15-18 years





# Refer a Family to the SUDC Foundation

All services are **FREE** and confidential.



#### **How We Help Support Professionals**

The SUDC Foundation knows that a sudden death of a child profoundly affects the professionals involved. We offer the following **FREE** resources:

Communication Support: We can serve as a liaison between your office and the family, helping the family understand the extensive death investigation process. We can also work together with your office in providing additional guidance in navigating the care of the family following the sudden death of their child. Our goal is to support the family throughout their grieving journey.

**Library of Resources:** We offer a collection of scientific video presentations, current SUDC research publications, and other valuable resources for Medical Death Investigator professionals.

- SUDC Information: Our website, www.sudc.org, offers accurate and current information on sudden unexplained child deaths, new research publications and findings, insights on autopsy considerations, recommendations for scene investigation, ancillary testing, and guidance for classification.
- Help for Families Brochure: This FREE and customizable brochure explains the death investigation process, the professionals involved, and bereavement services accessible both locally and nationally.
- DNA Banking Services: Our Family Advocate will handle all logistics with your office and the next of kin, and offer financial assistance as necessary.
- Research Opportunities: We connect professionals and families with research opportunities which can often provide access to additional testing, such as genetic analysis, and neuropathology/MRI to further understand such tragedies.
- We Advocate: Through legislation and policy, we advocate to ensure that professionals have the resources to provide comprehensive and standardized investigations.



Access Our Library of Resources



Request a FREE

Help for Families Brochure



#### **How We Help Grieving Families**

The SUDC Foundation provides the following resources at NO charge.

- Personalized trauma informed support by our social worker during a family's most difficult time.
- Online support groups designed to focus on the specific needs of family members and connect with diverse communities.
- Peer Connections Friends Support Program that provides trained individuals with lived experience to connect and provide support to bereaved families.
- FREE resources to help all those impacted by SUDC throughout their lifespan.
- Family testing considerations for surviving relatives of SUDC that parents can utilize, along with their child's autopsy report and knowledge of their family history, for a helpful discussion with their physician to evaluate their family's specific needs.
- · Referrals to SUDC research opportunities.
- Advocacy as needed, on a case-by-case basis, including assistance with the death investigation process and also opportunities for DNA banking.

#### **Securing and Banking DNA After SUDC**

The SUDC Foundation advocates for DNA banking in cases of sudden child death to ensure the possibility of future genetic analysis when appropriate. As clinical testing advances and research options improve, families may desire to avail themselves of these opportunities. Based on the quantity and quality of DNA, DNA banking enable families and their clinicians to make informed decisions.



Securing a genetic specimen (DNA) may:

- Allow the opportunity for genetic testing to uncover specific cause(s) of death and appropriate testing on family members.
- Yield a negative genetic testing result and help alleviate anxiety for the family.
- Enable the opportunity for storing a genetic specimen for DNA Banking purposes.
- Instill hope for cases that currently defy understanding.
- Offer participation in present or future research.
- Enable families to potentially benefit from future discoveries.

The SUDC Foundation assists families with banking their child's DNA by working with Medical Examiners and Coroners in determining what samples might lead to the best DNA results. If samples are available, we also help coordinate shipping samples to a DNA banking facility for processing and provide financial assistance as needed.