



Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I respect the work of the CPSC, and your partnership in the landmark SIDS Back to Sleep Campaign. I also value the presence today of members of the Juvenile Product Industry, the researchers on infant mortality and the advocates for cribs who are present in the audience.

- **My message for you this morning:**

**Cribs are needed
Cribs are Important
Without Cribs, Babies Will Die**

- **Most of you are familiar with SIDS...but perhaps not as much with the newer acronym SUID.
SUID...Sudden Unexpected Infant Death... encompasses “Other Sleep Related Deaths”, including accidental suffocation, entrapment and undetermined diagnoses. Most of the SUID deaths are related to ill fitted bedding and bed sharing....that is, tiny babies scrunched between adults or pillows or overheated and scooted down under the blankets in an adult bed. Many others die by accidental suffocation, when an adult or other child rolls over on the baby. To quote Dr. Jim Kemp “Adult beds are dangerous places for babies”. And the tiniest of babies are at the highest risk.**

In most studies, 50 to 75% of SUID deaths occur when baby is sleeping with another person. Sometimes, the sleep space is a sofa...which raises the risk even higher.

It is a cross country phenomenon:

- 1. In Baltimore, a review team found that among 89 infant deaths between 2002 and 2006, that UNSAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENTS CONTRIBUTED TO 91%**
 - 2. In Philadelphia there were 43 infant deaths who died in unsafe sleep environments in an 18 month period (2006-07)**
 - 3. In Los Angeles County, 44 infants died while sleeping with an adult in 2006**
- And BEDSHARING IS ON THE RISE: Research from the National Infant Sleep Position Study shows that the proportion of babies usually sharing an adult bed at night rose from 5.5% to 12.8 % between 1993 and 2000. And African American mothers are 4 X as likely to bed share as white mothers. Again...this is a cross country phenomenon: IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEARLY 50% OF ALL BABIES SPENT SOME TIME OVER THE PAST WEEK SLEEPING IN AN ADULT BED AT NIGHT WITH PARENTS.**
 - We know that we can educate parents about Back to Sleep...the proof is in the 53% reduction in SIDS deaths and the 25,000 babies who have celebrated their 1st birthday over the past decade.**
 - But we need to go beyond “Back to Sleep’ to “Safe Sleep” that embraces a separate sleep space and crib for every child.**
 - 1. We need to talk about ROOM SHARING AND NOT BED SHARING.**
 - 2. We need to talk about EVERY baby Alone in his or her Back in a Crib....a SAFE crib**

- People believe in cribs...most babies do fine in cribs...we do not want to replace cribs.... and we need to **PROMOTE SAFE cribs** as the best place for babies to sleep
- Crib Manufacturers have children too. **WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING.** Let's not "demonize cribs"!!
- CPSC must continue their important mission of communication regarding recalls or cautionary measures....**BUT** we must be careful in how that information is released to the public and understand the impact that can occur when parents hear only the words "CRIB" and "SAFETY RISK" or "DANGER". Taking the baby out of the cribs presents the greatest risk..... That decision to place a tiny baby in an adult bed will raise the risk of death by suffocation up to 40 times more than if the baby was in a safe crib.(J. Kemp, MD)
- We must work together toward **SAFE cribs** and be cohesive in our messaging. We must have a unified voice. We must move forward toward the goal of getting **EVERY** baby to that first happy, healthy birthday...and know that even the loss of a single life is no small matter.



Marian Sokol, Ph.D., MPH
 President
 First Candle/SIDS Alliance
Helping Babies Survive & Thrive
 1314 Bedford Avenue, Suite 210
 Baltimore, Maryland 21208
 Phones: Office-800-221-7437; Cell-210-861-0222
 Website: www.firstcandle.org

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