

Safe Sleep Initiatives Newsletter

Summer 2026



Safe Sleep Initiatives Update

The SUID Prevention Program received an extension to continue to increase access to safe sleep education to providers, families and caregivers; support pediatricians and community partners to utilize Child Death Review (CDR) and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) in injury and safe sleep prevention efforts; and convene national partners on the National Collaborative for Safe Infant Sleep to share best practices and strategize collaborations with the overall goal of reducing infant deaths due to unsafe sleep practices. The SUID Prevention Program is grateful to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) for their support.

To stay up to date on safe sleep and other injury prevention educational offerings and updates from the AAP, join our listserv by registering [here](#).

Safe Sleep Initiatives Partner Updates

The National Collaborative for Safe Infant Sleep (NCSIS) convened with over 30 organizations to network together, share best practices and resources, and brainstorm innovative SUID education, communication, and prevention strategies. Included in this newsletter are a variety of updates and announcements from our partners. A full list of the NCSIS partners and their webpages can be found linked at the end of this newsletter.

Cribs for Kids

Register for the National Cribs for Kids Conference

The upcoming [9th National Cribs for Kids Conference](#), Safe Sleep: Rooted in Evidence, Branching into Action,

taking place September 29 through October 2, 2026, continues this mission and serves as a national convening space for healthcare providers, public health professionals, researchers, child welfare leaders, first responders, home visitors, educators, and community advocates committed to advancing infant safe sleep.

Returning as a fully in-person event, the 2026 conference will include networking opportunities and engaging educational sessions designed to foster connection, learning, and action. Attendees will participate in meaningful discussions, discover innovative programs, and examine how evidence-based recommendations can be translated into sustainable community impact.

For full conference details, abstract submissions, and registration information, visit cribsforkids.org/conference/.

Safe Sleep Champions Webinar Series

Each quarter, Cribs for Kids will host a series of interviews with the best and brightest in the Safe Sleep Community. From hospitals to community agencies to safe sleep advocates, Cribs for Kids will bring you various stories to help you learn how to change the narrative around safe infant sleep in your community.

FREE WEBINAR: Safe Sleep Champions Spring Webinar

Thursday, July 23, 2026

12 PM – 1 PM ET

Register [here](#).

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Infant Safe Sleep Program

Stories from Families on Why They Practice Safe Sleep

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Infant Safe Sleep Program asked families questions about why they practice infant safe sleep, challenges they faced and the resources that helped. Families have given permission for their quotes to be used in a variety of ways to promote infant safe sleep. Quotes can be requested for use by partners for infant safe sleep promotion efforts. Hearing from other parents on why they practice infant safe sleep or how they got through tough times can be a powerful motivator for other parents and caregivers.

View the [Stories on Infant Safe Sleep](#) page to learn more about the project, including the questions asked and the themes identified for each question. This project was created in partnership with the Michigan Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Strategic Storytelling Team.

Resource Materials

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Infant Safe Sleep Program has completed a project to update infant safe sleep resource materials that included focus groups with families on which design drew their attention and best conveyed the information. As part of the project, two new items were created.

[Planning Ahead for Safe Sleep](#) provides information on what parents can do to plan ahead for when they are tired and caring for their baby. [Sleeping with Your Baby](#) educates families about the risks associated with sleeping with their baby. The updated [safe sleep educational materials](#) are available in English, Arabic and Spanish online. The basic brochure is available in 10 additional languages common in Michigan.

First Candle

First Candle is pleased to share the launch of the [newly redesigned website](#). For more than 40 years, First Candle has worked to prevent infant deaths and support families affected by loss. As scientific understanding has evolved from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) to the broader category of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), prevention efforts increasingly emphasize sleep-related injury prevention, consistent safe sleep education, and strong community partnerships.

First Candle works to prevent sleep-related infant deaths and support families through four interconnected programs that educate communities, train professionals, prepare first responders, and provide compassionate bereavement care. These programs include:

- **Straight Talk for Infant Safe Sleep™**, a training program for healthcare professionals that strengthens safe sleep guidance across healthcare systems while promoting respectful and responsive communication with families.
- **Let's Talk Community Chats™**, a community-centered education program that partners with trusted local leaders to support families with safe sleep guidance and maternal and infant health resources, **placing families and community voices at the center of prevention**.
- **Safe Sleep Response™**, specialized training that prepares first responders, death scene investigators, and social service professionals to compassionately support families following the death of a baby.
- **Bereavement Support Services**, a cornerstone of First Candle's work, providing 24/7 support, trained peer mentors, and grief resources for families experiencing the loss of a baby.

Around the Academy

AAP Updates Recommendations on Drowning Prevention

The AAP emphasizes the need for multiple layers of prevention within a revised policy statement written by the Council on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention. The statement and an accompanying technical report guide clinicians, families, community partners, injury-prevention professionals, and policymakers on best practices for reducing pediatric drowning.

- [Policy Statement](#) | [Technical Report](#): "Prevention of Drowning"
- [HealthyChildren.org: Swim Lessons for Children — When to Start and What to Consider, in English and Spanish](#)
- News Release: [AAP Updates Recommendations on Drowning Prevention](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Patient Safety After Implementation of Family-Centered Communication

The AAP invites healthcare professionals involved in patient safety, quality improvement, communication and family engagement activities to join us for a two-part webinar series focused on advancing **patient safety in acute care settings** through communication and collaboration with

patients and families. Participants will also receive practical tools and resources, including a toolkit to support implementation in clinical practice. The first webinar, scheduled for June 17, will be available on demand.

Explore how Patient and Family Centered Rounding and the Patient and Family Centered I-PASS initiative improve communication, teamwork, and patient safety outcomes. Participants will learn implementation strategies to support more effective, family-centered care.

Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Time: 2:00 - 3:30pm CT/ 3:00 - 4:30pm ET

[Register here!](#)

[Informational Flyer](#)

Questions? Contact Robinn Yu, ryu@aap.org.

On-Demand Webinar: Infant Sleep Gear: What's Safe and Why it Matters

In this webinar, pediatric experts break down exactly which products are safe for infant sleep—and which ones put babies at risk. Many items sold for infant sleep are unsafe, especially those that don't meet federal safety standards or claim to reduce sudden unexpected infant death (SUID or SIDS) without evidence. Whether you're a new parent, caregiver, or pediatric provider, you'll leave with clear, evidence-based guidance to make confident baby gear decisions. Topics covered include which sleep surfaces are safe, how to evaluate product safety claims and federal standards, and practical steps to reduce SUID/SIDS risk at home. The webinar can be accessed [here](#).

We encourage interested parties to browse through the other HealthyChildren.org parent webinars that are designed to help parents and caregivers on parenting journey. Each webinar provides research-supported child health and safety information that may be helpful to healthcare professionals as well. These webinars can be accessed on the [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) [webpage](#).

On-Demand Webinar: Using Child Death Review (CDR) Data to Prevention Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID)

Hosted by Section on Child Death Review and Prevention (SOCDRP)

This webinar demonstrates how CDR data can be utilized within a quality improvement framework to reduce the number of sleep-related deaths of infants born at their birthing hospitals. Viewers will learn about the operations of CDR programs and the tools necessary to implement quality improvement processes in practice. Webinar can be viewed [here](#).

Faculty:

Kirsten Bechtel, MD, FAAP, SOCDRP Chairperson

Scott Krugman, MD, FAAP, SOCDRP Executive Committee Member

Resource Reminder: Injury Prevention Resources

The AAP has a suite of comprehensive injury prevention resources designed to support the health and safety of children at every stage of their development. These resources address a wide spectrum of issues that impact children and adolescents, including Child Fatality Review (CFR), Child Pedestrian and Passenger Safety, Helmet Use and Recreational Safety, and more. Whether you're seeking insights into injury prevention strategies or looking to inform policy and practice, these are vital tools in advancing care and protecting young lives. These toolkits are accessible free of charge [here](#).

New Safe Sleep Resources

With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Healthy Mental Development team recently developed new safe infant sleep resources for hospital discharge planning. The resources were developed to support families affected by perinatal substance use, but the guidelines are applicable to supporting safe infant sleep for all families. The resources are meant to be used together and include a [physicians' guide](#) for safe sleep discussion, a [parent handout](#), and a brief [30-second video](#) providers can text to parents after the discussion. For any questions, please contact Linda Paul, Sr. Manager, Healthy Development at mentalhealth@aap.org.

To learn more about the SUID Prevention Program NCSIS partner organizations and their work, please visit their websites!

- [American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Breastfeeding](#)
- [Arizona Department of Health Services – Safe Sleep](#)
- [Child Care Aware of America](#)
- [Children's Safety Network: Education Development Center](#)
- [Claire Bear Foundation](#)
- [Cribs for Kids](#)
- [First Candle](#)
- [Healthy Native Babies Project](#)
- [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Infant Safe Sleep](#)
- [National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention](#)
- [National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance](#)
- [National Healthy Start Association](#)
- [National Institute of Child Health Quality](#)
- [Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere](#)
- [Safe Infant Sleep](#)
- [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)
- [Safe States Alliance](#)
- [The Joint Commission](#)
- [U.S. Breastfeeding Committee](#)

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