

SIDS & SUDC Facts and Figures



- There are approximately 232 unexplained infant deaths of babies & toddlers every year in the UK
- The Lullaby Trust's definition of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood:

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the sudden and unexpected death of a baby for no obvious reason. The post mortem examination may explain some deaths. Those that remain unexplained after post mortem examination may be registered as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, SIDS, sudden infant death, sudden unexpected death in infancy, unascertained or cot death.

Sudden unexpected death in childhood is the death (or collapse leading to death) of an apparently well child, which would not have been reasonably expected to occur 24 hours previously. This is a descriptive term used at the point of presentation, and will include deaths for which a cause is ultimately found ('explained SUDI/SUDC') and those which remain unexplained following investigation.

- SIDs in the UK* (babies aged birth to one year):

	England & Wales	Scotland	N. Ireland	UK Total	UK rate (per 1000 live births)
2015	191	19	4	214	0.28
2014	217	14	4	235	0.30
2013	252	10	9	271	0.35
2012	234	29	2	265	0.33
2011	247	29	5	281	0.34
2010	261	26	5	292	0.36
2009	283	24	3	310	0.39
2008	287	22	3	312	0.39
2007	273	31	4	308	0.40
2006	285	29	1	315	0.42
2005	325	20	2	347	0.48
2004	317	31	0	348	0.49
2003	315	44	0	359	0.52

- SUDC among babies or children aged over 12-24 months:

	England & Wales	Scotland	N. Ireland	Total
2015	14	4	0	18
2014	15	2	0	17
2013	18	0	1	19
2012	17	0	0	17
2011	11	0	0	11
2010	16	3	0	19
2009	18	2	1	21
2008	8	2	0	10
2007	19	0	4	23
2006	16	3	0	19
2005	16	1	1	18
2004	19	3	1	23
2003	11	1	2	14
2002	18	1	0	19

The majority of sudden unexpected deaths of young children occur in babies aged under one year. In the UK in 2015, 8.4% of sudden unexplained deaths of children under 2 were amongst infants aged 12-24 months.

* The Office of National Statistics (ONS), National Records of Scotland (NRSScotland) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

Note: The statistics below are reproduced from ONS publications and relate (unless otherwise stated) to babies in England and Wales aged birth to one year, and include those whose deaths were certified as 'unascertained'. More information can be found at www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_413784.pdf

England & Wales 2015

- 191 unexplained infant deaths occurred in England and Wales in 2015, a rate of 0.27 deaths per 1,000 live births. Apart from a slight rise in unexplained infant deaths in 2013, the rate has fallen steadily from 0.39 in 2009.
- 60% of these deaths were recorded as sudden infant deaths, and 40% were recorded as unascertained (where no other cause of death is recorded).
- Just under two thirds (66%) of all unexplained infant deaths were boys in 2015 (127 deaths) an increase from 2014 (55%).
- The rate of infant deaths decreased by 41% for mothers aged under 20. Although numbers are very small, the risk is three times greater than for babies born to mothers aged 20 and over.

Statistician's Quote

"Unexplained infant deaths in 2015 were the lowest on record, driven by a further decrease in sudden infant deaths from 2014. This could be due to a greater awareness of safe sleeping practices and a reduction in the number of mothers smoking during pregnancy."

Office for National Statistics

1991-2015

- Since the launch of the Back to Sleep Campaign in England and Wales in 1991, the number of SIDS deaths has fallen by 81%.

SIDS by Government Office region, 2015 England and Wales:

	England & Wales	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
No	191	8	34	27	13	26	19	17	22	15	10
Rate	0.27	0.32	0.30	0.47	0.36	0.33	0.32	0.19	0.28	0.33	0.30

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