

## **SUDC Fact Sheet for NCDR:**

SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood) is defined as the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of twelve months, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical history. Similar to SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), SUDC is a diagnosis of exclusion - assigned when other causes of death have been ruled out.

SUDC is not new, but it is rare, with a reported incidence of 1.2 deaths per 100,000 children, compared to 54 deaths per 100,000 live births for SIDS (2005 United States mortality data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortsq1.html>).

Presently, SUDC cannot be predicted or prevented. Risk factors are not well understood. Most SUDC deaths occur between the ages of 1 and 3 years, but researchers have looked at cases of children as old as 11.

Researchers are working to identify the cause(s) and risk(s) of SUDC through the San Diego SUDC Research Project, which reviews cases of SUDC with participation of families and/or medical examiners.

SUDC research is aimed at completing a comprehensive differential diagnosis for sudden childhood death, as well as identifying previously unrecognized subsets of such cases. Through correlation of data from the medical history, circumstances of death, and postmortem examination, researchers hope to understand the mechanisms of death and identify which toddlers and children may be at risk of SUDC.

Information regarding the SUDC research, information and support services for families can all be found at: [www.sudc.org](http://www.sudc.org)

### **Major Risk Factors:**

Yet to be established.

### **Records Needed for Case Review**

- Birth records
- Pediatric records for well and sick visits
- Autopsy and investigative reports
- Prenatal care records
- Hospital birth records
- Emergency Department records
- Any support services utilized, including WIC and Family Planning
- Police reports
- Prior CPS reports on caregivers

- Maternal Home Interview, if available

**Resources**

[www.sudc.org](http://www.sudc.org)

**Prevention**

Yet to be established.