



Uniform Death Scene Investigations

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Indiana Perinatal Network

Safe Sleep: Getting Out the Right Message

October 4, 2006

SAFER HEALTHIER PEOPLE

Outline of Presentation

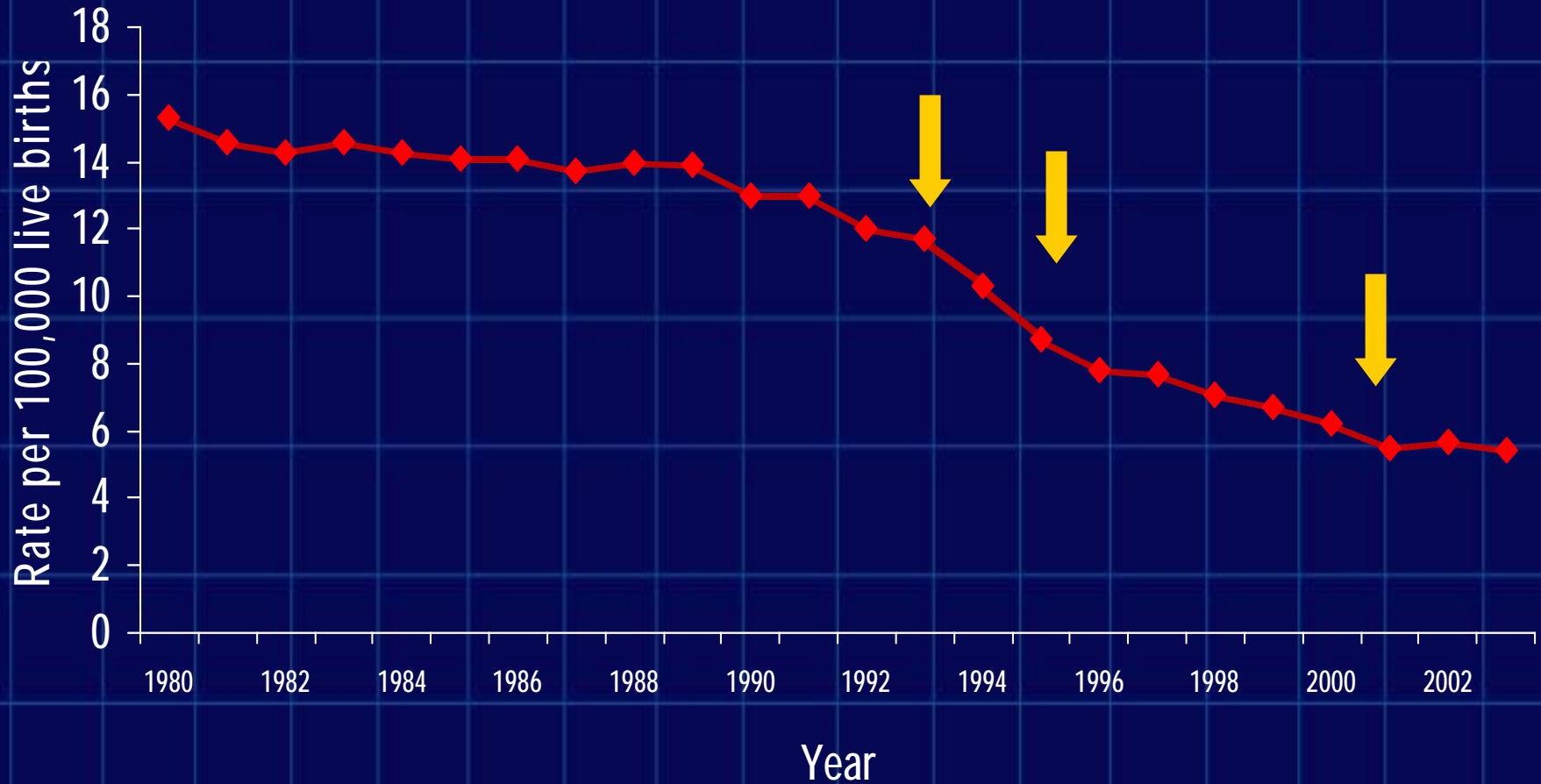
- Describe SIDS and SUID
- Importance of an Infant Death Scene Investigation
- SUIDI Initiative
- Future Activities

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

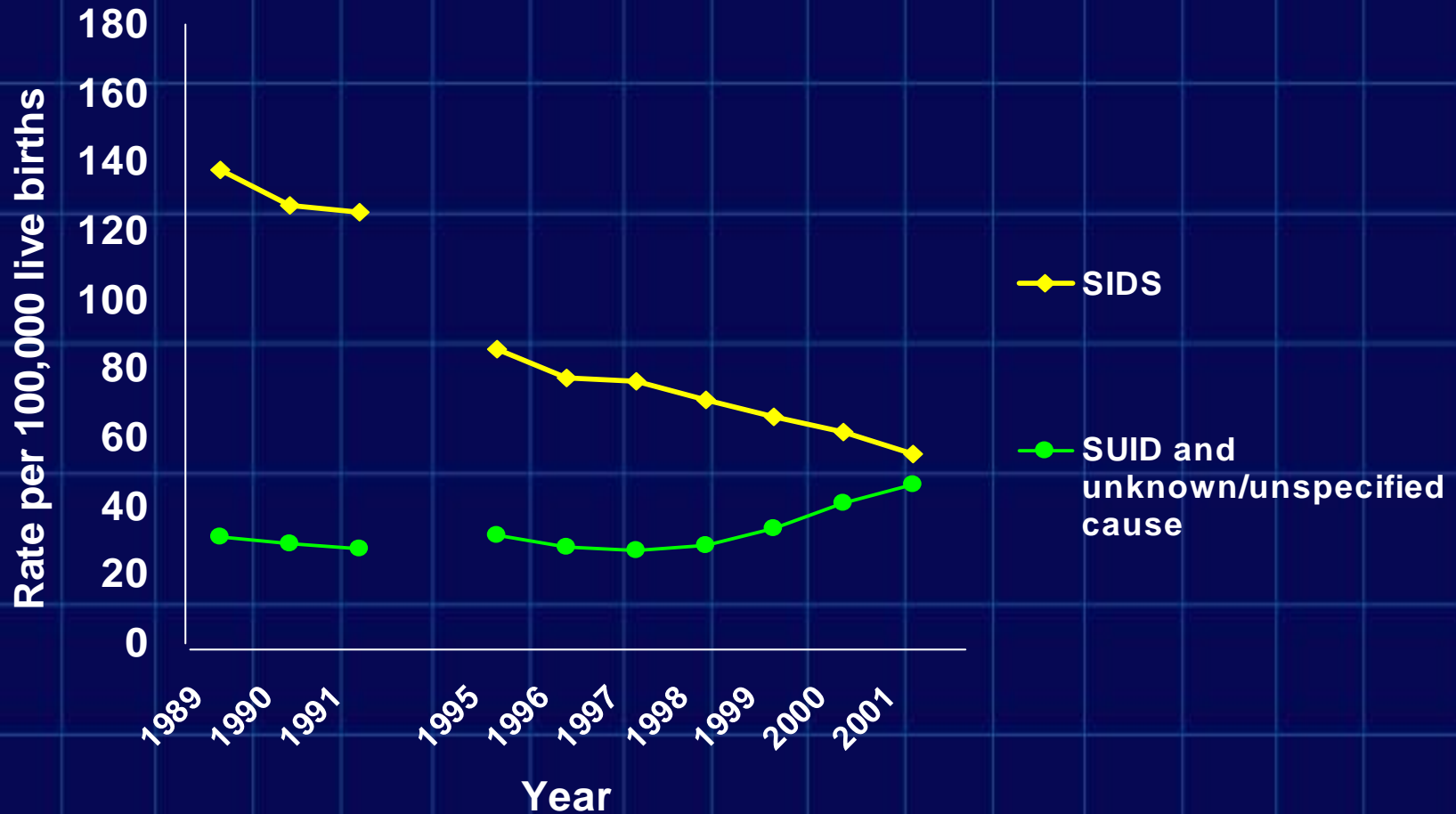
“Sudden death of an infant under one year of age which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical history.”

* Willinger M, James LS, Catz C. *Pediatr Pathol* 1991; 11(5):677-684

Mortality rates due to SIDS, U.S., 1980-2003

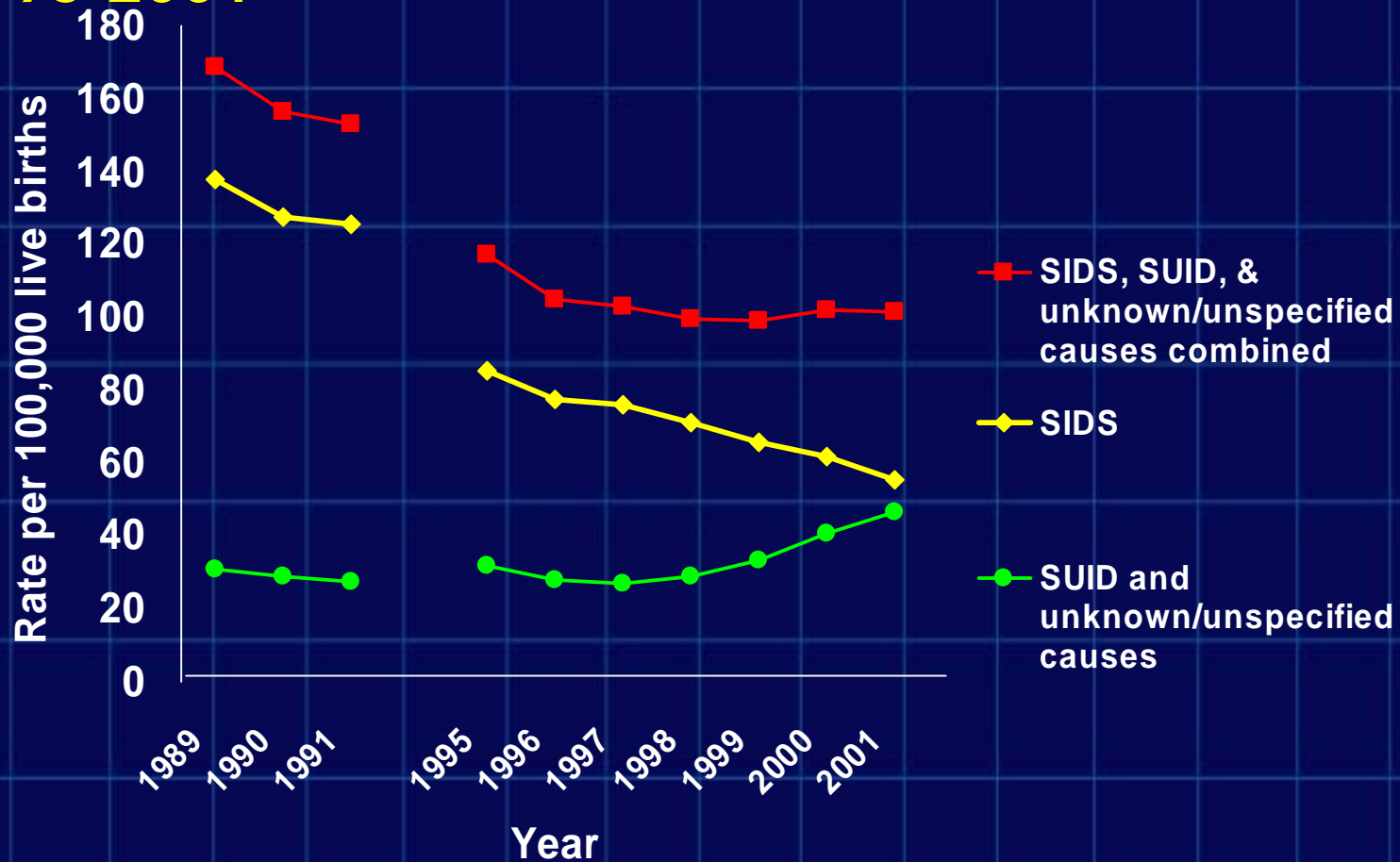


Infant mortality rates due to SIDS, SUID*, & unknown/unspecified causes, U.S., 1989-1991 and 1995-2001



* SUID include accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed; other accidental suffocation and strangulation; and neglect, abandonment and other maltreatment syndromes.

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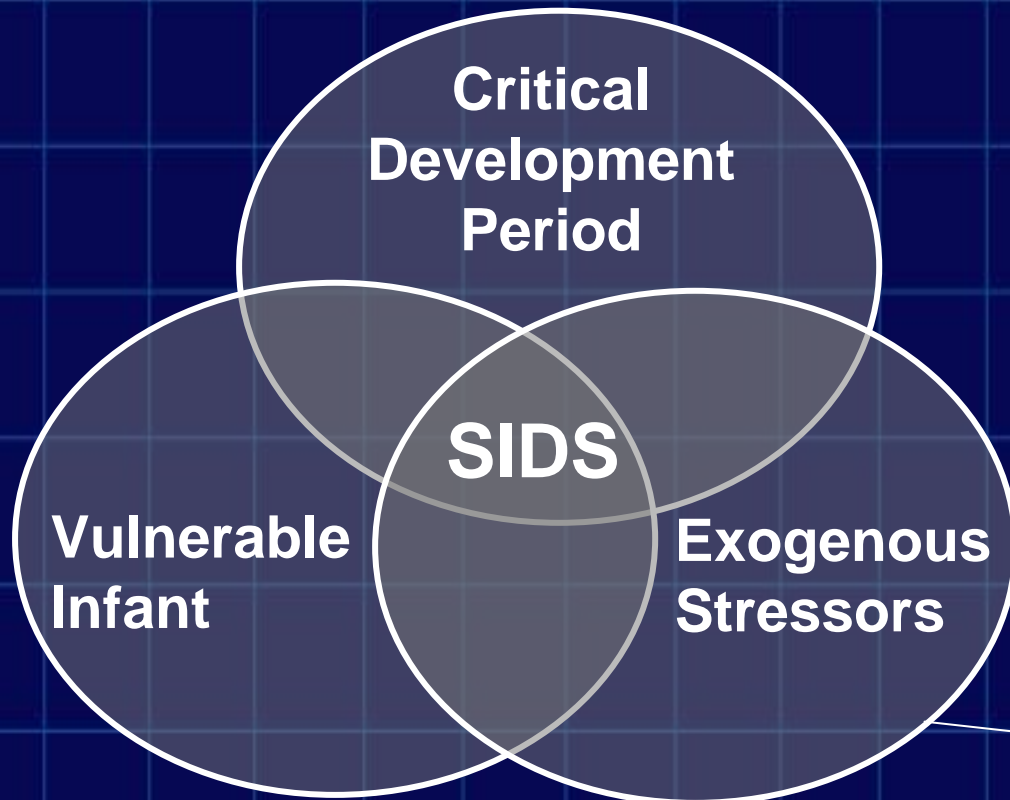
CDC Research

- Evidence supports change in reporting & classification of SUID in late 1990's
- Recent decline in SIDS offset by:
 - ▶ ↑ unknown and unspecified causes
 - ▶ ↑ other SUID causes

Shapiro-Mendoza CK, Tomashek K, et. al. American Journal of Epidemiology. 2006; 163: 762-769.

What Causes SIDS?

Triple-Risk Model



Some infants are born vulnerable, with certain brain stem abnormalities that make them susceptible to sudden death during a critical developmental period once an exogenous stressor or environmental challenge is presented.

- overheated
- exposed to second-hand smoke
- entrapment from stuffed animals or pillows
- environmental challenge

Impact of SIDS and SUID

SIDS

- 2500 SIDS deaths per year
- Third leading cause of infant mortality
- Leading cause of postneonatal mortality

SUID

- 4600 SUID deaths per year
- Rivals birth defect n infant mortality rates
- Accidental suffocation & strangulation doubled in last decade

Sudden, Unexpected Infant Deaths

- Suffocation (overlying, choking, and wedging)
- Infection (sepsis, pneumonia)
- Metabolic and genetic causes
- Neglect or homicide
- Intoxication, poisoning
- Hypothermia, hyperthermia
- Central nervous system causes
- SIDS

Importance of Investigating SUID

Without a complete death scene investigation

- Makes it difficult to determine cause and manner-of-death
- Disadvantage for pathologist conducting autopsy
- Disadvantage for those trying court cases
- Hinders prevention efforts

Importance of Diagnosis and Reporting

Hinders our ability to:

- Monitor trends in SUID
- Conduct research to identify risk factors
- Design interventions to prevent SUID
- Evaluate programs aimed at prevention

Goals of CDC's SUID Initiative

- Standardize and improve data collection at death scene
- Promote consistent diagnosis and reporting of cause of death
- Improve and standardize reporting on death certificate
- Prevent SUID by using improved data to identify those at risk

SUIDI Academy Participants

Medical Examiner/Coroner

Forensic Pathologist

Jurisdiction population >400,000

Post-Secondary Teaching Professor

Criminal Justice

Forensic Science

Allied Health Sciences

Law Enforcement Officer

Investigates Deaths

Certified Post Training Officer

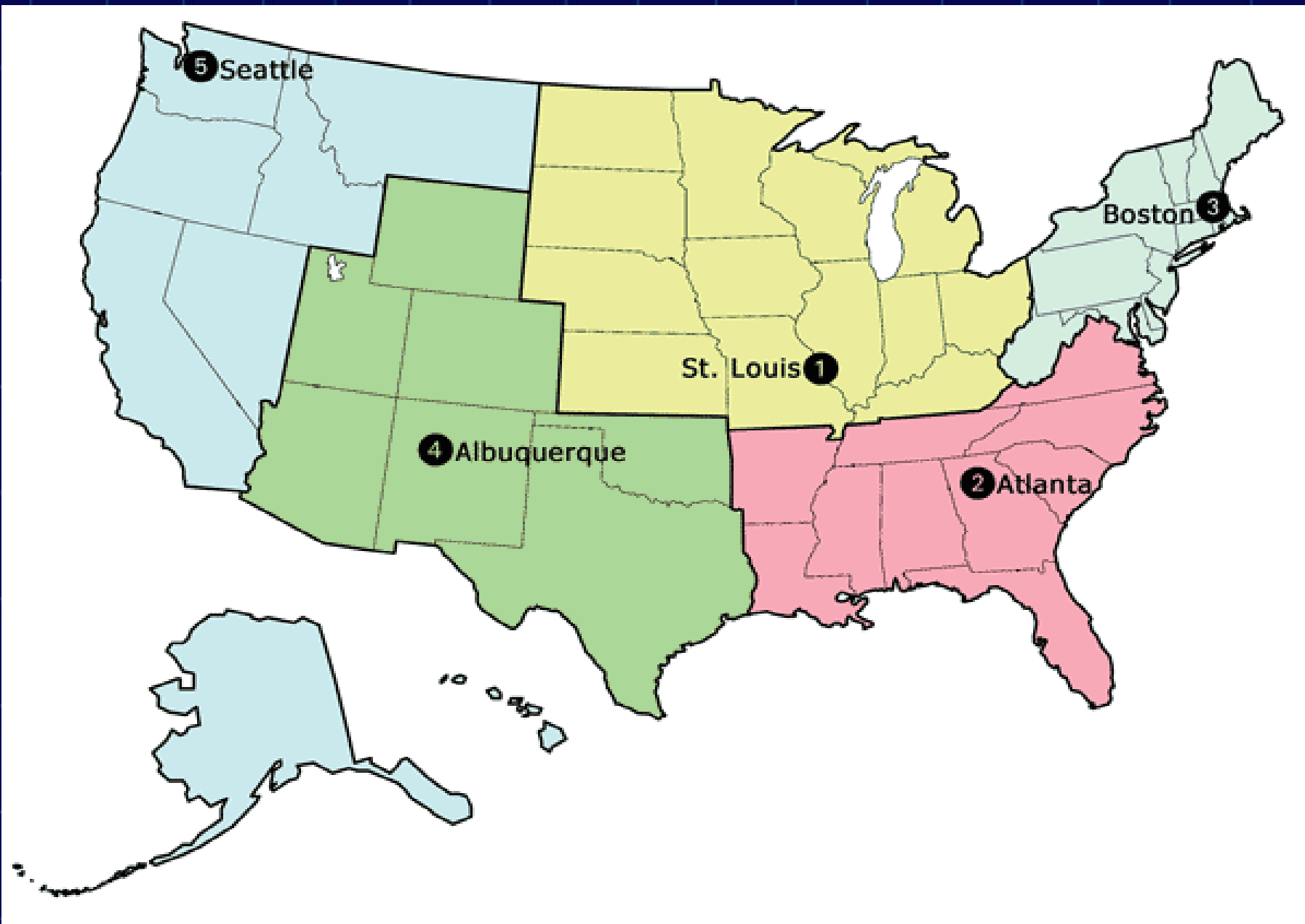
Medicolegal Investigator

EMS/Fire/Nurse/PA/etc.

Child Protection Expert

Child Death Review Team Member

Social Services



National SUIDI Training Academies

Midwest St. Louis, MO
June 12-15, 2006

Southeast Atlanta, GA
September 18-21, 2006

Northeast Boston, MA
April 30-May 3, 2007

Southwest Albuquerque, NM
August 6-9, 2007

Northwest Seattle , Washington, 2008
Spring 2008

Training Goals

- 1. Train 250 SUIDI trainers nationally.**
- 2. Support program graduates as they offer SUIDI training to their state or local organizations and jurisdictions.**
- 3. Communicate from death scene to pathologist or medical examiner via MDI Log, an electronic reporting system.**

Training Objectives

The student will be able to:

- use the SUIDI Reporting Form.
- describe the SUIDI procedure.
- describe the SUIDI interviewing process.
- differentiate between SIDS, suffocation, and other SUID.
- describe appropriate SUID certification.

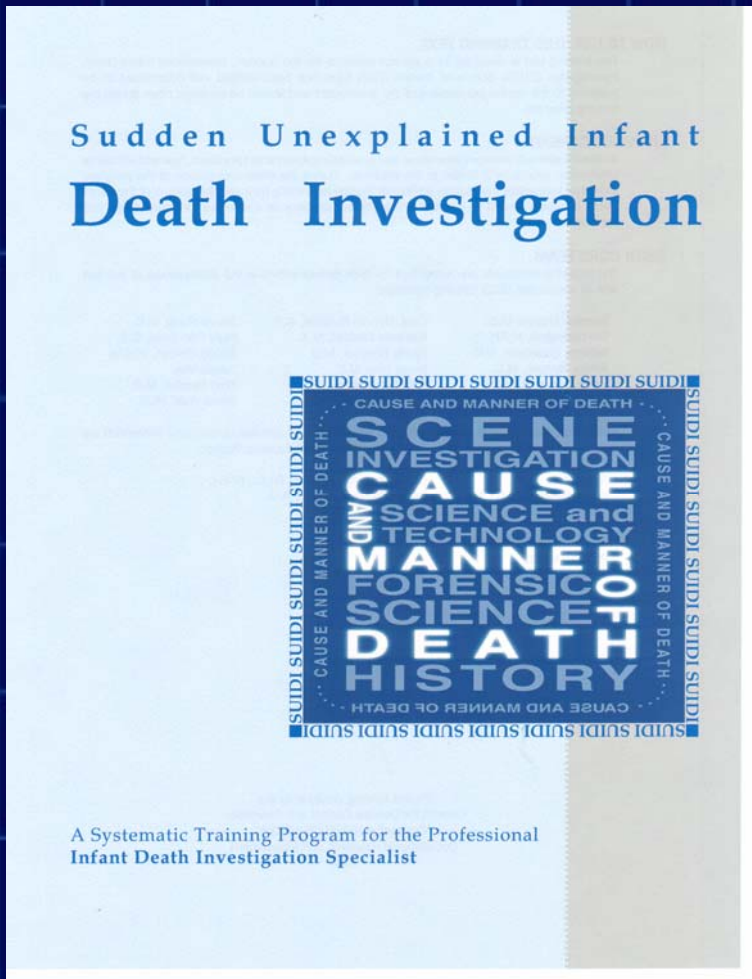
SUIDI Academy Curriculum-Lecture

- Overview of SUID
- Infant Growth and Development
- Interviewing Psychology
- Investigative Interviewing
- Scene Investigation
 - Photography
 - Doll Reenactment
- Infant Autopsy – SUIDI Top 25
- Reporting Scene Data to the Pathologist
 - Electronic Reporting
- SUID Certification

Curriculum - Labs

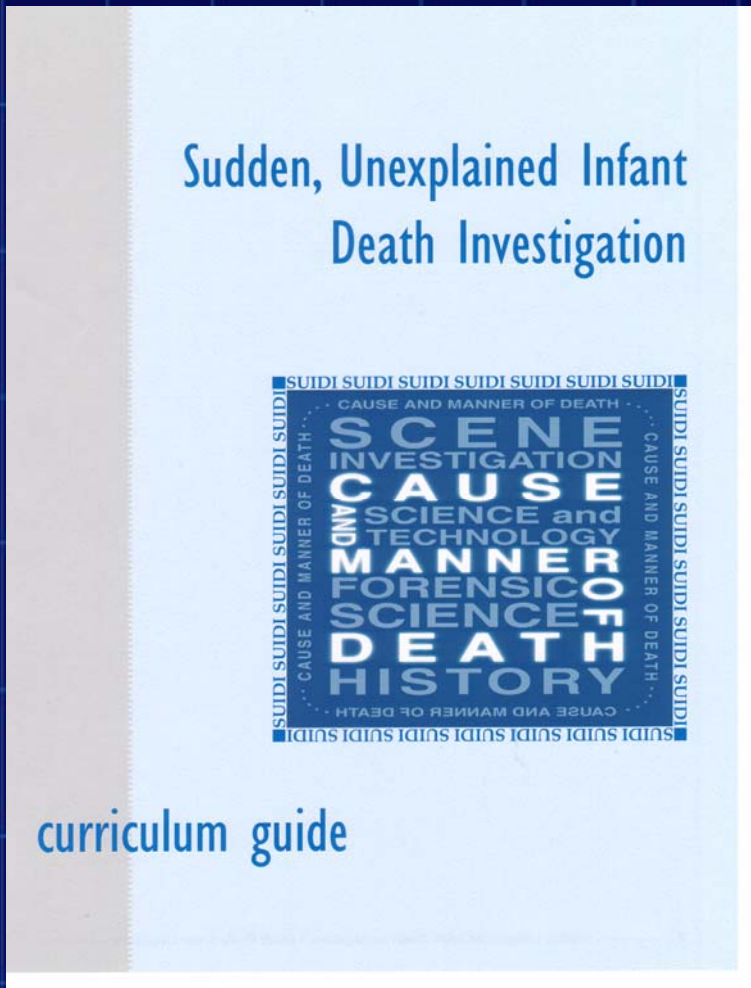
- SUIDI DVD
 - ▶ Daycare Scene
 - ▶ Old School
 - ▶ House Scene
- Scene Interview Analysis
- Doll Reenactment and Photography
- Electronic Reporting
- Team Presentations

SUIDI Training Text



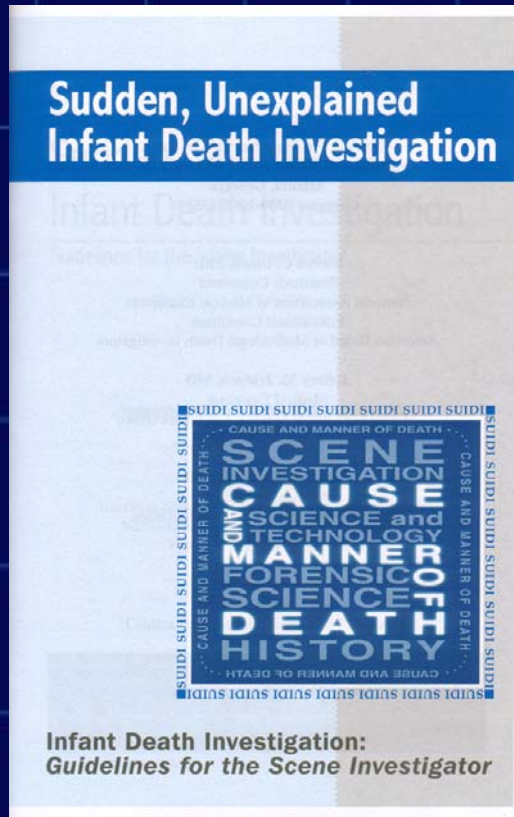
- 250 pages
- Multiple Authors
- Essential SUIDI Knowledge

SUIDI Curriculum Guide



- **All Essential SUIDI tasks**
- **Goals and Objectives**
- **Outcomes Based**
- **Curriculum Committee**

SUIDI Scene Guidelines



- 29 Scene Procedures.
- Focus on “What” not “Who”
- Good Office SOP Guide

SUIDI Reporting Forms – Top 25

SUIDI
Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation

INVESTIGATION DATA

Infant's Information: Last _____ First _____ M. _____ Case # _____

Sex: Male Female Date of Birth _____/_____/____ Year Age _____ Months SS# _____

Race: White Black/African Am. Asian/Pacific Islander Am. Indian/Alaskan Native Hispanic/Latino Other

Infant's Primary Residence Address:
Address _____ City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Incident Address:
Address _____ City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Information:
Relationship (circle appropriate response):
Biological Mother/Father Grandmother/Father Adoptive or Foster Parents Physician Health Records Other _____

Last _____ First _____ M. _____ DOB _____ SS # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Place of Work _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

WITNESS INTERVIEW

1 Are you the usual caregiver? Yes No
Name _____ Relationship (ex. aunt) _____

2 Please tell me what happened to the infant.

3 Did you notice anything unusual or different about the infant in the last 24hrs? No Yes ⇨ Describe:

4 Has the infant experienced any recent falls or injury? No Yes ⇨ Describe:

5 When was the infant last **PLACED**? _____
Month / Day / Year Military Time Location (room)

6 When was the infant **FOUND**? _____
Month / Day / Year Military Time Location (room)

7 When was the infant **LAST KNOWN ALIVE**? _____
Month / Day / Year Military Time Location (room)

8 Explain how you knew the infant was still alive.

9 Where was the infant - (P)laced, (L)ast know alive, (F)ound (circle appropriate)?

P L F Bassinette	P L F Bedside co-sleeper	P L F Car seat	P L F Chair
P L F Cradle	P L F Crib	P L F Floor	P L F In a person's arms
P L F Mattress/box spring	P L F Mattress on floor	P L F Playpen	P L F Portable crib
P L F Sofa/couch	P L F Stroller/carriage	P L F Swing	P L F Waterbed
P L F Other _____			

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation
SUIDI
Reporting Form

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIVE SCENE FORMS

Table of Contents

Body Diagram.....A

EMS Interview..... B

Hospital Interview..... C

Immunization Record..... D

Infant Exposure History..... E

Informant Contact..... F

Law Enforcement Interview..... G

Materials Collection Log..... H

Non Professional Responder Interview..... I

Parental Information..... J

Primary Residence Investigation..... K

Scene Diagram..... L

SUIDI Top 25

1. Case Information
2. Asphyxia
3. Sharing sleep surfaces
4. Change in sleep conditions
5. Hyperthermia/hypothermia
6. Environmental hazards
7. Unsafe sleeping condition
8. Diet
9. Recent hospitalizations
10. Previous medical diagnosis
11. History of acute life threatening events
12. History of medical care without diagnosis

13. Recent fall or other injury
14. History of religious, cultural, or ethnic
15. COD due to natural causes other than SIDS
16. Prior sibling deaths
17. Previous encounters with police or social services
18. Request for tissue or organ donation
19. Objection to autopsy
20. Pre-terminal resuscitative treatment
21. Death due to injury, poisoning, or intoxication
22. Suspicious circumstances
23. Other alerts for pathologist's attention
24. Description of circumstances (what happened?)
25. Pathologist Information (name/agency/phone)

www.MDILOG.com

Sudden, Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting System

- ▶ Internet-based critical data reporting system.
- ▶ Allows investigators to “upload” scene data at any location with internet access.
- ▶ Allows forensic pathologists (who receives body) to “download” scene data at their location before beginning the autopsy.
- ▶ Stores data in national data base for surveillance and prevention activities.

CDC SUID Surveillance Pilot Project

- Collaboration with the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
- Data collection will begin Oct. 2006
- Retrospective data collection for 2004 & 2005
- Data collection to be completed by Spring 2007

CDC SUID Surveillance Pilot Project

- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Mexico
- South Carolina
- Wisconsin

CDC SUID Surveillance Pilot Project

- States will collect data from a variety of sources
 - ▶ SUIDI Reporting form or jurisdictionally equivalent
 - ▶ Law enforcement records
 - ▶ EMS records
 - ▶ Medical records
 - ▶ Death certificates
- Data will be entered into an EPI Info database, de-identified, and submitted to CDC

CDC SUID Surveillance Objectives

Short term

- ▶ Determine the most efficient and feasible manner of gathering, abstracting, and entering information
- ▶ Evaluate the quality and timeliness of the data collection studies

Objective's continued

Long term

- ▶ Monitor trends in SUID at the state, regional, and local level
- ▶ Identify new risk factors associated with SIDS and other SUID
- ▶ Develop and evaluate strategies and interventions to prevent SUID
- ▶ Assist in identification of cases for research

Future Activities

- Expand partnerships to conduct additional training sessions
- Collaborate with other countries as they develop training materials and investigation protocols

SUID Initiative Team

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<http://www.cdc.gov/SIDS.htm>

<http://www.orainc.com>

