



## SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH (SUID) IN TARRANT COUNTY

- **Sudden unexpected infant death (SUID)** is a category of deaths occurring among infants less than 1 year of age and **includes three causes of death:**
  - Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed (ASSB)
  - Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)
  - Other ill-defined and unspecified causes (unknown)
- For the five years from 2016 to 2020, there were **125 SUID deaths** in Tarrant County
- Using the SUID category is customary for surveillance as it allows for consistent monitoring of mortality trends and comparisons across jurisdictions as **reporting practices may vary**
  - Figure 4 shows the differences between overall SUID rates among selected Texas counties
  - Figure 5 shows the variation in the specific causes of death among SUID cases in these counties

**The SUID rate among non-Hispanic black infants (1.91) was significantly higher than Hispanic and non-Hispanic white infants (0.70 and 0.67) for 2016-2020**

Figure 1. Tarrant County SUID rate by race/ethnicity, 2016-2020

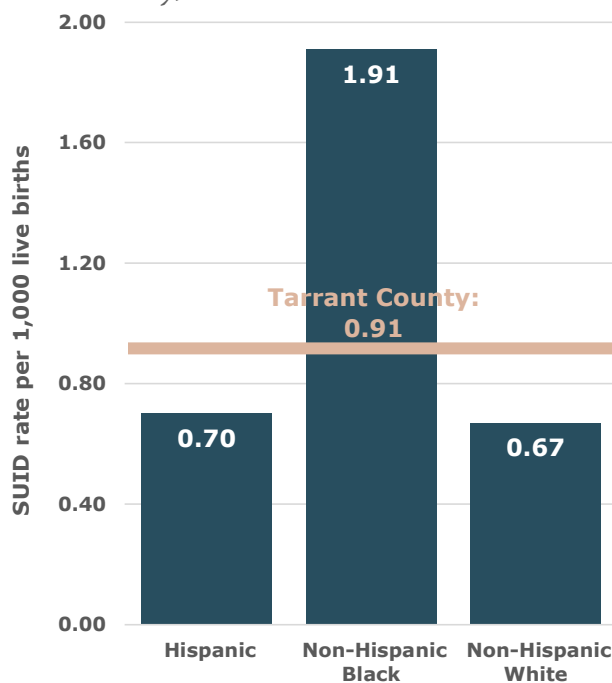
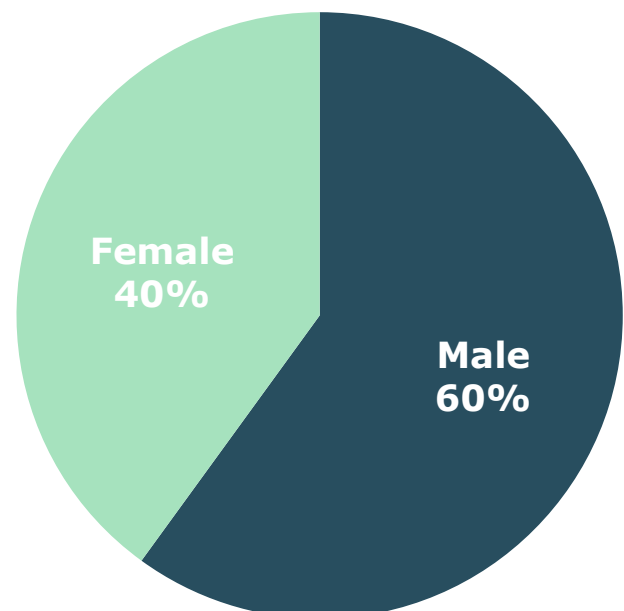


Figure 2. Proportion of Tarrant County SUID cases by gender, 2016-2020

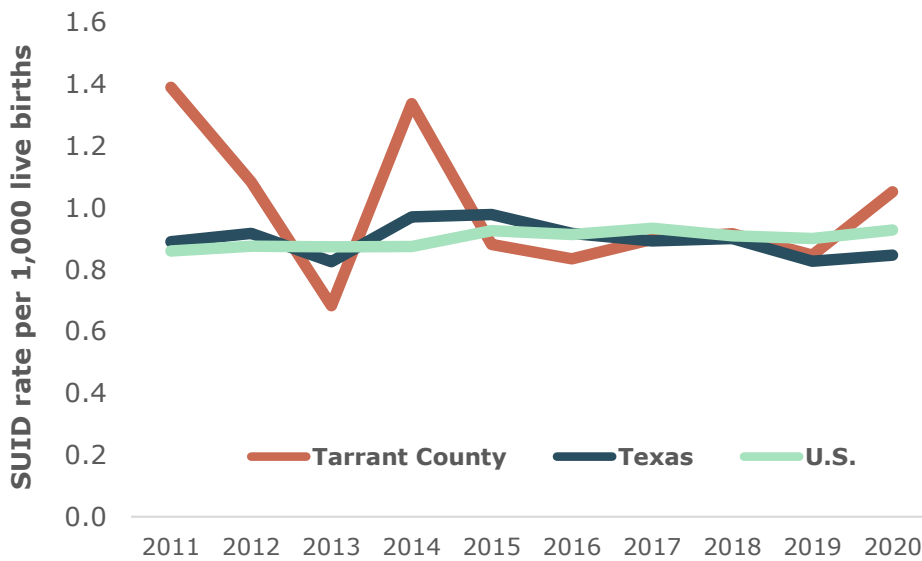


All significant differences detected with a p-value <0.05

Data sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics

Data Brief provided by: Division of Epidemiology and Health Information

Figure 3. SUID rate in Tarrant County, Texas, and the United States, 2011-2020



**In 2020 Tarrant County had 1.05 SUID cases per 1,000 live births, which was higher than Texas (0.85) and the U.S. (0.93)**

Figure 4. SUID rate in the five most populous Texas counties, 2016-2020

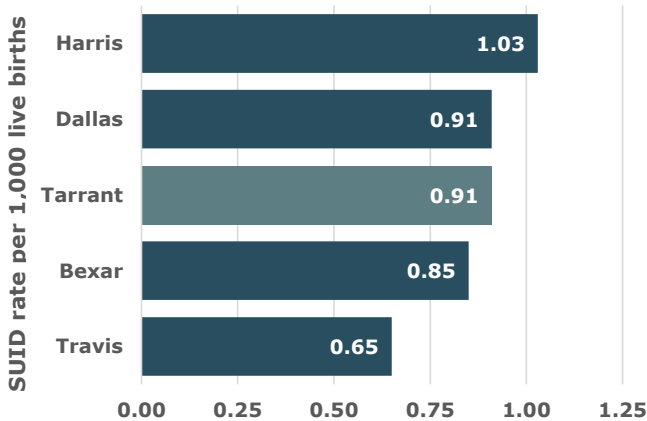
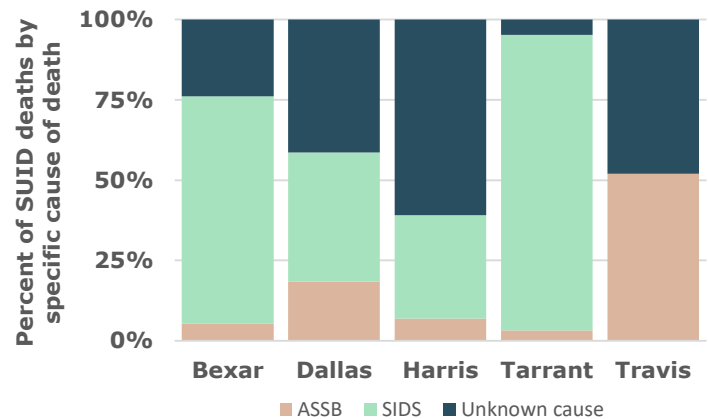


Figure 5. Proportion of SUID cases by cause of death among the five most populous Texas counties, 2016-2020



Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, and Bexar counties had **similar SUID rates** in 2016-2020, yet the **specific causes of death** among these SUID cases **varies between these counties**. While some variation is expected, the degree of variation appears to support the theory that **practices in classifying these cases differ between providers and communities**. This is why we use the SUID category to describe and compare our community to others rather than a specific cause of death.

**American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related infant deaths**

- Babies should be put **on their backs** to sleep
- Use a **firm, flat, noninclined sleep surface** with only tight fitted sheets
- Keep **soft objects and loose bedding out of crib**
- Babies should sleep in their parents' room, **but not in their parents' bed**
- **Breastfeed** as much and as long as possible
- Consider **offering a pacifier** at nap time and bedtime
- Keep baby **away from smoke or nicotine exposure** during pregnancy and after birth
- **Avoid overheating** and head covering in infants
- Pregnant women should obtain regular **prenatal care** and infants should attend all **well-child visits**

**Cook Children's and Safe Baby Sleep Council**

[<https://cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety/Pages/safe-infant-sleep.aspx>]