



The SUDC Foundation envisions a world where no more children are lost to Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood. The SUDC Foundation is the only organization worldwide whose purpose is to promote awareness, advocate for research and support those affected by SUDC.

The SUDC Foundation expresses our deepest condolences to you and your family during this difficult time. Regardless of where your family finds themselves now, or in the future, please know that our services are available to you when you choose.

In sympathy and support,
The SUDC Foundation



SUDC
FOUNDATION

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood

The SUDC Foundation provides all services at no cost to the people it serves.

SUDC.ORG

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1-800-620-SUDC ★ info@sudc.com

SUDC Facts

What is SUDC?

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy. Most often, a seemingly healthy child goes to sleep and never wakes up.

Is SUDC something new?

SUDC is not new, but is believed to be rare; occurring in about one in every 100,000 children. Every year, at least 400 children are lost to SUDC. It is most common in young children and is the fifth leading category of death among children between the ages of 1 and 4.

What causes SUDC?

By definition, the causes of death in these children are unknown. A medical examiner or coroner could rule a child's death SUDC when s/he completes a thorough evaluation and finds no other identifiable cause of death. Identifying risk factors and the specific causes of death responsible for SUDC are dependent on further research. Research supported by the SUDC Foundation has uncovered the causes of death in some children previously considered unexplained.

What if a specific cause is identified for my child?

The SUDC Foundation wants to help all families find accurate causes of death, and about 20% of our families do. Sometimes, the medical opinion classifying the child's cause of death is speculative and can benefit from further research and understanding. Our bereavement services are available for anyone grieving the sudden, unexpected loss of a child - whether explained or unexplained.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2018, SUDC affected:

- 231 children ages of 1-4 years;
- 46 children ages of 5-9 years;
- 42 children ages of 10-14 years; and
- 73 teens ages of 15-18 years.

Can SUDC be predicted or prevented?

No. Currently, we do not understand the causes of SUDC, how to predict it or how to prevent it. Through research, we strive to discover the risk factors and underlying causes of SUDC that will lead to its prevention. In the meantime, the SUDC Foundation recommends all families follow guidelines provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics in regard to attending regular child wellness visits, maintaining current vaccinations and seeking medical care when appropriate.



Is SUDC genetic?

Although rare, we know that there are some genetic causes of sudden death that are not discovered by standard autopsy investigations. This is one of the many reasons that we advocate for comprehensive investigations, including genetic testing, for all sudden unexplained deaths, as well as screening of family members. Research will continue to improve our understanding of the specific genetic variations that contribute to some cases of sudden death that currently fall under SUDC. Research to date has identified genetic causes of death in some SUDC mostly related to heart conditions or seizures. This can lead to the ability to screen at-risk children and help them receive appropriate medical care.



The SUDC Foundation

Funds and Promotes Research

The SUDC Foundation provides grants for and conducts research that will further our understanding of the causes of SUDC and ways to prevent it.

Supports Families

The SUDC Foundation currently supports over 1000 families in over 20 countries. It provides personalized, comprehensive care from licensed clinical social workers and cultivates a community of ongoing support for bereaved families so no one grieves alone.

The SUDC Foundation also helps families navigate the difficult, and often confusing, investigation process into their child's death by being a liaison between families and the medical examiner or coroner. It also assists families in accessing research and DNA banking services which could lead to answers on what may have happened to their child.

Assists Medical Professionals

The Foundation provides resources to help medical examiners and coroners, pediatricians and other doctors care for and communicate with families experiencing the sudden, unexpected and unexplained loss of a child.

Advocates for the SUDC Community

The Foundation supports efforts, including legislative, to ensure comprehensive and standardized death investigations. It also advocates for fair treatment of and appropriate medical care for families and thorough data collection to improve our understanding of SUDC. The SUDC Foundation offers opportunities for members of the SUDC community to be involved in helping us achieve our mission.