



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 2018 to 2022, there were **124 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

Non-Hispanic Black infants represented 20% of Tarrant County live births and 48% of the SUID deaths for 2018-2022

Figure 1. Tarrant County SUID rate by race/ethnicity, 2018-2022

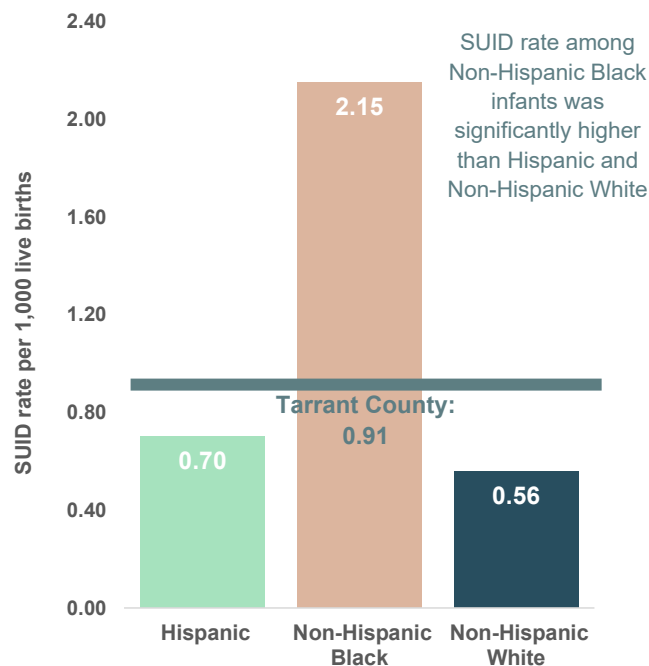


Figure 2. Proportion of Tarrant County SUID cases by gender, 2018-2022

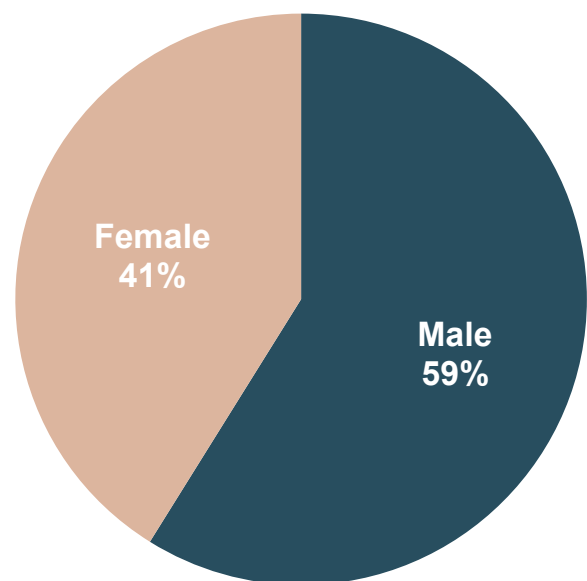
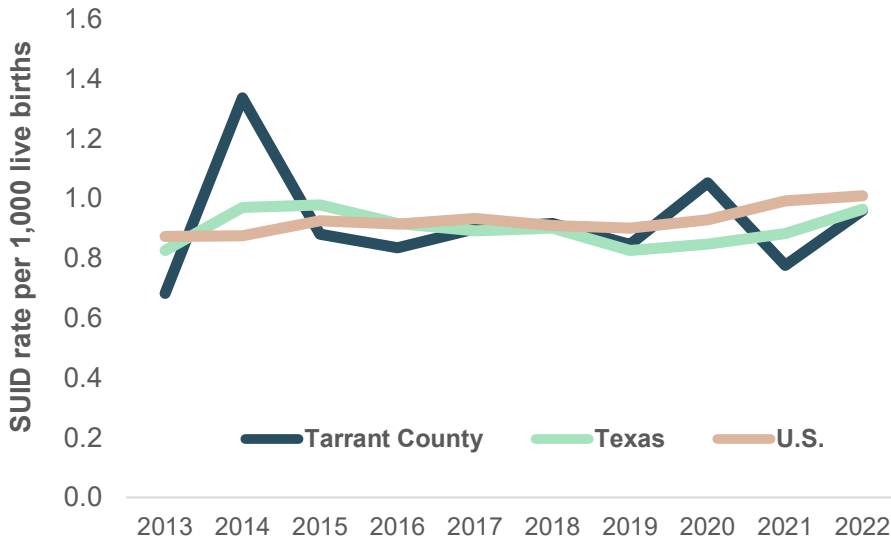


Figure 3. SUID rate in Tarrant County, Texas, and the United States, 2013-2022



In 2022 Tarrant County had 0.96 SUID cases per 1,000 live births, which was the same as Texas (0.96) and lower than the U.S. (1.01)

Figure 4. SUID rate in the five most populous Texas counties, 2018-2022

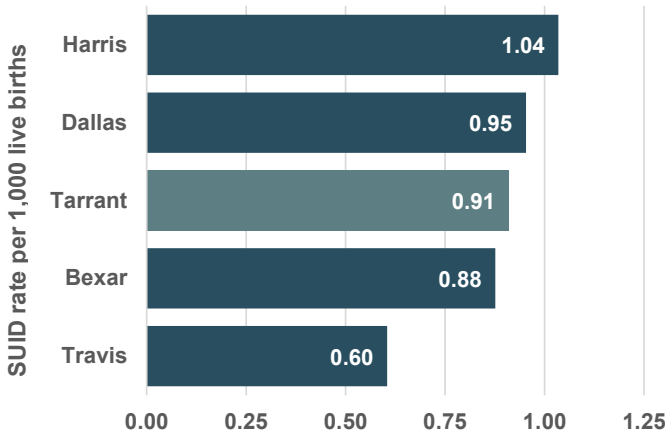
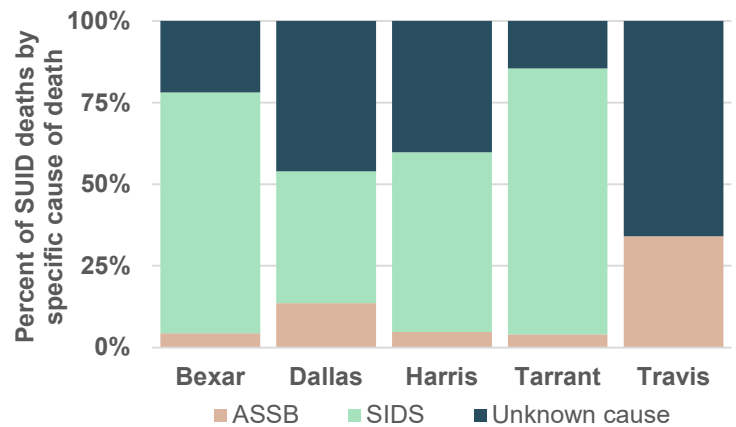


Figure 5. Proportion of SUID cases by cause of death among the five most populous Texas counties, 2018-2022



Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, and Bexar counties had *similar SUID rates* in 2018-2022, 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

[cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/safe-sleep/]