

**Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Briefing Document**  
**Presented to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities**  
**September 20, 2007**

**Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)** is defined as sudden deaths of children under one year of age that remain unexplained after an investigation, which includes a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the medical history.

**CRITERION #1: PREVALENCE / INCIDENCE**

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- The rate of SIDS in Washington State has declined from 0.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1999 to 0.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2005.
- In 2005, 42 infants died from SIDS, accounting for 10% of all infant mortality.
- In 2005, SIDS was the second leading cause of infant mortality.

**CRITERION #2: SEVERITY**

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- As a measure of infant mortality, by definition, SIDS is severe.

**CRITERION #3: DISPARITY**

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- Washington data from 2000-2004 combined, revealed that the rate of SIDS was higher among American Indians (1.9 deaths per 1,000 live births) and African Americans (1.3) compared to non-Hispanic whites, Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics (all three groups had a rate of 0.8).
- The index of disparity for SIDS was 100.0%.

**The Index of Disparity** is the average of the difference in rates between the racial/ethnic group with the "best" rate and all other racial/ethnic groups.

*Keppel KG et al., Measuring progress in healthy people 2010. Statistical Notes, no 25. NCHS, 2004*