Nevada Infant Deaths and Unsafe Sleep Environment 2010-2016

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Office of Analytics
Department of Health and Human Services
On behalf of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Nevada Infant Deaths

From 2010 to 2016 there were a total of 1,293 infant mortalities determined of Nevada residents. Infant mortalities are defined as a death before the age of 1. The top five causes of infant mortalities in Nevada were extreme immaturity (7.5%), unspecified cause (6.1%), accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed (ASSB) (5.7%), fetus and newborn affected by premature rupture of membranes (3.1%), and other congenital malformations of the heart (3.0%).

![Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births, Nevada Residents, 2010 - 2016](image1)

![Top 5 Causes of Infant Mortalities, as Percentages of Total Infant Mortalities, Nevada Residents, 2010 - 2016](image2)

1. [https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm)

Data Source: Electronic Vital Records, 2010 -2016 Nevada Residents

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Unsafe Sleep Environment

Mortalities with a contributing factor of unsafe sleep environment were gathered by using the following ICD-10 codes:

- W75 for accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed (ASSB)
- T71 for asphyxia
- R99 and R96 for undetermined cause of death^
- R95 Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome^

^Cases of R95, R96, and R99 were further reviewed if co-sleeping or unsafe sleep environment details were included to be kept in the analysis.

Out of the 119 deaths identified, the cause of death for 74 infants was due to accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed (ASSB) W75, accounting for 62% of unsafe sleep deaths. Out of the 74 infants with the cause of death of W75, 28 of the infants had details of unsafe sleep such as inappropriate sleeping condition, soft bedding, and prone sleeping (sleeping face down) listed.

Percent of Infant Deaths due to Unsafe Sleep Environment by Specific Cause of Death, Nevada Residents, 2010 - 2016

- W75 - ASSB: 62.0%
- R95 - SUID: 5.0%
- W84 - Unspecified threat to breathing: 11.0%
- R99 - Unspecified causes of mortality: 6.0%
- Others*: 13.0%
- Y20 - hanging, strangulation and suffocation, undetermined intent: 3.0%

n = 119

*Others: includes cause of deaths due to B34.8, J12.9, W06, W23, W78, W83, and X91.
By race and ethnicity, White infants accounted for the highest percent of unsafe sleep environment deaths at 37% followed by Hispanic infants and Black infants at 28% each.

Unsafe sleep environment deaths by rate show Black infants have the highest rate of death at 118.9 per 100,000 live births, three times the rate of Hispanic infants, who have the lowest rate at 37.5 per 100,000 live births.

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