## **Reducing SIDS risks** whilst promoting breastfeeding

**Peter Blair** Professor of Epidemiology & Statistics





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## 24TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

## **English Observational studies**



#### 1) Avon Infant Mortality Study (AIMS)

1987-9: 72 SIDS & 144 controls



- Prospective
- Population-based
- Age-matched controls
- Contemporaneous
- Ref sleep within 24 hours of interview
- ➢ Face to face interviews

#### 2) Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths & Deaths in Infancy (CESDI) Study 1993-6: 325 SIDS & 1300 controls



#### 3) South West Infant Sleep Scene (SWISS) Study

2003-6: 80 SIDS & 87 controls



4) Avon Cohort Study 1984-2003 300 SIDS

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## Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

"The sudden death of a baby that is unexpected by history and in whom a thorough necropsy examination fails to demonstrate an adequate cause of death"

## Beckwith 1969

ICD Code R95 (798.0)

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## SIDS epidemiological observational studies



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#### Main messages

- 1) Don't sleep babies on their front
- 2) Don't let your baby get too warm
- 3) Don't smoke during pregnancy or near your baby

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## The fall in SIDS – Lives saved

#### Number of SIDS deaths in E&W



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## The fall in SIDS – Lives saved

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## Risk reduction advice we all agree on

- 1) Put the baby on their back to sleep
- 2) Don't overdress the baby
- 3) Don't use too much bedding
- 4) Make sure the room is not too warm
- 5) Make sure your baby's head remains uncovered
- 6) Use a firm , flat, clean mattress

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## Risk reduction advice we all agree on

- 7) Don't use duvets, quilts or pillows
- 8) Don't use electric blankets or hot water bottles
- 9) Breastfeed your baby
- 10) Don't smoke during pregnancy
- 11) Don't let anyone smoke in your home
- 12) Contact your doctor if you are at all concerned

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## Questions that remain

- 1) Is breastfeeding protective against SIDS?
- 2) Should we be encouraging all infants to use a dummy (pacifier)?
- 3) What advice shall we give about baby boxes?
- 4) What advice shall we give about bed-sharing?

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Infants put down prone Before and after campaign



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## **Incubators & prone positioning**









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## Is breastfeeding protective against SIDS?



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## Infant breastfeeding attempted

#### **CESDI Study 1993-1996**





## Duration of Breastfeeding and Risk of SIDS: An Individual Participant Data Meta-analysis

John M.D. Thompson, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Kawai Tanabe, MPH,<sup>b</sup> Rachel Y. Moon, MD,<sup>c</sup> Edwin A. Mitchell, FRSNZ, FRACP, FRCPCH, DSc (Med),<sup>a</sup> Cliona McGarvey, PhD,<sup>d</sup> David Tappin, MBBS, MD, MSc,<sup>a</sup> Peter S. Blair, PhD,<sup>f</sup> Fern R. Hauck, MD, MS<sup>b</sup>

- ➢ 8 studies 2267 SIDS, 6837 controls
- > Any breastfeeding > 2 months halved the risk of SIDS
- Greater protection with increased duration
- Breastfeeding did not have to be exclusive to confer protection

#### Thompson JMD et al. *Pediatrics* 2017;140(5):e20171324

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## Protective mechanisms?

- Increased immunity from the breast milk?
- Brain Development?
- > Arousal mechanism?
- Proxy marker for a different infant care practice?
- Proxy marker for something unmeasured

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Should we be encouraging all infants to use a dummy (pacifier)?



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## **DUMMY AT BEDTIME CUTS COT DEATH RISK BY 90%**

It helps tots breathe, say docs

By Greig Box

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#### Multivariate risk of using a dummy for the last sleep







## Change in routine for the last sleep



CESDI Study: 321 SIDS & 1299 controls

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## Change in routine: anecdotal evidence

- An estimated 50% (64/127) of SIDS cases who were bed-sharing on the night they died were unaccustomed to this type of sleeping arrangement.
  (McGarvey et al 2006)
- "For 19 (73%) of the 26 co-sleeping deaths, co-sleeping was not their usual sleeping arrangement and the parent had chosen to co-sleep for a specific reason, usually that the infant was unsettled." (*Child Death Review Programme and all Wales Perinatal Survey 2015*).

**CESDI & SWISS combined** Interaction of dummy use and co-sleeping

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## Duration of dummy use for last sleep



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# Changes in SIDS rate, dummy use and breastfeeding prevalence at 1-3 months of age



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## Pacifiers and breastfeeding: a systematic review. Nina R. O'Connor, MD; Kawai O. Tanabe, MPH; Mir S. Siadaty, MD, MS; Fern R. Hauck, MD, MS

## **Abstract results**

17/25 observational studies reported an association between pacifier use and shortened duration of breastfeeding

4 RCT's recruiting mothers who were keen to breastfeed showed no difference

## **Abstract conclusion**

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The highest level of evidence does not support an adverse relationship between pacifier use and breastfeeding duration

## What advice should we give about baby boxes?



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#### LETTERS

#### CARDBOARD BABY BOXES

## Concerns about the promotion of a cardboard baby box as a place for infants to sleep

Peter S Blair professor of epidemiology and statistics<sup>1</sup>, Anna Pease senior research associate<sup>1</sup>, Francine Bates chief executive<sup>2</sup>, Helen Ball professor of anthropology<sup>3</sup>, John M D Thompson associate professor, epidemiologist, and statistician<sup>4</sup>, Fern R Hauck professor of public health sciences<sup>5</sup>, Rachel Moon professor of paediatrics<sup>5</sup>, Betty McEntire *CEO* and executive director<sup>6</sup>, Anat Shatz chief executive<sup>7</sup>, Marta Cohen consultant paediatric pathologist<sup>8</sup>, Trina C Salm Ward assistant professor of social work<sup>9</sup>, Peter Fleming professor of infant health and developmental physiology<sup>1</sup>

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## Our concerns

- No evidence that using these boxes reduces SIDS
- Potential to obscure the infant from parental observation
- No published evidence that the box can be used safely :
  - Questionable provision of a lid



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## Our concerns

- No evidence that using these boxes reduces SIDS
- Potential to obscure the infant from parental observation
- No published evidence that the box can be used safely :
  - Questionable provision of a lid
  - Low level draughts and use by young siblings or pets
  - Putting the box on raised surfaces
  - ➢ Fire-retardant?
- Undermining current safety messages

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Programme iteration report January 2019







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## Univariate risk of bed-sharing - prior to fall in SIDS





## Proportion of bed-sharing deaths across studies



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## The fall in solitary sleeping SIDS in Avon



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### Sleeping position in the 1980s in Avon Solitary Sleepers vs Bed-sharers



#### Source : Avon Longitudinal study

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#### BMJ OPEN Bed sharing when parents do not smoke: is there a risk of SIDS? An individual level analysis of five major case-control studies

Robert Carpenter,<sup>1</sup> Cliona McGarvey,<sup>2</sup> Edwin A Mitchell,<sup>3</sup> David M Tappin,<sup>4</sup> Mechtild M Vennemann,<sup>5</sup> Melanie Smuk,<sup>1</sup> James R Carpenter<sup>1,6</sup>

		<u>Drugs</u>	<u>Alcohol</u>	<u>Sofas</u>	<u>Smoking</u>
New Zealand Study	1987-1990	Ν	Ν	Ν	Υ
European Study	1992-1996	Ν	Y/N	Ν	Υ
Irish Study	1994-2003	Ν	Υ	Υ	Υ
Scottish Study	1996-2000	Ν	Ν	Ν	Υ
German Study	1998-2001	Ν	Ν	Υ	Υ

AOR for non-hazardous bed-sharing in younger infants: 5.1 [95% CI 2.3 -11.4]

Reference group: breastfed baby girls placed on their back by nonsmoking parents having no other risk factors

1472 SIDS & 4679 controls

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Bed-Sharing in the Absence of Hazardous Circumstances: Is There a Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome? An Analysis from Two Case-Control Studies Conducted in the UK



Peter S. Blair<sup>1</sup>\*, Peter Sidebotham<sup>2</sup>, Anna Pease<sup>1</sup>, Peter J. Fleming<sup>1</sup>

1 School of Social & Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom, 2 Medical School, University of Warwick, Warwick, United Kingdom



400 SIDS & 1386 controls



CESDI & SWISS combined Infants found co-sleeping for the last sleep					
	<u>SIDS</u>	<u>Controls</u>	<u>Multivariate OR</u>	<u>P-value</u>	
Did not co-sleep	255	1173	1.00 [Ref Group]		
Co-slept :					
on a sofa or chair	33	7	18.34 [7.10-47.35]	< 0.0001	
adult $> 2$ units of alcohol	29	12	18.29 [7.68-43.54]	< 0.0001	
Adult who smoked	59	63	4.04 [2.41-6.75]	< 0.0001	
In absence of above hazards	24	131	1.08 [0.58-2.01]	< 0.82	

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CESDI & SWISS combined Infants found co-sleeping for last sleep (<98 days old)					
	<u>SIDS</u>	<u>Controls</u>	Adjusted OR	<u>P-value</u>	
Did not co-sleep	110	566	1.00 [Ref Group]		
Co-slept :					
on a sofa or chair	22	5	21.44 [7.93-58.04]	< 0.0001	
adult $> 2$ units of alcohol	19	5	19.35 [7.05-53.11]	< 0.0001	
Adult who smoked	47	26	8.93 [5.27-15.14]	< 0.0001	
In absence of above hazards	23	70	1.62 [0.96-2.73]	< 0.07	

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CESDI & SWISS combined Infants found co-sleeping for last sleep (≥98 days old)						
	<u>SIDS</u>	<u>Controls</u>	Adjusted OR	<u>P-value</u>		
Did not co-sleep	145	607	1.00 [Ref Group]			
Co-slept :						
on a sofa or chair	11	2	23.86 [5.22-109.2]	< 0.0001		
adult $> 2$ units of alcohol	10	7	6.38 [2.38-17.12]	0.0002		
Adult who smoked	12	37	1.42 [0.72-2.79]	0.32		
In absence of above hazards	1	61	0.08 [0.01-0.52]	0.009		

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#### City of Milwaukee: Anti- bedsharing Campaign.





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#### Wisconsin Anti- bedsharing Campaign.





## YOUR BABY SLEEPING WITH YOU CAN BE JUST AS DANGEROUS.

Babies can die when sleeping in adult beds. Always put your baby to sleep on his back, in a crib. If you can't afford a crib, call (414) 286-8620.



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#### Safeguarding Campaign in Hertfordshire



drinking alcohol increases the risk of sudden infant death.

safeguarding

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## **ISPID** statement on fear-based prevention strategies

..... ISPID is deeply concerned with recent health promotion campaigns that vilify parents or go too far with symbolism (for example: bed headboards as tombstones, or mothers depicted as meat cleavers or ogres in fairy tales). These over-simplified health campaigns might also mislead the public on the facts surrounding SIDS and its prevention.

We believe that such strategies are unnecessary, can be misleading and are very hurtful to parents who are already in deep pain. We disavow such strategies and encourage those who create campaigns for perinatal or infant death prevention to seriously consider the impact on parents who have had babies die and the extreme fear these might cause those parents with newborn infants.



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Moon RY et al. Health Messaging and African-American Infant Sleep Location: A Randomized Controlled Trial. J Community Health. 2016 Jul 28.

> "Despite AAP recommendations to avoid bedsharing, public health efforts have been unsuccessful in changing behaviors."

"African–American mothers who received an enhanced message about SIDS risk reduction and suffocation prevention were no less likely to bedshare with their infants."

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#### SUDI Deaths by ICD-10 Code, 2000 - 2016 USA



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## Caring for your baby at night A guide for parents





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## **BED-SHARING**

Some parents choose to sleep with their baby in bed and some fall asleep with their baby during the night while feeding and comforting whether they intend to or not. Therefore it is very important to consider the following points....

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# If you decide to share a bed with your baby:

- Keep your baby away from the pillows
- Make sure your baby cannot fall out of bed or become trapped between the mattress and wall
- Make sure the bedclothes cannot cover your baby's face
- Don't leave your baby alone in the bed, as even very young babies can wriggle into a dangerous position
- It is not safe to bed-share in the early months if your baby was born very small or pre-term

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## WARNING

- Ensure your baby has a clear flat sleep space
- Do not sleep with your baby when you have been drinking any alcohol or taking drugs (legal or illegal)
- Do not sleep with your baby if you or anyone else in the bed is a smoker
- Do not put yourself in the position where you could doze off with your baby on a sofa or armchair

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## Prevalence of breastfeeding amongst different bed-sharing groups





Blair PS, Heron J, Fleming PJ. Pediatrics 2010

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England and Wales



#### SUDI Deaths by ICD-10 Code, 2001 - 2015 England & Wales



#### 22 - 24 October, 2020 Brisbane Convention Centre, Queensland, AUSTRALIA



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