

RESOLUTION OF THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Promotion of Safer Sleeping Practices

WHEREAS, current evidence suggests that bed-sharing should be avoided because it may lead to compromise of the infants' airway due to suffocation by soft or loose bedding or a sleeping adult or other child, and

WHEREAS, this suffocation may be related to Sudden Unexplained Death of an Infant (SUDI) or of a child (SUDC), both formally referred to as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (2005) recommends room-sharing as an intervention to enhance breastfeeding but advises that once a feeding is complete, the infant should be placed for sleep in a separate bassinet or crib.¹

WHEREAS, bed-sharing may cause overheating to occur and bed-sharing on a couch or sofa has been associated with an unusually high risk for SIDS and should be avoided, and

WHEREAS, a study of 102 SIDS deaths using a retrospective review of medical examiner autopsy reports showed that bed-sharing was a risk factor for SIDS, and

WHEREAS of the 102 SIDS deaths, 67 (65.7%) were not in a crib, 63 (61.8%) were prone, and 48 (47.1%) were bed-sharing and only 8 (7.8%) infants had slept alone, in a crib or bassinet, and on their back or side,² and

WHEREAS, bed-sharing is associated with an increased risk of SIDS for infants <11 weeks of age and couch-sharing resulted in the largest risk of SIDS (OR 66.9, 95% CI 2.8, 1597).³

WHEREAS, of 46 SIDS infants who bed-shared during their last sleep, 40 (87%) were found in the parents' bed and sharing a bed when <11 weeks.³

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Public Health Association urges the Tennessee Department of Health to provide more public information and education on bed-sharing risks for the infant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and Tennessee County Mayors and that a copy of this resolution is distributed to all members of the Association.

1. <http://www.emedicine.com/ped/topic2171.htm>
2. J Forensic Sci. 2005; 50(1):147-51 (ISSN: 0022-1198)
3. J Pediatr. 2005; 147(1):32-7 (ISSN: 0022-3476)

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