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| **ISA ISPID  Abstract Submission  Nº: 132**   |  | | --- | | Topics: **Implementing best practices** | | Type: **Oral** | | **Implementation of a regional action plan achieves reduction in Sudden Unexpected Death of Infants (SUDI) rates in the Northern Region of New Zealand.** | | **Henry, Pamela**1 *1 - Northern Regional Alliance Limited.* | | **Introduction** Approximately 40 percent of New Zealand’s children live in the Northern Region. In 2013 around 60 infants died of SUDI in New Zealand and these rates were higher in the Northern Region than elsewhere in the country. Maori infants represented over half of all deaths from SUDI, and Pacific infants also had a disproportionately high rate.  The Northern Region includes four District Health Boards that receive separate government funding and have their own governance structures.  As a function of the Northern Regional Alliance there was agreement under the Northern Regional Health Plan for prioritisation of the child health projects most likely to benefit from regional collaborative approach and ultimately improve health outcomes and increase equity within the population.  **Material and Methods** In 2013 the Northern Region agreed a SUDI five year action plan with a vision to make every sleep a safe sleep for all infants, and reduce the rate of SUDI in the Northern Region.   A regional group was established to develop the vision and principles for a four year action plan. Eight key areas were agreed for development of the regional action plan.   A regional Safe Sleep Policy was endorsed across the region by senior governance groups. This created a platform to enable local communities to drive implementation. The regional policy ensured health professionals deliver the same safe sleep messages and model the same safe sleep practices in health facilities across the childbirth continuum of antenatal, pregnancy and childbirth care, and for the first year of life.   A cross sectoral implementation working group meets monthly to progress implementation. There have been a number of initiatives implemented at a local district level to progress implementation including distribution of culturally appropriate safe sleep devices, champions trained, online education for workforce, audit of services and research to evaluate effectiveness of programmes.  **Results** SUDI rates per 1000 births have dropped from 1.06 to 0.63 in the years 2005-2009 compared to 2010-2014. This is a 41% reduction in deaths which is adjusted for population.  **Conclusions** Implementation of a regional action plan is effective in reducing SUDI rates. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **CONTACT** | | | Name: | **Pamela** | | Lastname: | **Henry** | | E-mail: | **pam.henry@nra.health.nz** | | Country: | **New Zealand** | | Institution | **Northern Regional Alliance Limited** | | Cellphone: | **+64 21 817345** | | City: | **Auckland** | |