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| |  | | --- | |  | | **ISA ISPID  Abstract Submission  Nº: 152**   |  | | --- | | Topics: **SIDS/SUID** | | Type: **Oral** | | **Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI) in Queensland: preliminary results from analysis of an 11 year linked data set** | | **Shipstone, Rebecca**1; **Young, Jeanine**1; **Kearney, Lauren**1 *1 - University of the Sunshine Coast.* | | **Introduction** Queensland has a growing excess in infant mortality relative to the Australian average. The largest disparities occur among postneonatal infants and in the lowest socioeconomic areas. Queensland’s rate of unexplained SUDI has remained above the national average since the 1990s, with SUDI the leading category of death in the postneonatal period. Social inequalities have widened since the ‘Back to Sleep’ campaigns. Studies have demonstrated the interrelationship between SUDI and disadvantage; however few have used a multidimensional measure of disadvantage or included non-economic aspects of social vulnerability. Within Australia, despite three safe sleeping campaigns since the 1990s and no reduction in SUDI over the past decade, there have been no large studies of SUDI examining a multiplicity of factors to identify target populations and inform public health messages. **Objectives:** The key objective of this study was to increase knowledge and understanding of SUDI in socially vulnerable families in Queensland, in order to inform infant health messages and service delivery.  **Material and Methods** A mixed method study was conducted involving a retrospective cohort study of all SUDI in Queensland between 2004 and 2014, supplemented with qualitative analysis of narrative coronial records. 507 SUDI were identified from 662,998 live births. The dataset comprised linked data from the Queensland Child Death Register (containing births, deaths and coronial information), the Queensland Perinatal Data Collection, the Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (for mother and infant), and the Emergency Department Information System (for mother and infant). To compare socially vulnerable families with other families, a multidimensional measure for social vulnerability was developed. A series of univariate and bivariate descriptive statistical tests were conducted to examine the frequency and nature of both proximal and distal epidemiological factors relating to the infant, parents, and the environment.  **Results** Preliminary results from 2012-2014 demonstrate that 139 SUDI occurred in the period: 102 (73%) were unexplained, including 68 (49%) SIDS, 14 (10%) undetermined, and 20 (14%) with ongoing investigations. 37 (27%) were explained, including 19 (14%) infections and other illnesses, 8 (6%) sleep accidents, 5 (4%) congenital malformations, and 5 (4%) due to maltreatment. Aboriginal infants died at triple the rate and infants living in socioeconomically disadvantaged died at double the rate of other infants. Infants living in disadvantaged areas were more frequently low birthweight, pre-term, formula fed, away from home at the time of incident, and found in sleep positions suggestive of accidental suffocation. Smoking, drug, and alcohol use, child protection involvement, family violence and criminal activities were more prevalent among disadvantaged families. 28 (20%) families experienced chronic, multifaceted vulnerability.  **Conclusions** Preliminary analysis indicates families’ social circumstances and experience of vulnerability impacts on infant care practices. Consequently, a blanket educational approach to ‘risk reduction’ is likely to remain ineffective among socially vulnerable families, suggesting that more innovative strategies are required. Further analysis of linked health data will elucidate information on maternal patterns of health service use and possible points of engagement where direct, individually tailored strategies may have been possible, had the reach of existing services been extended. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **CONTACT** | | | Name: | **Rebecca** | | Lastname: | **Shipstone** | | E-mail: | **rebecca.shipstone@research.usc.edu.au** | | Country: | **Australia** | | Institution | **University of the Sunshine Coast** | | Cellphone: | **+61 408000348** | | City: | **Sippy Downs** | | |