

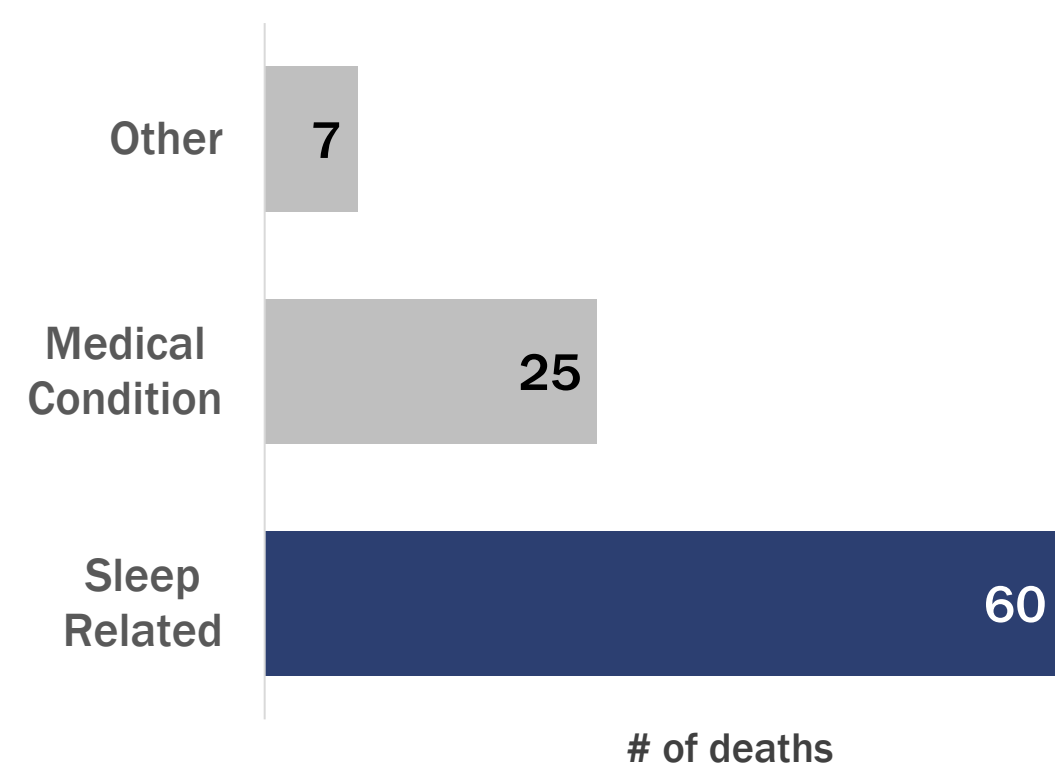
# Infant Death in Alaska

2016-2019 Infant deaths reviewed by MCDR\* (n=92)

Alaska Maternal and Child Death Review: Striving to reduce infant, child and maternal mortality in Alaska by better understanding the causes and contributing factors associated with each death through a committee review process.



## Infant Death Overview\*



- Other causes of death include homicides, deaths during transportation, and undetermined causes.
- **65% were categorized as sleep related.**
- 73% were preventable.
- 86% initiated breastfeeding or received breastmilk.

## Deaths from Medical Conditions

(n=25)

- 20% were due to congenital anomalies.
- 40% were due to infections. Organisms noted include:
  - Streptococcus
  - Haemophilus influenzae

## Sleep Related Infant Death

(n=60)

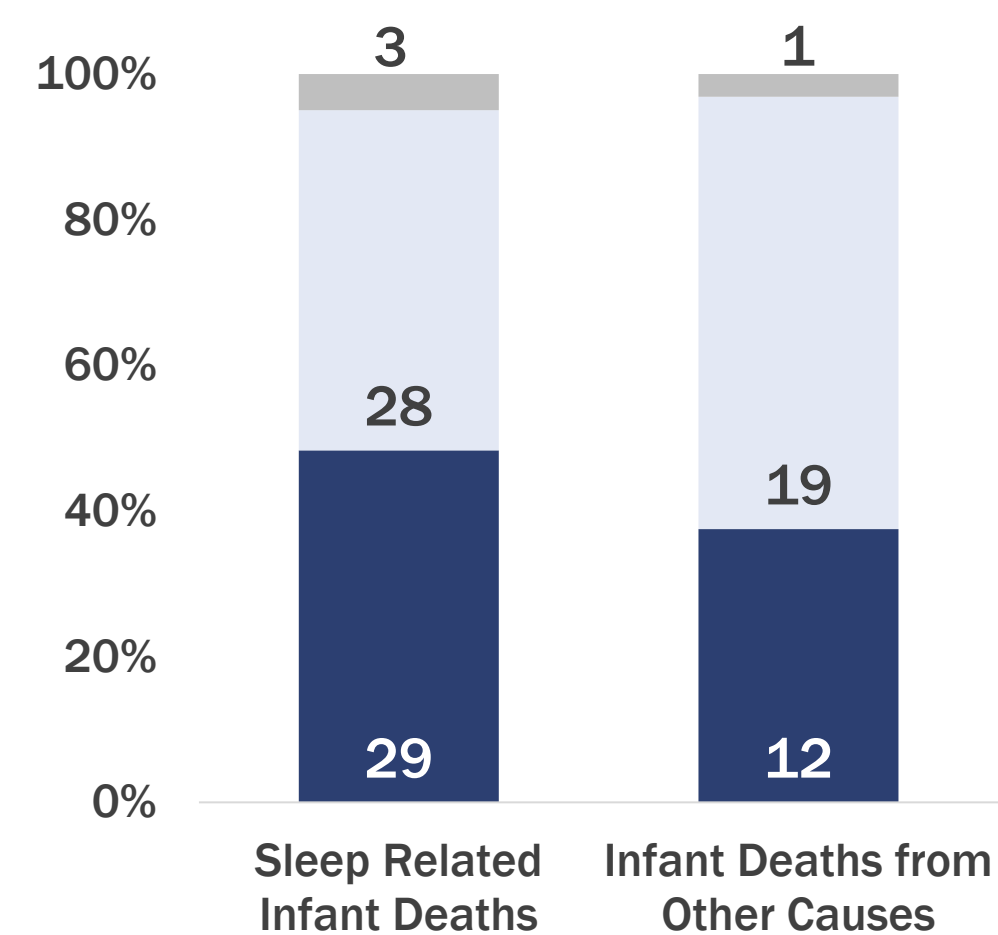
### Sleep Related Death Overview

- 73% were sharing a sleep surface.
- 58% had a biological parent with a history of perpetrating maltreatment.
- 55% had a biological parent with a history of substance use disorder.
- 88% were less than 6 months old.
  - 48% were less than 3 months old.

### Birthing Parent Experiences

- 15% had not received a high school diploma or GED.
- 32% had barriers to accessing or receiving prenatal care.
- 55% had a history of alcohol or substance misuse.
- 58% had ever been reported as a perpetrator of child maltreatment.

### Birthing Parent Cigarette Use During Pregnancy



■ Prenatal Smoking ■ No Prenatal Smoking ■ Unknown

### Surface Sharing Infants

(n=44)

- 29% had a supervisor who was impaired by medication, drugs, or alcohol.
- 55% had a safe sleep surface in the home.
- 91% had at least one additional risk factor present.
  - 36% of surface sharing infants were not placed on their back.
  - 55% of surface sharing infants were less than 3 months old.

## Recommendations

- Expand home visiting programs to additional communities with the goal of becoming universal.
- Healthcare providers should include safe sleep education in pre-birth planning during prenatal care.
- Conduct a joint multidisciplinary investigation that responds to all unexplained/unexpected child deaths to ensure timely cross communication about investigative findings among agencies and that complete and accurate information is collected.
- Develop state-wide protocols for possible Haemophilus influenzae type a (Hia) and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) cases.
- Provide culturally sensitive education to families in communities where ATV and snow machines are essential forms of transportation on how to safely bundle infants for transportation.

## Contact Information

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Summary data, all prevention recommendations, and notable positive elements published on a quarterly basis.

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\*Excludes infants who never discharged following birth.

