KNOW THE FACTS: VACCINES AND SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS)

Resources and Studies

Some families have wondered if vaccines can cause SIDS, but research shows that this is not true. Vaccines **do not** cause SIDS, and in fact – **vaccines help protect against SIDS**. Below are resources and studies to support this.

GENERAL RESOURCES ON VACCINES & SIDS

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Educational Flyer "Safe Sleep & Vaccines"

- A collaborative flyer created by the MDHHS Infant Safe Sleep and Immunization programs. This flyer is for healthcare professionals to post and is geared toward parents/caregivers of babies.
    - Order for FREE at www.healthymichigan.com.
    - Download at www.michigan.gov/safesleep under "Safe Sleep for Parents" and www.michigan.gov/immunize under "Vaccine Information for the Public."

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) "Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Vaccines"

- Source: www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/sids.html

I Vaccinate FAQ "Is there a link between SIDS and Vaccines?"

- Source: https://ivaccinate.org/questions/is-there-a-link-between-sids-and-vaccines/

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Safe Sleep Guidelines

- Source: www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/sleep/Pages/A-Parents-Guide-to-Safe-Sleep.aspx

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) "Vaccines and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome"

- Source: www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccines-and-other-conditions/vaccines-sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids

MDHHS Infant Safe Sleep Program

- Infant safe sleep information for the public and professionals
- Source: www.michigan.gov/safesleep

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND REVIEWS

Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2022 Recommendations for Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment – *Pediatrics, 150*(1), e2022057990, June, 2022

- Evidence continues to show no causal relationship between immunizations and SIDS and suggests that vaccination may have a protective affect against SIDS.
- Source: https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-057990

Lack of Association Between Hepatitis B Birth Immunization and Neonatal Death: A Population-Based Study from the Vaccine Safety Datalink Project - *Pediatric Infectious Disease, 23*(7), 656-662, July 2004

- Analyzed a birth cohort of 350,000 live births and the circumstances of infant deaths; concluded that there was not a "relationship between Hepatitis B vaccine and neonatal death."
- Source: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15247605/

Sudden infant death syndrome, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and vaccines: Longitudinal population analyses – *Vaccine, 35(5): 595-598, January 2018*

- Authors analyzed six years of vaccine uptake data for 3-month-olds from the National Immunization Survey and state-level National Vital Statistics SIDS reports and found vaccination coverage for routinely used childhood vaccines was not associated with an increased risk of SIDS.
- Source: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2017.12.065

Sudden infant death syndrome: No increased risk after immunisation – *Vaccine, 25*(2), 336-340, January 2007

- Authors investigated the risk of SIDS with immunization in the first year of life, particularly with a hexavalent vaccine containing 15 different antigens. They found no increased risk of SIDS in the 14 days after immunization. As with previous studies, patients with SIDS were vaccinated less frequently and later than those infants without SIDS.
- Source: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2006.07.027

A Controlled Study of the Relationship Between Bordetella pertussis Infections and Sudden Unexpected Deaths Among German Infants - *Pediatrics, 114*(1), July 2004

- Conclusion: "Because SIDS is a diagnosis of exclusion, every attempt should be made to identify a cause of death during autopsy. This should include the search for pathogenic microorganisms in the respiratory tract…In conclusion, B pertussis infection was found for 12 of 234 infants (5.1%) with unexpected deaths, and the infections might have contributed to the deaths."
- Source: https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/114/1/e9

The protective effect of immunisation against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) in relation to sudden infant death syndrome - *Immunology & Medical Microbiology, 25*(1-2), 183–192, August 1999

- Conclusion: "Our studies indicate that immunisation with DPT induces antibodies cross-reactive with the staphylococcal toxins identified in many SIDS infants. It is possible that part of the protective effect of DPT vaccination in relation to SIDS is due to induction of antibodies which are capable of reducing the effects induced by the pyrogenic staphylococcal toxins."
- Source: https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-695X.1999.tb01342.x

Association between sudden infant death syndrome and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis immunisation: an ecological study - *BMC Pediatrics, 15*(1), 1, January 2015

- Conclusion: "Increased DTP immunisation coverage is associated with decreased SIDS mortality. Current recommendations on timely DTP immunisation should be emphasised to prevent not only specific infectious diseases but also potentially SIDS."
- Source: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4326294/

The UK accelerated immunisation programme and sudden unexpected death in infancy: case-control study - *BMJ (Clinical research ed.), 322*(7290), 822, April 2001

- Conclusion: "Immunization does not lead to sudden unexpected death in infancy, and the direction of the relation is towards protection rather than risk."
- Source: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC30557/

Immunisation and the sudden infant death syndrome. New Zealand Cot Death Study Group - *Archives of Disease in Childhood, 73*(6), 498-501, December 1995

- Conclusion: "Immunization does not increase the risk of SIDS and may even lower the risk."
- Source: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8546503