

RECENT TRENDS

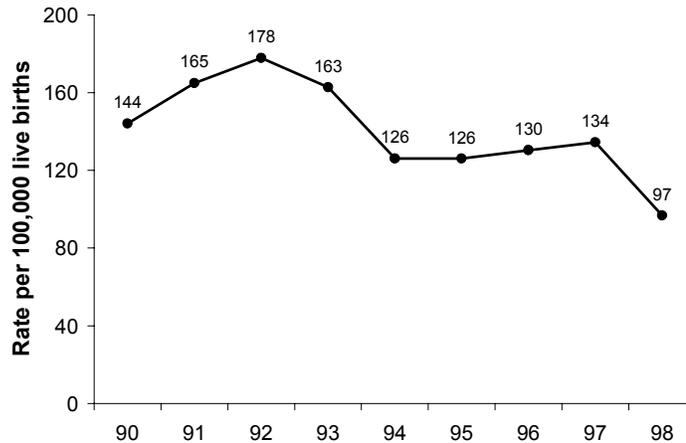
in Tennessee...

For the purposes of this report, SIDS cases met the following criteria based on data from death certificates of Tennessee residents:

- 1) Tennessee resident birth recorded in Tennessee
- 2) under one year of age at time of death
- 3) an ICD-9 code representing SIDS reported on the death certificate

This may result in differences between the SIDS rates in this report and rate presented by the Tennessee Child Fatality Review Team, which requires an autopsy before determining SIDS as a cause of death.

**SIDS Mortality Rate
Tennessee, 1990-1998**

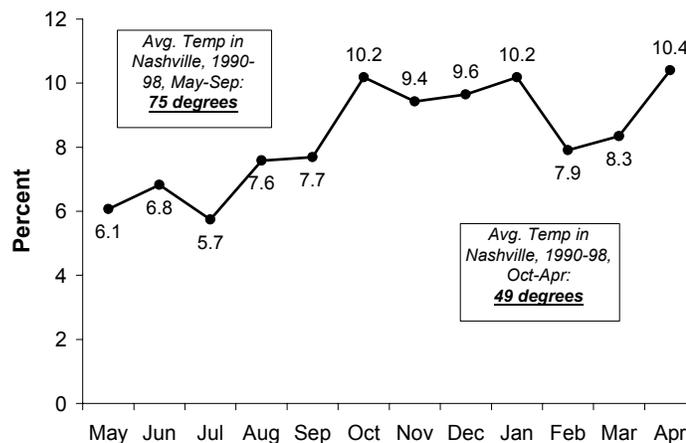


**Number of SIDS
deaths in Tennessee**

1990	- 106
1991	- 121
1992	- 129
1993	- 117
1994	- 91
1995	- 91
1996	- 95
1997	- 99
1998	- 74

- Overall, the Tennessee SIDS rate has decreased 33% since 1990.

**Percentage of SIDS Deaths by Month
Tennessee, 1990-1998**



Consistent with prior research, SIDS rates displayed noticeable seasonal variation, with a much higher rate in the colder months.

- Some investigators have suggested that respiratory infections⁴ and overheating due to thicker clothes and more bedding⁵ during cold weather might precipitate SIDS in developmentally vulnerable infants.
- Because 20-52% of SIDS victims are found with their nose and mouths turned into underlying bedding,⁶ soft bedding including comforters and pillows should not be placed near infants.⁷