

Cot Death Facts & Figures

- 300 babies still die every year as cot deaths in the UK¹
- Since FSID teamed up with the Department of Health to launch the campaign to reduce the risk of cot death in 1991, the UK cot death rate has fallen by 75%, and has been hailed one of the most successful public health campaigns ever, estimated to have saved more than 15,000 lives.
- FSID's definition of cot death:
Cot death is the sudden and unexpected death of a baby for no obvious reason. The post mortem examination may explain some deaths. Those that remain unexplained after post mortem examination may be registered as sudden infant death syndrome, SIDS, sudden infant death, sudden unexpected death in infancy, unascertained or cot death.
- Cot deaths in the UK (babies aged birth to one year):
The Office of National Statistics (ONS), General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) each collect their cot death figures slightly differently, so please see footnotes below.

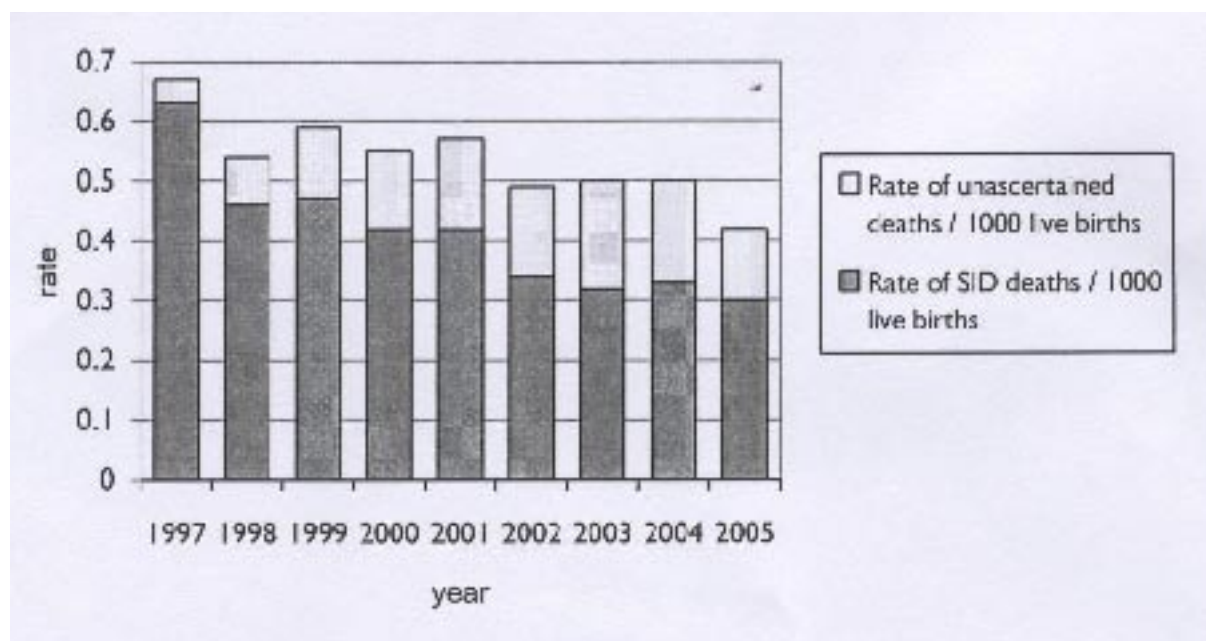
	England & Wales	Scotland	N. Ireland ²	Total	Rate (per 1000 live births)
2005 ¹ (provisional figures)	268	22	10	300	0.41
2004	309	31	17	357	0.50
2003	312	44	5	361	0.52
2002	296	34	4	334	0.50
2001	330	35	12	377	0.56

- Cot death among babies aged over twelve months
The majority of cot deaths occur in babies aged under one year. In the UK the number of cot deaths among babies over one year were:

	England & Wales	Scotland	N. Ireland	Total
2005 ¹	15	1	1	17
2004	16	3	1	20
2003	11	1	2	14
2002	18	1	0	19
2001	30	0	0	30
2000	17	2	0	19

¹ 2005 figures are provisional.

Comparison of SID and unascertained death rate (age up to 1 year), UK 1997-2005



Note: These statistics are reproduced from ONS publications and relate (unless otherwise stated) only to babies in England and Wales, aged birth to one year, and include those whose deaths were certified as 'unascertained'. 2005 figures are provisional. A comparison of the provisional and final figures for 2004 shows an additional 48 cases of unexplained infant deaths. Therefore, the ONS expects the 2005 figures to be higher when they are finalised in the next report.

- During the period 2001 - 2005, 63% of all sudden infant deaths in England & Wales occurred among babies aged less than 3 months.
- 58.7% of sudden infant deaths in England and Wales occurred among boys, while boys comprised 51% of all live births (figures refer to the period 2001-2005).
- Since the launch of the Reduce the Risk campaign in England and Wales in 1991, the sudden infant death rate has fallen by around 75%.
- Cot death is the leading kind of death in babies over one month old – claiming more lives than meningitis, leukaemia, other forms of cancer, household and road traffic accidents put together.

Cot deaths by Government Office Region, 2001 -2005, England and Wales

	England & Wales	North East	North West	Yorks & Humbs	East Mids	West Mids	East	London	South East	South West	Wales
2001	330	21	61	27	23	31	29	46	34	29	29
2002	296	9	39	29	18	29	26	45	53	29	19
2003	312	17	56	33	26	46	22	43	32	21	16
2004	309	20	66	26	21	28	20	39	42	19	28
2005	268	17	45	22	20	36	20	51	25	22	10