

# City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental  
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 11/7/06

To: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief  
From: Sergeant Joseph E. Briede, Criminal Investigation Section (Homicide Unit)  
Copies to:  
Subject: Third QUARTER 2006 PROBLEM SOLVING REPORT – Investigations BUREAU

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Category: Program / Project  
Neighborhood: All

Case #: Infant/Parent Co-Sleeping

District:

Coordinating Personnel: Sergeant Joseph E. Briede

Description of Problem: Parents of children under the age of two are allowing the child to sleep with the parent, putting the child at risk of suffocation.

Phase of SARA: Response

## **SARA Documentation**

Scanning (state problem): Police Investigations into child deaths revealed a high number of the deaths are caused by suffocation when the parent/guardian allows the child to sleep with them.

Analysis (identify factual support): In 2004, the Cincinnati Police Department's Homicide Unit investigated eight child deaths where the child, two years of age or younger, died while sleeping in bed or on the same sleeping surface with the parent/guardian. The number of these child deaths increased to ten in the year 2005.

Response (define action taken): The Cincinnati Police Department's Homicide Unit began working with the Hamilton County Family and Children First Council's Child Fatality Review Team at renewing a campaign to disseminate information about the hazards of co-sleeping with children through brochures and media outlets. In May 2006, the Hamilton County Family and Children First Council met with media outlets to discuss infant/parent co-sleeping when their annual report was released.

Assessment (document measurement): The assessment is ongoing. During the six month period, May-October 2005, the Cincinnati Police Department investigated six child deaths related to co-sleeping. During the same six month period in 2006, the Department has only investigated two child deaths related to co-sleeping. Discussions are continuing between the Council and the Department to determine what roll the Department should have in distributing information concerning this problem.

## **Police Participation Bureau**

Specific Feedback:

### **City Department Participation**

Specific Feedback

Buildings and Inspections

Community Development & Planning

Fire Department  
distribution point for information.

Representative on the Child Fatality Team. A possible

Health

Metropolitan Sewer District

Parks

Public Services

Recreation

Transportation & Engineering

Water Works