

City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental
Correspondence
Sheet

Date 2/5/07

To Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief

From Sergeant Joseph E. Briede, Criminal Investigation Section (Homicide Unit)

Copies to 2007 Files

Subject Homicide 4th Quarter Problem Solving Report 2006

Category: Program / Project Case #: Infant/Parent Co-Sleeping District: Neighborhood: All
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. The Hamilton County Family and Children First Council will again release their annual report to the media when completed for 2006.

The Cincinnati Police Department's Homicide Unit has insured reporting paperwork and questionnaire used in infant death investigations are in line with those used by the Hamilton County Coroner's Office investigators. This will assist in identifying unsafe practices by parents/guardians of infants and the information can be passed on to the Family and Children First Council or other social agencies for dissemination to the public.

Assessment (document measurement): The assessment is ongoing. During the nine month period, May 2005 - January 2006, the Cincinnati Police Department investigated eight child deaths related to co-sleeping. During the same six month, May 2006 - January 2007, the Department has investigated five child deaths related to co-sleeping. It has been determined the Family and Children First Council will take on the roll of making the public aware of the hazards of co/sleeping and the Department will provide statistic and information needed by the council or other agencies.

Police Participation

Specific Feedback:

City Department Participation

- Buildings and Inspections
- Community Development & Planning
- Fire Department
- Health
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- Parks
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Engineering
- Water Works

Specific Feedback

Representative on the Child Fatality Team. A possible distribution point for information.