



Since the 2013 implementation of new standards and training requirements for safe sleep practices, deaths in licensed child care have decreased significantly.

Safe sleep standards and training requirements for child care

Minnesota law requires licensed child care providers to comply with specific safe sleep standards and training requirements for infants. These standards and training requirements are considered critical because unsafe sleep environments have been associated with unexpected infant deaths, including deaths in licensed child care. These requirements are in Minn. Statutes, section 245A.1435.

Safe sleep

- Infants must be placed on their backs to sleep, unless there is a physician's directive for anything other than a back sleeping position.
- If an infant falls asleep before being placed in a crib, the provider must move the infant to a crib as soon as practicable. Providers must keep the infant within sight until the infant is placed in a crib.
- An infant who independently rolls over onto its stomach after being placed to sleep on its back may be allowed to remain sleeping on its stomach if the infant is at least six-months-old or the provider has a signed statement for a parent indicating that the infant regularly rolls over at home.
- Nothing is allowed in the crib with the infant except a pacifier.
- Mattresses must be firm and crib sheets must be tight fitting.
- Family child care caregivers must be within sight or hearing of infants at all times and capable of intervening to protect the health and safety of all children in care.
- In a child care center, a center staff person must be within sight and hearing of children at all times and capable of intervening to protect the health and safety of children. When an infant is placed in a separate crib room to sleep, a staff person must be within sight or hearing of the infant. When supervision of a sleeping infant in a crib room is provided by either sight or hearing, the center must have a plan to address the other supervision component.

Crib safety

Providers must perform monthly safety inspections of every crib in their program and ensure cribs are approved by the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#). These requirements are Minn. Statutes, section 245A.146.

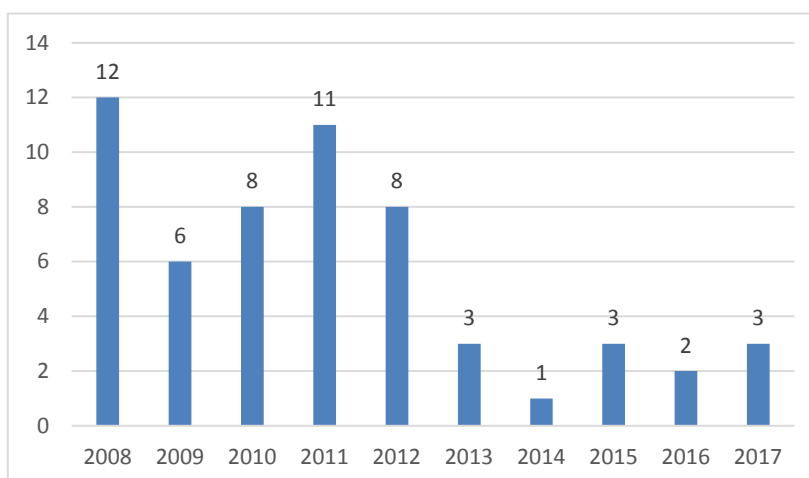
Staff and caregiver training

- Those who care for who care for infants must annually complete training on reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death (SUID).
- This includes staff persons, caregivers, and volunteers. Safe sleep practices are key to infant safety in licensed child care.

Safe sleep practices are key to infant safety

Since 2002, over 70 percent of infant deaths in licensed child care occurred when the infant was in an unsafe sleep arrangement. After the 2013 implementation of new standards and training requirements for safe sleep practices, deaths in licensed child care have decreased significantly. This decrease is attributed to enhanced infant safe sleep standards and training requirements, heightened awareness of safety issues, and publicity surrounding noncompliance resulting in infant deaths.

Infant deaths in licensed child care 2008-2017



Note: The safe sleep standards under Minn. Statutes, section 245A.1435 apply to infants younger than one year of age. Figure includes deaths occurring in licensed child care centers and licensed family child care.