

# Sleeping with Your Baby: Know the Risks

## Did you know that sleeping with your baby can be dangerous?

Parents choose to sleep with their babies believing it is good for them, often not knowing it can result in the injury or suffocation death of their child. In addition, there is no scientific proof that sleeping with your baby lowers the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), also known as “crib death”.



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## Injury Facts

In Dane County (1994-2002):

- Almost ¾ (16 deaths) of unintentional suffocation deaths of children under age 2 occurred while sleeping with another person.
- In all cases, the child was trapped between a person and a mattress or a couch.

In the US (1999 to 2001):

- Most of the 100 suffocation deaths of children under age 2 involved adult beds.

## The Risks

- Suffocation from adults or other children rolling onto baby.
- Suffocation caused by a baby rolling from back to tummy, because of the weight of an adult body on the bed.
- Suffocation from multiple babies (twins) sharing a crib has occurred.

### Other Risks of Adult Beds

- Baby being trapped between bed and wall, another object, footboard, or couch cushions.
- Suffocation in waterbeds or soft bedding (pillows, sheepskin, blankets, quilts & comforters).
- Falls from bed onto mounds of clothing, plastic bags or other soft materials or objects that can suffocate your baby.

### Baby Doll Examples



Trapped between Bed & Wall



Trapped between Bed & Object



Trapped in Footboard

## Safer Alternatives to Sleeping with Your Baby

- Every infant should sleep in a separate crib.
- Move the crib or bassinet next to your bed, or consider using a “co-sleeper” - an infant bed that attaches to an adult bed.
- Keep the baby in a crib and sleep on the floor or a cot in the baby's room.

Either way, the baby will still be within reach!

### Informational Resources:

US Consumer Product  
Safety Commission  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

American Academy of  
Pediatrics  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

Safe Kids Worldwide  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

Dept of Agriculture, Trade  
& Consumer Protection  
[www.datcp.state.wi.us](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us)