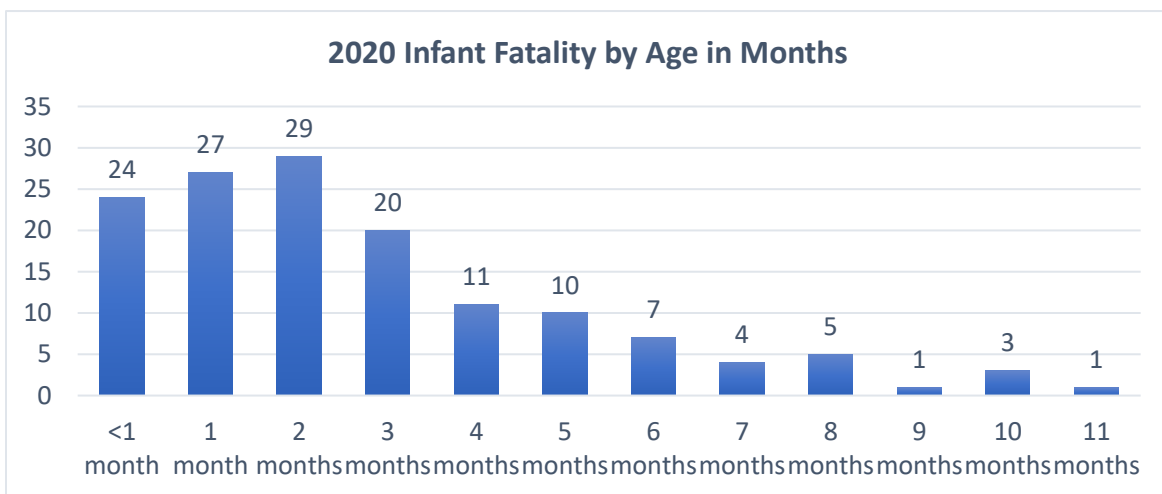


SPOTLIGHT ON INFANT DEATH, 2020

Infants are defined as children under 1 year of age. With a total of 167 infant deaths in 2020, below represents the breakdown by manner and means of the 142 finalized cases. Due to pending cases, numbers are subject to change. It is possible that the relatively small number of cases not included have characteristics that differ from the majority summarized here. This report will be updated as information becomes available.

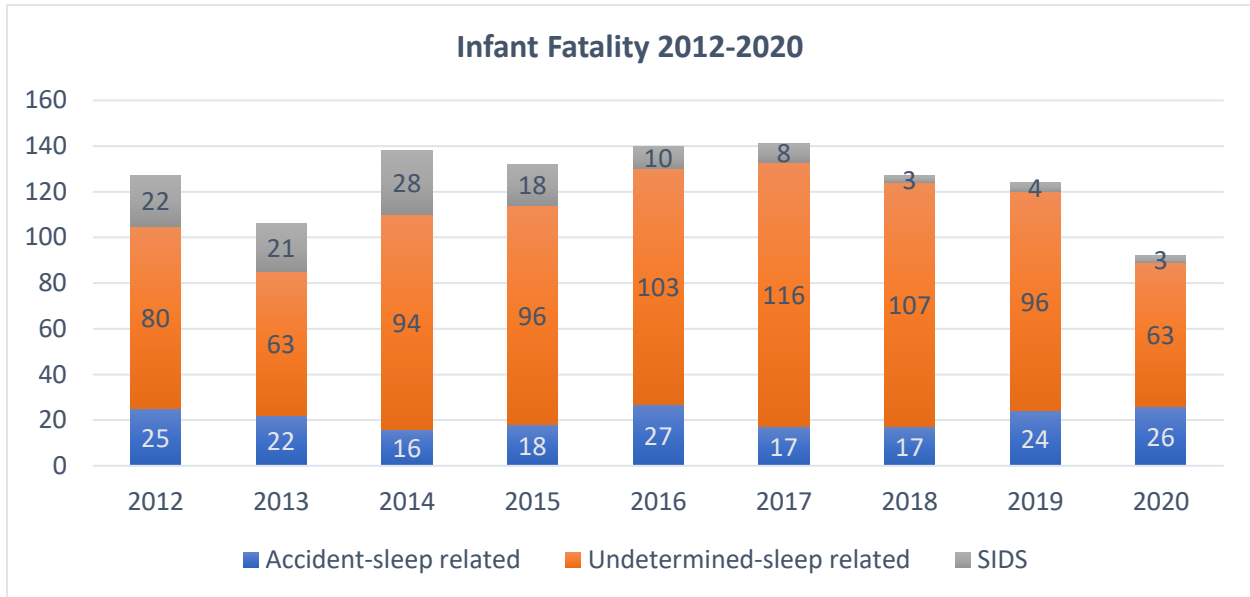
Manner	Means	Number of Children
Accident (29)	Asphyxia	25
	Fall/Jump	1
	Motor Vehicle	2
	Other	1
Homicide (15)	Blunt	9
	Exposure	1
	Firearms	2
	Toxin	1
	Other	2
Natural (30)	Asphyxia	1
	Natural	26
	SIDS	3
Undetermined (68)	Asphyxia	1
	Blunt	1
	Unknown	65
	Other	1
Fetal deaths (included above in respective manners/means)		3
Pending		25



*Excluding pending cases

Infant Unsafe Sleep Fatalities

Of the total number of finalized infant fatalities in 2020, circumstances in which the certifying pathologist expressed concern for the infant’s sleep space or position as a risk in the fatality are noted below. Infants in a potentially compromising sleep space constituted 63% of all infant fatalities throughout the year with a total of 89 deaths.



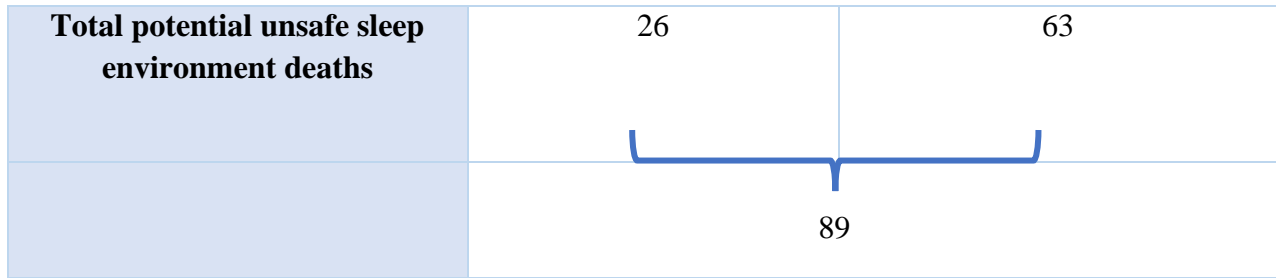
To break down these potential sleep related infant fatalities further:

Among the infant accident sleep related deaths, 17 of the 26 deaths were in a co-sleeping environment.

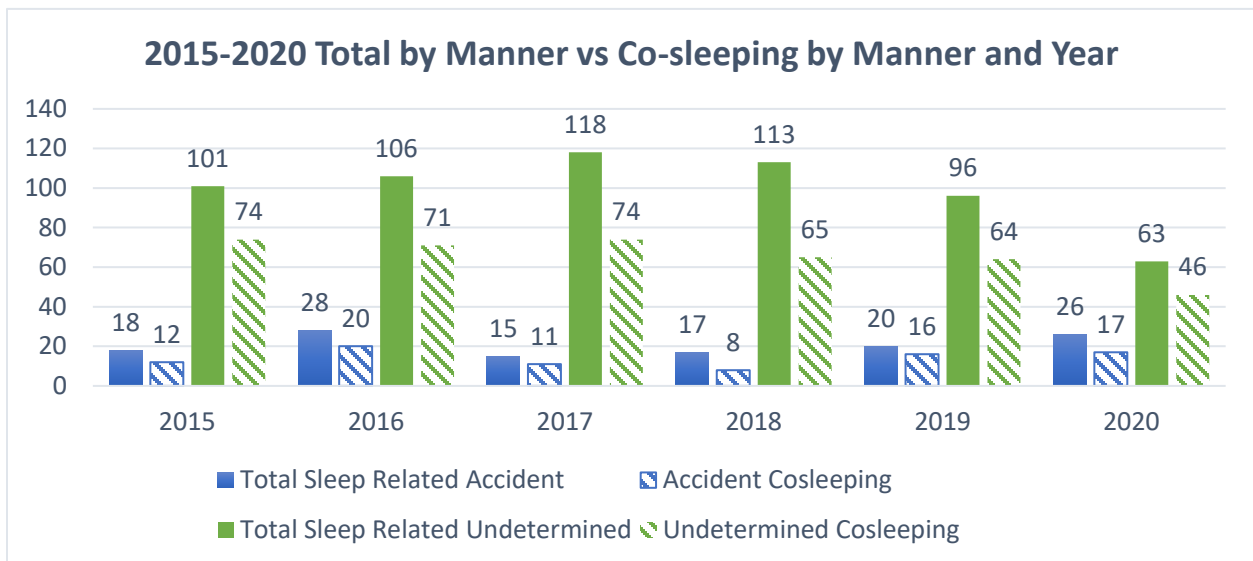
Among the undetermined sleep related deaths, 46 of the 63 deaths were in a co-sleeping environment.

This makes for a total of 63 potential co-sleeping related fatalities. An additional 26 infants were in other unsafe sleep environments such as extra items in the crib, an unsafe sleep location (adult bed, on pillow(s), on couch, etc.).

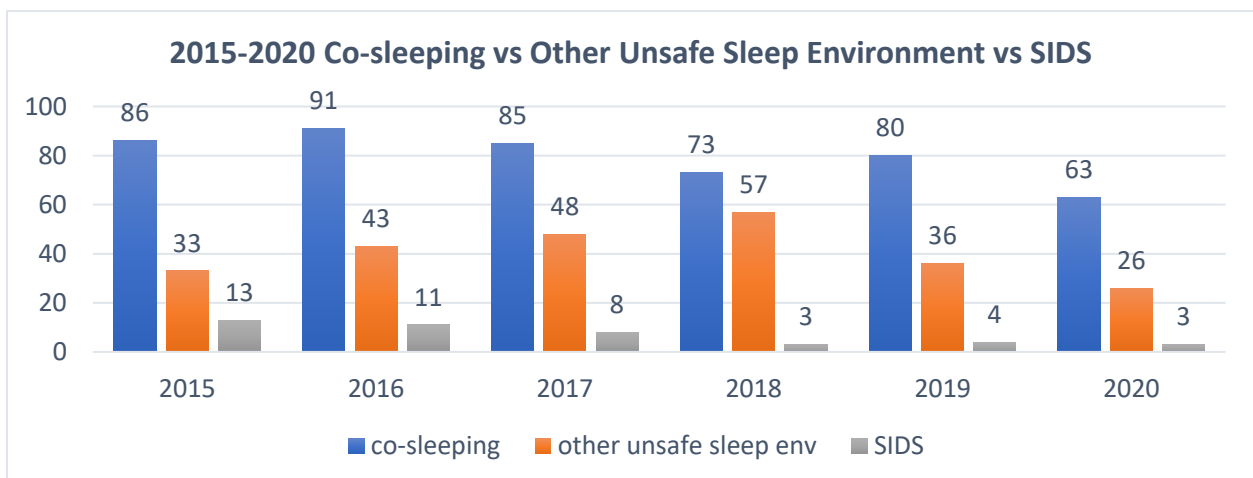
	Accidental Manner deaths	Undetermined Manner deaths
Co-sleeping at time of death	17	46
Other potential unsafe sleep environment related	9	17



Below represents the total number of accident manner infant unsafe sleep fatalities with a breakout of co-sleeping from the total for each manner. Once again, due to pending cases, numbers are subject to change. This report will be updated as information becomes available.

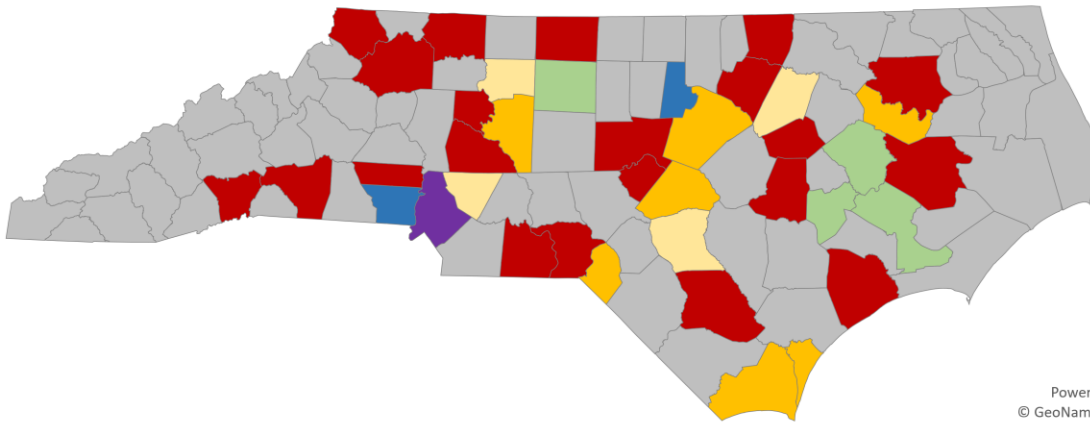


SIDS deaths are not considered under unsafe sleep environments, however, for comparison, the graph below compares co-sleeping to other unsafe sleep environments over the years 2015-2017.



Infant Unsafe sleep by Residence County, 2020

0
 1
 2
 4
 3
 7
 9



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Number of Fatalities	Counties of Residence
1	Bladen, Anson, Ashe, Beaufort, Bertie, Chatham, Davie, Duplin, Franklin, Henderson, Lee, Lincoln, Onslow, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Surry, Warren, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson
2	Brunswick, Davidson, Harnett, Martin, New Hanover, Scotland, Wake
3	Craven, Guilford, Lenoir, Pitt
4	Cabarrus, Cumberland, Forsyth, Nash
7	Durham, Gaston
9	Mecklenburg

*Not listed: counties with no infant unsafe sleep fatalities and out of state residence