# The Infant Safe Sleep Dispatch

Cribs for Kids Quarterly NPSI E-Newsletter-Winter '26

## Just Released: Free First Responder Professional Training!

### Expanding Our Professional Training Series for Our First Responders

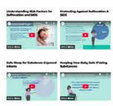



Earlier last year Cribs for Kids launched its newest **free** resource with our **Professional Training Series**. This is an on demand, online collection of training modules designed for professionals who have a distinct opportunity to engage with families of infants, support infant safe sleep, and ultimately prevent infant deaths due to suffocation and SIDS. With our **Safe Sleep Ambassador** as a prerequisite the professional modules build upon that knowledge while focusing on specific areas of safe sleep education and prevention that can be impacted by a specific profession. That is what you will find with the **First Responder module**. Developed with the expertise of our Program Advisory Board that includes those working the field as first responders, the training includes how to initiate a safe sleep conversation, how to guide that conversation to identify safety gaps, and support families. It also uniquely includes a section on those horrible calls when baby is being transported because of an unsafe sleep injury or death. We hope you'll consider completing this module and adding it to your onboarding or other training protocols. We will be adding additional tools to this module to support our National Public Safety Initiative. Thank you for making the time to explore this unique, free training.

**Professional Training Series: https://cribsforkids.org/professional-training-series/**

## Preventing Suffocation for Our Most Vulnerable Babies

### New Free Four-Video Series



Cribs for Kids collaborated with the CAPTA Grant team to create this new four-video series.
These videos discuss Risk Factors, Protective Factors, Safe Sleep for Substance-Exposed Infants, and How to support those using substances and caring for their baby. Each is about 3 minutes long, and gives practical guidance that can be used in the field talking with families. They are available on our Safe Sleep Academy Video Library and on our YouTube Channel:

**Safe Sleep Academy Video Library: https://safesleepacademy.org/video-library/**
**On YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXdV5A0TVwxDlGFLFAVhhvenFu83sKRM5**

## In Person: 9th National Cribs for Kids Conference
## Safe Sleep: Rooted in Evidence, Branching into Action




The National Cribs for Kids Conference is returning in person to **Pittsburgh** from **September 29 through October 2**, 2026. After several years apart, this long-awaited gathering will bring our safe sleep community back together in the way we remember so well. Those who attended our conferences before 2020 know the energy they created. Providers, researchers, nurses, home visitors, first responders, community advocates, and program leaders from across the country filled the rooms with conversation, curiosity, and shared purpose. The connections made during those days strengthened partnerships, sparked new ideas, and helped shape the national direction of safe sleep education and programming.
With your help, this that energy returns! Expect dynamic presentations from national experts, new research and emerging best practices, hands-on learning opportunities, and meaningful discussions on our challenges and progress. Whether this will be your first time joining or a long-awaited return, we cannot wait to gather again in our hometown of Pittsburgh to learn, connect, and continue building a future where every baby sleeps.

**Abstract and Registration Now Open:** National Cribs for Kids Conference - Cribs for Kids

## Sounding the Alarm on Infant Suffocation & SIDS Deaths

If you are looking to share the importance of safe sleep to prevent suffocation, take a look at how these three communities and their first responders are working with local media to get the word out, sharing information about preventable deaths in their area. It's so important that families and caregivers learn about babies dying in their area.




**Pickens County, SC**
Sheriff Blankenship spoke out about two infant deaths in his county in just one week, both related to bedsharing and unsafe sleep.
**Link to Read about these Two January Infant Deaths:**
Sheriff: In less than three days, two infant deaths reported in Pickens Co.



**Cary, NC**
Police are investigating the tragic passing of a baby sleeping in a lounger on the parents' bed.
**Link to Read about this January Infant Death:**
Search warrant: Cary infant dies in baby lounger :: WRAL.com



**Scioto County, OH**
Speaking on behalf of the county's infant safe sleep project, law enforcement and pediatricians share their experience and information.
**Link to Read Their Plea:**
"Never Okay": First Responders Beg Parents Not to Sleep With Their Babies – Scioto County Daily News

## Sharing Success:
## Impact of Paramedic Led Community Collaboraton

### Pittsburgh EMS Leads the Charge



On the heels of sharply increasing infant sleep related deaths in Pittsburgh, PA, Division Chief Pinchalk launched an Infant Morality Reduction Program. Sharing with the media, his team collaborated with Healthy Start to create a customized training, dedicated time for that training, provided Cribette pack `n plays, and designed some education and resources to keep on board (see the January 2025 Dispatch). Last month, we learned of the incredible success of the program, with a 42% reduction in SUID calls.
Link to Read about the program launch and its impact:

**Program Launch:**
**https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/pittsburgh-infant-death-prevention-education/**
**Learn Its Impact:**
OneDrive or https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2026/01/12/pittsburgh-ems-safe-sleep-suids/stories/202601120070

## Safe Sleep Champion Webinar Series:
## Watch, Register, and Wear Your PJS




### Latest Webinar Recording Available

Earlier this month, we kicked off the 2026 edition of the quarterly Safe Sleep Champion webinar series. We launched the **First Responder Training Module,** and released the vulnerable infant video series,. We had a great conversation with pediatricians, researchers, and public health experts Drs. Quinlan, Lowell, and Howard about what they learned in 2025 and how that will inform their work for this year. Watch this webinar and past ones on our YouTube Channel:
**Click to Link:**
Advancing Action with Evidence & Education: Lessons Learned Across 2025 to Our Work in 2026




### Register for Our Next Webinar - April 16th, 2026

Our next quarterly Safe Sleep Champions webinar is scheduled for April 16th, 2026, from 12pm - 1pm ET. If you can't attend live, you can still register to receive an email when the recording is available for on-demand viewing. The Spring Edition will feature the release of our Nursing Professional Training Series module, and then we'll talk with Champion guests about how we can support families and caregivers in following safe sleep– real nuts and bolts information to help families.
**Click to Register:**
**https://cribsforkids.org/webinar/**




### And It's Wear Your PJs to Work Day

April 16th is our webinar AND it's **Wear Your PJs to Work Day**. By wearing pajamas to work, school, or at home, or working with local community agencies to do the same– like your **library,** we spark conversations about infant safe sleep practices. Join us on April 16 and be part of a simple, highly visible show of support that helps launch a new annual tradition focused on lifesaving education and awareness. You can even use it as a community fundraiser for safe sleep spaces:
**Click to Learn More about PJS for Safe Sleep:**
PJs for Safe Sleep - Cribs for Kids

## Remember... Our Free Programs Are Funded by Purchases

### Cribbette & Mini-Cribettes Available for Partner Ordering




Our free resources and programs are funded by the sale of our infant safe sleep products. If you don't already, consider purchasing from Cribs for Kids for your station or county, or from Ettecetera for your family and friends.

**For partners & agencies:**
**https://cribsforkids.org/partner-product-catalog/**
**For family & friends: https://www.ettecetera.com/**

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