



2006 Report



Mecklenburg County Community Child Fatality Prevention & Protection Team



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Mission Statement

The Mecklenburg County Child Fatality Prevention and Protection Team is a multidisciplinary group charged by North Carolina Statute 7B-1406-1414 to review all fatalities in Mecklenburg County occurring among infants and children ages birth through seventeen. The mission of the Team is to identify gaps and deficiencies in the comprehensive local child service system (public and private agencies and individuals) to advocate for prevention efforts, needed remedies, and a coordinated response in order to serve all of the community's children and families.



Member Agencies

- 26TH District Court
- Alexander Youth Network, Inc.
- Area Mental Health Authority – (AMH)
- Behavioral HealthCare Center
- Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners – (BOCC)
- Carolinas HealthCare Systems – Injury Prevention & Safe Communities
- Carolinas Medical Center – Levine Children’s Hospital
- Catholic Social Services
- Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC)
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Fire Department (CFD)
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD)
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS)
- Child Care Resources, Inc.
- Children and Family Services Center
- City of Charlotte Council Member
- Community Health Services
- Community Support Services – Women’s Commission
- Community Volunteers
- Council for Children’s Rights
- Department of Social Services – Youth and Family Services (YFS)
- District Attorney’s office
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Mecklenburg County Health Department
- Juvenile Justice Center
- Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner’s Office
- MEDIC
- Mental Health Association
- Pat’s Place Child Advocacy Center
- Pediatric Resource Center
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Sheriff’s Office
- Teen Health Connection
- The Family Center
- United Family Services



Causes of Death

Category of Death

In this report, deaths are categorized as due to injury or non-injury with a focus on injury-related deaths.

Injury & Preventable Deaths

Injury is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-17. Intentional injury deaths include homicide and suicide. Unintentional injury encompasses motor vehicle incidents and other injury causes such as drowning, suffocation, and falls. Injury deaths are considered **preventable** deaths.

Non-Injury Deaths

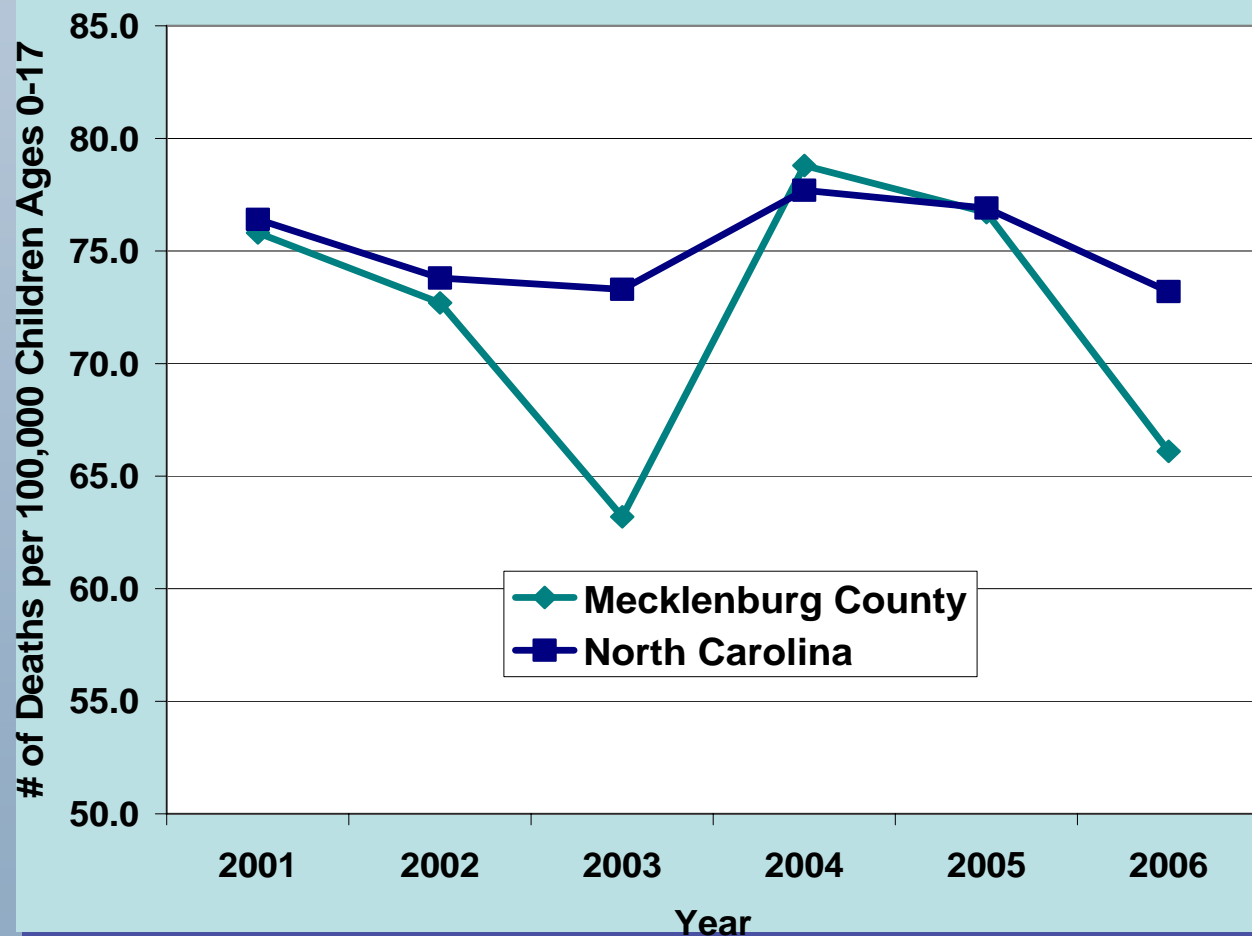
Non-Injury deaths include causes such as cancer, infection, endocrine and nervous system diseases, prematurity & immaturity, congenital defects, and SIDS.



Infant and Child Mortality Rates Ages Birth through 17 Years

Mecklenburg & NC, 2001 through 2006

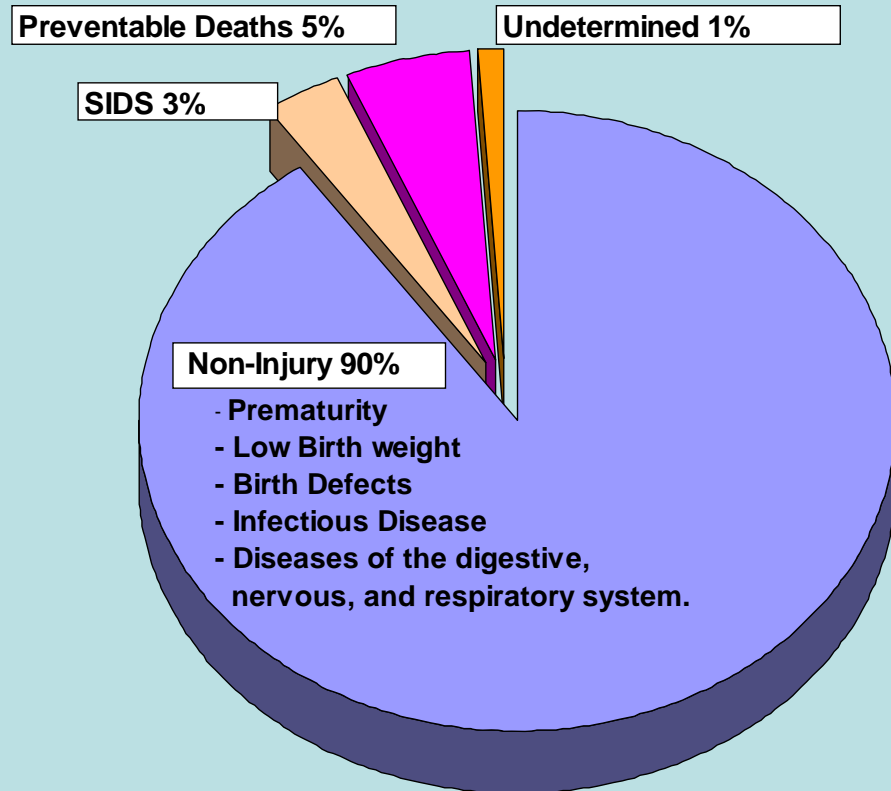
- In 2006, there were 141 infant and child deaths.
- 92 infants <1yr. (65%) and 49 children 1-17 (35%)
- Infant mortality rate decreased from 8.4 in 2005 to 6.4 in 2006.
- Infant and child mortality rate heavily influenced by infant mortality rate.



Percent of Infant Deaths (<1 yr) by Cause of Death (N=92)

Mecklenburg County, 2006

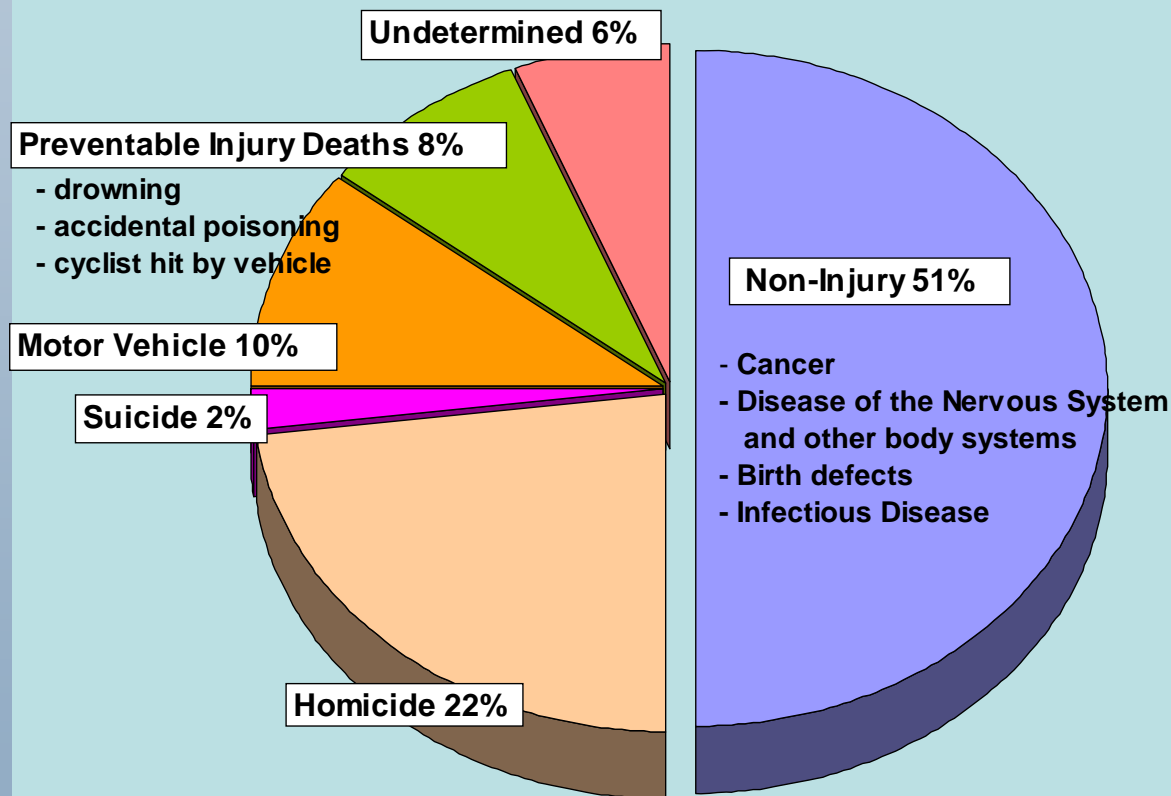
- Leading causes of death for infants are related to prematurity & low birth weight.
- Preventable deaths include accidental suffocations and other unspecified threats to breathing with unsafe sleep risk factors present.
- SIDS deaths decreased from 5 in 2005 to 3 in 2006.





Percent of Childhood Deaths Ages 1 to 17 by Cause of Death (N=49) Mecklenburg County, 2006

- Injury is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-17
- MV- decreased from 8 in 2005 to 5 in 2006.
- Suicide- decreased from 2 in 2005 to 1 in 2006.
- Homicide – in 2006 6 children under the age of 10 were assaulted by a caregiver.





Deaths Due to Homicides and Suicides Among Children Ages 0 to 17

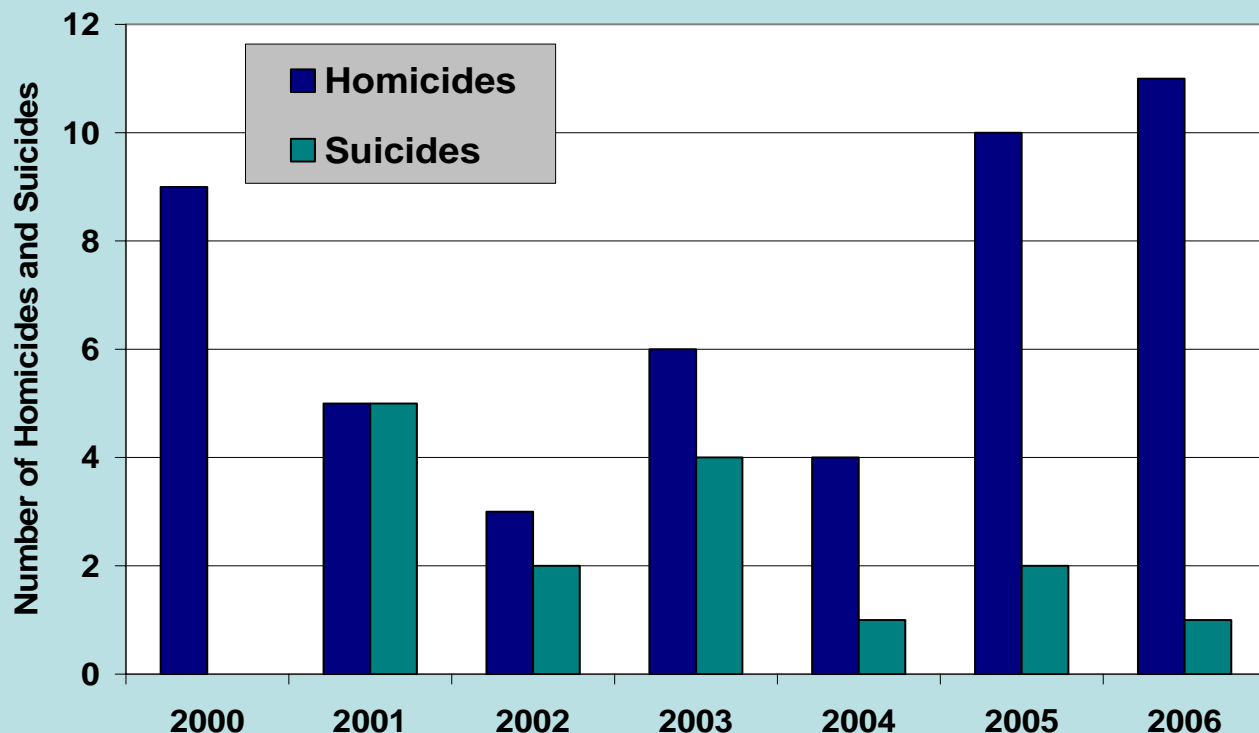
Mecklenburg County, 2000 through 2006

In 2006 there were 11 homicides. 5 (1-5 yr.), 1 (6-10yr.), and 5 (16-17yr.).

- 16% of 2006 ED visits for suicide attempts (~99) were to children <18.

2007 YRBS, ~30% of teens reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife, club, etc.) during the past 30 days.

- 2007 YRBS, ~18% of Mecklenburg teens report having seriously contemplated suicide.



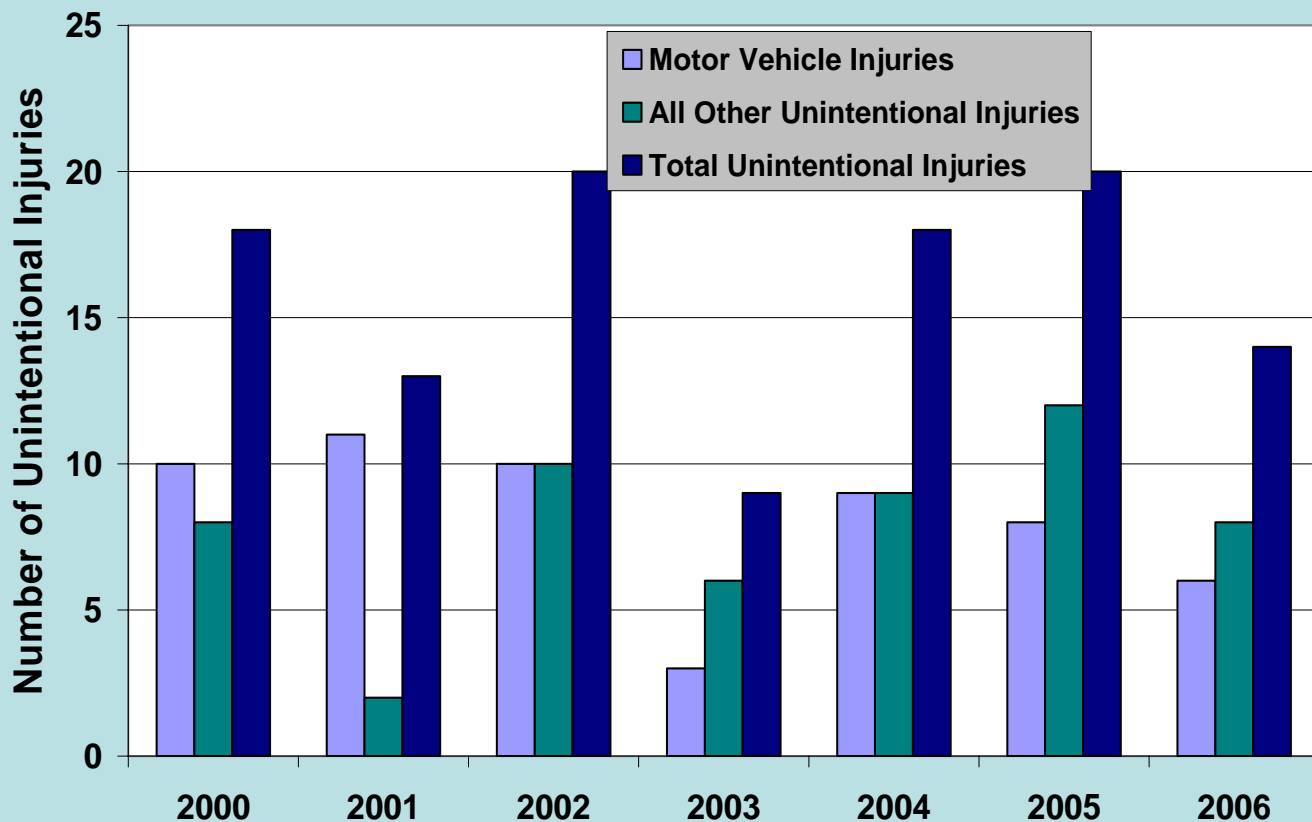


Deaths Due to Unintentional Injuries Among Children Ages 0 to 17 Mecklenburg County, 2000 through 2006

- 2006, 5 deaths due to MV injuries; 3 were teens.
- ~19% of 2006 ED visits for MV related injuries (~2000 visits) to children < 18
- Teen MV deaths largely due to speed & inexperience.

2007 YRBS data;

- ~27% of teens reported riding with a driver who has consumed alcohol
- ~11% report never or rarely wore a seat belt as a passenger

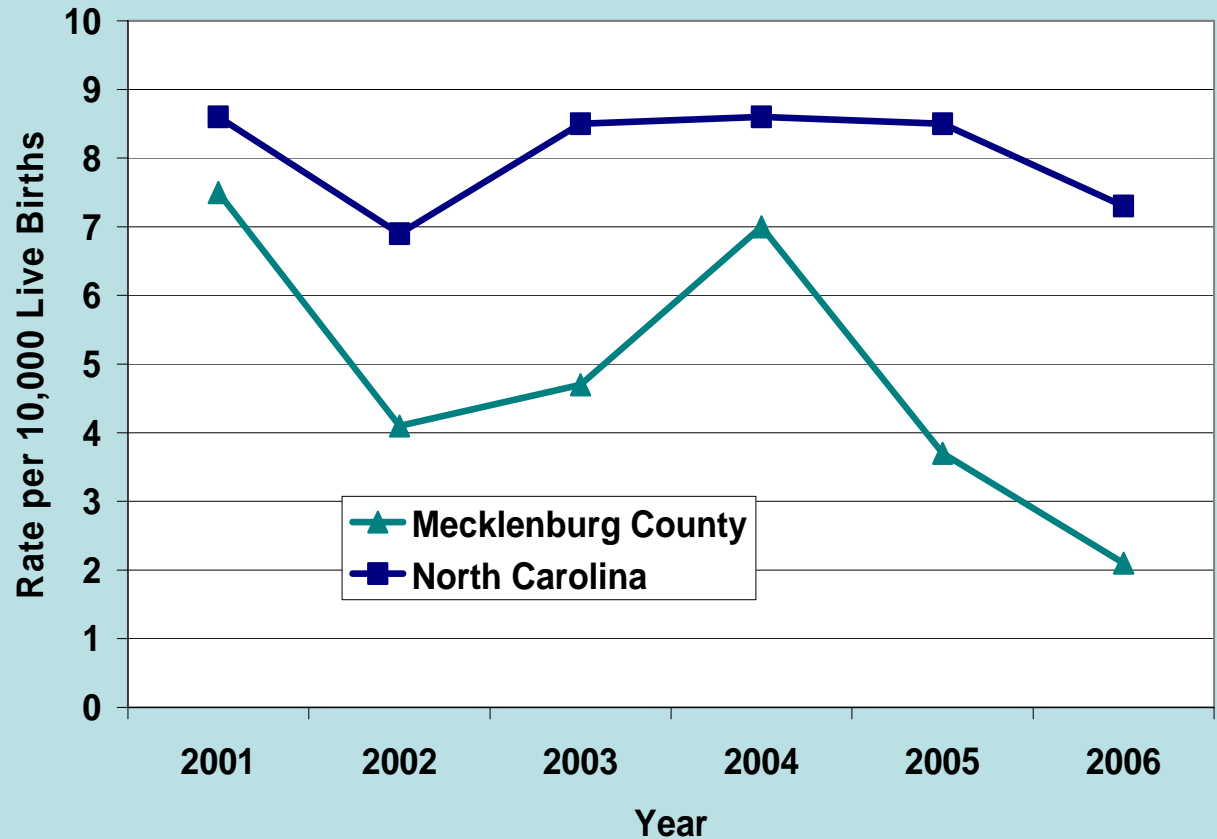




Death Rates from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Mecklenburg County and North Carolina 2001 through 2006

- Nationally, dramatic decrease in past 15 years with “back to sleep” campaign. Locally small numbers result in fluctuating rates.

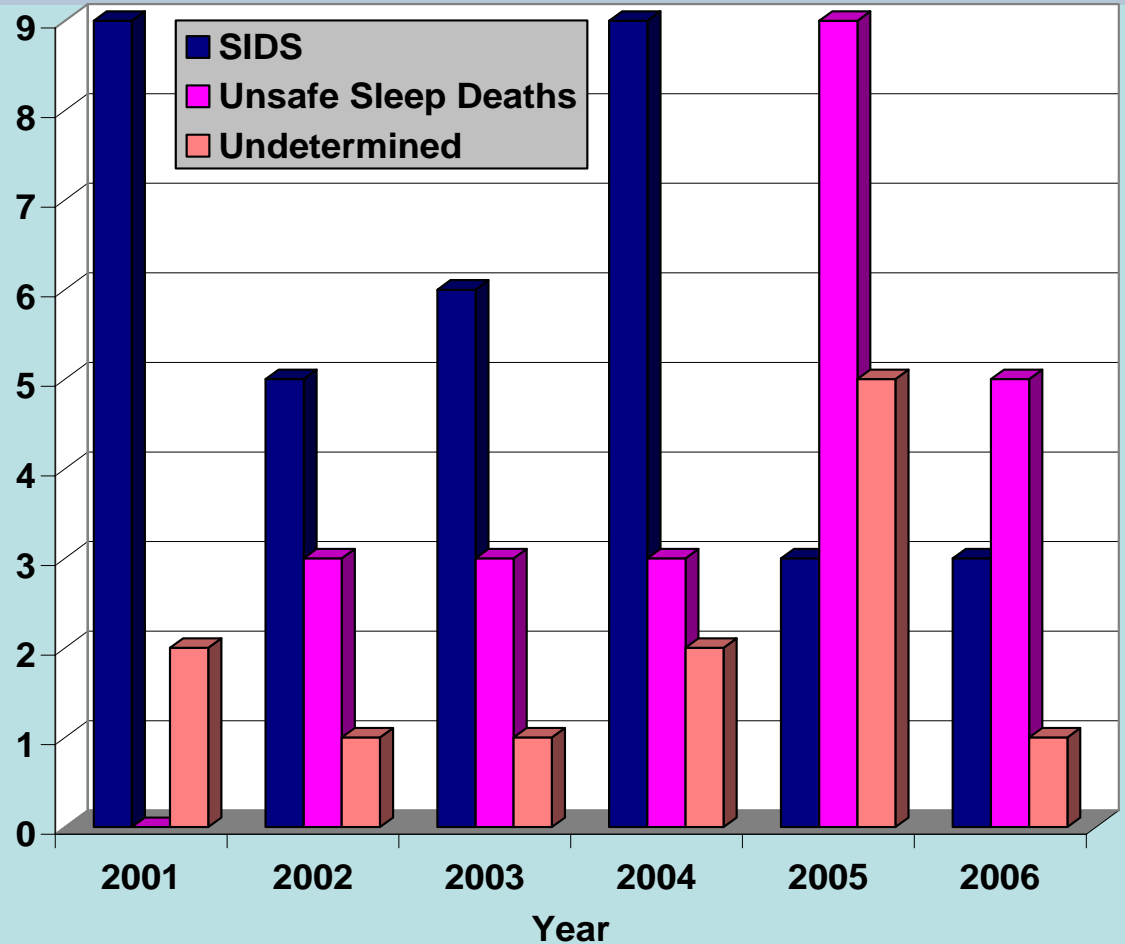
SIDS deaths often associated with sleeping on the stomach, co-sleeping, and improper bedding, as well as prematurity and smoking.





Number of SIDS, Unsafe Sleep, and Undetermined Deaths Mecklenburg County 2001 through 2006

- 01-06 ~ 57% of deaths associated with co-sleeping with a parent/caregiver.
- SIDS deaths decreasing but Unsafe Sleep deaths increasing.
- At least one risk factor for an unsafe sleep death present.
- Co-sleeping and sleep surface biggest risk factors present.





Goals, Results, Plans

2007-08 Goals

- Continue to education on safe sleep practices for infants
- Continue to support motor vehicle safety law changes

2007-08 Results

- Promoted county-wide on safety issues
- Provided support for child safety training
- Held a Full Team Retreat

2008-2009 Plans

- Continue to meet State Mandates
- Strengthen child wellness & safety outcomes based on injury & death data



Keeping Children Safe & Healthy

Thank you:

- For providing funds for more school nurses in Fiscal Year 2007-2008
- To Commissioner Woodard for serving on the full team and for her support of team priorities
- For working with the Mecklenburg Delegation on stronger laws to protect children
- For allowing the team to present this report and for your support