



## Is SUDC genetic?

Although rare, we know that there are some genetic causes of sudden death that are not discovered by standard autopsy investigations. This is one of the many reasons that we advocate for comprehensive investigations, including genetic testing, for all sudden unexplained deaths, as well as screening of family members. Research will improve our understanding of the specific genetic variations that may contribute to some cases of sudden death that currently fall under SUDC. This could lead to the ability to screen at-risk children and help them receive appropriate medical care.

***The SUDC Foundation provides all services at no cost to the people it serves.***



**The SUDC Foundation envisions a world where no more children are lost to Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood. The SUDC Foundation is the only organization worldwide whose purpose is to promote awareness, advocate for research and support those affected by SUDC.**

***Please support us by donating at [sudc.org](http://sudc.org) or mail a check payable to The SUDC Foundation at the address below.***

***Thank you for your support!***



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# SUDC FOUNDATION

*sudden unexplained death in childhood*

**SUDC.org**  
**1-800-620-SUDC**  
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## The SUDC Foundation:

### **Funds and Promotes**

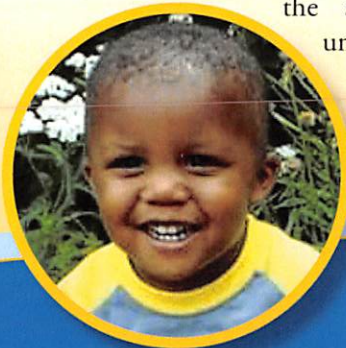
**Research.** The SUDC Foundation provides grants for and conducts research that will further our understanding of the cause(s) and ways to prevent SUDC.

**Supports Families.** The SUDC Foundation currently supports over 800 families in 18 countries by:

- ★ Providing personalized, comprehensive care from licensed clinical social workers
- ★ Cultivating a community of support for bereaved families so no one grieves alone
- ★ Helping families navigate the difficult and often confusing investigation into their child's death by being a liaison between families and the medical examiner or coroner
- ★ Assisting families in accessing research and DNA banking services which could lead to answers on what may have happened to their child

### **Assists Medical Professionals.**

The Foundation provides resources to help medical examiners and coroners, pediatricians and other doctors to care for and communicate with families experiencing the sudden, unexpected and unexplained loss of a child.



### **Advocates for the SUDC Community.**

The Foundation supports efforts, including legislative, to ensure comprehensive and standardized death investigations. It also advocates for fair treatment of and appropriate medical care for families and thorough data collection to improve our understanding of SUDC. The SUDC Foundation offers opportunities for members of the SUDC community to be involved in helping us achieve our mission.

### **What is SUDC?**

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy. Most often, a seemingly healthy child goes to sleep and never wakes up.

### **Is SUDC something new?**

SUDC is not new, but is believed to be rare; occurring in about one in every 100,000 children. Every year, in the United States, at least 400 children are lost to SUDC. It is most common in young children and is the fifth leading category of death among children between the ages of 1 and 4.

### **What causes SUDC?**

By definition, the causes of death in these children are unknown. A medical examiner or coroner could rule a child's death SUDC when s/he completes a thorough evaluation and finds no other identifiable cause of death.



### **What if a specific cause is identified for my child?**

The SUDC Foundation wants to help all families find accurate causes of death, and about 20% of our families do. Sometimes, the medical opinion classifying the child's cause of death is speculative and can benefit from further research and understanding. Support services are available for anyone grieving the sudden, unexpected loss of a child.

**According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2016, SUDC affected:**

- 236 children ages of 1-4 years;
- 30 children ages of 5-9 years;
- 37 children ages of 10-14 years; and
- 142 teens ages of 15-19 years.

### **Can SUDC be predicted or prevented?**

No. At this time, we do not know what causes SUDC, how to predict it or how to prevent it. Through research, we strive to discover the risk factors and underlying causes of SUDC that will lead to its prevention. In the meantime, the SUDC Foundation recommends all families follow guidelines provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics in regards to attending regular child wellness visits, maintaining current vaccinations and seeking medical care when needed.

**To learn more, please visit [SUDC.org](http://SUDC.org)  
1-800-620-SUDC ★ [info@sudc.org](mailto:info@sudc.org)**