

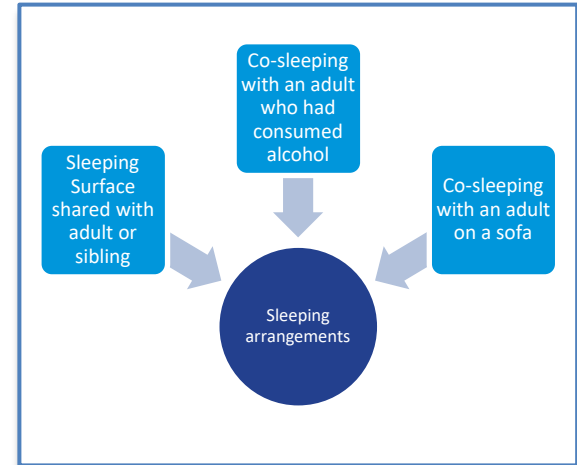
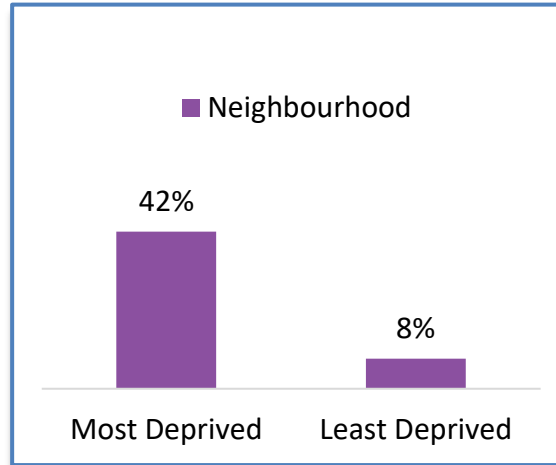
# SUDIC THEMATIC REVIEW SUMMARY

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## Unexplained Deaths (under 1 year)

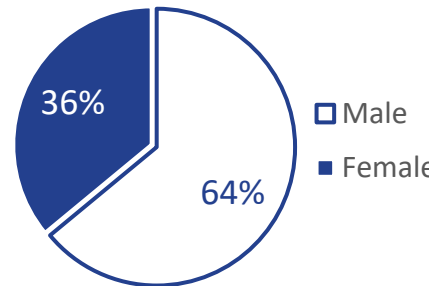
Of all **6,503** infant and child deaths occurring between **April 2019 and March 2021** in England, **30%** occurred suddenly and unexpectedly, and of these **64%**<sup>2</sup> had no immediately apparent cause.

<sup>1</sup>(n=1,924) <sup>2</sup>(n=1,234)



Of the 124 deaths that occurred during apparent sleep, at least 75% identified one or more of the following risk factors related to the sleeping arrangements:

- Put down prone (face down) or side
- Hazardous co-sleeping
- Inappropriate sleeping surface when sleeping alone
- Inappropriate items in the bed



Unexplained deaths among infants were more common in **males** and were strongly associated with:

- Low birthweight
- Prematurity
- Multiple births
- Larger families
- Admission to a neonatal unit
- Maternal smoking during pregnancy
- Young maternal age
- Parental smoking and parental drug misuse.

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**CSCP**  
CROYDON SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

## Croydon Context

Reoccurring themes in suspected SUDI cases

Co-sleeping

Room temperature above recommended setting

Babies found sleeping on their front

Smoking in the home

Substance misuse

## Working towards change

Ensure there is a robust system in place for identifying families living in unsatisfactory housing conditions and for prioritising them within housing allocation schemes. This should include a recognition of the need for enough space for a full-size cot for families with infants under 2 years old.

Provide safer sleep advice that is personalised to the individual circumstances of each family. Professionals discussing safer sleep advice should be aware of the high number of deaths in which unplanned co-sleeping took place in a hazardous environment.

Consider use of validated Safer Sleep Assessment Tools to identify families with infants at higher risk of SIDS. This should include seeing where the infant sleeps during home visits and providing person-centred advice for families depending on their individual circumstances.

Health visitors and midwives in the [CORE20PLUS5](#) areas have enhanced staff numbers to allow for support and training to deliver individualised safe sleeping advice.

Ensure there is robust and consistent national training available on the child death review statutory process, SIDS, SUDC and available resources.

Ensure evidence and incentive-based smoking cessation programmes, are offered to people considering pregnancy or who are pregnant.

*Download the full report to read the full recommendations*



The Lullaby Trust promotes safe sleeping for infants and children. To find out more and access resources visit [Lullabytrust.org.uk](http://Lullabytrust.org.uk)