**Illustrative Table Shells**

Several analyses are planned and further illustrated in the table shells.

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics of study population. This analysis will describe the sociodemographic characteristics of the study population considering accounting for both jurisdictional and individual differences.

Table 2. Procedures completed as part of a sudden unexpected infant death investigation in your jurisdiction. This analysis will describe the variation in procedures routinely completed as part of a SUID investigation. We will calculate the weighted percentages.

Table 3. Frequency of procedures used to make a determination of cause of death for sudden unexpected infant deaths in your jurisdiction(s). This analysis will describe the variation in procedures routinely completed to determine cause of death for SUID cases. We will calculate the weighted percentages.

Table 4. Case Scenarios by cause of death determinations. This analysis will describe the variation in cause-of-death determinations used by medical examiners and coroners for different SUID case scenarios. Percentages will be calculated and additional cross-tabulations will be completed by stratifying by medical examiner or coroner, years of experience, level of training, board certification or not, etc.

Table 5-8. Evidence needed to classify a death as suffocation/overlay/wedging-entrapment/SIDS. These descriptive analyses aim to determine the frequency of specific types of death scene investigation and autopsy evidence are used by medical examiners and coroners to determine various causes of SUID. Percentages will be calculated and additional cross-tabulations will be completed by stratifying by medical examiner or coroner, years of experience, level of training, board certification or not, etc.

Table 9. Definitions of SIDS. This analysis will examine the various SIDS .and SUID definitions used by medical examiners and coroners to determine a SIDS or SUID cause of death. Frequencies and percentages will be calculated.

**Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics of study population**

| Characteristic | n | Weighted percent (%) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Office-level* |  |  |
| Office type  State medical examiner office  District/regional medical examiner office  County medical examiner office  City medical examiner office  District/regional coroner office  County coroner office |  |  |
| Jurisdiction / population size   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 1,000,000 or more  500,000 to 999,999  250,000 to 499,999  100,000 to 249,999  50,000 to 99,999  25,000 to 49,999  10,000 to 24,999  2,500 to 9,999  Less than 2,500  Not sure | |  |  |
| Protocol used for conducting unexpected infant death investigations  Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form (SUIDRF)[[1]](#footnote-1)  Protocol based on or equivalent to Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form (SUIDRF)  State or jurisdiction-specific protocol  Other  No protocol |  |  |
| What training relevant to infant death scene investigation do the staff in your jurisdiction required to complete?  No specific training required  Course using CDC training materials on Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)[[2]](#footnote-2)  One-on-one training from staff who received CDC SUID investigation training  State-based training(s)  National Institute of Justice-sponsored Webinar  Other  Not sure |  |  |
| Office reimbursed for death scene investigations?  Yes  No |  |  |
| *Individual-level* |  |  |
| Age (years)  20-24  25-29  30-34  35-39  40-44  45-49  50-54  55-59  60-64  65-69  70 + |  |  |
| Sex  Male  Female |  |  |
| Ethnicity  Non-Hispanic  Hispanic |  |  |
| Race  White  Black or African American  Asian  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  American Indian or Alaska Native  Other |  |  |
| Title or position  Chief medical examiner  Coroner  Justice of the Peace  Other |  |  |
| Highest level of education attained  Some high school or less  High school graduate  Some college  2-year college graduate  4-year college graduate  Post graduate study |  |  |
| Area of Board Certification  None  Pediatrics  Pathology  Pediatrics and Pathology  Other |  |  |
| Training completed related to SUID Investigation  Course using CDC training materials on sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) investigation  One-on-one training from staff person who received CDC SUID training  State-based training  National Institute of Justice-sponsored Webinar  Other |  |  |
| Years of experience as a medical examiner or coroner  <1  1-2  3-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  >20 |  |  |
| Approximate number of infant death cases investigated during the past year  <1  1-2  3-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  >20 |  |  |
| Approximate number of infant death cases investigated in your career  <1  1-2  3-5  6-10  11-15  16-20  >20 |  |  |

**Table 2. Procedures completed as part of a sudden unexpected infant death investigation in your jurisdiction**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number and weighted percent | | | |
| Procedure | Completed  Routinely | Completed on a case-by-case  basis | Never  completed | Not sure |
| Autopsy |  |  |  |  |
| Witness interview(s) |  |  |  |  |
| Infant’s medical history |  |  |  |  |
| Infant’s dietary history |  |  |  |  |
| Pregnancy history for infant’s birth mother |  |  |  |  |
| Family’s social history (i.e., involvement of social services) |  |  |  |  |
| Photos or videos |  |  |  |  |
| Scene diagram |  |  |  |  |
| Body diagram(s) |  |  |  |  |
| Collected materials (e.g., medications, baby bottle) |  |  |  |  |
| Incident scene investigation at the site where the death occurred |  |  |  |  |
| Scene re-creation with doll |  |  |  |  |
| Scene re-creation without doll |  |  |  |  |
| Review of 911 tape |  |  |  |  |

**Table 3. Frequency of procedures used to make a determination of cause of death for sudden unexpected infant deaths in your jurisdiction(s)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number and weighted percent | | | |
| Procedure | Completed  Routinely | Completed on a case-by-case  basis | Never  completed | Not sure |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Death scene investigation |  |  |  |  |
| Review of medical records from a health care provider |  |  |  |  |
| Complete autopsy (defined as removal and examination of the brain, thoracic, and abdominal organs) |  |  |  |  |
| Partial autopsy (defined as minimal dissection, less than complete) |  |  |  |  |
| Toxicology analysis |  |  |  |  |
| Radiology (one or more x-rays) |  |  |  |  |
| Metabolic screen |  |  |  |  |
| Genetic testing |  |  |  |  |
| Microbiology |  |  |  |  |
| Pathology |  |  |  |  |
| Histology |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |

**Table 4. Case Scenarios by cause of death determinations (%)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Cause of death determinations | | | | |
| Scenario # | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Repeat Table 4, but stratify by medical examiner or coroner, years of experience, level of training, board certification or not, and other selected characteristics.

**Table 5. Evidence needed to classify a death as suffocation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of evidence | Number reporting | Percent reporting |
| Autopsy |  |  |
| Scene re-creation with doll |  |  |
| Etc. |  |  |

**Table 6. Evidence needed to classify a death as overlay**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of evidence | Number reporting | Percent reporting |
| Autopsy |  |  |
| Scene re-creation with doll |  |  |
| Etc. |  |  |

**Table 7. Evidence needed to classify a death as wedging/entrapment**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of evidence | Number reporting | Percent reporting |
| Autopsy |  |  |
| Scene re-creation with doll |  |  |
| Etc. |  |  |

**Table 8. Evidence needed to classify a death as SIDS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of evidence | Number reporting | Percent reporting |
| Autopsy |  |  |
| Scene re-creation with doll |  |  |
| Etc. |  |  |

**Table 9. Definitions of SIDS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Definition of SIDS | Number | Weighted percent |
| Willinger |  |  |
| Krous |  |  |
| Beckwith |  |  |
| Randall |  |  |
| Avon |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. <http://www.cdc.gov/sids/SUIDRF.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.cdc.gov/sids/TrainingMaterial.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)