

Community Baby Shower

A Digital Story from the SIDS Network of Kansas

(Ambient music with heartbeat)

>>Narrator: Each year here in Kansas, almost 300 babies die before their first birthday. This means that almost 7 out of every 1,000 die before they have a chance to walk, tie their shoes, or go to school. An infant death affects everyone. Parents, families, friends, and childcare providers all grieve the loss of an infant. Infant mortality is a complex issue that has been shown to be impacted by factors such as safe sleep practices, access to and use of prenatal care, social support, and cultural barriers. In Kansas, we have one of the worst infant mortality rates in the country. And the rate for Black babies is even worse. African American babies are more than twice as likely to die before their first birthday. While other states have made progress toward eradicating this disparity, Kansas has not.

(Upbeat music)

>>Narrator: **The SIDS Network of Kansas is working to bridge this gap through outreach events such as Community Baby Showers for Safe Sleep.** These interactive events provide education and tangible tools to help participants learn about infant safe sleep and spread awareness about infant mortality. Showers include education on safe sleep practices, opportunities to enroll in prenatal services, connections with local insurance providers and available local community resources. Also provided is general information on pregnancy, prenatal care, preterm labor, and infant health and safety. In addition to providing education and community resources, baby shower attendees receive tangible tools such as a safety-approved portable crib, a Sleepsack wearable blanket designed to replace loose blankets in the sleep area, and a pacifier. By including both physical and educational resources within a fun, supportive and welcoming atmosphere, community baby shower attendees are empowered to create a safe and healthy environment for their infant. Our hope is that participants' increased knowledge and awareness will spread to future generations, helping to bridge the gap.

>>Narrator: At the SIDS Network, we stand together to reduce the number of infant deaths, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of our community as a whole... so that more Kansas babies... regardless of race, ethnicity.....gender, or socioeconomic status... live to be happy, healthy, Kansas kids. These babies are OUR babies...spread the word; tell everyone about safe sleep and the importance of prenatal care and encourage and support safe, healthy environments for our Kansas babies. It's time to bridge the gap!