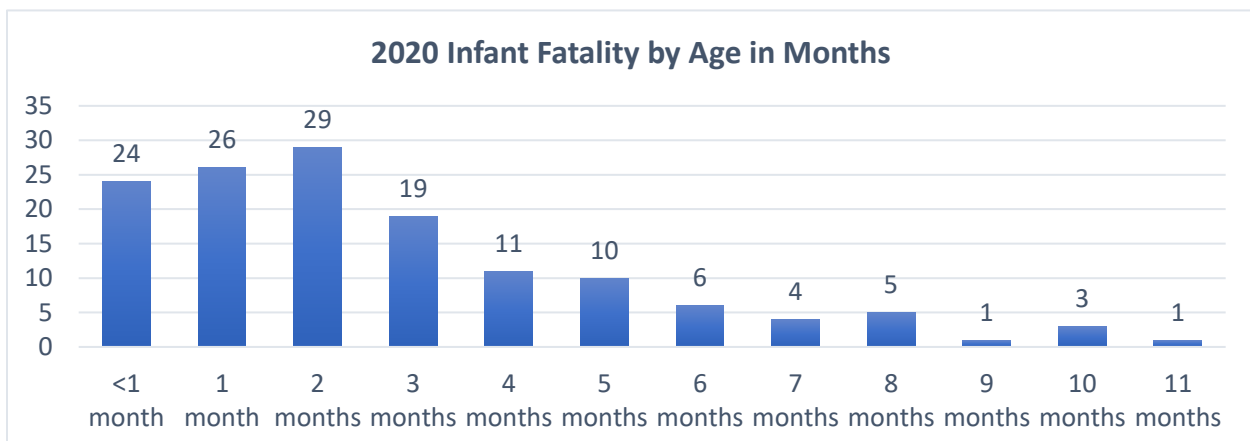


SPOTLIGHT ON INFANT DEATH, 2020

Infants are defined as children under 1 year of age. With a total of 167 infant deaths in 2020, below represents the breakdown by manner and means of the 139 finalized cases. Due to pending cases, numbers are subject to change. It is possible that the relatively small number of cases not included have characteristics that differ from the majority summarized here. This report will be updated as information becomes available.

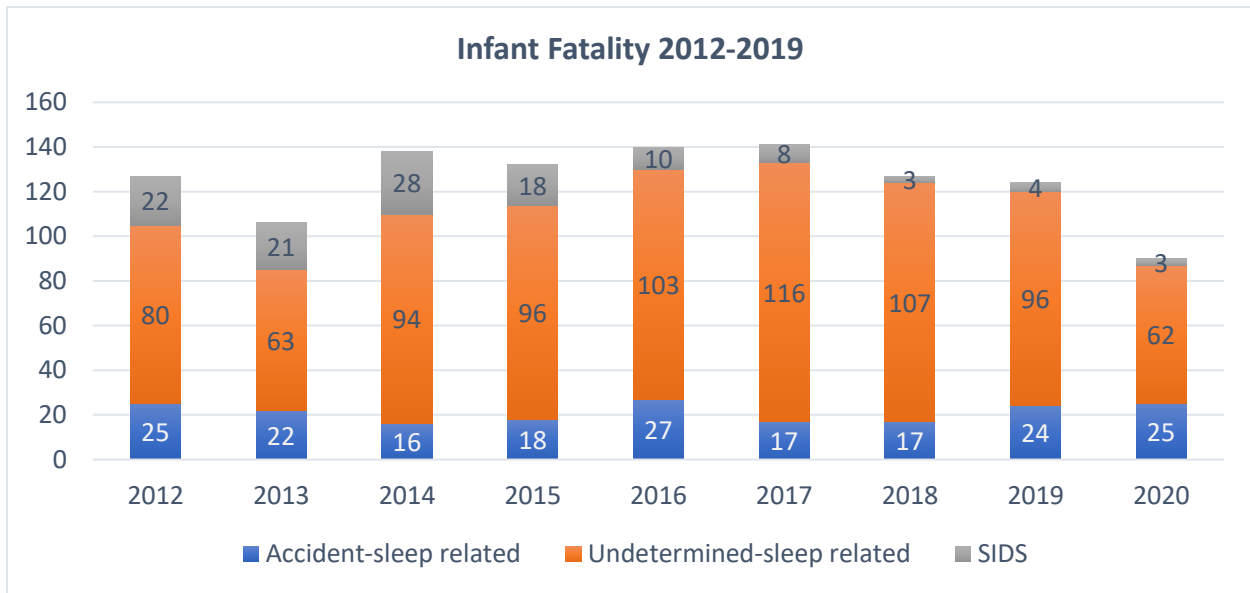
Manner	Means	Number of Children
Accident (28)	Asphyxia	24
	Fall/Jump	1
	Motor Vehicle	2
	Other	1
Homicide (15)	Blunt	9
	Exposure	1
	Firearms	2
	Toxin	1
	Other	2
Natural (29)	Asphyxia	1
	Natural	25
	SIDS	3
Undetermined (67)	Asphyxia	1
	Blunt	1
	Unknown	64
	Other	1
Fetal deaths (included above in respective manners/means)		3
Pending		28



*Excluding pending cases

Infant Unsafe Sleep Fatalities

Of the total number of finalized infant fatalities in 2020, circumstances in which the certifying pathologist expressed concern for the infant’s sleep space or position as a risk in the fatality are noted below. Infants in a potentially compromising sleep space constituted 63% of all infant fatalities throughout the year with a total of 87 deaths.



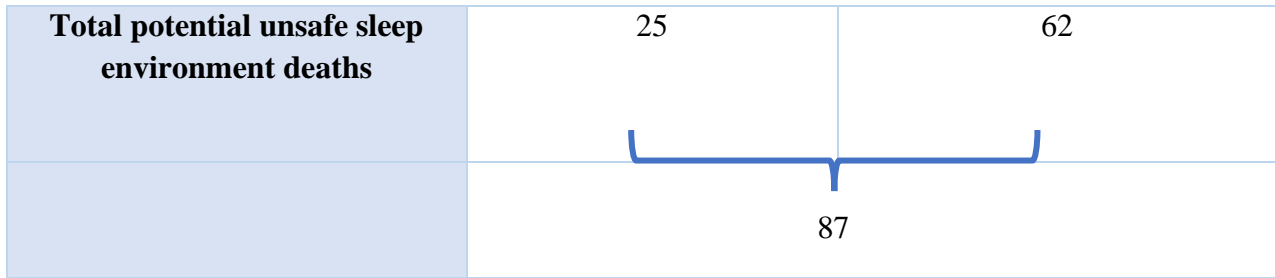
To break down these potential sleep related infant fatalities further:

Among the infant accident sleep related deaths, 16 of the 25 deaths were in a co-sleeping environment.

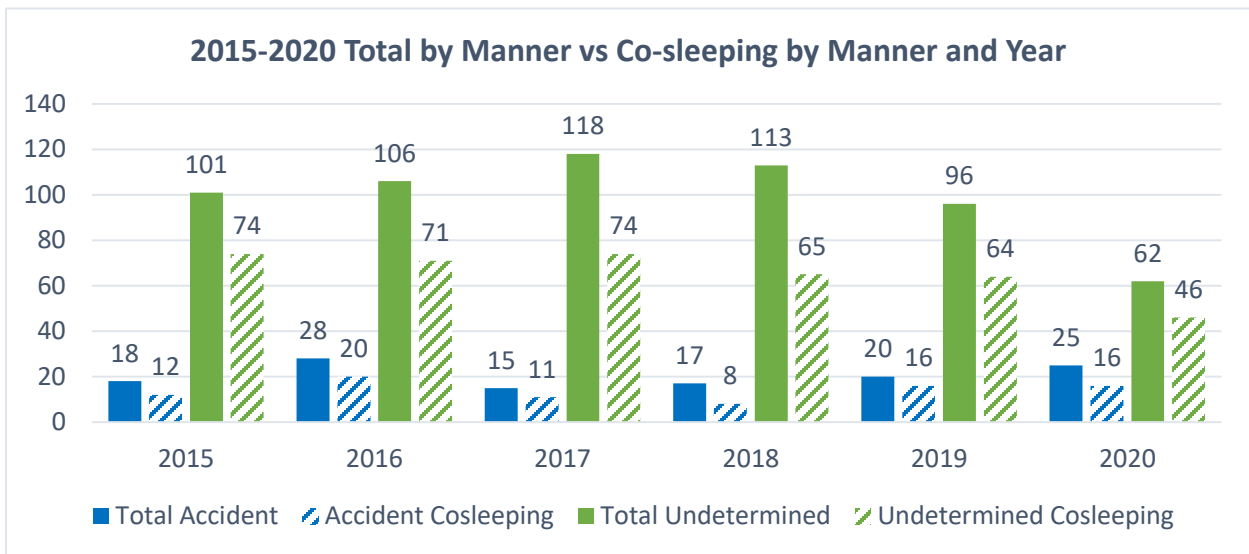
Among the undetermined sleep related deaths, 46 of the 62 deaths were in a co-sleeping environment.

This makes for a total of 62 potential co-sleeping related fatalities. An additional 25 infants were in other unsafe sleep environments such as extra items in the crib, an unsafe sleep location (adult bed, on pillow(s), on couch, etc.).

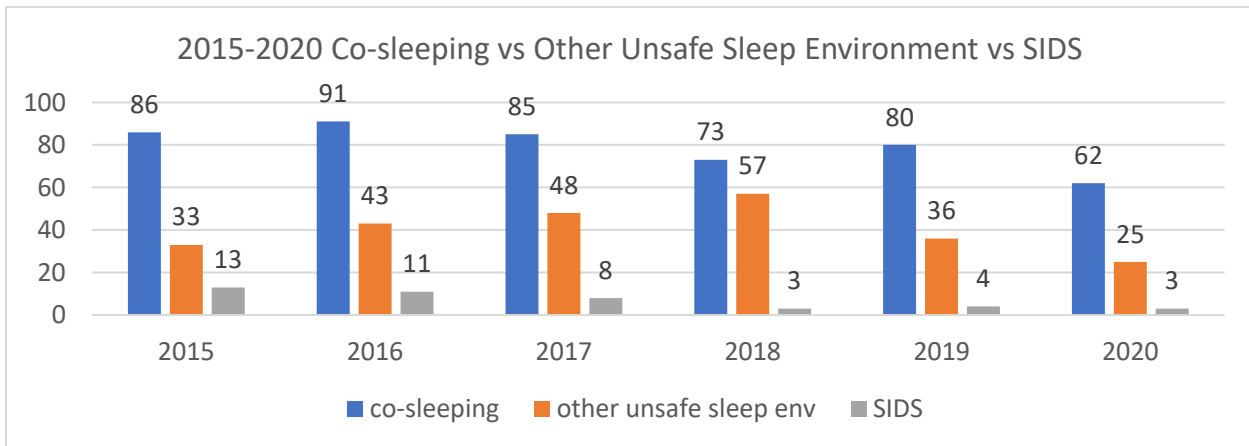
	Accidental Manner deaths	Undetermined Manner deaths
Co-sleeping at time of death	16	46
Other potential unsafe sleep environment related	9	16



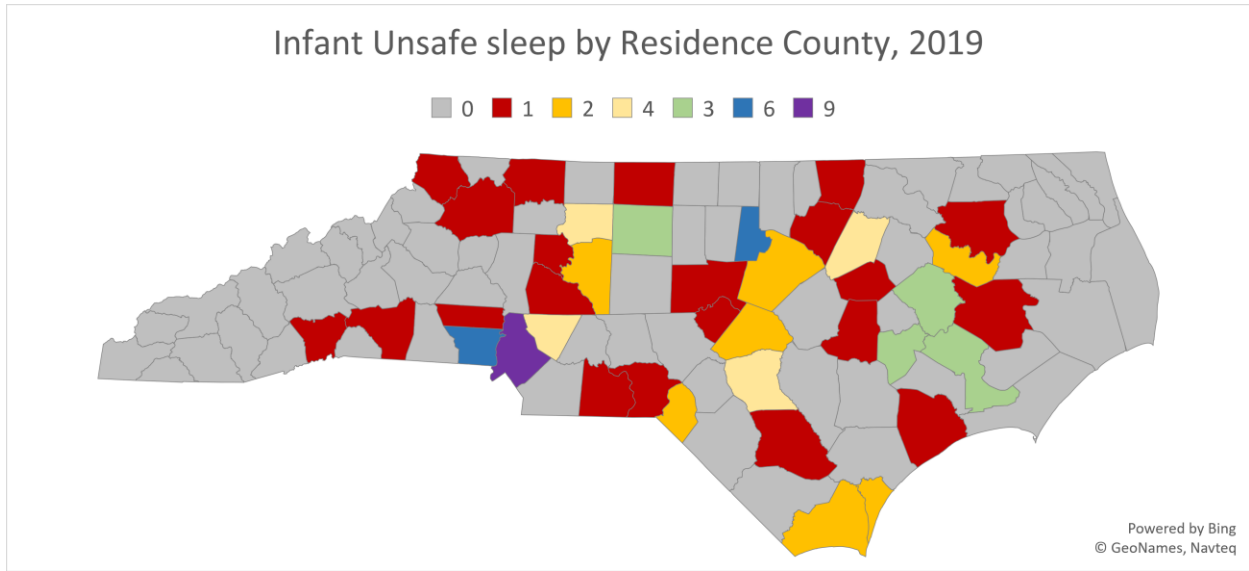
Below represents the total number of accident manner infant unsafe sleep fatalities with a breakout of co-sleeping from the total for each manner. Once again, due to pending cases, numbers are subject to change. This report will be updated as information becomes available.



SIDS deaths are not considered under unsafe sleep environments, however, for comparison, the graph below compares co-sleeping to other unsafe sleep environments over the years 2015-2017.



2020 Infant Unsafe Sleep Fatalities by Residence County



Number of Fatalities	Counties of Residence
1	Bladen, Anson, Ashe, Beaufort, Bertie, Chatham, Davie, Duplin, Franklin, Henderson, Lee, Lincoln, Onslow, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Surry, Warren, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson
2	Brunswick, Davidson, Harnett, Martin, New Hanover, Scotland, Wake
3	Craven, Guilford, Lenoir, Pitt
4	Cabarrus, Cumberland, Forsyth, Nash
6	Durham, Gaston
9	Mecklenburg

*Not listed: counties with no infant unsafe sleep fatalities and out of state residence