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This child's sibling died suddenly  
and without explanation.  
This category of death is often  
referred to as Sudden Unexplained  
Death in Childhood (SUDC).

When an otherwise healthy child dies and the medical community can offer no answers, parents will understandably be more anxious regarding their surviving and subsequent children. This may prompt more visits to their pediatricians or emergency rooms for what may otherwise appear to be a mild illness. It is important to approach these encounters with sensitivity for the families' unique needs.

Please refer to the SUDC Foundation's resource guide on caring for the SUDC family. Go to: [sudc.org](http://sudc.org) > Research & Medical Information > Medical Care After SUDC.

## SUDC FACTS

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- 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.
- It affects approximately 400 children aged 1-18 years in the U.S. annually.
- It is most common in toddlers; it is the 5th leading category of death in children ages 1 through 4.
- Current SUDC profile: Predominantly males born at term as singletons; some have association with febrile seizures; most deaths unwitnessed during apparent sleep period; most found prone; minor pathologic autopsy findings are common, but do not explain death.