

TOPIC: INCREASING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE RISKS OF BED-SHARING WITH INFANTS

SUBMITTED BY: Salisbury University Student Nurses' Association

- WHEREAS, nationwide, there is a crisis with infants being suffocated to death because they were sleeping on the same surface as an adult; and
- WHEREAS, the term bed-sharing is defined as “a sleeping arrangement in which the infant shares the same sleeping surface with another person;” and
- WHEREAS, accidental suffocation can and does occur in co-sleeping situations and infants are at greater risk; and
- WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) from January 1990 to December 1997, “at least 515 deaths were linked to infants and toddlers under the age of 2 years of age sleeping in adult beds;” and
- WHEREAS, one United Kingdom study showed that in more than half of sleep associated deaths, the infant had been co-sleeping with an adult; and
- WHEREAS, data have shown that bed-sharing is especially dangerous when one or both parents are smokers when the infant is younger than three months, regardless of parental smoking status, when placed on hard surfaces, when soft bedding accessories are used, when there are multiple bed-sharers, and when the parent has consumed alcohol; and
- WHEREAS, infant and parent bed-sharing happens quite frequently and the results of one national survey showed that “45% of parents responded that they had shared a bed with their infant (8 months of age or younger) at some point in the preceding 2 weeks;” and
- WHEREAS, another study that was conducted between 2005 and 2008 across nine states revealed that out of 939 infants who had suffocated to death while sleeping, 51.8% of these infants had been sleeping in an adult bed; and
- WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends the safest sleeping arrangement for infants is to sleep in their own crib that is in the same room as the parents, but not on the same surface; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to enhance education for students and practicing health professionals, as well as the general public, regarding the risks bed-sharing, as well as the safest options to bed-sharing for any parents who continue to desire to bed-share; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an article on this topic in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Nursing Organizations Alliance, the International Council of Nurses, the American Public Health Association, the American Board of Pediatrics, the Association of

Women's Health, Obstetrical, and Neonatal Nursing, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, the Neonatal Pediatric Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.