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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sandra Frank
1-800-930-7437

**ASSOCIATION OF SIDS AND INFANT MORTALITY PROGRAMS SUPPORTS
NEW AAP RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs (ASIP) is pleased to support the new American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines to reduce SIDS and Sleep Related Infant Death.

As one of the original partners in the Back to Sleep campaign, ASIP supports the expansion to other causes of sudden unexpected infant deaths. "Our understanding of the issue has broadened and our intervention strategies need to be revised accordingly," observed ASIP President Sandra Frank.

Despite the success of Back to Sleep, too many infant deaths still involve unsafe sleeping environments and locations. Sleep-related deaths from other causes, including suffocation, entrapment and asphyxia, have increased. ASIP encourages a family-centered approach that recognizes the unique qualities and needs of parents. "The terminology may be changing," said Frank, "but families must always come first. We need to re-energize our safe sleep education efforts, especially with families disproportionately affected by SIDS and sleep-related infant deaths."

An estimated 4,600 sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID) occur each year, half of which result from SIDS, which remains the most common cause of death in children younger than 1 year. "As a health care community, we need to do a better job translating what the research identifies as 'best practices' into the day-to-day practice of caring for infants in both the hospital and home environment." said Rachel Moon, MD, FAAP, chair of the AAP SIDS task force and lead author of the new guidelines.

The AAP recommendations expand the guidelines with additional information for parents on creating a safe environment for their babies to sleep. Three important additions to the AAP recommendations include:

- Breastfeeding is recommended and is associated with a reduced risk of SIDS.
- Infants should be immunized. Evidence suggests that immunization reduces the risk of SIDS by 50 percent.
- Bumper pads should not be used in cribs. There is no evidence that bumper pads prevent injuries, and there is a potential risk of suffocation, strangulation or entrapment.

The policy statement is available here:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2011-2284>

The technical report is available here:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2011-2285>

The Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs is a professional membership association dedicated exclusively to serving SUID and SIDS professionals. Since its inception in 1987, ASIP has provided leadership and support for state and local infant mortality programs, the professionals who staff them, and the families they serve. Programs include the SUID/SIDS Webinar Series and Project IMPACT listserv funded by HRSA/MCHB.

For more information, contact Sandra Frank @ 1-800-930-7437.