

Infant Sleep Death Data

Data summary

Between 2013 and 2023, there were 10 documented sleep-related infant deaths where a **nursing pillow** was present in the sleep environment.

In 2024 alone, 4 additional deaths occurred under similar circumstances, representing 40% of the previous decade's total in a single year.

While overall infant deaths in Hamilton County have declined since 2013, **sleep-related deaths have remained steady, continuing to raise significant concern in our community.**

2024 sleep-related infant deaths

In 2024, **sleep-related causes accounted for approximately 22% of all infant deaths.**

Adult bed (sleep surface)	80%
Bedsharing	53%
Nursing pillow present	27%

**Percentages may not total 100% because co-factors can overlap*

Of all sleep-related infant deaths reported in 2024:

- **12** involved an infant sleeping on an **adult bed** instead of in a crib or bassinet;
- **8** occurred while an infant and adult **shared a bed or other sleeping surface**, such as a sofa;
- **4** involved a **nursing pillow** (a U-shaped cushion commonly used to support infant feeding) present in the sleep area.

2024 sleep-related infant deaths by age

1-2 months	40%
3-4 months	47%
5-6 months	13%

Sleep-related infant deaths in Hamilton County (2013–2024)

