

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATHS IN INFANCY

THE CESDI SUDI STUDIES 1993–1996

The studies of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI), conducted as part of the Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy (CESDI) in England and Wales, constitute the most comprehensive investigation of such deaths carried out to date.

Parallel studies incorporating a multi-disciplinary confidential enquiry, a case-control study and a review of the pathology were conducted for 450 unexpected deaths of infants aged between one and 52 weeks occurring over three years in a defined geographical area. In total 470,000 births were included in the study.

The results of these studies add significantly to our understanding of the factors that contribute to both explained and unexplained infant deaths, and what we can do to prevent them. The report also deals with the needs of bereaved families and makes recommendations about how unexpected infant deaths should be investigated.

The information in this report will be of interest and importance to all those who advise families with young infants, and to those who may have to deal with unexpected deaths.



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