

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness in Relation to the Perceptions of African American Women

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Site Placement: Central Mississippi Health Services,
Jackson, MS



Introduction/Background

- Unexpected death of an infant under the age of one years old
- #1 cause of death in infants from the age of one month to one years of age
- No known cause
- African Americans infants are 2x as likely to die than their counterparts
- MS still above the national average in SIDS cases



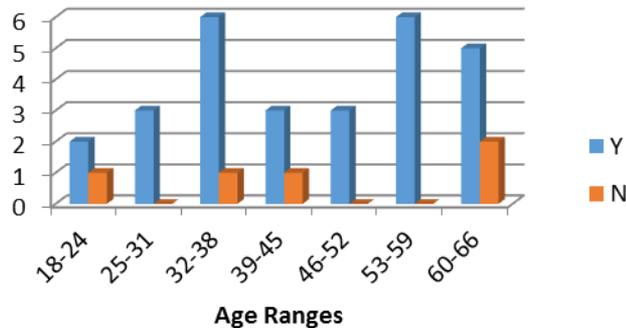
Methodology

- **Hypothesis**- We posit that due to the disparity among African American babies that mother's awareness, perceptions, and practices may have room for improvement.
- **Objectives:**
 1. Evaluate each patient's current knowledge as it is related to SIDS and how it affects decisions correlated to SIDS
 2. Provide patient's with information on: what SIDS is, what causes SIDS, and recommendations to help reduce the risk of SIDS.
 3. Discuss with patients the importance of following the recommendations to reduce SIDS.
 4. Evaluate if the clinics provided any educational assistance to patients on SIDS.
- **Pre-Test** (12 Questions)
 - Perception Categories
 - a. Previous learning
 - b. Previous experience
 - c. Attitudes and interest
 - d. Needs and feelings
- **Presentation on SIDS**
- **Discussion**
- **Post-test** (5 Questions)

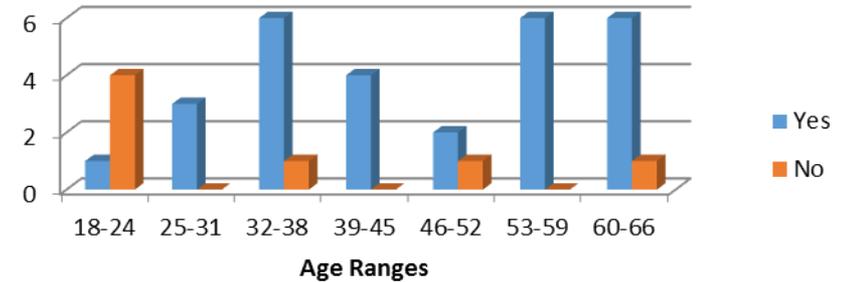


Results

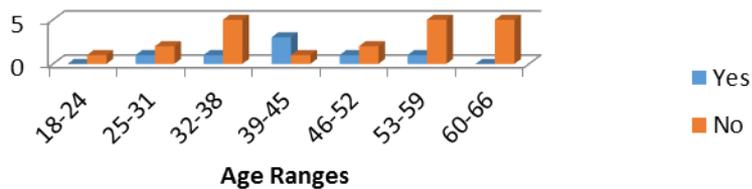
Do you know what constitutes a safe sleeping environment?



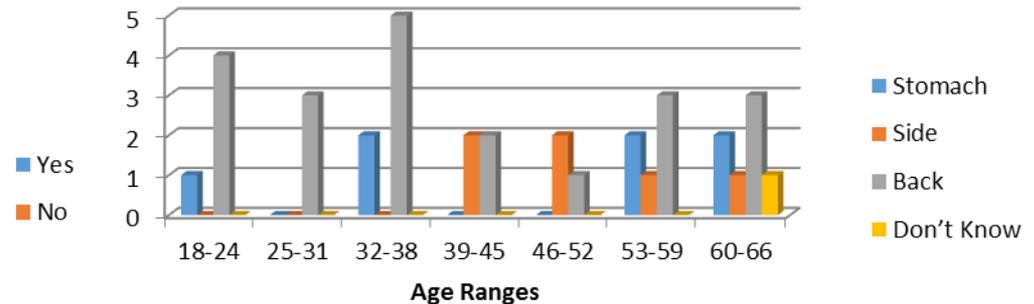
Have you ever heard of SIDS?



Have you had/Did you have any discussions on SIDS with any of your physicians at CMHS or any...

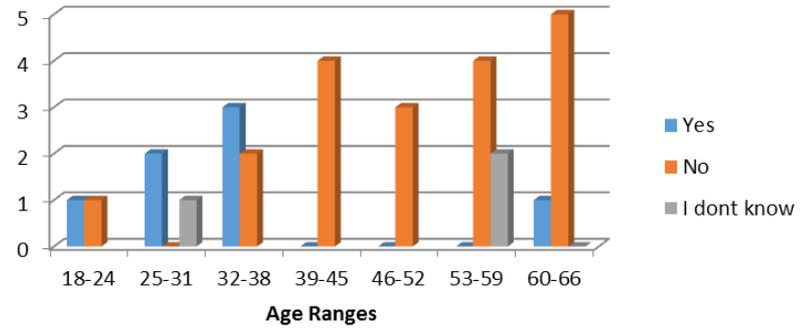


While sleeping, should a child be placed on his/ her side, stomach, or back?

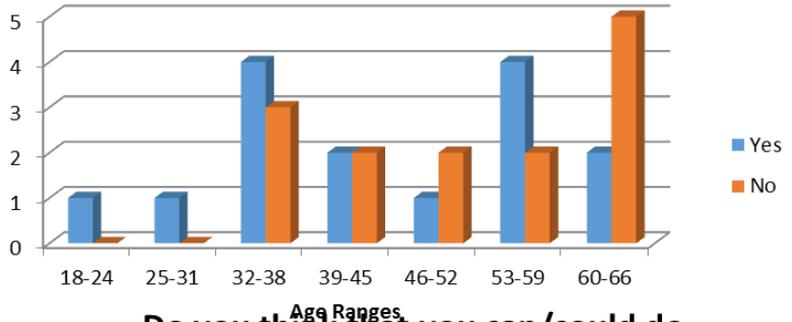


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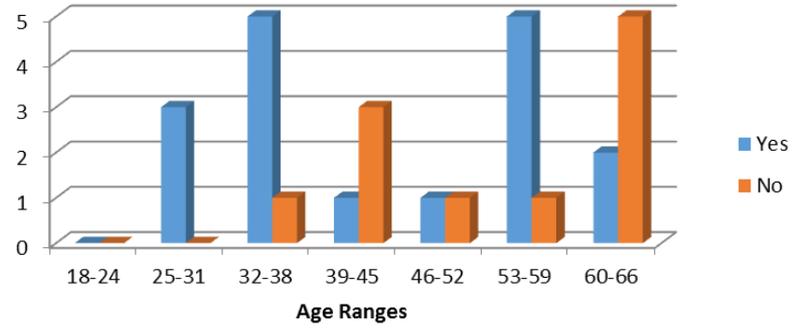
Do you think that African American are at greater risk than any other race?



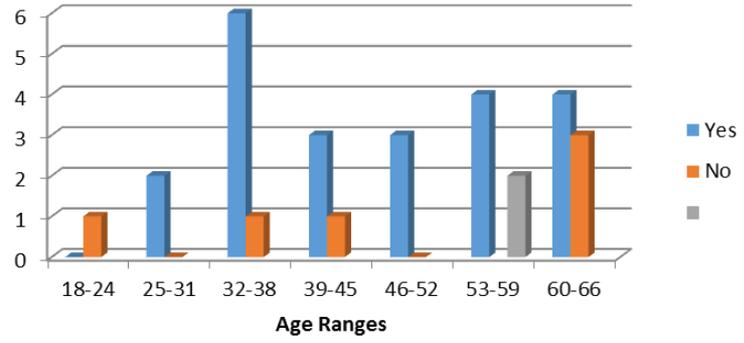
Are you/Were you concerned that SIDS can/could happen to your child?



Do you think that you can/could do anything to prevent SIDS from happening?

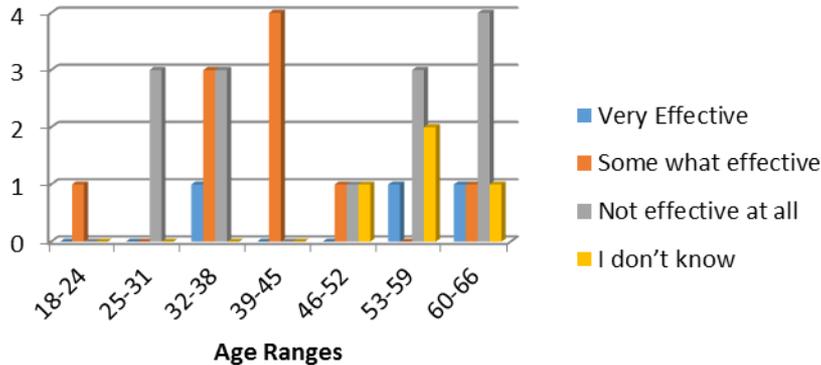


Do/Did you co-sleep with your child?

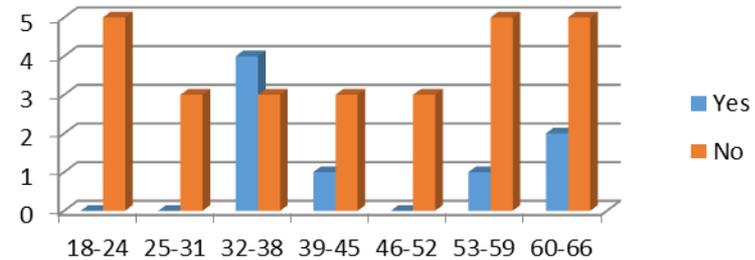


Results

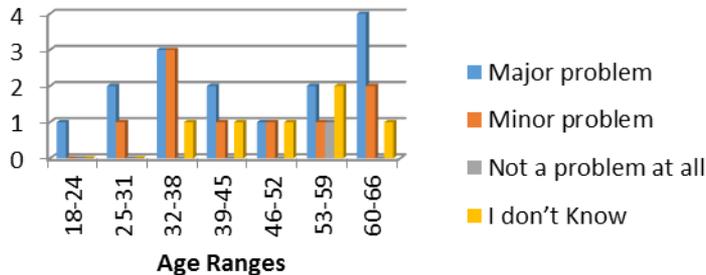
In general, how effective would you say SIDS prevention messages and educational campaigns are in educating African American community?



Have you heard or seen any SIDS prevention messages in your community?



In general, would you say that SIDS is...?



- What do you think causes SIDS?

-I don't know.

-It is when the babies stop breathing.

-It happens to babies when their mother is on drugs.

Discussion

- The results show that that mother's awareness, perceptions, and practices may have room for improvement.
- -Limited population size
- -the age range of 18-24, the answers to the surveys were vague → had not heard of SIDS before/only one patient had a child
- -SIDS vs Crib Death → distorted the older patients' answers
- -Discussion with physicians concerning SIDS → many could not recall, but answered No.
- -Are African American at greater risk? → most responded No with the reasoning of White babies are the only babies that you hear about dying of SIDS.
- -Many did know that an infant should be placed on his/her back, but refuse to follow that recommendation → their parents/grandparents did not follow it and “everyone turned out just fine.”

Recommendations

- CMHS can make sure that the providers are discussing SIDS with the pregnant patients and the patients that just had a child during their prenatal visits.
- -One talk can be at seven months and the other can be once they come back to see the physician after they have had the baby.
- CMHS can have literature and posters at their South clinic since that is where the Women's Wellness visits are held.
- If a future scholar was to repeat this study, I would suggest that they try to target women who are between the ages of 16-35 and women who are pregnant or who have just had a baby.



Conclusion

- Patient's knowledge regarding Sudden Infant Death Syndrome was limited and their perceptions played a huge part in their willingness to follow the recommendations to decrease an infant's risk of dying from SIDS.
- It was shown that mother's awareness, perceptions, and practices may have room for improvement.
- next step would be for the physicians to take an active role in discussing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome with patients, so that the number of SIDS cases can be reduced in Mississippi.
- **Acknowledgements:**
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References

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