

## International comparison of SIDS rates

Dr Fern R. Hauck and Kawai O. Tanabe of the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia examined SIDS data from 13 countries, including Australia, in a recently published paper<sup>1</sup>. For most of the countries, there has been a striking decrease in the SIDS rate from 1990 to the most recent year available (2005 for all but Canada, for which 2004 data are the most recent). These decreases range from 40% in Argentina to 83% in Ireland. Australia's decrease was 82%.

In 1990 the SIDS rate in Australia was 1.81 in 1000 live births, less than the highest SIDS rates in that year which were in Ireland, New Zealand, and Scotland (2.0 in 1000 live births).

More recently, in 2005, Australia's SIDS rate was 0.3 in 1000 when the highest SIDS rates (0.5 in 1000 live births) were in New Zealand and the United States. The lowest rates (0.2 in 1000) were in Japan and the Netherlands.

Since 2000, the SIDS rates in most of the countries have declined minimally.

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<sup>1</sup> Hauck FR, Tanabe KO. [International trends in sudden infant death syndrome: stabilization of rates requires further action](#). Pediatrics. 2008 Sep;122(3):660-6