



## CRIBS TO HELP INFANT SAFETY

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and Baby Buggy have partnered to promote the need for safe sleeping environments to prevent infant deaths.

Baby Buggy has donated 100 portable cribs which OCFS will distribute to local social services districts throughout the state during April. According to OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, “We are grateful to Baby Buggy for making this significant contribution to combating infant sleep deaths. The need for infants to sleep alone in a safe crib cannot be understated.”

“Baby Buggy aims to provide parents living in poverty with the tools they need to keep their children safe and protected. A safe crib is one of the most critical items to ensuring an infant’s safety, yet it is also one of the most expensive” said Katherine Snider, Executive Director of Baby Buggy. “We originally launched our Safe Sleep Program in New York City in 2005 with the help of our Advisory Committee Member Eric Brettschneider. We are proud support the great effort of OCFS, Commissioner Carrión and Eric Brettschneider, OCFS Chief of Staff, to expand this initiative to parents in need across New York State.”

Infants less than one year old remain the most at-risk population, representing more than half of all OCFS-reviewed fatalities. Of the 293 infants in OCFS-reviewed fatalities in 2008 and 2009, 173 of those infants died while the child was sleeping or in a sleeping environment, and over half of those children were in an adult bed that may or may not have been bed-sharing. This data drives home the need for parents to provide a safe sleep environment to prevent infant death.

Founded in 2001 by Jessica Seinfeld, Baby Buggy is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing families in need across the U.S. with essentials for their children aged 0-12. The organization’s motto is “Love. Recycled.”

Baby Buggy works with a network of over 50 community-based organizations (CBOs) to distribute new and gently used essentials: from cribs and strollers to clothing and bottles, all of which are vetted for safety. Since 2001, Baby Buggy has donated nearly 5.5 million items, serving on average 1,480 children each month.

OCFS reminds parents of helpful hints for safe sleep including:

- Always place your baby on his or her back to sleep, even for naps.
- Keep objects away from your baby's mouth and nose.
- Provide a firm sleep surface or a child-safe crib that is free of soft objects or loose bedding that could entrap or smother the baby. Remove soft, fluffy and loose bedding and stuffed toys from your baby's sleep area.
- Don't let your baby get too warm during sleep.
- Be careful about sleeping with infants, especially on small surfaces, to prevent an infant becoming entrapped in bedding or smothered.
- Consider the risks of sleeping with you baby if you've been using alcohol or drugs or are overtired.
- As an alternative to bed sharing, parents should consider placing the infant's crib near their bed.

For more information on Baby Buggy, please go to their website at [www.babybuggy.org](http://www.babybuggy.org). To learn more about safe sleep practices visit [www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us).