Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation during Infant Sleep

Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed, or ASSB, occurs when something limits a baby’s breathing like when soft bedding or blankets are against their face or when a baby gets trapped between two objects, such as a mattress and wall. Among babies, accidental suffocation is responsible for three quarters of all unintentional injury deaths.

More than 85% of all deaths from Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed occur in the first 6 months of life.

Most of these deaths occur in the first 3 months of life.

Deaths from ASSB are less common in babies older than 6 months.

Follow safe sleep recommendations until baby’s first birthday to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death.

To reduce the risk of Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed:

- Always place baby on his or her back to sleep for all sleep times, including naps.
- Room share—keep baby’s sleep area in the same room next to where you sleep.
  - Baby needs his or her own sleep area and should not sleep on a couch, chair, or adult bed.
- Use a firm sleep surface that is free from soft objects, toys, blankets, and crib bumpers.

Learn more
http://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR 2012; 61(15):270-276.