Revealed: Nearly three babies are accidentally dying every WEEK while sleeping in their parents' bed with 141 fatalities in the past year alone

Department of Health warns babies should sleep in a cot for first six months
Co-sleeping increases risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome by factor of 50
The chance of sudden death while sharing is also increased by tiredness

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PUBLISHED: 01:57, 29 January 2018 | UPDATED: 14:04, 29 January 2018

A total of 665 babies have died since 2013 because they were left to sleep in the same bed as their parents, with 141 dying in the past 12 months.

'Co-sleeping' has been revealed to kill 133 every year - almost three every week - in cases of suffocation, over-heating or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The Lullaby Trust warns that sharing a bed with infants increases the risk of all three, with the charity's Francine Bates urging new mothers and fathers to be mindful of the threat.

'Some parents choose to share a bed with their baby but we recommend they keep in mind the risk factors,' she told the Mirror Online.

'The chance of sudden death goes up when bed-sharing if a parent smokes, has drunk alcohol or taken drugs or is very tired.'

Babies are at greater risk of dying during co-sleeping if they were either premature or had a low birth weight.
Co-sleeping has been found to have killed a total of 665 babies since 2013, with 141 dying in England in the past year (stock image)

Mrs Bates also warned against falling asleep with a baby while sat on a sofa or armchair as it can increase the risk of SIDS by 50.

There were 131 co-sleeping deaths in 2016, a rise on 2015’s 121. In 2014 the figure was 141 and it was 131 the previous year.

The Department of Education revealed the figures to the news site after a freedom of information request was submitted.

The figures are collated by Child Death Overview Panel officials who work for local authorities to investigate the deaths of every child in England.

Last month a coroner commented on the dangers of co-sleeping after 10-week-old Teneil Howell was smothered between 30-year-old Amy Leigh Howell and her partner.

Amy Leigh Howell, from Bolton, Greater Manchester, was reportedly ‘smashed’ after drinking vodka and had been warned of the dangers of co-sleeping by a health visitor.
The Lullaby Trust says the safest place for babies to sleep in their first six months is in their own cot or Moses Basket located in their parents' room.

It is recommended by the Department of Health that babies sleep in a cot for their first six months.

Mrs Bates says the safest way for babies that age to sleep is in their own cot or Moses basket in their parents' bedroom.

'If you are breastfeeding in bed, do it in a position where you won't fall asleep,' she said. 'A good tip is to set an alarm on your phone.'