



SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME

Shaking a baby can kill or cripple the child for life.

- Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is a serious brain injury caused when an angry adult shakes a baby or young child who has been crying or misbehaving.
- Parents and their partners are responsible for 75% of SBS cases.
- When a baby is shaken, veins in his brain can break and bleed, causing death or serious injury. It doesn't take much force to seriously injure a baby's brain. Damaged brain cells never fully heal.
- Up to 30% of babies suffering from "Shaken Baby Syndrome" die. Between 60–75 percent have permanent brain damage, including cerebral palsy, paralysis, seizures, blindness, deafness, and learning and behavior problems.
- SBS is totally preventable. Parent education classes patterned after a successful program in New York State have been documented to cut SBS cases by 50%.
- California hospitals see about 150 documented cases of SBS annually — but for every documented case of SBS, it's estimated that another 150 cases are unreported, pushing the annual total in California to 22,500.
- For SBS survivors, the cost of care can be as high as \$3 million for the first five years of the child's life.
- From 1998 to 2002, 738 children were hospitalized in California for suspected SBS, with MediCal paying hospital costs for over half.
- The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene estimates SBS-related health care in the U.S. costs up to \$16 billion annually.

SBS Prevention Education Saves Lives and Tax Money

