Child Fatality Review
2023

Clermont County Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Acknowledgements

This report is presented in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) meaning that individual health data cannot not be publicly shared. Therefore, this report includes data that has been aggregated from multiple years.

We acknowledge that each data point represents and individual life that was lost. Efforts to aggregate data have been done to respect the privacy of the individual and the community that mourns the loss. The information presented is to be used for the purposes of supporting evidence-based prevention and promoting greater health equity in the community.

CFR Overview

Child deaths are often regarded as an indicator of the health of a community. While mortality data provide us with an overall picture of child deaths (by number and cause), it is from a careful study of each child's death that we can learn how best to respond to a death and how best to prevent another (Ohio Department of Health.) The mission of the Clermont County Child Fatality Review (CFR) Board is to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths in Clermont County through a respectful review of the leading factors that contributed to the child deaths. The information collected helps to identify contributing factors, populations at risk, and areas of health inequities. It is our hope that this review will lead to a reduction of the untimely and preventable deaths of Clermont County children.

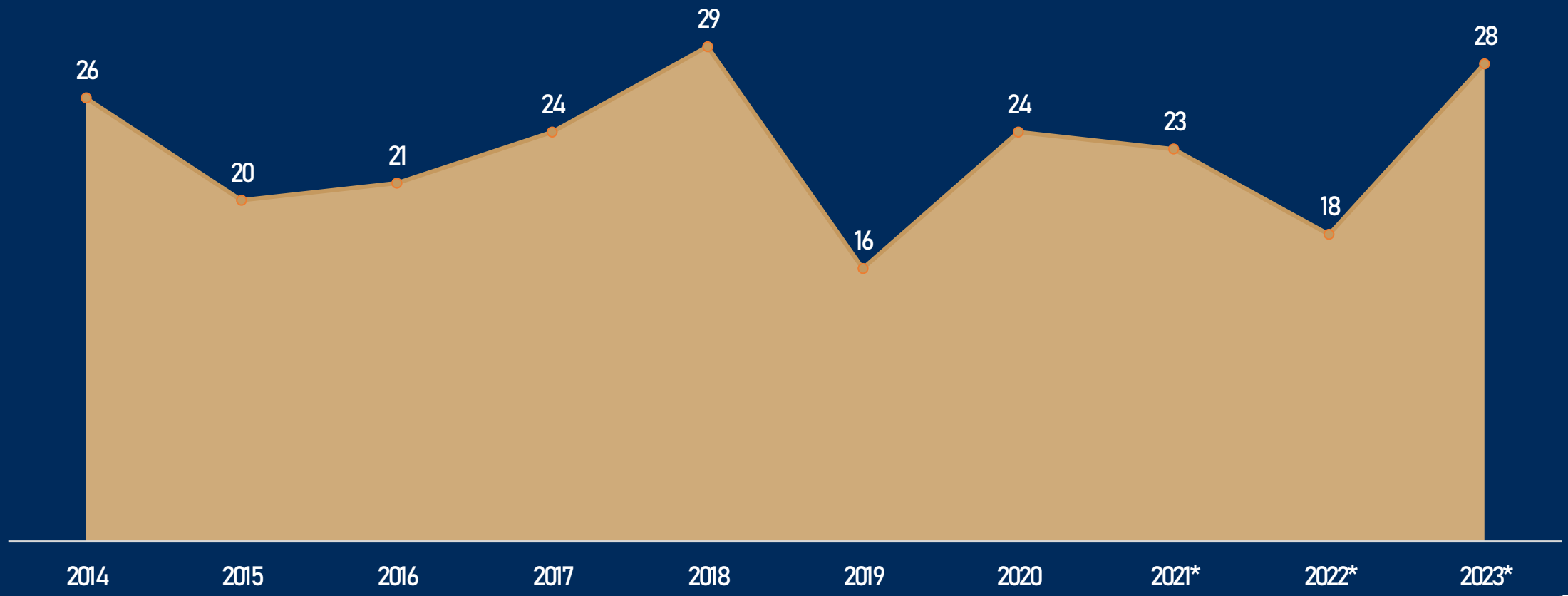
As of 2024, the Clermont County CFR Board continues to support initiatives to promote and protect the health and wellness for maternal, infant, and child health. These include the support of mental health services because of teen suicide deaths, continued education on co-bedding/safe sleeping with young children, breastfeeding education program, distribution of car seats and distribution of bike helmets. The car seat distribution program (Ohio Buckles Buckeyes) provides safe sleep education, as well. Clermont County formed a Suicide Prevention Coalition and began reviewing suicide fatalities in 2023.

CFR Committee

Child Fatality Review (CFR) in Ohio operates according to a set of rules outlined in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and laws outlined in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). The OAC provides a compilation of administrative rules adopted by state agencies. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the CFR team use the administrative rules published in Chapter 3701-67, Child Fatality Review Board to advise both state and local CFR processes.

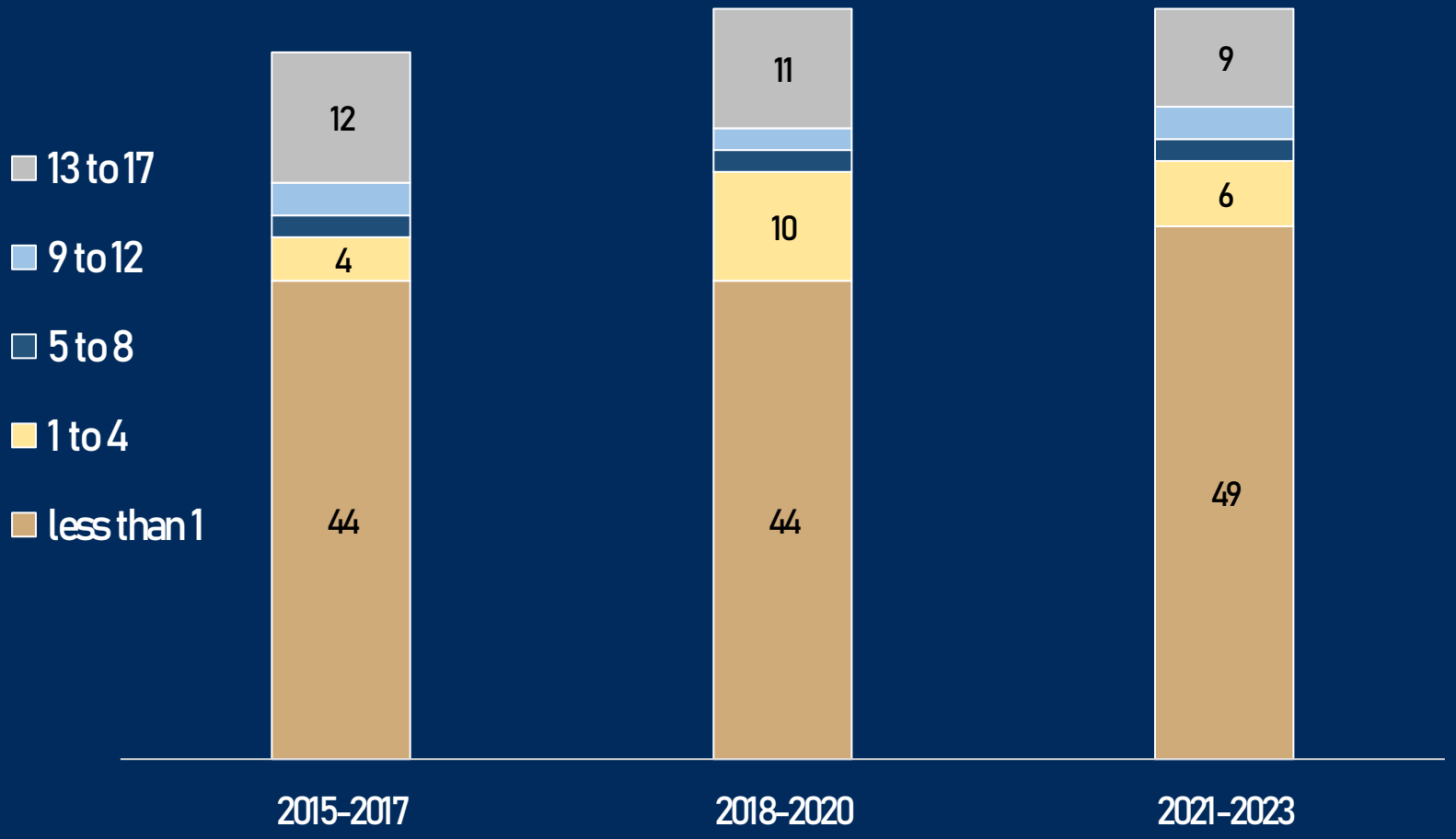
In July 2000, the Ohio General Assembly passed Substitute House Bill Number 488, mandating CFR boards in each of Ohio's counties (or regions) to review the deaths of children under 18 years of age. The ultimate purpose of CFR is to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths. To do so, the law clearly outlines expectations for successful CFR processes.

In 2023, there was an **increase** in fatalities among infants and children in Clermont County.



*Data are provisional and subject to change.

In 2021-2023 there was an **increase** from previous years in the number of deaths among infants **aged less than 1.**

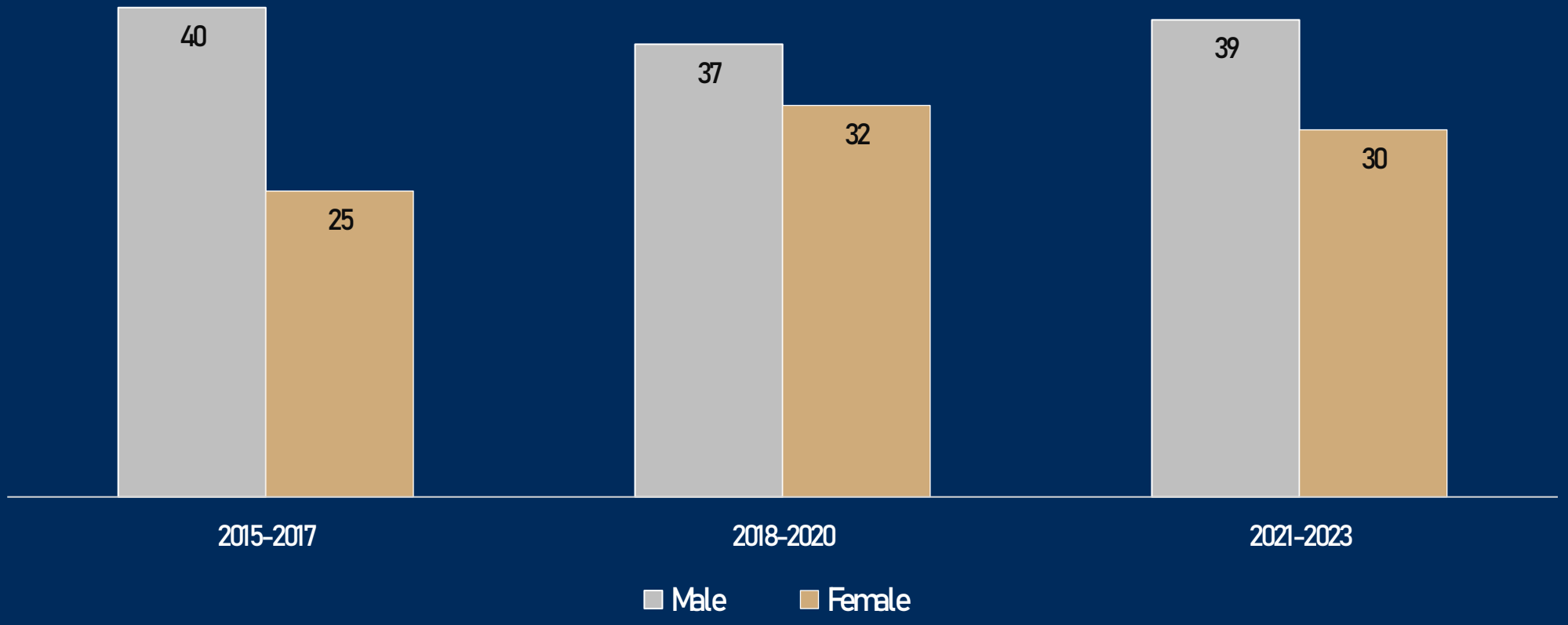


Public health agencies work with health care providers, communities, and other partners to reduce infant mortality. This joint approach can help address social, behavioral, and health risk factors that contribute to infant mortality.

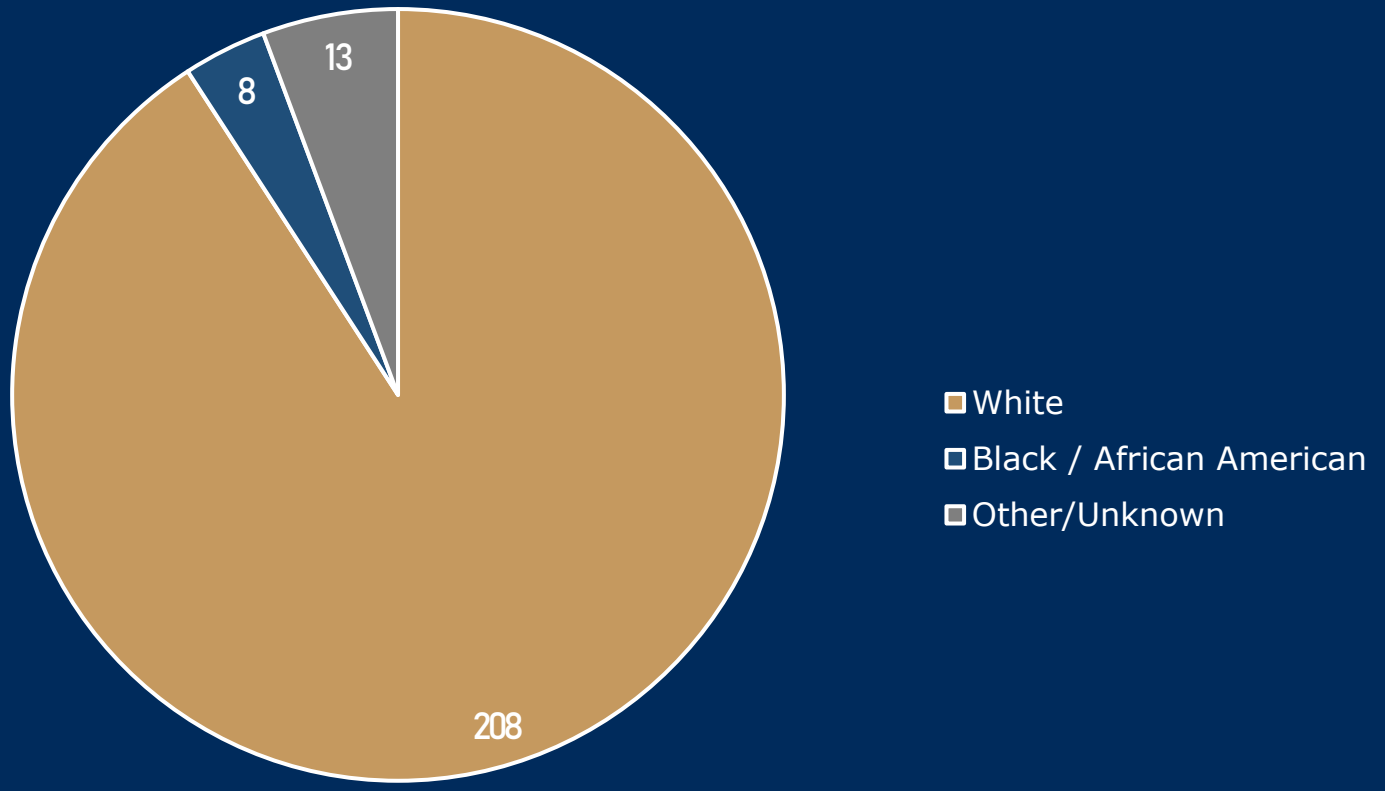
Activities include improvements in perinatal care, building capacity to improve maternal and child health, improving our understanding of sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID), using data to reduce infant mortality, and applying data to improve health systems.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-infant-health/infant mortality/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm

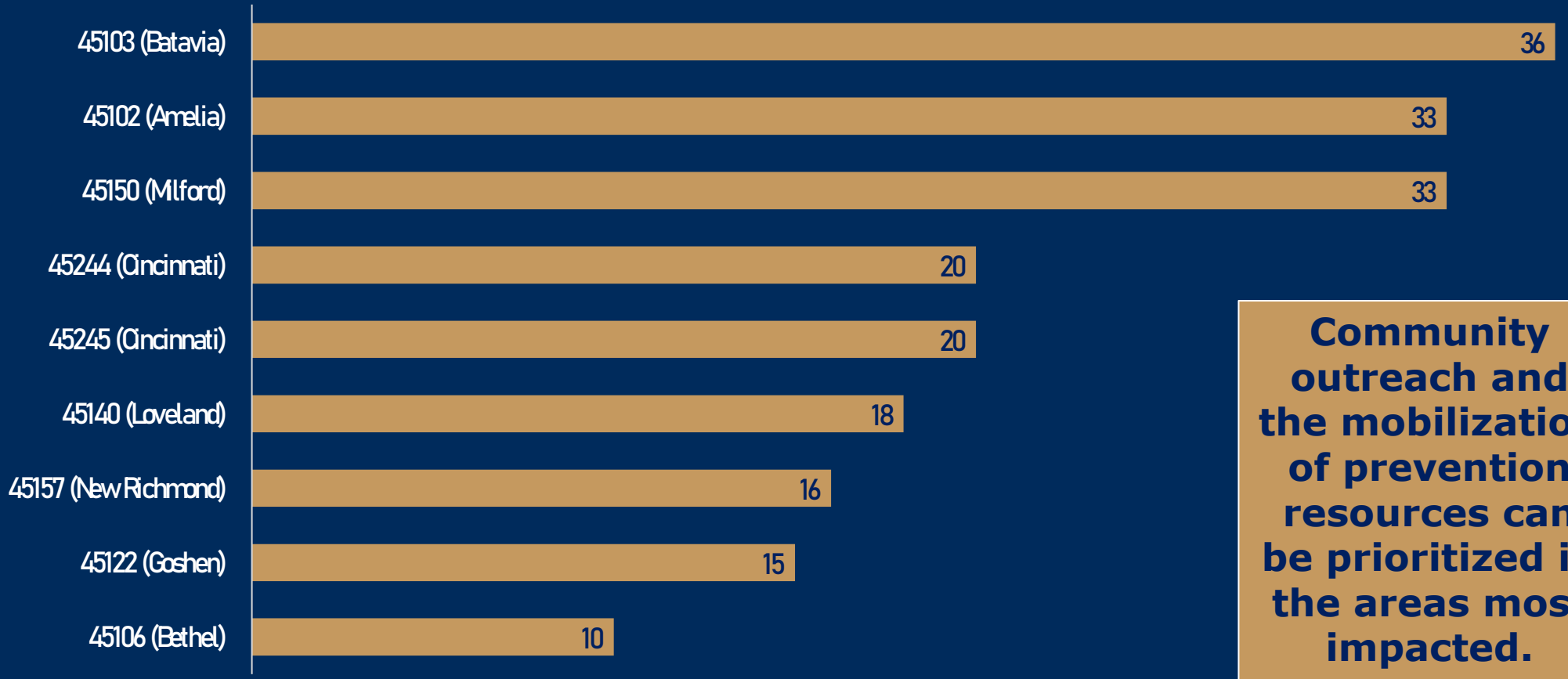
The number of deaths has remained higher among **males** than females.



Over **90%** of all decedents from 2014-2023 were **white**.



The highest number of decedents were residents of the **45103 (Batavia)** ZIP Code.



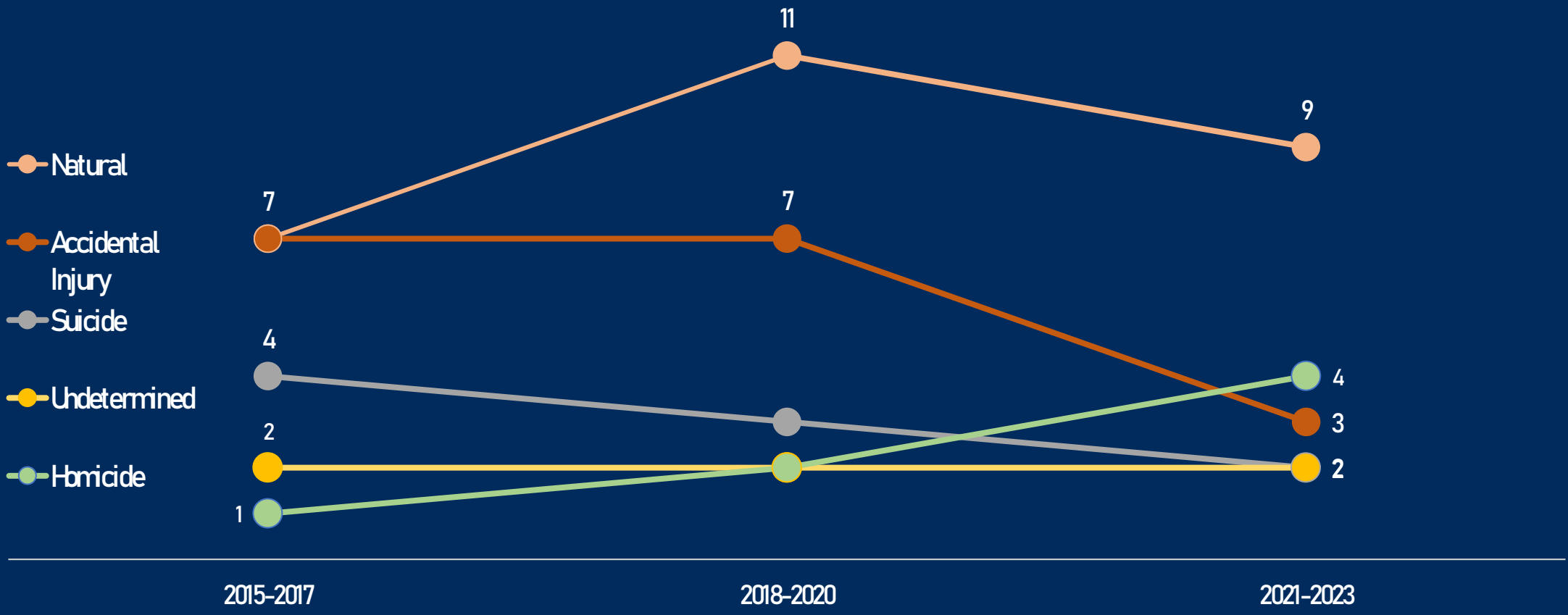
Community outreach and the mobilization of prevention resources can be prioritized in the areas most impacted.

Cause of Death

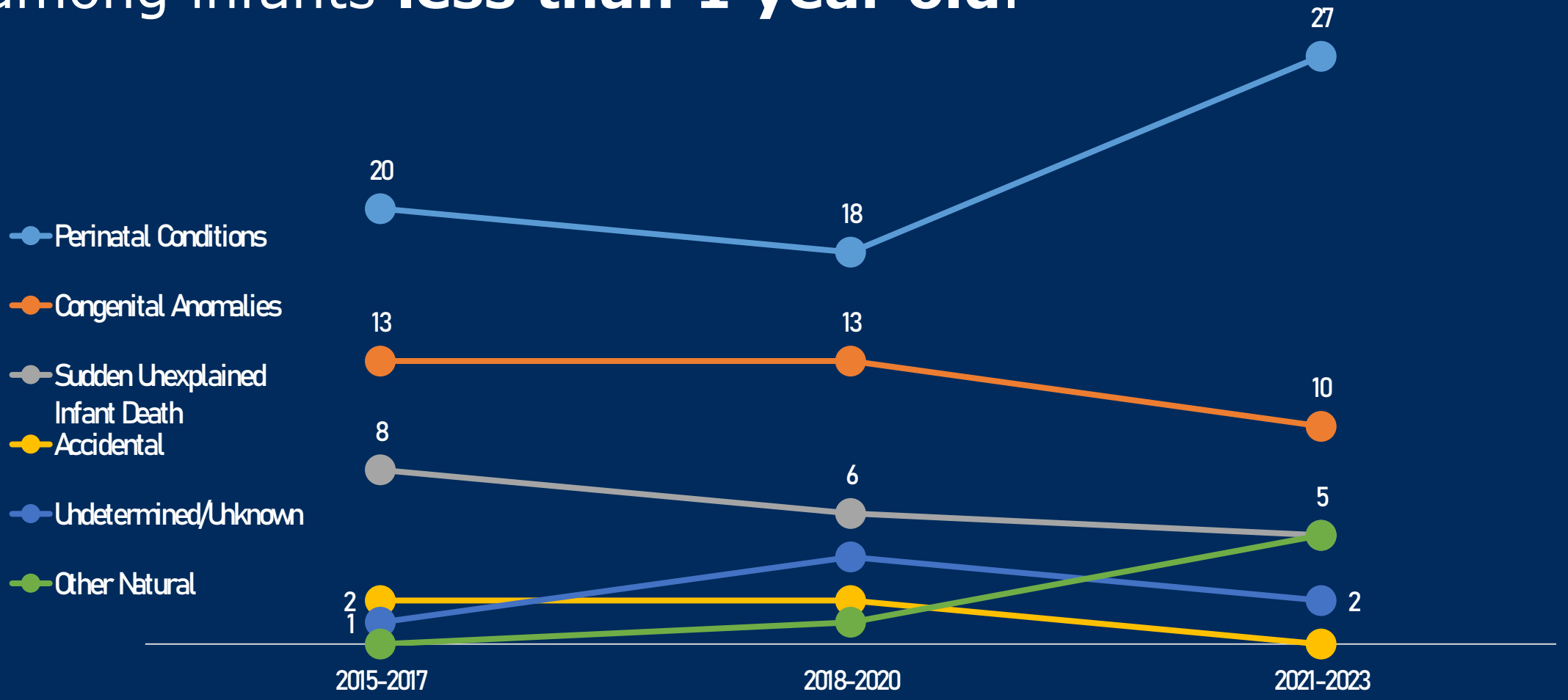
Definitions:

- Natural: Deaths caused by the natural disease process including prematurity, and not an accident or violence.
- Accidental Injury: Deaths caused by unintentional rather than by natural causes, suicide, or murder.
- Suicide: Deaths caused by self-inflicted behavior with the intent to die as a result.
- Homicide: The deliberate and unlawful killing of a person by another person.
- Undetermined: Following a thorough medical and legal investigation, a conclusive manner of death is not determined.
- Unknown/Pending: Additional investigation or information is required (these are generally amended as additional information becomes available) or manner is unknown.

In 2021-2023, there was a **decrease** from previous years in deaths caused by **accidental injury** among children **older than 1 year**.

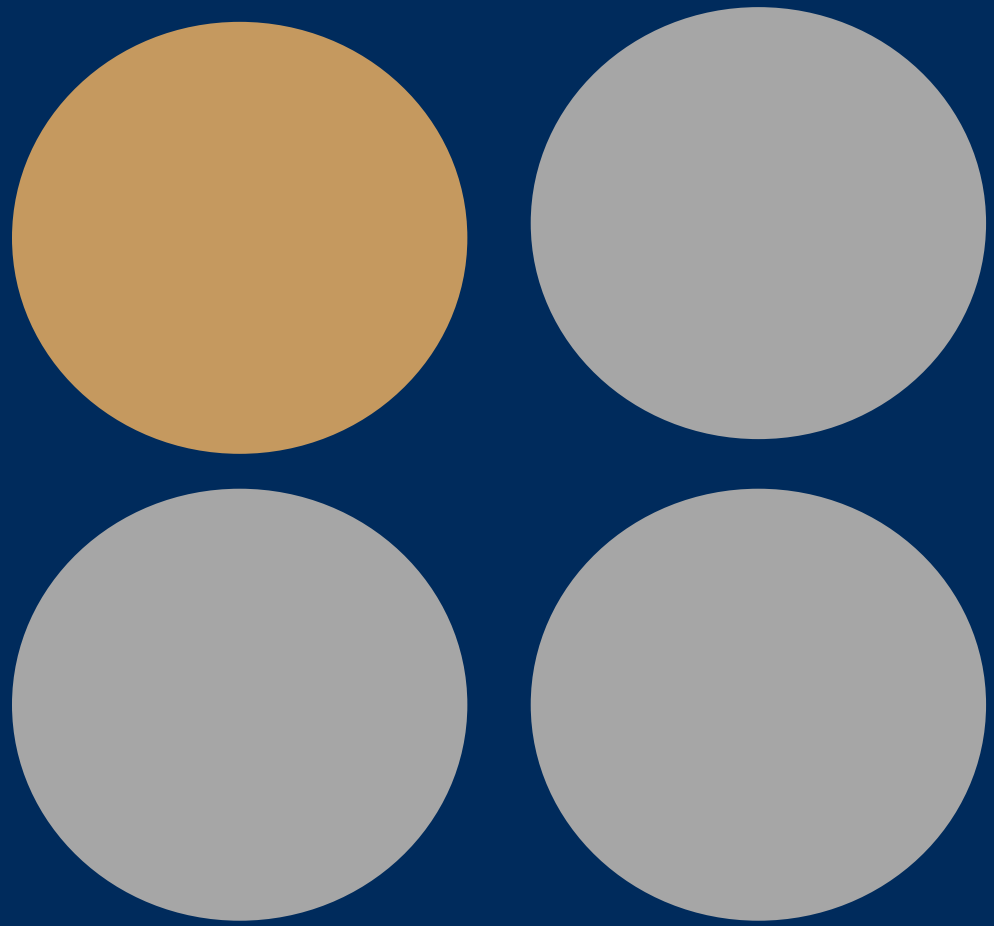


In 2021-2023, there was an **increase** from previous years in deaths caused by **perinatal conditions** among infants **less than 1 year old**.



Key Findings in 2023

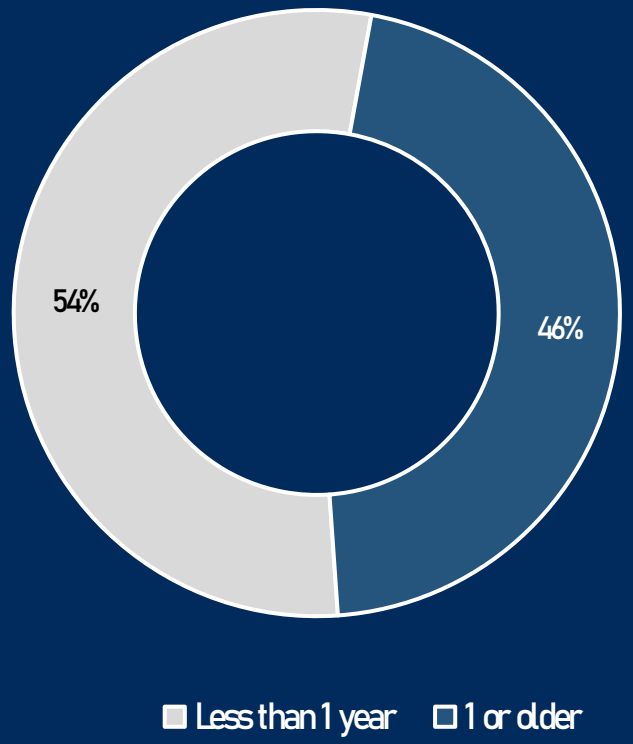
In 2023, about **1 in 4** deaths were deemed **preventable**.



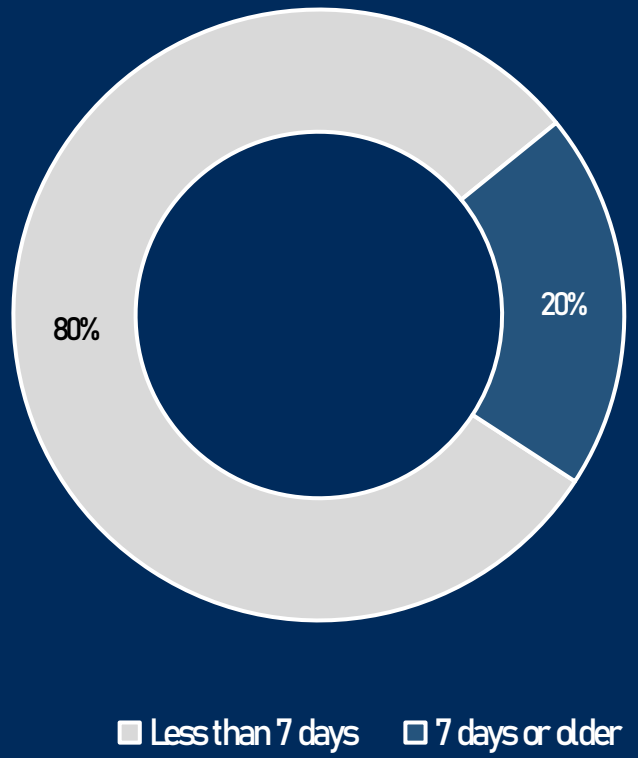
Preventable deaths include those caused by accidental injury (e.g., motor vehicle crash, firearm-related injury, drug overdose or poisoning, fire or burns, drowning), suicide, and homicide.

*Counts include cases that have been reviewed by the CFR Board. Cases pending review have not been included.

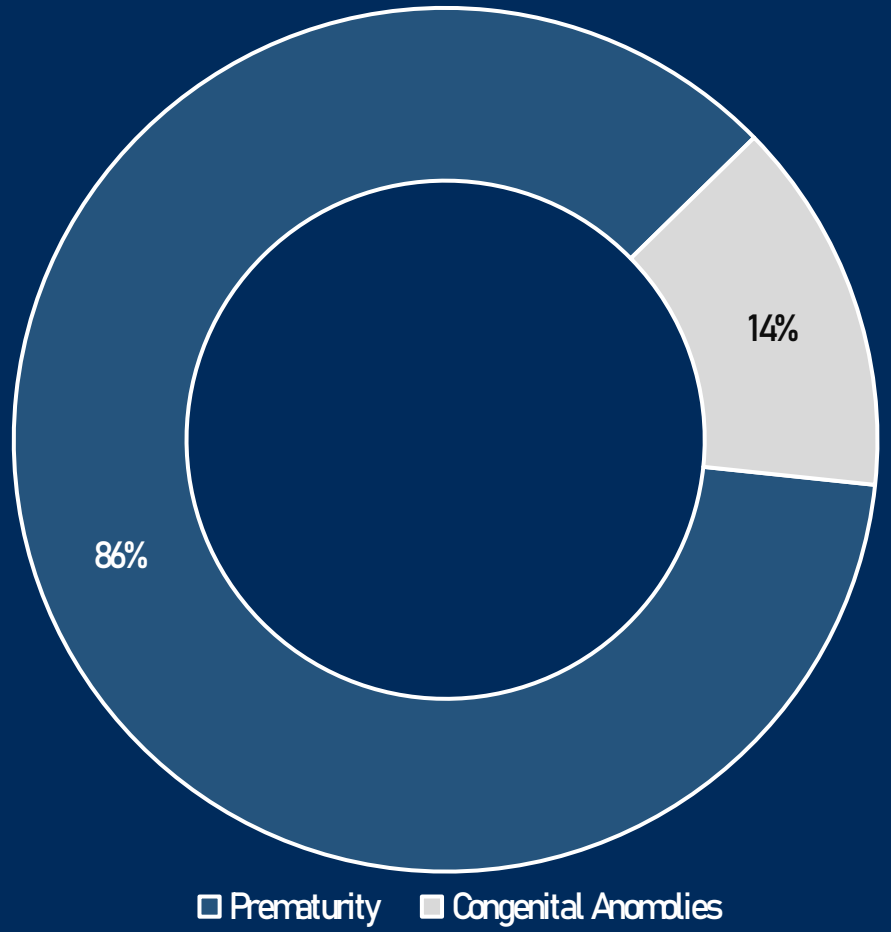
Most **(54%)** child deaths in Clermont County were of infants (less than 1 year.)



Of the infant deaths, **80%** were **less than seven days** of age.



Prematurity accounted for **86%** of infant deaths.



The CDC recommends five groups of strategies to reduce the occurrence of preterm births:

- **Birthing persons of childbearing age need access to preconception care services including screening, health promotion, and interventions that will enable them to achieve high levels of wellness, minimize risks, and enter a pregnancy in optimal health.**
- **Those at risk for preterm delivery need to be identified and offered access to effective treatments to prevent preterm birth.**
- **Discourage elective deliveries before 39 weeks.**
- **Prevent unintended pregnancies and achieve optimal birth spacing.**
- **Reduce multiple gestations which have a higher preterm birth risk.**

*Counts include cases that have been reviewed by the CFR Board. Cases pending review have not been included.
Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6532a4.htm

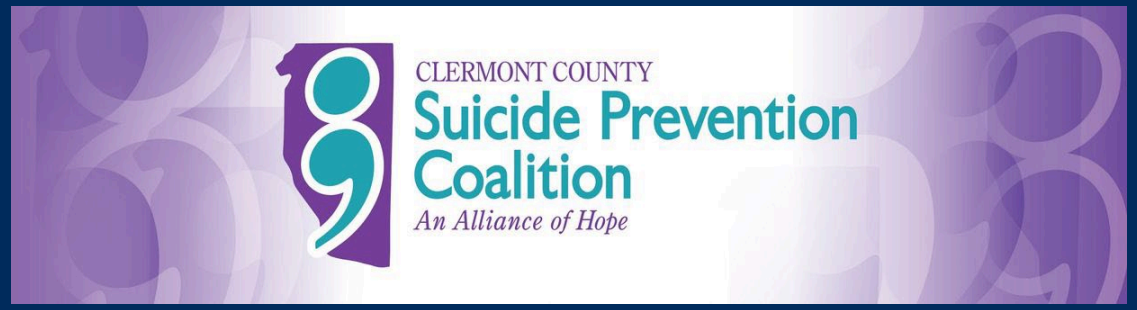
Turning Knowledge Into Action

- The Child Fatality Review (CFR) Board continues to support interventions for youth suicide, mental health, safe sleep, and safe driving. These areas have been identified in the past as areas of concern. Action to address these areas was instituted by partner organizations on the CFR Board and these efforts continue today.

Turning Knowledge Into Action

- To address the concern about mental health and youth suicide in the county, the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board established the Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition is a volunteer community-based group that works to promote suicide prevention activities throughout the county and bring about change in attitudes and perceptions surrounding suicide and its connection with mental health concerns. Clermont and Brown County Crisis Hotline: (513) 528-SAVE (7283).

- Parallel to this effort is an ongoing collaborative effort by Clermont County Family & Children First and the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board to address bullying in schools. This includes the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and other evidence-based strategies.



Turning Knowledge Into Action

- Clermont County Public Health continues to promote safe sleeping to parents and caretakers of infants. Safe sleep education efforts continue through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, Children with Medical Handicaps program, Ohio Buckles Buckeyes, through local partnerships, and through other Health District programs.

- To promote safe traveling practices, distribution of car seats though Ohio Buckles Buckeyes and bike helmets at community events continue through program and grant opportunities.

QUESTIONS

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Clermont County Public Health
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