



2021 Annual Report from Buncombe County CCPT/CFPT

Presented by

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Child Fatality Prevention Team

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Purpose of NC Child Fatality Prevention System

- Develop a community-wide approach to child abuse & neglect
- Understand causes of childhood deaths
- Identify gaps/deficiencies in service delivery
- Make & implement recommendations for laws/rules/policies to prevent future child abuse, neglect & death



Community Child Protection Team

Review selected active cases of children being served by Child Protective Services (CPS)

Review cases in which a child died as a result of suspected abuse/neglect, **AND:**
a report of abuse/neglect was made about the child or family within the prior 12 months, **OR**
the child or family was a recipient of CPS within the prior 12 months.



Child Fatality Prevention Team

Review records of all cases of additional child fatalities.

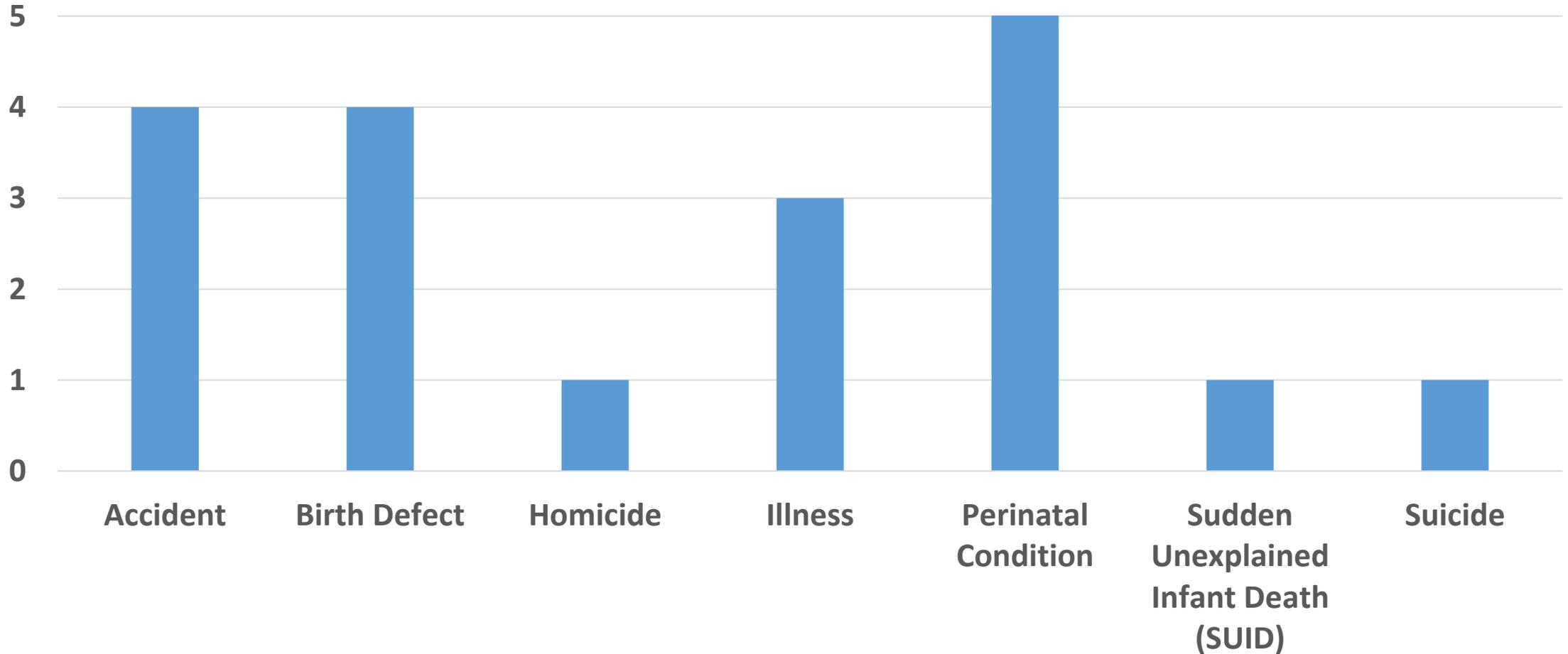


Role of HHS Board

- Receive annual report from the local CCPT/CFPT
- Advocate for system improvements and needed resources, if requested
- Appoint members to the local CCPT/CFPT as designated by state statute



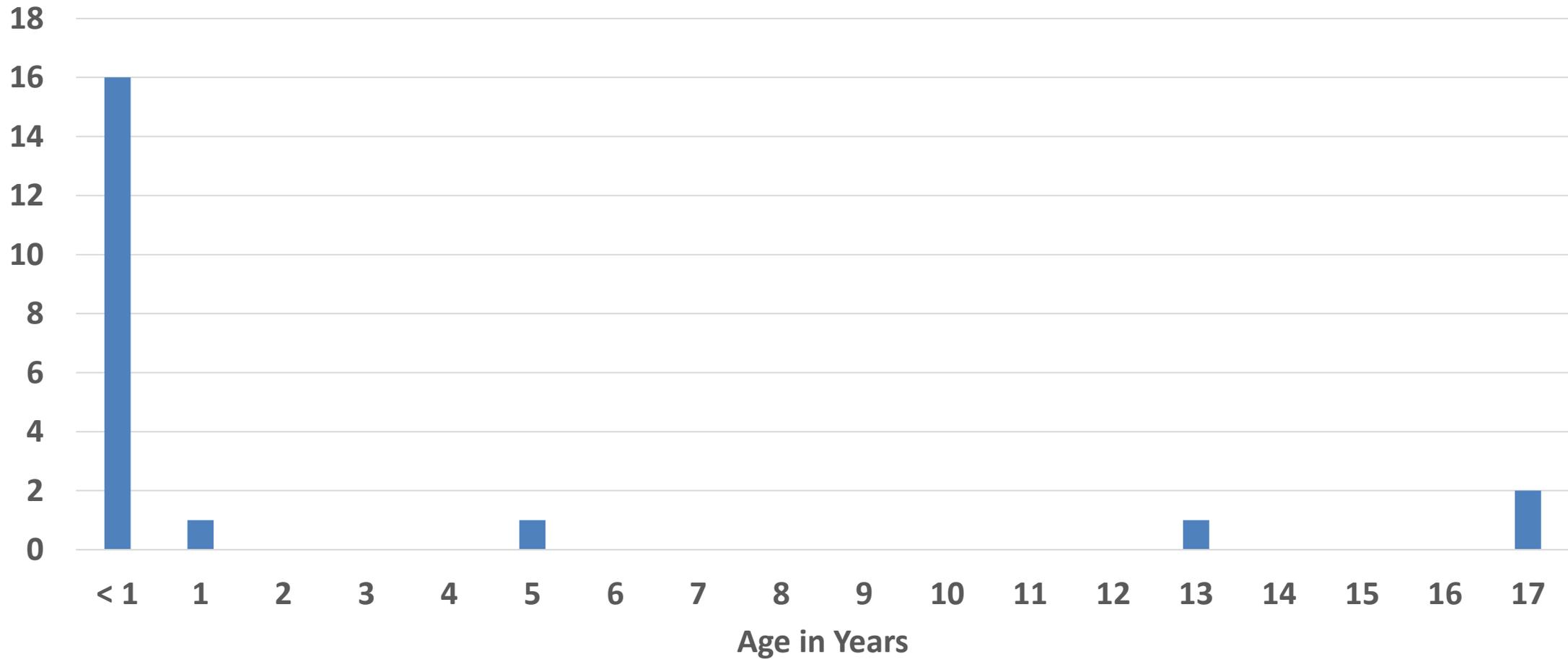
Causes of Child Fatalities, Buncombe County, 2020



Data from Buncombe County Child Fatality Prevention Team



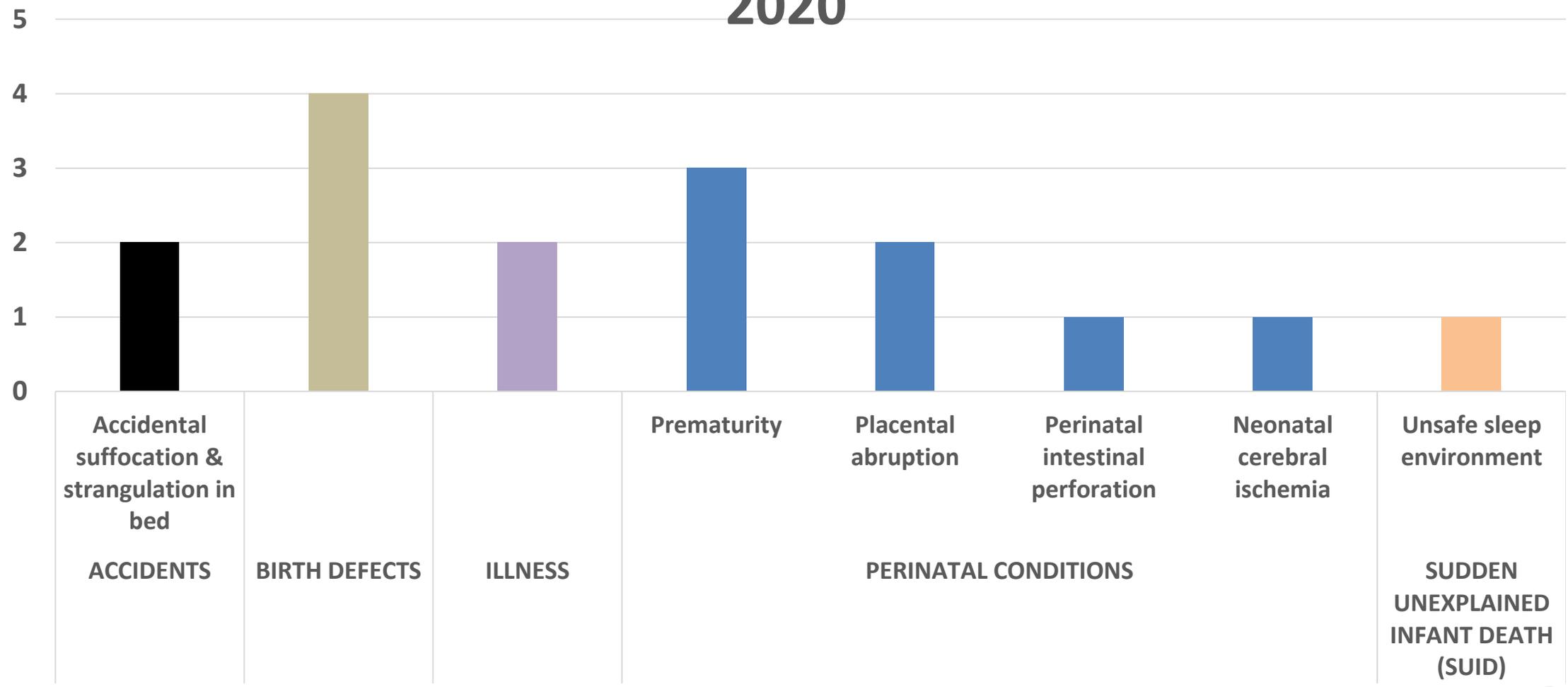
Ages of Child Fatalities, Buncombe County, 2020



Data from Buncombe County Child Fatality Prevention Team



Causes of Infant Mortality, Buncombe County, 2020



Data from Buncombe County Child Fatality Prevention Team



System Problem & Recommendations

| CAUSE OF DEATH | SYSTEM PROBLEM | RECOMMENDATIONS |
|----------------|--|--|
| Homicide | Systemic racism and other biases, along with gaps in safety net services, contribute to a lack of health, safety and opportunities for children and families | Local governmental agencies (e.g., Buncombe County, City of Asheville, law enforcement, courts, and school systems) should require and invest in Racial Equity Institute's Groundwater training (or equivalent) for their staff. |



System Problem & Recommendations

| CAUSE OF DEATH | SYSTEM PROBLEM | RECOMMENDATIONS |
|---|---|--|
| Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) – Unsafe Sleep Environment | Caregivers continue to place infants in unsafe sleep environments (e.g., sleep areas with soft bedding, pillows, etc.), leading to preventable infant deaths. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) BCHHS and partners should review current best practice messaging on safe sleep, update local safe sleep campaign materials as appropriate, and share these materials with the community, including through trusted community messengers like community health workers & churches.b) NC Judges School should provide safe sleep education to judges who oversee custody cases & encourage judges to order safe sleep education for non-custodial parents. |



System Problem & Recommendations

| CAUSE OF DEATH | SYSTEM PROBLEM | RECOMMENDATIONS |
|----------------|--|--|
| Suicide | Child suicide is a growing issue in the US and parents/ caregivers lack understanding of how to recognize and address suicidal thoughts in children. | Schools, Vaya & BCHHS should partner to share information on child suicide with parents (including data and resources about how to recognize suicide risk and what to do if concerns). |



System Problem & Recommendations

| CAUSE OF DEATH | SYSTEM PROBLEM | RECOMMENDATIONS |
|----------------|---|--|
| Suicide | Timely access to appropriate mental health services for children is difficult, & sometimes impossible, to access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) If the parent/legal guardian permits, hospital social workers should inform school staff when students are hospitalized for mental health issues.b) Consider local utilization of suicide prevention expert(s) to follow & assist with management of children with histories of hospitalization for suicidal ideation. |



Questions?