



# 2021 Annual Report from Buncombe County CCPT/CFPT

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*Presented by*

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Chair, Buncombe County Community Child Protection Team/  
Child Fatality Prevention Team  
May 27, 2022



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**



# 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

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graph TD; A[Community Child Protection Team] --> B[Review selected active cases of children being served by Child Protective Services (CPS)]; A --> C[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.];
```

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a report of abuse/neglect was  
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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.

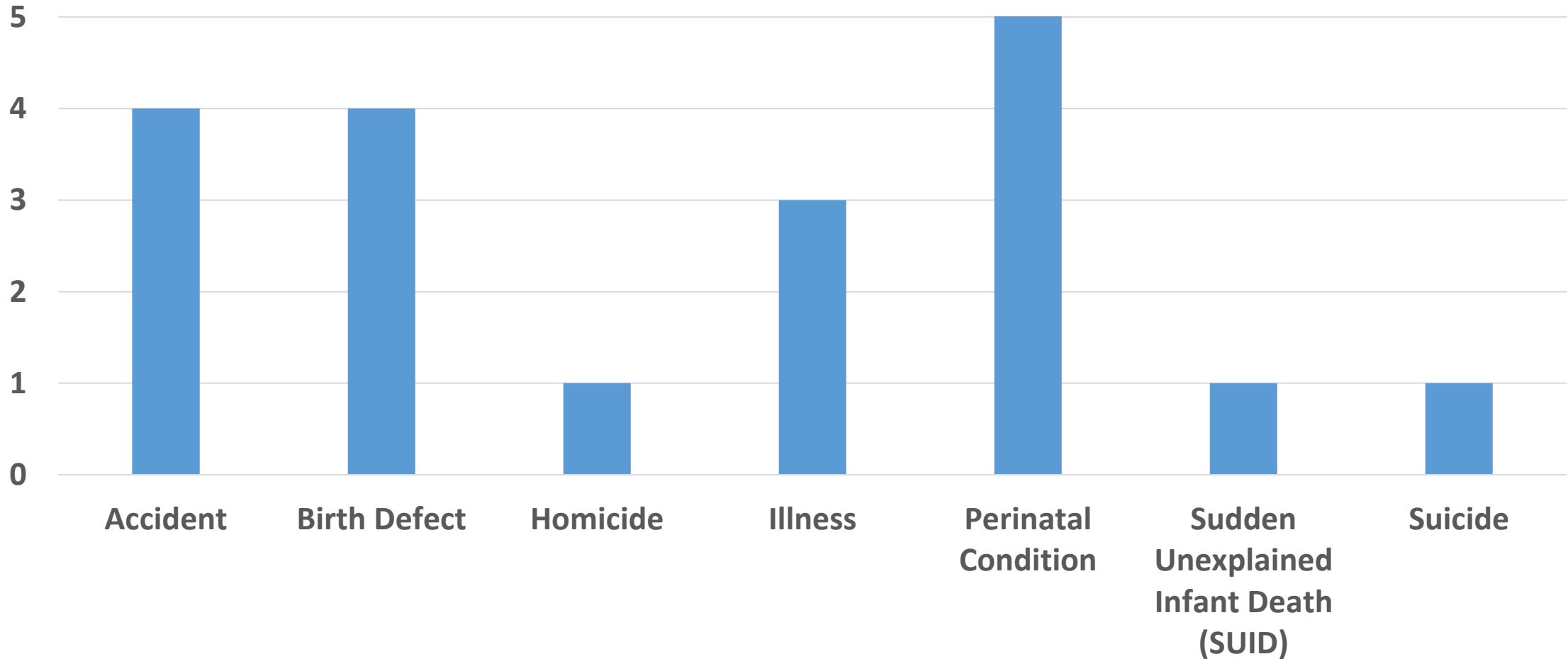


# Role of HHS Board

- 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



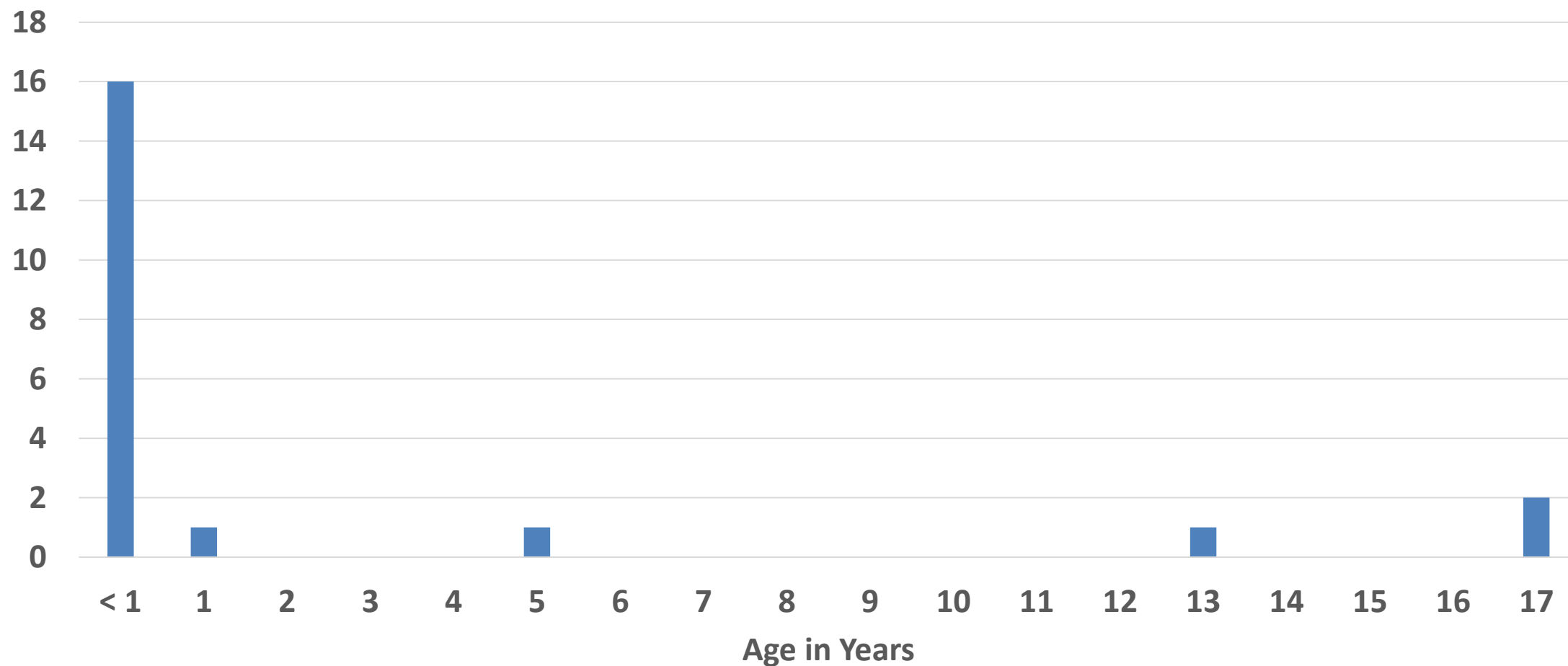
Data from Buncombe County Child Fatality Prevention Team



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**



# Ages of Child Fatalities, Buncombe County, 2020



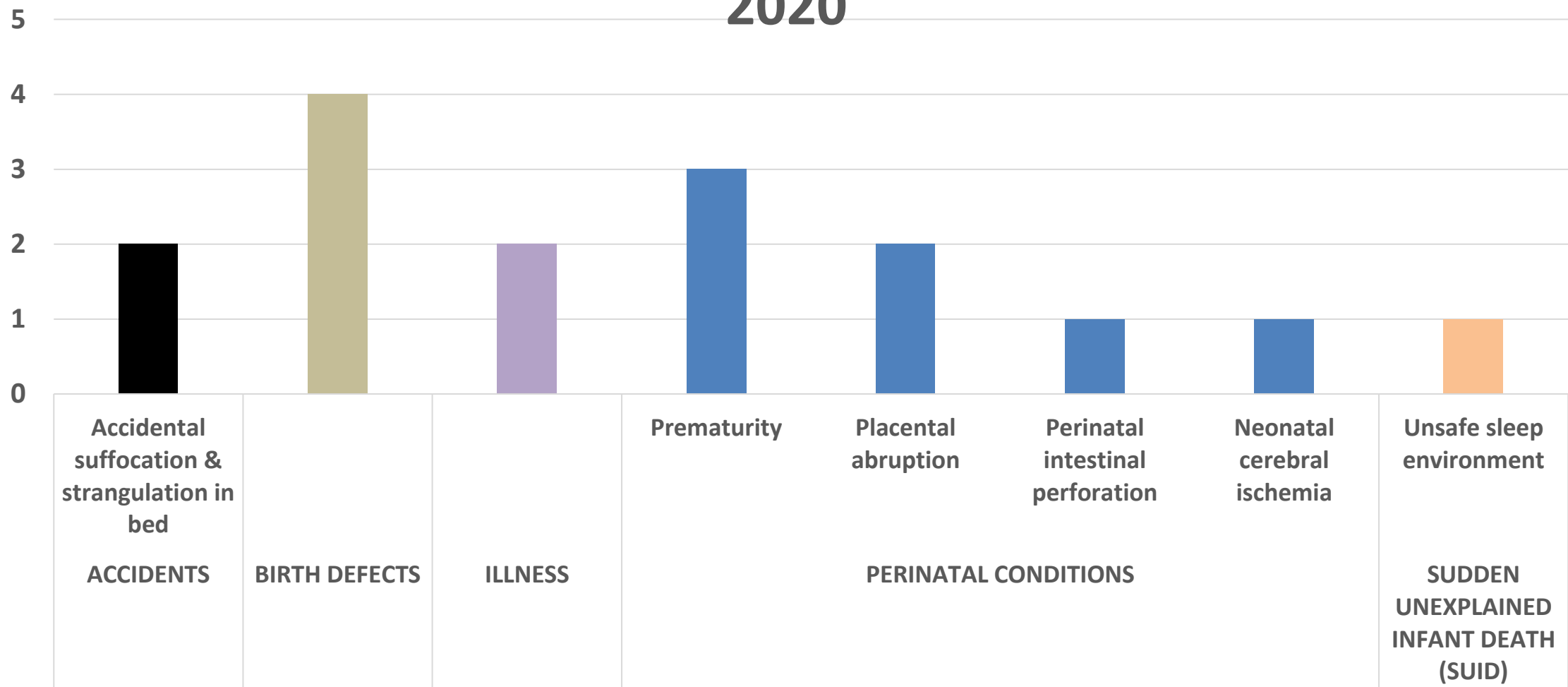
Data from Buncombe County Child Fatality Prevention Team



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**



# 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"><li>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 &amp; churches.</li><li>b) NC Judges School should provide safe sleep education to judges who oversee custody cases &amp; encourage judges to order safe sleep education for non-custodial parents.</li></ul>



# 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"><li>a) If the parent/legal guardian permits, hospital social workers should inform school staff when students are hospitalized for mental health issues.</li><li>b) Consider local utilization of suicide prevention expert(s) to follow &amp; assist with management of children with histories of hospitalization for suicidal ideation.</li></ul>



**Questions?**