



# 2023 Annual Report from Buncombe County CCPT/CFPT

*Presented by*

Jennifer Mullendore, MD, MSPH  
Chair, Buncombe County Community Child Protection Team/  
Child Fatality Prevention Team

June 4, 2024



**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

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.

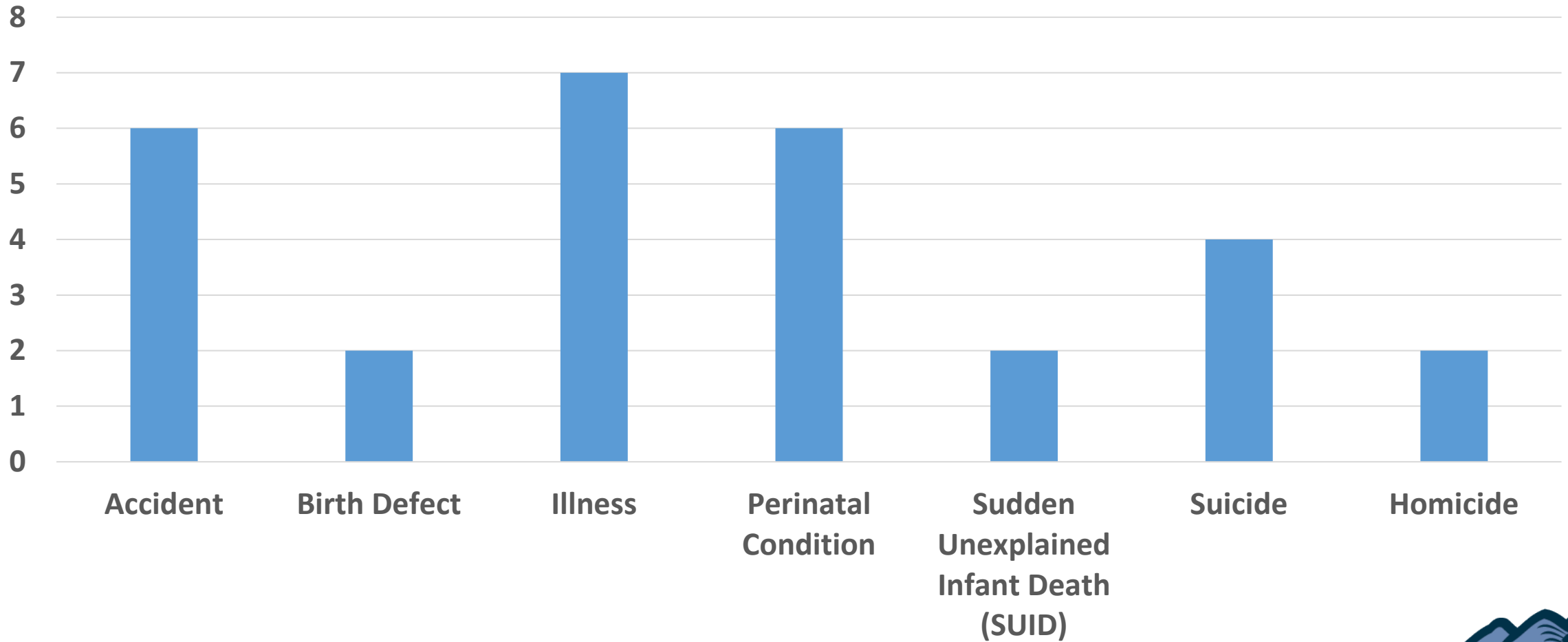


# Role of Board of County Commissioners

- 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



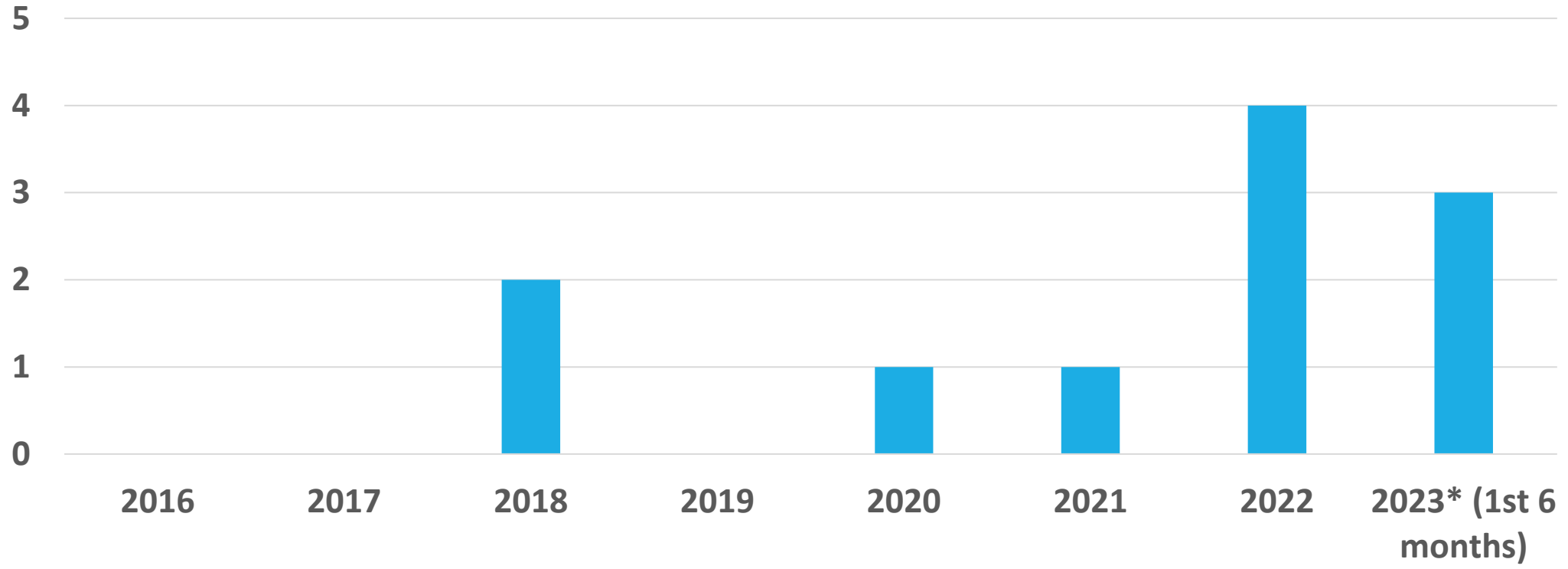
# Number of Child Fatalities by Cause of Death, Buncombe County, 2022



Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics; Buncombe County CFPT



# Number of Buncombe County Youth\* Suicides by Year

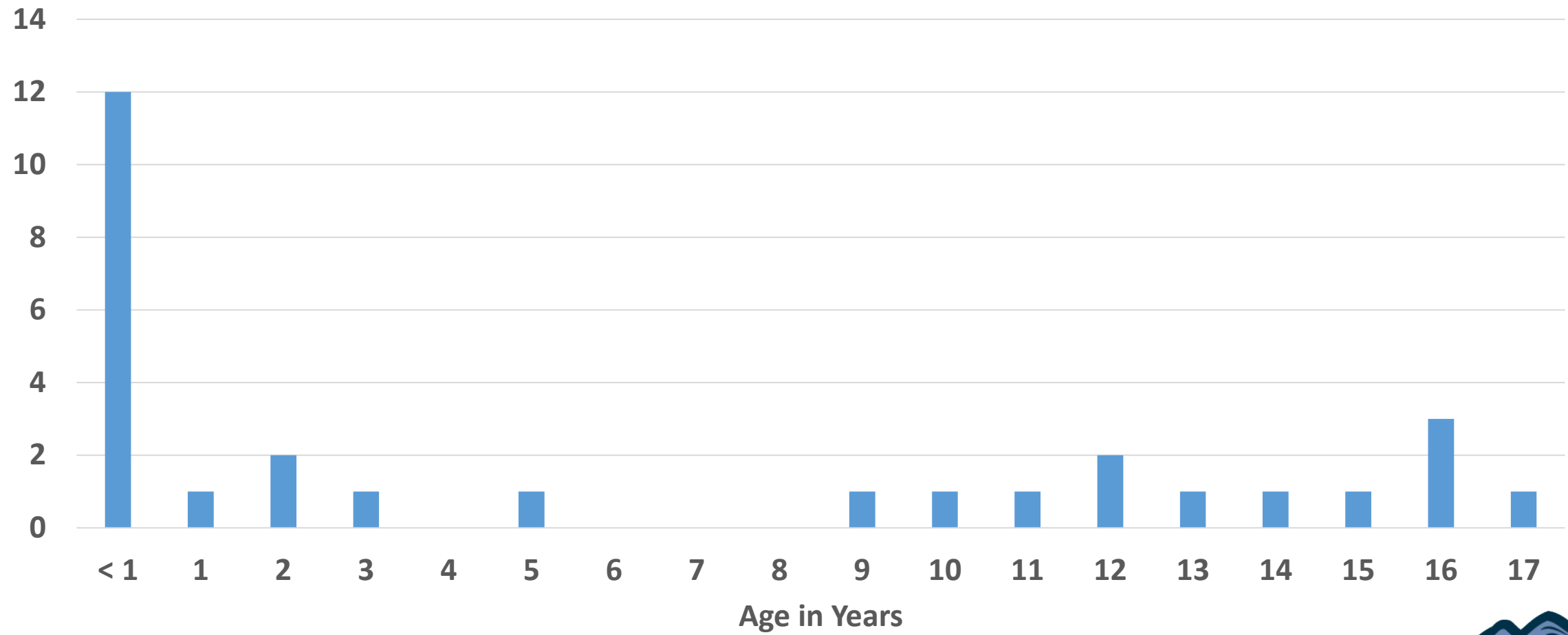


Youth\* < 18 years of age

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics



# Number of Child Fatalities by Age, Buncombe County, 2022



Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics; Buncombe County CFPT

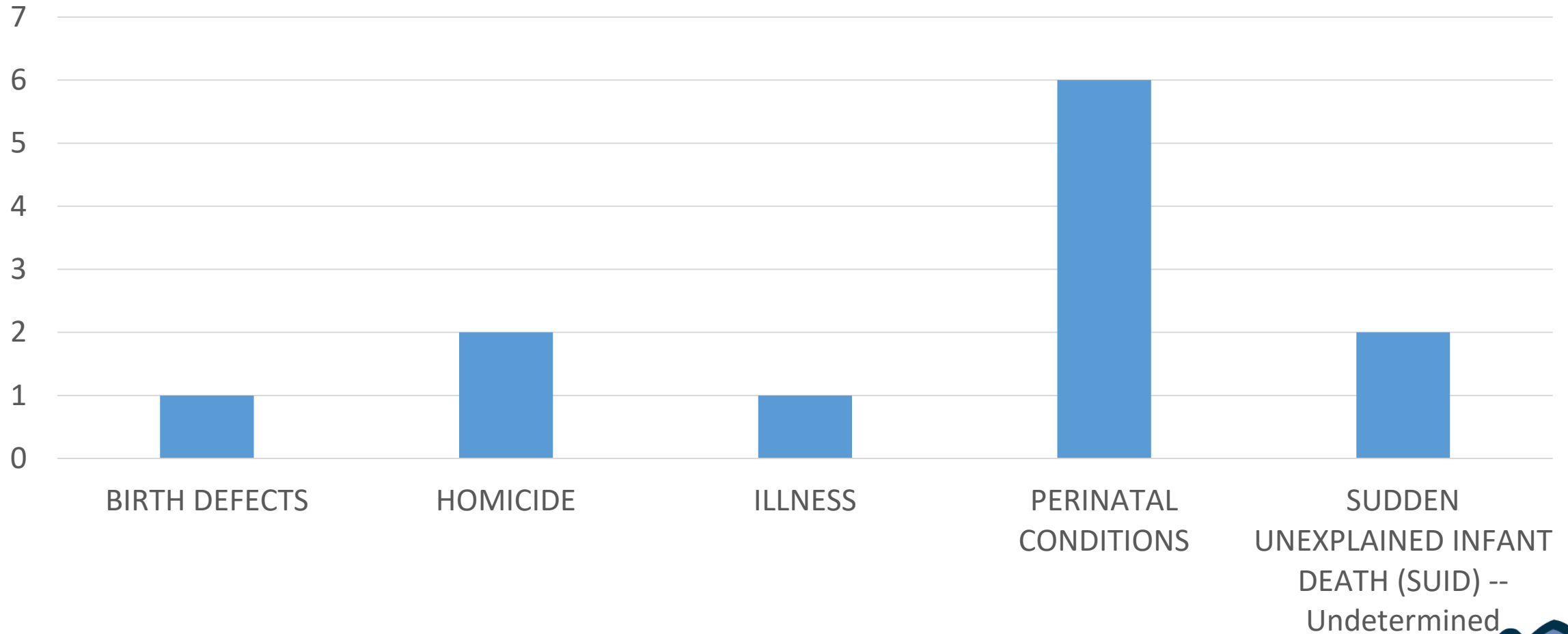


**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**





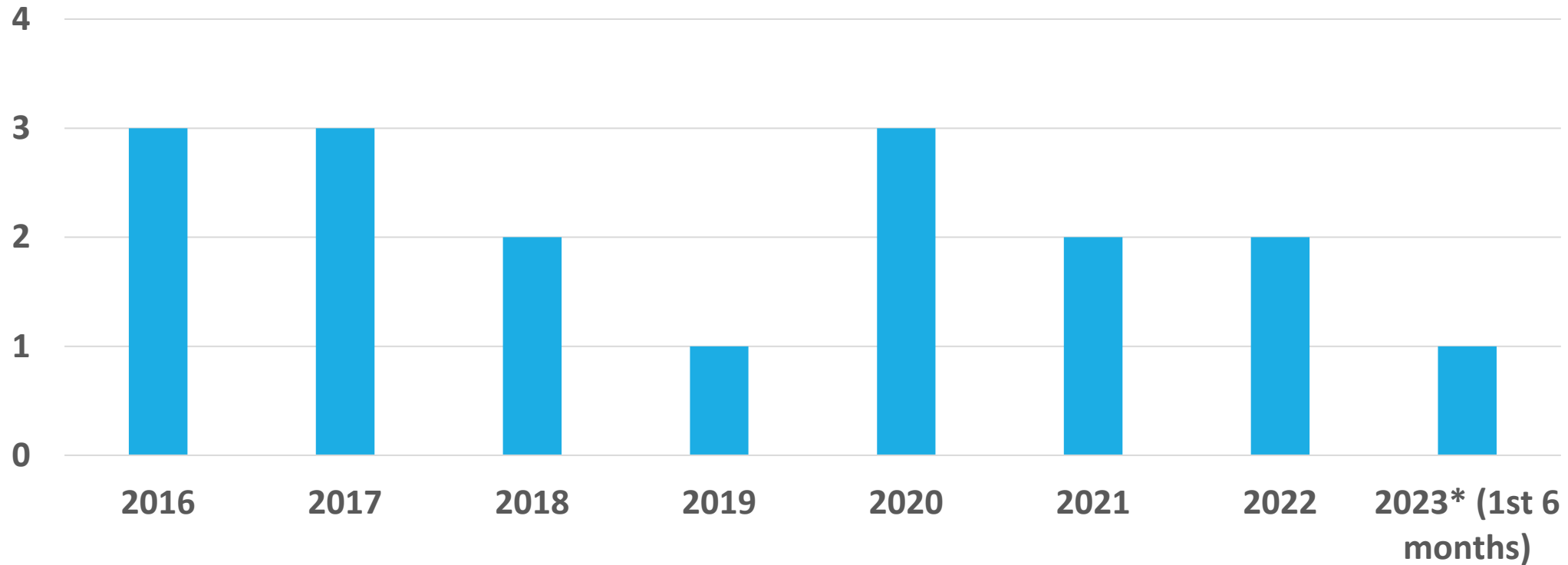
# Number of Infant Fatalities by Cause of Death, Buncombe County, 2022



Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics; Buncombe County CFPT



# Number of Buncombe County Infant Fatalities Associated with Unsafe Sleep by Year

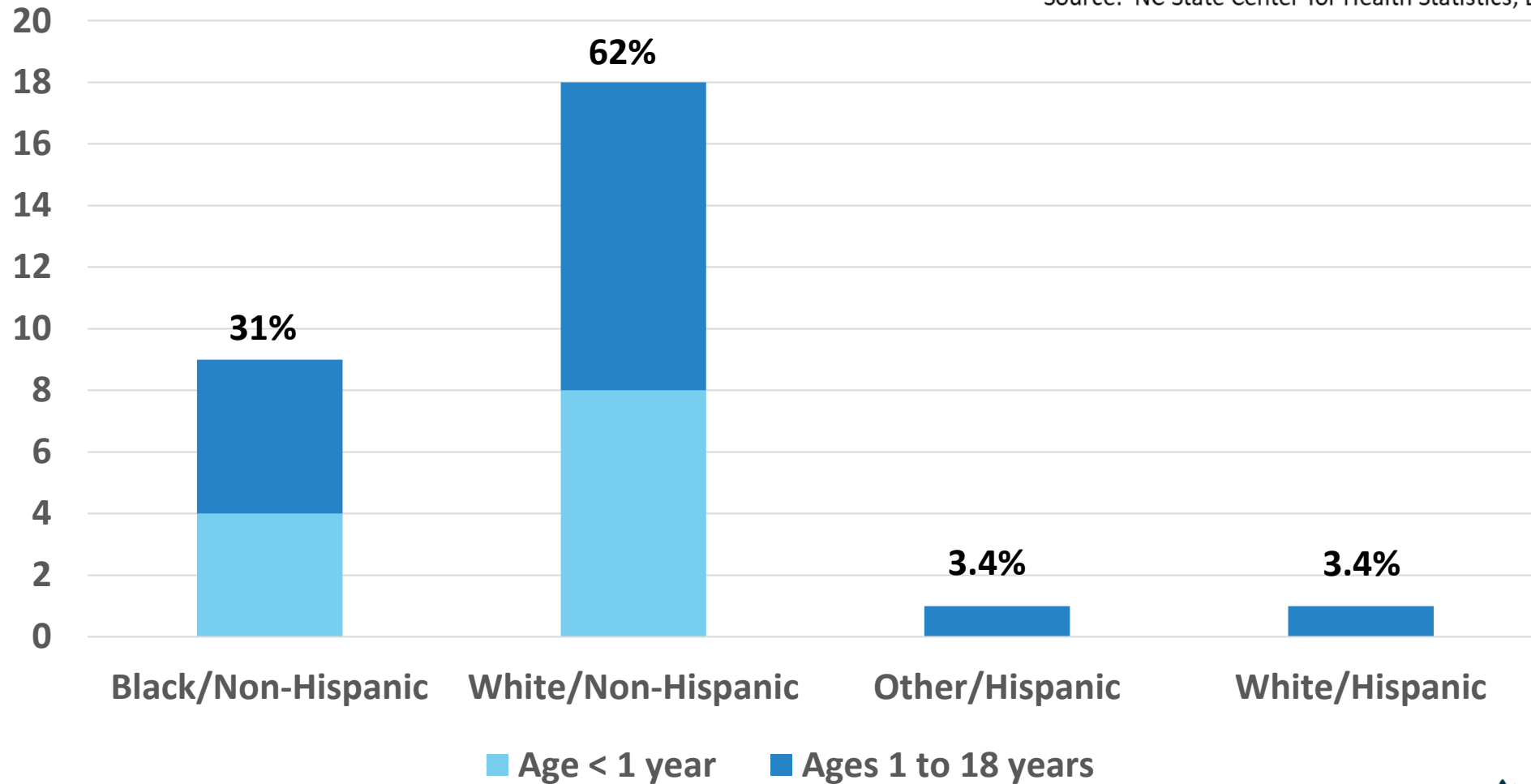


Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics; Buncombe County CFPT



# Number of Child Fatalities by Race/Ethnicity, Buncombe County, 2022

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics; Buncombe County CFPT



# Infant Mortality Disparity Ratio, 2018 - 2022

	Non-Hispanic White Infant Mortality Rate	Non-Hispanic Black Infant Mortality Rate	Disparity Ratio
North Carolina	4.8	12.6	2.63
Buncombe County	5.0	11.8	2.36

In Buncombe County, Black infants are 2.36 times more likely to die before their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday than white infants.

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/vital/ims/2022/2022-IMR-TABLE-3B-FINAL.html>



# Addressing Deaths from Unsafe Sleep

Most sleep related deaths happen when a baby sleeps on the same surface as someone else.



<https://safesleepnc.org/>



# Addressing Unsecured Firearms



## Secure All Firearms Effectively

It only takes a moment for a tragedy to happen. Fortunately, it only takes a moment to help prevent one as well. Protect kids and communities by safely securing your firearms.

SAFE STORAGE 101

<https://www.ncsafe.org/>

### Gun Safety Event

Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Pack Square Park

**12:45pm**

- **Group photo – wear orange**

**2pm – 6pm**

- **Free youth-friendly activities, music, speakers, gun locks**
- **Food trucks**



# Addressing Youth Suicide



## Youth Suicide: Starting a community conversation

*Presented by*

Buncombe County Child Fatality Prevention and Community Child Protection Team

Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, Chair

Rebecca Smith, Social Work Director

May 17, 2023

**Stay strong.**  
You belong.

**988**  
SUICIDE  
& CRISIS  
LIFELINE

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text **988** or chat **988lifeline.org**



**Hope & Healing**  
Closer Than You Think

Drugs and opioids impact us all.



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

**Questions?**