

Child Fatality Review (CFR) 2025

Deaths finalized from
January 1, 2025, through December
31, 2025

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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 can not be publicly shared. Therefore, this report includes data that has been aggregated from multiple years.

We acknowledge that each data point represents an individual life that was lost. Efforts to aggregate data have been made 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 2026, 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.

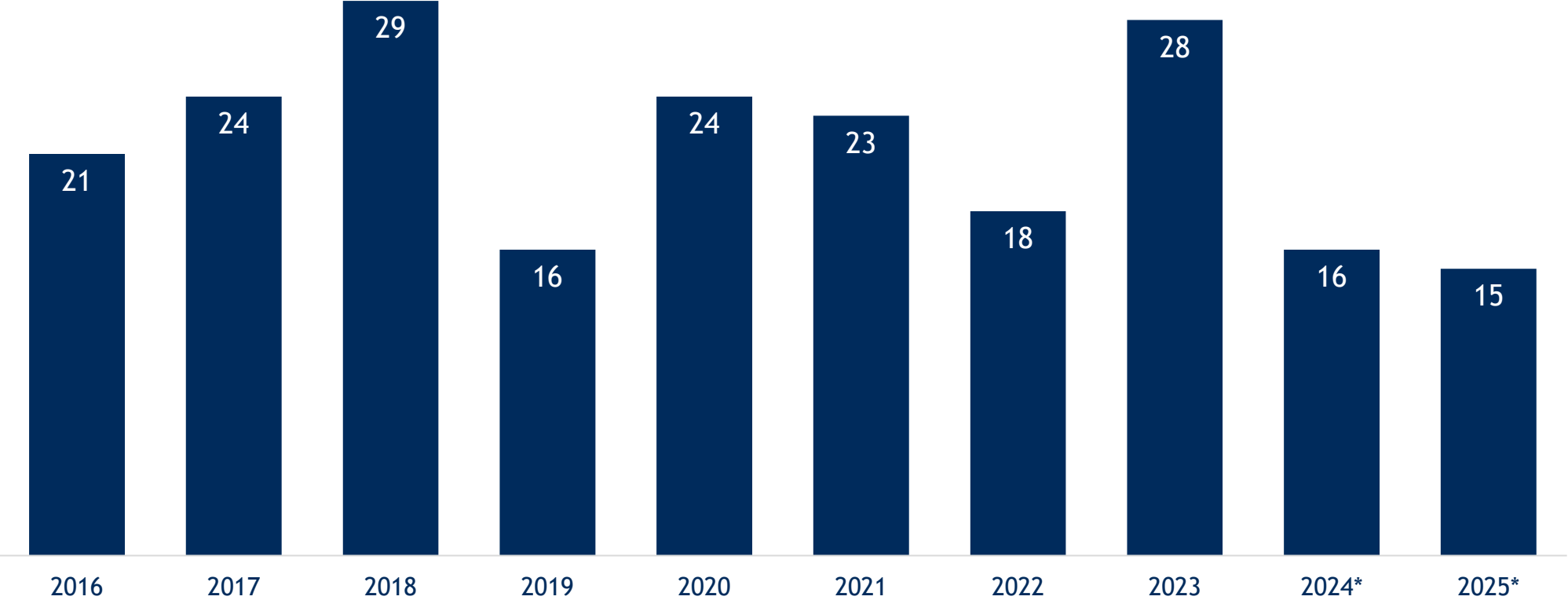
In July 2000, the Ohio General Assembly passed Substitute House Bill Number 488, mandating CFR boards in each of Ohio's counties (or regions) to review the deaths of children under 18 years of age. The ultimate purpose of CFR is to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths. To do so, the law clearly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



Fatality Data



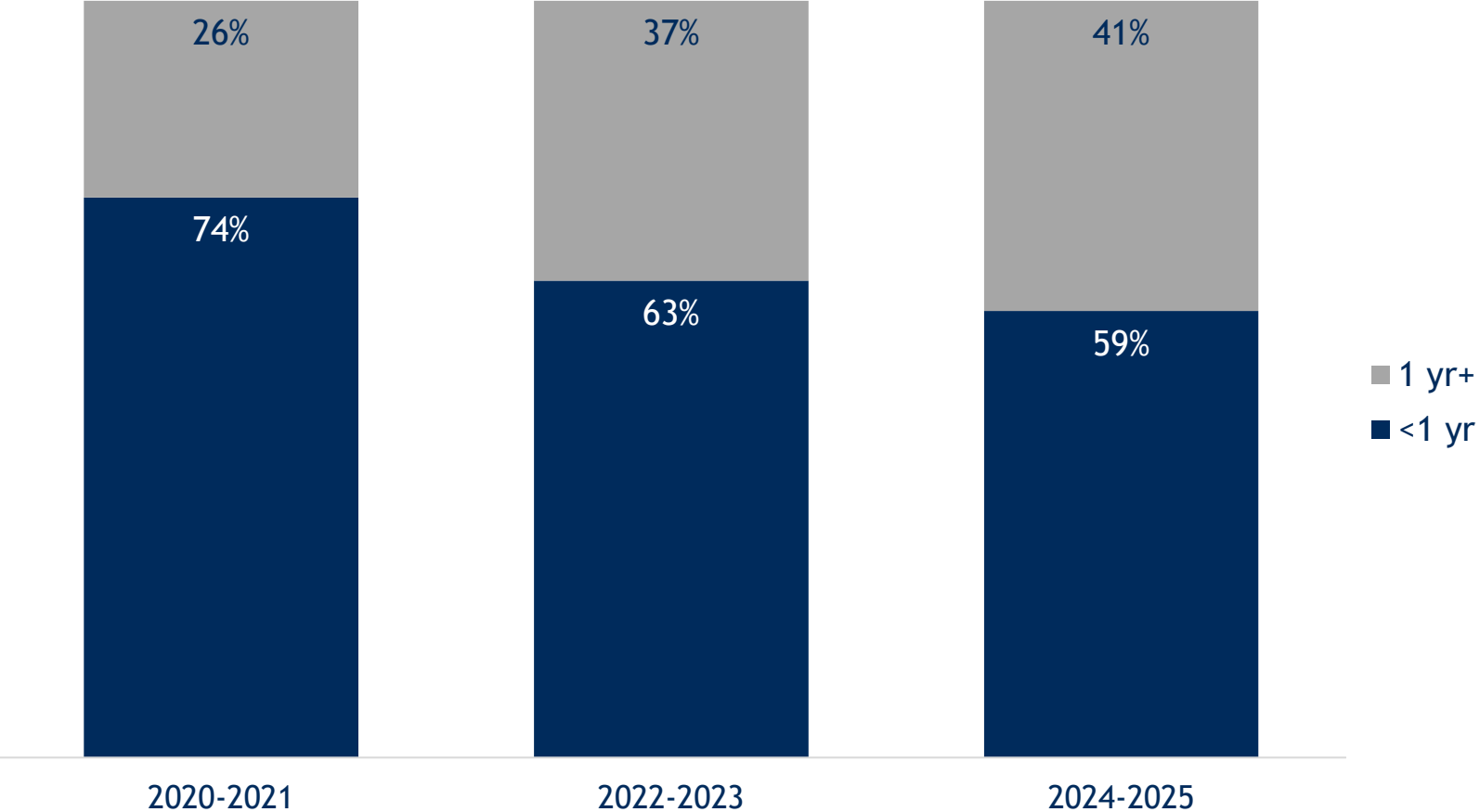
In 2025 there were 15 deaths among Clermont County infants and children.



*Preliminary data that is subject to change
The trend analysis indicated a slight decrease in counts over time that was not statistically significant ($b = -0.67$, $p = .25$, $R^2 = .06$).
The low R^2 suggests that year-to-year variation is largely not explained by a consistent linear trend.
Source: Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Clermont County Coroner's Office. Primary Data.



Infants under the age of 1 year continue to account for most deaths among all children.

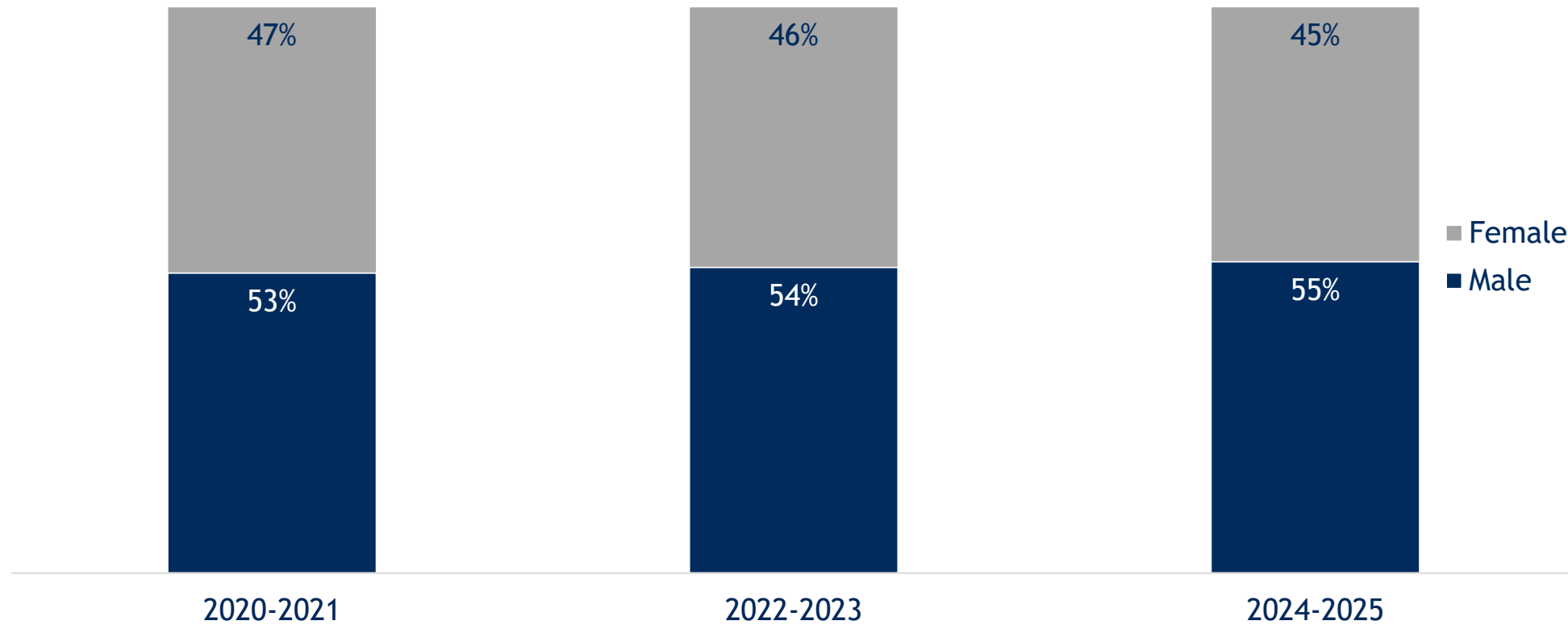


Public health agencies work with health care providers, communities, and other partners to reduce infant mortality. This joint approach can help address social, behavioral, and health risk factors that contribute to infant mortality. Activities include improvements in perinatal care, building capacity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

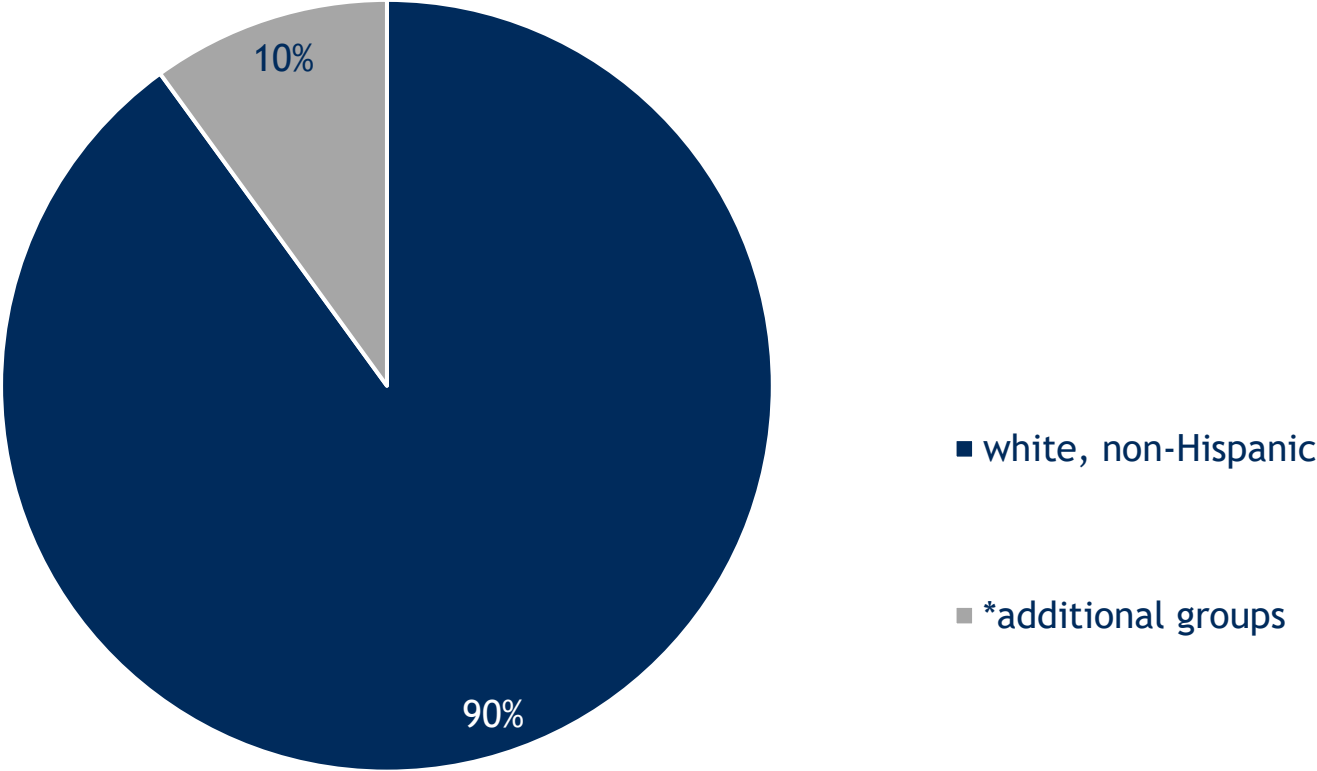


Source: Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Clermont County Coroner's Office. Primary Data.
Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm>

Male infants and children account for most deaths.



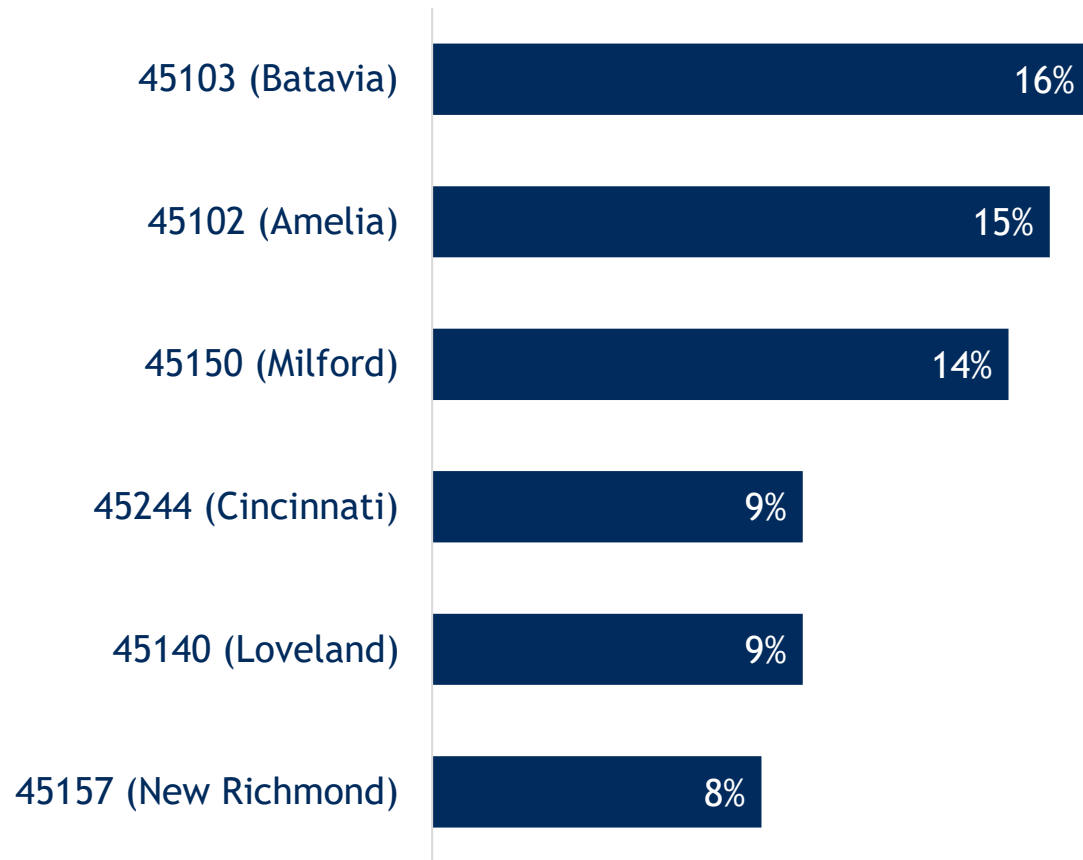
90% of all decedents from 2020-2025 were white, non-Hispanic.



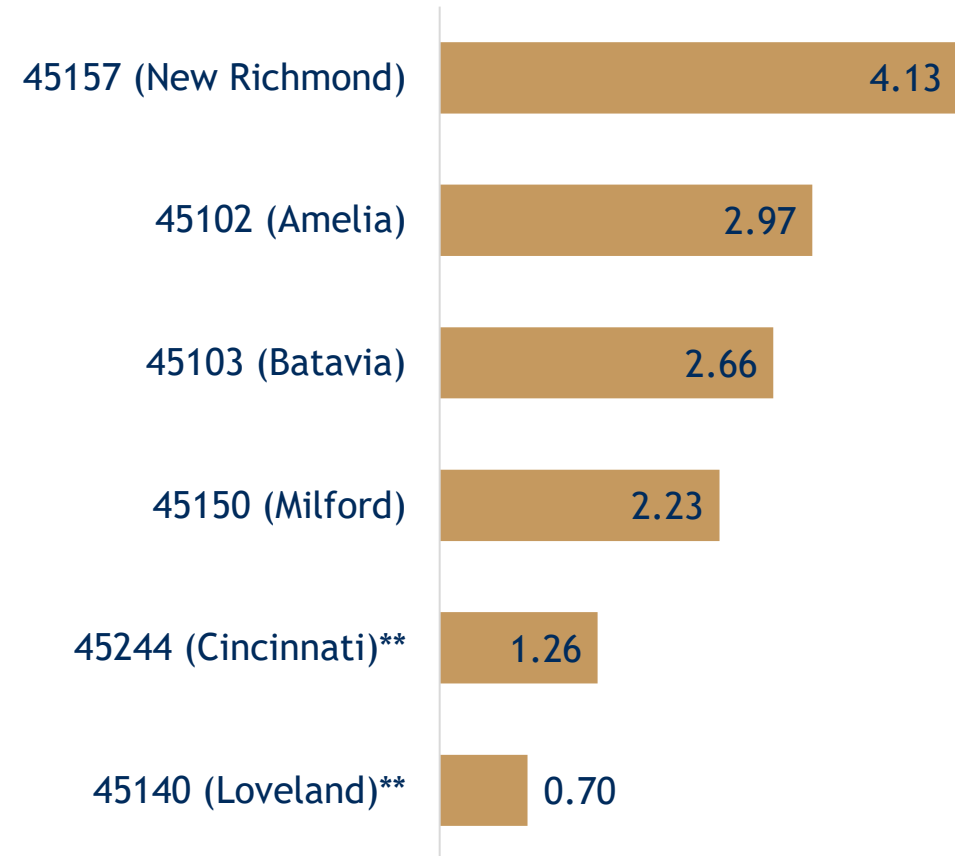
*Additional groups refer to individuals with an identified ethnicity of Hispanic or Latino or race of American Indian or Alaska native, Asian, Black or African American, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.



The highest percentage of decedents from 2020-2025 were residents of the 45103 (Batavia) ZIP Code.



However, 45157 (New Richmond) had the highest rate*.



Source: Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Clermont County Coroner's Office. Primary Data.

*Rate per 1,000 children. Rates based on 2020 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates population aged 0-19.

**Rate calculated based on entire ZIP Code population which encompasses multiple counties



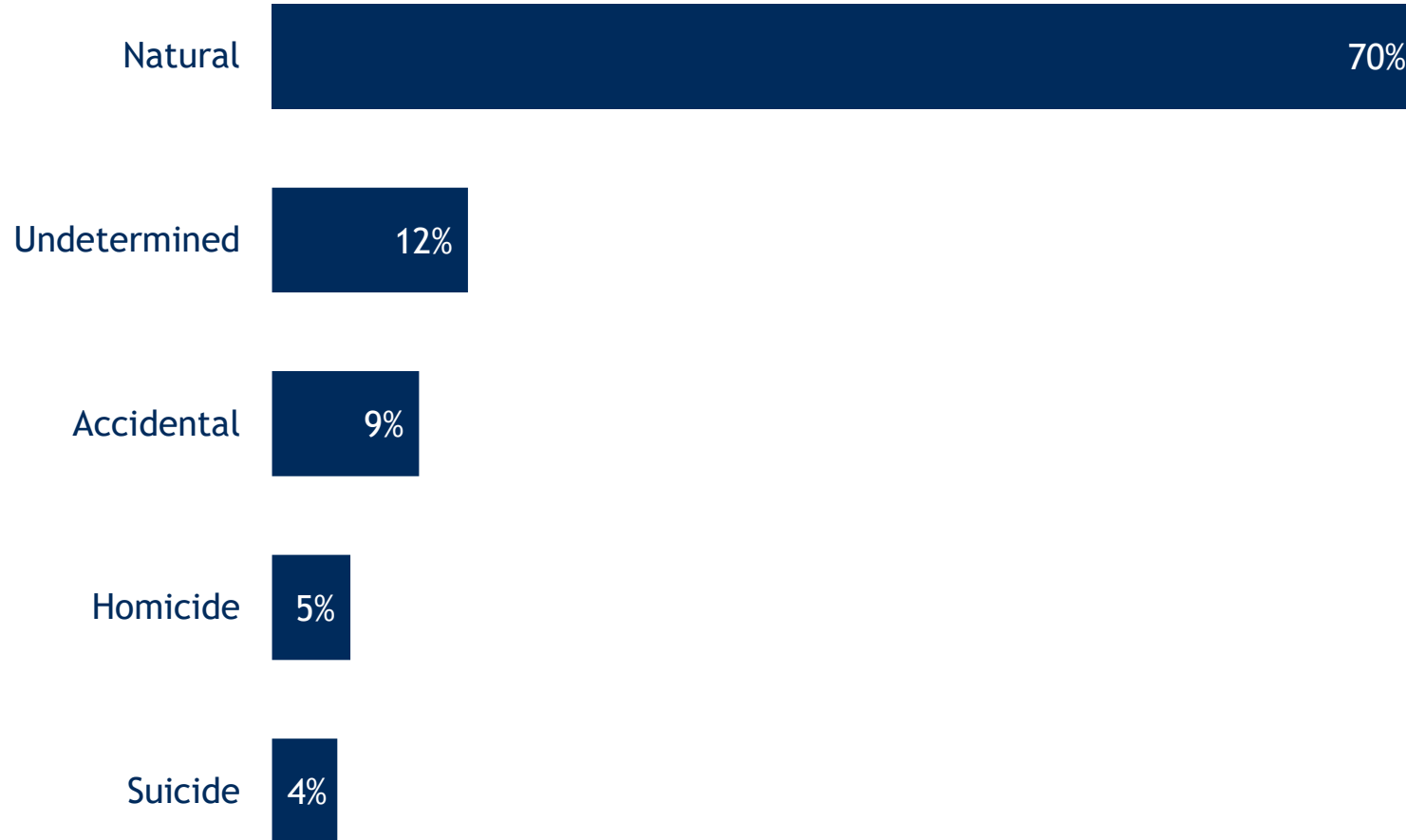
Cause of Death

Definitions

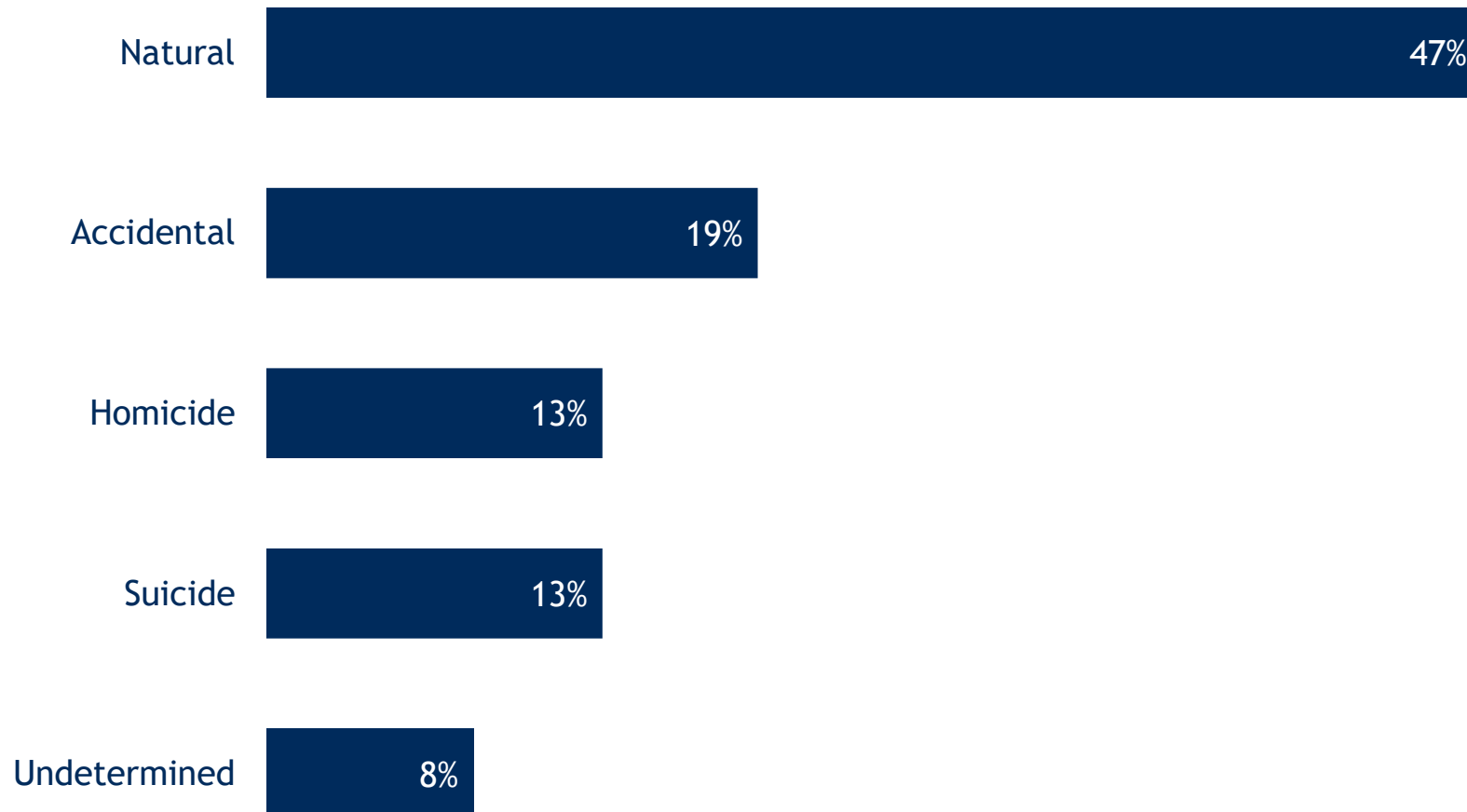
- **Natural:** Deaths caused by the natural disease process including prematurity, and not an accident or violence.
- **Accidental Injury:** Deaths caused by unintentional causes rather than by natural causes, suicide, or murder.
- **Suicide:** Deaths caused by self-inflicted behavior with the intent 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.



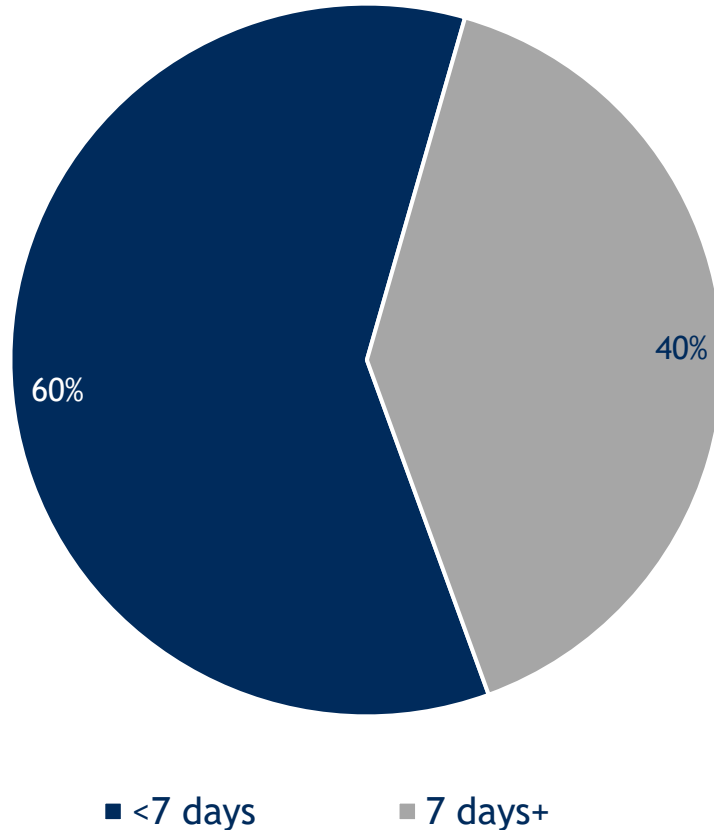
70% of all deaths from 2020-2025 were of natural cause.



Among children age 1 year and older, 45% of deaths from 2020-2025 were caused by accidental injury, homicide, or suicide.



From 2020-2025, 60% of infant deaths were among infants aged less than 7 days.



The most common causes of infant death included

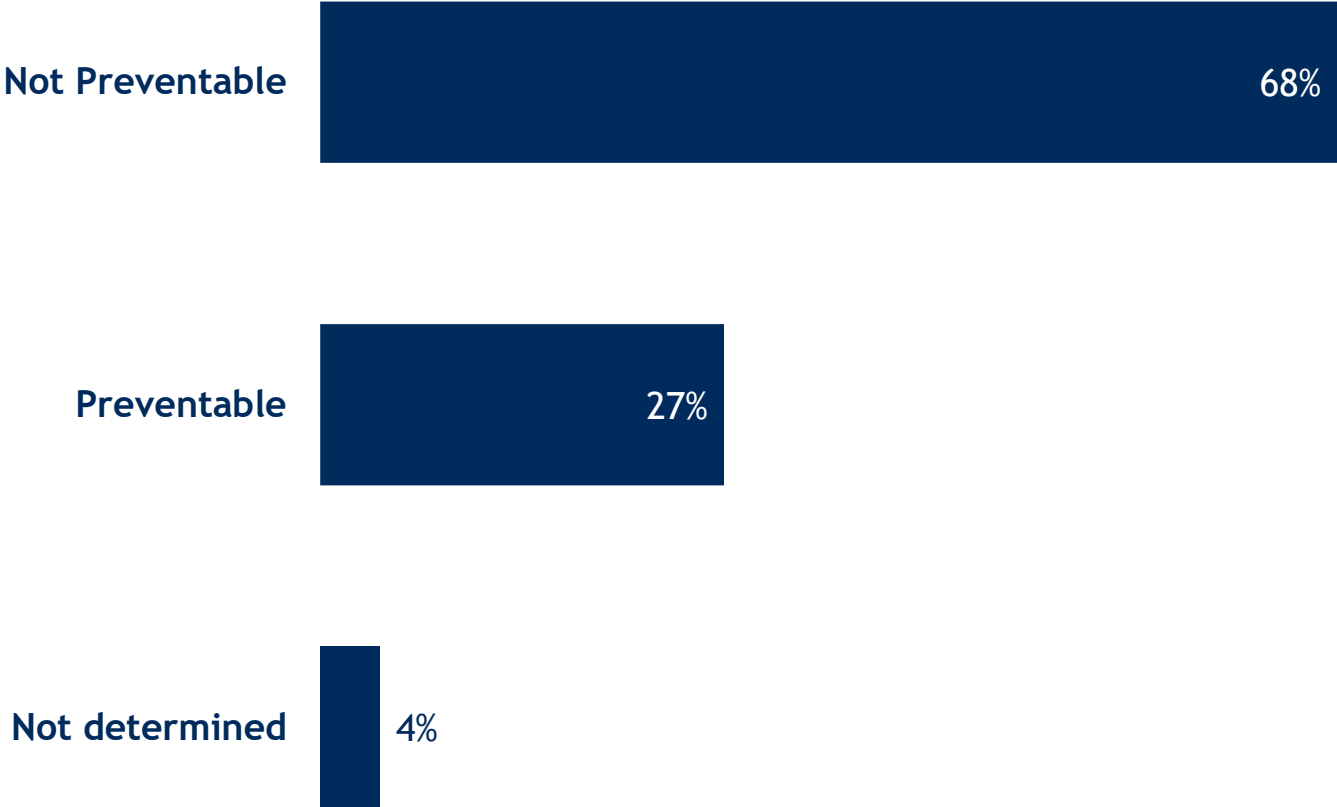
- Preterm birth
- Congenital anomalies
- Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)

The CDC outlines these strategies to prevent preterm birth and related complications:

- Increase women's access to preconception care services
- Identify women at risk for preterm delivery and provide access to effective preventive treatments
- Discourage deliveries that aren't medically necessary, especially before 39 weeks
- Prevent unintended pregnancies and achieve optimal birth spacing
- Encourage people to transfer a single embryo — rather than multiple embryos — for pregnancies achieved through assisted reproductive technology



From 2020-2025 27% of 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.



Note: Counts include cases that have been reviewed by the CFR Board. Cases pending review have not been included. Source: Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Clermont County Coroner's Office. Primary Data.

Surveillance Data



Behavioral Health Indicators

Students with Any Behavioral Health Condition %

	2022-2023 School Year	2023-2024 School Year	% change
Clermont County	30.7	34	+10.7
Ohio	26.9	30.9	+14.9

K-12 students with Medicaid who have a current diagnosis of major depression %

	2022-2023 School Year	2023-2024 School Year	% change
Clermont County	5.8	5.2	-10.3
Ohio	6.2	5.8	-6.5

Data on children’s behavioral health and depression show the overall mental and emotional well-being of the population. High rates can indicate underlying social or healthcare issues, while early diagnosis and treatment suggest better access to support services. These indicators also relate to long-term outcomes like academic success and overall health.



Access to Care

Regular visits to a Primary Care Provider help catch health problems early, keep vaccinations up to date, and support healthy growth and development. High rates of these visits suggest children are receiving consistent care and are more likely to have better overall health outcomes.

Children on Medicaid who have visited a Primary Care Provider within the past 2 years %

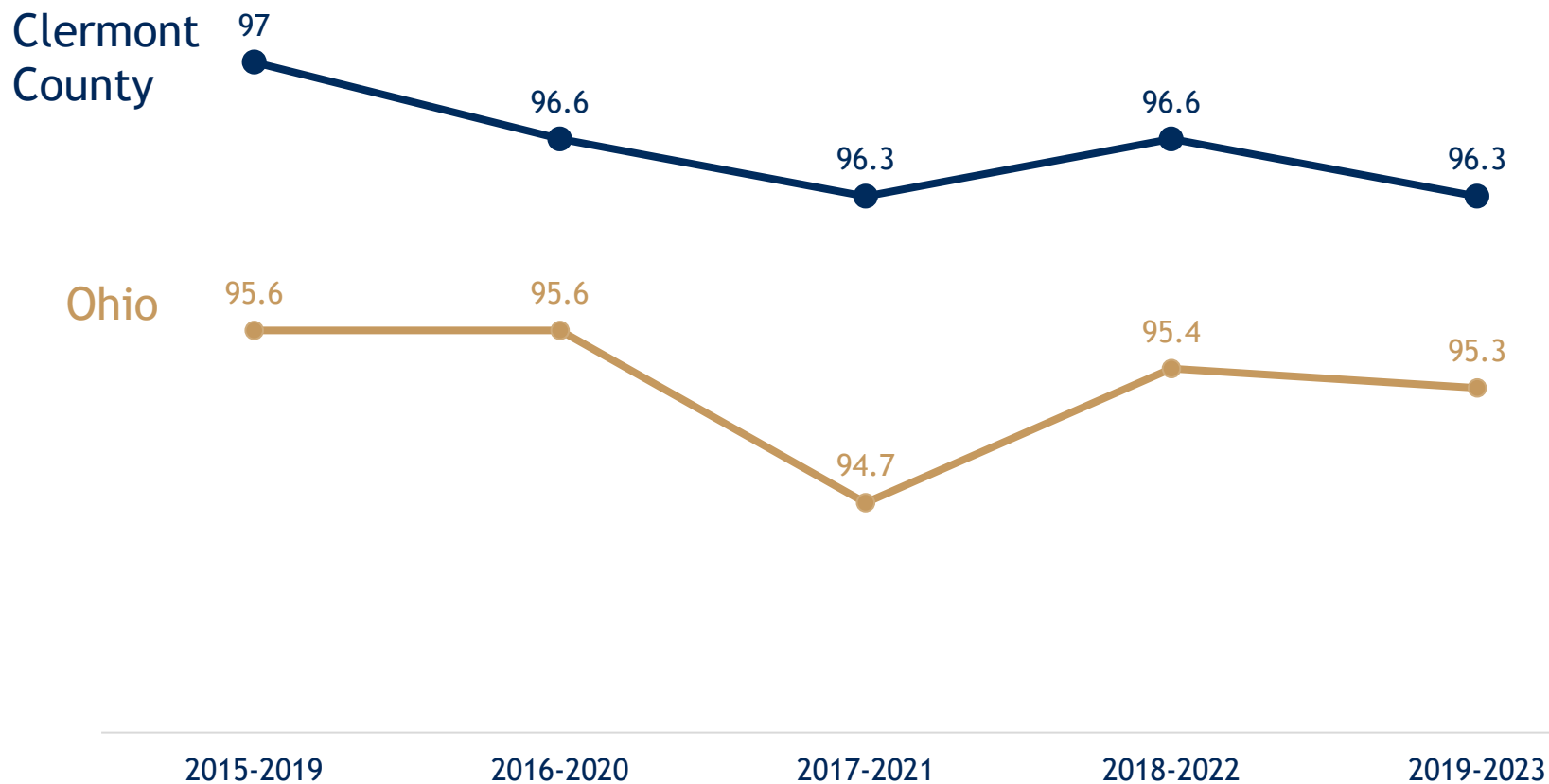
	2022-2023 School Year	2023-2024 School Year	% change
Clermont County	89.6	88.5	-1.2
Ohio	86.9	85.7	-1.4

Children on Medicaid who have had a comprehensive well-child visit during the available school year %

	2022-2023 School Year	2023-2024 School Year	% change
Clermont County	46.2	45.5	-1.5
Ohio	42.7	43.2	+1.2



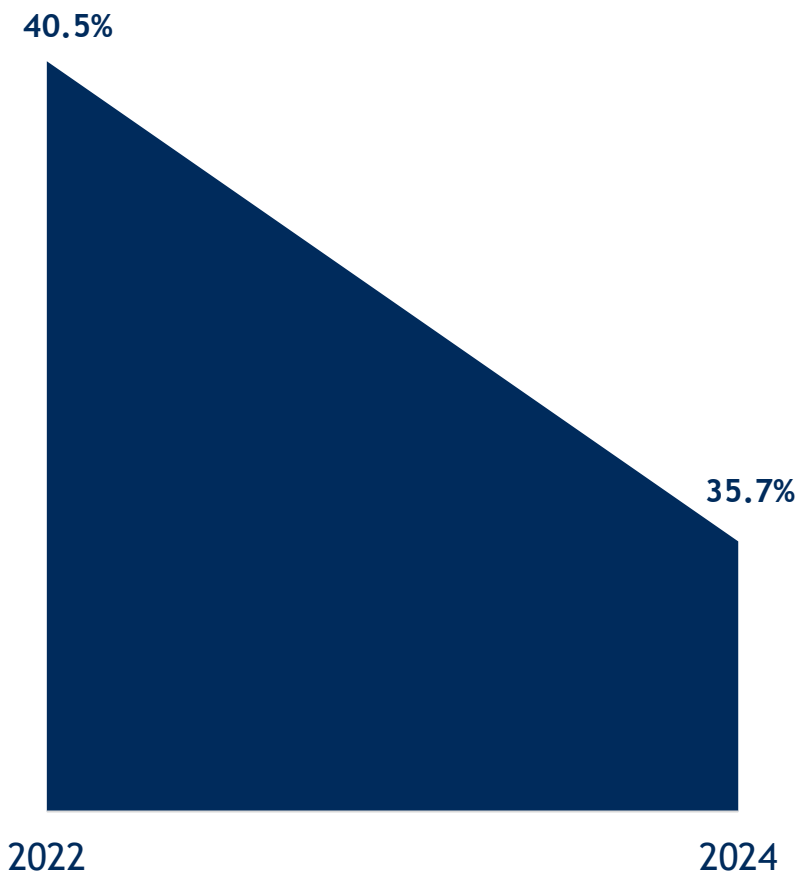
A higher percentage of children in Clermont County have health insurance compared to Ohio overall.



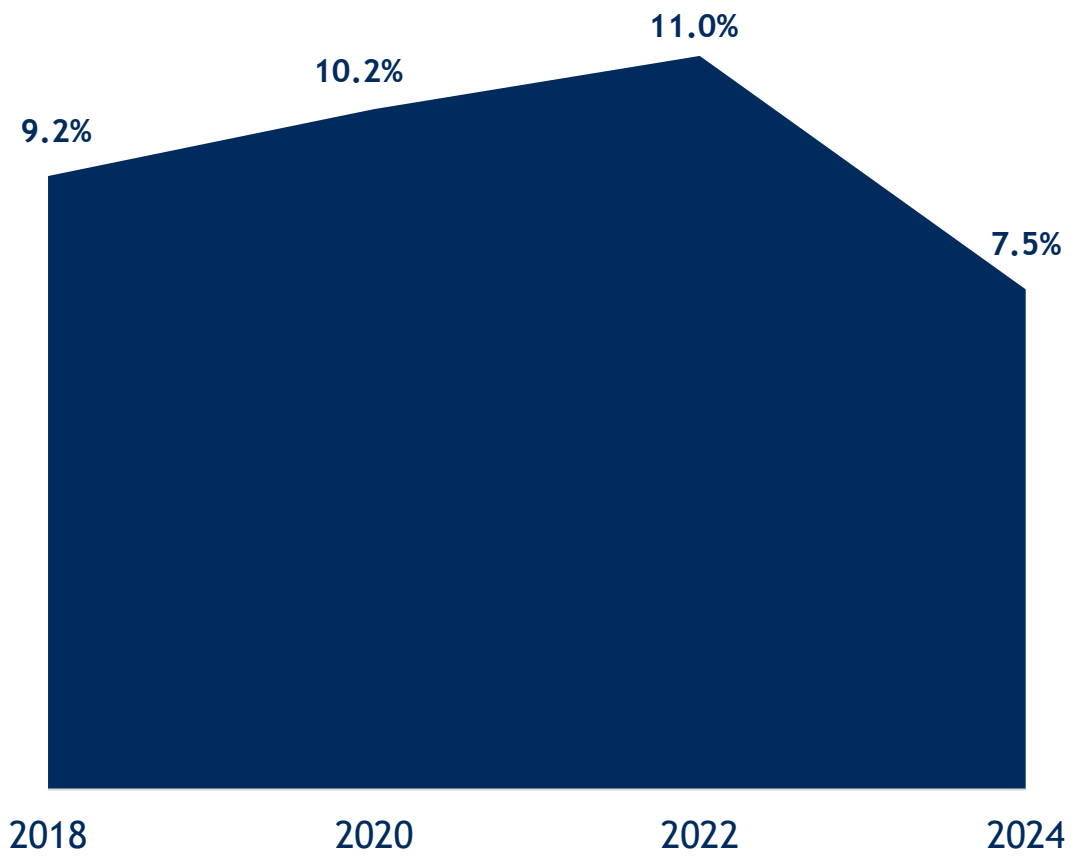
Higher health insurance coverage among children is a key health indicator because it reflects improved access to healthcare services. Insured children are more likely to receive preventive care, early treatment, and regular checkups, leading to better overall health outcomes.



Anxiety among 7th-12th graders has decreased 4.8% from 2022 to 2024.



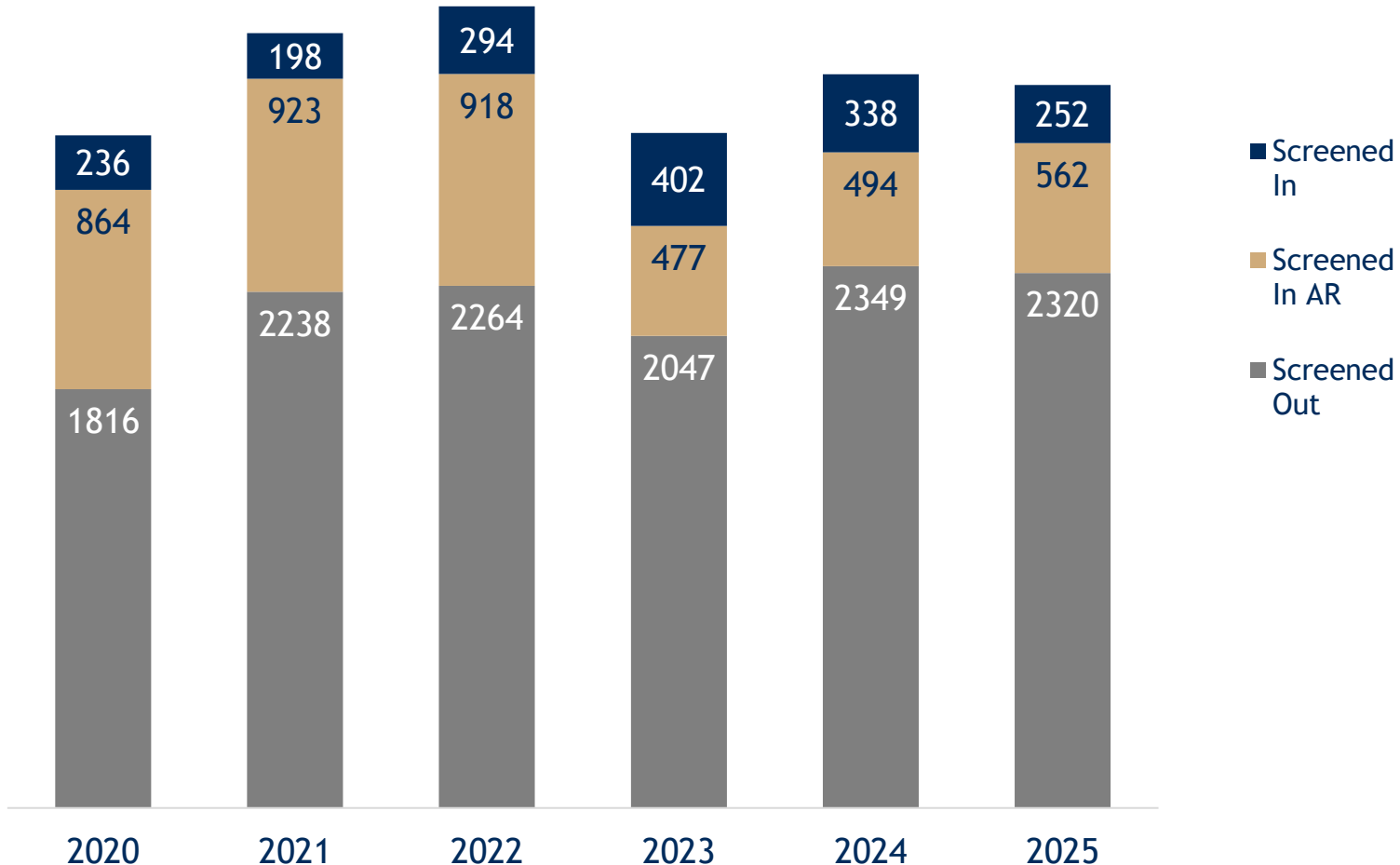
Suicidal ideation among 7th through 12th graders has decreased 3.5% from 2022 to 2024.



Source: Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) Survey
Note: percentage of students who answered "All of the time" or "Most of the time" to the question: "During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel nervous or anxious" in the respective years' PRIDE Student survey. percentage of students who answered "A lot" or "Often" to the question: "Have you ever thought about attempting suicide?" in the respected years' PRIDE Student survey.



The number of Clermont County child abuse and neglect referrals that were screened in decreased in 2025.



Screened in: A report that meets the agency’s criteria for suspected abuse or neglect and is accepted for further action (such as an investigation or assessment).

Screened out with Alternative Response (AR): A report that doesn’t meet investigation criteria but may still indicate family needs, so it is referred to supportive services or a non-investigative track instead of being fully dismissed.

Screened out: A report that does not meet the criteria for abuse or neglect, so no investigation or CPS response is initiated.



Infant Mortality Indicators

Infant Mortality Rate			
	2023	2024	% change
Clermont County	6.5	4.4	-32.3
Ohio	7.1	6.6	-7

Low Birth Weight %			
	2023	2024	% change
Clermont County	8.1	7.1	-12.3
Ohio	8.8	8.8	0

Preterm Birth %			
	2023	2024	% change
Clermont County	10.5	11.2	+6.7
Ohio	10.7	11	+2.8

Rates of preterm birth and low birth weight show how healthy pregnancies are and reflect the overall well-being of mothers and infants. Higher rates are linked to factors like limited prenatal care, poor maternal health, or socioeconomic challenges. These conditions increase the risk of complications, developmental delays, and long-term health problems, making them important measures of population health.



Prenatal Indicators

Prenatal care received in the first trimester %

	2023	2024	% change
Clermont County	71.3	71	-0.4
Ohio	72.7	72.1	-0.8

Mother smoked any time during pregnancy %

	2023	2024	% change
Clermont County	6.2	4.7	-24.2
Ohio	6.5	5.3	-18.5

Obese weight pre-pregnancy %

	2023	2024	% change
Clermont County	35.3	37.9	+7.4
Ohio	33.8	34.2	+1.2

Rates of prenatal care, smoking during pregnancy, and maternal obesity reflect the conditions a fetus is exposed to before birth. These behaviors are associated with higher risks of complications such as preterm birth, low birth weight, and developmental issues.



Turning Knowledge into Action: Strategies and Activities



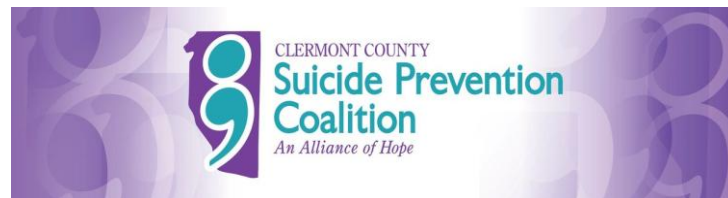
Turning Knowledge Into Action

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.



Strategies and Activities: Suicide Prevention

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).



Strategies and Activities: Health Behaviors

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, **Complex Medical Help** program, **Ohio Buckles Buckeyes**, through local partnerships, and through other Health District programs.

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

Infant Safe Sleep



Baby sleeps safest alone, on their back, in a crib.



Community Partners and Agencies (1)

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati

- No-cost membership for youths 5-18 years includes daily homework assistance, physical activity and nutrition education, nationally recognized programming, USDA-approved meal each night, and access to safe, positive, caring adult role models.
- Fit for Life program combines daily exercise/physical activity and instruction on nutrition to help young people become healthy, active, and form positive relationships.
- Ready to Serve program gives members a sense of self-worth, teaches character and leadership skills that extend into adulthood, and empowers positive change.

Clermont Board of Developmental Disabilities

- Grant funded programs for multi-system youth support.
- The Thomas A. Wildey School partners with local school districts in Clermont County to provide specially-designed instruction for students as Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams see fit. When an educational placement at Thomas A. Wildey is deemed appropriate by the student's IEP team, the school district of residence is responsible for 100% of the cost to educate the student as well as providing specialized transportation.



Community Partners and Agencies (2)

Clermont County Educational Service Center (CCESC)

- Trauma-informed care continues to proliferate across multiple school districts, and Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) remains embedded in classroom activities and separate facilities serving students with special needs.
- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) is in place in several districts and the capacity to involve increased numbers of students in the process continues to increase.

Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board

- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for first responders to recognize mental health concerns and connect with available resources.
- Mental health prevention in schools to reduce risk behaviors and increase resiliency.



Community Partners and Agencies (3)

Clermont County Public Health - WIC

- Provides depression screening for WIC participants, makes referrals as needed, and offers information on what to do if experiencing signs of depression, anxiety, and other mental health concerns.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCBHS)

- Continues to provide access to the mental health system so that individuals in crisis can access needed behavioral health treatment.
- Promotes 24/7 mobile crisis availability to the community; accomplished by contracting with the Child Focus Mobile Crisis Team (MCT).

YMCA

- Youth Development Education and Leadership: supports youth programs and camps that promote education, collaboration, leadership, and healthy living.



Turning Knowledge into Action: Recommendations



Recommendations: Overviews

The purpose of Child Fatality Review (CFR) is to provide a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of the circumstances of child deaths to understand how and why children die. Case review findings are used to catalyze action to prevent other deaths and ultimately improve the health and safety of communities, families, and children.

During the review process, CFR team members bring relevant agency records to the case review meeting. These records contain the information teams use to determine what happened in the child's life, what led to the death, and what the community response to the death looked like. The team then documents extensive data on the child, the family, the incident leading to the death, the death investigation, cause-specific risk and protective factors, and systems issues and barriers. The team also documents findings and prevention recommendations. The recommendations presented were developed through this process.



Recommendations

Child medical care

- Enhance access to provider home visiting services for new parents

Safe sleep

- Continued education on safe sleep including education on the surrounding sleep environment
- Unified up-to-date recommendations from physicians on safe sleep environments and clear communication of safe sleep practices to caregivers

Traffic safety

- Education for caregivers on safe play practices and child road safety

Water safety

- Education for caregivers and community members on water and swimming environment safety



QUESTIONS

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