

Child Fatality Review (CFR) 2024

Deaths finalized from
January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024
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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 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.



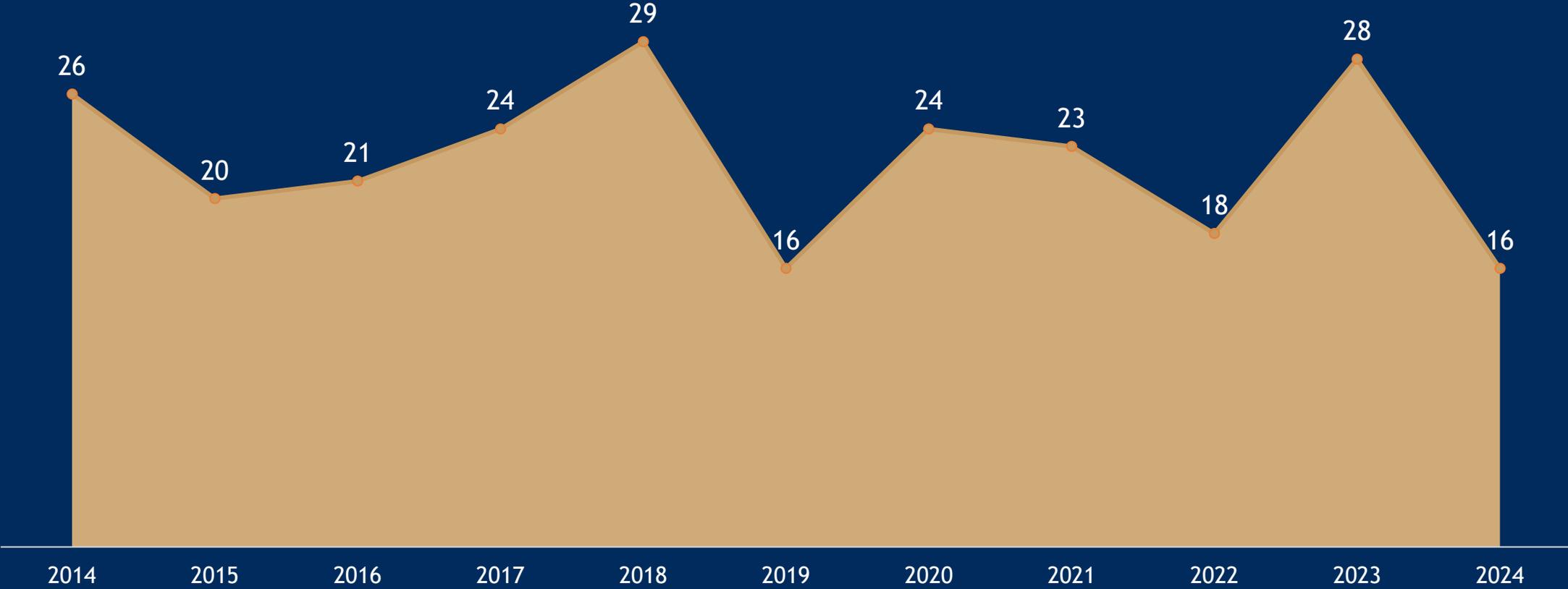
CFR Committee

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 2024, there were 16 deaths among infants and children in Clermont County.

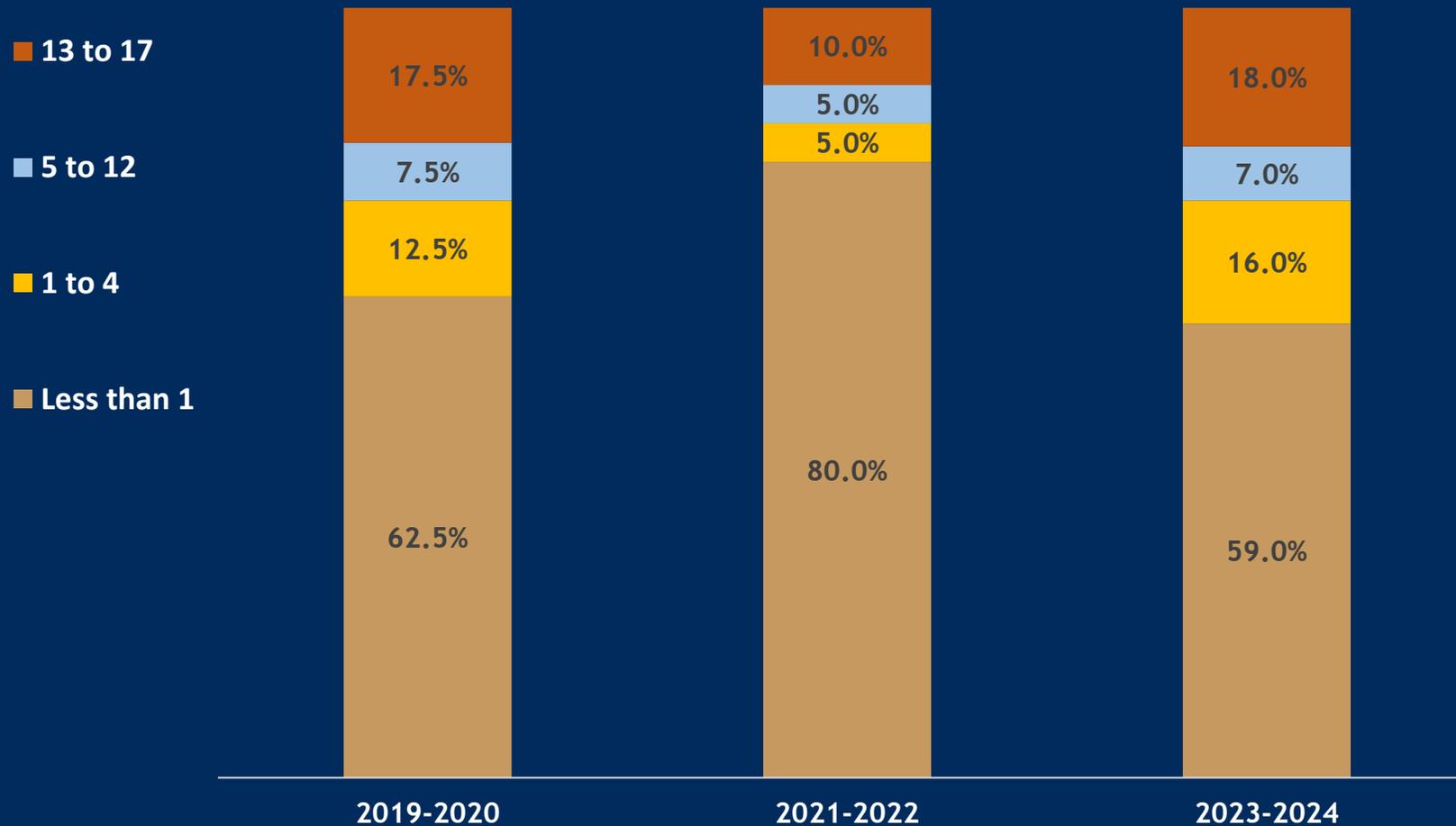


Slope of trend: -0.31. P-value: 0.50. R²: 0.052. While the counts have slightly decreased over time, this result is NOT statistically significant. The low R² means that the year-to-year variation is largely not explained by a consistent trend.

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



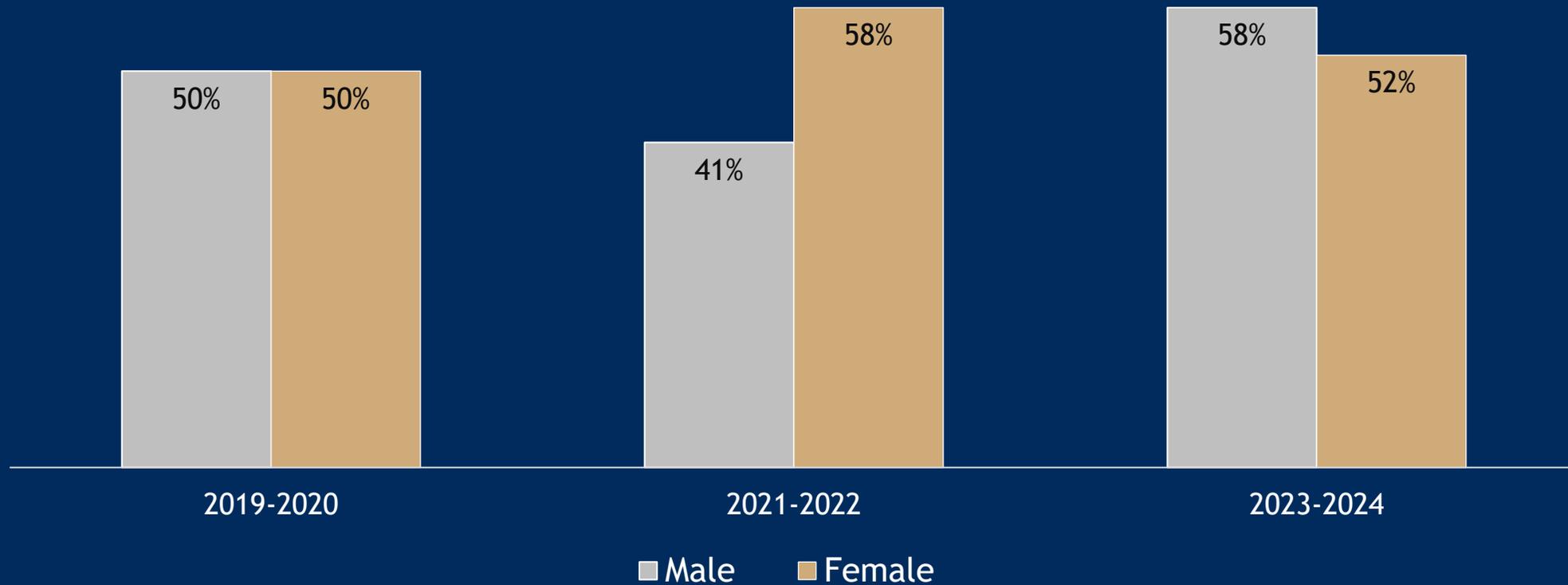
In 2023-2024, there was a **decrease** in the percentage of infant deaths.



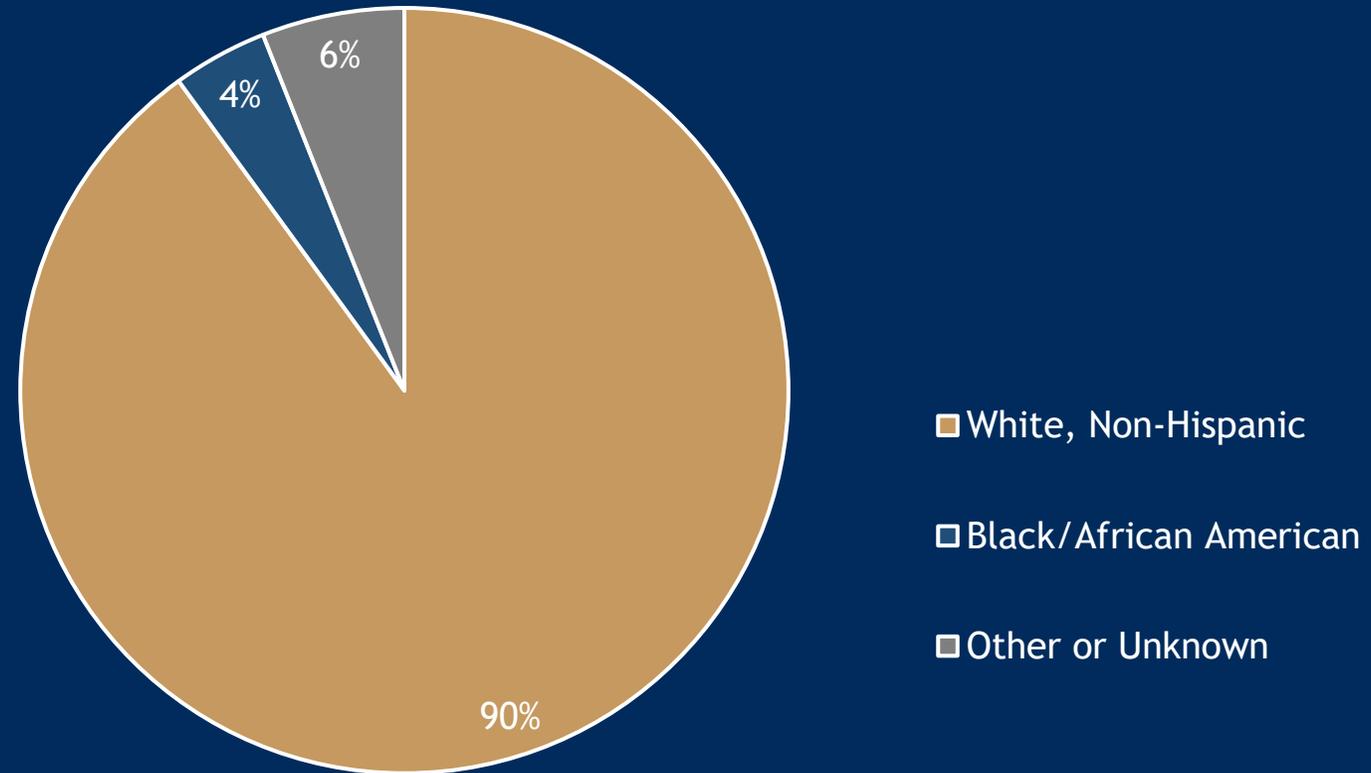
Public health agencies work with health care providers, communities, and other partners to reduce infant mortality. This joint approach can help address social, behavioral, and health risk factors that contribute to infant mortality. Activities include improvements in perinatal care, building capacity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



From 2023-2024, most deaths were among **males**.

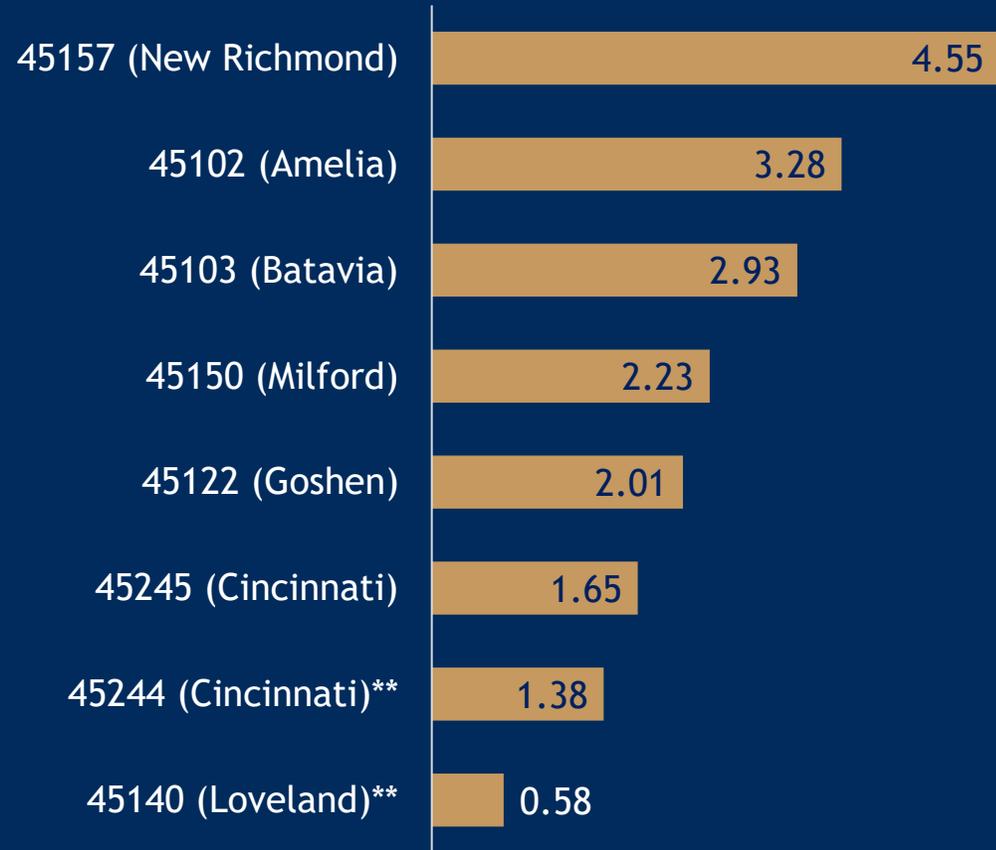
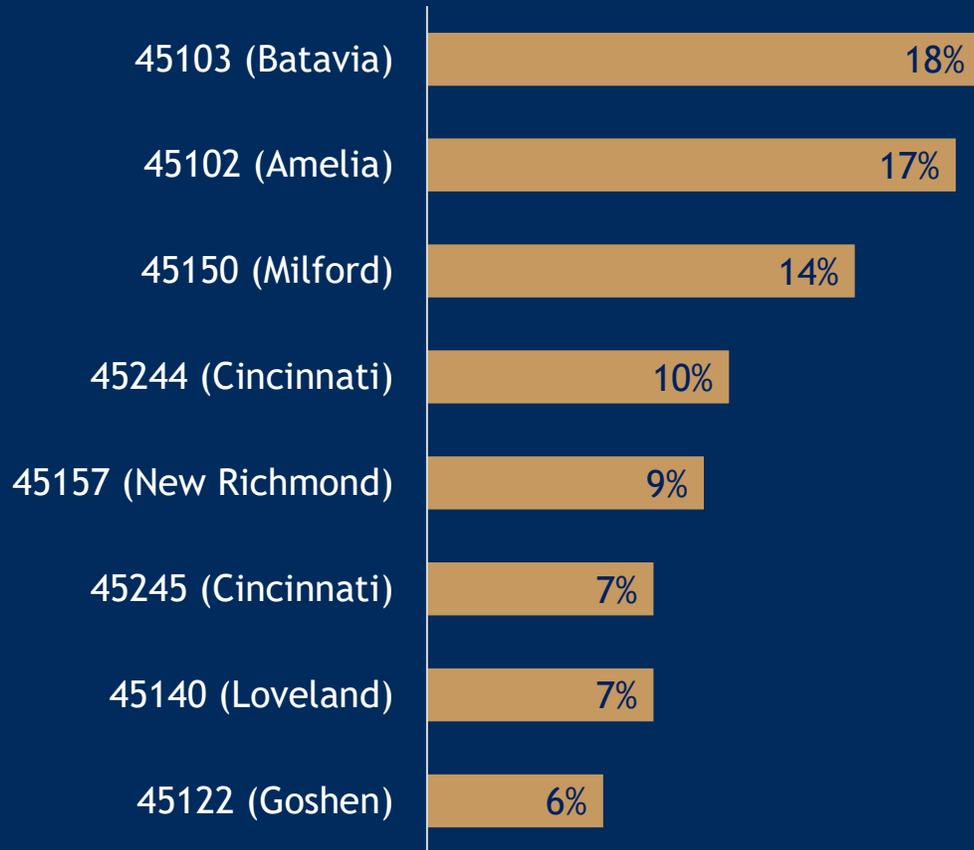


90% of all decedents from 2019-2024 were **white, non-Hispanic.**



The highest percentage of decedents from 2019-2024 were residents of the **45103 (Batavia)** ZIP Code.

However, **45157 (New Richmond)** had the highest rate per 1,000 population.*



*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



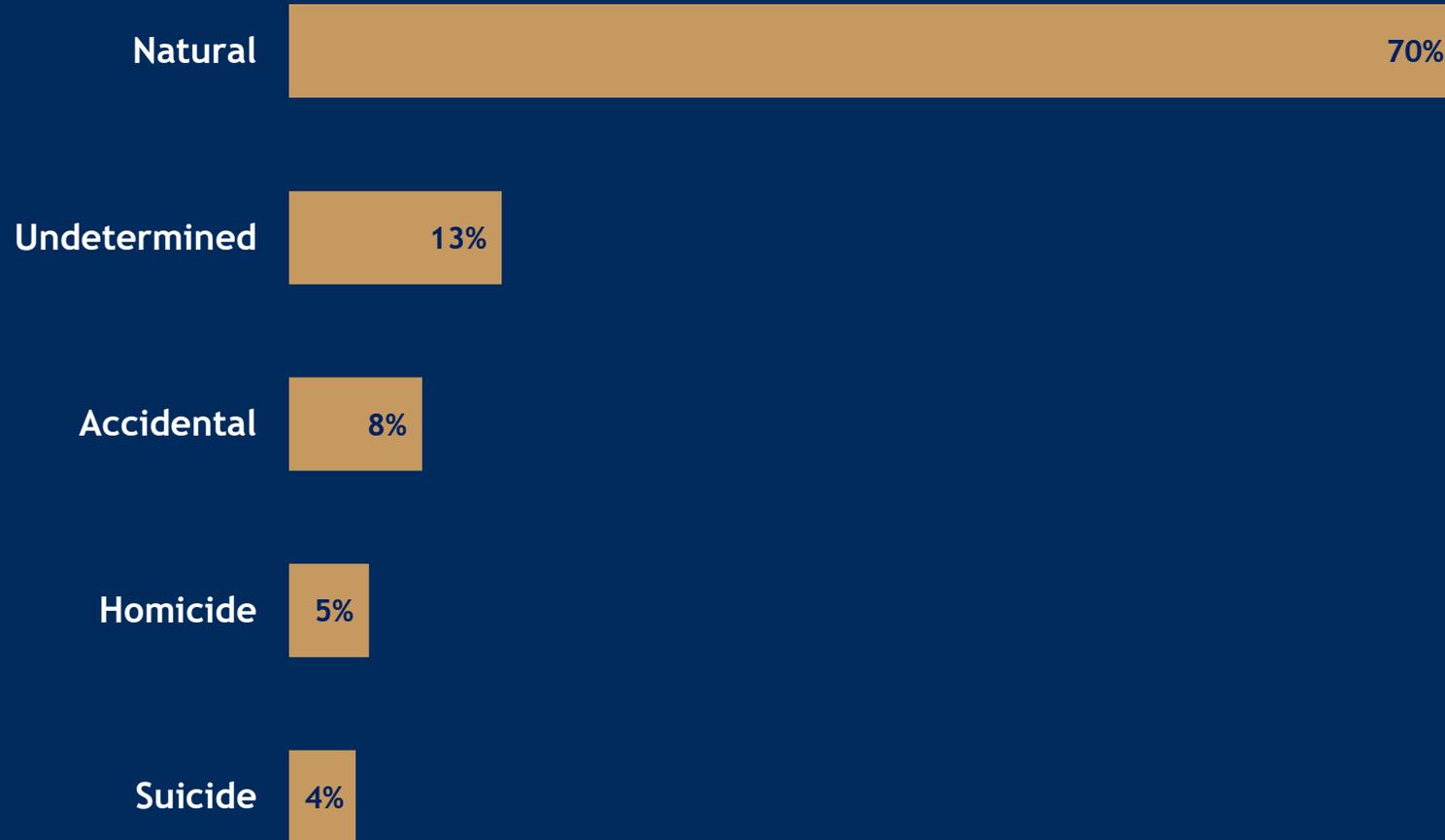
Cause of Death

Definitions

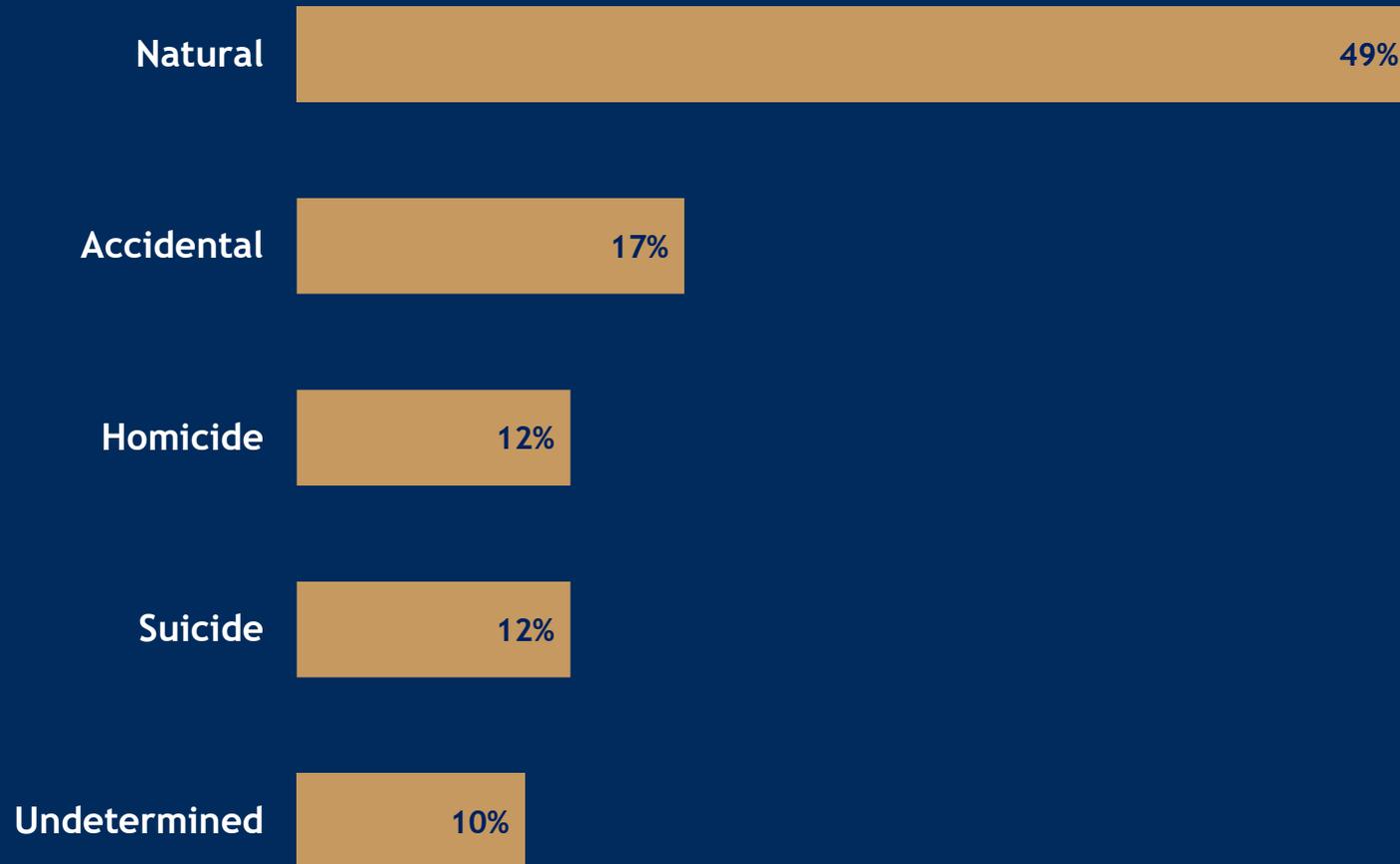
- **Natural:** Deaths caused by the natural disease process including prematurity, and not an accident or violence.
- **Accidental Injury:** Deaths caused by unintentional rather than by natural causes, suicide, or murder.
- **Suicide:** Deaths caused by self-inflicted behavior with the intent to die 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 deaths from 2019-2024 were of natural cause.



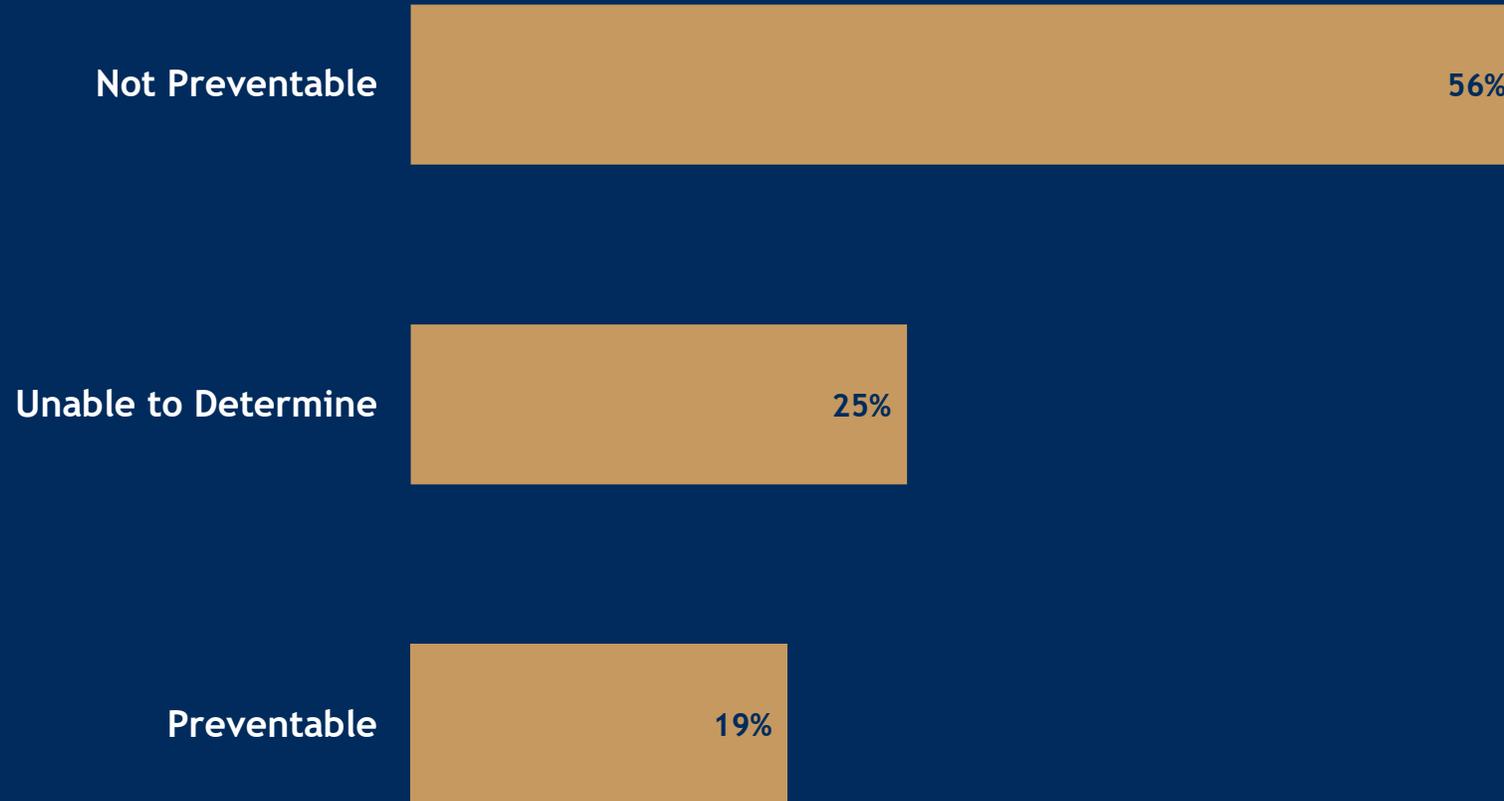
Among children over the age of 1 year, **41%** of deaths from 2019-2024 were caused by **accidental injury, homicide, or suicide.**



Key Findings in 2024



In 2024, **19%** of deaths were deemed **preventable.**

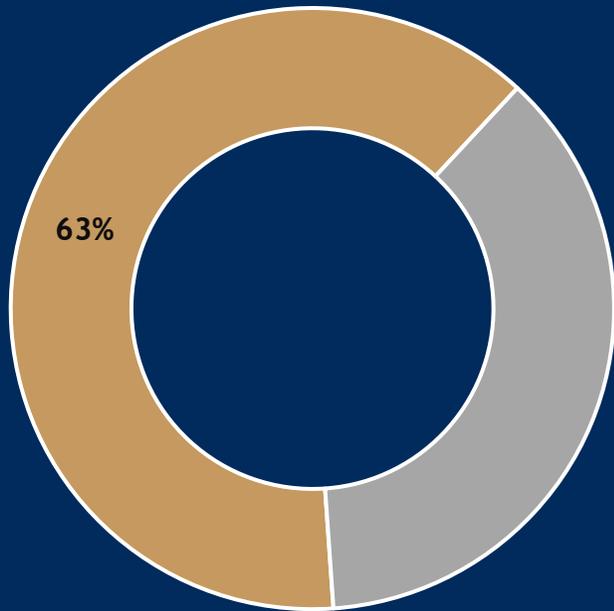


Preventable deaths include those caused by accidental injury (e.g., motor vehicle crash, firearm-related injury, drug overdose or poisoning, fire or burns, drowning), suicide, and homicide.

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

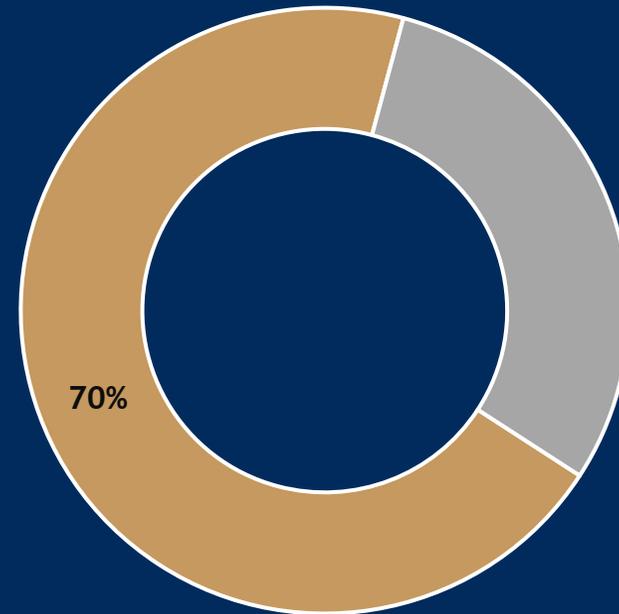


In 2024, **63%** of child deaths in Clermont County were of infants (less than 1 year.)



■ Less than 1 year ■ 1 year or older

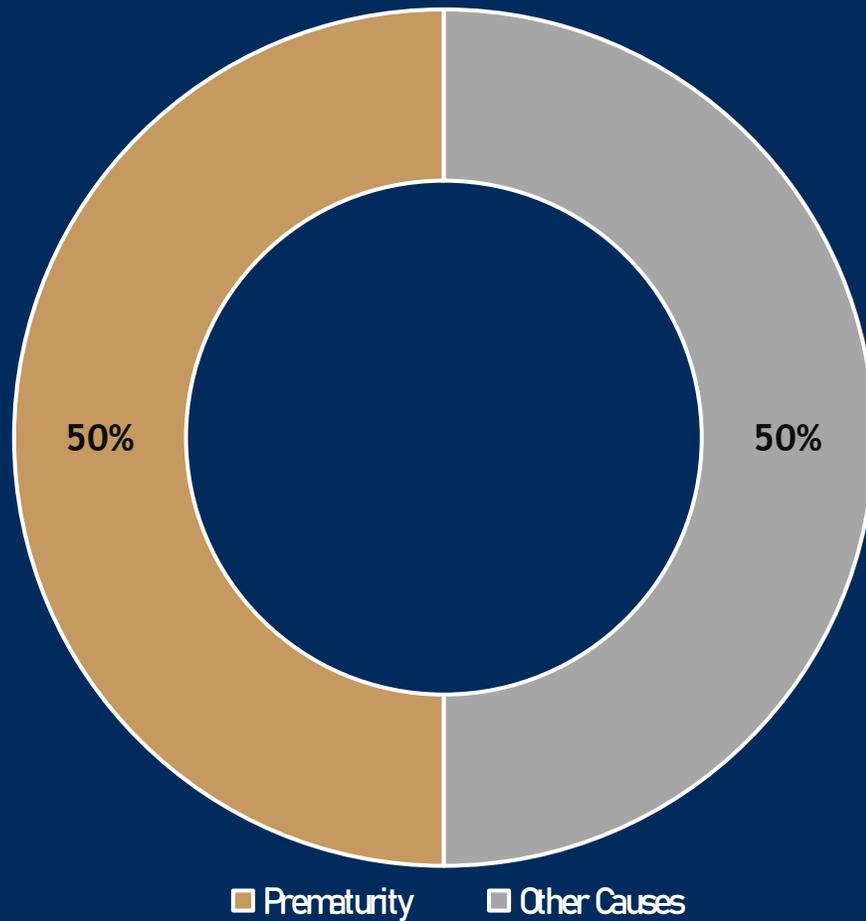
Of the infant deaths, **70%** were **less than seven days** of age.



■ Less than 7 days ■ 7 days or older



In 2024, **prematurity** accounted for **50%** 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.



Turning Knowledge into Action: Strategies and Activities



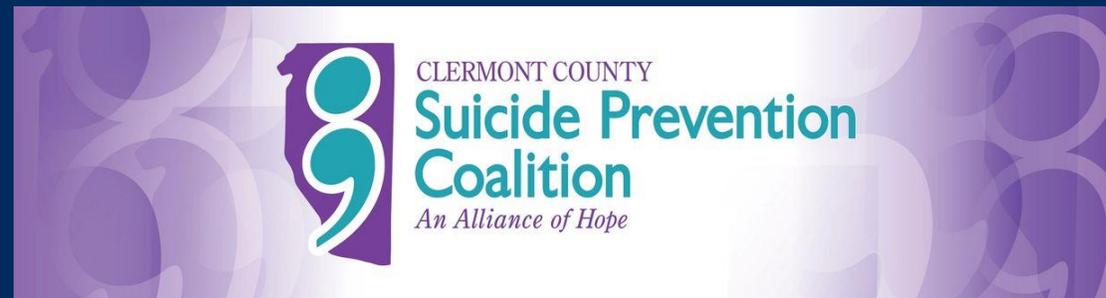
Turning Knowledge Into Action

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

- 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

- 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 through Ohio Buckles Buckeyes and bike helmets at community events continue through program and grant opportunities.



Strategies and Activities

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.



Strategies and Activities

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.



Strategies and Activities

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

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

- Greater access to in-home services for parents of children with complex medical needs.
- Implement policy for patient to give authority for healthcare provider to release their information for service agencies to follow up with the patients.

Pre-conception/prenatal care

- Comprehensive early education for parents about a child's congenital condition.
- Greater linkage to support and services in the prenatal period for families in caring for children with congenital conditions.
- Better coordination to ensure referral to the Complex Medical Help (CMH) program and Early Intervention.
- Strengthen access to and quality of drug treatment during pregnancy.

Safe sleep

- Education about unsafe sleep practices for infants including the use of bumper pads.
- Unified up-to-date recommendations from physicians on safe sleep environments and clear communication of safe sleep practices to caregivers.



Recommendations

Mental/behavioral health

- Greater coordination between hospital systems in other counties and services in Clermont County to ensure follow up and support services for children experiencing mental health conditions.

Suicide prevention

- Policies to ensure that mobile crisis is notified when police are called for mental health crises.
- Strengthen policies for school officials to identify bullying in schools, ensuring that parents are notified, and appropriate action is taken.
- Greater support for parents of children who are experiencing bullying in school and/or mental health crises for child to obtain appropriate services (NAMI, etc.)
- Building out a follow up process for grieving family.

General safety

- Advocacy for AEDs in childcare centers.
- Outreach to families that homeschool to ensure that school districts are following up with students.
- Greater supports for access to care for children who are homeschooled.



QUESTIONS

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