2025 Annual Report from Buncombe County Community Child Fatality Review Team

Presented by

Ellis Matheson, DNP, RN

Team Chair

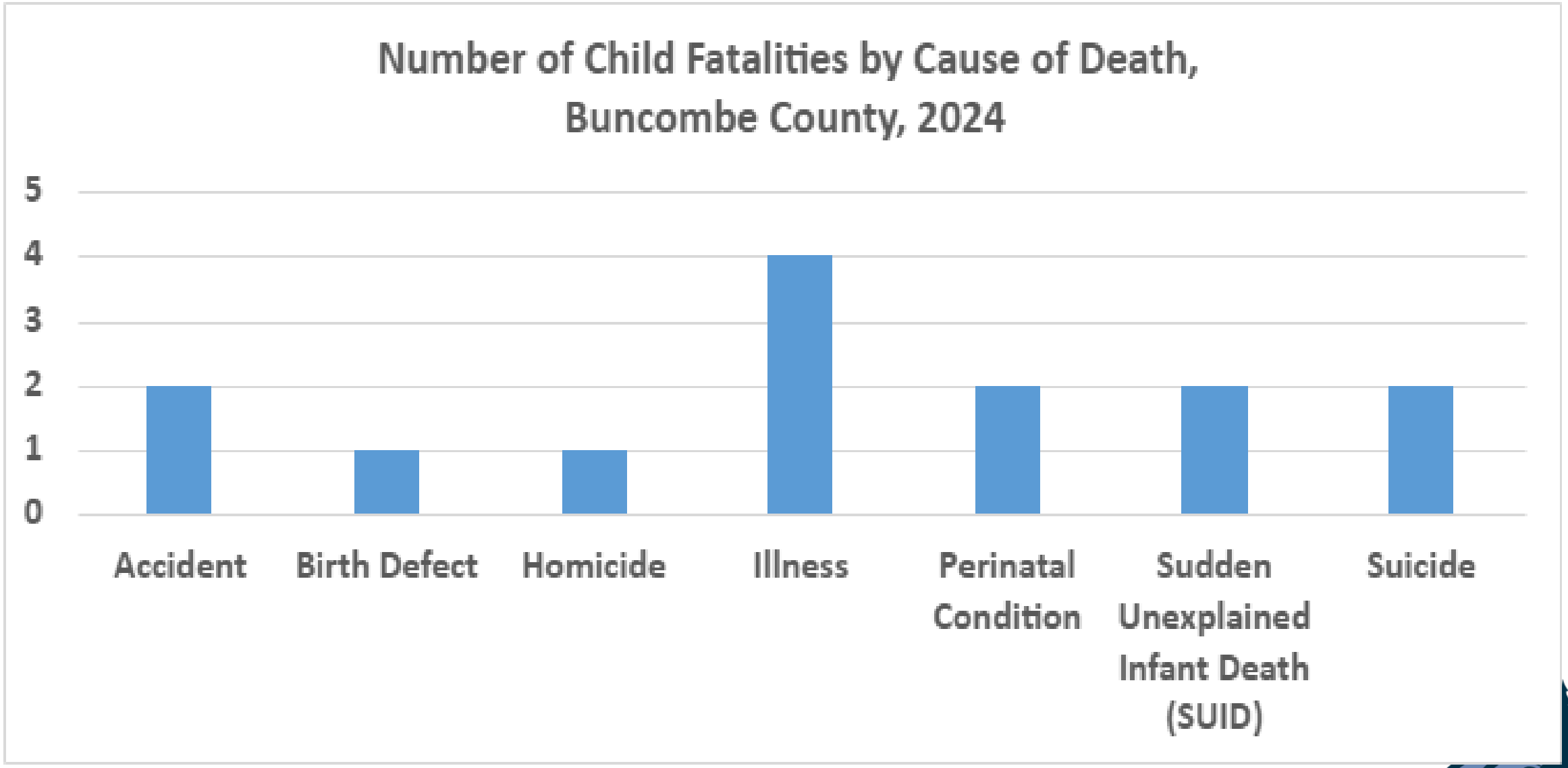
April 24, 2025

Purpose of NC Child Fatality Prevention System

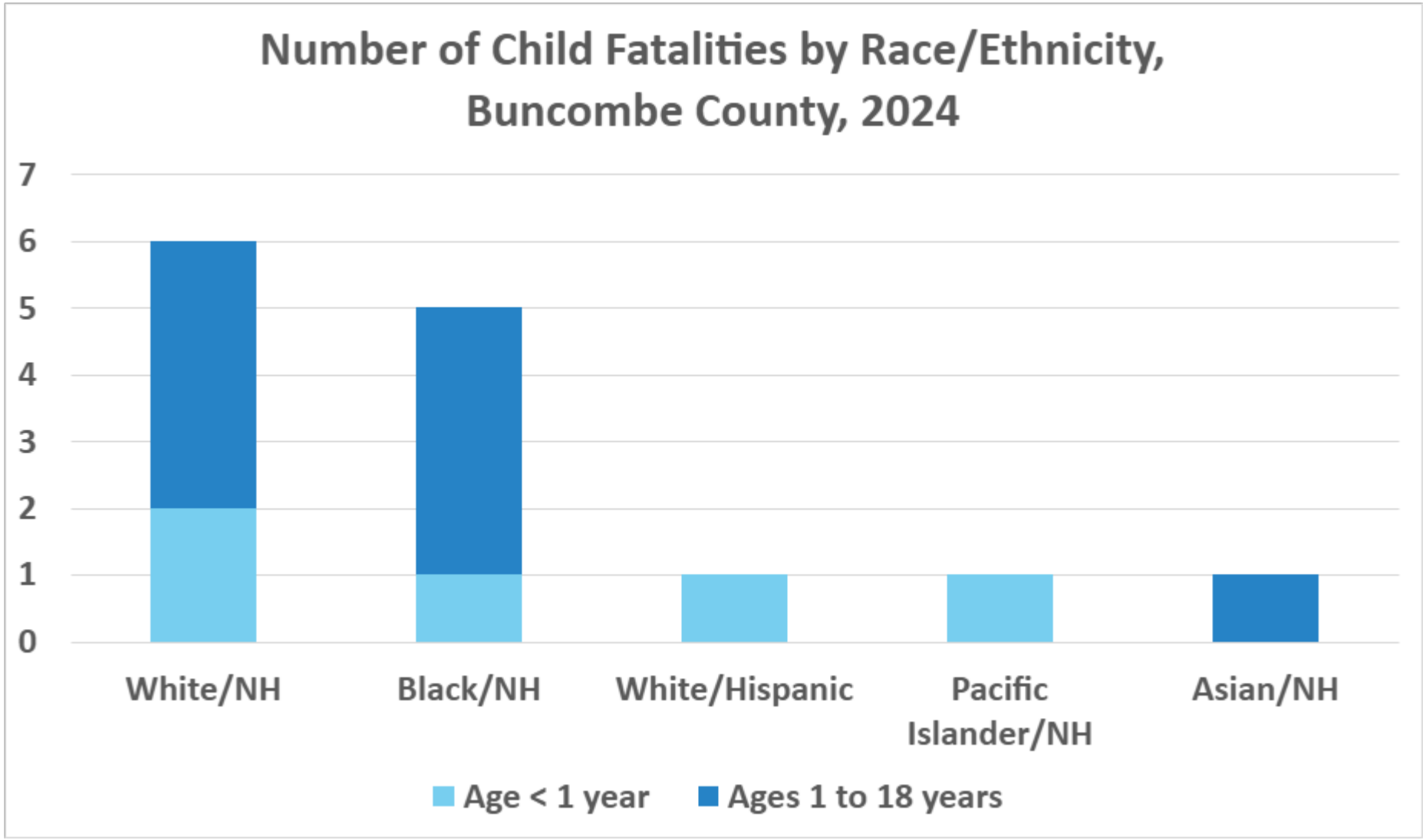
- Develop a community-wide approach to child abuse & neglect
- Understand causes & contributing factors of childhood deaths
- Identify gaps or deficiencies in service delivery
- Identify & assist in helping implement evidence-driven strategies to prevent child death & promote child well-being
- Make & implement recommendations for changes to laws, rules, & policies to support children & prevent future child abuse, neglect & death

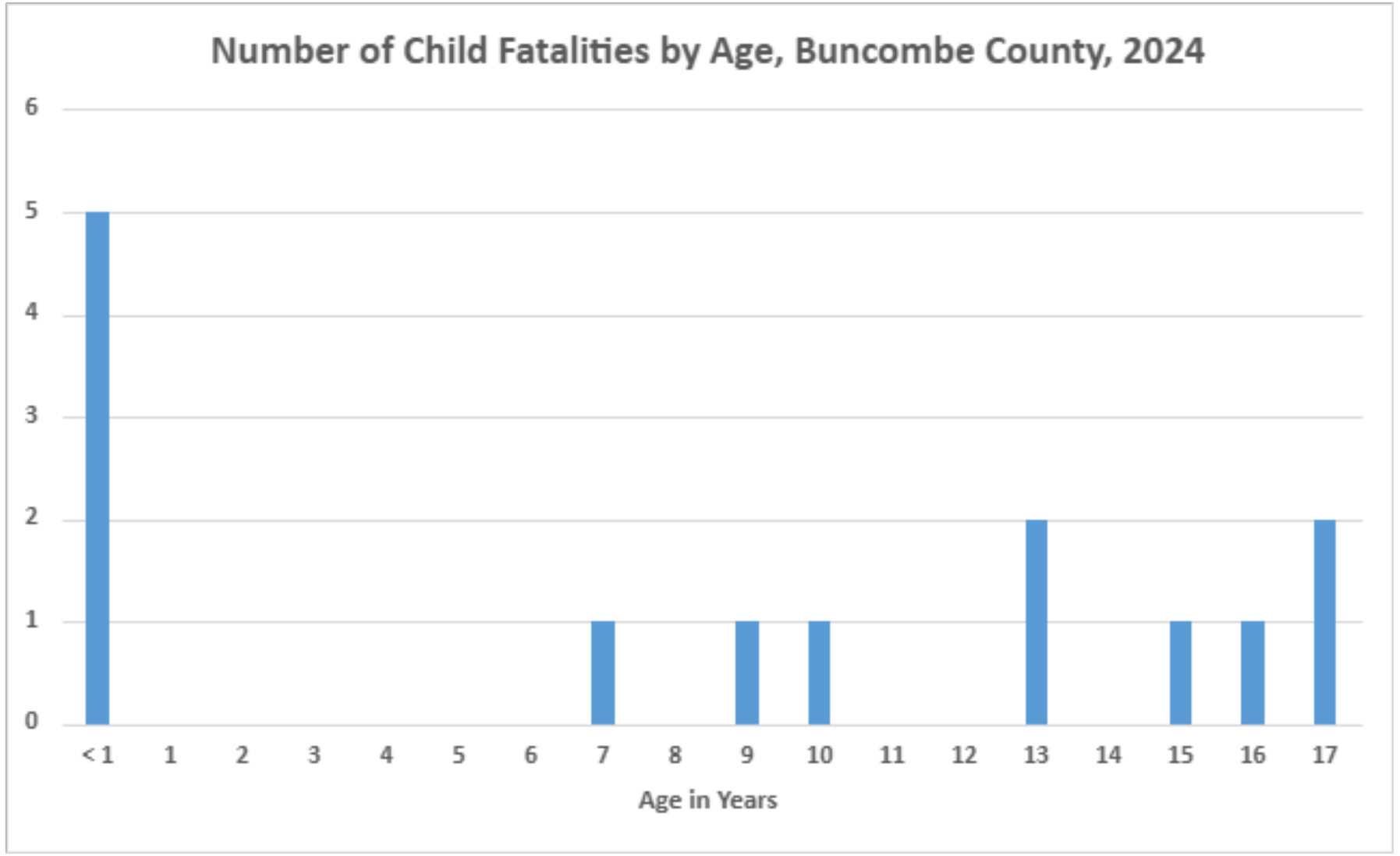
Role of HHS Board

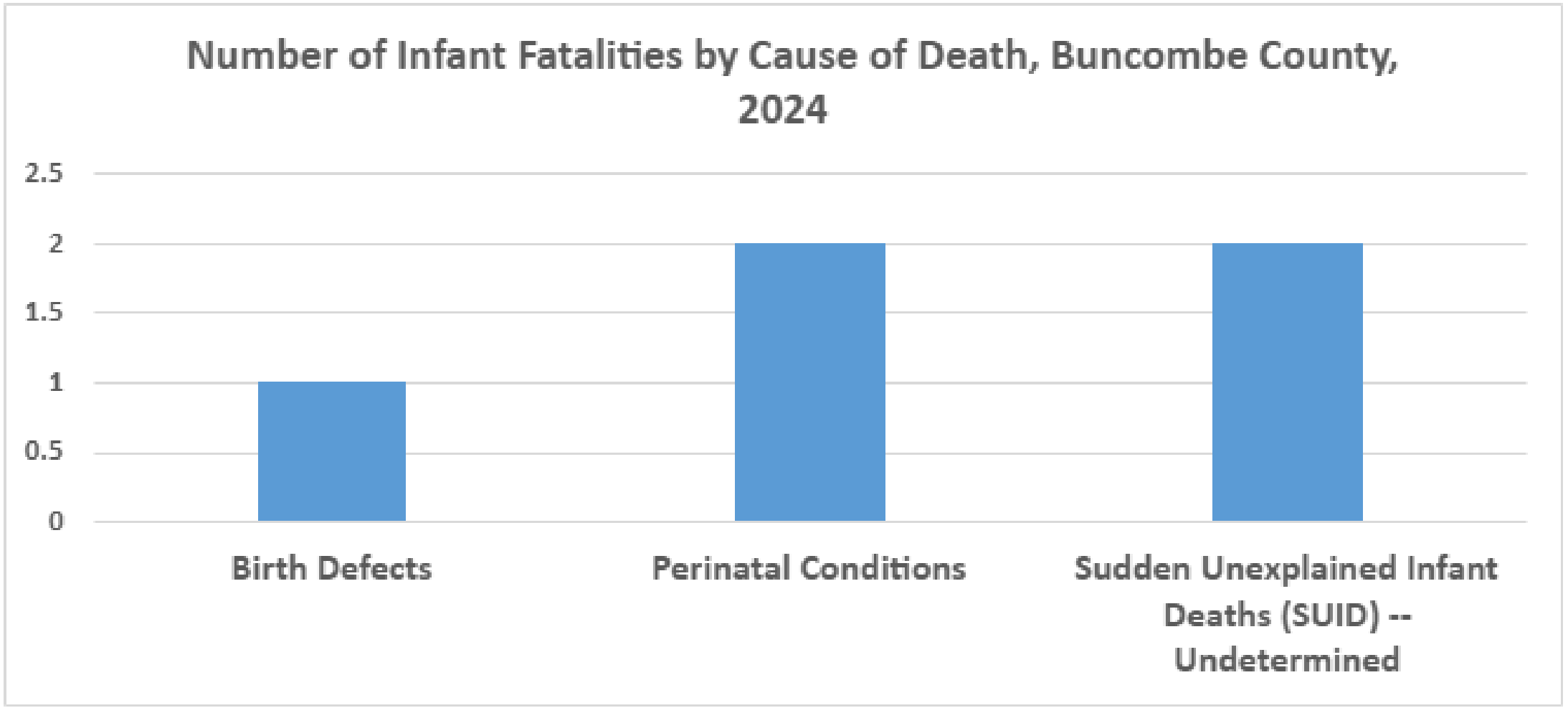
- Receive annual report from the CFRT
- Advocate for system improvements and needed resources, if requested
- Appoint members to the local CFRT as designated by state statute



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


Number of Child Fatalities by Race/Ethnicity, Buncombe County, 2024
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
White/NH
Black/NH
White/Hispanic
Pacific Islander/NH
Asian/NH
Age < 1 year
Ages 1 to 18 years


Number of Child Fatalities by Age, Buncombe County, 2024
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
< 1
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
Age in Years

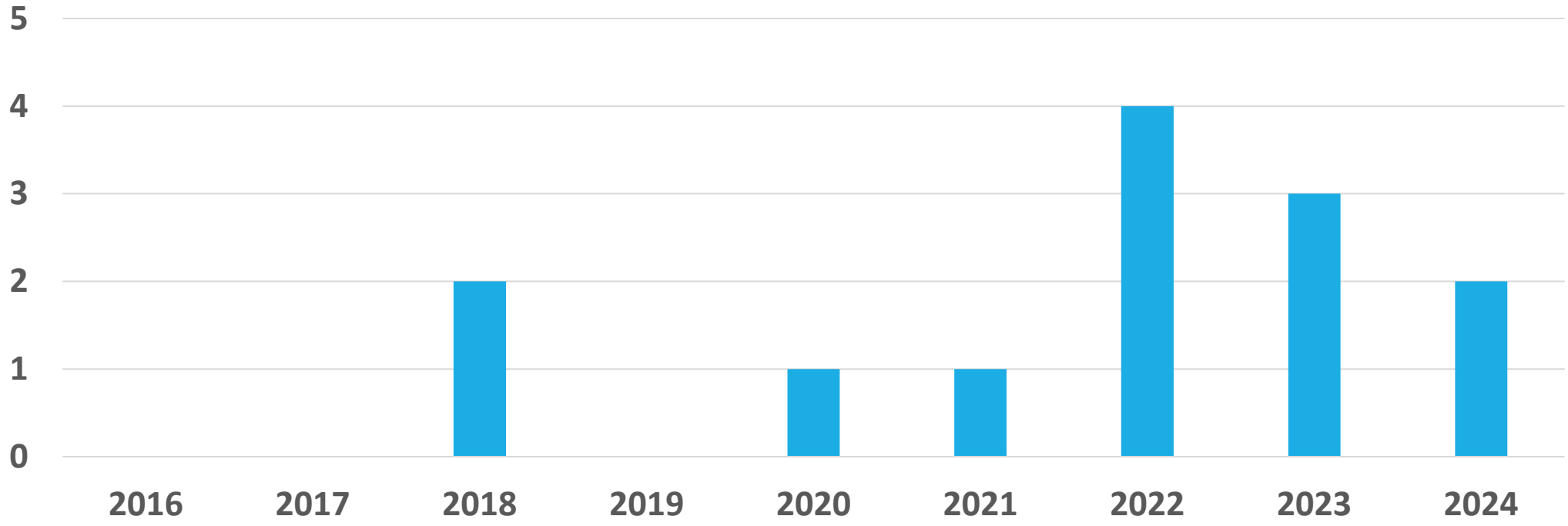

Number of Infant Fatalities by Cause of Death, Buncombe County, 2024
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
Birth Defects
Perinatal Conditions
Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths (SUID) -- Undetermined

CFRT- Recommendations

Drowning

- Development of more robust Emergency/Evacuation Notification Systems that are accurate, regularly updated, and inclusive of all communities
- Increase awareness in all communities about emergency preparedness and available resources

Number of Buncombe County Youth* Suicides by Year



Youth* < 18 years of age

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

CFRT- Recommendations

Suicide

- Need for parent support groups for families of children who have behavioral health care needs (especially for families with children who have had psychiatric hospitalizations or are involved with enhanced outpatient mental health programs)
- Need for more residential treatment facilities across NC for children with behavioral health care needs.
- Need for more established and operational IOPs locally and across NC

Questions?