



Harris County  
Child Fatality  
Review Team

# A Decade in Review: 2008 - 2017

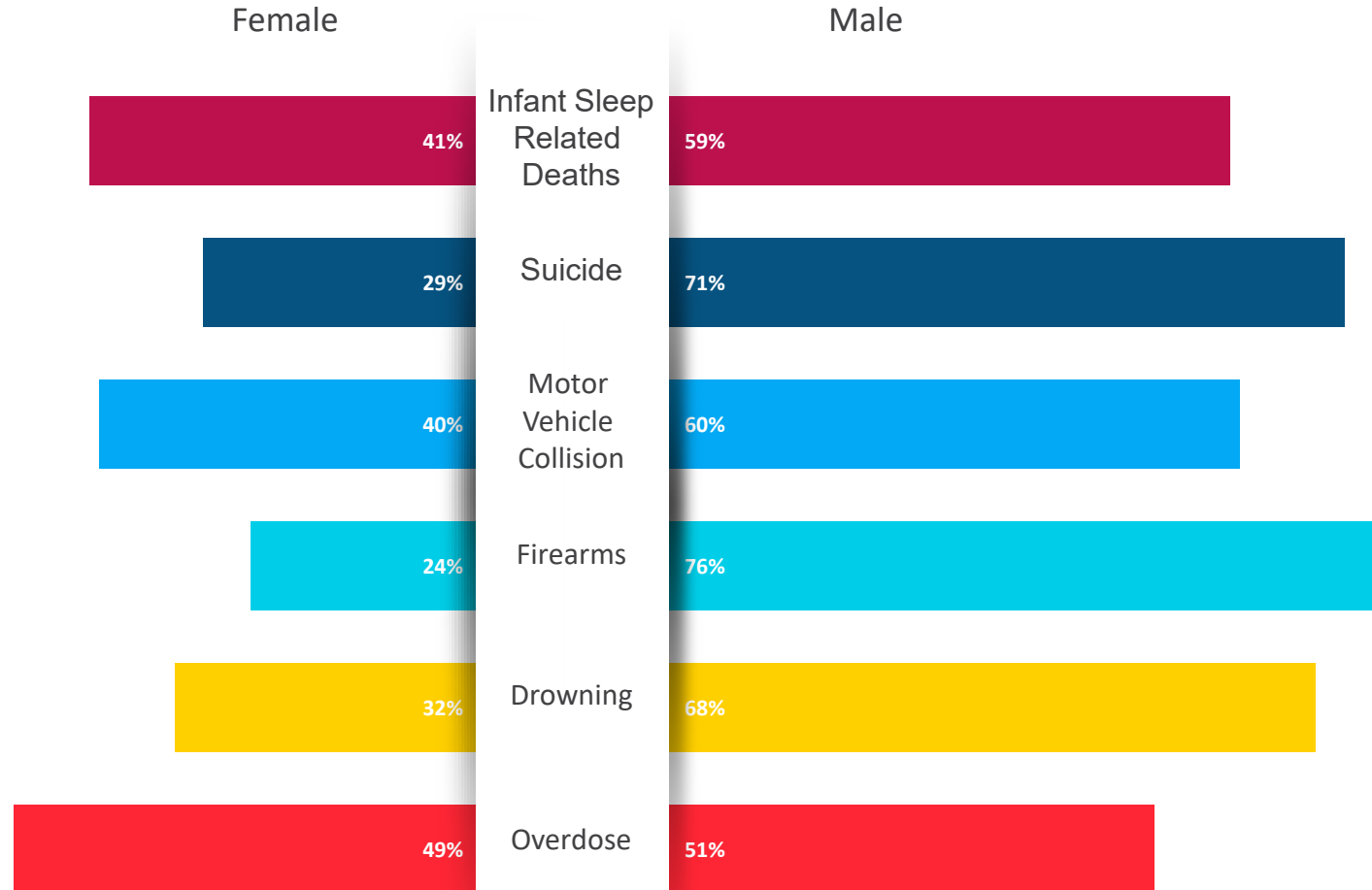
Created by:

Angie Hayes, MS

Baylor College of Medicine

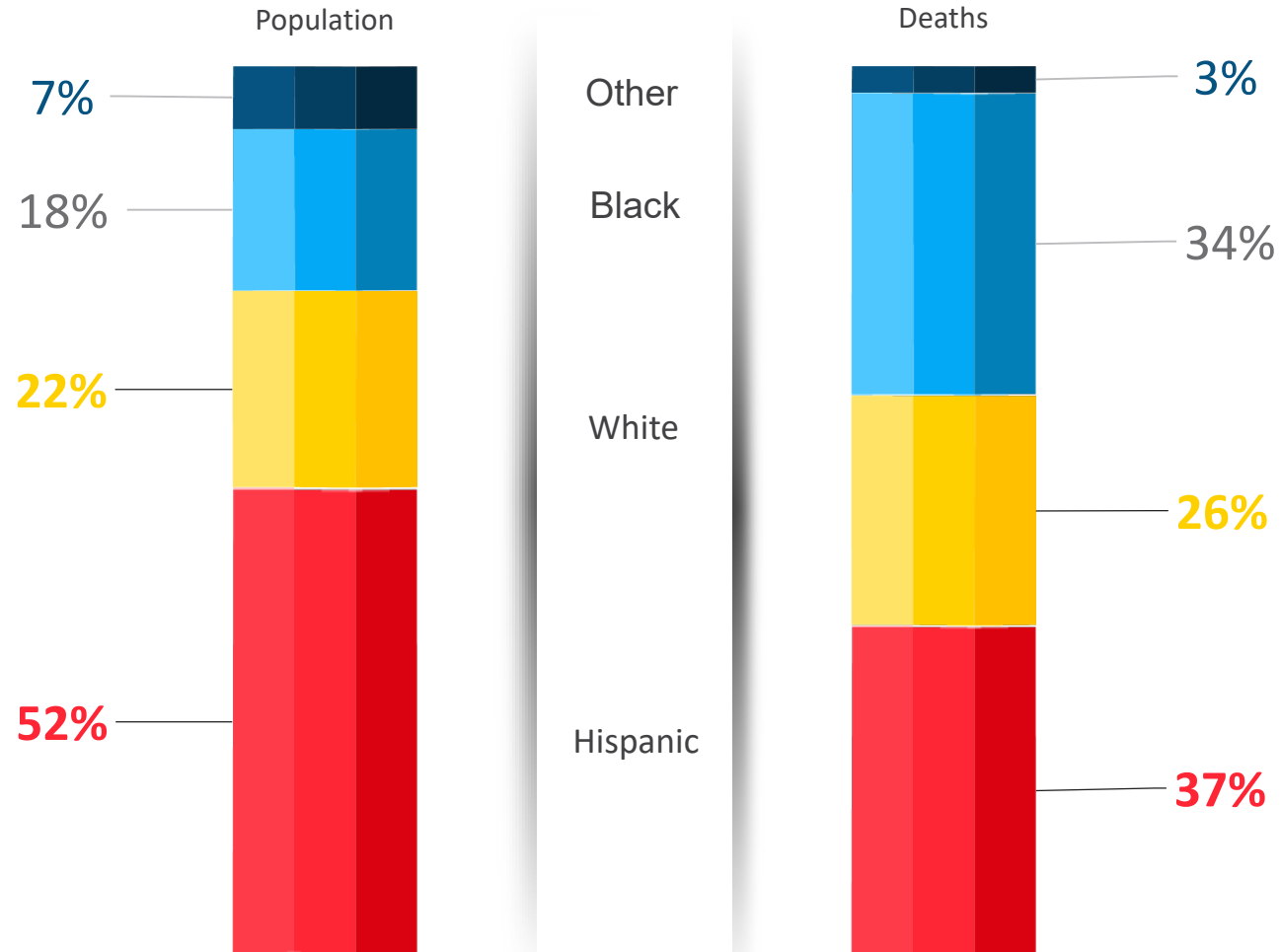
# Leading Causes of Death by Gender

Percentage of deaths by each cause split by gender



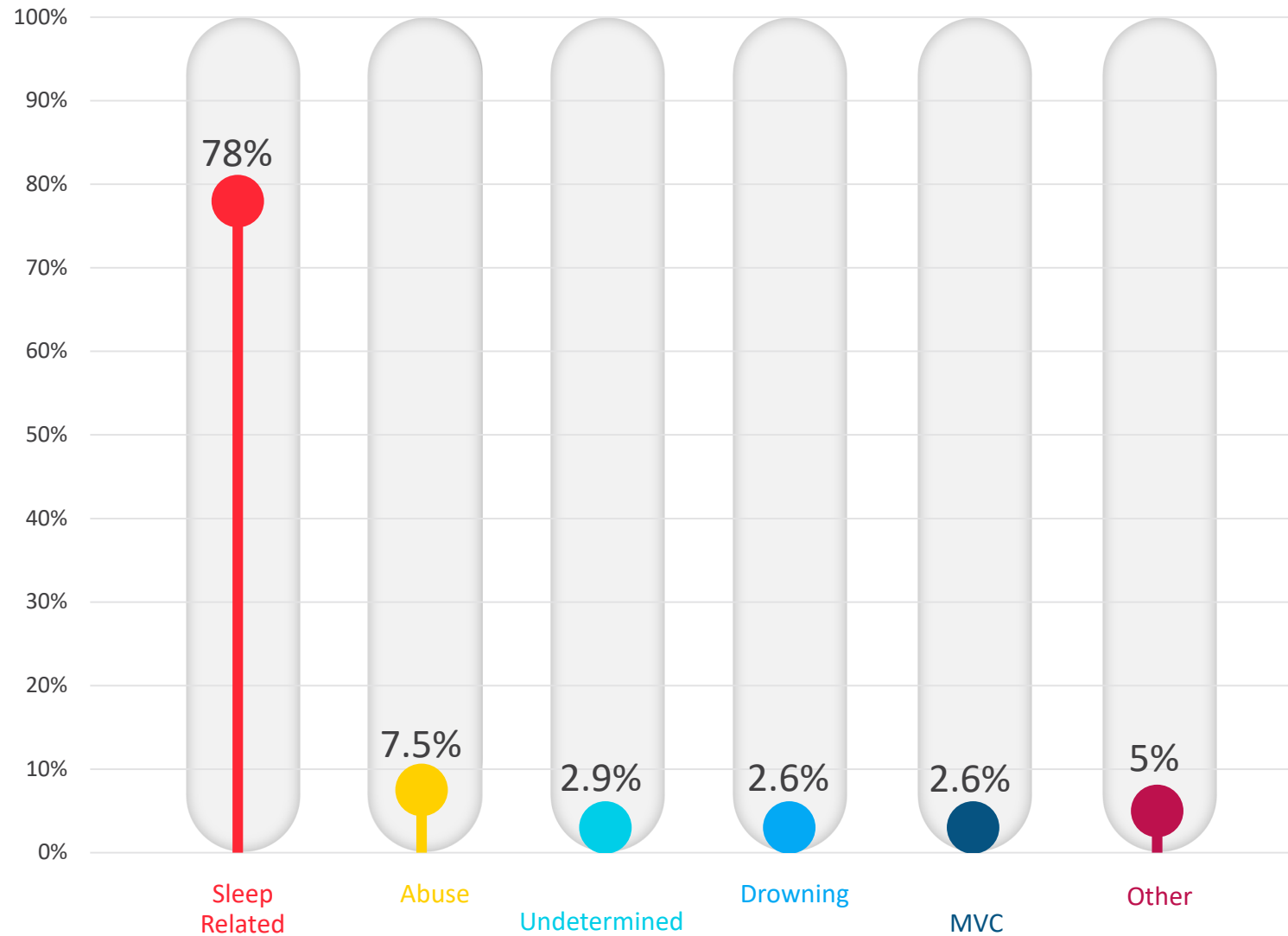
# Deaths by Race

Percentage of population by race compared to percentage of deaths by race



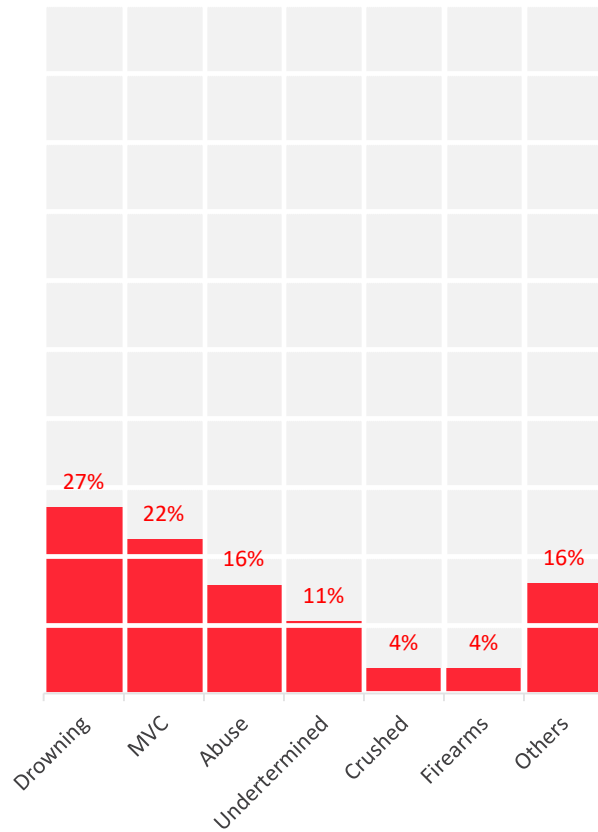
# Leading Causes of Infant Death

Causes of death of infants 12 months and younger

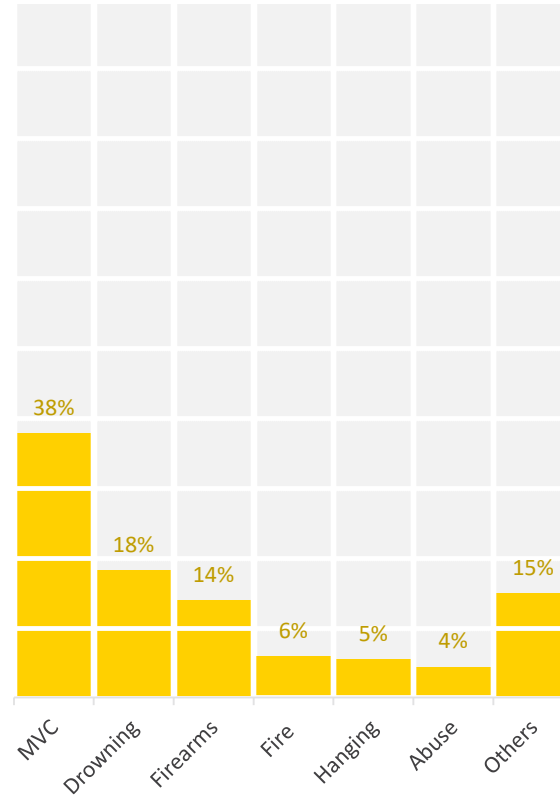


# Leading Causes of Death by Age

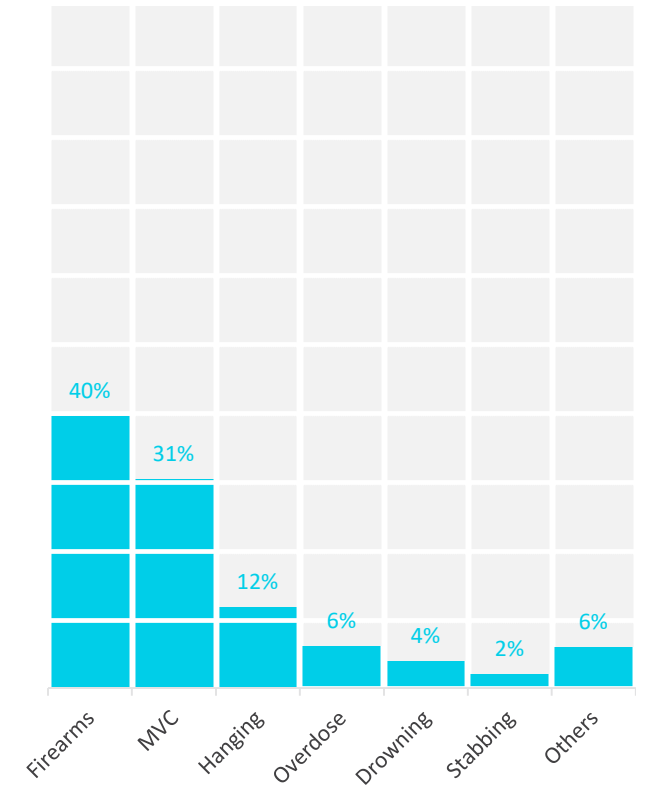
Percentage of deaths by each cause in age groups over 12 months



Children 1 to 4 years



Children 5 to 12 years



Children 13 to 17 years

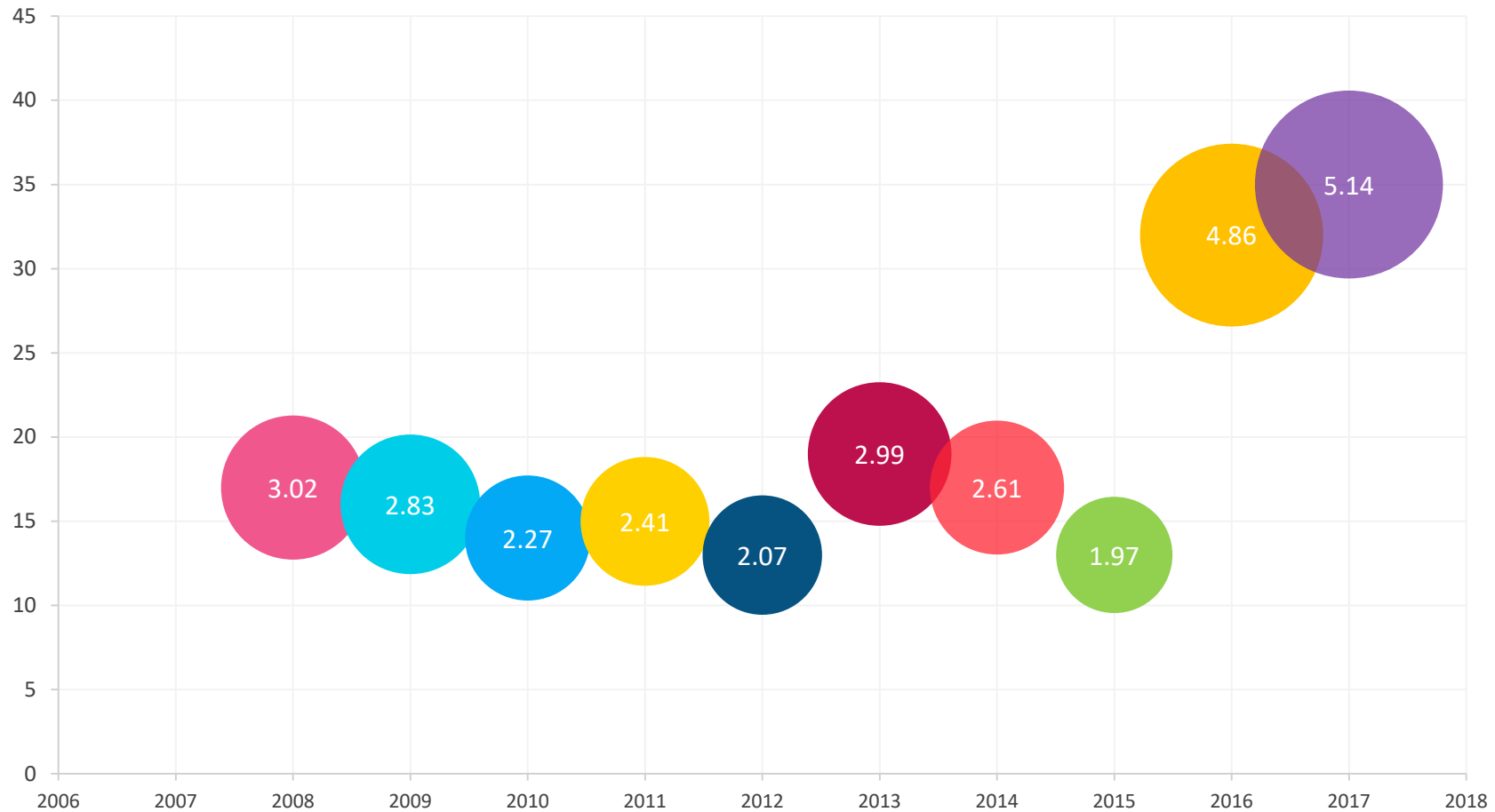
The logo for the Harris County Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) features the letters 'CFRT' in a large, green, stylized font that resembles thick brushstrokes. The letters are contained within a thin orange rectangular border with rounded corners.

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# Youth Suicide

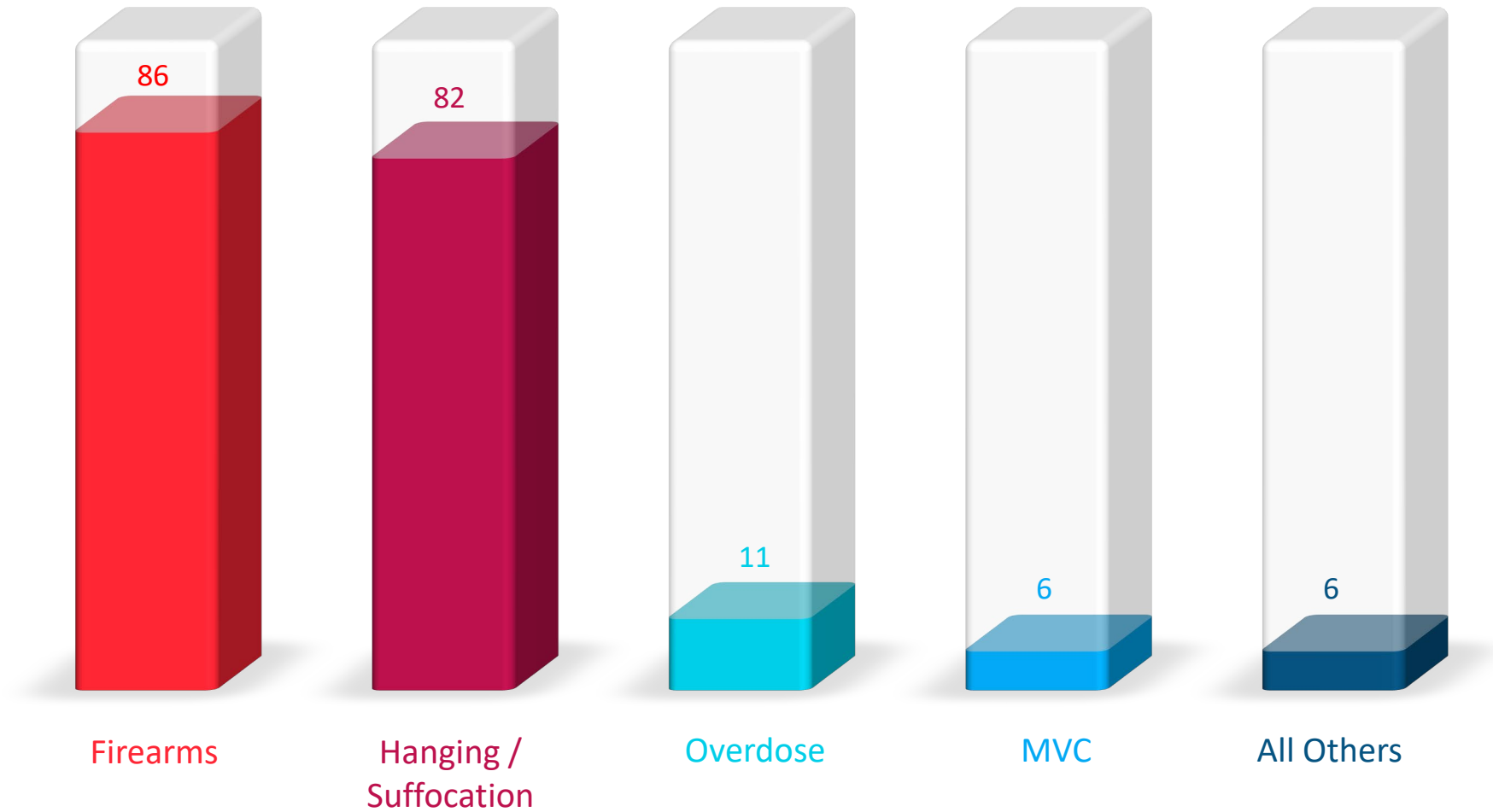
# Deaths by Suicide

Number of deaths per year shown by rate per 100,000 children 8 – 17 years



# Causes of Death by Suicide

Number of suicide deaths by cause



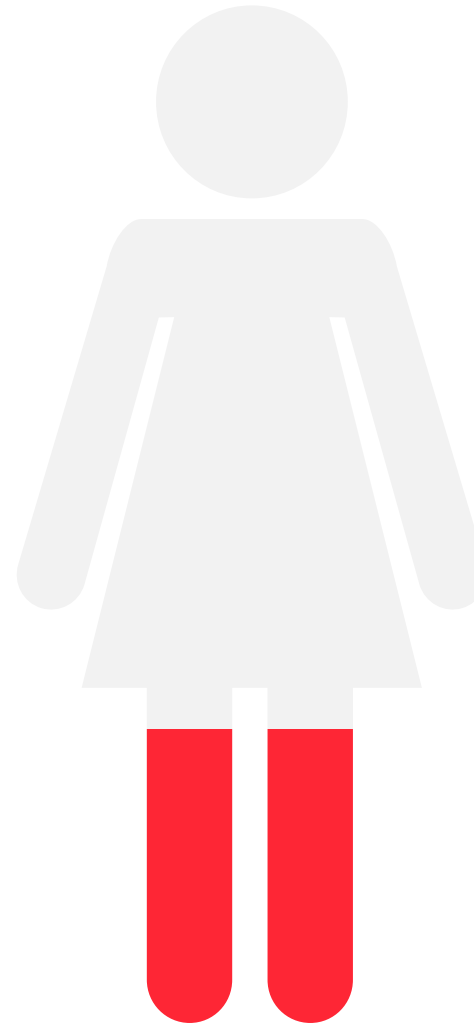


# Deaths by Suicide by Gender

Percentage of deaths by suicide by gender

**71%**  
**MALE**

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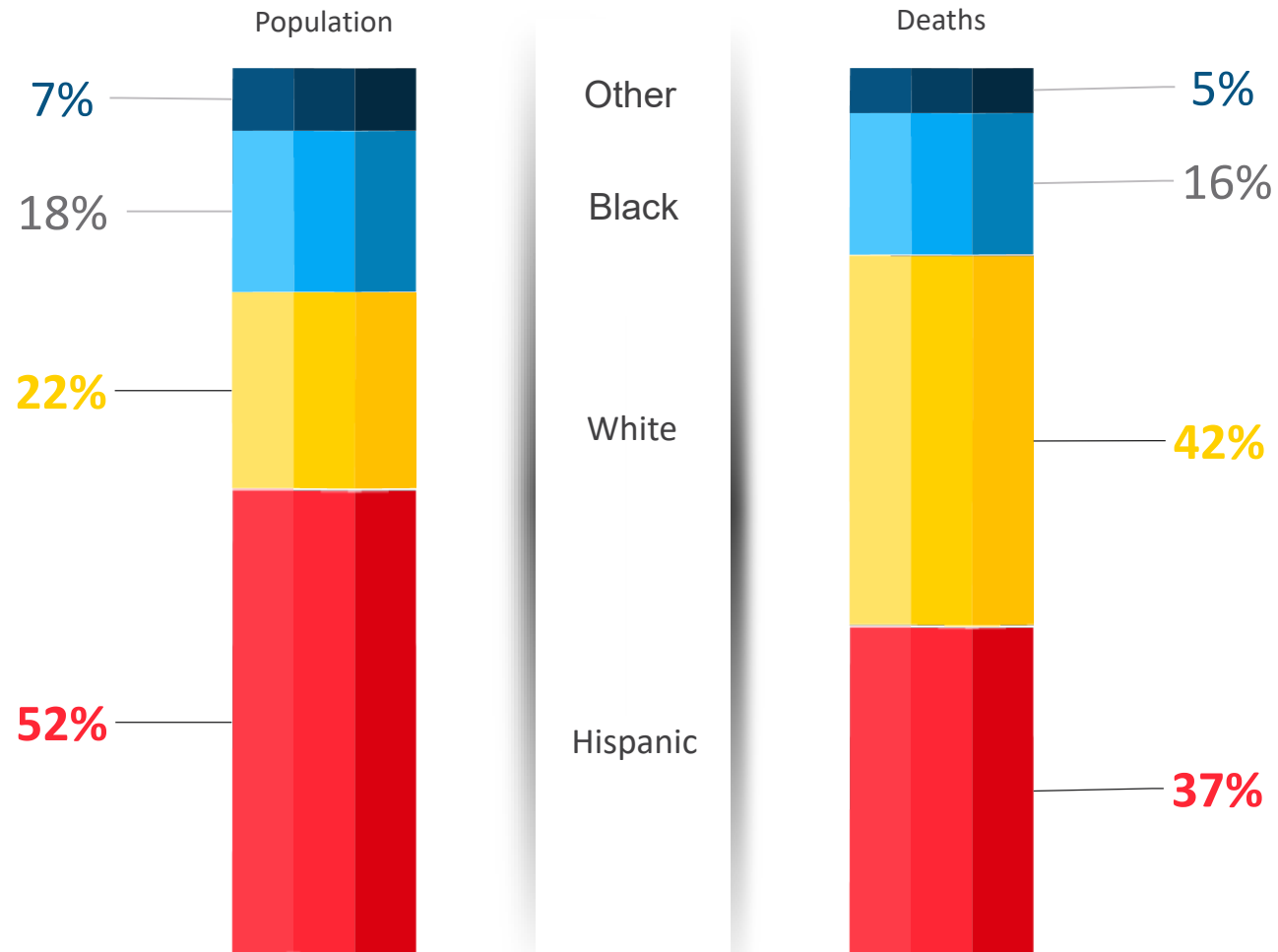


**29%**  
**FEMALE**

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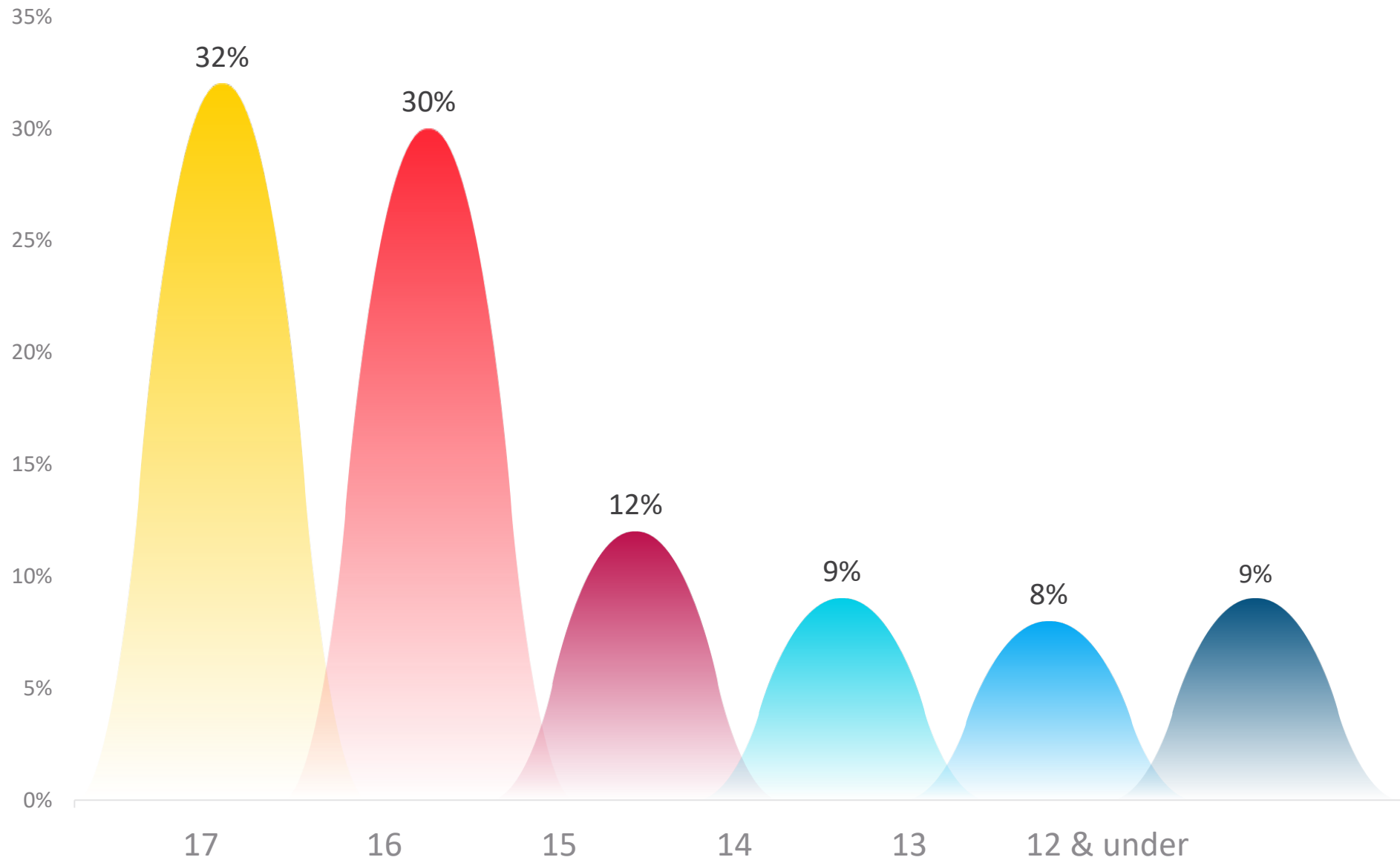
# Suicide Deaths by Race

Percentage of population by race compared to percentage of suicide deaths by race



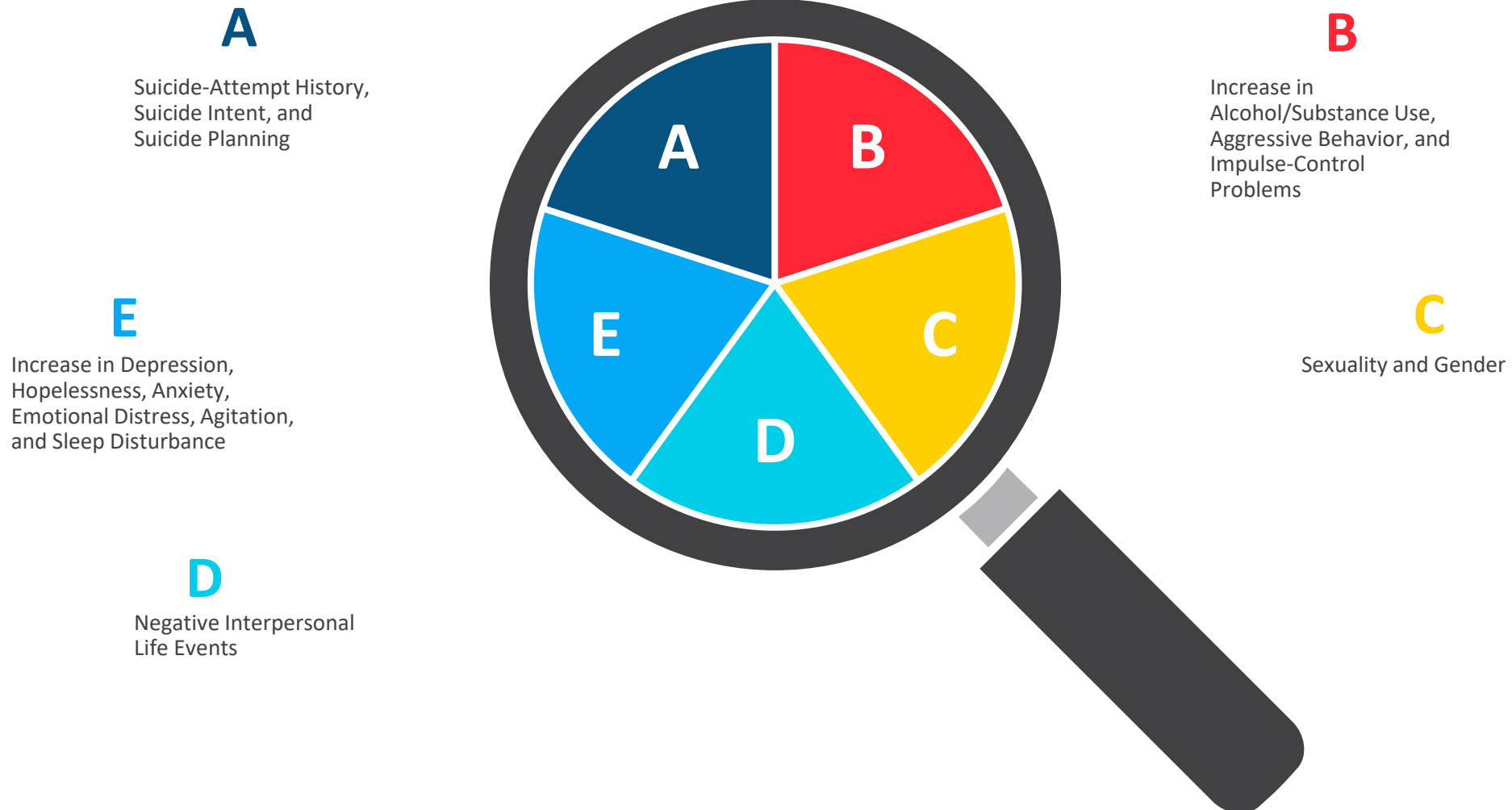
# Suicide Deaths by Age

Percentage of deaths at each age



# Suicide Prevention

Risk factors in youth suicide



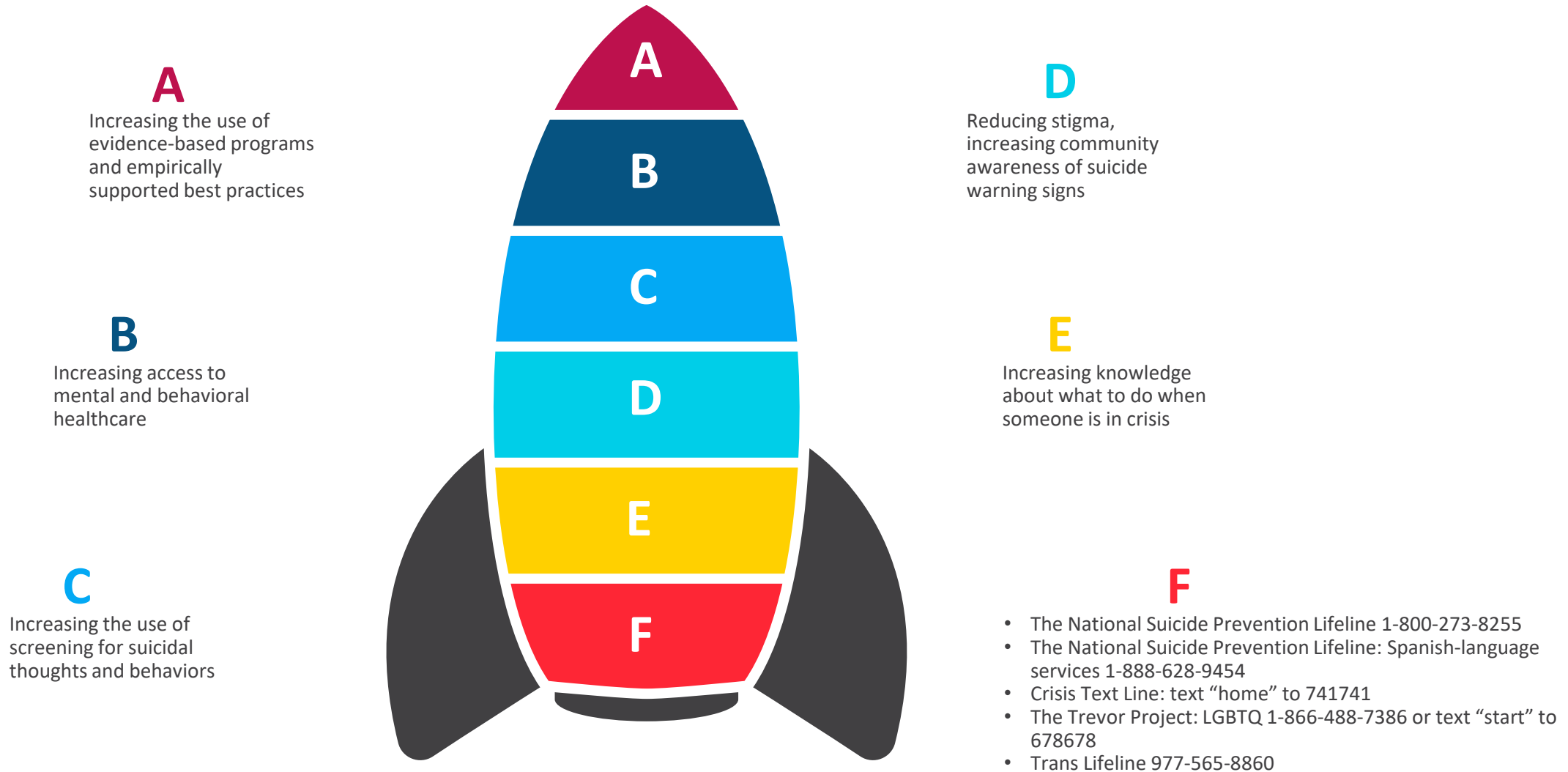
# Suicide Prevention

Protective factors in youth suicide



# Suicide Prevention

Youth suicide prevention steps & resources

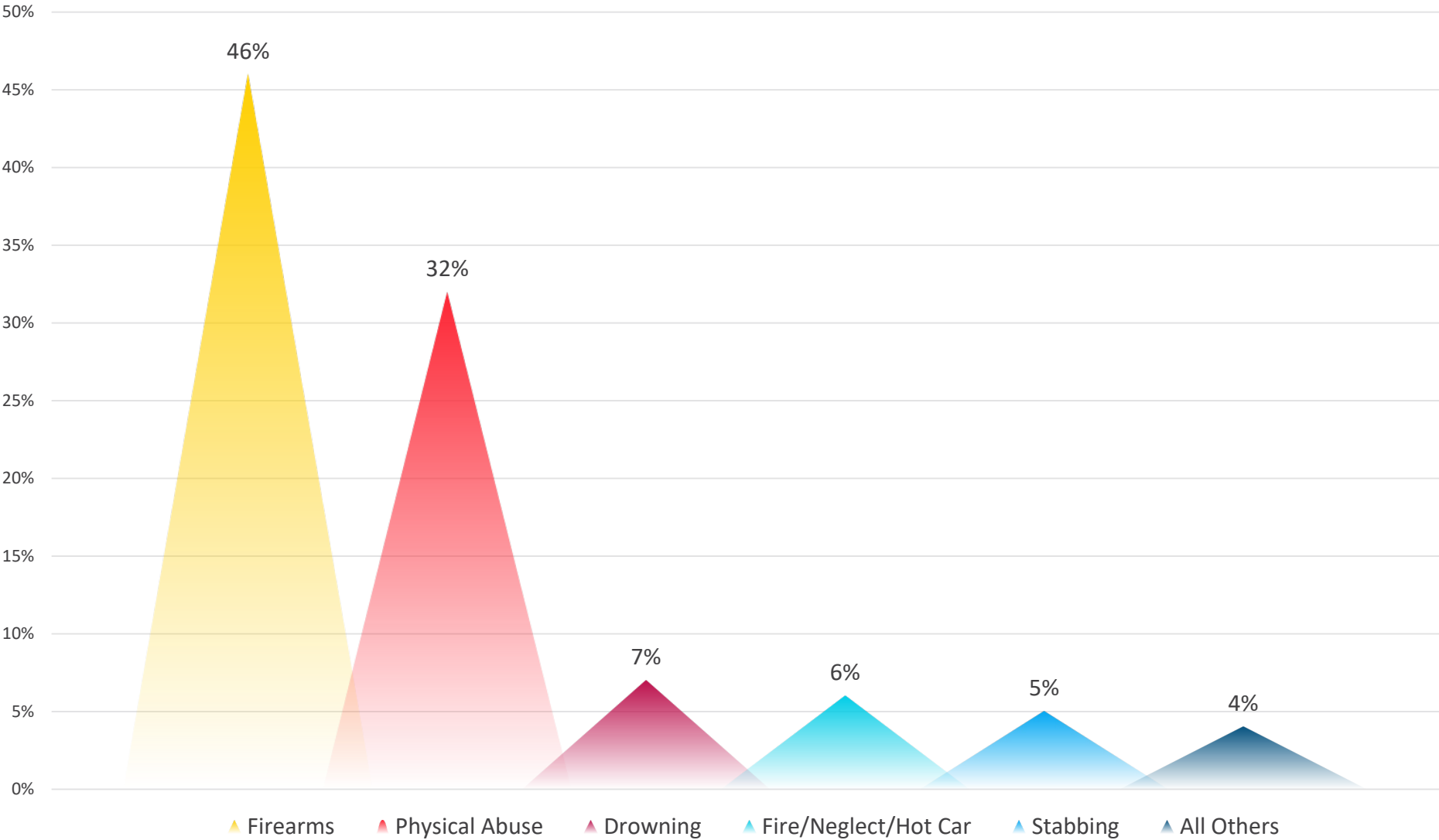




# Homicide: Firearms & Child Abuse

# Causes of Death by Homicide

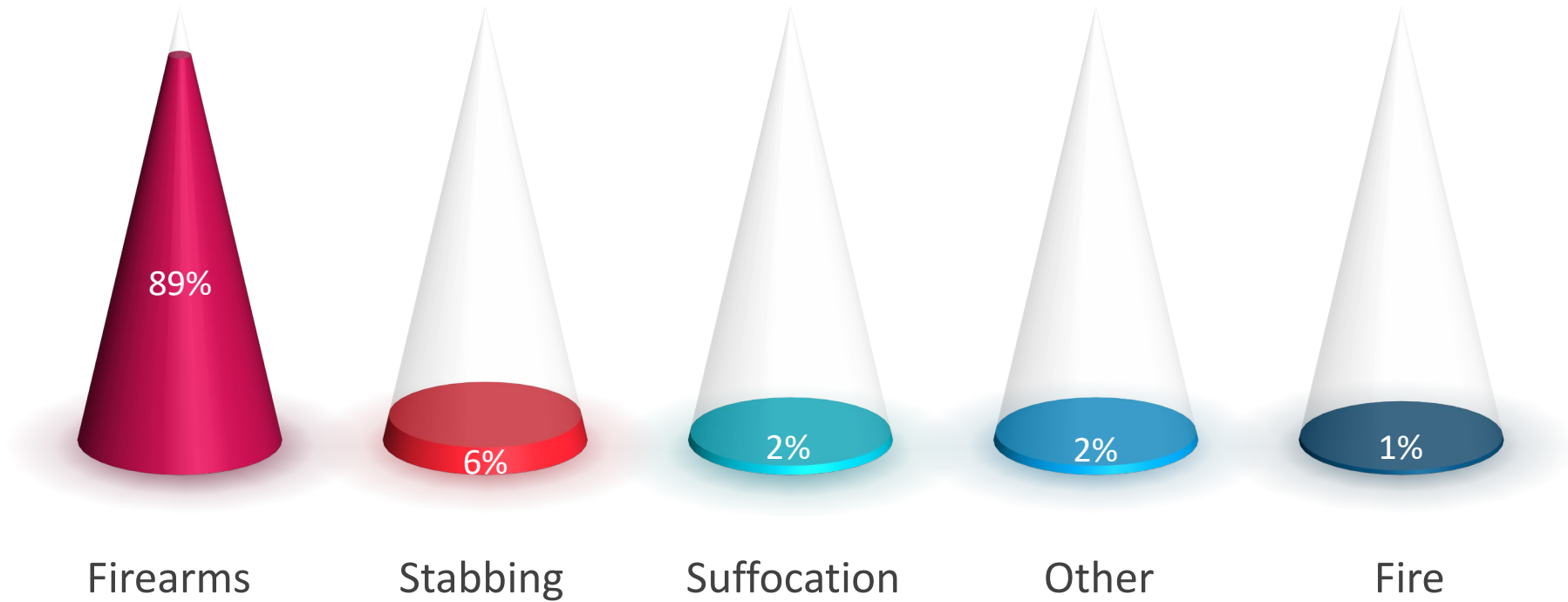
Percentage of homicide deaths by cause





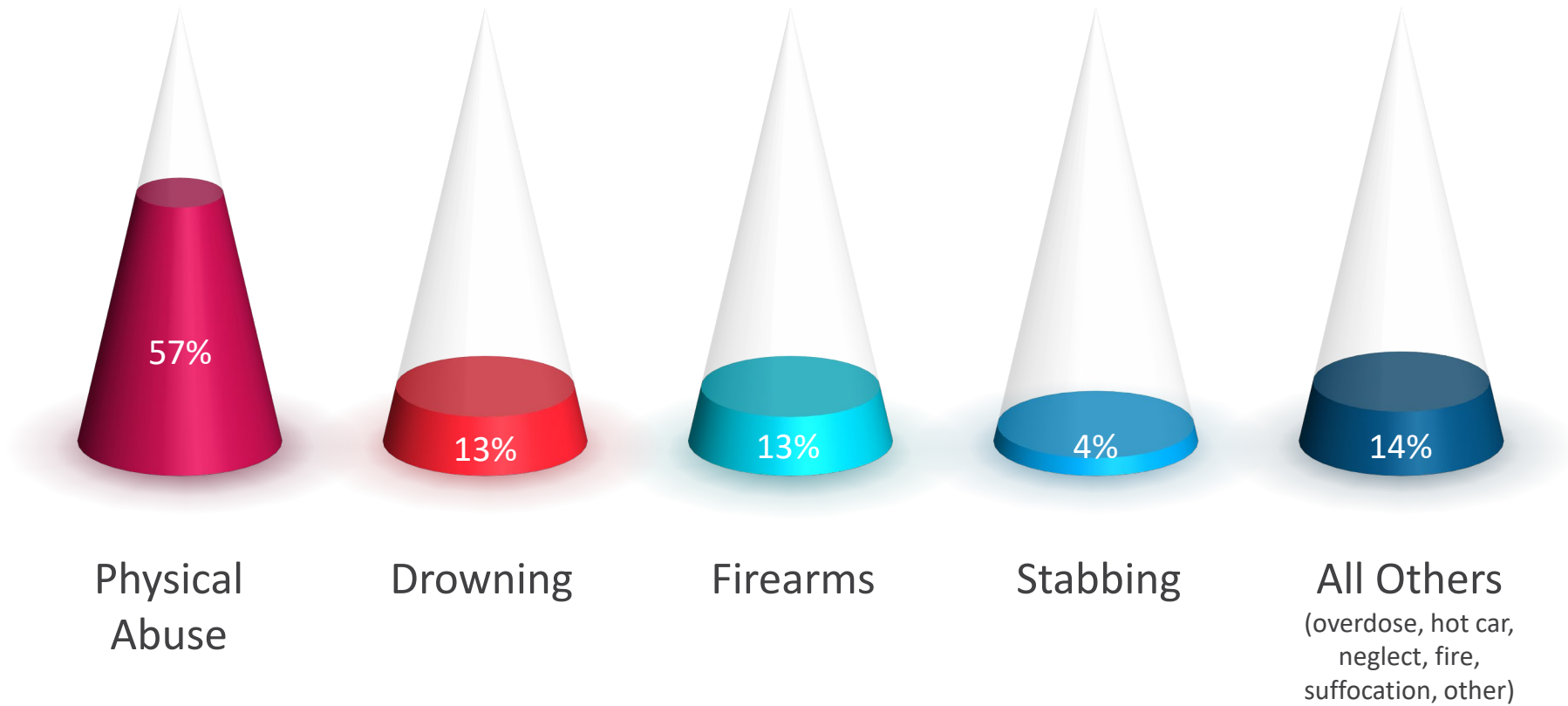
# Community Violence Homicides

Causes of death in community violence homicides



# Child Abuse Homicides

Causes of death in child abuse homicides





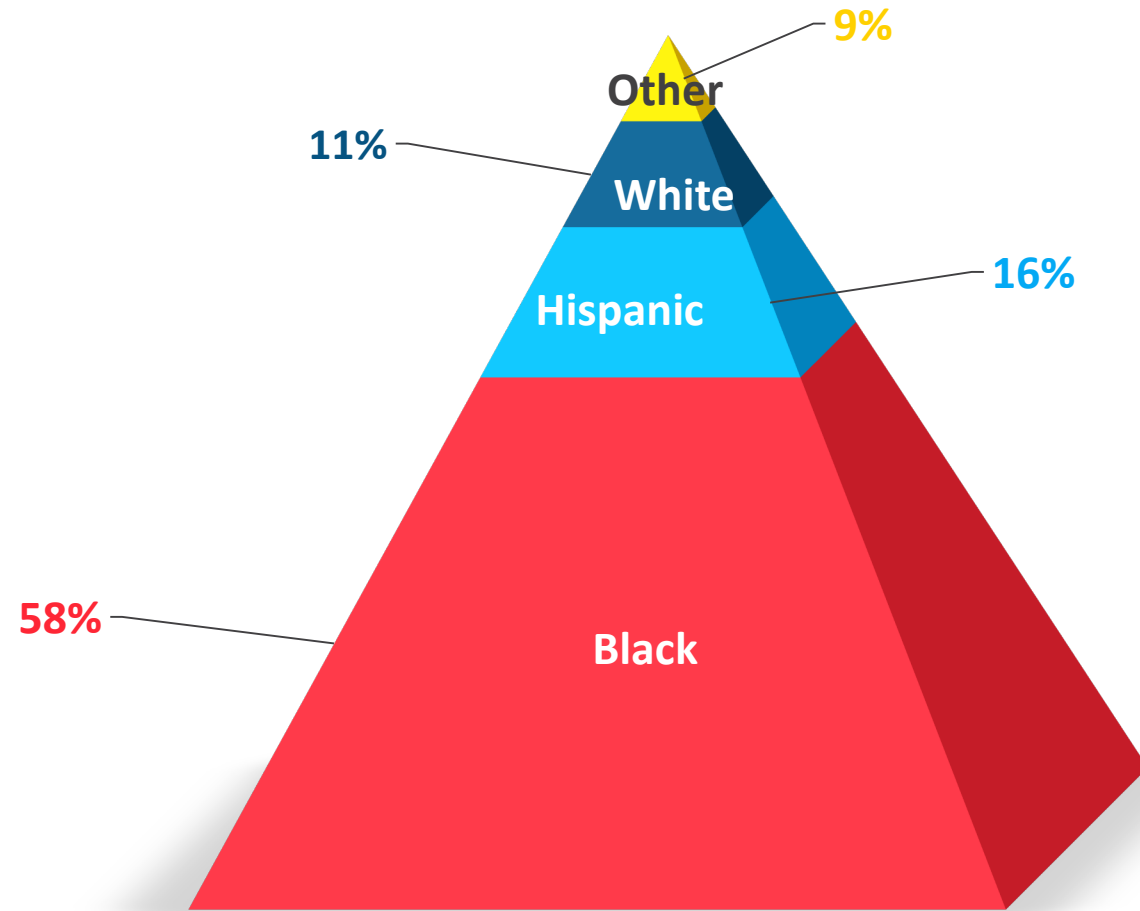
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# Homicide: Firearms



# Firearm Homicides by Race

Percentage of firearm homicides by race

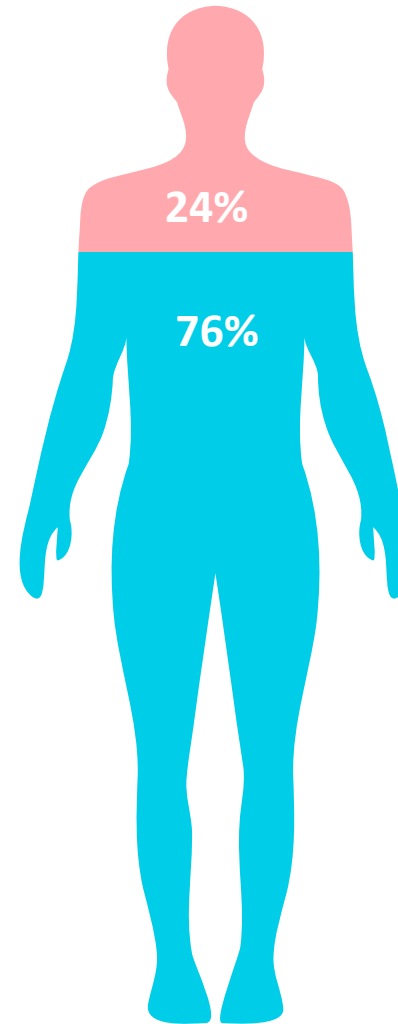




# Firearm Homicides by Gender

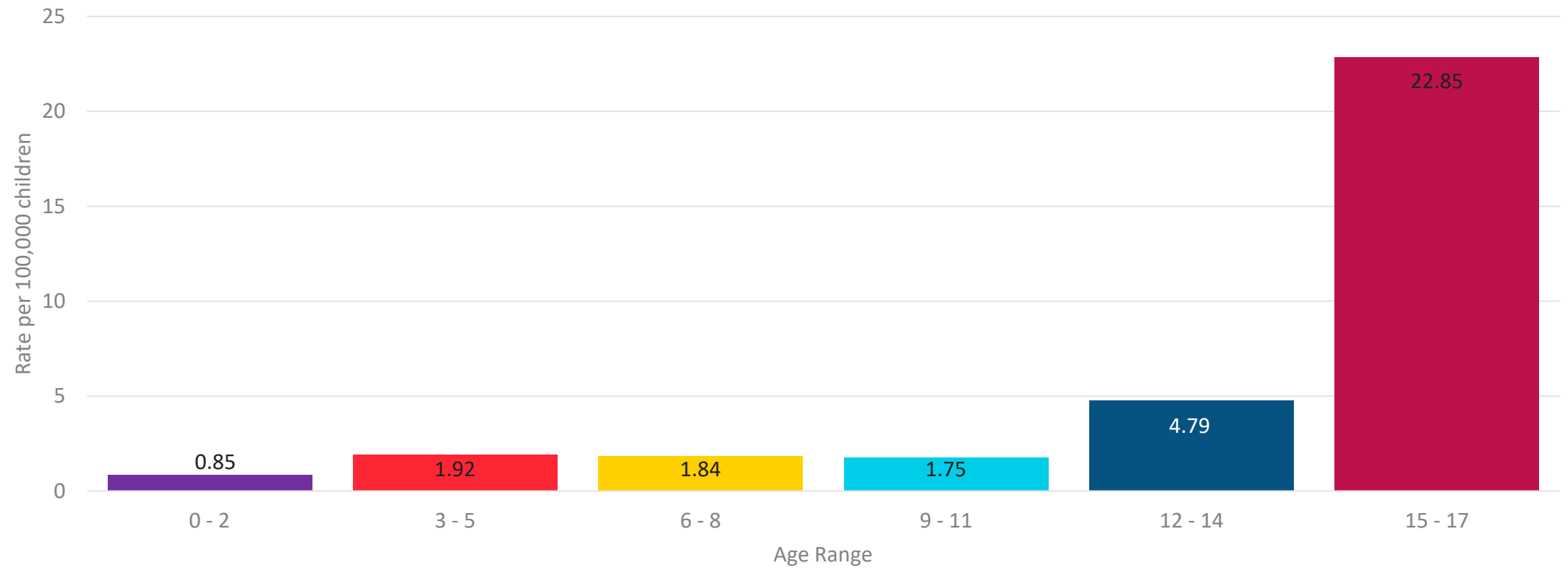
Percentage of firearm homicides by gender

3 out of every 4 firearm  
homicide victims were male



# Firearm Homicides by Age Range

Rate per 100,000 children of firearm homicides by age range



# Firearm Risk Factors

**A**

The common narrative that gun violence is linked to mental illness is not borne out in research

**B**

Increased odds of firearm-related homicides are noted among adolescents with a history of alcohol or drug use

**C**

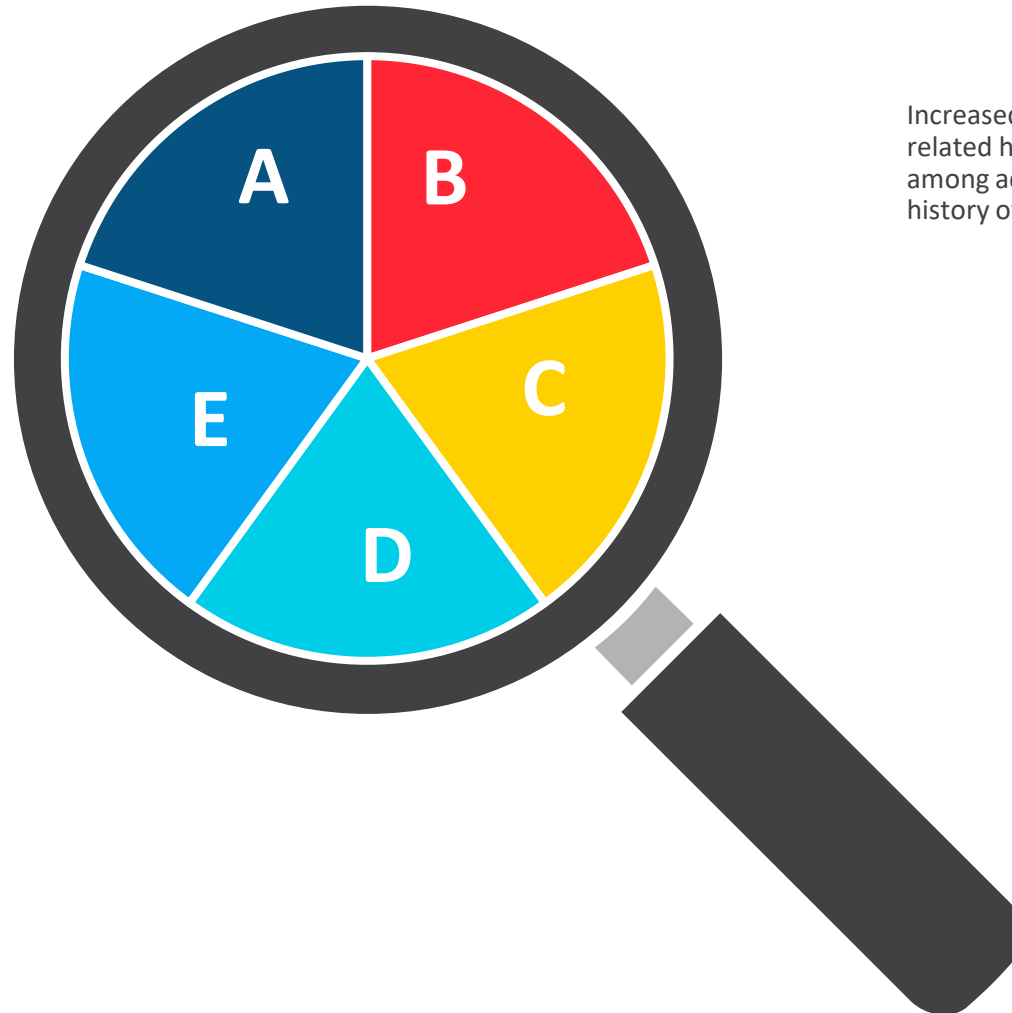
The child mortality rates in urban areas are much higher than rural areas, likely due to increased density and therefore increased access to firearms

**E**

Most mass shootings occur in the home by a family member as part of escalated intimate partner violence in a murder-suicide situation

**D**

**D**  
Increased levels of gun ownership in an area is correlated with higher homicide rates and firearm homicide rates





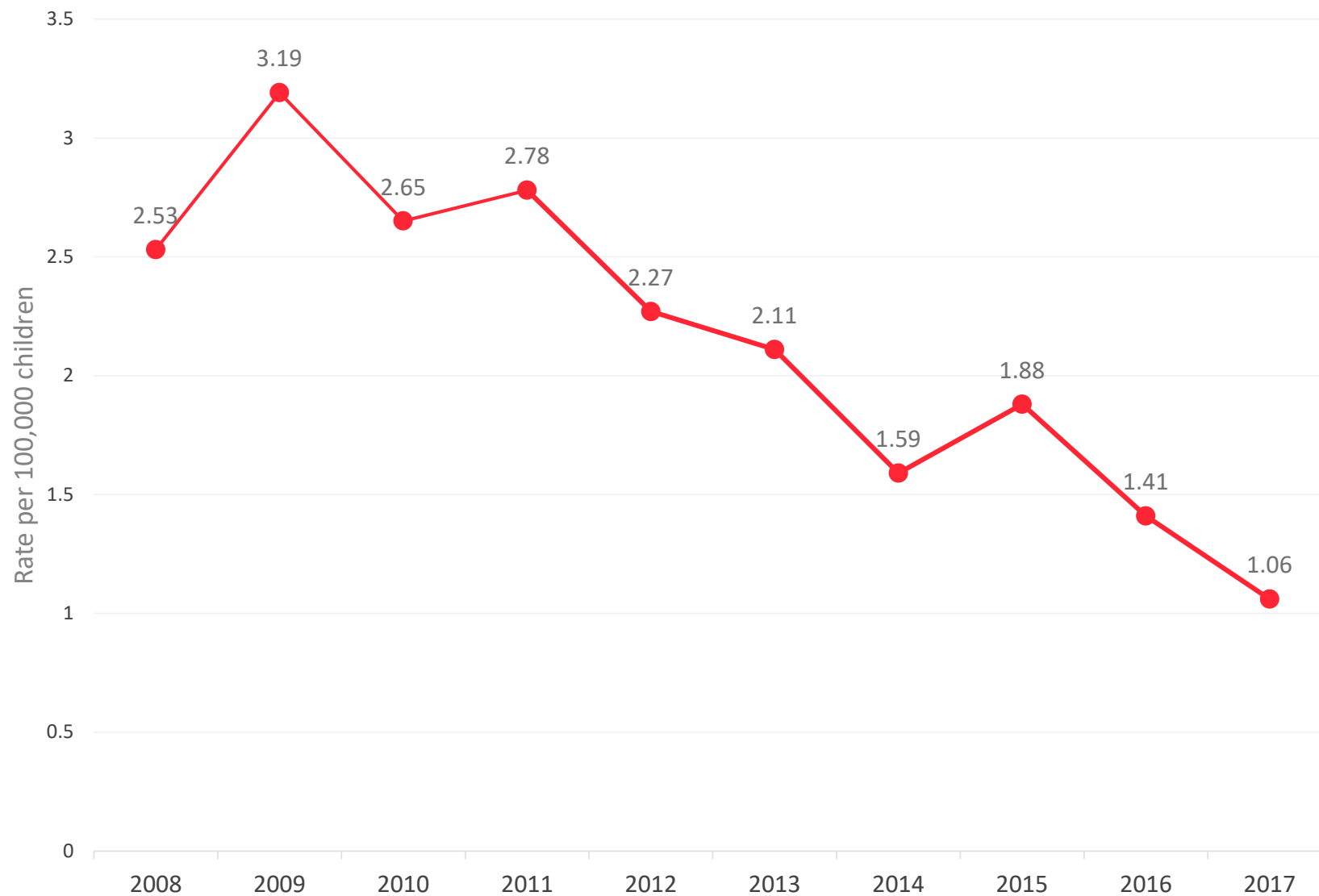
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# Homicide: Child Abuse



# Child Abuse Homicides

Rate of child abuse homicides per 100,000 children



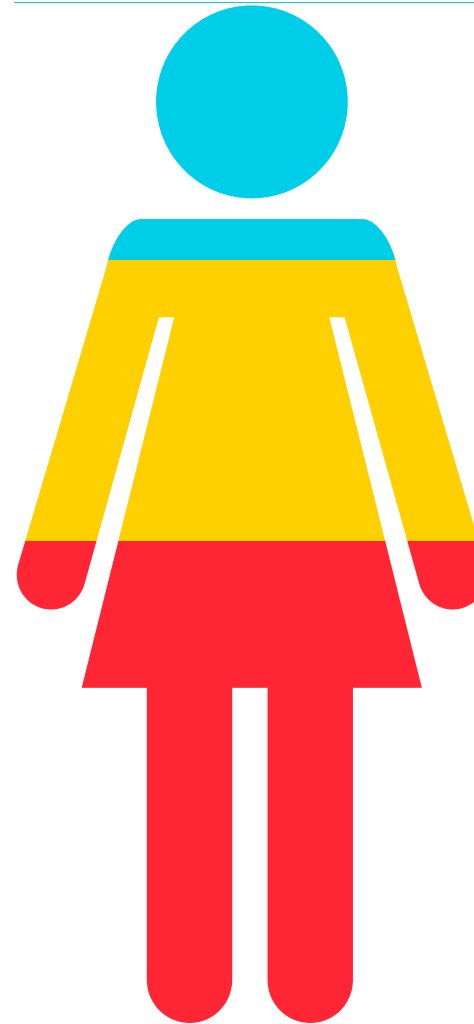
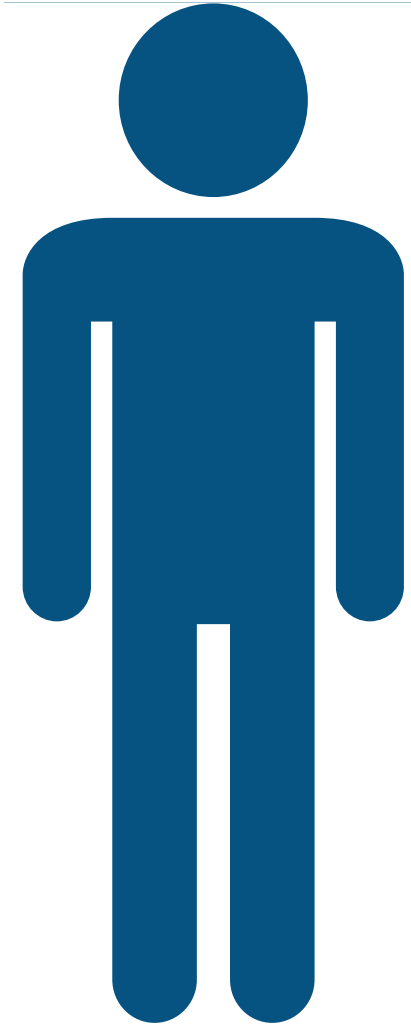
There has been a 58% decrease in child abuse fatalities in Harris County over the last decade

# Rate of Child Abuse by Race

Rate per 100,000 children of child abuse homicides by race

**5.1**  
**Black**

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**1.1**  
**Other**

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**1.2**  
**Hispanic**

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**2.1**  
**White**

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# Resources

**A**

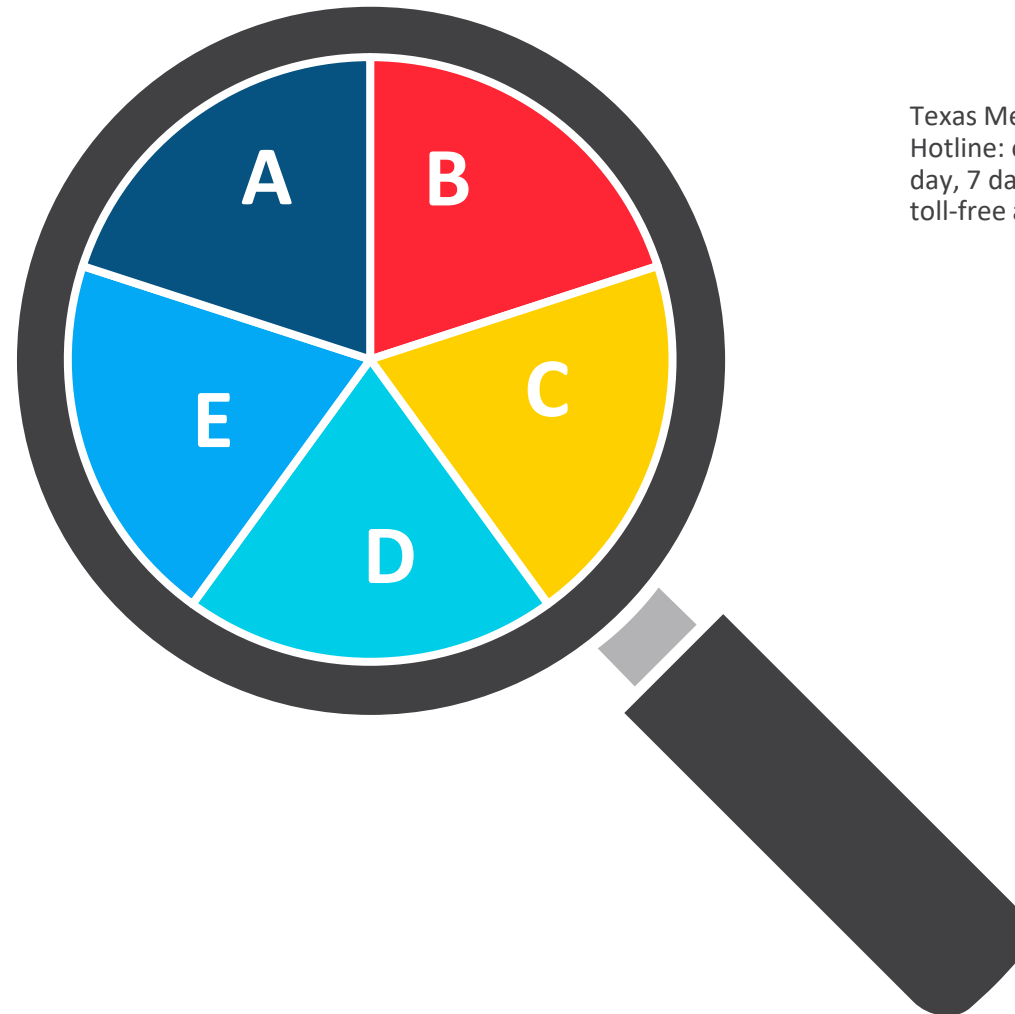
National Domestic  
Violence Hotline: 24  
hours a day, call toll-free  
1-800-799-7233

**E**

National Parent Helpline:  
Emotional support from a  
trained parent advocate.  
Call toll-free 1-855-427-  
2736

**D**

Texas Abuse Hotline:  
Report suspected child  
maltreatment and  
neglect. Call toll-free 1-  
800-252-5400



**B**

Texas Mental Health  
Hotline: open 24 hours a  
day, 7 days a week. Call  
toll-free at 833-986-1919.

**C**

Texas Association Against  
Sexual Assault:  
Information about rape  
crisis centers and online  
resources

[https://taasa.org/resourc  
es/](https://taasa.org/resources/)

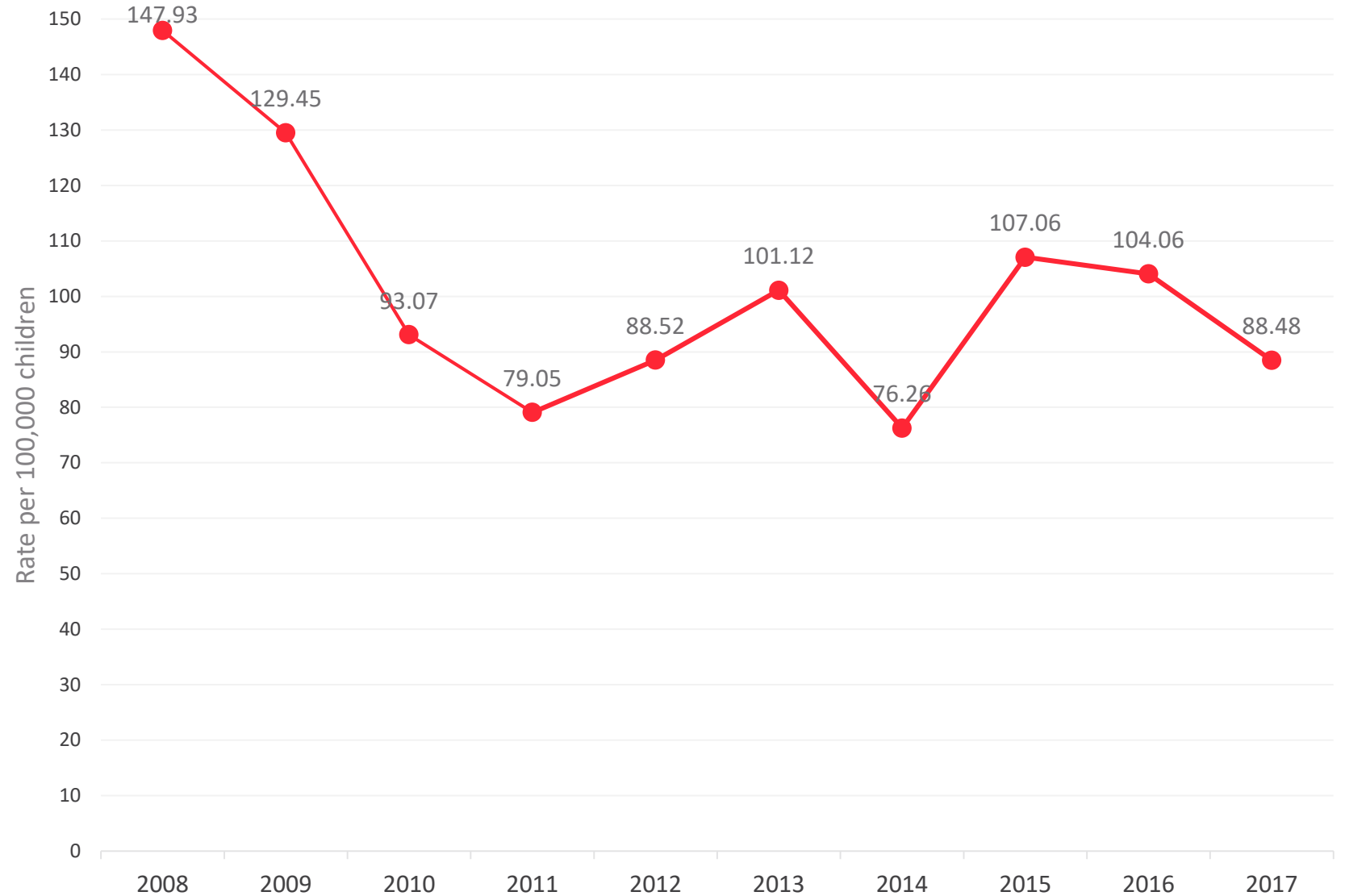


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# Infant Sleep Related Deaths

# Infant Sleep Related Deaths

Rate of infant sleep related deaths per 100,000 live births

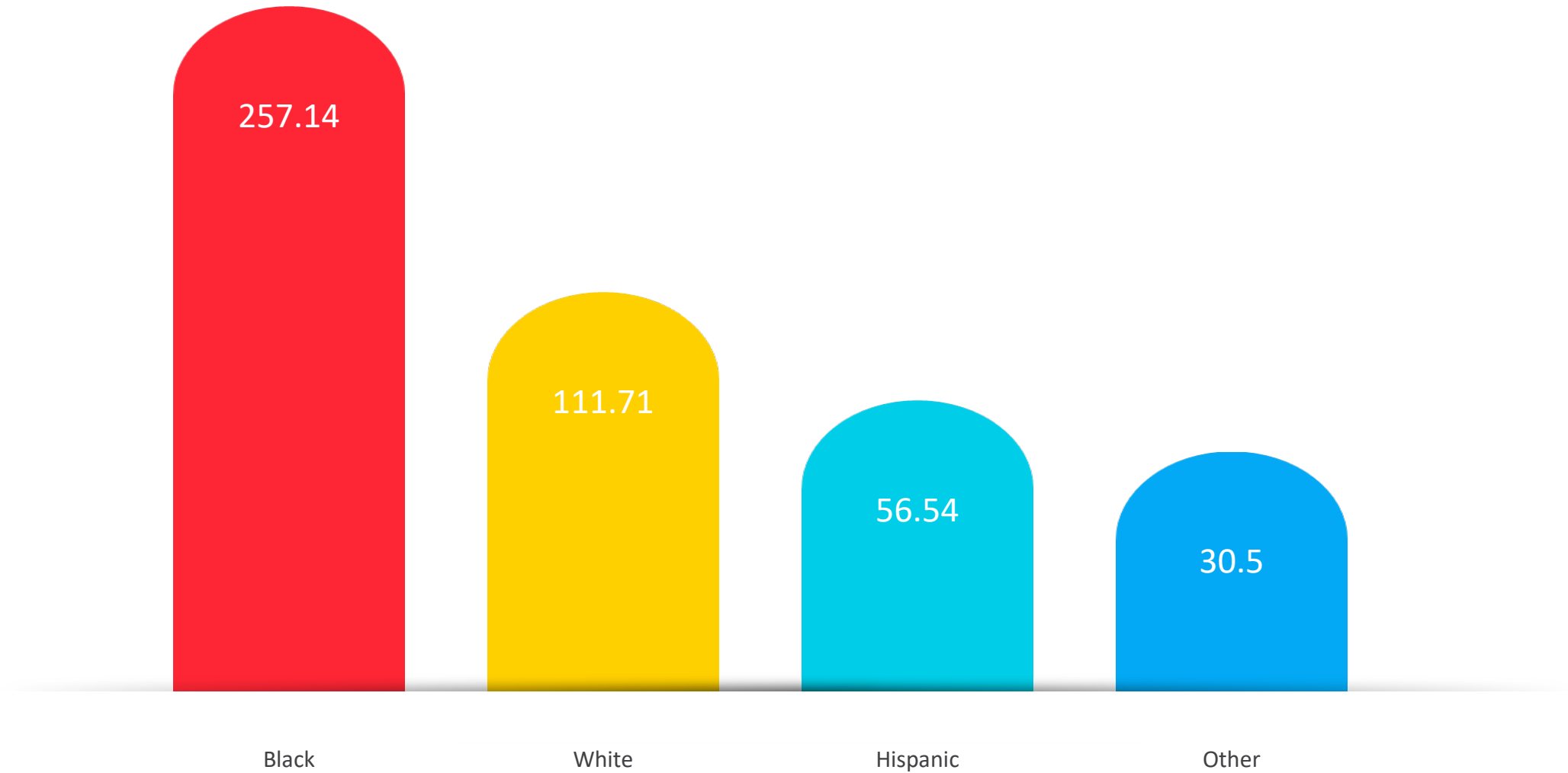


Attributed in large part to safe sleep campaigns, Harris County has seen a 40% decrease in infant sleep-related deaths from 2008 to 2017



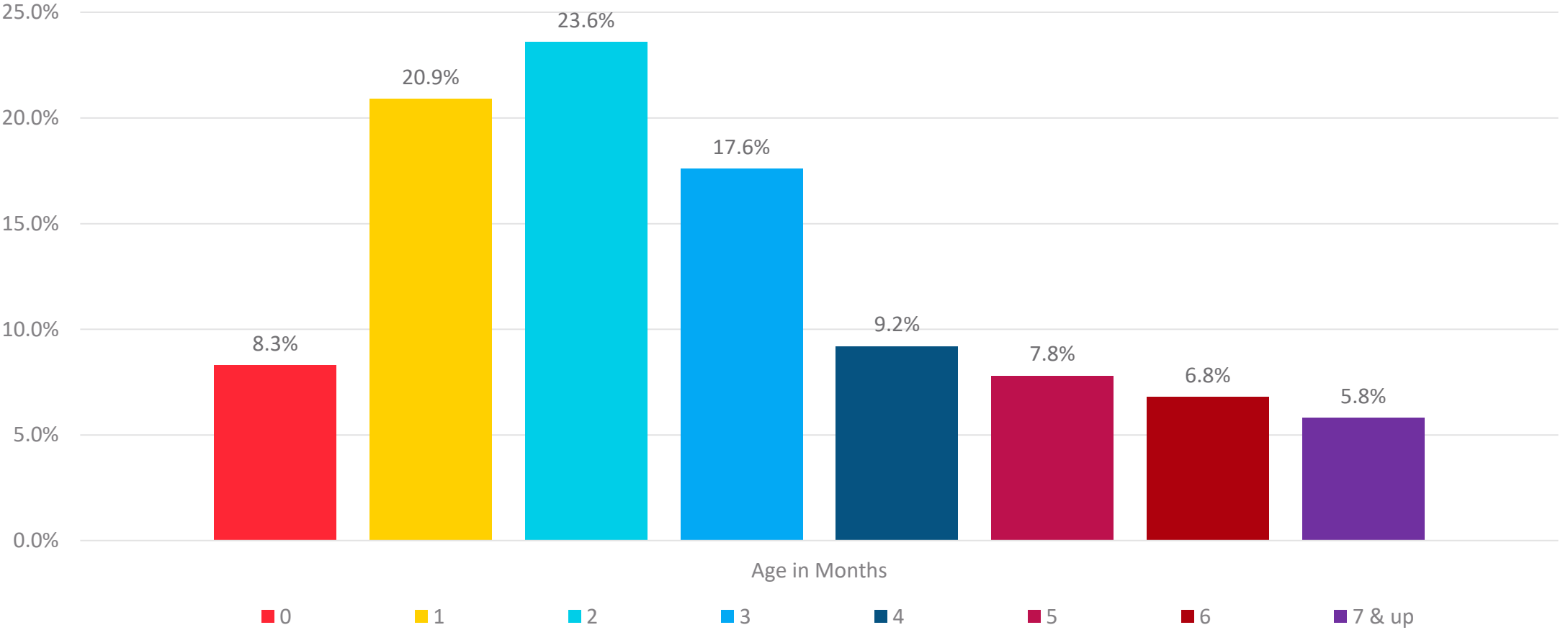
# Infant Sleep Deaths by Race

Rate of infant sleep deaths by race per 100,000 live births



# Infant Sleep Deaths by Age

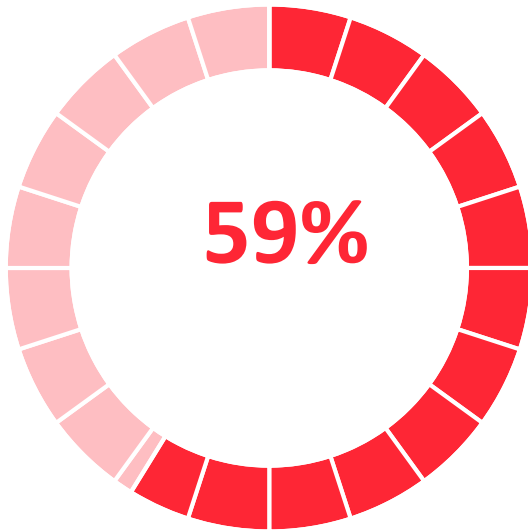
Percentage of infant sleep related deaths by age in months



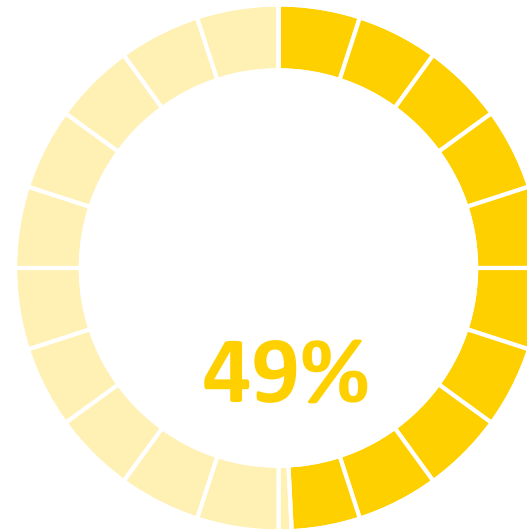


# Infant Sleep Related Deaths by Gender & Environment

Percentage of sleep related deaths by gender and by sleeping environment



More males are impacted by sleep related deaths than females



About half of sleep related deaths happen while co-sleeping/bed-sharing and the others in unsafe sleep environments like adult beds or with blankets



# Prevention

## SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2016

1. Back to sleep for every sleep.
2. Use a firm sleep surface.
3. Breastfeeding is recommended.
4. It is recommended that infants sleep in the parents' room, close to the parents' bed, but on a separate surface designed for infants, ideally for the first year of life, but at least for the first 6 months.
5. Keep soft objects and loose bedding away from the infant's sleep area to reduce the risk of SIDS, suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation.
6. Consider offering a pacifier at nap time and bedtime.
7. Avoid smoke exposure during pregnancy and after birth.
8. Avoid alcohol and illicit drug use during pregnancy and after birth.
9. Avoid overheating and head covering in infants.
10. Pregnant women should obtain regular prenatal care.
11. Infants should be immunized in accordance with recommendations of the AAP and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
12. Avoid the use of commercial devices that are inconsistent with safe sleep recommendations.
13. Do not use home cardiorespiratory monitors as a strategy to reduce the risk of SIDS.
14. Supervised, awake tummy time is recommended to facilitate development and to minimize development of positional plagiocephaly.
15. There is no evidence to recommend swaddling as a strategy to reduce the risk of SIDS.
16. Health care professionals, staff in newborn nurseries and neonatal intensive care units, and child care providers should endorse and model the SIDS risk-reduction recommendations from birth.
17. Media and manufacturers should follow safe sleep guidelines in their messaging and advertising.
18. Continue the "Safe to Sleep" campaign, focusing on ways to reduce the risk of all sleep-related infant deaths, including SIDS, suffocation, and other unintentional deaths. Pediatricians and other primary care providers should actively participate in this campaign.
19. Continue research and surveillance on the risk factors, causes, and pathophysiologic mechanisms of SIDS and other sleep-related infant deaths, with the ultimate goal of eliminating these deaths altogether.



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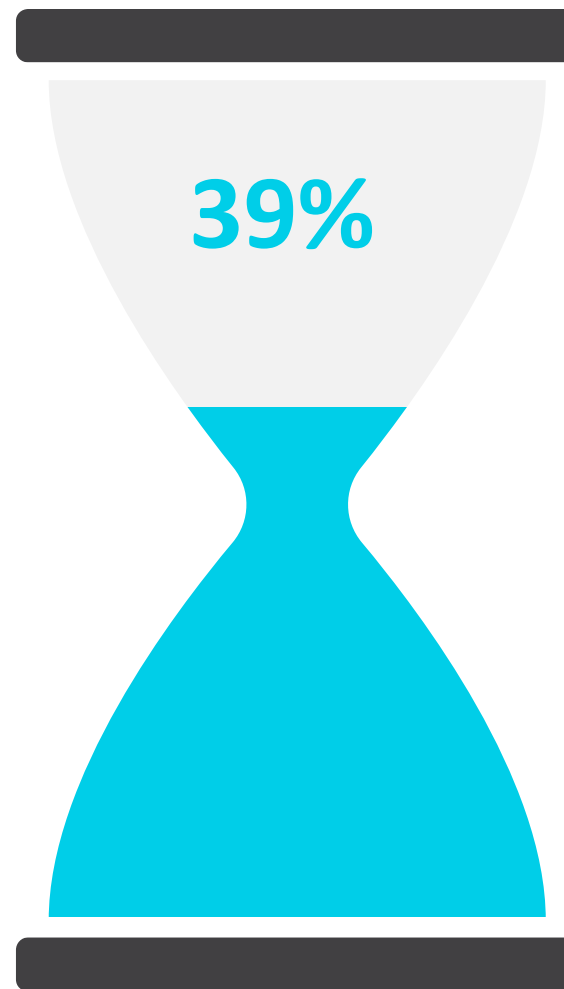
# Motor Vehicle Collisions

# Motor Vehicle Collisions

Decrease in overall rate from 2008 to 2017

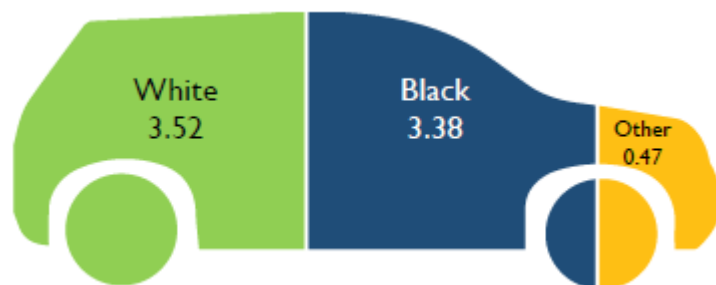
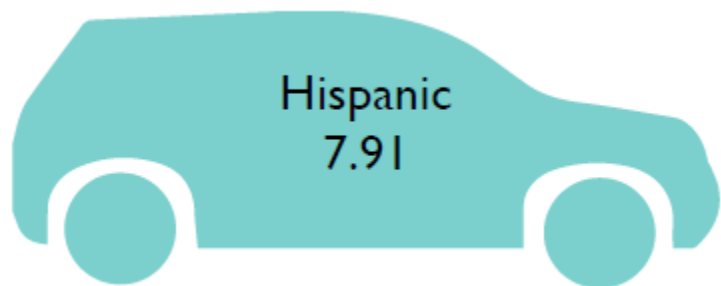
## Decrease in MVCs

Child fatality rates from motor vehicle collisions decreased 39% from 2008-2017



# Motor Vehicle Collisions

Rates of motor vehicle collisions by race per 100,000 children



“Hispanic children are twice as likely to die from an motor vehicle collision than any other race/ethnicity.”

# Motor Vehicle Collisions by Gender

Percentage of motor vehicle collision deaths by gender

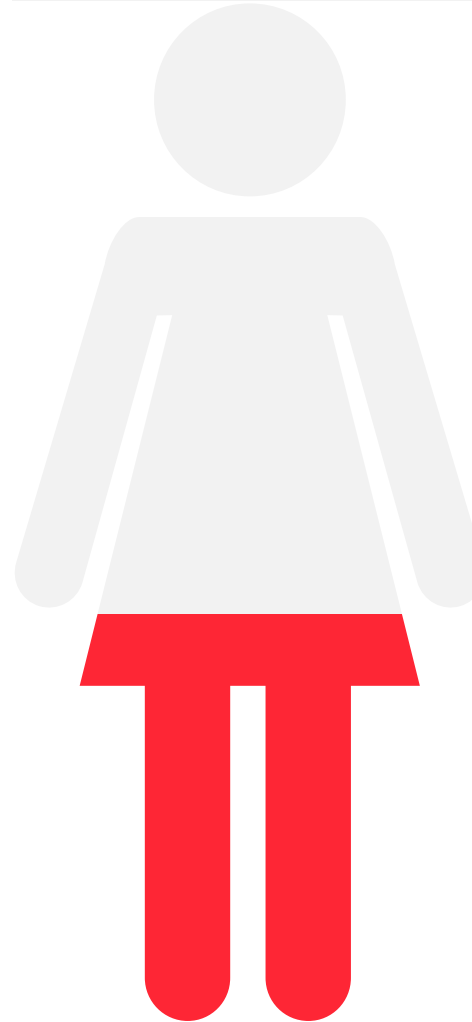
**60%**  
**MALE**

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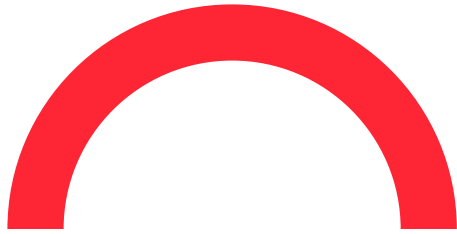
**40%**  
**FEMALE**

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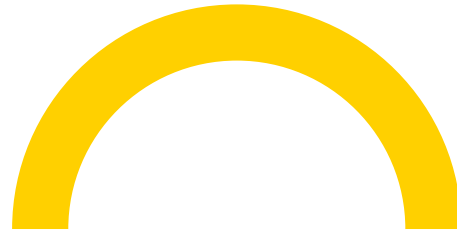


# Motor Vehicle Collision

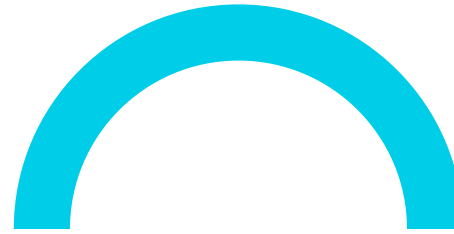
## Prevention Resources



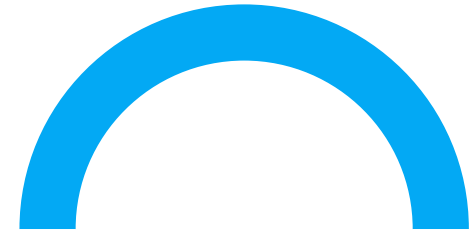
Vision Zero Network:  
<https://visionzeronetwork.org/>



Texas Department of Transportation Traffic  
Safety Division: <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic.html>



Texas Department of State  
Health Services Safe Riders  
Traffic Safety Program:  
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders/>



Safe Kids Greater Houston  
Child Passenger Safety:  
<https://www.safekidsgreaterhouston.org/child-passenger-safety>

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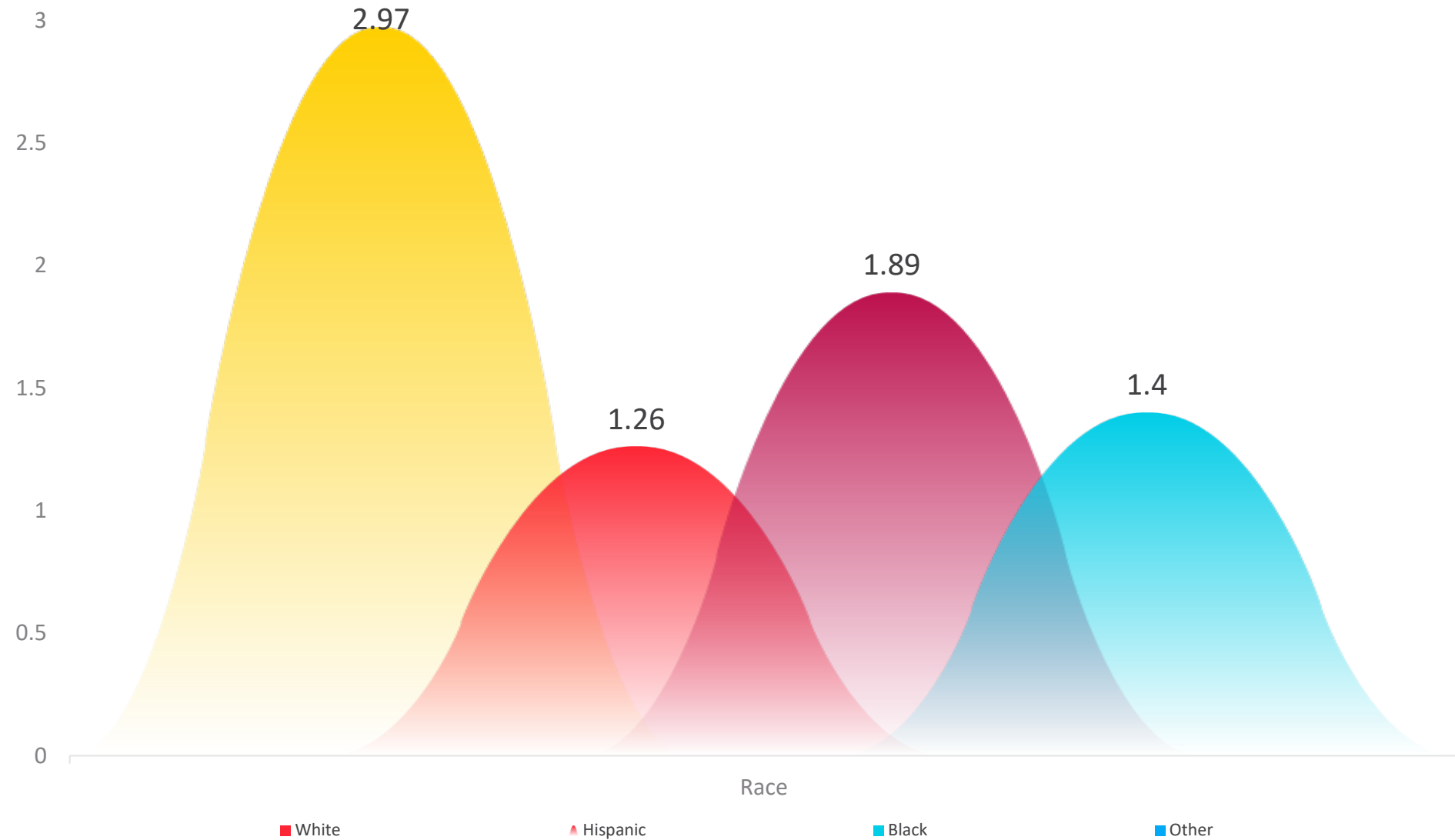
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# Drowning



# Drowning Deaths by Race

Rate of drowning deaths by race per 100,000

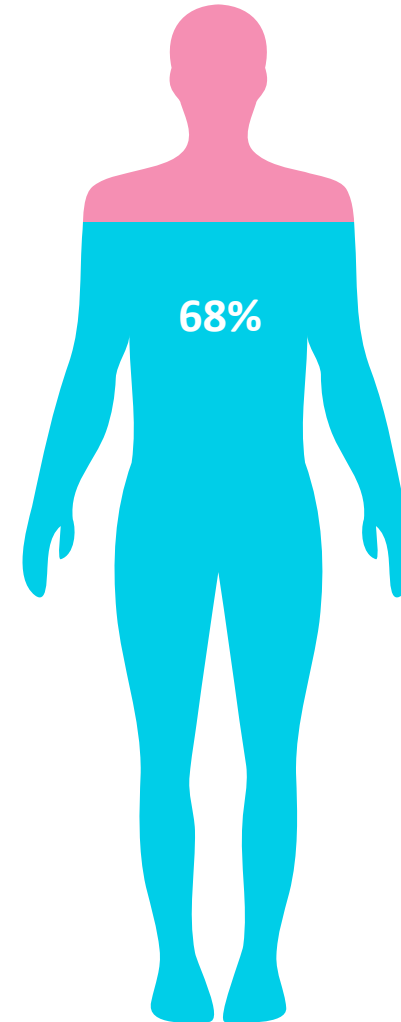




# Drowning Deaths by Month and Gender

Most common months for drowning deaths and percentage of deaths by gender

“77.4% of all drownings happen between April and September.”



68% of child deaths by drowning are males

# Prevention & Resources

## THE CDC PROVIDES KEY PREVENTION TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS<sup>94</sup>:

- **Learn life-saving skills.**  
Everyone should know the basics of swimming (floating, moving through the water) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- **Fence it off.**  
Install a four-sided isolation fence, with self-closing and self-latching gates, around backyard swimming pools. This can help keep children away from the area when they aren't supposed to be swimming. Pool fences should completely separate the house and play area from the pool.
- **Make life jackets a must.**  
Make sure kids wear life jackets in and around natural bodies of water, such as lakes or the ocean, even if they know how to swim. Life jackets can be used in and around pools for weaker swimmers, too.
- **Be on the lookout.**  
When kids are in or near water (including bathtubs), closely supervise them at all times. Because drowning happens quickly and quietly, adults watching kids in or near water should avoid distracting activities like playing cards, reading books, talking on the phone, and using alcohol or drugs.

National Drowning Prevention Alliance  
<https://ndpa.org/>

Texas Drowning Prevention Alliance  
<http://www.txdpa.com/>

Safe Kids Greater Houston:  
<https://safekidsgreaterhouston.org/water-safety>

American Academy of Pediatrics: Drowning prevention

For parents: Drowning Prevention for Curious Toddlers: What Parents Need to Know  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Water-Safety-And-Young-Children.aspx>

For pediatricians: Drowning Prevention Toolkit  
<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/campaigns/drowning-prevention/Pages/default.aspx>

Texas Drowning Prevention Alliance  
<http://www.txdpa.com/>

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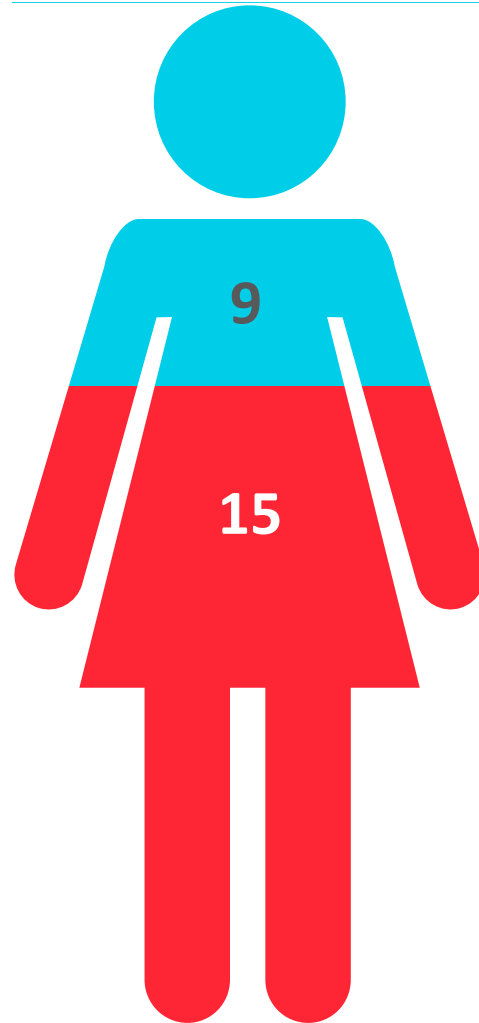
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# Overdose

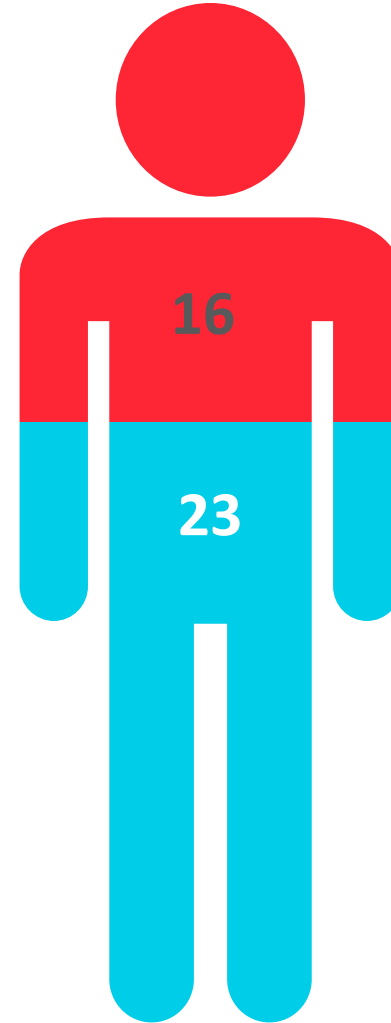
# Overdose Death by Age & Gender

Number of deaths by gender in each age group

0-6 yrs

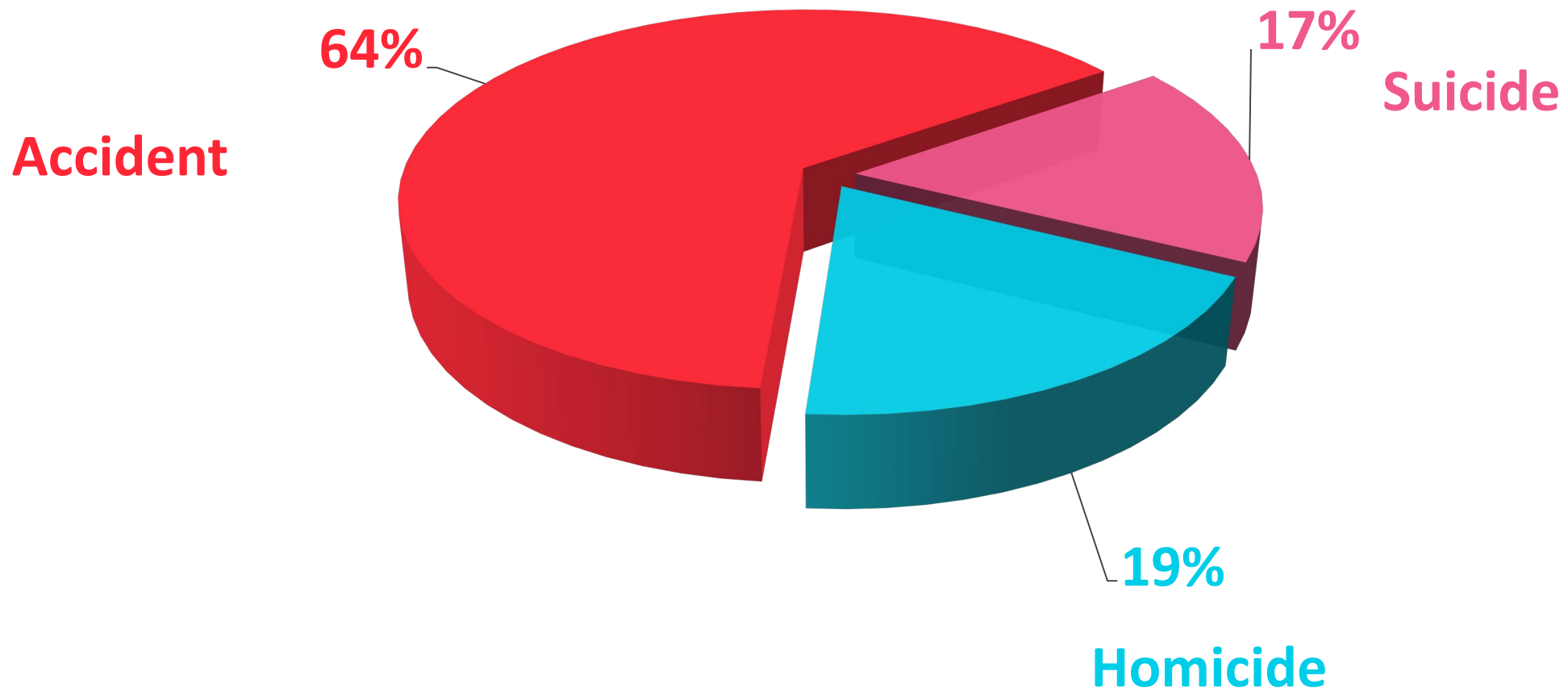


13-17 yrs



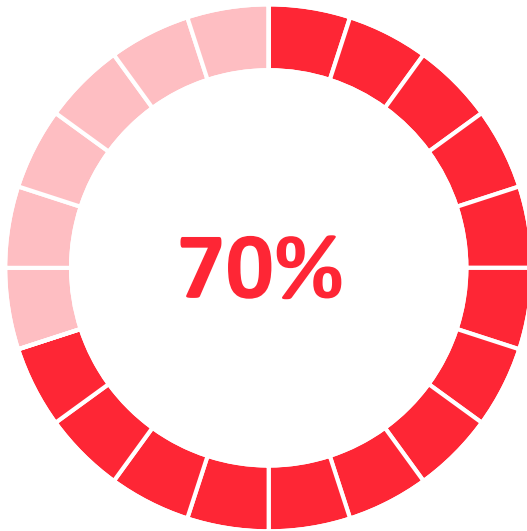
# Overdose Deaths by Cause

Percentage of overdose deaths by cause



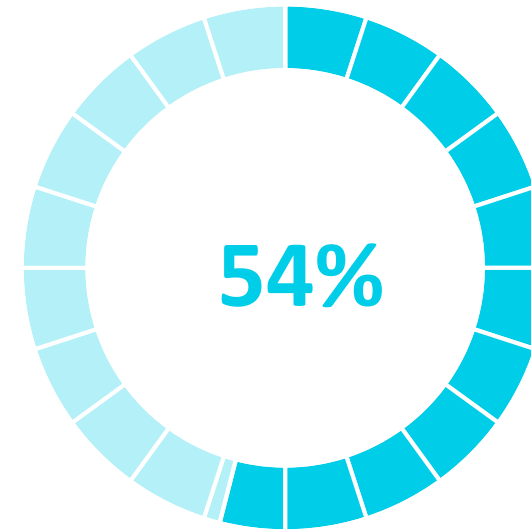
# Overdose Manner by Age Group

Manner of overdose by age groups 0-6 & 13-17



70% of adolescents died by accidental overdose.

This included teens ingesting both OTC and illicit drugs and unintentionally overdosing.



54% of children 0-6 died by accidental overdose.

This was caused by accidental overmedication by the caregiver or children accessing medications not securely stored.

# Overdose Prevention Tips

03

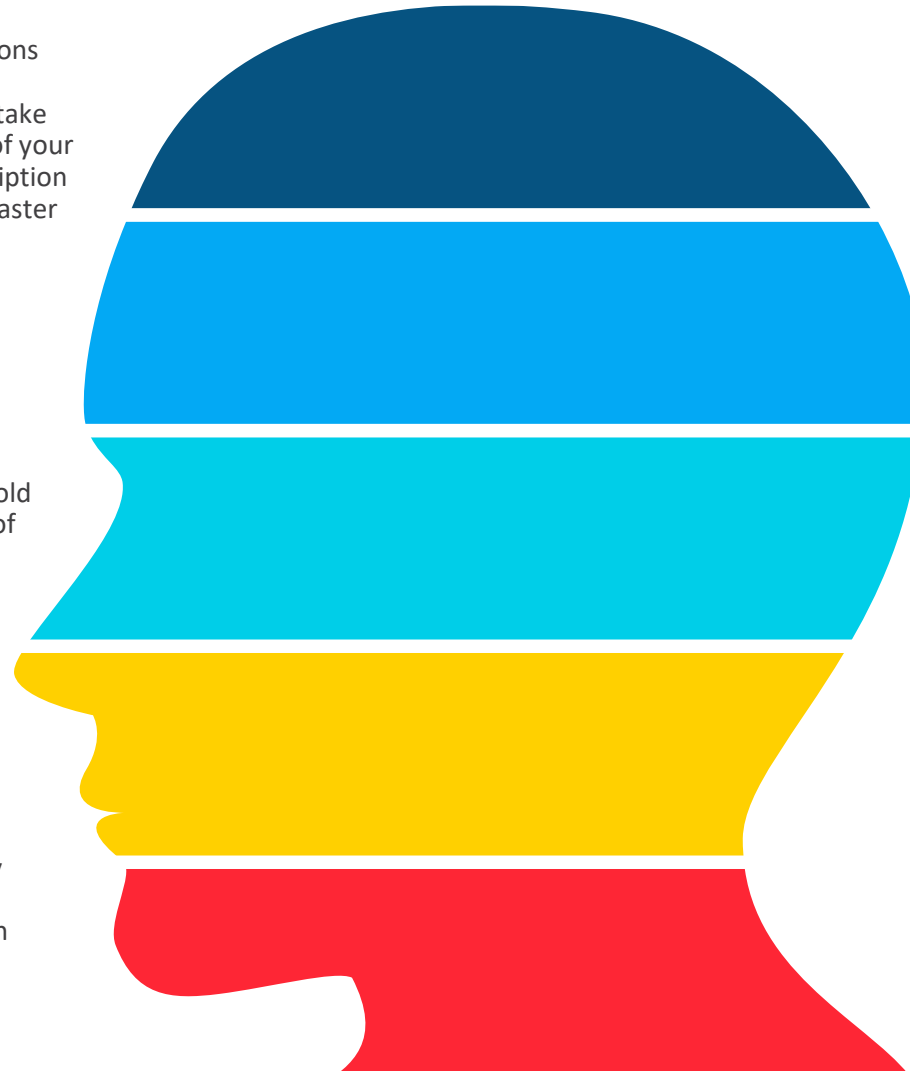
Only take prescription medications that are prescribed to you by a healthcare professional. Never take larger or more frequent doses of your medications, particularly prescription pain medications, to try to get faster or more powerful effects.

02

Store all medicines and household products up and away and out of sight in a cabinet where a child cannot reach them.

01

Put the poison help number, 1-800-222-1222, on or near every home telephone and save it on your cell phone. The line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



05

Find local substance abuse programs here:

<https://www.prc6.org>

04

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides emotional support and crisis intervention and can be reached at 1-800-273-8255. For Spanish-language services, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached at 1-888-628-9454.



# Other Unintentional Injury Deaths



# Unintentional Firearm Deaths

**A**

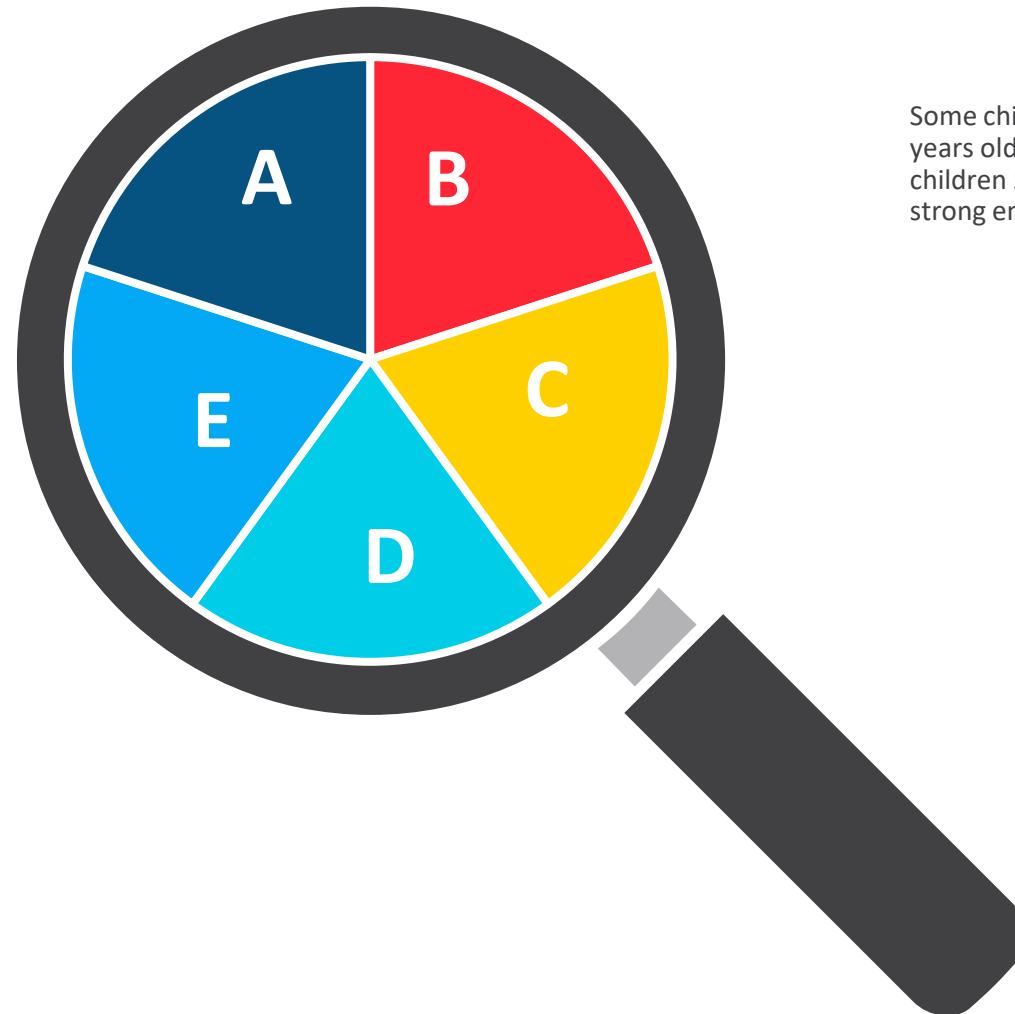
12.5% of firearm deaths in children under 10 were unintentional.

**E**

In many unintentional firearm-related deaths among younger children, the firearm was mistaken for a toy.

**D**

Approximately 75% of parents who own guns feel that their young child could distinguish a real gun from a toy gun, and almost 25% of parents stated they trusted their child with a loaded gun.



**B**

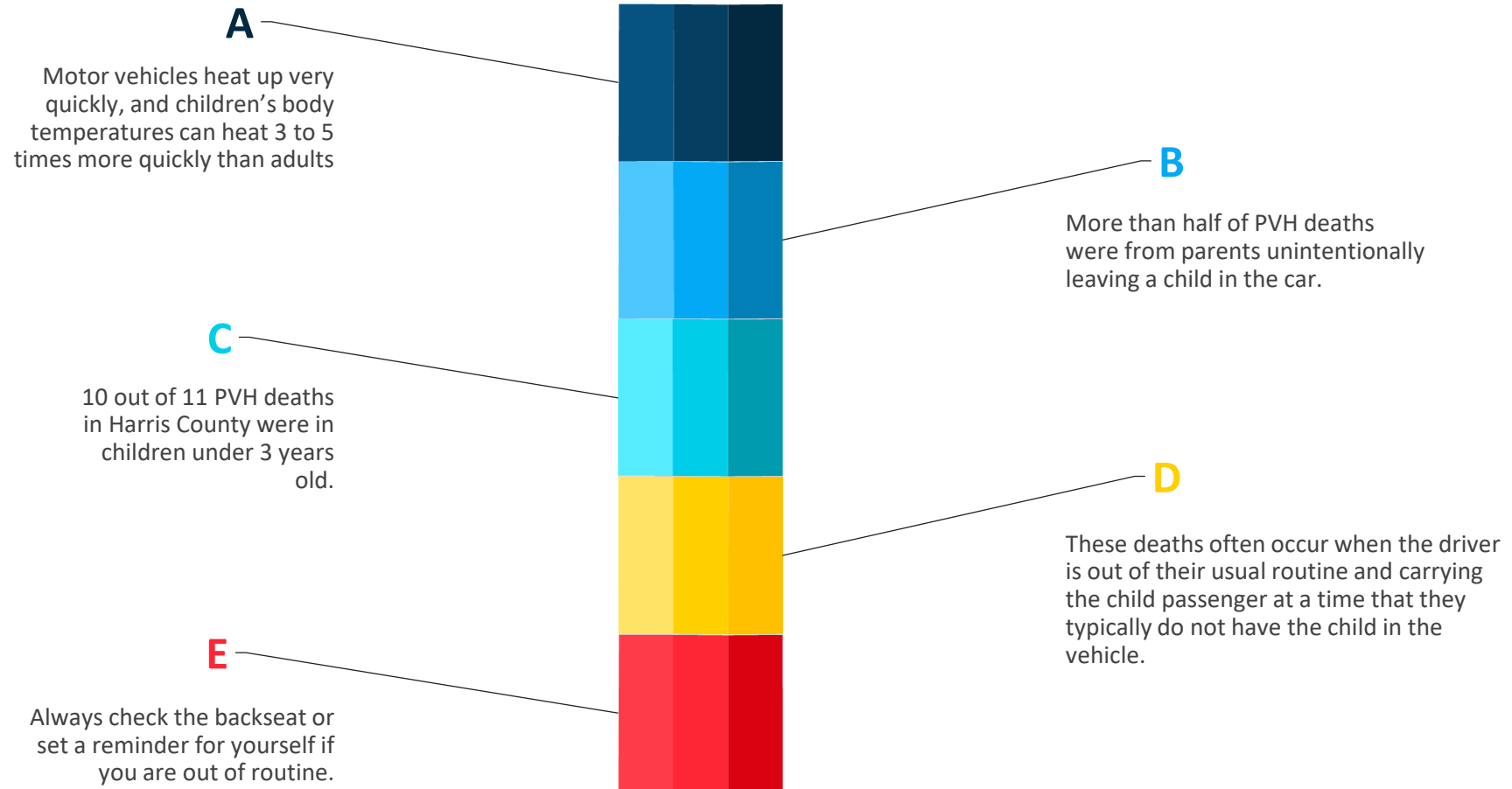
Some children as young as 3-4 years old, and a majority of children 5-8 years old are strong enough to pull a trigger.

**C**

The child mortality rates in urban areas are much higher than rural areas, likely due to increased density and therefore increased access to firearms

# Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke (PVH)

Sometimes called “hot car deaths”



# Other Unintentional Deaths

## Prevention Tips

### Choking Deaths

Learn the Heimlich maneuver, know common food and toy hazards, and keep close supervision of young children

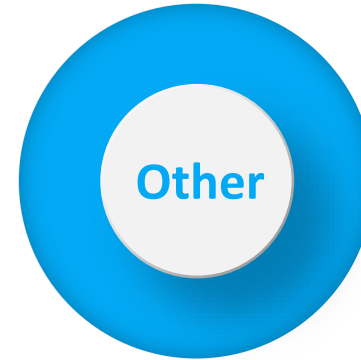


### Suffocation, Strangulation, and Hanging

Increase caregiver supervision, child-proof your home so that young children and toddlers are less able to interact with potential hazards, such as empty appliances or other small spaces in which children could become trapped, plastic bags, and loose cords, straps, or strings

### Fire and Burn Injuries

Check the you have functioning fire alarms and smoke detectors, safe storage of cigarettes and incendiary devices, adequate supervision of active fires, proper maintenance on household heating, and practice an age-appropriate fire safety plan with children



### Crush Hazards and Home Safety

Anchor heavy furniture to the walls, use child locks, lock heavy and sharp objects out of reach, and supervise children with animals.

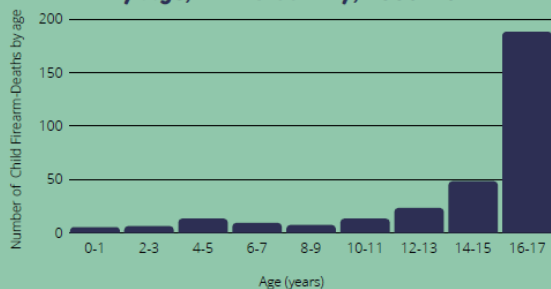


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Read the report with more  
details at [bit.ly/cftrreport](https://bit.ly/cftrreport)

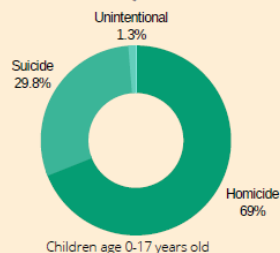
# CHILD FIREARM DEATHS

Annual Firearm-Related Deaths By Age, Harris County, 2008-2017

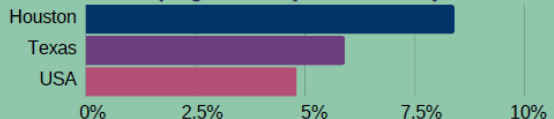


Intention Of Firearm-Related Deaths Among Children Age 0-17, Harris County, 2008-2017

Unintentional shootings are more common among younger children, whereas teenagers are more likely to be victims of intentional shootings.

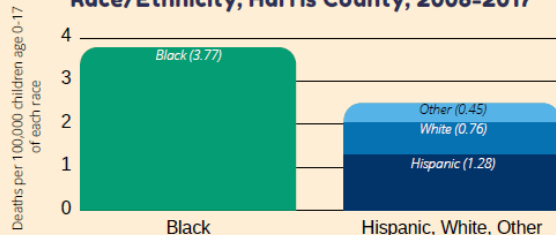


Percent Of High School Students Who Report Carrying A Gun (YRBSS, 2017)



Carried a gun on at least one day in the last 12 months, unrelated to hunting or sport

Annual Firearm-Related Deaths By Race/Ethnicity, Harris County, 2008-2017



# FIREARM DEATH PREVENTION

## Safe Storage

- 1 Unloaded
- 2 Locked
- 3 Store Firearm Separately From Ammunition

The safe storage of firearms can decrease child deaths by **70%**



It is against Texas law to allow or enable any child to access a firearm while unsupervised.

(Texas Penal Code § 46.13. Making a Firearm Accessible to a Child)

39% of parents who own firearms mistakenly thought their child did not know where the firearm was located...  
...but 73% of children knew where it was!

22% of parents who own firearms mistakenly thought their child had never handled the firearm...  
...but 36% of children had handled it unsupervised!

75% of parents thought their child could tell the difference between a real gun and a toy...  
...but 16% accidental firearm deaths in young children were because they thought it was a toy!

Some parents may not think their child is strong enough to pull a trigger...  
...but 25% of children 3-4 years old and 70% of 5-6-year-olds are able to!



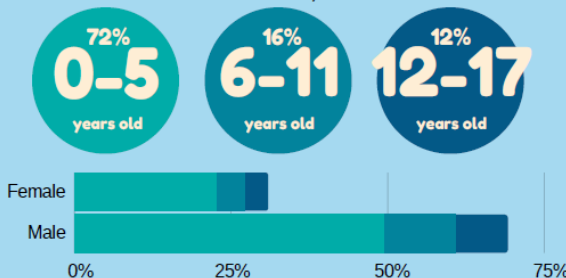
- Always supervise your children around firearms
- Ask other parents and caregivers about firearms in the house before play dates
- Talk to your children about firearm safety

## Resources

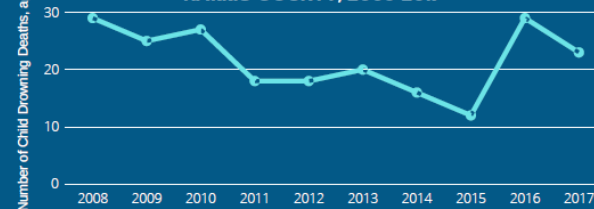
- Be Smart ([BeSmartForKids.org](http://BeSmartForKids.org))
- Keep 'Em Safe Texas ([SafeGunStorageTexas.com](http://SafeGunStorageTexas.com))

# CHILD DROWNING DEATHS

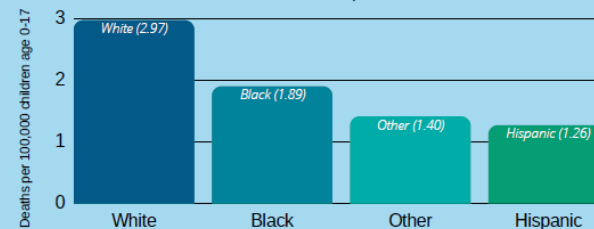
AGE & GENDER OF DROWNING DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017



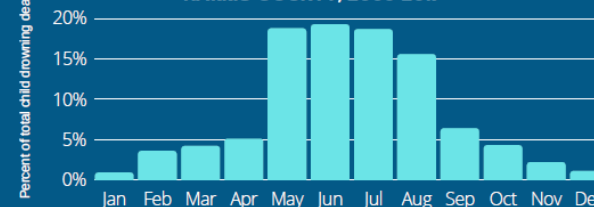
DECADE TREND IN ANNUAL DROWNING DEATHS, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017



ANNUAL CHILD DROWNING DEATHS BY RACE/ETHNICITY, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017



SEASONALITY: CHILD DROWNING DEATHS EACH MONTH, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017



# CHILD DROWNING DEATHS

## LAYERS OF PROTECTION: MORE IS BETTER



**Sharpen your Skills**  
Learn life-saving skills, like CPR and basic swimming



**Fence it Off**  
Ensure physical barriers around water, such as gates, fences, and doors, are latched and locked

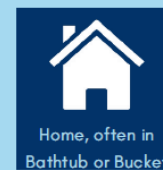


**Wear a Life Jacket**  
Make sure it is properly-fitting, and US Coast Guard approved



**Be on the Lookout**  
Never leave children unattended in water

## DROWNING MOST COMMONLY OCCURS AT:



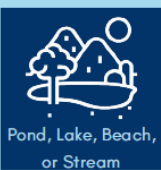
Home, often in Bathtub or Bucket

Infants



Swimming Pool or Hot Tub

Toddlers



Pond, Lake, Beach, or Stream

Children and Adolescents



[bit.ly/cftrreport](http://bit.ly/cftrreport)

## WATER WATCHER CARD, [SAFEKIDS.ORG/WATER](http://SAFEKIDS.ORG/WATER)

"When children are swimming and there are several adults present, make sure kids are actively supervised at all times by choosing a Water Watcher. A Water Watcher is a responsible adult who agrees to watch the kids in the water without distractions and wear a Water Watcher card. After a certain amount of time (such as 15-minutes), the Water Watcher card is passed to another adult, who is responsible for the active supervision." (<https://www.safekids.org/other-resource/water-watcher-card>)

## WATER WATCHER



While wearing this tag, I agree to supervise the children in the open water or pool, keeping them in sight at all times.

I will not leave the water area without finding an adult to replace me.



# MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS (MVC)



3 out of 4 children who died from MVC in the US were occupants or passengers & 1 out of 4 were pedestrians or bicyclists

Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) are the most common cause of death among children and adolescents in the United States

39%



From 2008 to 2017, the rate of annual MVC child deaths in Harris County decreased by 39%, from 5.86 to 2.43 (per 100,000 children age 0-17)

## RISK FACTORS LEADING TO DEATH

In the US and Texas, Motor Vehicle Collisions deaths occur most commonly in:



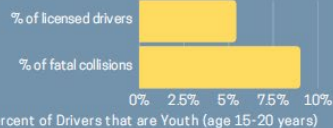
Rural areas



Teenagers



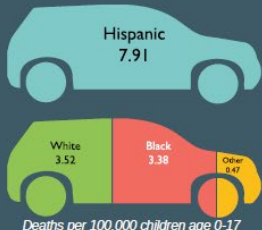
Boys



Youth ages 15-20 years old comprised 5.4% of licensed drivers, but are involved in 9.0% of all fatal collisions.

## ANNUAL MVC DEATHS BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017

In Harris County, Hispanic children are more than twice as likely to die from a Motor Vehicle Collision than children of any other race/ethnicity.



Deaths per 100,000 children age 0-17

# PREVENTION



1. Children should remain in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the maximum height or weight that the car seat manufacturer allows.

## CAR SEATS & SEAT BELTS

Parents who do not use seat belts are less likely to make sure their child passengers are wearing seat belts

2. After outgrowing the rear-facing car seat, use a forward-facing car seat until the child reaches the height or weight limits of the forward-facing car seat and then promote to a belt-positioning booster seat.

3. The child should remain in the booster seat until the child reaches the height or weight limits of the booster seat (by Texas law this is at least until age 8 or reaching 4'9" in height).



4. Children under 14 years old should always sit in the back seat.



35% of all MVC deaths among children 12 years old and younger were not properly restrained

Among teenagers age 15-17 years old that died in a MVC, 40% were drivers, and less than 25% of those were wearing a seat belt.

## PREVENT DISTRACTED DRIVING

Refrain from using your cell phone or other devices while driving, especially near pedestrian areas. Texas law prohibits texting while driving, and phone calls should be made using a hands-free option.



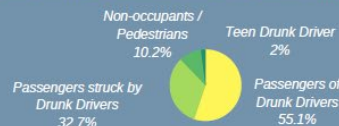
## PREVENT IMPAIRED DRIVING

Call a taxi or designated driver if you have been drinking. Never drive under the influence of any substance.



42% of children who died and were passengers of a drunk driver were unrestrained

## POSITION OF CHILD IN FATAL COLLISIONS INVOLVING DRUNK DRIVERS, NATIONALLY



## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

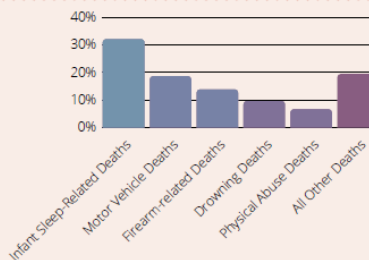


Teach children to:

- always use the sidewalk and protected crosswalks when possible
- look both ways - twice - before crossing the road
- avoid using the phone or headphones when near the roadway

With the popularity of increasingly large vehicles such as trucks and sport-utility-vehicles, children playing around or near a vehicle in the driveway may not be visible to the driver.

# SLEEP-RELATED INFANT DEATHS

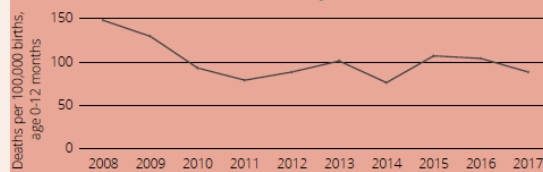


## A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG CHILDREN

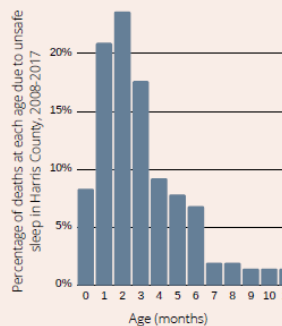
Sleep-related infant deaths account for nearly 1 out of 3 child deaths in Harris County over the last decade.



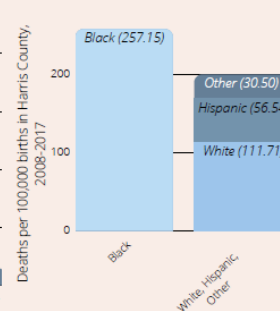
## DECADE TREND IN ANNUAL INFANT SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017



## AGE (MONTHS) OF INFANT SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS



## ANNUAL SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS BY RACE/ETHNICITY



## CAUSE OF DEATH RELATED TO INFANT SLEEP, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017

Other Unsafe Sleep 49.2%

Other causes include unsafe sleep environments, such as soft toys and pillows nearby, or when baby is sleeping face-down.

Co-sleeping 50.8%

Co-sleeping is whenever the baby shares a bed or other surface to sleep with another person.

# INFANT SAFE SLEEP

## PREVENTION TIPS RECOMMENDED BY AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICIANS, 2016



Infants younger than 1 year old should always sleep:

- Alone
- On their back
- On a firm surface
- In the same room as caregiver



Remove soft or loose objects from baby's sleeping area such as pillows, toys, blankets, bumper pads, and non-fitted sheets. Do not put baby to sleep on the couch, nursing pillow, or car seat.



Avoid overheating during sleep by not over-bundling and by leaving the baby's face and head uncovered.



Avoid smoking, drinking alcohol, or using drugs during pregnancy and after birth. Caregivers who smoke should smoke outdoors, then change into a clean shirt and wash hands thoroughly before holding the baby.



Breastfeeding, using a pacifier, and staying up-to-date on immunizations can help keep the baby healthy and prevent sleep-related deaths.



Additional suggestions include:

- Help baby build strength by playing with them during "tummy time"
- Go to regular prenatal appointments during pregnancy
- Avoid using products that may be unsafe - check for product recalls at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)



## PLAN AHEAD

- It is easy to fall asleep with your infant if you are feeding or comforting the baby
- Problem-solve ahead of time to make sure that you have a plan to make every sleep a safe sleep



# ADOLESCENT SUICIDE

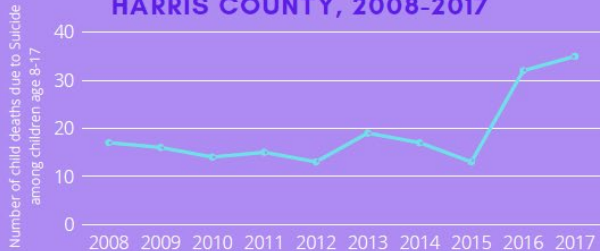
## Characteristics

### A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN YOUTH

Nationally, suicide is the leading cause of death among children ages 10-14 and the second leading cause of death among adolescents ages 15-19.

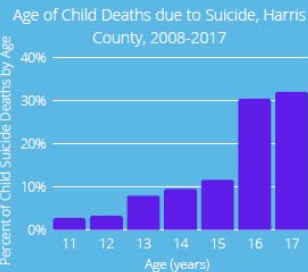


### DECADE TREND IN DEATHS BY SUICIDE, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017

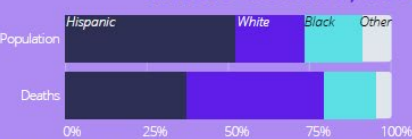


### CAUSE OF DEATH AND AGE

- The most common method of suicide was use of a firearm, closely followed by hanging.
- Suicides account for nearly 30% of all firearm-related fatalities among children in Harris County.
- Experts recommend removing or safely securing firearms as an important suicide prevention step.



### RACE/ETHNICITY AND GENDER, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017



In Harris County, boys are over 2 times more likely to die by suicide than girls. The proportion of white children who die by suicide is double their proportion in the general population.

# ADOLESCENT SUICIDE

## Resources and Risk Factors

### CRISIS HOTLINES

#### THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

English 1-800-273-8255  
Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio en Español 1-888-628-9454  
[suicidpreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidpreventionlifeline.org), deaf and HOH accessible

#### CRISIS TEXT LINE

Text "home" to 741741  
[crisistextline.org](http://crisistextline.org)



#### THE TREVOR PROJECT

For LGBTQ youth under age 25  
Call: 1-866-488-7386  
Text: "start" to 678678  
Online Chat, at [thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now](http://thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now)



#### TRANS LIFELINE

1-877-565-8860  
[translifeline.org](http://translifeline.org)

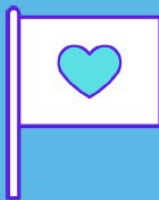
### WARNING SIGNS



- History of suicide attempt, suicidal intention, and thinking about or planning for suicide
- Increase in depression, hopelessness, anxiety, and emotional distress
- Interpersonal relationship events: stressors, conflicts, loss, abuse
- Change or shift in a person's normal demeanor or behaviors

### OTHER RISK FACTORS

- Sexuality and gender minority (LGBTQ) youth with poor social/emotional support
- Increase in alcohol or substance use, aggressive behavior, and lack of impulse control
- Increase in agitation and sleep disturbance



### PROTECTIVE FACTORS



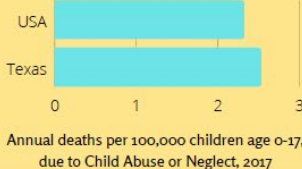
- Self-esteem and self-compassion
- Problem-solving capacity
- Community connections and meaningful relationships, including: emotionally supportive family, close friendships, supportive and involved teachers/coaches

# CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

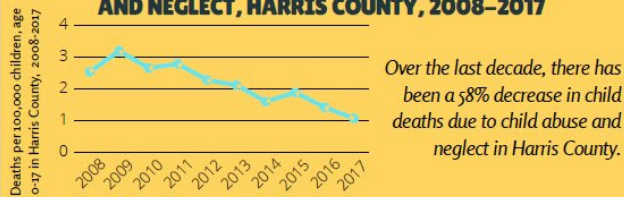
Child abuse and neglect (CAN) occurs whenever a caregiver, through their action or inaction, causes a child to be harmed. Abuse can take many forms, primarily physical, emotional, sexual, or through exploitation.

### OUTCOMES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Survivors are not only at risk of physical injuries, but also toxic stress, which can negatively impact the child's learning and memory, their ability to form healthy relationships, cope with stress, and manage their emotions... difficulties which can persist into adulthood.



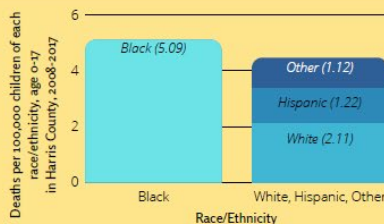
### DECADE TREND IN ANNUAL DEATHS DUE TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017



Over the last decade, there has been a 58% decrease in child deaths due to child abuse and neglect in Harris County.

### RACE/ETHNICITY OF CAN-RELATED DEATHS

In Harris County, Black children are more likely to experience death from child abuse than children of all other racial groups.



### AGE AND CAUSE OF DEATH DUE TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN HARRIS COUNTY, 2008-2017

**42%**

of CAN homicides occur before the child's first birthday



**77%**

of CAN homicides occur in children younger than 3 years old

**39%**

of CAN deaths under age 3 were result of an abusive traumatic head injury

# PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Prevention efforts center around supporting parents and caregivers

### PARENT STRESSORS

- Family stress, poverty, or lack of social support
- Lack of parenting skills, or feeling unprepared for the challenges of raising children
- Misunderstanding of child development
- Parental mental illness, or substance use
- Violence in the home or history of abuse
- Non-biological transient caregiver in the home

Children need a safe and stable home environment with a nurturing and responsive caregiver. Stress and other factors can affect the way a parent is able to care for the child and may increase the risk of harm.



### COMMON TRIGGERS

**Crying:** It is normal for newborns to cry often, sometimes inconsolably, but they will grow out of it...



**Toilet Training:** learn the process and know when your child is developmentally ready

If you are becoming overwhelmed by crying, it is okay to safely leave the baby in the crib for 10-15 minutes and walk away to take a quick break.



Never leave your child with someone who is impatient or quick to anger.

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



Studies have shown a co-occurrence of intimate partner violence (IPV) and child abuse.



On average 1 in 4 women in the US have experienced IPV.

### POSITIVE PARENTING PRACTICES

To build a healthy relationship with your child, try:



- Establish a routine
- Give positive feedback for good behavior
- Listen attentively
- Designate play time together
- It's okay to ask for help!
- Every child and parent is unique

### RESOURCES

- CDC Parent Information: from pregnancy to teenagers. [www.cdc.gov/parents](http://www.cdc.gov/parents)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline ([thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org)): 24/7 tools and support. 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- National Parent Helpline: peer support for parents (M-F, 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM). 1-855-427-2736
- Texas Abuse Hotline: 24/7 report suspected child maltreatment. 1-800-252-5400
- Texas Parenting Tips: advice for parents of babies through teenagers: [www.getparentingtips.com](http://www.getparentingtips.com)



To request PDFs of the  
resources above please email  
[harriscfirt@bcm.edu](mailto:harriscfirt@bcm.edu)