

National Center Quick-Look

Deaths that Occurred in a School Setting



Collect

The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention collects information about children who died with the incident location being a school in the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS).



Data

From 2005 through 2019, fatality teams reviewed deaths of **439** school children ages 5-19 who died from an incident on school property on a weekday. Thirty-nine states contributed to the data for this Quick-Look. ¹



Learn

To see other Quick-Looks using NFR-CRS data and learn more about fatality review, visit the National Center's website at ncfrp.org.

School-Associated Violent Death Surveillance System

The School-Associated Violent Death Surveillance System (SAVD-SS) collects data on school-associated violent deaths (i.e., homicide, suicide, legal intervention deaths). From July 1, 2005-June 30, 2019, there were 281 homicides (years ranging from 10 to 35) and 77 suicides (years ranging from 2 to 10) occurring among those ages 5-18. ²

Additional Information About NFR-CRS Data

Because so many of these deaths are preventable, fatality review data provide a unique perspective to better understand the circumstances of all deaths that occur in school environments, including accidents and deaths from natural causes.

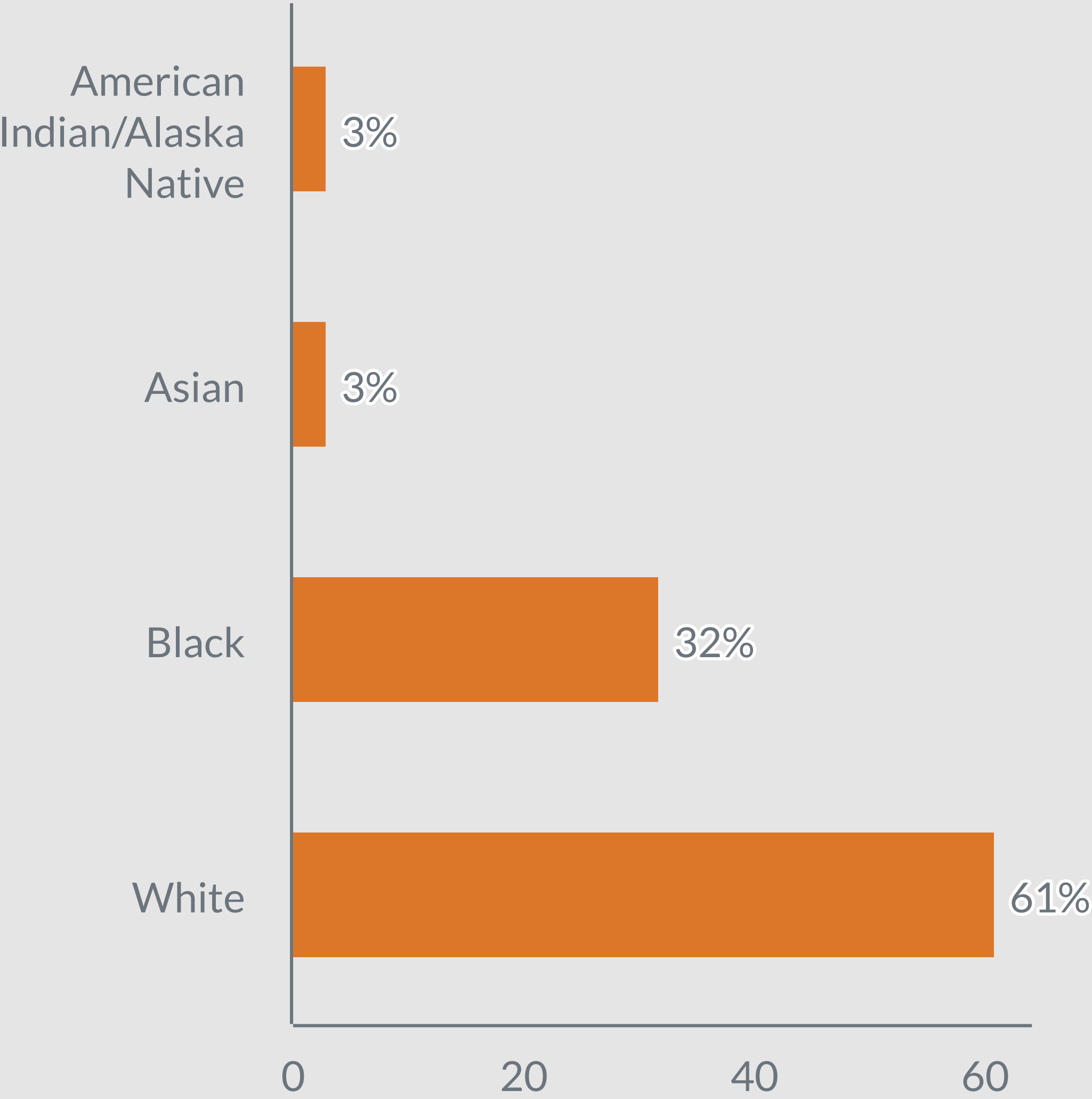
In April 2020, the NFR-CRS updated a question to allow for collection of data on mass fatality events. This will improve the National Center's ability to understand these events. However, this data is not yet available for publishing.

National Center's Structural Inequity Statement

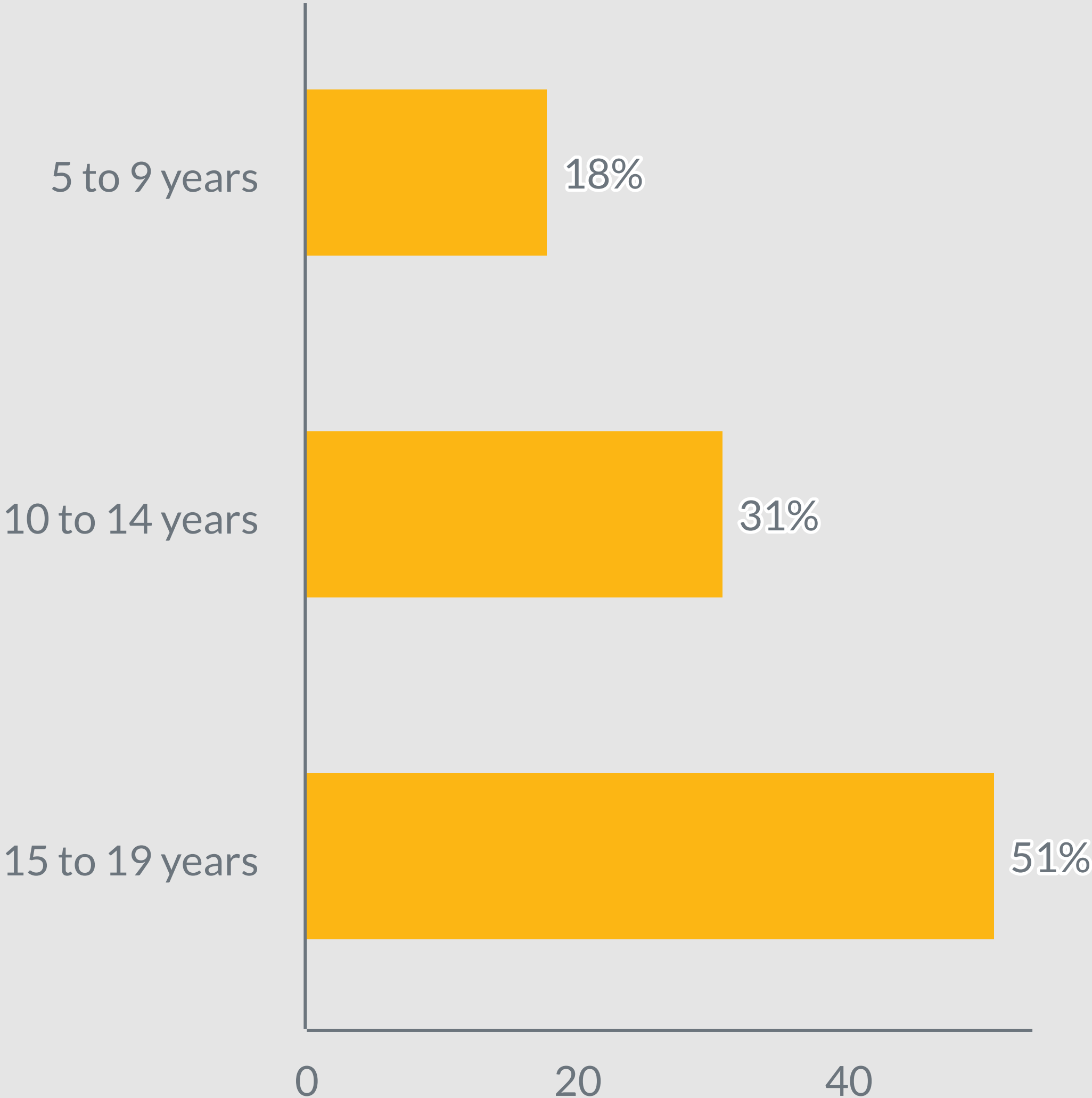
Some families lose infants, children, and youth to the types of deaths reviewed by fatality review teams not as a result of the actions or behaviors of those who died, or their parents or caregivers. Social factors such as where they live, how much money or education they have and how they are treated because of their racial or ethnic backgrounds can also contribute to a child's death. Segregation impacts access to high-quality education, employment opportunities, healthy foods, and healthcare. Combined, the economic injustices associated with residential, educational, and occupational segregation have lasting health impacts that include adverse birth outcomes, infant mortality, high rates of homicide and gun violence, and increased motor vehicle deaths.

Demographics

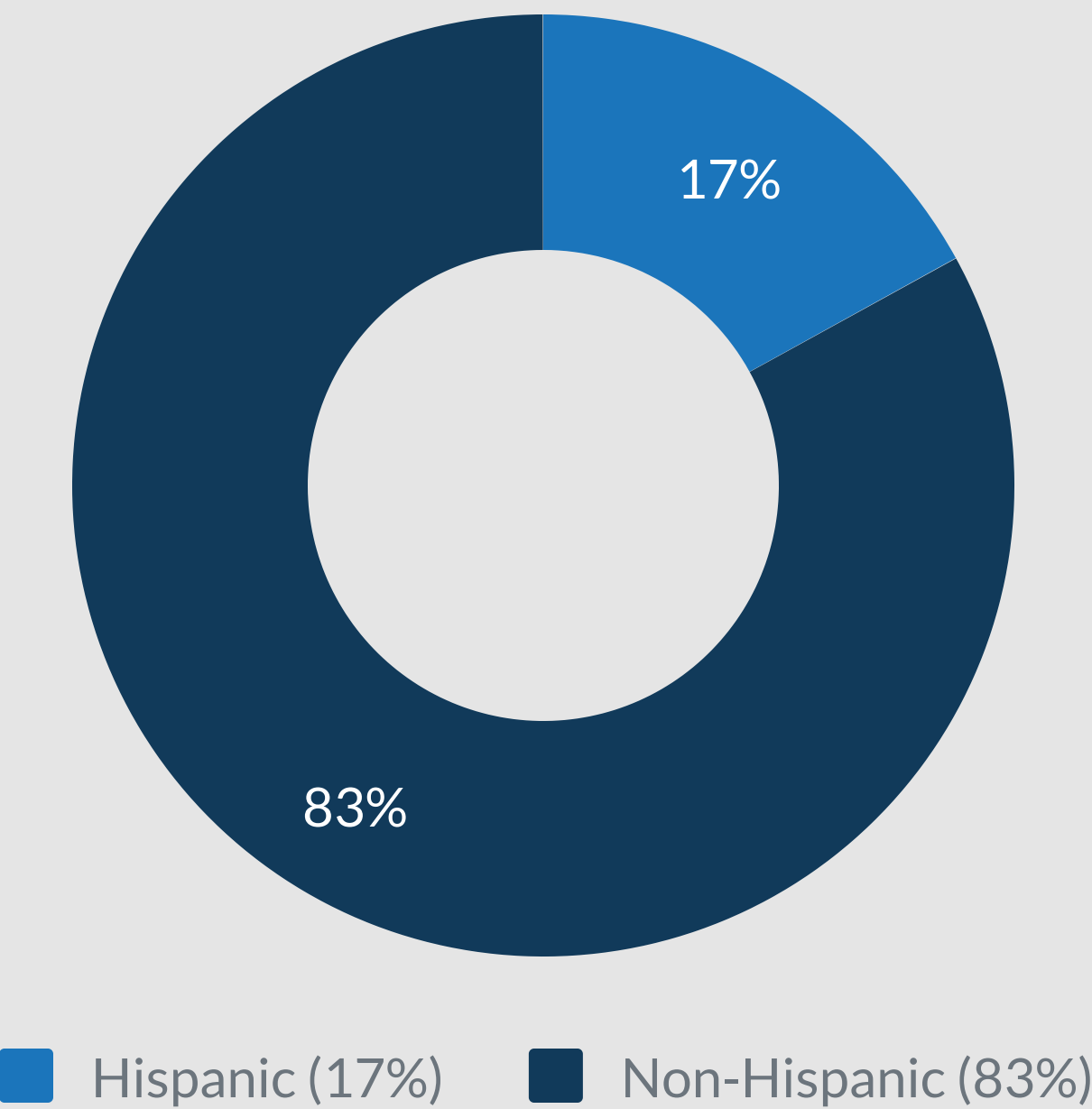
Race



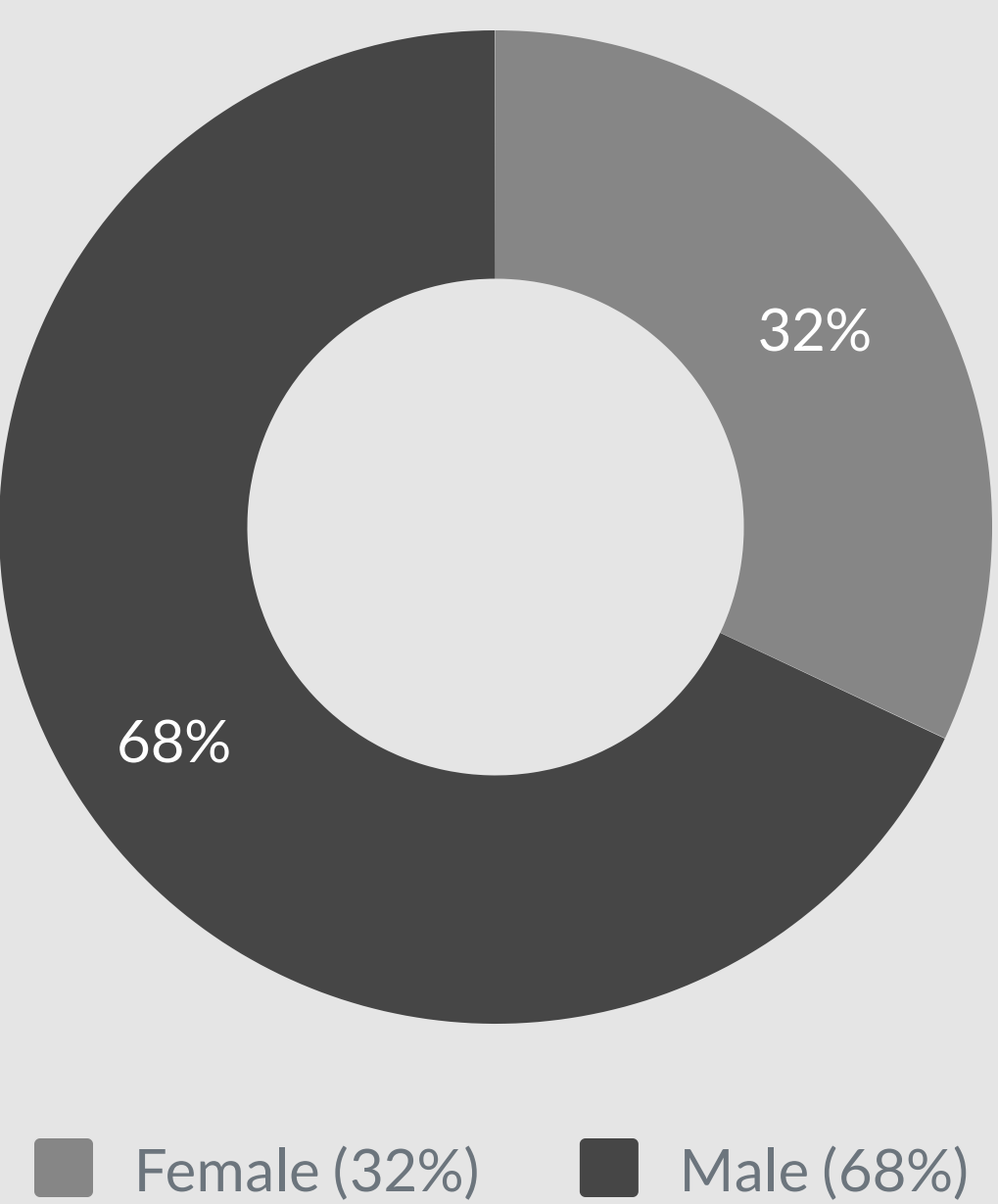
Age



Ethnicity



Sex



Manner and Cause of Death



Manner

- 45% Natural
- 26% Accident
- 16% Suicide
- 10% Homicide
- 2% Undetermined



External Cause 50%

- 47% were from **Weapons**
- 17% **Motor Vehicle Crashes**
- 10% Falls or Crushes
- 9% Asphyxia
- 5% Drownings
- 8% Other External Cause



Weapons

- 66% Firearms
- 8% Person’s Body Part
- 8% Rope
- 7% Knife or Other Sharp Instrument
- 12% Other Weapon



Motor Vehicle Crash

- 64% Pedestrians
- 17% Passengers
- 19% All Other Categories (e.g., driver, bicycle, not specified)



Medical Cause 48%

- 41% were Cardiovascular
- 15% Congenital Anomalies
- 7% Asthma
- 7% Neurological or Seizure Disorders
- 7% Other Infection
- 21% Other Medical Condition

For deaths where additional detail was provided, 29% involved sports, physical education/gym class, recess or playground equipment, or dances (both recreational and performance).

Incident and Investigation Information



Witnessed

21% of deaths had the incident witnessed by a teacher, coach, or trainer.



School-Related Problems

14% were known to have experienced problems in school.



Mental Health Services

13% were known to have received mental health services.



Geographic Area

41% of the deaths occurred in urban areas; 38% in suburban areas; 22% in rural/frontier areas.

Of those who experienced **School-Related Problems**, 36% had problems with truancy, 33% reported academic problems, 33% reported behavioral problems (e.g., acting out, bullying), 33% reported other problems, and 13% had been suspended.

Prevention Resources



National Association of
School Nurses

[Resources - National
Association of School
Nurses](#)



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
Division of Adolescent and
School Health

[Resources for Adolescent
Health | DASH | CDC](#)



The Journal of School
Health

[The Need for Improved
Collaboration between
Schools and Child Death
Review Teams](#)

National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention Supporting Fetal and Infant Mortality Review and Child Death Review Teams

There are many ways to stay in touch with the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention:



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www.ncfrp.org



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[1] These deaths have been reviewed and recorded into the NFR-CRS by participating fatality review teams. Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and small number suppression.

[2] <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=49> Accessed 8/15/2022

[3] More than one problem in school could have been selected.

These data represent a smaller percent of the cases entered into the NFR-CRS. For more information about the data contained in this Quick-Look, please visit https://www.ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/NCRPCD-Docs/NCFRP_Quick_Looks_Analysis.pdf