

Child Fatality Prevention Team
Community Child Protection Team

2019 Annual Report

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Purpose

- **Develop community-wide approach** to addressing child abuse and neglect
- **Understand causes** of childhood deaths
- **Identify gaps** or deficiencies
- **Make and implement recommendations** for policy and practice changes



Protection Team

- Social Services
- Public Health
- District Attorney's Office
- DHHS Board
- DHHS Attorney
- Alliance for Children & Youth
- Phoenix Counseling
- CaroMont
- Sheriff's Office
- Care Coordination for Children
- Juvenile Justice
- The Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center
- Gaston County Courts
- Gaston County Schools
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Partners Behavioral Health
- Community Members



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- Community Members
- Gaston County Schools
- Guardian Ad Litem
- **Medical Examiner's Office**
- **Gaston Emergency Medical Services**
- **Bereaved Parent**
- **Day Care Provider**



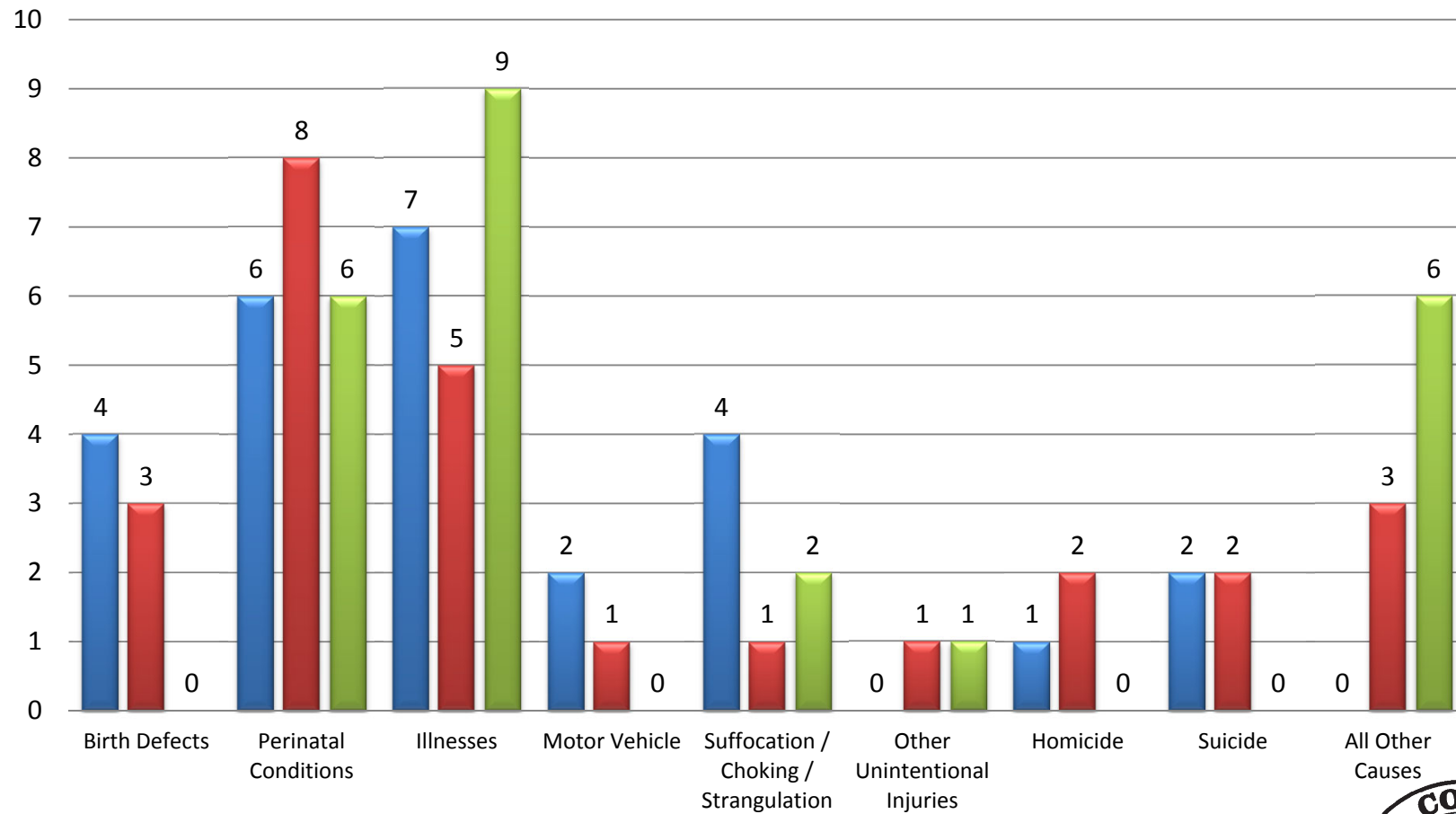
24 Fatalities

- 9 Illnesses
- 6 Perinatal (immediately before, during, and after birth)
- 6 Other / Undetermined Causes
- 2 Accidental Suffocation
- 1 Other Unintentional Injury



Fatalities

2016-2018



■ 2016 (26 deaths)

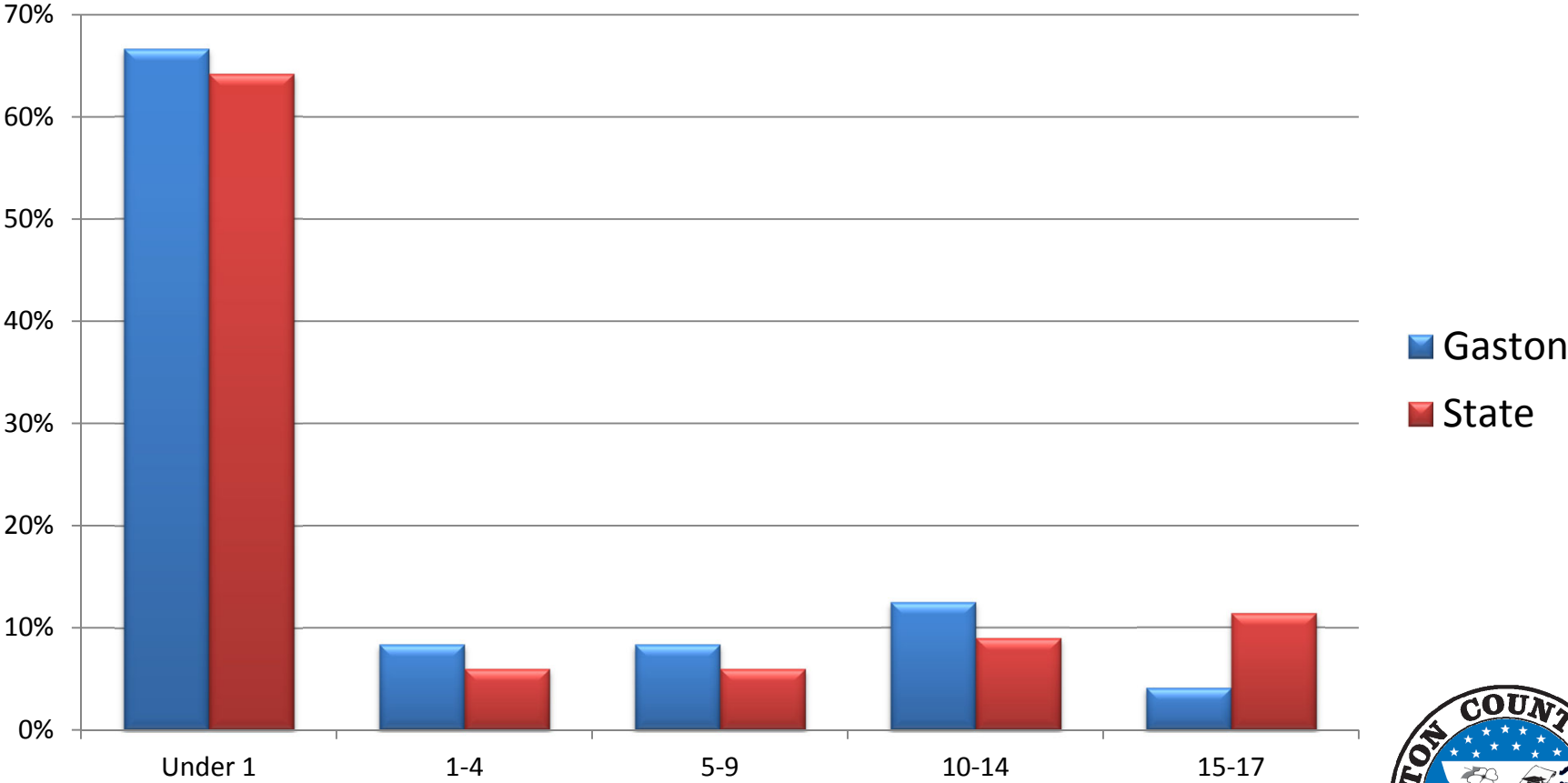
■ 2017 (26 deaths)

■ 2018 (24 deaths)



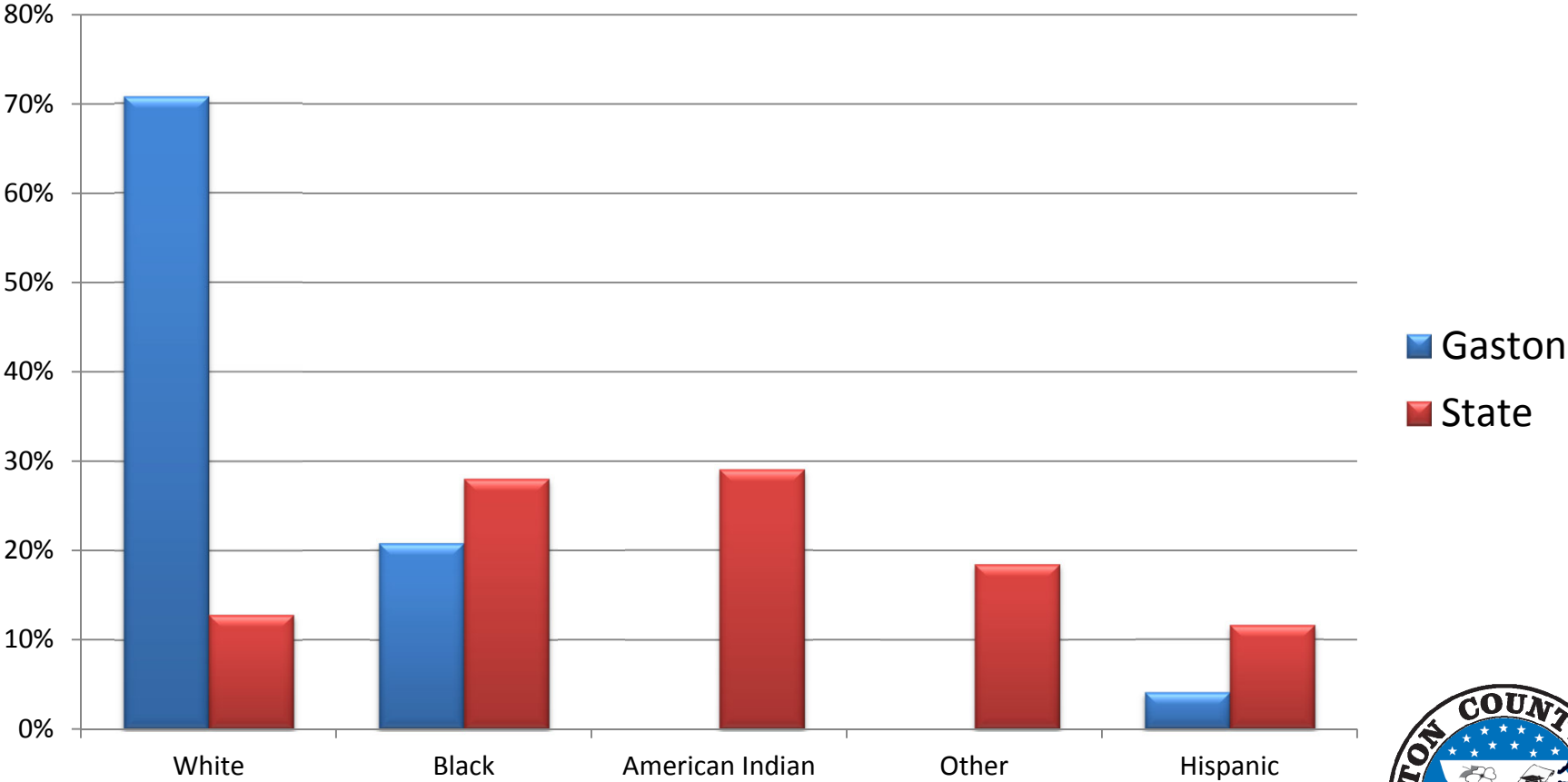
Gaston County vs State: 2018

Age in Years



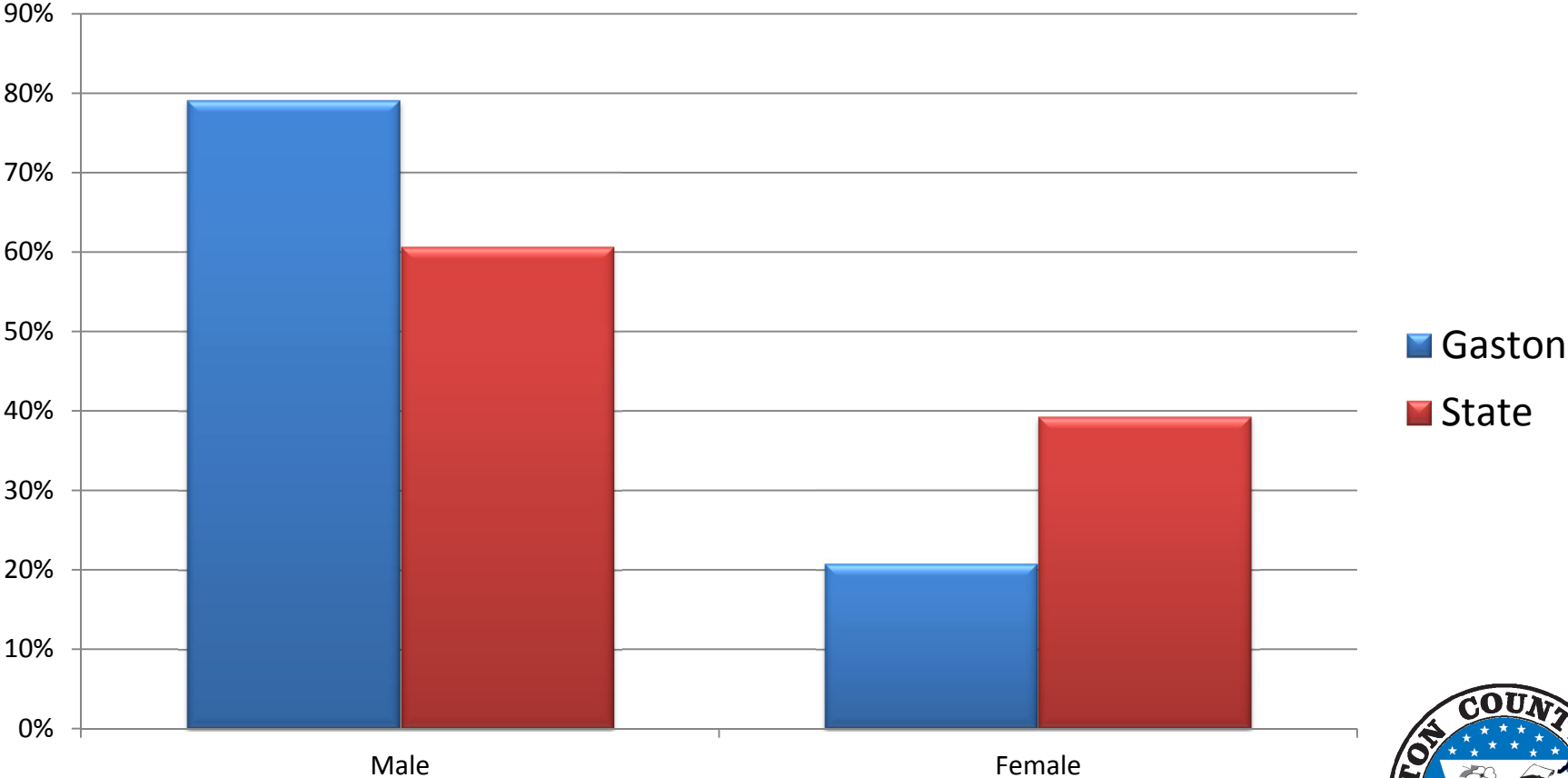
Gaston County vs State: 2018

Race



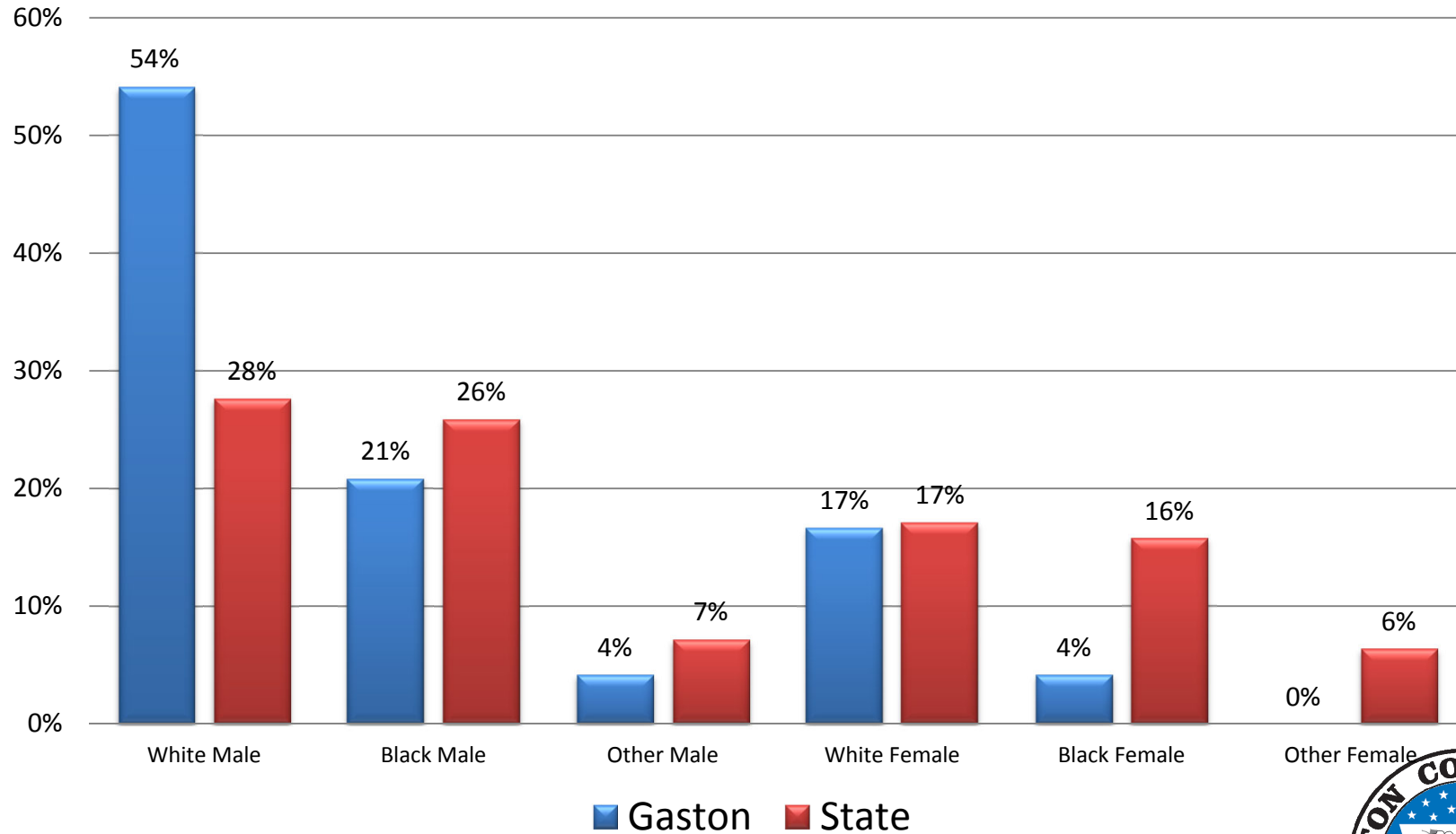
Gaston County vs State: 2018

Gender

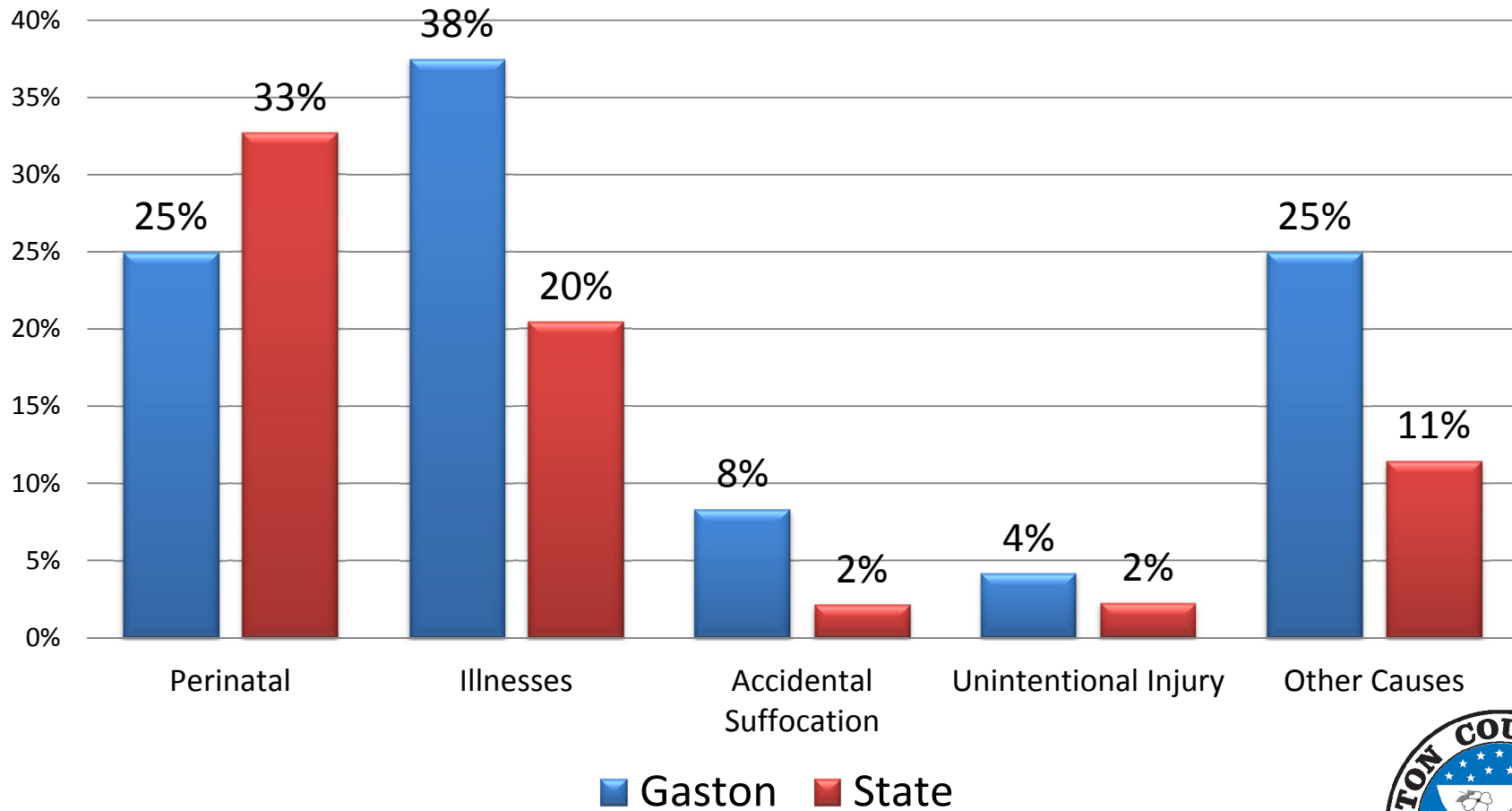


Gaston County vs State: 2018

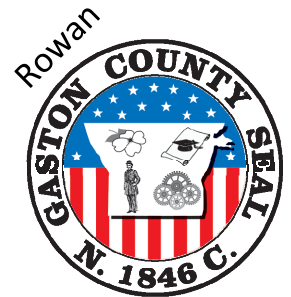
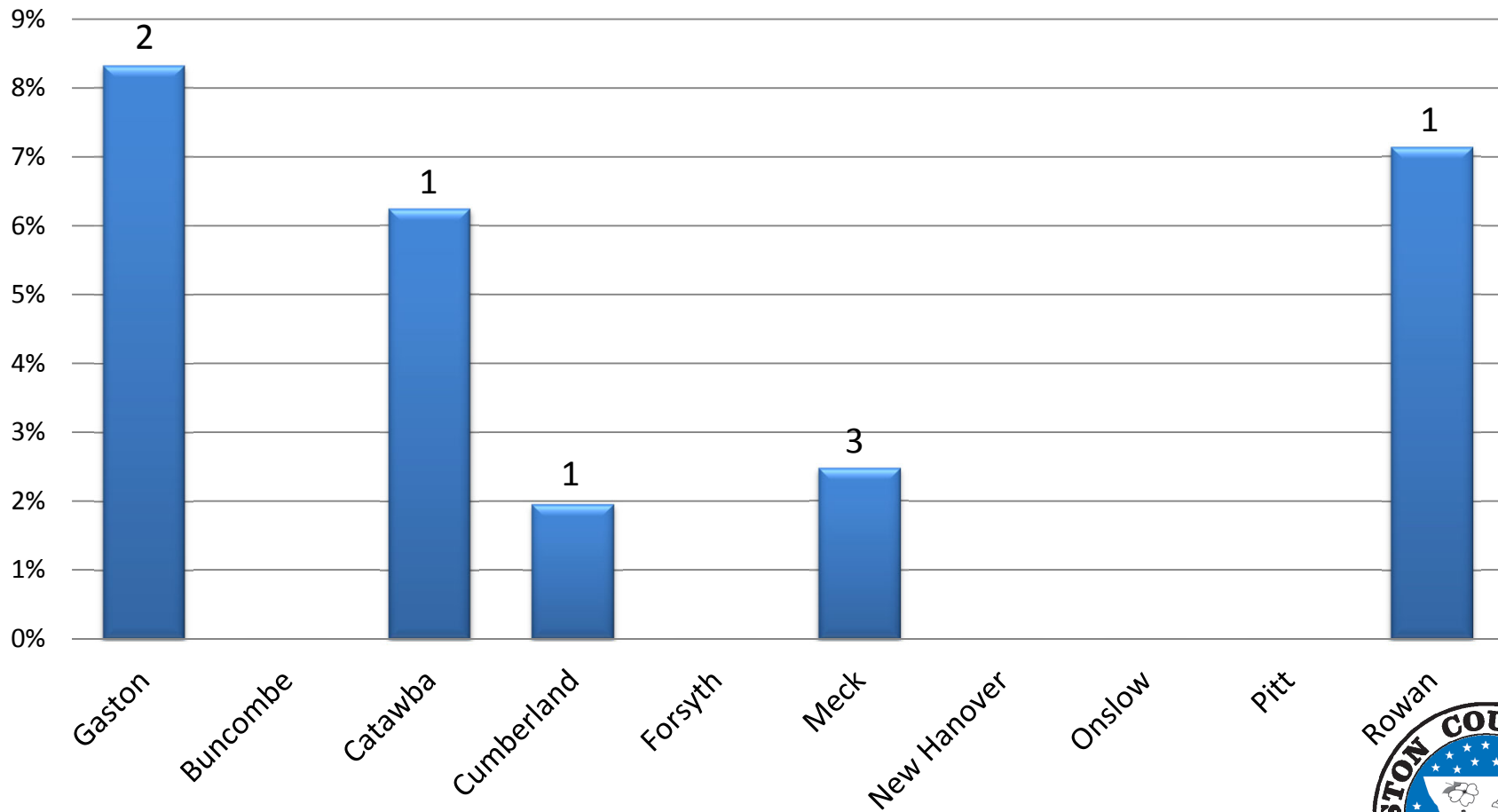
Race & Gender



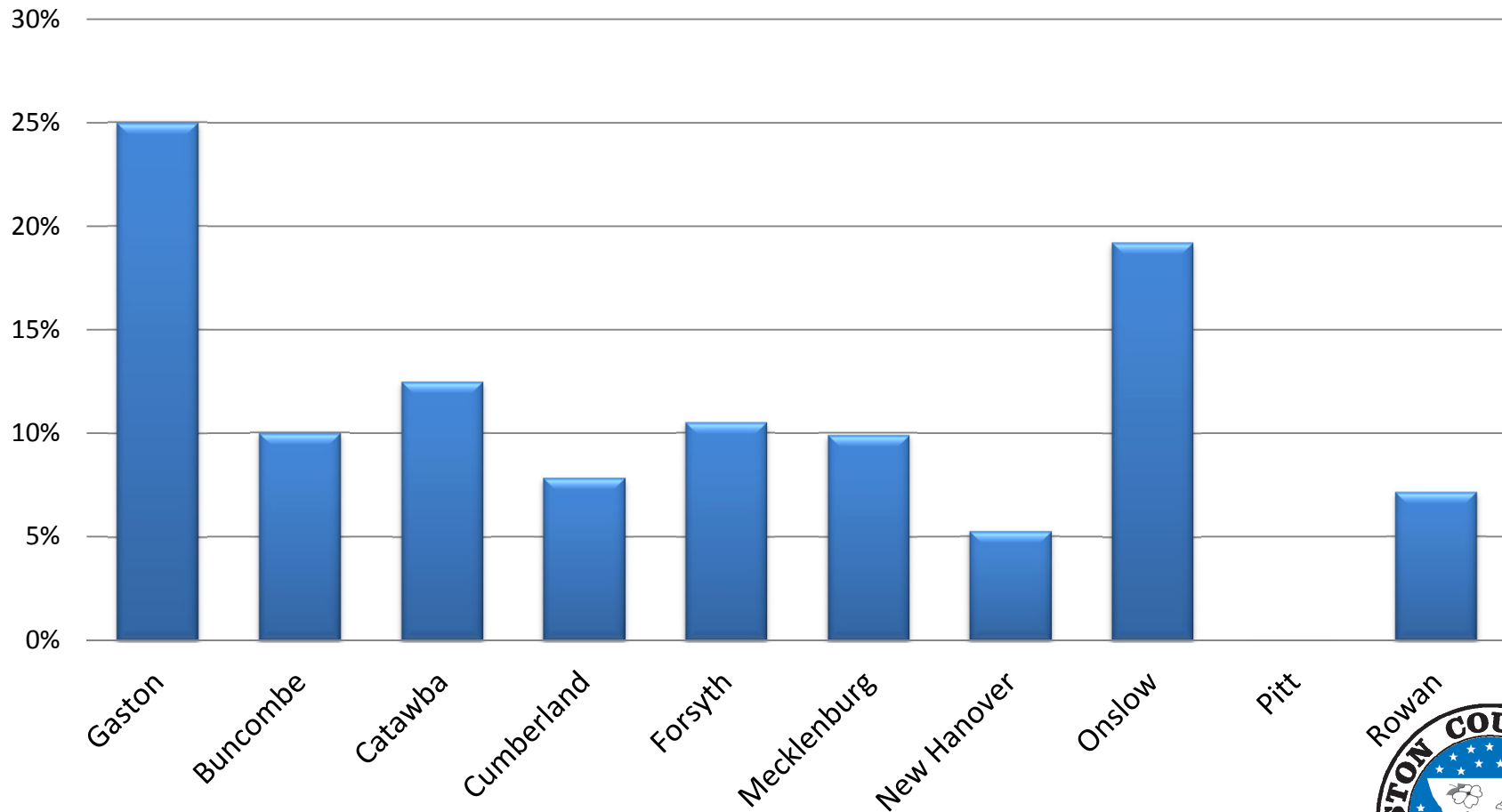
Gaston County vs State: 2018 Causes of Death



Gaston vs Comparable Counties Accidental Suffocation



Gaston vs Comparable Counties "Other / Undetermined Causes"



Unsafe Sleeping

- **Accidental Suffocation**
 - 2 month old placed in queen size bed with bed rails
 - 2 month old in portable pack 'n play with blanket
- **Other Causes**
 - 5 month old in crib with bumpers, toys, blanket
 - 23 day old on feeding pillow
 - 2 month old sleeping in pack 'n play
 - 2 month old bed sharing with parent and sibling
 - 3 month old sleeping in swing
- **Race / Gender**
 - 6 White Males
 - 1 Hispanic Male



“Undetermined”

- Child was placed in the crib with bumpers, stuffed toys, and a blanket. The child was found deceased face down in the corner of the crib (face against the bumper).
- Co-sleeping with an adult and others on an adult bed; child was found under a pillow.
- Baby and parent were sleeping on the floor; baby was found under bedding materials.



Open Case Review Outcomes

- Regular and Specialized Medical Care
- Mental Health Assessments
- Substance Use Treatment Programs
- Parenting Programs
- Department of Juvenile Justice Intervention
- Cross-Agency Collaboration
- Out of Home Placements
- School-Based Services
- Legal Advocacy



Accomplishments

- 2 fatalities transferred to CCPT for more intense review
- 7 open Child Protective Services' cases reviewed
- Screenings of the film “Resilience”
- “This Side Up” Onesie Initiative



What's Next in 2020?

- 2 Intensive Fatality Reviews
- 4 Quarterly Reviews
- 7 Open Case Reviews
- More “Resilience” Screenings
- “This Side Up” Initiative



“This has been the most meaningful ‘team’ experience of my medical career - representatives from across the community working together for the good of all children, producing important, actionable results.”

Dr. Marty Baker
CaroMont Pediatric Partners

“CFPTs and CCPTs are effective because they bring diverse professionals together to identify deficiencies in services for children in our community and then develop and implement plans to close those gaps.”

The Honorable John K. Greenlee
Chief District Court Judge
CFPT Chair

“I can't think of anything more impactful for a community than to bring together a collective group of experts to identify opportunities to prevent future child deaths. These teams provide an opportunity for the community to support and assist DHHS in their assigned responsibility and awesome duty to protect children and assist families in crisis.”

Andrew Schrag, MBA, MA, LPCS
Regional Director of Community
Operations Partners Behavioral
Health

“Each member of our committee is truly committed to improving community systems and strengthening our approach to child maltreatment. Although our team is very diverse, we all work collaboratively to improve communication, increase knowledge, and develop recommendations to enhance service delivery and reduce harm to children.”

Michelle Jenkins
Child Protective Services
Coordinator

*“Why do our CCPT and CFPT matter?
Because things can always be better, and we
are always better together.*

*As a community, our biggest responsibility
is to protect our children. That means that
we can not be afraid to continuously
examine the systems in place to make sure
that we are always doing our best. The
CCPT and CFPT bring together people from
all across our community, with their diverse
backgrounds, experience, and expertise, and
do just that – shine a light on the systems in
place and look for ways to do better.”*

Deborah Gulledge
Assistant District Attorney
CCPT Co-Chair

Questions?

