Child Fatality Prevention Team

2025 Annual Report

Disclaimer

This report contains all cases reported by the State for Gaston County review in 2024 and 2025, including cases that were not reviewed due to various holds.

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Purpose

- Overview of cases that occurred in 2023 and 2024 and reviewed in the subsequent years
- Understand causes of childhood deaths
- Identify system gaps or deficiencies
- Develop and implement recommendations for policy and practice changes

Child Fatality Team Membership

- Social Services
- Public Health
- Community Support Services
- District Attorney's Office
- DHHS Board
- Alliance for Children & Youth
- CaroMont
- Sheriff's Office
- Care Coordination for Children
- Juvenile Justice
- The Lighthouse Gaston County Courts
- Gaston County Schools
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Partners Behavioral Health
- Behavioral health providers
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Community Members
- GEMS
- Medical Examiner's Office

2024 and 2025 CFPT At a Glance

GASTON COUNTY

2024

- 26 deaths reported for Gaston County during the 2023 calendar year to be reviewed during 2024 reviews
- 24 cases reviewed by the team
- 2 cases held for various reasons (DA and state holds)

2025

- 37 deaths reported for Gaston County during the 2024 calendar year to be reviewed during 2025 reviews
- 25 cases reviewed by the team
- 12 cases held for various reasons (DA hold, state hold, etc.)

2024 Cases

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
Perinatal Conditions	8
Birth Defects	4
Illness	5
Homicide	1
Accidents	1
Infant Sleep-Related Death	2
Suicide	1
Overdoses	3
Other	1

Compared to 2023 reviews:

- Birth defects decreased from 20% to 18%.
- Largest category remains perinatal conditions, 30% last year and 31% this year.
- Increase in overdoses from 5% to 12%

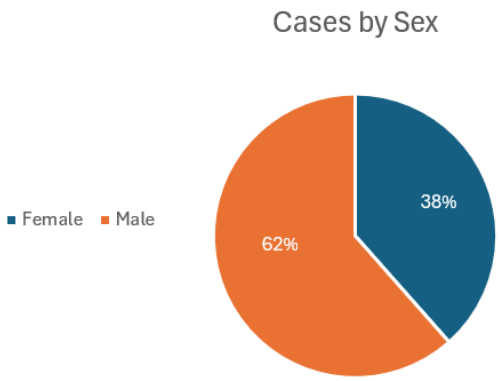
2025 Cases

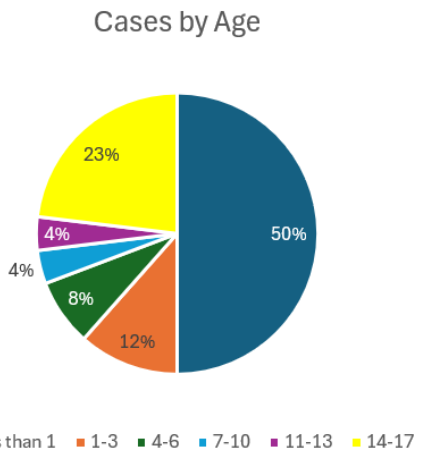
Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
Perinatal Conditions	8
Birth Defects	2
Illness	6
Homicide	3
Accidents	10
Overdoses	1
Other	7

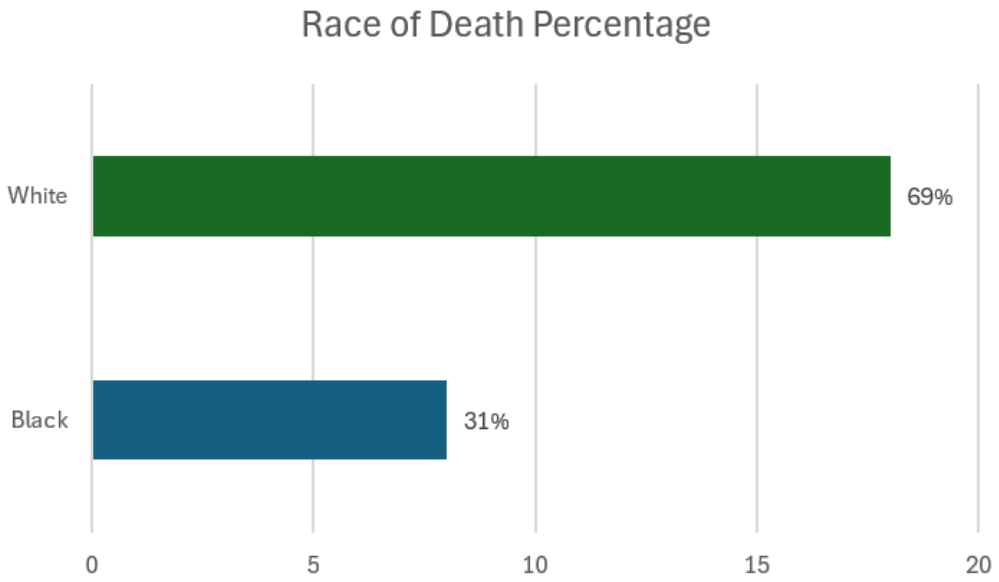
Compared to 2024 cases:

- Birth defects continued to **decrease** for third year, decreasing from 18% to 5%.
- Largest category in the previous two years was perinatal condition, however this year it was **accidents**.
- **Decrease** in overdoses from 12% to 3%.

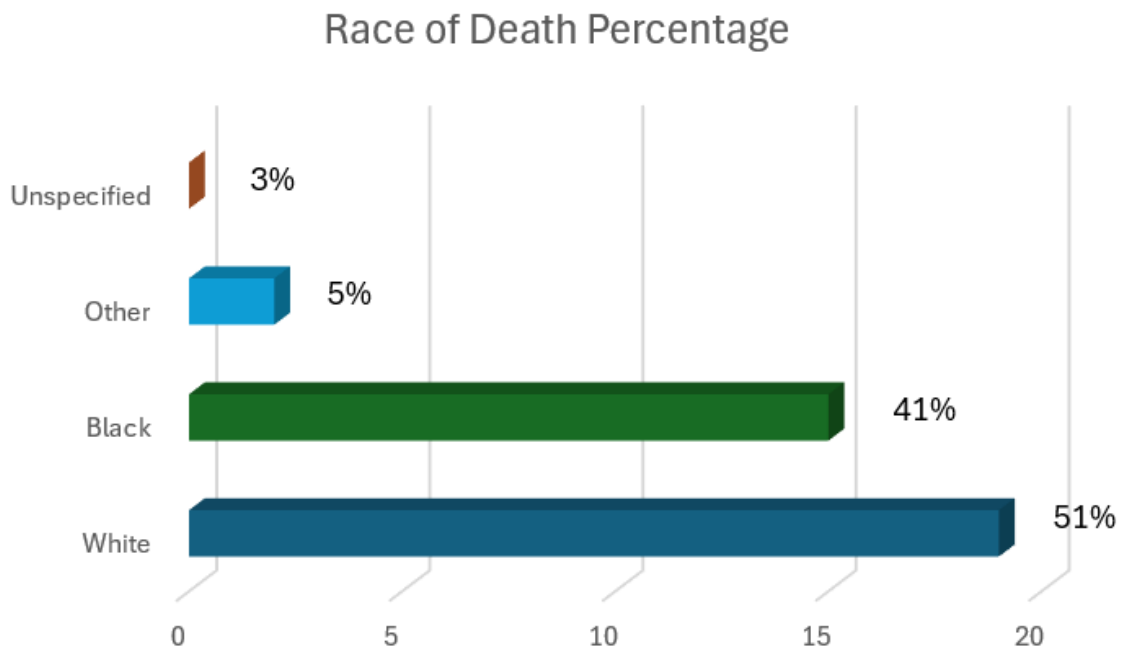
2024 Demographic Breakdown

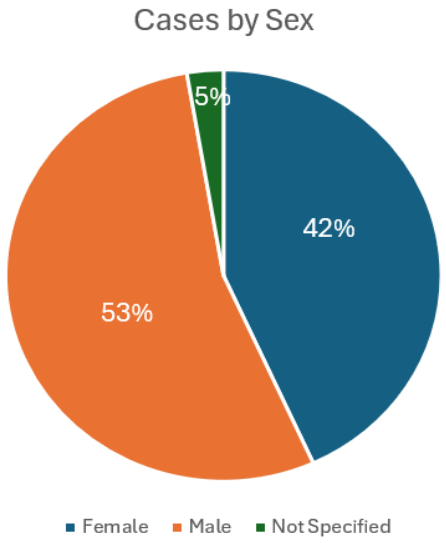


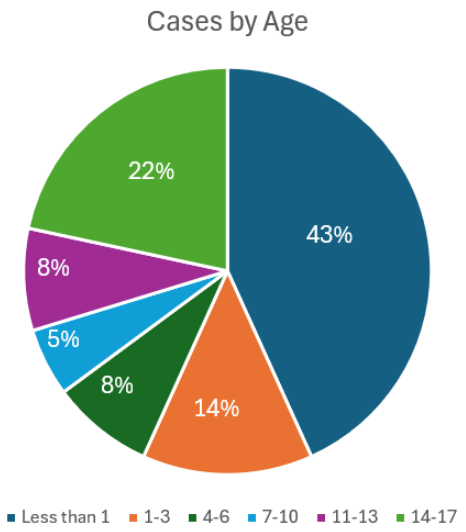




2025 Demographic Breakdown







2024 Resulting Recommendations

- Highway Patrol texting while driving program
- Public awareness campaign regarding unsafe nature of Boppy pillows for sleeping
- Wait-time issues in hospital systems related to ED visits.
- Benefits of influenza vaccines

2025 Resulting Recommendations

- Ongoing unsafe sleep education efforts.
- Continued water safety campaigns.

Questions?

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