

**CDRT**

**Child Death Review Team**

**Dallas County**

The Dallas County Child Death Review Team (CDRT), established in 1992, conducts its review meetings monthly pertaining to individual child deaths 0-17 years of age.

## **Dallas County Child<18 Injury Deaths 2021**

# Community Resource

- In addition to reviewing the deaths, preventative measures/recommendations are discussed and disseminated through the various community agencies.
- CDRT Goals for 2023 include maximizing impact and closing any gaps present within our community resources.

# Community Resource Collaborations

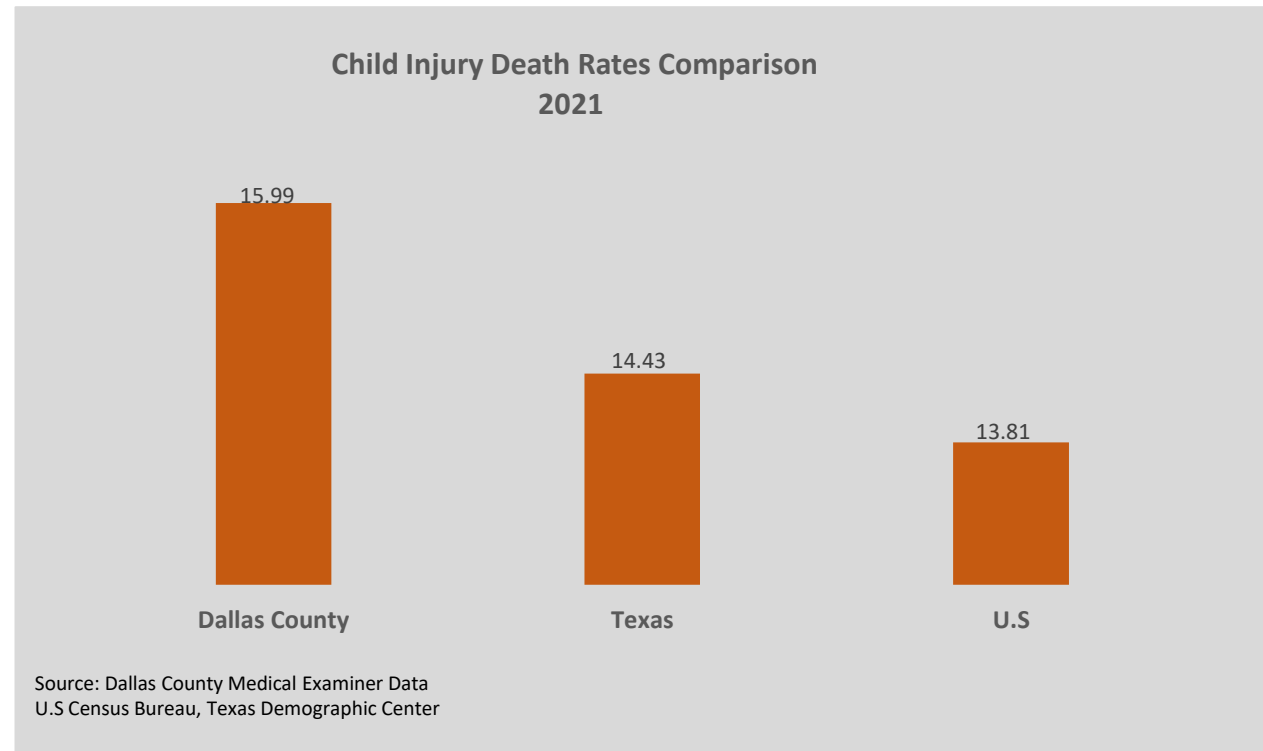
- Currently, the Dallas County CDRT is seeking collaboration with the Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC) to maximize impact by reaching hospitals (in the region) at a system level.
- We are also seeking a collaboration with the WIC department to be able to extract more information relevant to Social Determinants of Health.

# Dallas County Injury Deaths compared to the State and National child death rates

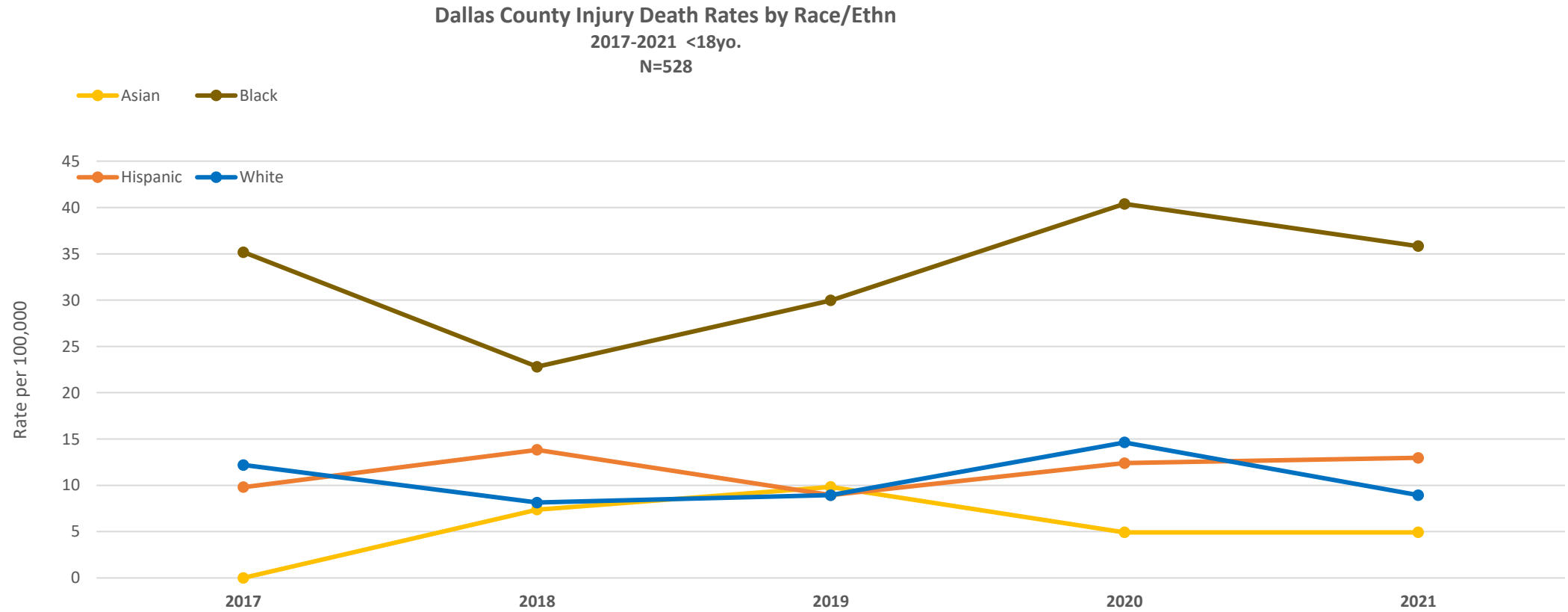
Figure 1:

## Death Rates <18yo in the U.S, Texas, and Dallas County, 2021

- 113 children died of injuries in Dallas County in 2021.
- Out of every 100,000 children in Dallas county, 16 were likely to die from an injury in 2021.

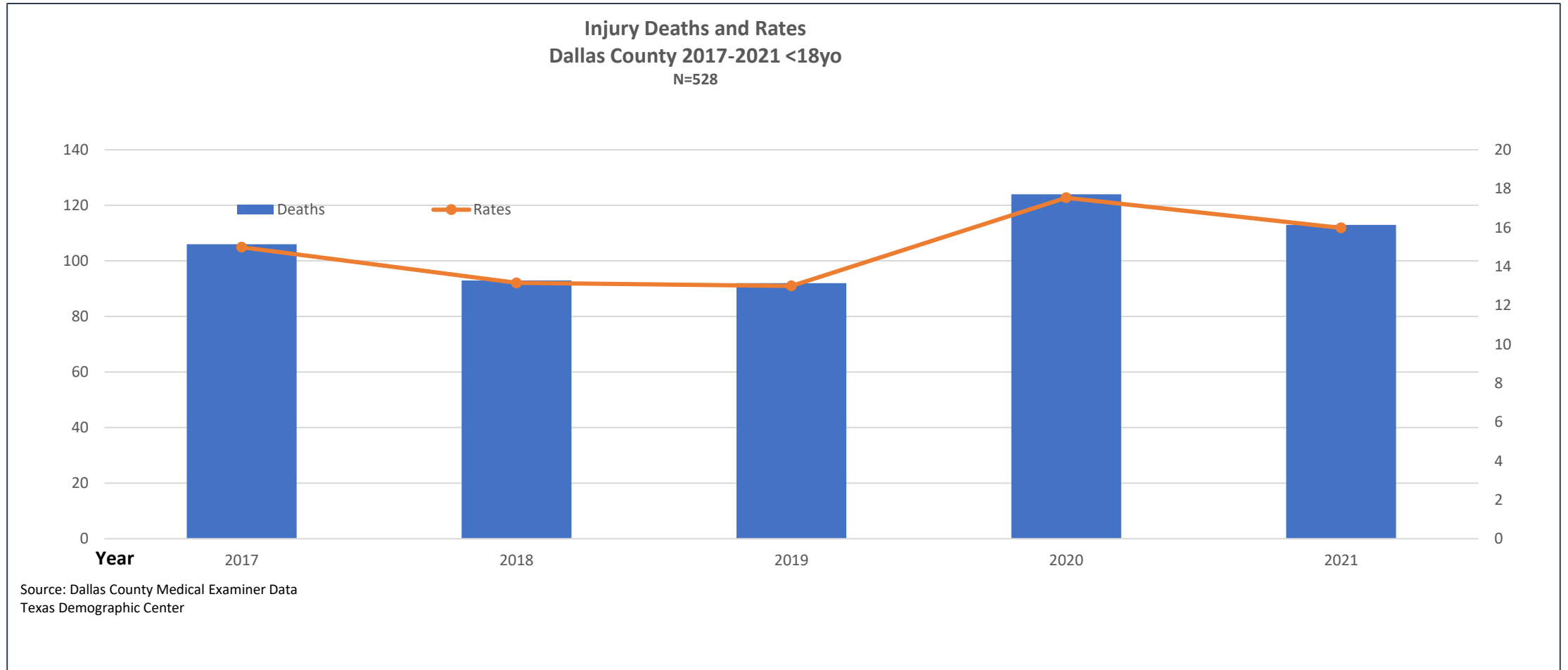


# Figure 4: Deaths Rates by Race/Ethnicity 2017-2021



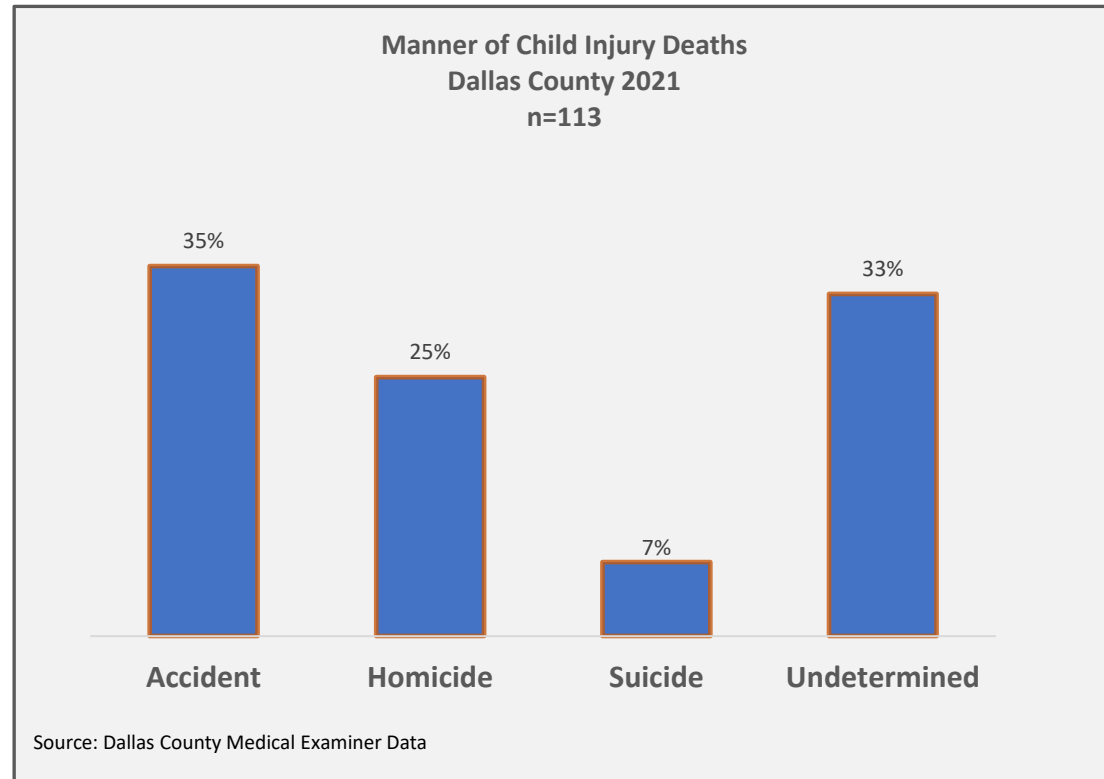
Source: Dallas County Medical Examiner Data  
Texas Demographic Center

.....on a positive note, the County's Injury death rate decreased by 1.55 in 2021, from 2020.



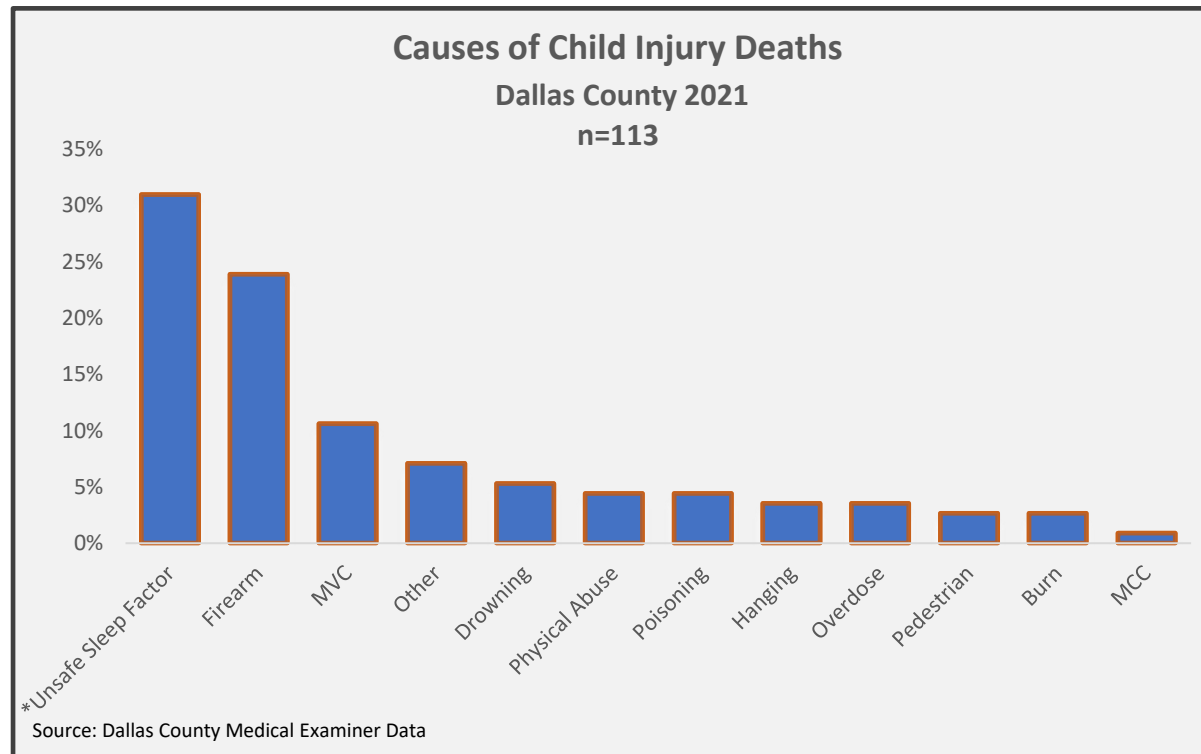
# Child Injury Deaths by Manner:

- Unintentional injury deaths “Accidents” were the leading Manner of death at 35 percent.
- Undetermined deaths were the second leading. It is worth noting that 73 percent (31/37) of the undetermined deaths were those of infants and 87 percent of those (27/31) had unsafe sleep environment as a contributing factor.
- Sixty one percent of the deaths were those of the male gender while thirty nine percent were female.



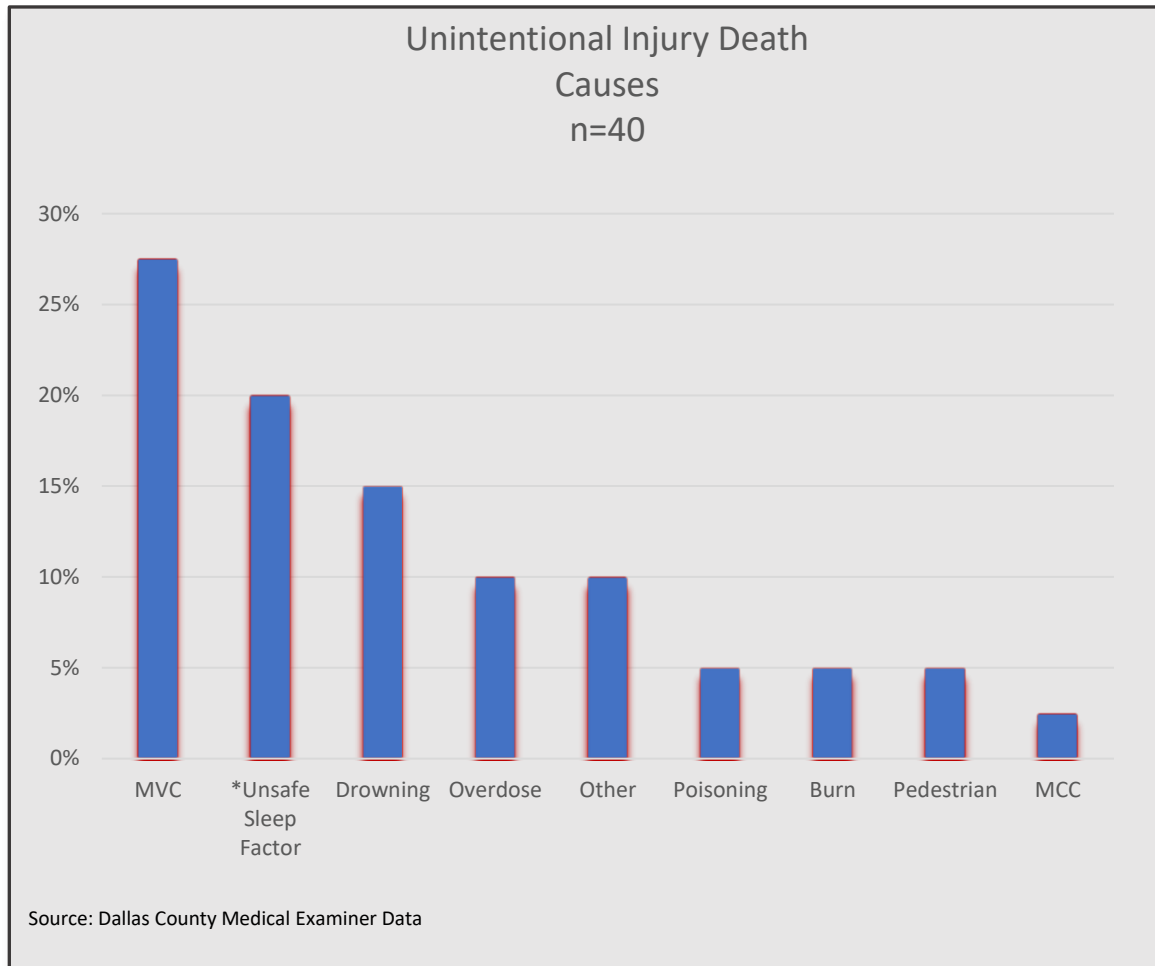


# Figure 6: Causes of Injury Deaths



- \*Unsafe Sleep Factor is **not** a cause but a contributing factor and comprises of unintentional suffocation and undetermined deaths of infants which occurred in an unsafe sleep environment.
- Firearms, at 24 percent, were the second leading cause of death in children under the age of 18, followed by MVCs at 11 percent.
- **Other** causes included, Unspecified, Suffocation from mechanical asphyxiation, choking, and Undetermined cases that excluded unsafe sleep .

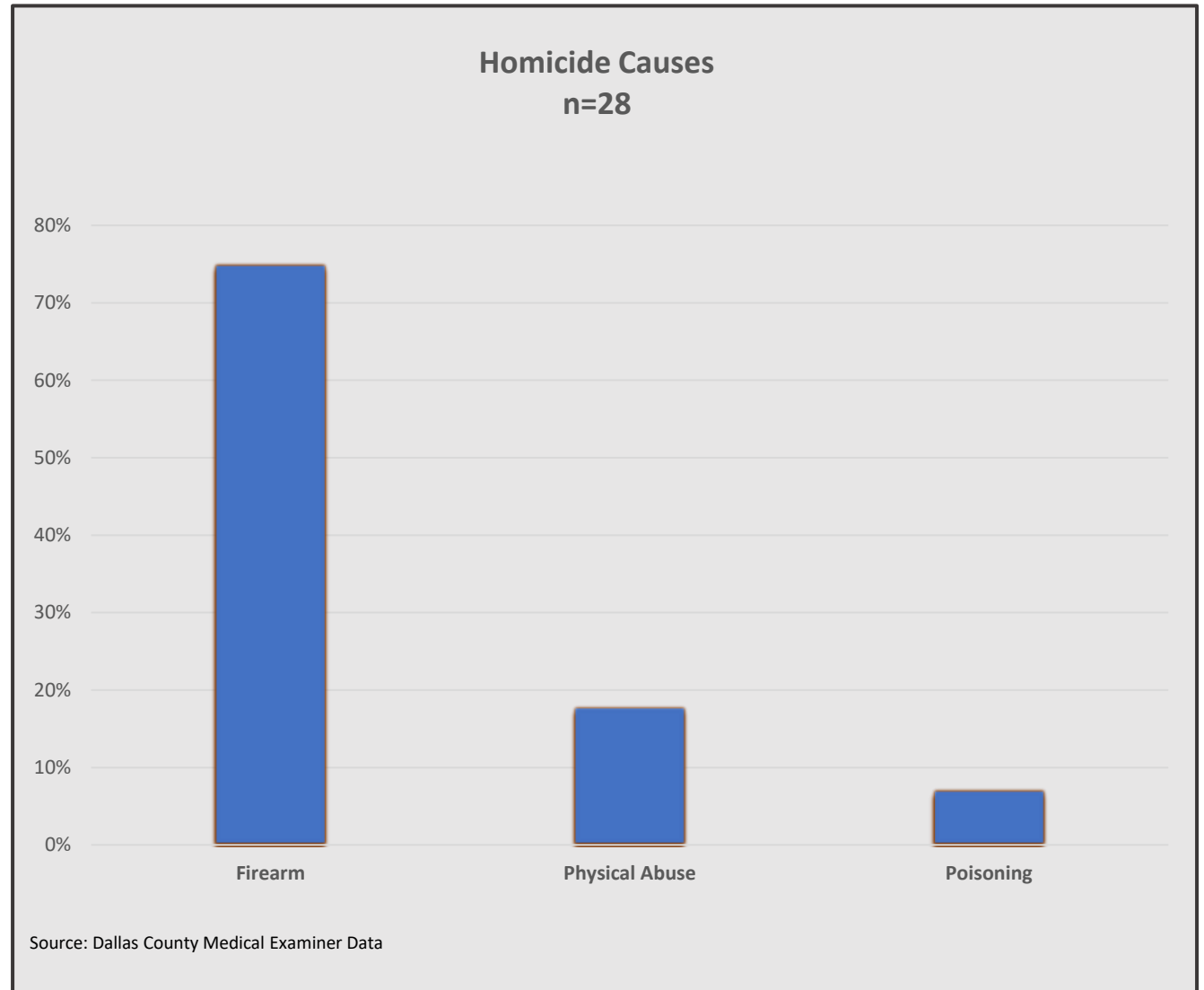
Figure 7: Unintentional Injury(“Accidents”) Deaths by Cause



- Motor Vehicle Crash (MVC) deaths included an infant, a toddler, 6 school-aged children and 3 teenagers.
- Unsafe sleep Environment as a factor contributed to **unintentional injury deaths** of 8 infants.
- Drowning was the third cause of unintentional injury deaths. 1 occurred in a bathtub in concurrent with thermal injuries, 2 of the deaths occurred in private residential pools and 3 in community pools.
- The Unintentional overdose deaths at 10%, occurred among 15-17yo age-group.

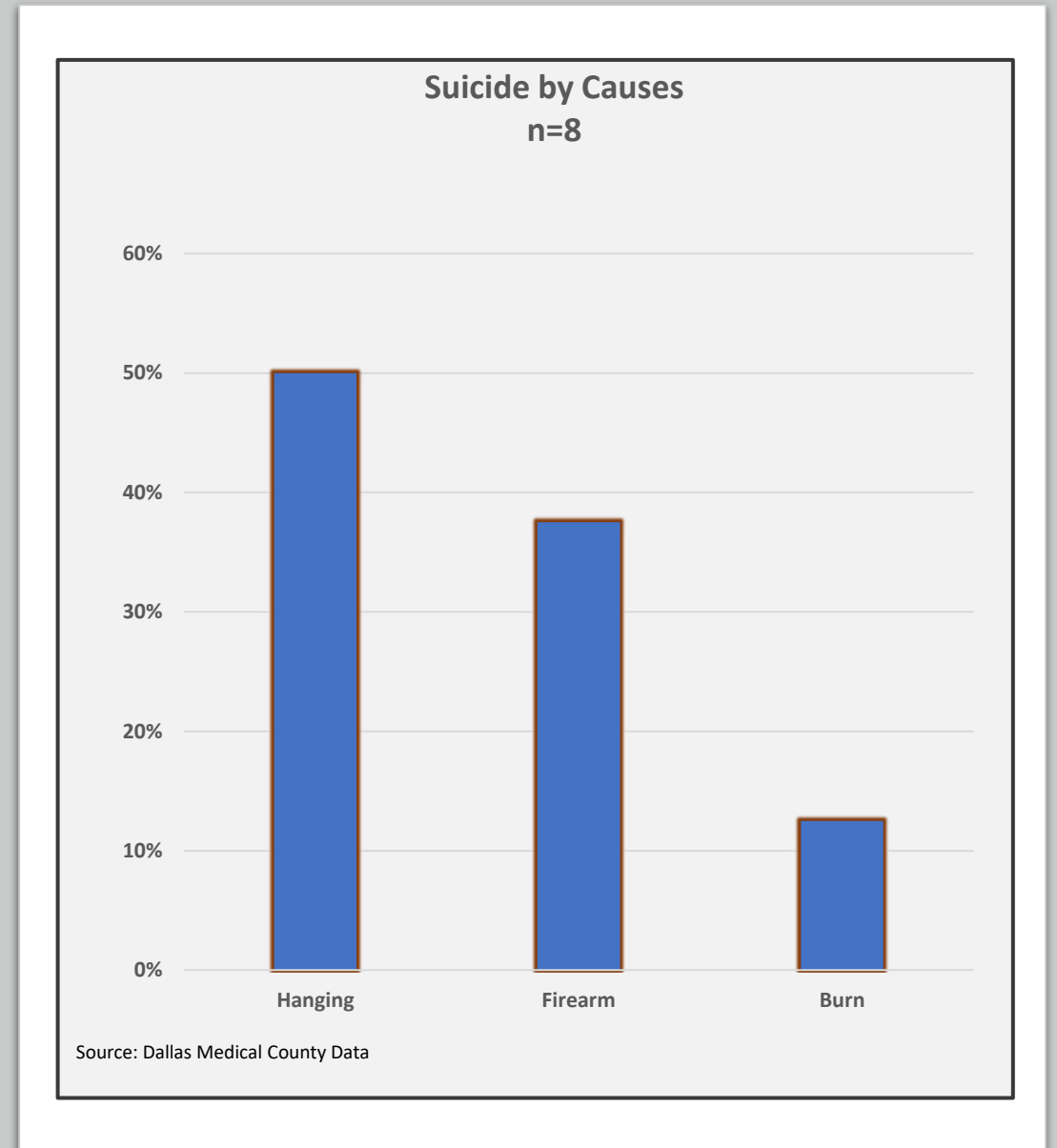
## Figure 8: Homicide Injury Deaths Causes

- Seventy five percent of homicidal deaths were by Firearms, starting at the age of 11 and the biggest percentage being 15-17yo age-group.
- Homicidal deaths of children under the age of 8 occurred by some form of abuse: Physical and/or poisoning.



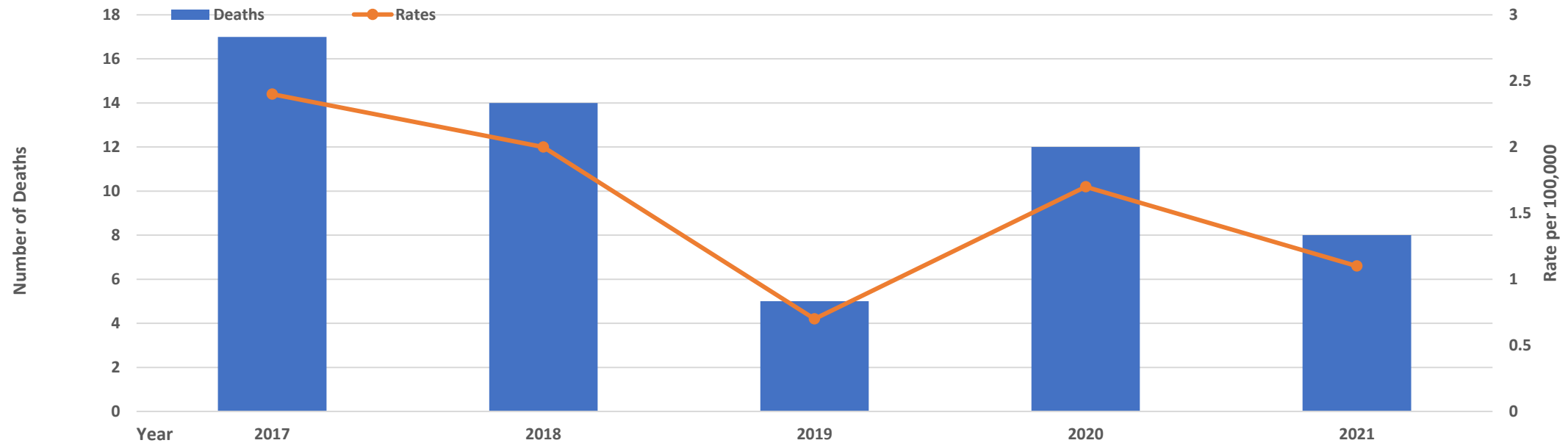
## Figure 9: Suicide Injury Death Causes

- Suicide deaths occurred to 2 males and 6 females aged, all aged 12-17yo.
- 75 percent of the suicide deaths were reported to have exhibited youth suicide warning signs, prior to the fatality.



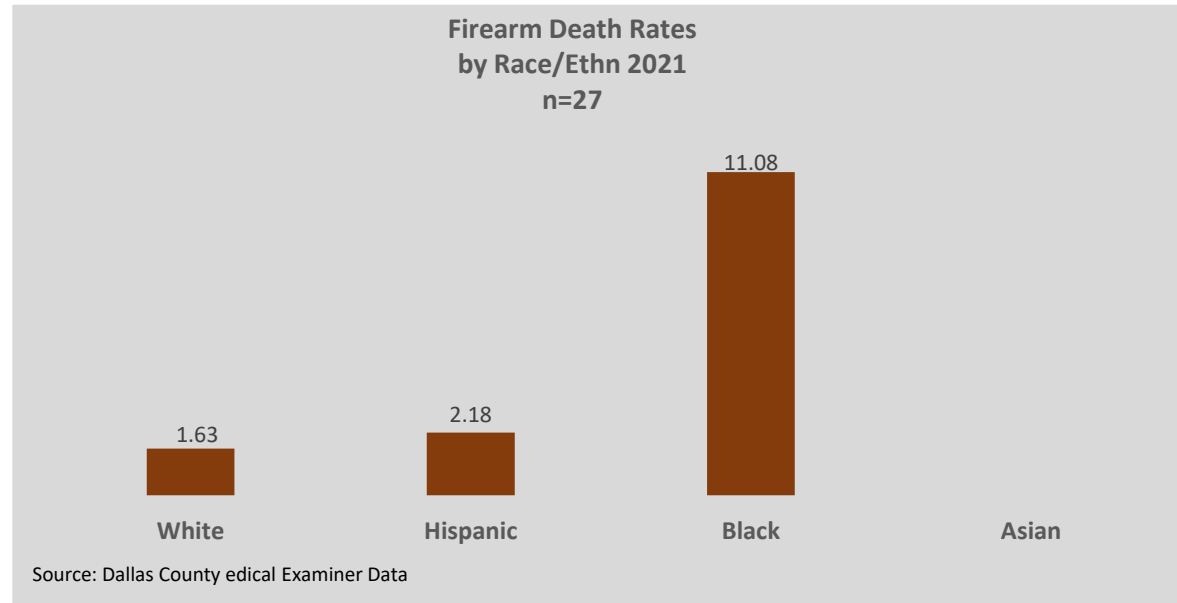
# Figure 10: Suicide Death Rates <18yo

Suicide Deaths and Rates  
Dallas County 2017-2021  
n=56



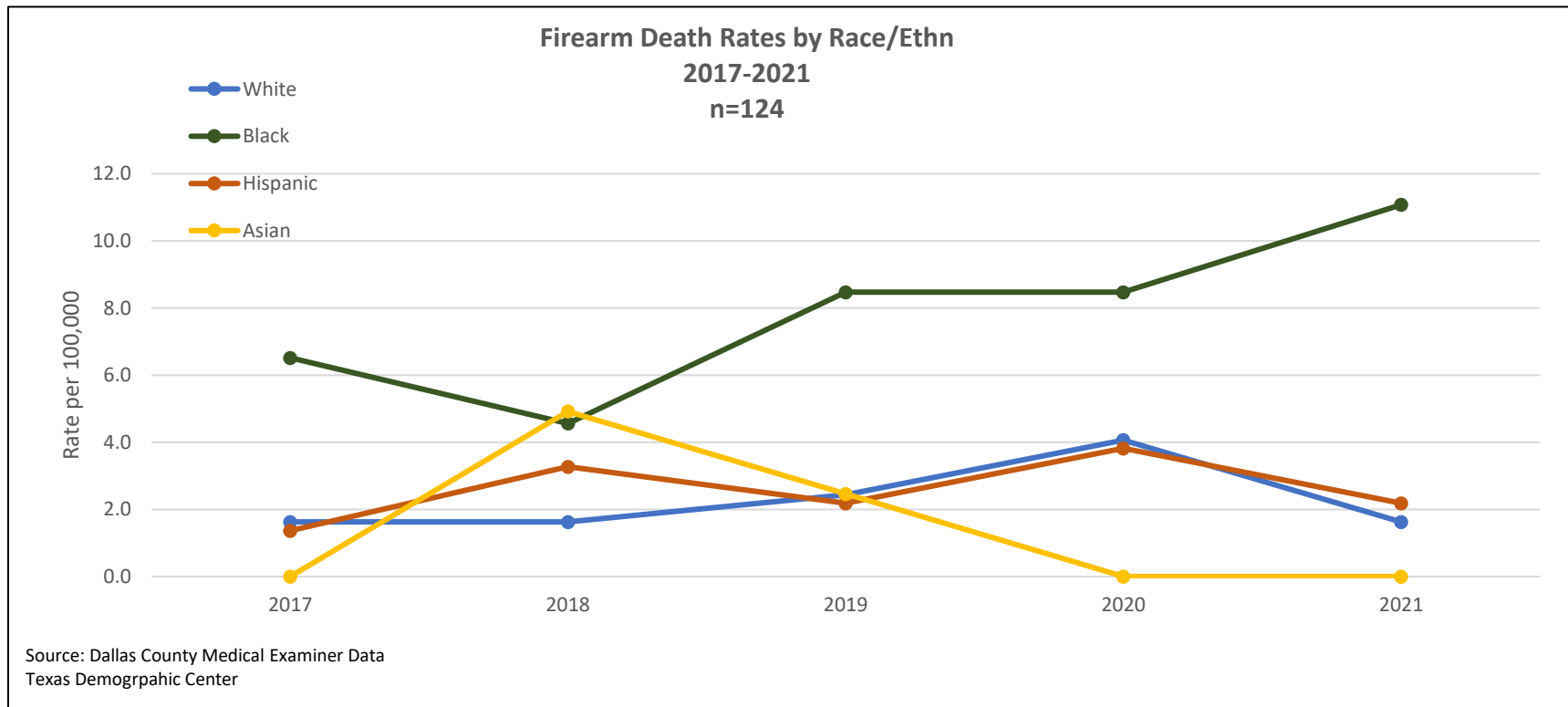
Source: Dallas Medical Examiner Data  
Texas Demographic Center

## Figure 11: Firearm Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity 2021



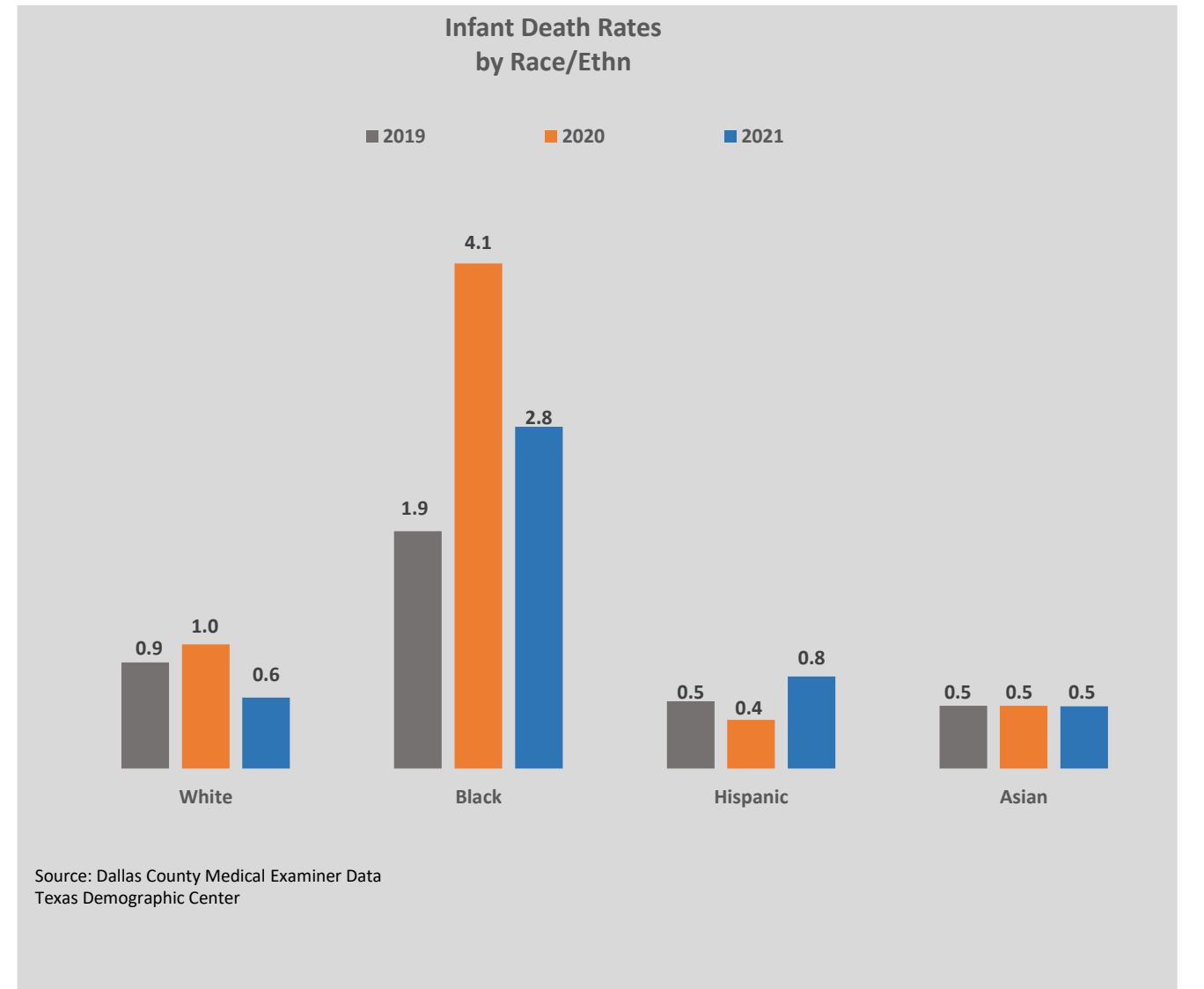
- Firearm death rates were highest among black children with about 11 children out of every 100,000 likely to die from a firearm incident within the black communities.

# Figure 12: Death rates by firearm Dallas County 2017-2021 <18yo



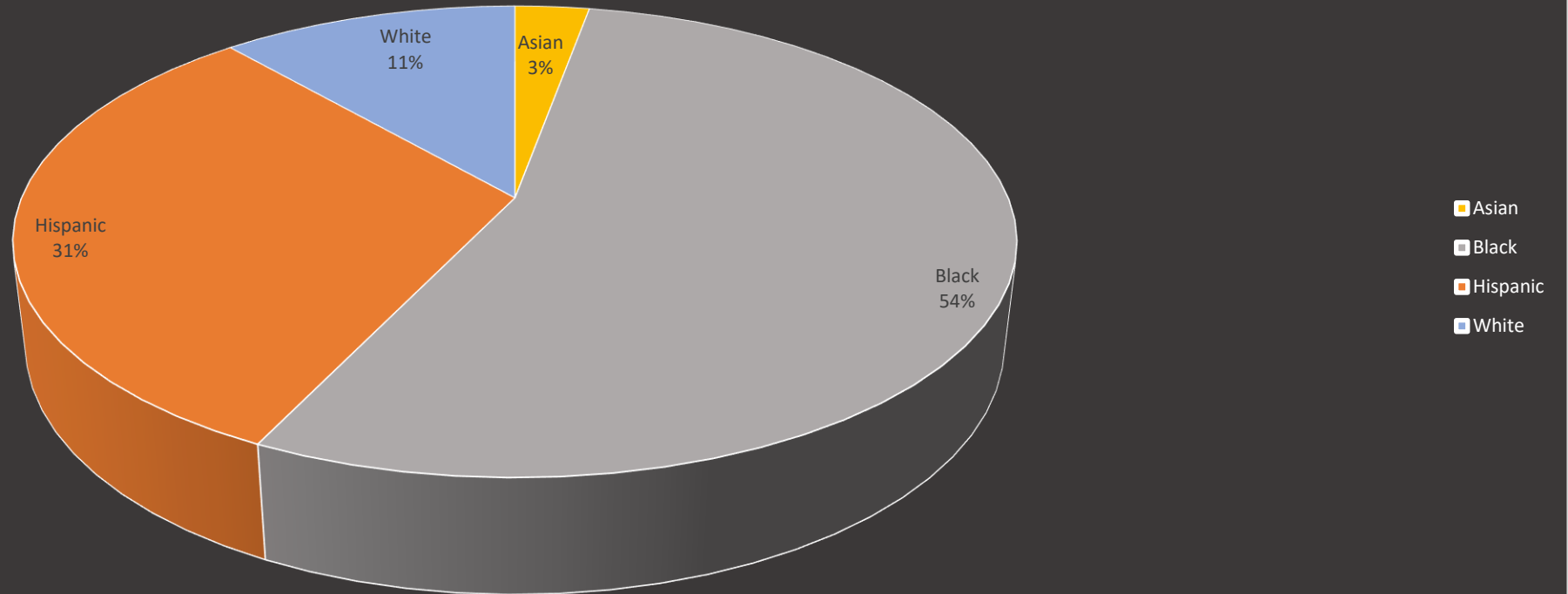
# Infant Injury Deaths 2021

- Thirty eight percent of all injury deaths in 2021 were those of infants (<1).
- Eighty one percent of infant deaths had unsafe sleep environment as a contributing factor.
- The remaining 19 percent were due to poisoning, physical abuse, MVC, and other unspecified causes cumulatively.





# Figure 14: Unsafe Sleep Environment by Race/Ethn 2021



Source: Dallas County ME Data

# Factors present in the Unsafe Sleep-Environment/Deaths

Year	Not in Crib	Co-Sleeping	Unsafe Bedding/Pillows/ Cushions	Not Sleeping on back	Smoke-Exposed
<b>2021</b> (Factors are not mutually exclusive)	29 83%	26 74%	25 71%	12 34%	7 20%

## Other Observations

71% of the deaths had multiple unsafe -sleep external factors contributing to the demise

54% of the deaths had no breastfeeding reported as part of nutrition. 14%supplemented breastmilk with formula. 3% were exclusively breastfeeding and 29% were unknown.

**26% had cribs present in the home but not utilized at the time of death. 14% had no cribs. 51% is unknown if cribs were present.**

**14% were co-twins. 2 of the 5 were co-sleeping in crib, other 2 were co-sleeping in adult bed** and 1 was reported sleeping in the crib alone.

11% of the deaths had spent time in the NICU.

**2 of the deaths occurred in Homeless shelters while co-sleeping.** One residence had a bassinet present .

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