



# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (ACCDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

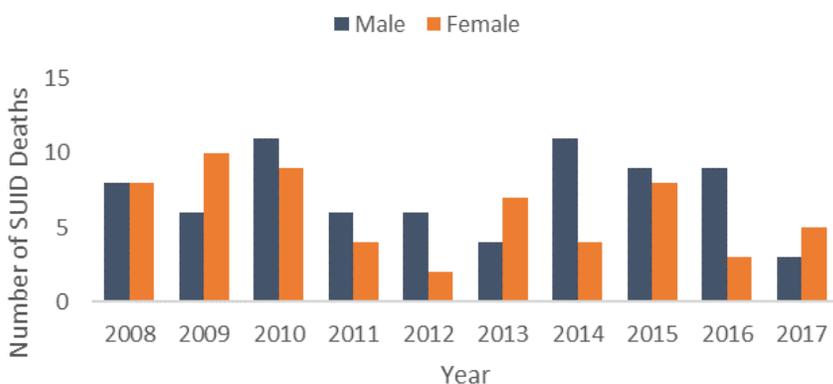
Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) consists of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), unknown causes, and unintentional suffocation/strangulation in bed. In 2017, 3,600 SUID cases were reported in infants less than 1 year old in the U.S. Major national risk factors include unsafe sleep locations and positions, low socioeconomic status, and low maternal education level.

In Allegheny County, 133 SUIDs occurred from 2008 through 2017, an average of 13 deaths per year. The psychological and emotional impact of a single SUID on family and community is significant. Many infant safe sleep deaths can be prevented by following safe sleep recommendations: sleeping alone, faceup, on a firm-surface, and in an uncluttered crib.

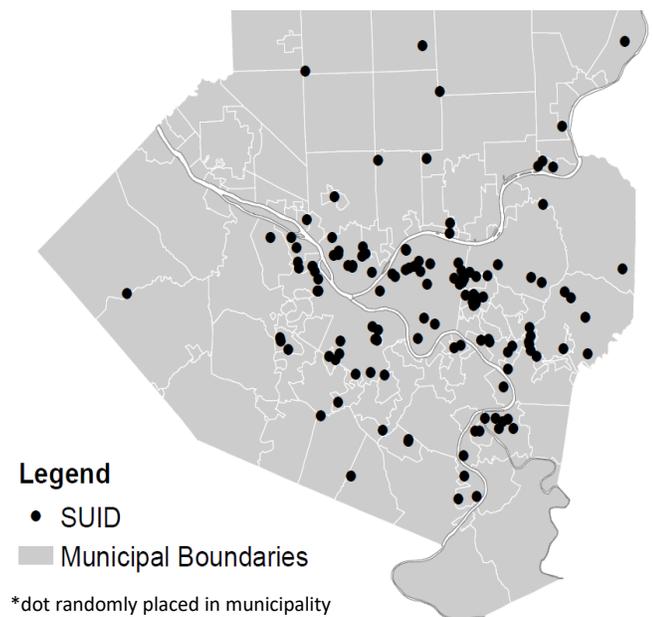
## In Allegheny County, from 2008 through 2017:

- 133 infants  $\leq$  1 year died from SUID.
- 56% of infants dying from SUID were African Americans
- 55% of decedents were males.
- The SUID rate was 5.6 times higher for African Americans than for whites.
- 84% of SUIDs occurred in an unsafe sleep location

SUID Among Allegheny County Residents by Sex, 2008-2017



SUID Among Allegheny County Residents by Municipality of Residence, 2008-2017





# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)

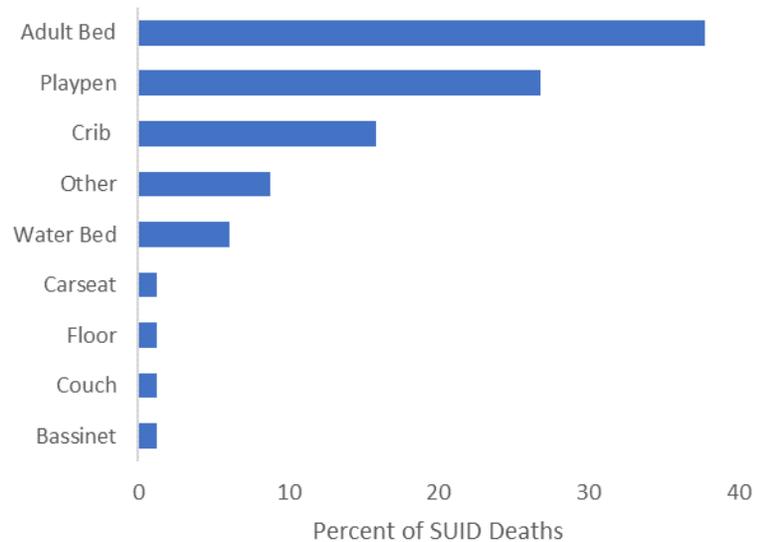
## AC CDRT Recommendations

- Promote safe sleep education in Allegheny County WIC offices
- Promote the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations for safe infant sleeping environments
- Collaborate with Cribs for Kids to increase targeted infant safe sleep public education campaigns in Allegheny County
- Continue working with City of Pittsburgh EMS to identify homes lacking safe sleeping places for infants and provide a Pack N Play from Cribs for Kids

### Encourage all EMS agencies to:

- 1) implement a rapid infant safe sleep assessment
- 2) provide infant safe sleep education when the rapid assessment reveals risk
- 3) assist caregivers in obtaining a crib if indicated

Infant Death by Sleep Place in Allegheny County,  
2008-2017



## SUID Risk Factors Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017

- 84% of cases involved sleep locations that were not cribs
- 39% of reviewed cases involved maternal smoking at some point during the pregnancy
- 20% involved an infant sleeping on side or stomach
- 12% involved lack of supervision or distraction



# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Homicide

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (ACCDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

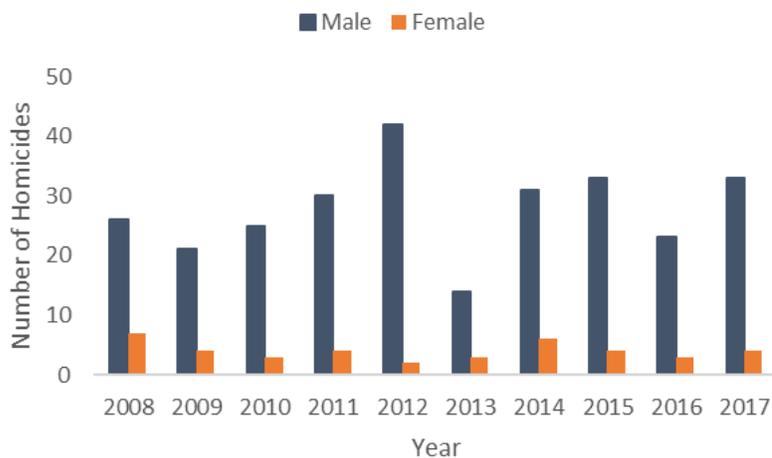
In the U.S., homicide is the third leading cause of death for young people. On average, 14 people under the age of 24 years are murdered each day. An additional 1,300 children and young adults visit emergency rooms each day for non-fatal violence-related injuries (CDC).

In Allegheny County, 318 homicides among youth  $\leq 21$  years of age occurred between 2008 and 2017, an average of 32 deaths per year. The psychological and emotional impact of a single homicide on family and community is significant. Though homicide is a complex issue, it is preventable and requires a multi-faceted approach to reduce neighborhood violence, build partnerships with law enforcement, and expand prevention programs for at-risk youth and their families.

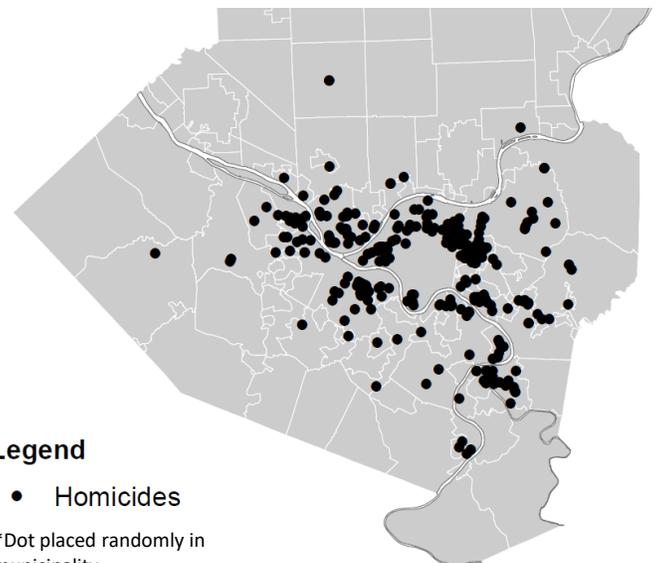
## In Allegheny County, between 2008 and 2017:

- 318 youths  $\leq 21$  years of age died from homicide
- 76% of these homicide victims were African Americans males
- The homicide rate was 25 times higher for African Americans than for whites.
- 88% of youth homicides victims were between the ages of 15 – 21 years
- Firearms were used in 86% of youth homicides

Homicides of Allegheny County Residents  $\leq 21$  Years by Sex, 2008-2017



Homicides among Allegheny County residents  $\leq 21$  years of age by municipality of residence, 2008-2017



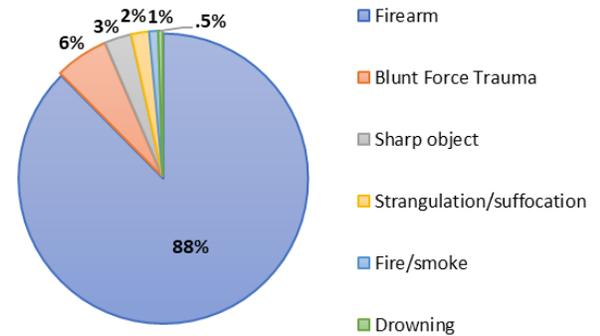


# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Homicide

## AC CDRT Recommendations

- Reduce drug trade by reducing the demand for illegal drugs in Allegheny County, by investing in treatment programs and monitoring the prescribing of medications which may lead to addiction.
- Identify and implement evidence based programs geared towards reducing community violence and providing mentorship to children.
- Expand the court's role in Allegheny County in identifying at risk children and both providing and maintaining support to the same.
- Promote responsible firearm storage and ownership.
- Expand the role of programs such as the Center for Victims in working with families of victims.
- Promote collaboration between law enforcement and the community.

Homicide Among Allegheny County Residents  
≤ 21 Years of Age by Method, 2008-2017



## Youth Homicide Victim Risk Factors Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017

- 33% of cases had a criminal history
- 25% had a caregiver with a criminal history
- 23% had problems in school
- 21% had a history of substance abuse
- 18% had received prior mental health help
- 17% had a caregiver with a history of substance abuse



# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Motor Vehicle Crashes

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (AC CDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

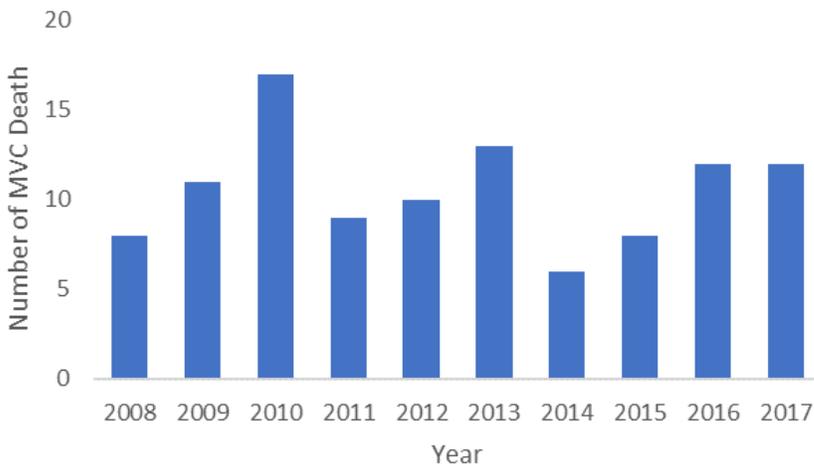
Motor vehicle crashes (MVC) are the leading cause of death for U.S teens.(CDC)

In Allegheny County, 106 fatalities among youth ( $\leq 21$  years) due to motor vehicle crash deaths occurred from 2008 through 2017, an average of 11 deaths per year. The psychological and emotional impact of a single motor vehicle death on family and community is significant. Though motor vehicle death is a complex issue, it can be prevented with a multi-faceted approach to increase public awareness and implement prevention measures for at-risk youth.

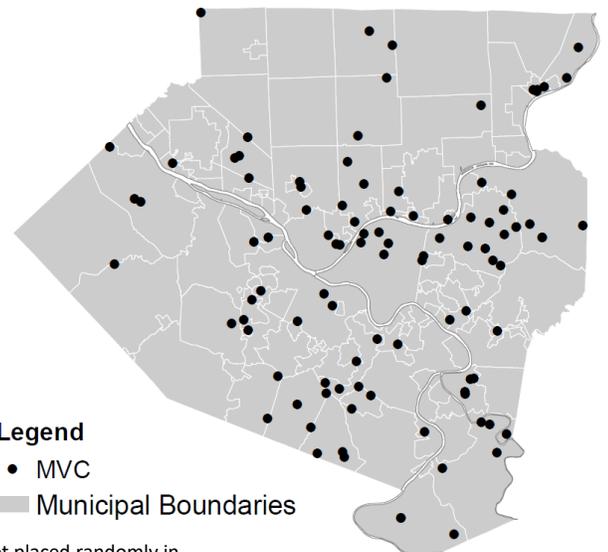
### In Allegheny County, from 2008 through 2017:

- 106 youths  $\leq 21$  years died from motor vehicle crashes
- 50% of decedents were white males
- 13% of decedents were African American males
- Youth motor vehicle deaths were 2 times higher for males than for females.
- 79% of motor vehicle deaths were in youths aged 15-21 years

Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths of Allegheny County Residents  $\leq 21$  Years, 2008-2017



Motor Vehicle Crash Fatalities Among Allegheny County Residents  $\leq 21$  years by Municipality of Residence, 2008-2017



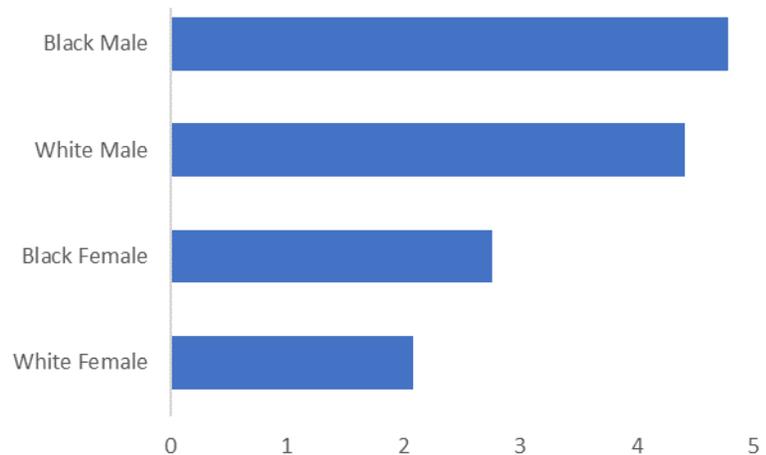


# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Motor Vehicle Crashes

## AC CDRT Recommendations

- Increase public awareness of the relationship between alcohol and motor vehicle crashes.
- Disseminate information about traffic safety initiatives to the public.
- Promote the Pennsylvania Teen Safe Driving resource Guide.
- Install camera with real time viewing in areas where multiple crashes have occurred.
- Elevate the third offense for underage drinking to a misdemeanor.
- Promote a Pennsylvania primary seatbelt law.
- Increase DUI check points.

Motor Vehicle Crash Fatality Rate per 100,000  
Allegheny County Residents  $\leq$  21 years by Race and  
Sex, 2008-2017



## MVC Death Risk Factors for Youth Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017

- 42% of cases involved speeding
- 33% involved not using safety restraints such as seat belts
- 15% involved underage drinking and impaired driving
- 15% involved drowsy driving
- 14% involved an inexperienced or new driver



# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Overdose

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (ACCDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

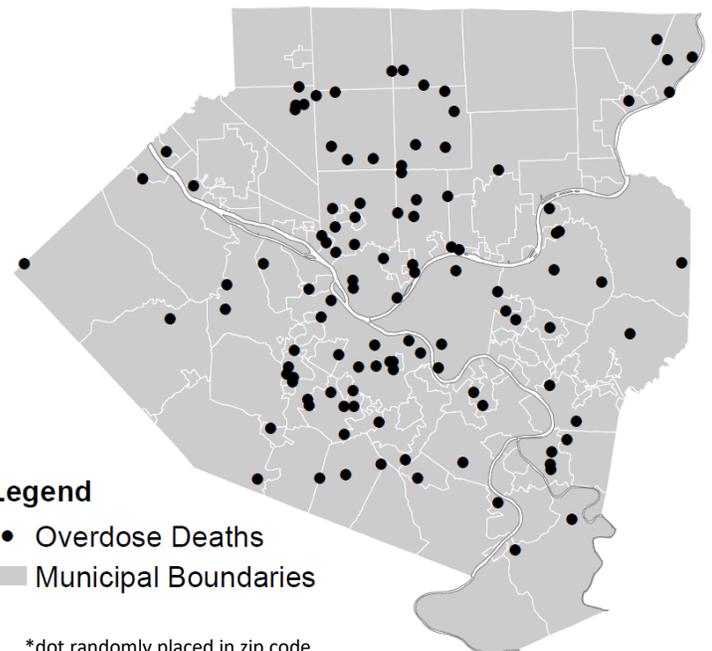
In 2017, more than 47,000 deaths were attributed to opioids in the U.S., continuing the upward trend seen for the past 15 years (CDC). This number of deaths involving prescription opioid and illegal opioids such as heroin and fentanyl was 6 times higher than in 1999.

In Allegheny County, 119 youth overdose deaths occurred from 2008 through 2017, an average of 12 deaths per year. The psychological and emotional impact of a single overdose death on family and community is significant. Though overdose is a complex issue, it is preventable and requires a multi-faceted approach to increase access to treatment, increase knowledge of how to effectively respond to an overdose, and promote overdose prevention education for at-risk youth and their families.

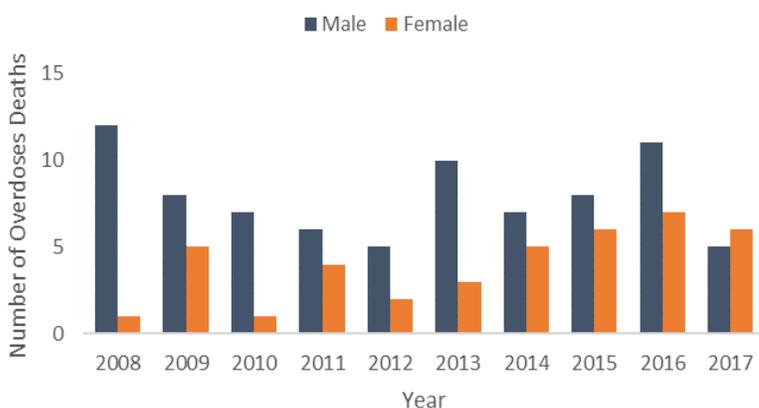
## Among those aged 0-21 years in Allegheny County from 2008 through 2017:

- 119 youth died from unintentional drug overdose.
- Overdose was the leading cause of unintentional deaths.
- 93% of those who died from overdose were white
- The overdose death rate was 2.4 times higher for whites than for African Americans.

Overdose Deaths Among Allegheny County Residents  $\leq$ 21 Years of Age by Zip Code, 2008-2017



Overdose Deaths Among Allegheny County Residents  $\leq$  21 Years of Age by Sex, 2008-2017



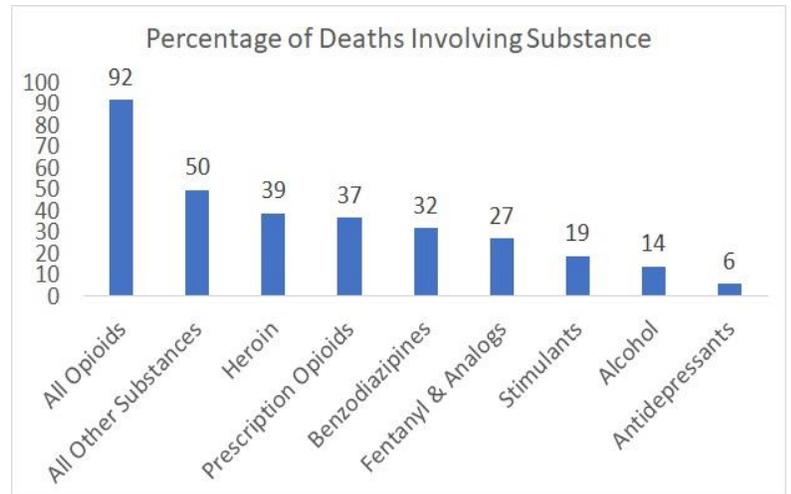


# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Overdose

## AC CDRT Recommendations

- Provide universal access to naloxone and overdose prevention education.
- Create opportunities for easy access to effective, evidence-based treatment on demand.
- Promote and increase prescription drug disposal sites in Allegheny County.
- Improve knowledge and utilization of medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- Perform evidence-based screening for unhealthy substance use in schools and healthcare settings.
- Promote and communicate the importance of calling 911 in the event of an overdose.
- Promote and communicate the importance of having and knowing how to administer naloxone.
- Train school staff and students about overdose risks and the use of naloxone.
- Assist university health services with obtaining naloxone for on-campus use.

Substances Involved in Overdose deaths in Allegheny County residents  $\leq 21$  Years, 2008-2017



## Overdose Death Risk Factors for Youth Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017

- 58% of cases had a history of substance abuse
- 52% had a caregiver with a history of substance abuse
- 35% had a history of chronic physical or behavioral illness
- 32% had a caregiver with a history of chronic physical or behavioral illness



# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Suicide

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (ACCDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

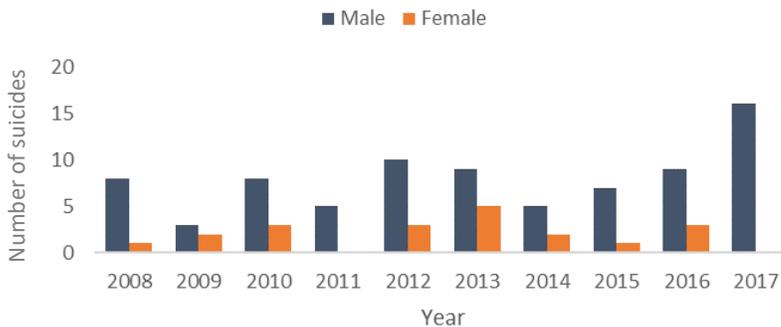
In the U.S., suicide is a significant public health problem. According to CDC, suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 15 and 19 years. (CDC)

In Allegheny County, 100 youth suicides occurred from 2008 through 2017, an average of 10 per year. The impact of suicide on victims, survivors, and social and familial networks is significant. Though suicide is a complex issue, it is preventable and requires a multi-faceted approach to identify risk factors, destigmatize suicide, and increase public awareness for youths at risk.

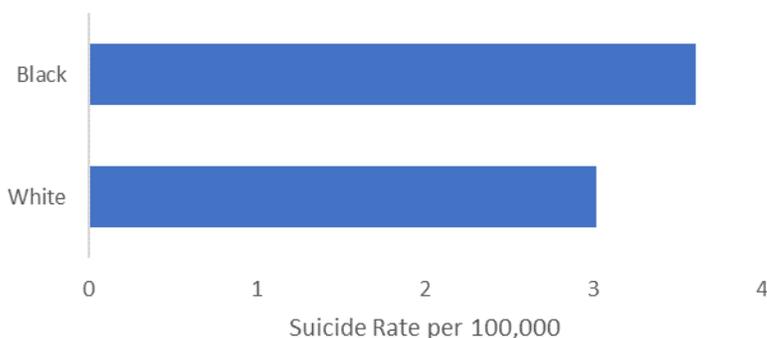
## In Allegheny County from 2008 through 2017:

- 100 youths ≤ 21 years of age died from suicide.
- 80% of suicides were committed by males
- 60% of suicides were committed by white males
- Hanging (43%) and firearms (39%) were the two most common methods of suicide in youth.

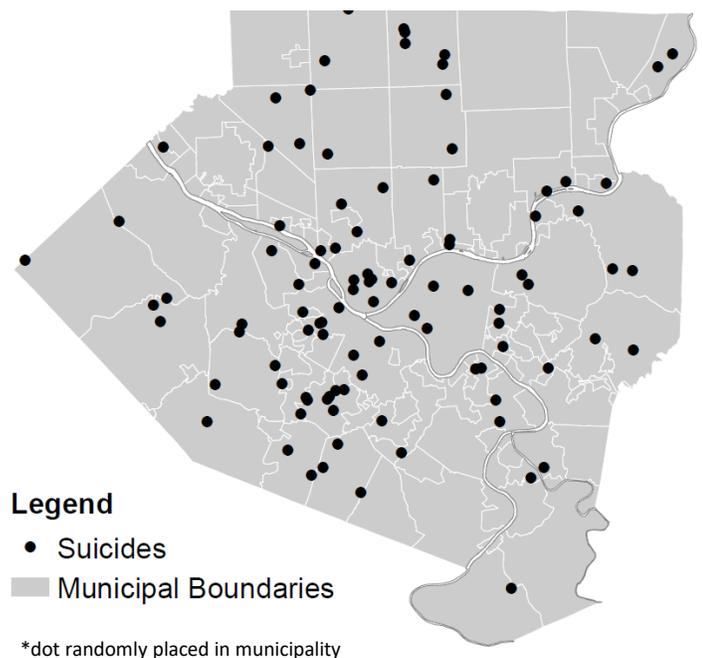
Suicides of Allegheny County Residents ≤ 21 Years by Sex, 2008-2017



Suicide Rate per 100,000 Allegheny County Residents ≤ 21 Years by Race, 2008-2017



Suicide Deaths Among Allegheny County Residents <21 Years by Municipality of Residence, 2008-2017



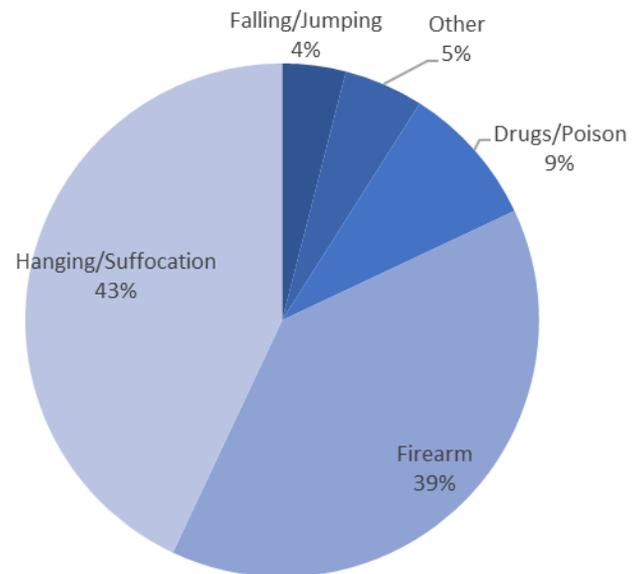


# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Suicide

## AC CDRT Recommendations

- **Implement school-based interventions that destigmatize mental health disorders and promote resilience.**
- **Increase public awareness of mental illness and suicide prevention utilizing Youth Mental Health First Aid.**
- **Co-locate physical and behavioral health services to provide greater access.**
- **Increase the utilization of evidence-based interventions, such as Signs of Suicide (SOS) and Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM).**
- **Improve communication between health care providers, behavioral health care providers, school counselors, child welfare workers, and family members.**

Suicide by Manner in Allegheny County Residents  
≤ 21 Years, 2008-2017



## Suicide Risk Factors Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017:

- **40% of cases had prior mental health services**
- **29% involved a history of chronic illness or disability**
- **12% had a history of substance abuse**
- **11% involved a prior suicide attempt**