

Preventing Child Fatalities in North Carolina

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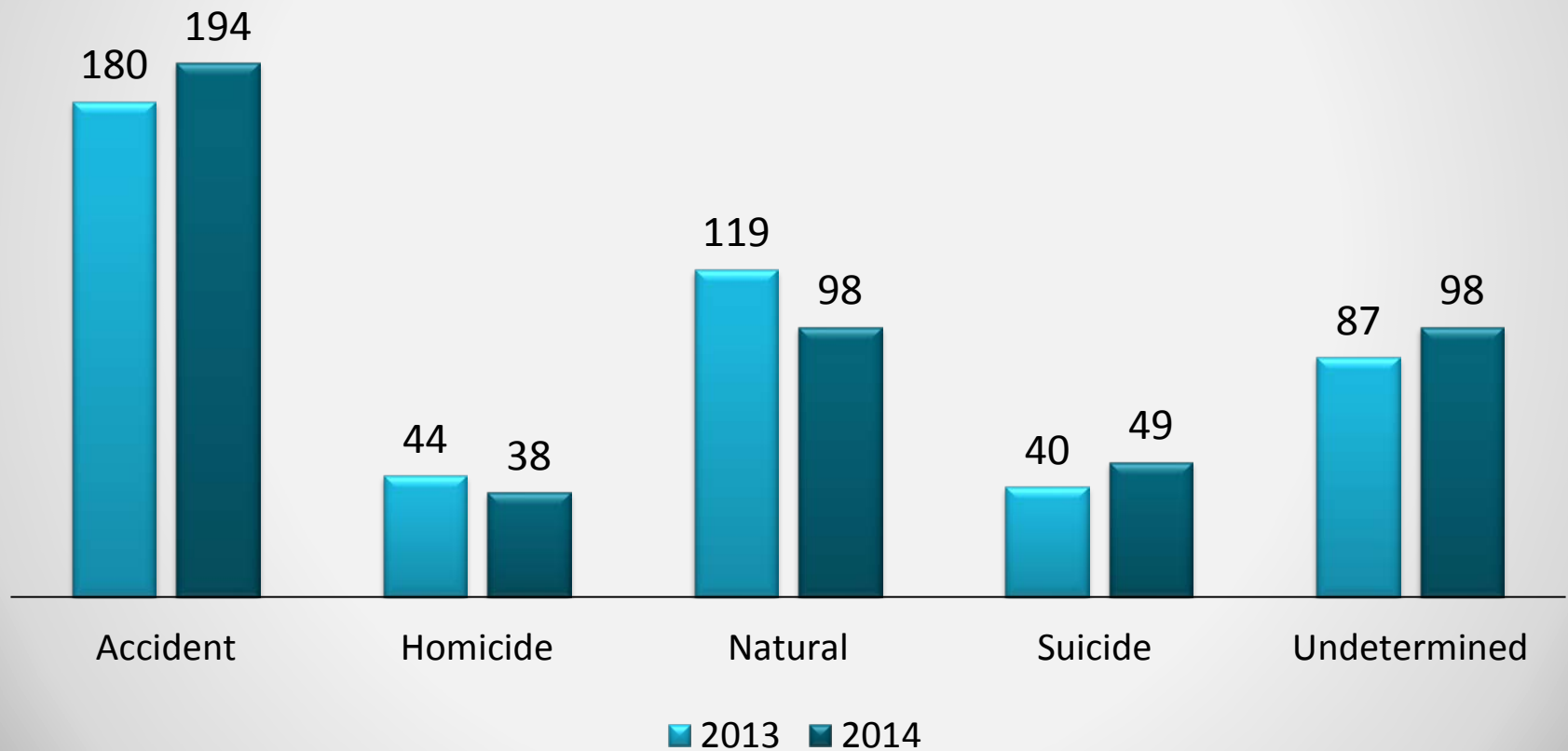
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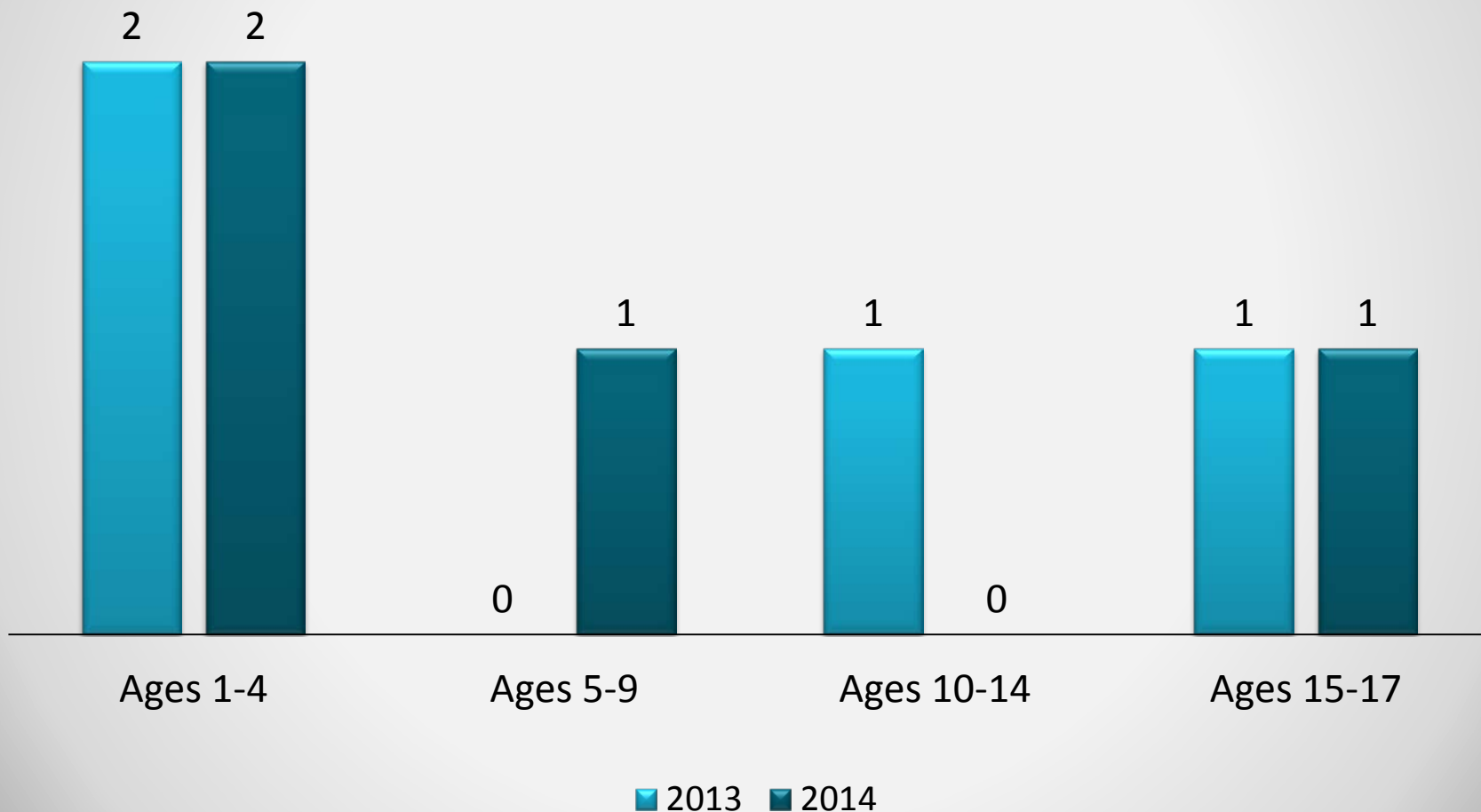
Overview of the Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)

- NC CFPT collects information on all deaths involving children ages 0-17 who are residents of the state and fall under the Medical Examiner's jurisdiction
- Manner of death is classified as **accident, homicide, natural, suicide** or **undetermined**
- Case information for the review is obtained from investigative reports, toxicology reports and autopsy reports, as well as from law enforcement, medical records, DSS, and other agencies
- During the review, CFPT works to identify system gaps, deficiencies, and risk factors
- Obtain data and provide statistical analysis relating to child fatalities

Total Number of Child Fatalities by Manner of Death, 2013-2014



Unintentional Firearm Deaths, 2013-2014



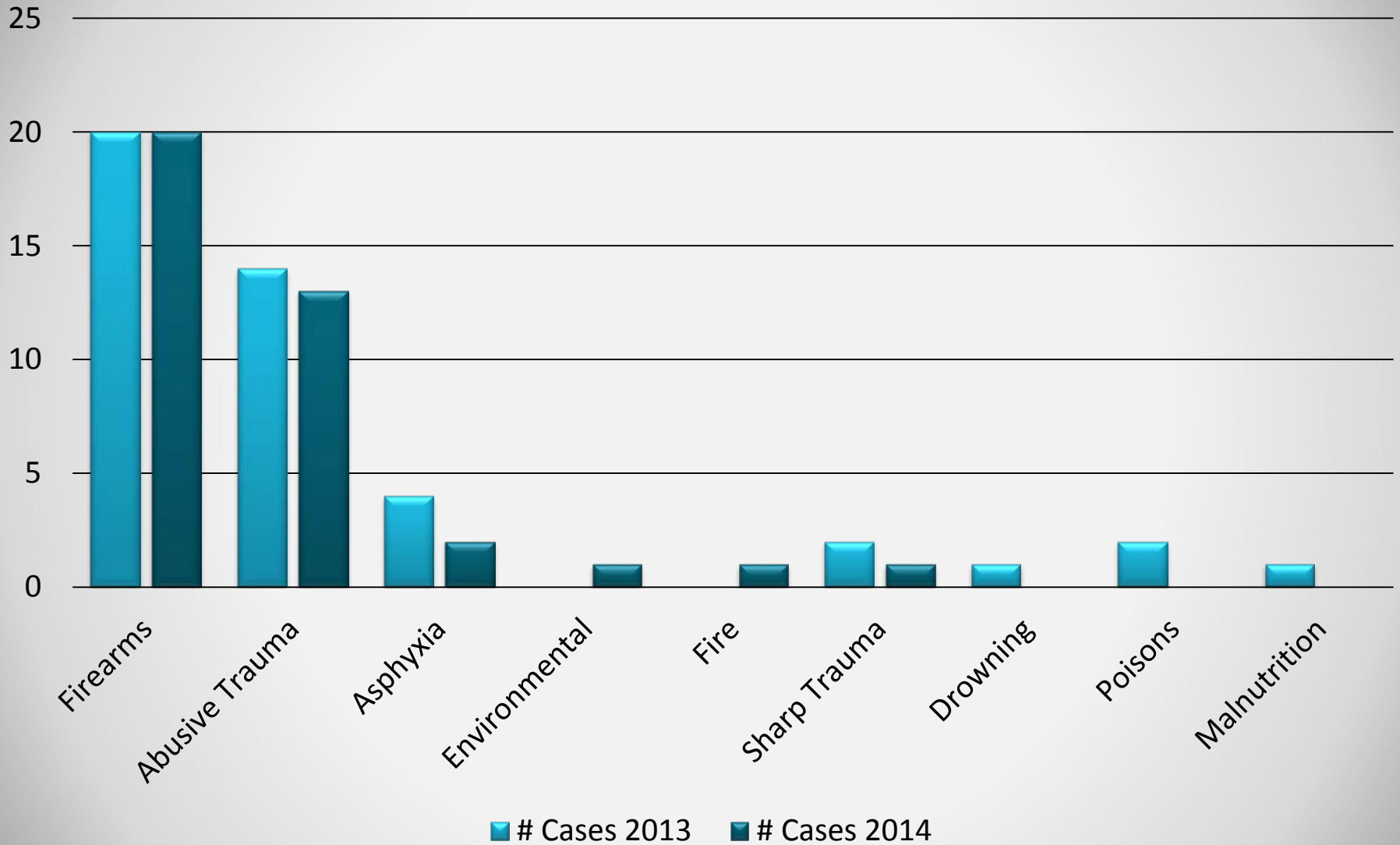
Homicide Deaths in 2013

MEANS	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	TOTAL
Firearms				2	18	20
Abusive Trauma	10	4				14
Asphyxia	1	1	1	1		4
Sharp Trauma				1	1	2
Poisoning	2					2
Drowning	1					1
Malnutrition	1					1
TOTAL	15	5	1	4	19	44

Homicide Deaths in 2014

MEANS	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	TOTAL
Firearms		2	3	3	12	20
Abusive Trauma	5	8				13
Asphyxia		1			1	2
Environmental	1					1
Fire				1		1
Sharp Trauma					1	1
TOTAL	6	11	3	4	14	38

A Comparison of Homicide Deaths, 2013-2014



Case Study: Homicide by Malnutrition

Case Summary

- Baby was 14 months old at time of death
- Father left baby home alone for up to 12 hours per day
- Father noted that baby was deteriorating, but sought no medical treatment
- Father returned home from work to find baby deceased
- Father put baby in trash bags and tossed into woods
- Following unsuccessful suicide attempt, father confessed to LE
- Father plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide, child endangerment, obstruction of justice, and making a false statement
- Father sentenced to life in prison

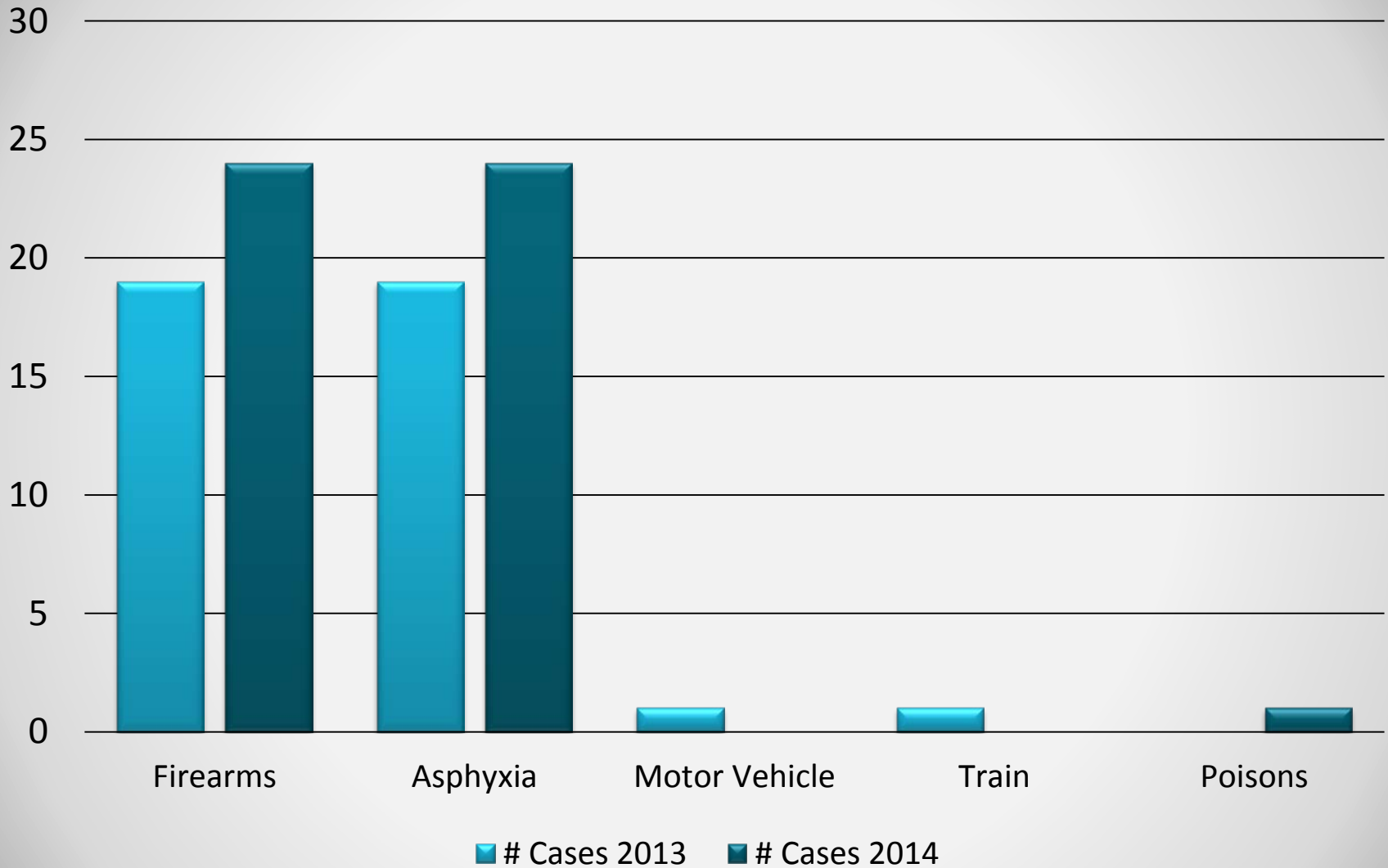
Suicide Deaths in 2013

MEANS	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	TOTAL
Firearms				6	13	19
Asphyxia				9	10	19
Motor Vehicle				1		1
Train					1	1
TOTAL				16	24	40

Suicide Deaths in 2014

MEANS	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	TOTAL
Firearms				5	19	24
Asphyxia				7	17	24
Poisoning				1		1
TOTAL				13	36	49

A Comparison of Suicide Deaths, 2013-2014



Case Study: Train vs. Pedestrian

Case Summary

- 16-year-old girl and best friend made a suicide pact and posted their intentions on social media
- 16-year-old also wrote poetry about suicide, father did not think she was writing about herself
- Friends did not take the suicide posts seriously
- 16-year-old posted on social media that there are directions on her cell phone from her house to the nearest train tracks
- 16-year-old and best friend found deceased on train tracks after train conductor was unable to stop the train in time
- Father later acknowledged that 16-year-old seemed depressed following a break-up

Prevention

- Strengthening individual knowledge and skills
- Promoting education
- Training providers
- Encourage conversation
- Mandated reporting
- Understanding and utilizing local resources
- Influencing policy and legislation