

**Forsyth County, NC
Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)**

2016 Annual Report



**c/o Forsyth County Department of Public Health
799 N. Highland Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27101**

I. Introduction

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT's) across the state to confidentially review medical examiner reports, death certificates and other records of deceased residents under age 18. Each local team consists of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community such as law enforcement, Guardian Ad Litem, health departments, among others, that provide services to children and their families (Appendix, Table 1).

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of the causes of death, the number of cases reviewed, recommendations for prevention, if any, that have been made, and to share local team activities and accomplishments.

II. Role of the Forsyth County Commissioners and Board of Health

- i. Receive annual reports which contain identified system issues, recommendations, and actions taken (or to be taken)
- ii. Appoint members of the local team as identified by the membership

II. 2015 Child Deaths by Cause, System Issues Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2016, the Forsyth County CFPT received 44 child death cases from the 2015 calendar year for review. The number of child death cases reviewed was the lowest it has been since 2011 (Appendix, Figure 1).

- In comparison to the 2014 calendar year, more than 2/3 of the cases were infants (age 1 year and less) (Appendix, Table 2).
- There were an almost equal number of cases for male and female children (Appendix, Table 2).
- The number of cases for White, non-Hispanic and Black, non-Hispanic was much lower than in previous years. However, the number of cases for Hispanic children was much higher than previous years (Appendix, Table 2).
- Summary of Cause of Death:
 - ✚ Extreme immaturity/prematurity/congenital abnormalities (29)
 - ✚ Illness (6)
 - ✚ Suicide (3)
 - ✚ Accident (2)
 - ✚ Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (2)
 - ✚ Homicide: (1)
 - ✚ Sudden Infant Death (1)

Of the 44 cases reviewed in subcommittee, 16 were submitted for a full team review. System issues were identified in four of the 16 cases. The system issues identified, recommendations and proposed actions are summarized below based on cause of death.

Cause of Death	System Issues	Recommendation	Action
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (2)	Unsafe sleeping environment	<p>a. Continued interagency/partner (doctors, day care community, etc.) training programs to raise awareness about unsafe sleep/co-sleeping.</p> <p>b. Continue Safe Sleep Campaign on Winston-Salem transit buses</p>	Five (5) action plans to reduce child deaths due to unsafe sleep/co-sleeping have been implemented. They are based on the 2014 FC CHA Priority Health Needs Assessment.
Sudden infant death (1)	Drug use during Pregnancy	FCDPH should continue to improve community knowledge about the risks of illegal drug use during pregnancy.	<p>a. Pregnancy Care Management (PCM) will continue to educate pregnant women on the risks of drug use during pregnancy and ensure appropriate referral to substance abuse prevention agency.</p> <p>b. FC Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition will continue to make care recommendations to Obstetrics Care Management (OBCM) based on recent research findings.</p> <p>These recommendations will serve as continuing education on the illicit use of recreational drugs and misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs (OTC) by pregnant women.</p>
Asphyxiation/Intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation and suffocation (1)	Premature discharge from hospital	Hospital should review and re-write risk level categories that determine discharge readiness of youths who are in need of mental health treatment.	DSS made these recommendations to the hospital.

IV. Forsyth County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

- The annual CFPT Activity Summary was completed and submitted on time.
- Individual final reports on child deaths reviewed by the full team were completed and forwarded to the State Coordinator on time.
- As part of the action plan to eliminate deaths due to unsafe sleep
 - ✚ Safe sleep training were held at 5 local Church nurseries
 - ✚ Safe sleep class lecture was given to nursing and related fields' students at Forsyth Technical Community College

V. Conclusion

Thank you to the members of the Forsyth County Commissioners/Board of Health for the opportunity to share with you the successes and dedicated work of the local team as we continue to review child fatalities, make recommendations, and take actions to prevent future child deaths. Please feel free to contact the Health Director or Chairperson at 336.703.3112 respectively, should you have any questions about this report.

Health Director/ Chairperson: Mr. Marlon Hunter

Date: May 31st, 2017

APPENDIX

Table 1

CFPT Representative	Name	Agency
Social Services Director	Debra Donahue	FC Dept. of Social Services, Director
Social Services Staff Member	Linda Alexander	FC Dept. of Social Services, Social Work Program Manager
DSS Board Member (Appointed by Chair of DSS Board)	Nancy Young	DSS Board Member
Law Enforcement Officer (Appointed by BCC)	Ray Laird	FC Sheriff's Department
Additional Law Enforcement Officer	Sandy McGee	Kernersville Police Department, Detective
Attorney from the DA Office (Appointed by District Attorney)	Kia Chavious	District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney
Local School Superintendent	Robin Fisher	Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Social Worker
Local School Superintendent Proxy	Sandra R. Lamb	Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Social Worker
Mental Health Professional (Appt. by Director of Area MH Authority)	Katy Eads	Cardinal Innovations Healthcare
ED Community Agency	George Bryan	Exchange SCAN, Interim Director
Guardian Ad Litem	Linda Devine	Guardian ad Litem, Coordinator
Health Director	Marlon Hunter	FC Department of Public Health, Health Director
Health Care Provider (Appointed by the Board of Health)	Wayne Franklin, MD	Forsyth Medical Center, Pediatrician
Emergency Medical Services Provider (Appointed by BCC)	Bryan Gallimore	Emergency Medical Services
Rep. of a Local Day Care Facility (Appointed by DSS Director)	Larry Vellani, MPA	Smart Start of Forsyth County Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

District Court Judge	Lawrence Fine	District Court Judge
County Medical Examiner (Appointed by Chief Medical Examiner)	Anna Greene McDonald, MD	County Medical Examiner, Medical Examiner (Pediatric)
Parent of a Child Who Died Prior to 18th Birthday (Appointed by Board of County Commissioners)	Diane Ferrelli	Parent
County Commissioner Appointee	Michael York	Winston-Salem Police Department WSPD CID Detective
County Commissioner Appointee	Meagan Goodpasture, MD	WFU Baptist Medical Center, Pediatrician
County Commissioner Appointee	Caren Jenkins	FC Dept. of Public Health, School Nursing Supervisor
County Commissioner Appointee	Robert S. Owens	Winston-Salem Fire Department. Assistant Fire Chief
County Commissioner Appointee	Dolores Hill	FC Dept. of Social Services, (Community at Large)
CFPT Review Coordinator	Lovette Miller, PhD, MPH	FC Dept. of Public Health, Epidemiology & Surveillance Director

Figure 1

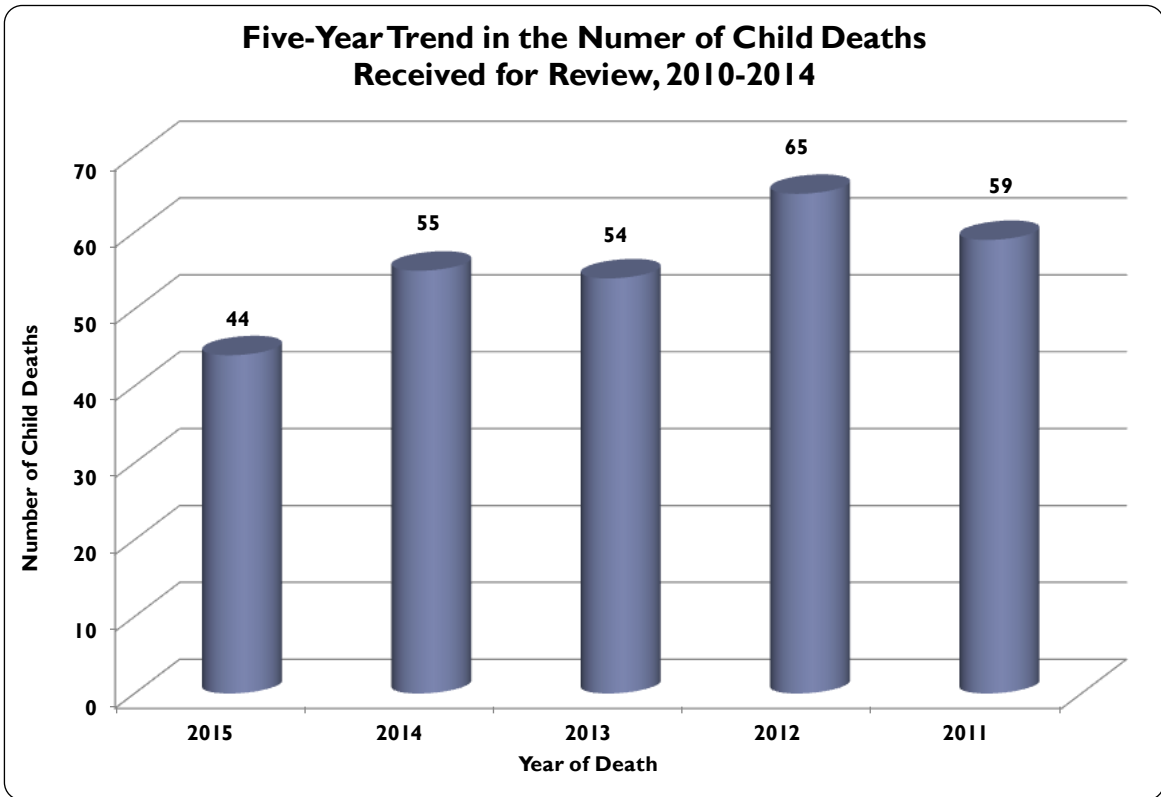


Table 2

Summary Characteristics of Child Death Cases Received for Review Forsyth County, NC, CCPT/CFPT Subcommittee, 2011 - 2015					
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total Child Deaths	44	55	54	65	59
Age Groups					
≤ 1 year	32	31	39	50	47
>1 and ≤5 years	2	5	4	5	2
>5 and ≤10 years	3	4	3	4	4
>10 years	7	15	8	6	6
Gender					
Female	23	24	24	25	29
Male	21	31	30	40	30
Race/Ethnicity					
Black, non-Hispanic	14	23	20	28	26
Hispanic	10	3	5	7	3
White, non-Hispanic	20	28	26	28	30
Other		1	3	2	0
Cause of Death					
Abuse/Neglect		2			1
Accident	2	8	5	7	4
Sudden Infant Death	1				
Homicide	1	2			1
Extreme immaturity, Prematurity, Congenital	29	22	31	40	40
Illness	6	9	13	11	8
Suicide	3	2		1	1
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	2	10	5	6	4