

**Forsyth County, NC
Child Fatality Prevention Team**

**2019 Annual Report
March 20, 2020**



**Our Children, Our Future,
Our RESPONSIBILITY**

**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, Table1).

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 Consolidated Board

- 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

III. 2018 Child Deaths by Cause, System Issues Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2019, the Forsyth County CFPT Subcommittee received 53 child death cases from the 2018 calendar year for review. The number of child death cases received for review was among the highest for the past 5 years (see Appendix, Figure 1).

Key Characteristics:

- About 60.4% (32) of the cases were infants (less than 12 months old) (Appendix, Table 2).
- Cause of Death (# of cases):
 - ✚ Extreme immaturity/prematurity/congenital abnormalities (27)
 - ✚ Illness (5)
 - ✚ Suicide (3)
 - ✚ Accident (8)
 - ✚ Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (6)
 - ✚ Homicide: (3)
 - ✚ Undetermined cause: (1)

Of the 53 cases reviewed in Subcommittee, 25 were submitted for a Full Team Review. In general, the Subcommittee recommends cases for a Full Team Review when the information gathered suggests that any of the following may have negatively influenced a child's health outcome:

- Lack of or inadequate communication between agencies and/or the child's parent or guardian regarding services
- Current rules or regulations did not adequately protect the child
- Abuse or neglect
- Mental health issues and/or developmental disabilities

- Alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drug use during pregnancy
- Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping

The system issues identified, recommendations and proposed actions are summarized based on cause of death. The summary breakdown by cause of death is accidents (7), homicide (3), illness (5), unexplained death (1), suicide (3), and unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (6).

Summary of the Full Team Case Review Findings			
Cause of Death	System Issues	Recommendations	Actions
Accident: Drowning (3)	None	None	None
Accident: Handgun	None	None	None
Accident: Motor Vehicle (2)	None	None	None
Accident: Opioid Overdose	None	None	None
Homicide: Asphyxiation ¹	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Homicide: Handgun (2)	None	None	None
Illness: Brain cancer (2)	None	None	None
Illness: Leukemia	None	None	None
Illness: Meningitis	None	None	None
Illness: Septicemia	None	None	None
Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)	None	None	None
Suicide: Gun (2)	None	None	None
Suicide: Asphyxiation	None	None	None
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (6)	Unsafe sleeping environment	Continued interagency/partner (doctors, day care community, etc.) training programs to raise awareness about unsafe sleep/co-sleeping.	Action plans to reduce child deaths due to unsafe sleep/co-sleeping have been implemented. See the 2019 Forsyth County SOTCH Report.

¹Pending outcome of the DA’s case

IV. Forsyth County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

- Some CFPT members participated in the Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition sponsored annual 'Walk a Mile to Save Our Babies' in September 2019. Also, members attended a reception where community leaders spoke about the need to reduce infant death.
- A CFPT member worked with the Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition (FCIMRC) to distribute SIDS-awareness educational materials to providers.
- Some CFPT members planned a direct mail campaign in zip codes that are most negatively affected by unsafe sleep. The campaign will begin in Spring 2020.

V. Conclusion

Thank you to the members of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners 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 Public Health Director/Chairperson at 336.703.3112 should you have any questions about this report.

Public Health Director/Chairperson: Mr. Joshua Swift

Date: March 20th, 2020

APPENDIX

Table 1: 2019 CFPT Members

Agency/Appointer	Name	Agency
Public Health Director	Joshua Swift	FC Dept. of Public Health
Social Services Director	Victor Isler	FC Dept. of Social Services
Social Services Staff Member	Linda Alexander	FC Dept. of Social Services
Social Services Staff Member (Proxy)	John T. Thacker	FC Dept. of Social Services
Appointed by Chair of DSS Board	Sharon Rimm	DSS Board Member
Appointed by District Attorney	Kia Chavious, Asst. D.A.	District Attorney's Office
Appointed by the Board of Health	Wayne Franklin, MD	Forsyth Medical Center
District Court Judge	Lawrence Fine	District Court Judge
Appointed by Chief Medical Examiner	Anna Greene McDonald, MD	County Medical Examiner
Appt. by Director of Area MH Authority	Katy Eads	Cardinal Innovations Healthcare
Community Agency	Elizabeth Miller, Director	The Parenting Path
Department of Social Services	Jackie Lofton	Smart Start
Department of Public Health	Glenda Dancy	Department of Public Health
Department of Public Health	Ashton Putnam	Department of Public Health
Guardian Ad Litem	Melissa Bell	Guardian ad Litem
Kernersville Police Department	Det. Hannah Leonard	Kernersville Police Department

Local School Superintendent	Robin Fisher	WS/FC Schools
Local School Superintendent Proxy	Sandra R. Lamb	WS/FC Schools
Appointed by BCC	Capt. Bryan Gallimore	Emergency Medical Services
Appointed by BCC	Det. Michael York (Det. T. R. Albert)	Winston-Salem Police Dept.
Appointed by BCC	Meagan Goodpasture, MD	WFU Baptist Medical Center
Appointed by BCC	Caren Jenkins (Frances Williams)	FC Dept. of Public Health
Appointed by BCC	Robert S. Owens (Angella Cowell)	Winston-Salem Fire Dept.
Appointed by BCC	Mary D. Showalter	

Figure 1

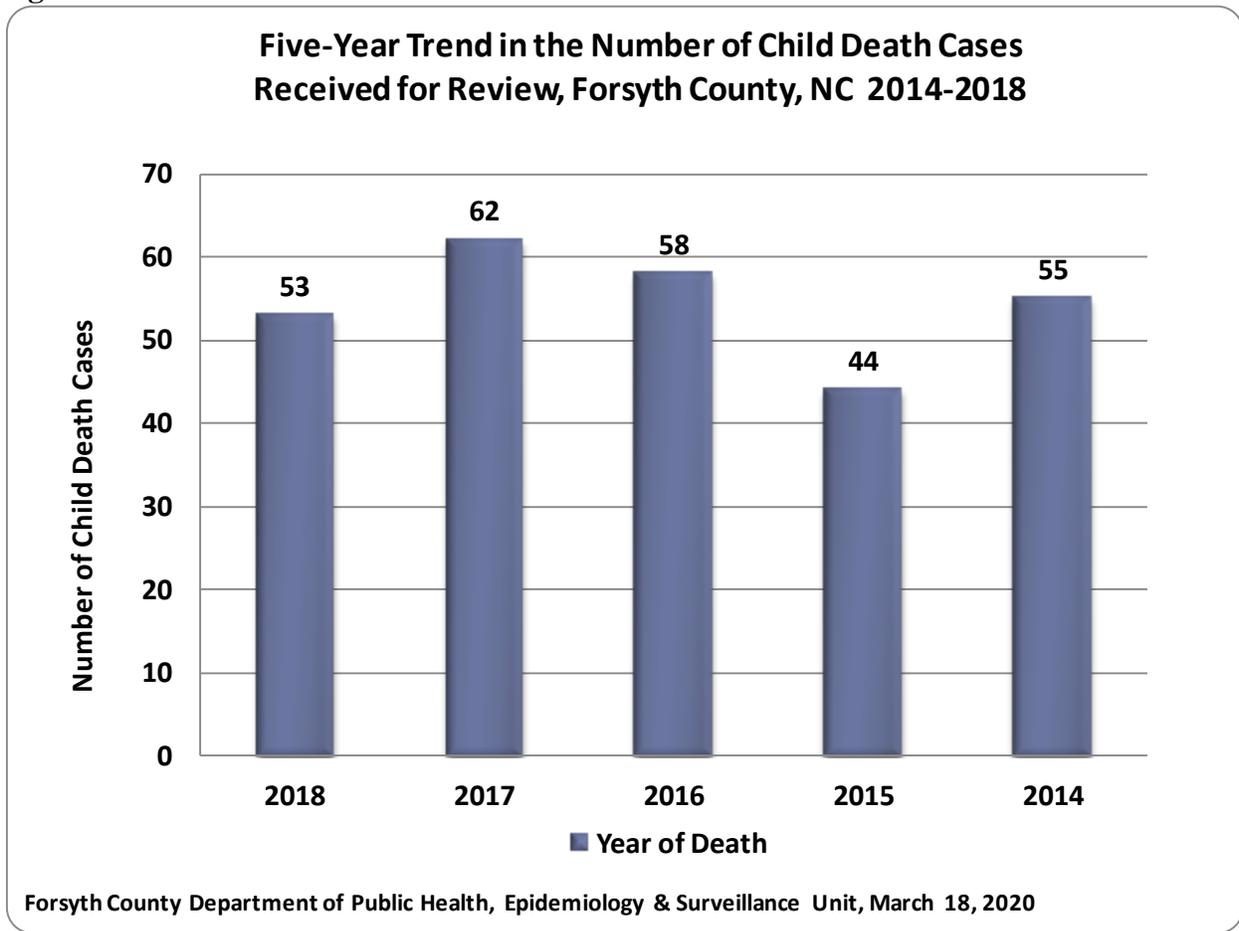


Table 2. Summary Characteristics of Child Death Cases Received for CFPT Review, Forsyth County, NC 2014 - 2018

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Number of Child Death Cases	53	62	58	44	55
Age Groups					
≤ 1 year	32	44	42	32	31
>1 and ≤5 years	2	7	4	2	5
>5 and ≤10 years	6	4	2	3	4
>10 years	13	7	10	7	15
Total	53	62	58	44	55
Gender					
Female	20	30	23	23	24
Male	33	32	35	21	31
Total	53	62	58	44	55
Race/Ethnicity					
Black, non-Hispanic	22	36	19	14	23
Hispanic	7	9	14	10	3
White, non-Hispanic	23	16	23	20	28
Other, non-Hispanic	1	1	2	0	1
Total	53	62	58	44	55
Cause of Death					
Abuse/Neglect	0	0	0	0	2
Accident	8	2	7	2	8
Sudden Infant Death	1	0	0	1	0
Homicide	3	1	3	1	2
Extreme immaturity, Prematurity, Congenital abnormalities	27	37	39	29	22
Illness	5	16	5	6	9
Suicide	3	3	1	3	2
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	6	3	3	2	10
Total	53	62	58	44	55

Forsyth County Department of Public Health, Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit, March 18, 2020