

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

2017 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. 2016 Child Deaths by Cause, System Issues Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2017, the Forsyth County CFPT received 58 child death cases from the 2016 calendar year for review. The number of child death cases received for reviewed was among the highest of the past 5 years (see Appendix, Figure 1).

- More than 2/3 (72.4%) of the cases were infants (age 1 year and less). This observation is consistent with that of previous years (Appendix, Table 2).
- More than 1/2 (60.3%) of the cases were male (Appendix, Table 2).
- The number of cases for White, non-Hispanic and Black, non-Hispanic and Hispanic cases were each higher than in previous years (Appendix, Table 2).
- Summary of Cause of Death:
 - ✚ Extreme immaturity/prematurity/congenital abnormalities (39)
 - ✚ Illness (5)
 - ✚ Suicide (1)
 - ✚ Accident (7)
 - ✚ Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (3)
 - ✚ Homicide: 3

Of the 58 cases reviewed in subcommittee, 20 were submitted for a full team review. Two (2) of the 20 cases were carried forward to 2018 Qtr1 because the full team is awaiting additional information. System issues were identified in three (3) of the remaining 18 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 (3)	Unsafe sleeping environment	a. Continued interagency/partner (doctors, day care community, etc.) training programs to raise awareness about unsafe sleep/co-sleeping. b. Continue Safe Sleep Campaign on Winston-Salem transit buses	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 Health Priorities.

IV. Forsyth County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

- The 2017 Annual CFPT Activity Summary were completed and submitted on time.
- Individual final reports on child deaths reviewed by the full team in 2017 were completed and forwarded to the State Coordinator on time.
- Some CFPT members participated in the Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition sponsored annual 'Walk a Mile to Save Our Babies' in September 2017.
- 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 lectures were 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 Public Health Director or Chairperson at 336.703.3112 should you have any questions about this report.

Public Health Director/ Chairperson: Mr. Marlon Hunter

Date: March 16th, 2018

APPENDIX

Table 1: 2017 CFPT Members

Agency/Appointer	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)	Vacant	DSS Board Member
Law Enforcement Officer (Appointed by BCC)	Det. Thomas Bowman	FC Sheriff's Department
Additional Law Enforcement Officer	Det. 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	
Guardian Ad Litem	Linda Devine	Guardian ad Litem, Coordinator
Public 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)	Capt. 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/CEO
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	Det. 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)
County Commissioner Appointee	Walter Cooper^	Salvation Army Center of Hope, Director (Community at Large)
Review Coordinator	Lovette Miller	FC Dept. of Public Health, Epidemiology & Surveillance Director

*** Service ended in June 2017**

^Service began in July 2017

Figure 1

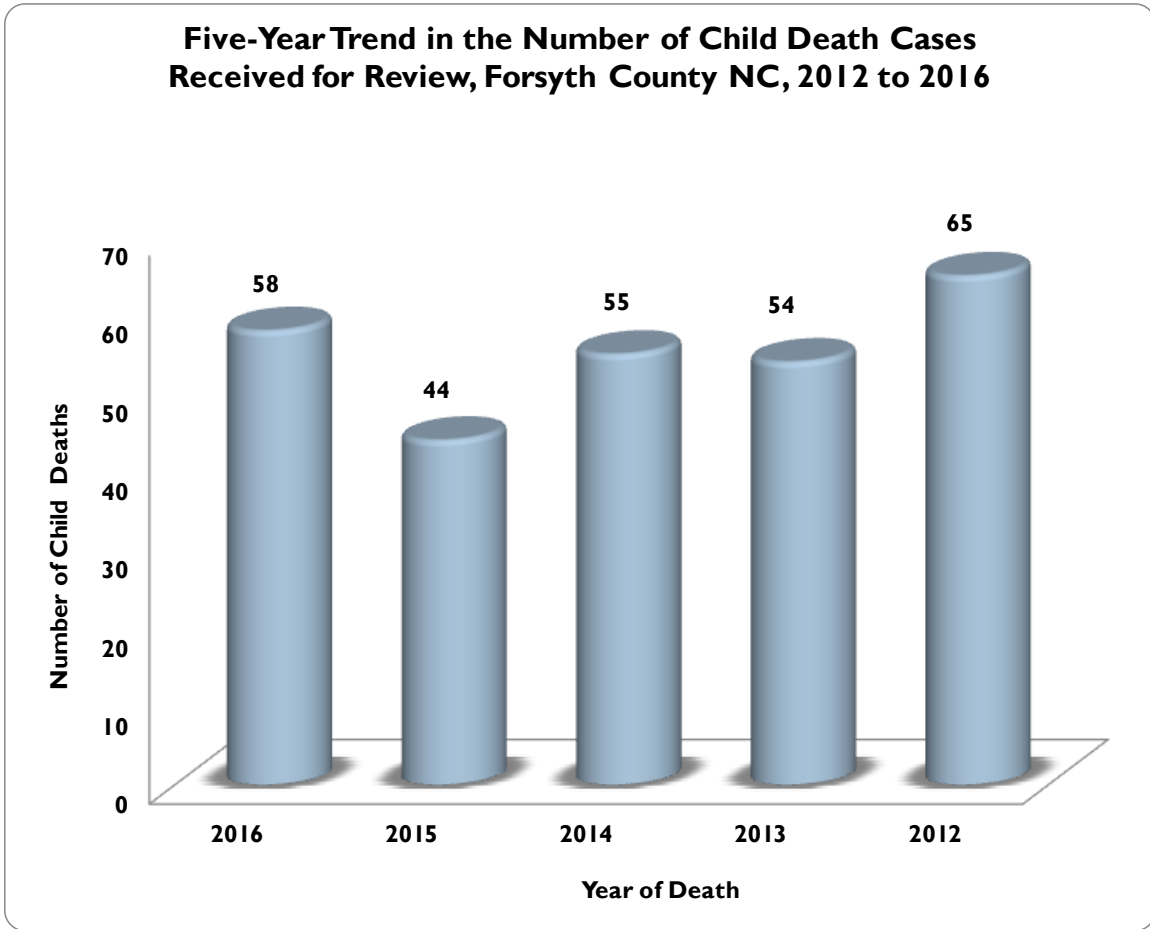


Table 2

Summary Characteristics of Child Death Cases Received for CFPT Review Forsyth County, NC 2012 - 2016					
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total Child Deaths	58	44	55	54	65
Age Groups					
≤ 1 year	42	32	31	39	50
>1 and ≤5 years	4	2	5	4	5
>5 and ≤10 years	2	3	4	3	4
>10 years	10	7	15	8	6
Gender					
Female	23	23	24	24	25
Male	35	21	31	30	40
Race/Ethnicity					
Black, non-Hispanic	19	14	23	20	28
Hispanic	14	10	3	5	7
White, non-Hispanic	23	20	28	26	28
Other	2		1	3	2
Cause of Death					
Abuse/Neglect			2		
Accident	7	2	8	5	7
Sudden Infant Death		1			
Homicide	3	1	2		
Extreme immaturity, Prematurity, Congenital abnormalities	39	29	22	31	40
Illness	5	6	9	13	11
Suicide	1	3	2		1
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	3	2	10	5	6