

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

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**2021 Annual Report**  
*(January 2020 to December 2020 Child Deaths)*  
**June 14, 2022**



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

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**Forsyth County Department of Public Health  
Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit,  
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## I. Introduction

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPTs) 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 department, 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 for the 2021 calendar year.

## II. Role of the Forsyth County Commissioners and Consolidated Board

- i. Receive annual reports on child death cases that received a Full Team review
  - a. Annual reports should include system issues identified (if any), recommendations, and actions taken (or to be taken)
- ii. Appoint members to the local team as identified by the membership

## III. 2020 Child Deaths by Cause, System Issues Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2021, the Forsyth County CFPT Subcommittee received 42 child death cases from the 2020 calendar year for review. The number of child death cases received for review was less than each of the past 4 calendar years (see Appendix, Figure 1, Page 6).

Key Characteristics:

- Thirty-one (73.8%) of the cases received for review were infants (Appendix, Table 2, Page 7).
- Cause of Death:
  - \* Extreme immaturity/prematurity/congenital abnormalities: 24 (57.1%)
  - \* Homicide (gun): 5 (11.9%)
  - \* Illness: 5 (11.9%)
  - \* Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping: 4 (9.5%)
  - \* Accidents: 3 (7.1%)
  - \* Suicide: 1 (2.4%)

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

Of the 42 cases reviewed in Subcommittee, 14 were submitted for a Full Team Review. A summary of the 14 Full Team Case Review Findings are shared below.

<b>Summary of the Full Team Case Review Findings</b>			
<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>System Issues</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Accident (motor vehicle)	None	None	None
Accident (illegal drug overdose)	None	None	None
Accident (illegal drug overdose)	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>
Homicide (handgun): 4	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>
Homicide (child abuse): 1	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>
Illness (1)	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>
Suicide (1)	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>1</sup></i>
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (4)	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 2020 Forsyth County SOTCH Report.

<sup>1</sup>Pending outcome of law enforcement or further investigation. These cases are carried forward until the review can be completed. This action is in compliance with the North Carolina CFPT Task Force directive.

#### **IV. Forsyth County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CFPT community activities could not be implemented.

#### **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: June 14, 2022

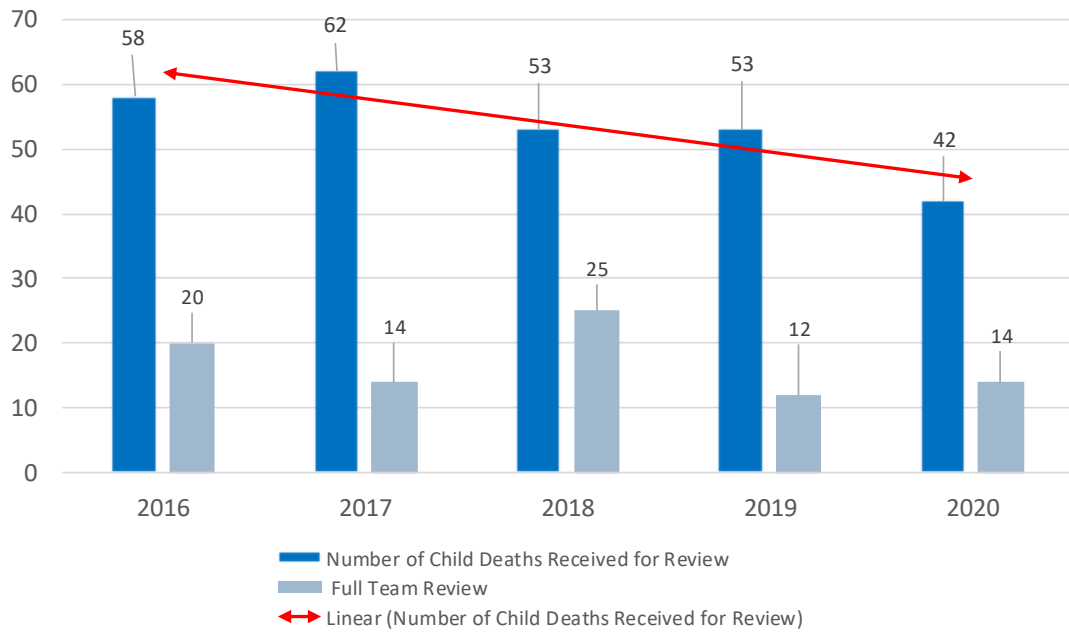
## APPENDIX

**Table 1: 2021 (2020 Child Deaths) CFPT Members**

<b>Agency/Appointer</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
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	FC Health and Human Services Board Member
Appointed by District Attorney	Kia Chavious, Asst. D.A.	District Attorney's Office
Appointed by the Board of Health	Wayne Franklin, MD	Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center (Retired)
District Court Judge	Lawrence Fine	District Court
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 Public Health	Glenda Dancy	FC Department of Public Health
Department of Public Health	Ashton Putnam	FC 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, Social Worker	WS/FC Schools
Local School Superintendent (Proxy)	Sandra R. Lamb, Social Worker	WS/FC Schools

Appointed by BCC	Asst. Chief. Bryan Gallimore	Emergency Medical Services
Appointed by BCC	Det. T. R. Albert	Winston-Salem Police Dept.
Appointed by BCC	Meagan Goodpasture, MD	Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Appointed by BCC	Mary D. Showalter	Parent of Child who died before Age 18

Figure 1. The Five-Year Trend in the Number of Child Death Cases Received for Review  
Forsyth County, NC, 2016 to 2020



Forsyth County Department of Public Health, Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit, June 14, 2022

Table 2. Summary Statistics of Child Death Cases Received for Review, Forsyth County, NC, 2016 to 2020

Total Number of Child Death Cases	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
	42	53	53	62	58
Age Groups					
≤ 1 year	31	42	32	44	42
>1 and ≤5 years	0	1	2	7	4
>5 and ≤10 years	2	4	6	4	2
>10 years	9	6	13	7	10
Total	42	53	53	62	58
Gender					
Female	15	16	20	30	23
Male	27	37	33	32	35
Total	42	53	53	62	58
Race/Ethnicity					
Black, Non-Hispanic/Latino	23	37	22	36	19
Hispanic/Latino	8	3	7	9	14
White, Non-Hispanic/Latino	9	13	23	16	23
Other, Non-Hispanic/Latino	2	0	1	1	2
Total	42	53	53	62	58
Cause of Death					
Abuse/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0
Accident	3	0	8	2	7
Sudden Infant Death	0	0	1	0	0
Homicide	5	6	3	1	3
Extreme immaturity, Prematurity, Congenital abnormalities	24	37	27	37	39
Illness	5	4	5	16	5
Suicide	1	1	3	3	1
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	4	5	6	3	3
Total	42	53	53	62	58

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