Forsyth County, NC
Child Fatality Prevention Team

2018 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, 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. 2017 Child Deaths by Cause, System Issues Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2018, the Forsyth County CFPT subcommittee received 62 child death cases from the 2017 calendar year for review. The number of child death cases received for review was the highest of the past 5 years (see Appendix, Figure 1).

Key Characteristics:

- More than 2/3 (71.0%) of the cases were infants (age 1 year and less).[1] This observation is consistent with that of previous years (Appendix, Table 2).
- Cause of Death (# of cases):
  - Extreme immaturity/prematurity/congenital abnormalities (37)
  - Illness (14)
  - Suicide (3)
  - Accident (2)
  - Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (3)
  - Homicide: (1)
  - Undetermined cause: (2)

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

[1] See Page 9 for supplementary data on 2017 Forsyth County infant death

- Abuse or neglect
- Mental health issues and/or developmental disabilities
- Alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drug use during pregnancy

Of the 62 cases reviewed in subcommittee, 14 were submitted for a full team review. The summary breakdown by cause of death is illness (5), suicide (3), unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (3), homicide (1), and undetermined causes (2). The system issues identified, recommendations and proposed actions are summarized based on cause of death.

Summary of the Full Team Case Review Findings			
Cause of Death	**System Issues**	**Recommendations**	**Actions**
Illness/malignant neoplasm of brain (1)	None	None	None
Illness/ acute bronchiolitis (3)	None	None	None
Illness/non-Hodgkins lymphoma (1)	None	None	None
Suicide/hanging (2)	None	None	None
Suicide/handgun(1)	Unsecured licensed handgun	1.More parent education about securing handguns 2.Increase parent use of hand gun locks	1. Public health education on gun safety measures for parents 2. WSPD -related nonprofit will provide hand gun locks to licensed gun owners who have children at home.
Co-sleeping/ Unsafe sleeping conditions (3)	Unsafe sleeping environment	a. Continued interagency/partner (doctors, day care community, etc.) training programs to raise awareness about unsafe sleep/co-sleeping.	Five (5) action plans to reduce child deaths due to unsafe sleep/co-sleeping have been implemented.
Homicide (1)	None	None	None
Undetermined (2)	None	None	None

IV. Forsyth County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments

- The 2018 Annual CFPT Activity Summary were completed and submitted on time.
- Individual final reports on child deaths reviewed by the full team in 2018 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 2018.
- As part of the action plan to eliminate deaths due to unsafe sleep
  - Safe sleep training were held at 3 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 Board of Commissioners and Consolidated Board 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. Joshua Swift

Date: February 15th, 2019

APPENDIX

Table 1: 2018 CFPT Members

Agency/Appointer	Name	Agency
Social Services Director	**Debra Donahue*/Victor Isler^**	**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)[1]	**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	**Sherita Cain**	**Guardian ad Litem, Coordinator**
Public Health Director	**Marlon Hunter*/Joshua Swift^**	**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)	**Vacant**	**Parent**
County Commissioner Appointee	**Det. Michael York*/ Det. T. R. Albert^**	**Winston-Salem Police Department WSPD CID Detective**
County Commissioner Appointee	**Meagan Goodpasture, MD**	**WFU Baptist Medical Center, Pediatrician**
County Commissioner Appointee	**Caren Jenkins*/ Frances Williams^**	**FC Dept. of Public Health, School Nursing Supervisor**
County Commissioner Appointee	**Angella Cowell**	**Winston-Salem Fire Department. Assistant Fire Chief**
County Commissioner Appointee	**Vacant**	**(Community at Large)**
Review Coordinator	**Lovette Miller, PhD, MPH**	**FC Dept. of Public Health, Epidemiology & Surveillance Director**

*** Service ended in 2018**
^Service began in 2018

Figure 1

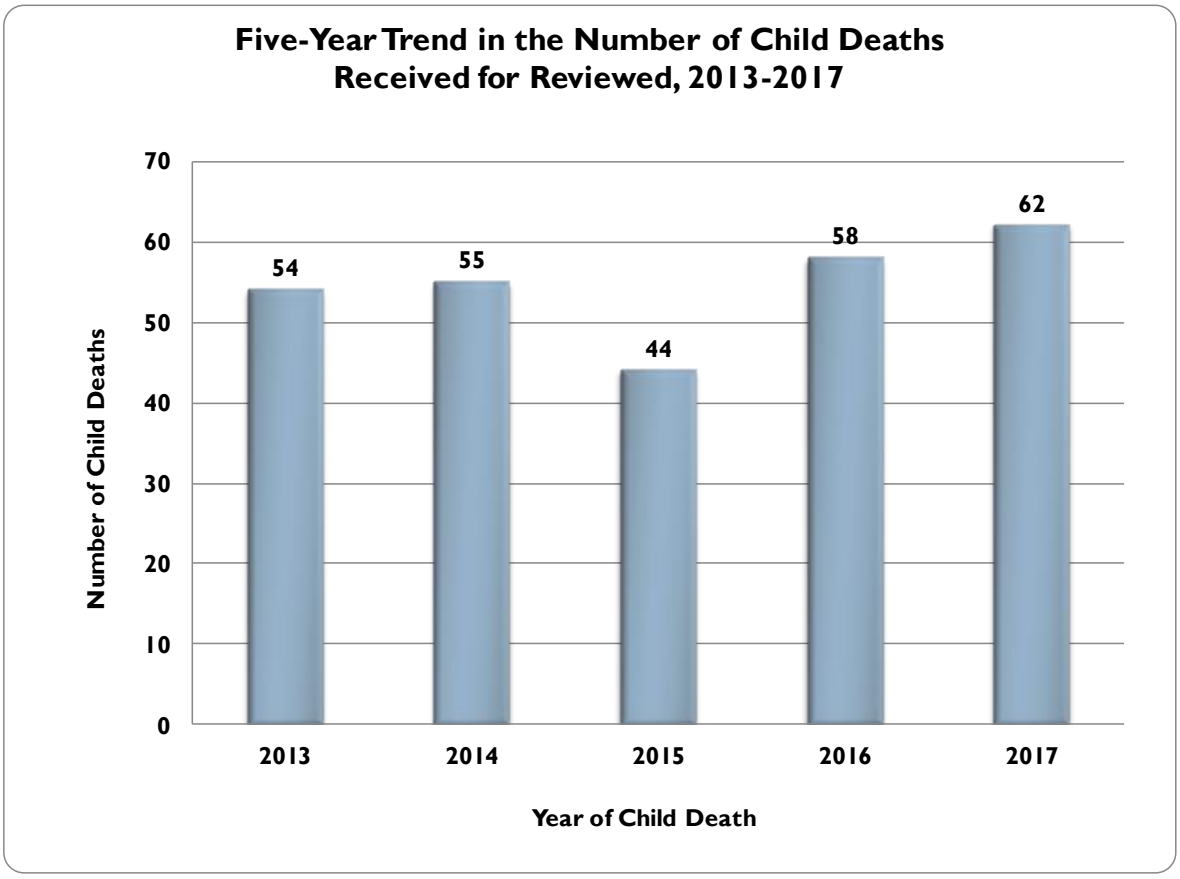
Five-Year Trend in the Number of Child Deaths Received for Reviewed, 2013-2017
Number of Child Deaths
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
54
55
44
58
62
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Year of Child Death

Table 2

Summary Characteristics of Child Death Cases Received for CFPT Review Forsyth County, NC 2013 - 2017					
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Total Child Deaths	62	58	44	55	54
Age Groups					
≤ 1 year	44	42	32	31	39
>1 and ≤5 years	7	4	2	5	4
>5 and ≤10 years	4	2	3	4	3
>10 years	7	10	7	15	8
Gender					
Female	30	23	23	24	24
Male	32	35	21	31	30
Race/Ethnicity					
Black, non-Hispanic	36	19	14	23	20
Hispanic	9	14	10	3	5
White, non-Hispanic	16	23	20	28	26
Other, non-Hispanic	1	2	0	1	3
Cause of Death					
Abuse/Neglect	0	0	0	2	0
Accident	2	7	2	8	5
Sudden Infant Death	0	0	1	0	0
Homicide	1	3	1	2	0
Extreme immaturity, Prematurity, Congenital abnormalities	37	39	29	22	31
Illness	16	5	6	9	13
Suicide	3	1	3	2	0
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	3	3	2	10	5

Table 3: Infant Death Supplemental Information

Summary Characteristics of Infant Deaths due to Extreme Immaturity, Prematurity, & Congenital Abnormalities Forsyth County, NC 2013 - 2017					
	2017	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**	**2013**
Total infant deaths	**44**	**42**	**32**	**31**	**39**
Total Infant deaths due to extreme immaturity, prematurity, & congenital abnormalities	**37**	**39**	**29**	**22**	**31**
% of infant deaths due to extreme immaturity, prematurity, & congenital abnormalities	84.1%	92.9%	90.6%	71.0%	79.5%
% of infants who died due to extreme immaturity, etc with ***very low birthweight*** [1]	78.4%	71.8%	75.9%	59.1%	n/a
% of infants who died due to extreme immaturity, etc with ***low birthweight*** [2]	94.6%	82.1%	100.0%	90.9%	n/a

Very low birth weight: Birth weight less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds, 4 ounces) at birth
Low birthweight: Birth weight less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces)