

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

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**2015 Annual Report**



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

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**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. 2014 Child Deaths by Cause, System Issues Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action**

In 2015, the FC CFPT subcommittee received 55 child death cases from the 2014 calendar year for review. The number of child deaths reviewed was the 2nd lowest it has been since 2010 (Appendix, Figure 1).

- More than 1/2 (56.3%) of the cases were infants (age 1 year and less) (Appendix, Table 2).
- More than 1/2 (56.3%) of the cases were male (Appendix, Table 2).
- The number of White, non-Hispanic and Black, non-Hispanic child deaths were each slightly higher than in previous years (Appendix, Table 2).
- Summary of Cause of Death:
  - ✚ Extreme immaturity/prematurity/congenital abnormalities (22)
  - ✚ Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (10)
  - ✚ Illness (9)
  - ✚ Accident (8)
  - ✚ Abuse and/or neglect (2)
  - ✚ Homicide (2)
  - ✚ Suicide (2)

Of the 55 cases reviewed in subcommittee, 27 were submitted for a full team review. The summary breakdown by cause of death is abuse/neglect (2), accident (8), homicide (2), extreme immaturity/prematurity (5), and unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (10). The system issues identified, recommendations and proposed actions are summarized based on cause of death.

Cause of Death	System Issues	Recommendation	Action
Abuse /Chronic Neglect	Legal guardianship of abused child given to abuser-parent/guardian and/or individuals who do not place the child's welfare above his or hers.	An abused child should be represented by DSS independent of the family.	Write a letter to District Court to allow abused children to have independent representation when determining custody.
	Lack of acceptance by medical examiners of the science that shows that the shaking of a baby can lead to his or her death.	There should be a medical examiner panel review for child fatality cases where medical examiners do not base their reports on science.	Write a letter to Office of the Chief Medical Examiners stating that physician's diagnosis should be reflected in ME examination.
	Incarcerated parents, caretakers, and/or secondary providers are not consistently assessed for and/or receive services.	Statewide, incarcerated parents, caretakers and/or secondary providers should be assessed for social services and receive those services when the need exists.  There should be mapping and assessing of services for formal and informal caretakers.	DSS will re-educate CPS staff on mapping, and service assignment for formal, informal, and incarcerated caretakers.
	Discontinuation of childcare after CPS intervention.	An assessment should be made for childcare services after CPS intervention.	DSS will establish priority for DSS families with closed cases.
Abuse (bleach)	Lack of communication between agencies which hampered timely investigation.	Effective communication and clearer guidelines on who should report what and to whom among agencies that receive reports on child welfare.	DA's Office met with WSPD, WFBMC, and DSS and other child welfare agencies regarding the procedure for reporting child welfare issues.

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Accident (fire)	Smoke detectors unchecked for 30 or more days	Landlord/Property owner must follow regulations that require them to inspect smoke detectors every 30 days	WS Fire Department will remind landlord/property owners to ensure that each rental unit has workable smoke detectors every 30 days.
	Children's access to lighter	Fire safety education for parents and children	Juvenile Fire Starter Intervention for identified children started after this case.
Accident (dog bites)	Lack of supervision for children and animal interaction	Education of parents on child safety when dogs are in the home (example, Canine Good Citizen Training)	Animal control agency can give talks at schools and similar places to raise awareness of dog safety.  Post dog safety FAQ's at county website  Inform all veterinarians about Canine Good Citizen Training  Raise awareness of dog safety with realtors.
Accident (drowning)	Lack of access to affordable swimming lessons for low income populations.	City/County, YMCA, YWCA should provide free swimming classes at their pools.	Letter to City/County, YMCA, YWCA officials to provide free swimming classes at City/County pools.  Community efforts to access grants /scholarship for swimming classes for low income populations.
	Lack of water safety in apartment complex swimming pools (no lifeguards)	State legislature should change laws regarding private swimming pools to require trained lifeguards	Letter to State legislature regarding laws for private swimming pools to have trained lifeguards
Accident (motor vehicle accident)	In accordance with North Carolina Public School Law General Statute (G.S.) § 115C-378, the age for truancy is 7-16 years	The age for truancy should be raised from 16 yrs. to 18yrs. or graduation from high school	Write letter to state legislature to amend the North Carolina Public School Law General Statute (G.S.) § 115C-378 for the age for truancy to 7-18 years or graduation from high school.

Cause of Death	System Issues	Recommendations	Actions
Extreme immaturity/ Prematurity	Illegal drug use during pregnancy	FCDPH should improve community knowledge about the risks of illegal drug use during pregnancy.	<p>Pregnancy Care Management (PCM) will continue to educate pregnant women on the risks of drug use during pregnancy and ensure referral to Obstetrics Care Management (OBM).</p> <p>FC Infant Mortality Coalition will make care recommendations to Obstetrics Care Management (OBCM) based on recent research findings. These recommendations will serve as continuing education on the use of recreational drugs and misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs (OTC) by pregnant women.</p>
	<p>Lack of communication among service providers</p> <p>Lack of adequate prenatal care</p>	FCDPH should improve community knowledge about access to Pregnancy Care Management for maternal health.	FC Infant Mortality Coalition will send letters to Obstetrics providers to reference pregnant women to Pregnancy Care Management.
Homicide	The availability of automatic assault weapons on the streets	Penalty for possession of assault weapon need to fall under a lower felony level	Letter regarding penalty for assault weapon with guidance from Judge Fine
	In accordance with North Carolina Public School Law General Statute (G.S.) § 115C-378, the age for truancy is 7-16 years	The age for truancy should be raised from 16 yrs. to 18yrs. or graduation from high school	Write letter to state legislature to amend the North Carolina Public School Law General Statute (G.S.) § 115C-378 for the age for truancy to 7-18 years or graduation from high school

Cause of Death	System Issues	Recommendations	Actions
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	Unsafe sleeping environment	<p>More interagency/partner (doctors, day care community, etc.) training program to raise awareness about unsafe sleep/co-sleeping.</p> <p>Public service announcements using social media and movie theaters.</p> <p>Ongoing Safe Sleep Campaign on Winston-Salem transit buses</p>	<p>Dr. Goodpasture will contact doctors re training program</p> <p>Confirm funding source for public announcement (since confirmed-see the New Business section on page 9).</p> <p>Continue to secure funding for safe sleeping (since confirmed-see the New Business section on page 9).</p>
	Lack of funding for death scene investigation by Medical Examiner	Funding should be available for death scene investigation by Medical Examiner	CFPT will write a letter to state office of chief medical examiner requesting funding for local ME for death scene investigation
	Lack of communication among service providers. No report to DSS until death of child	All providers should report to DSS when family is unable to care for child or neglected and DSS will then investigate the report.	Send letter & copy of the Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Child Abuse & Neglect Protocol (and/or url) to all child care providers to report child neglect and abuse.

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

- The 2015 Annual CFPT Activity Summary was completed and submitted on time.
- Individual final reports on child deaths reviewed by the full team in 2015 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 2015.

**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

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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: November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

APPENDIX



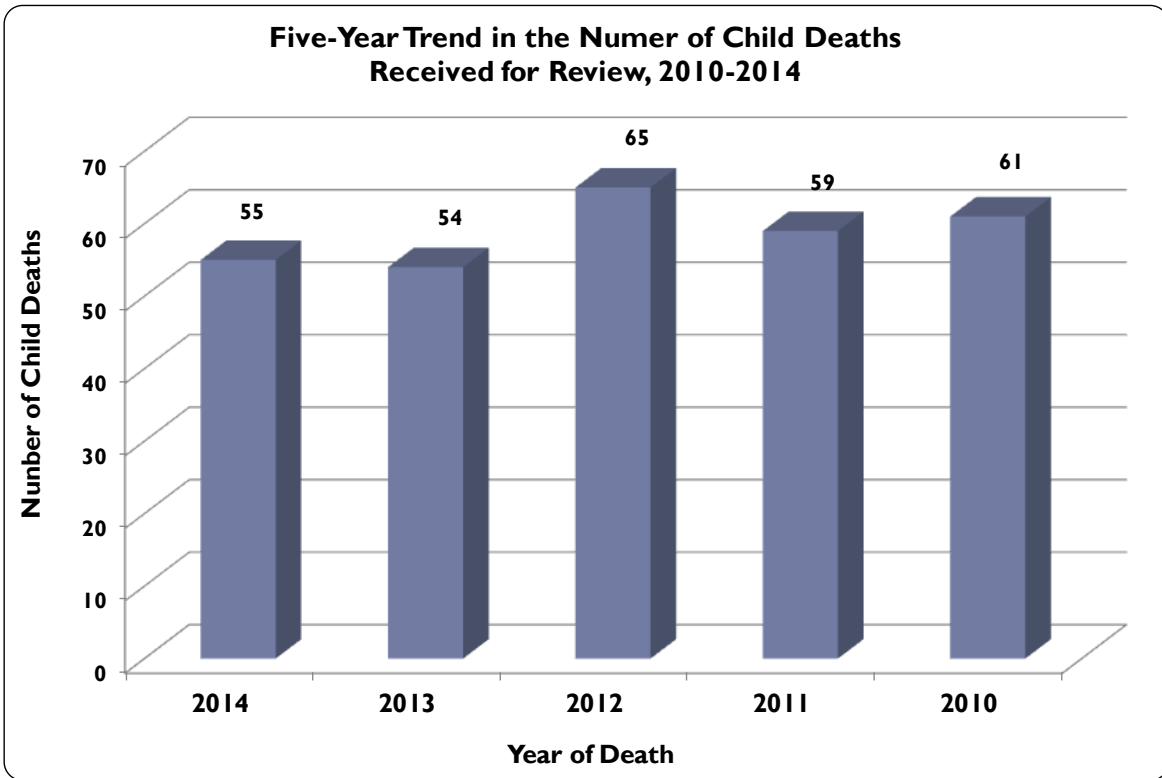
**Table 1**

<b>CFPT Representative</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
<b>Social Services Director</b>	<b>Debra Donahue</b>	<b>FC Dept. of Social Services, Director</b>
<b>Social Services Staff Member</b>	<b>Linda Alexander</b>	<b>FC Dept. of Social Services, Social Work Program Manager</b>
<b>Social Services Staff Member Proxy</b>	<b>Kimberly Nesbitt</b>	<b>FC Dept. of Social Services, Social Work Program Manager</b>
<b>DSS Board Member (Appointed by Chair of DSS Board)</b>	<b>Nancy Young</b>	<b>DSS Board Member</b>
<b>Law Enforcement Officer (Appointed by BCC)¹</b>	<b>Elizabeth Pritchard²/Ray Laird</b>	<b>FC Sheriff's Department</b>
<b>Additional Law Enforcement Officer</b>	<b>Sandy McGee</b>	<b>Kernersville Police Department, Detective</b>
<b>Attorney from the DA Office (Appointed by District Attorney)</b>	<b>Kia Chavious</b>	<b>District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney</b>
	<b>George M. Bryan</b>	<b>Former President/CEO, The Children's Home</b>
<b>Local School Superintendent</b>	<b>Andrea Taylor²/Robin Fisher</b>	<b>Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Social Worker</b>
<b>Local School Superintendent Proxy</b>	<b>Sandra R. Lamb</b>	<b>Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Social Worker</b>
<b>Mental Health Professional (Appt. by Director of Area MH Authority)</b>	<b>Jeffery B. Eads</b>	<b>CenterPoint Human Services, Director</b>
<b>ED Community Agency</b>	<b>Cynthia Napoleon-Hanger</b>	<b>Exchange SCAN, Director</b>
<b>Guardian Ad Litem</b>	<b>Linda Devine</b>	<b>Guardian ad Litem, Coordinator</b>
<b>Health Director</b>	<b>Marlon Hunter</b>	<b>FC Department of Public Health, Health Director</b>
<b>Health Care Provider (Appointed by the Board of Health)</b>	<b>Wayne Franklin, MD</b>	<b>Forsyth Medical Center, Pediatrician</b>

<b>CCPT/CFPT Representative</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
<b>Emergency Medical Services Provider (Appointed by BCC)</b>	<b>Jenna E. Tuttle</b>	<b>Emergency Medical Services Quality Management Coordinator</b>
<b>Rep. of a Local Day Care Facility (Appointed by DSS Director)</b>	<b>Larry Vellani, MPA</b>	<b>Smart Start of Forsyth County Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>District Court Judge</b>	<b>Lawrence Fine</b>	<b>District Court Judge</b>
<b>County Medical Examiner (Appointed by Chief Medical Examiner)</b>	<b>Anna Greene McDonald, MD</b>	<b>County Medical Examiner, Medical Examiner (Pediatric)</b>
<b>Parent of a Child Who Died Prior to 18th Birthday (Appointed by Board of County Commissioners)</b>	<b>Diane Ferrelli</b>	<b>Parent</b>
<b>County Commissioner Appointee</b>	<b>Joel Morissette</b>	<b>Winston-Salem Police Department WSPD CID Detective</b>
<b>County Commissioner Appointee</b>	<b>Meagan Goodpasture, MD</b>	<b>WFU Baptist Medical Center, Pediatrician</b>
<b>County Commissioner Appointee</b>	<b>Caren Jenkins</b>	<b>FC Dept. of Public Health, School Nursing Supervisor</b>
<b>County Commissioner Appointee</b>	<b>Robert S. Owens</b>	<b>Winston-Salem Fire Department. Assistant Fire Chief</b>
<b>County Commissioner Appointee</b>	<b>Dolores Hill</b>	<b>FC Dept. of Social Services, (Community at Large)</b>
<b>CFPT Coordinator</b>	<b>Ayo Ademoyero<sup>2</sup>/Carrie Worsley</b>	<b>FC Dept. of Public Health, Coordinator of Health Services</b>

<sup>1</sup>Forsyth County Board of Commissioners (BCC), <sup>2</sup>Member departed during 2015.

**Figure 1**



**Table 2**

<b>Key Factors that Describe the Child Death Cases Submitted for Review Forsyth County, NC, CCPT/CFPT Subcommittee, 2010 - 2014</b>					
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010*</b>
<b>Total Child Deaths</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>					
≤ 1 year	31	39	50	47	43
>1 and ≤5 years	5	4	5	2	4
>5 and ≤10 years	4	3	4	4	0
>10 years	15	8	6	6	14
<b>Gender</b>					
Female	24	24	25	29	29
Male	31	30	40	30	32
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
Black, non-Hispanic	23	20	28	26	39
Hispanic	3	5	7	3	3
White, non-Hispanic	28	26	28	30	18
Other	1	3	2	0	1
<b>Cause of Death</b>					
Abuse/Neglect	2			1	
Accident	8	5	7	4	8
Drug Overdose					1
Homicide	2			1	
Extreme immaturity, Prematurity, Congenital abnormalities	22	31	40	40	37
Illness	9	13	11	8	9
Suicide	2		1	1	3
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	10	5	6	4	3