

Forsyth County, NC Child Fatality Prevention Team

2020 Annual Report
(2019 Child Deaths)
July 7, 2021



Our Children, Our Future,
Our RESPONSIBILITY

**Forsyth County Department of Public Health
Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit,
799 N. Highland Avenue,
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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 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 2020 calendar year.

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. 2019 Child Deaths by Cause, System Issues Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2020, the Forsyth County CFPT Subcommittee received 53 child death cases from the 2019 calendar year for review. The number of child death cases received for review was unchanged from the 2018 calendar year (see Appendix, Figure 1, Page 6).

Key Characteristics:

- Forty-two (79.2%) of the cases received for review were infants (Appendix, Table 2, Page 7).
- Cause of Death:
 - ✚ Extreme immaturity/prematurity/congenital abnormalities: 37 (69.8%)
 - ✚ Illness: 4 (7.5%)
 - ✚ Suicide (gun): 1 (1.9%)
 - ✚ Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping: 5 (9.4%)
 - ✚ Homicide (gun): 6 (11.3%)

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 53 cases reviewed in Subcommittee, 12 were submitted for a Full Team Review.

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

Summary of the Full Team Case Review Findings			
Cause of Death	System Issues	Recommendations	Actions
Homicide (6): Handgun	<i>Pending</i> ¹	<i>Pending</i> ¹	<i>Pending</i> ¹
Suicide (1) : Handgun	<i>Pending</i> ¹	<i>Pending</i> ¹	<i>Pending</i> ¹
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping (5)	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.

¹Pending outcome of law enforcement 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

Between January and February, 2020, CFPT/Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition (FCIMRC) organized and recruited 10 Forsyth County pediatric providers who agreed to discuss safe/unsafe sleep with parents and infant caregivers who visited their practice. Also, they agreed to include handouts about safe/unsafe sleep in their end of visit instructions to parents and caregivers,

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: July 7th, 2021

APPENDIX

Table 1: 2020 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	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
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	Capt. 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

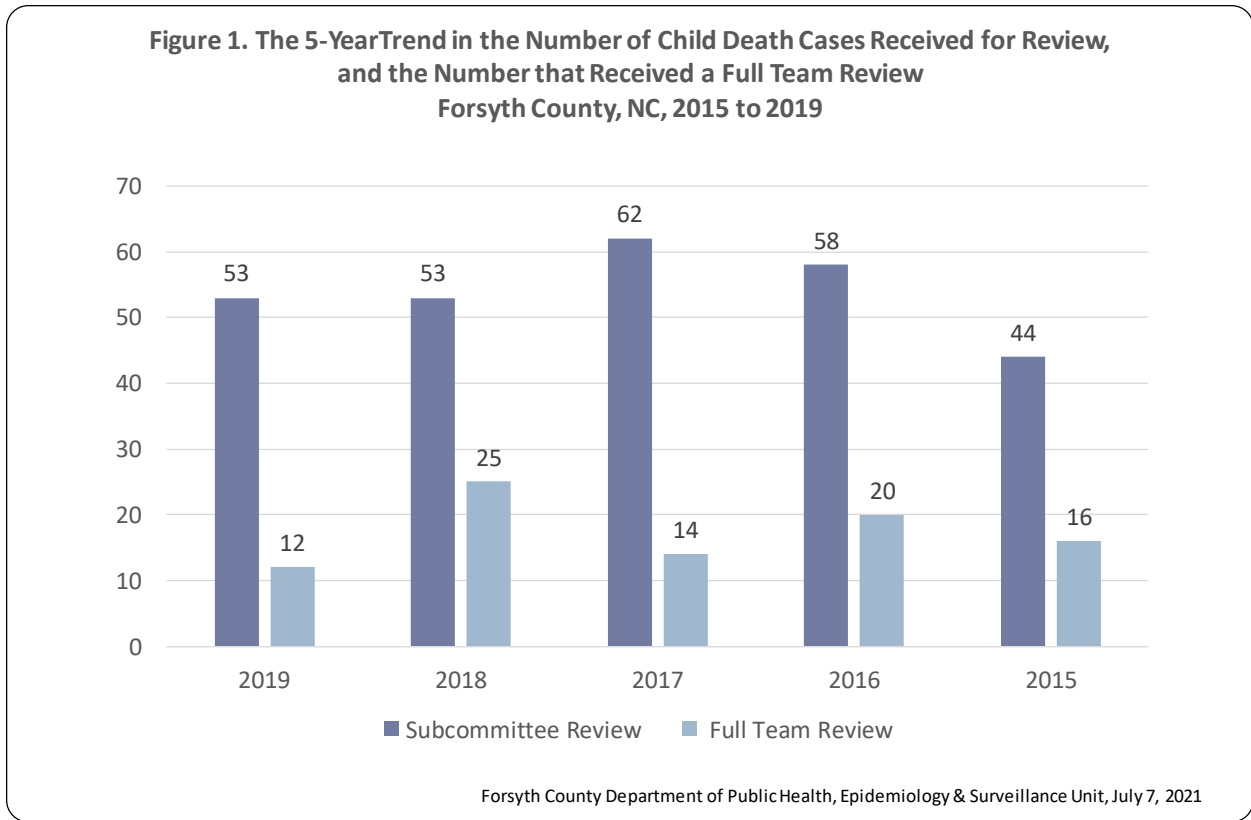


Table 2. Summary Characteristics of Child Death Cases Received for CFPT Review, Forsyth County, NC 2015 - 2019

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total Number of Child Death Cases	53	53	62	58	44
Age Groups					
≤ 1 year	42	32	44	42	32
>1 and ≤5 years	1	2	7	4	2
>5 and ≤10 years	4	6	4	2	3
>10 years	6	13	7	10	7
Total	53	53	62	58	44
Gender					
Female	16	20	30	23	23
Male	37	33	32	35	21
Total	53	53	62	58	44
Race/Ethnicity					
Black, non-Hispanic	37	22	36	19	14
Hispanic	3	7	9	14	10
White, non-Hispanic	13	23	16	23	20
Other, non-Hispanic	0	1	1	2	0
Total	53	53	62	58	44
Cause of Death					
Abuse/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0
Accident	0	8	2	7	2
Sudden Infant Death	0	1	0	0	1
Homicide	6	3	1	3	1
Extreme immaturity, Prematurity, Congenital abnormalities	37	27	37	39	29
Illness	4	5	16	5	6
Suicide	1	3	3	1	3
Unsafe sleep/co-sleeping	5	6	3	3	2
Total	53	53	62	58	44

Forsyth County Department of Public Health, Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit, July 7, 2021