



Child Fatality Prevention Team: Board of Health and County Commissioners Cumulative Report 2023

Purpose

Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (LCFPTs) consist of multidisciplinary members who spend time and effort reviewing the death of children, ages 0-17 years, who died (not of suspected abuse and neglect with Division of Social Services history) as a resident of their county. The local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPTs) are required to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist and through the submission of a report annually to their local county commissioners (CC) and boards of health (BOH).

LCFPT review coordinators and chairs were asked to submit their reports provided to their local BOH and CC to the LCFPT program coordinator in 2024. The following report reflects all submitted reports and summarizes the findings.

Data

Report Submissions

Fifty-five (55) counties responded to the request for submission of reports to local Board of Health/County Commissioners (BOH/CC). Of those, 48 counties responded with attachments of their reports to their local BOH and/or local CC. In addition, one county responded that they did not yet report to local BOH and/or local CC, but plan to, and therefore did not provide supporting attachments; one additional county had a commissioner present at a team meeting where a presentation was given about cases and trend data. Although outlined as a requirement in NC General Statute 7B as well as the agreement addendum with each county, forty-five (45) counties did not respond to the request for submission. Of the 45 non-responses, it is not known whether reports were made to their county leaders.

The data below reflects the responses from the 48 counties who submitted attachments of local BOH and/or local CC reports.

Cause of Deaths Reviewed

Although a sample outline is provided for county reports to their local BOH and CC, LCFPTs have discretion over what they include in their report. Those who included the number of cases reviewed by their team were added for a total of 543 cases reviewed across all counties.

Considering all submitted reports, the following data presented on Graph 1 displays noted case reviews by causes of death and Table 1 displays causes of death in alphabetical order; both

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represent the same data values. Representing only a fraction of all local CFPTs case reviews based on what data counties chose to share with their local BOH/CC leaders, total cases by cause of death totaled 403.

Graph 1. North Carolina, 2023 noted causes of death by total number of reported deaths

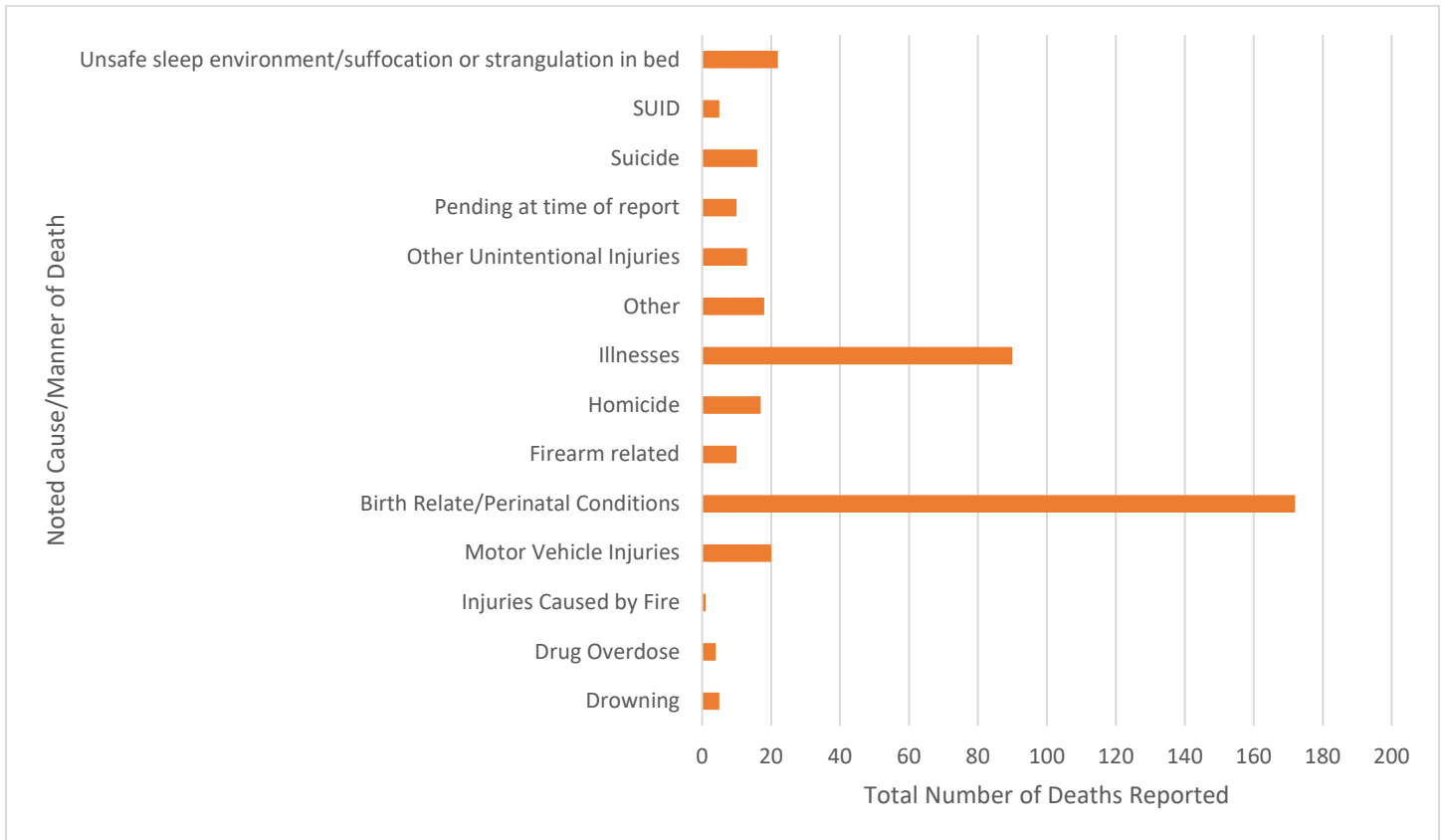


Table 1. North Carolina, 2022 causes of death alphabetically, with number of reported deaths

Cause of death reported by local CFPT reviewers	Number of counties reporting cause of death among their reviews	Number of Deaths Reported
Unsafe sleep environment/suffocation or strangulation in bed	9	22
SUID	3	5
Suicide	10	16
Pending at time of report	2	10
Other Unintentional Injuries	5	13

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Other	9	18
Illnesses	19	90
Homicide	9	17
Firearm related	6	10
Birth Related/Perinatal Conditions	26	172
Motor Vehicle Injuries	14	20
Injuries Caused by Fire	1	1
Drowning	4	5
Drug Overdose	3	4

Remaining 140 fatality case reviews were either not associated with a provided cause of death or grouped with the number of the cause. Of these, 86 fatalities were not disclosed by cause or manner of death but were noted to fall among the following causes/manners or death:

- Accidents
- Drowning
- Aircraft accident
- SIDS
- Other depressive episode
- Cerebral palsy
- Suicide by handgun
- Co-sleeping or unsafe sleep position related deaths
- Illicit drug use during pregnancy or substance affected infants
- Perinatal challenges
- Opioid use among youth & families
- Car occupant injured in collision with a car, pick-up truck, or van, traffic accident, unspecified injury of head, unspecified injury of thorax
- Bacterial sepsis of newborn, unspecified
- Infant death
- Subarachnoid hemorrhage
- Status epilepticus, unspecified cardiac arrest
- Other ill-defined, unspecified causes of mortality
- Exposure to unspecified factors, unspecified injury of the head
- Accidents, car occupants injured in collision with fixed or stationary object, passenger, traffic accident
- Ventricular Septal Defect, Anoxic Brain Damage, aortic stenosis, cardiac arrest unspecified, ventricular fibrillation, and flutter.
- Accident, poisoning, or exposure to narcotics, psycho hallucinogens,
- Assault by other firearm discharge

In addition to the number and types of deaths noted in the reports from LCFPTs, teams also shared identified problems, recommendations, and actions from their reviews as well as overall team accomplishments. These outcomes are noted in the following sections:

- A. System Problems
- B. CFPT Recommendations and Actions
- C. CFPT Accomplishments

A. System Problems

A summary of identified system problems noted by LCFPTs in their reports to local BOH and CC are noted below. System problems identify a lack of, or a need identified during the review of a specific child death review. Many similar system problems were noted by multiple teams.

- Lack of education regarding the dangers of BB and Airsoft gun use.
- Despite community education on ATV safety, ATVs continue to be used by children/adolescents
- Despite community education efforts related to gun safety, guns continue to place children/adolescents in unsafe situations
- Need for gun violence and gang violence prevention
- Car seat safety/seat belt safety- Proper child restraint or booster seats not used in vehicle accidents
- Children that are excelling academically and are entering college before the average age may not be getting the support or counseling needed for college
- Poor Medication Compliance
- Lack of medical forms provided to the school system
- Medical appointments not kept
- Substance Abuse
- A child riding without a helmet
- Driving while impaired
- Vaping amongst children
- Lack of mental health intervention
- Missed opportunities in the hospital and maternal systems
- Maternal/Prenatal care screening needed
- Despite community education efforts related to gun safety, guns continue to place children/adolescents in unsafe situations
- A lack of proper & safe gun storage leads to preventable injuries and death in NC children
- The lack of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment resources of adequate quantity and quality for NC youth (i.e., outpatient and inpatient facilities, Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists, and other licensed professionals) leads to poor health outcomes, including preventable injury and death

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- Many members of the public in NC are unaware of their legal obligation to report suspected child abuse, neglect, dependency, and sex trafficking and who to call to make a report. Employees in the hospitality industry are a key demographic who may witness such acts and could benefit from training on this topic
- CPS intake staff in NC currently lack the ability to utilize information in the statewide registry of DSS involvement. This limits their ability to identify children who may be at higher risk of child abuse, neglect, and dependency
- Despite education on safe sleep recommendations and access to safe sleep environments, caregivers continue to engage in behaviors that place infants in unsafe sleep environments, leading to preventable infant deaths
- The lack of a coordinated, county-wide effort focused on youth mental health and suicide is leading to stalling of implementation of ideas generated at the May 2023 Youth Suicide Community Conversations, frustrating stakeholders, and hindering improvements in youth mental health and suicide prevention in Buncombe County
- Father's probation for harm of another child did not include a condition that prohibited him from being around other children unsupervised
- Support for families of children with mental health concerns. Potential lack of knowledge about suicide prevention/mental health information and services for those speaking languages other than Spanish
- Additional opportunities for parental education needed

B. CFPT Recommendations and Actions

A summary of identified recommendations and actions taken by LCFPTs in their reports to local BOH and CC are noted below. Recommendations identified a suggested pathway of addressing the system issue and an action proposes or outlines what steps the LCFPT has taken or will take to fulfill the recommendation. Recommendations and actions have been modified to de-identify the associated county.

CFPT recommends:

- Use local Safe Kids Coalition's Action Plan 2024 to educate the community on ATV/UTV safety
 - Increase community awareness regarding ATV/UTV/recreational off-highway vehicle safety for children 0-18 years
- Use local Safe Kids Coalition Action Plan 2024 to educate the community on firearm safety
 - Increase community awareness regarding firearm safety for children ages 0-18 year
- A plan and/or system be established to provide victims and those affected by mass accidents equal access to services
- Establish a follow-up system with patients, specifically those under 18, that have been prescribed antidepressant medications
- Provide specialized instruction and/or education to the Spanish speaking population about depression and surrounding topics

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- Provide educational information to the community about the importance of not co-sleeping with infants
 - Action: Doctors' offices and pediatricians are giving information on the importance of not co-sleeping with infants
- Provide education about safe sleep and proper supervision to parents, families, and public
- Recommend to the ICGH to create programs tailored for suicide prevention among adolescents and the possibility of creating group counseling with peers
- Create water safety education for pool cleaners and installers, realtors, rental companies, and insurance companies that they can share with clients
- Campaign, that will be initiated by the County Health Department, to educate homeowners and potential buyers of the requirements regarding pool safety in a home
- Create campaigns that provide safe sleep and water safety training
- Continued focus and education regarding infant safe sleep and early prenatal care
- Focus on unsafe sleep infant deaths and impact related to caretaker substance use
 - Action: Convene work group to address the needs of pregnant/parenting individuals with SUDs and the children in their care to include healthcare providers
- Strengthen guidance and education for understanding mandatory reporting laws for abused, neglected, or dependent children
- Gun violence/safe storage education campaign – Public Health gun lock distribution
- Legislative advocacy to increase the recommended age of youth being left home alone
- Continue to provide safe sleep education to citizens of the County/Consider a safe sleep billboard
 - Action 1: Local agencies to provide safe sleep education. This is provided via face-to-face interactions/discussions, brochures, and educational pamphlets. Safe Sleep brochures added to packets to provide parents at the Children's Advocacy Center; City Police Department notified team that all infant or child deaths in the home should have a DSS response especially if there are other children still living in the home; safe sleep educational information posted on County Health Departments Facebook and Instagram pages
- County should continue to provide gun safety education to the community
 - County should consider gang violence education in the school system
 - Action 2: Chairperson reached out to City Police Department and County Schools who confirmed that County Schools are participating in the ST AR program (Student, Training, and Response) in 5th grade with a ST AR officer. The Chairperson also reached out to Safe Kids Coordinator who informed that Safe Kids provides information regarding gun safety to every first grader in County Schools through the "Kids Tips Training" program. They also have brochures and pamphlets that are handed out at community events throughout the year regarding gun safety and gun violence. County Health Dept also posted education about firearm

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safety to the social media Facebook and Instagram pages. CFPT recommends that county leaders will continue to advocate for and support the need for the County to participate in these programs to educate the community regarding gun violence issues. County should consider educational activities related to gang violence for the schools

- Continue providing car seat safety checks and seat belt education for the county
 - Action: The chairperson contacted the local Safe Kids Coalition. There are currently 3 fire departments in the area that provide car seat safety checks. Atrium Health also provides car seat safety checks. Safe Kids Coalition hosts 3 free events each year to advertise/promote car seat safety in the community. Safe Kids Coalition also uses social media and provides brochures and packets to local daycares and schools. Every first-grade class in the County is taught "Kid Tips Training" for child passenger safety. Law enforcement periodically has "click it or tick it" check points. Count Public Health Center shared educational materials on social media websites including Facebook & Instagram. CFPT team recommends continuing all these activities
- Continue to provide education and pack and plays to support safe sleep
- Explore other options to provide safe sleep environments, such as cribs
- Continue to provide education and dispense gun locks to the community
- Continue to educate community on age/weight appropriate vehicle child restraints or booster seats
- Schools/Colleges to provide counseling services or a screening process to see how the children are doing socially, emotionally as well as their mental health
- Send out information to the schools, childcare centers, and family medicine offices about the importance of routinely checking your smoke detectors and replacing them
- Unsafe sleeping conditions and environments that include “co-sleeping” or “bed sharing” with an infant have been identified as possible contributing factors to infant deaths in the County. Safe sleep initiatives, activities, and recommendations for the prevention of Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths (SUIDS) and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The provision of safe sleep information and education to parents and caregivers of infants. The continued provision of “Pack ‘n Plays” for eligible parents and caregivers who do not have a safe place for their babies to sleep
- Initiatives, activities, and programs that address maternal substance use during pregnancy
- Continue outreach and education regarding the importance of having children vaccinated according to the CDC’s Vaccine Schedule for Children
- Providing ongoing education in: Recognizing and reporting child abuse; Youth Violence/Suicide Prevention; Flu Immunizations
- Continue education efforts in: Safe sleeping for infants; Trauma Informed Training and Awareness; Pregnancy risk factors and importance of early prenatal care; Flu immunizations and benefits
- Continue to participate in community outreach and community gathering functions
- Request for Lab to test for THC (vapes)

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- Increase need for SW; DHS and Schools as the homeless numbers continue to increase and increased risk for mental health needs
- Evidence based treatment for substance use involving juveniles
- Support for Recovery High Schools
- Enforce medication compliance by every medical provider
- Advance programs to prioritize high-risk kids
- Find ways to retrieve records promptly within the school systems
- Reinforce the importance of Safe Sleep
- Expand programs, safety, substance abuse help, etc. into the school systems
- Education in the school systems and with the health department
- SAFE Kids Team to educate school-age children on how to use helmets and seatbelts on ATV
- More Child Restraint Education
- Car Safety Seat Training
- Stiffer penalties for unsafe driving practices
- More education on the effects of vaping
- Educate providers to obtain unification from each system to communicate for maximum care
- Consistently follow up with the mother after delivery
- Referrals and recommendations from providers should have a better method of identifying children
- Promotion of proper vehicle restraints
- Encouragement/Follow-up of required prenatal visits
- Requirement of adult supervision for publicly announced events
- Better gun safety education
- The NC SAFE Campaign needs to continue to promote safe gun storage across NC in ways that reach more gun owners as well as parents/caregivers
 - County Government and community partners should promote the NC SAFE campaign to encourage and aid gun owners to secure their firearms in an effective manner (e.g., through distribution of gun locks)
 - Action: Team representatives partnered with other local governmental & non-governmental agencies to promote safe firearm storage as part of the NC SAFE Campaign. A local kickoff event for the campaign was held on 06/08/2023 and additional events are scheduled for June 2024
- State legislators in NC should improve the availability of SUD treatment resources for youth by strongly considering support of the following strategies: 1) increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for youth behavioral health services, 2) housing and/or loan forgiveness for NC behavioral health professionals

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serving youth with SUD, and 3) state-funded grants for students pursuing an education in licensed clinical mental/ behavioral health care

- Action: County HHS Director shared these recommendations with leadership at NC
- NC DSS should develop and share a training program for managers and staff in the hospitality industry (food/lodging) about mandatory reporting laws
 - Action: County HHS Director shared these recommendations with leadership at NC
- NC DSS should consider creating a statewide phone number for reporting of suspected child abuse, neglect, dependency, and sex trafficking
 - Action: County HHS Director shared these recommendations with leadership at NC
- NC DSS should consider seeking a revision to NC statute that would enable CPS staff to use the central registry of DSS involvement at the time of intake
 - Action: County HHS Director shared these recommendations with leadership at NC
- Safe Sleep NC should continue to review the safe sleep literature/research, looking for promising or best practices that can lead to caregiver behavior change related to implementation of safe sleep recommendations. Safe Sleep NC should disseminate this information widely to key stakeholders (e.g., healthcare providers, parent groups, childcare providers, WIC, lactation support providers, community health workers, etc.) & explore opportunities to implement promising interventions in NC
 - Action: County CFPT will share the link to updated Safe Sleep NC videos with local agencies and providers that serve infants and families. Team chair shared this recommendation with Safe Sleep NC staff in January 2024
- Local Hospital's Mother-Baby Unit & Lactation Consultants should ensure that all parents (including fathers) receive safe sleep education that discourages co-sleeping
 - Action: Team Chair spoke with Hospital Mother-Baby Unit leadership in May 2023 about safe sleep education provided to parents/caregivers at the hospital during the post-partum period
- County government should fund a part-time, 20 hour per week position that is dedicated to leading and coordinating youth mental health & suicide prevention efforts
 - Action: The County CFPT/CCPT Chair, CHHS Director, & CHHS Public Health Director met with the County Behavioral Health Manager to convey the team's concerns about the youth mental health & suicide crisis, the urgent need to address it, the current lack of sufficient leadership/coordination of the efforts, and the team's perspective that it is a county-wide need that should be led by County government. The County Behavioral Health Manager and CHHS Director conveyed this recommendation to their Assistant County Manager
- Educate on gun safety and the use of gun locks
 - Action: County Sheriff's Department donated 8 gun locks to be passed out to the community; with a box full of gun locks that were donated from North Carolina Health and Human Services
- Continued interagency/partner (doctors, day care community, etc.) training programs to raise awareness about unsafe sleep/co-sleeping

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- Action: Action plans to reduce child deaths due to unsafe sleep/cosleeping have been implemented--See the 2023 County SOTCH Report
- The CFPT generally recommends placing emphasis on maternal and prenatal health. Investments into access, availability, and affordability are essential. Education on the importance of prenatal care is also critical
 - Action: Development of a network of OBGYN and women's health providers. Creation of educational materials to distribute to primary care providers
- Generally, the CFPT recommended for these cases that parents and youth alike are able to become health literate, enabling them to monitor existing health conditions and appropriately manage their illnesses
 - Action: H&NC continues to support their Health Education unit for health promotion. Multiple agencies offer direct services that can promote health literacy
- Driver awareness and promoting the habit of being an "active driver" at all times
 - Action: Multiple agencies involved with SafeKids, which promotes injury prevention
- Continue to provide educational information to the community about the importance of a Safe Sleep area, accompanied by "Unimpaired Sleep" by the caregiver
 - Action: County Health Department programs, clinics, & services (i.e.- Maternity Clinic, CMHRP & CMARC, PPNB HY, NFP HV) along with Hospital's Women's Care Unit & medical offices that provide care to infants, are to continue to promote Safe Sleep areas & practices, along with Unimpaired Sleep practice by the parent(s)/caregiver(s)
- Continue to provide educational information to the community about the dangers of creating an environment for a child to be left alone or get access to get trapped inside of a hot car
 - Action: Health Department programs (i.e.- CMARC. PPNB HV, NFP HV) along with Hospital's medical offices & community mental health offices that provide care to parents/caregivers of infants & toddlers are to continue to promote avoiding leaving children in cars to minimize the risk of fatalities due to heat strokes
- Continue to provide educational information to the community about the importance of water safety
 - Action: The CFPT Chairperson initiated contact with the CFPT Chairperson on 8/28/23 & an Environmental Health worker on 4/23/24 in the county where the fatality occurred to assess if the swim area is regulated & if any safety measures/signage are in place for public viewing
- When a parent is convicted of abuse and/or death of a child and placed on probation, we recommend a condition of probation be the parent not be allowed around any child without supervision
 - As a team, we understand this requires further discussions with systems beyond our scope of contacts
- More suicide prevention education and information about services available is Spanish and other languages

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- Action: Seek additional information about resources and services available for non-English speaking individuals
- Host Safe Sleep training for families and provide Pack n' Plays purchased with CFPT grant funding to encourage safe sleep at home
 - CFPT partnered with the County Partnership for Young Children to host two Safe Sleep training sessions for families that participated in their Pampered Pantry Program. After completion of the training, families received a pack n' play and additional safe sleep resources
- Provide educational information to the community about the importance of following safe sleep guidelines
 - Action: Health department will feature safe sleep educational information on social media and continue to provide safe sleep educational information through clinics. DSS will educate and provide safe sleep materials to clients at each interaction. Safe sleep educational materials will be distributed to medical providers in the community. Virtual meeting with Cribs 4 Kids was scheduled to plan a partnership with CFPT team. CFPT team created a local safe sleep brochure to distribute to the community
- Provide educational information to the community about the importance of following seatbelt/car seat guidelines
 - Action: Health Department staff/CFPT team member enrolled in a certified child passenger safety technicians class, will provide this service and distribute educational materials to the community. The Health Department continues to provide car seat/seatbelt safety resources and information through clinics

C. CFPT Accomplishments

Within reports to the local county board of health and county commissioners, some local CFPTs decided to include their team's accomplishments throughout the year. Select accomplishments are listed below:

- Medication lock boxes are available for distribution in collaboration with Western Youth Network
- Car seats are available for clients with Medicaid or uninsured and installed by certified install through the Health Department
- Narcan is available for distribution to anyone in the community that is at risk, has friends/family at risk, and community partners through the Health Department
- Head Start employees were trained by Paramedicine Paramedic in how to use Narcan. Narcan supplied to each Head Start by Health Department
- Attendance at the NC Child Fatality Prevention Summit in Chapel Hill on March 30, 2023
- The team sponsored a Youth Suicide Prevention Community Conversation event on May 17, 2023, which pulled together representatives from a variety of community agencies that serve youth. State and local data on youth mental health & suicide were shared with attendees who then generated ideas for community education & training opportunities and prevention, intervention, & postvention efforts
- Team representatives partnered with other local governmental & nongovernmental agencies to promote safe firearm storage as part of the NC SAFE Campaign. A local kickoff event for the campaign was held on 06/08/2023

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- The team used their FY23 state funding to purchase Pack ‘n Plays and fitted sheets for distribution to Sistas Caring 4 Sistas (SC4S), a local community-based doula program founded by women of color for women of color, and Buncombe County’s Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program
- Focus on safe sleep and utilized funds from Ann Wolfe mini grant to support continued safe sleep work; continued to encourage early prenatal care; continued to look at infant and teen deaths related to illegal substances
- Community education was provided to the team and posted on the Cleveland County Health Departments social media websites regarding infant safe sleep practices, gun violence, and motor vehicle/car seat safety
- Conversations with other counties who inquired about our Safe Sleep Onesie initiative
- Continue to give Safe Sleep Brochures to women at their initial Medicaid application visit
- Continue Support of our Triple P Parenting classes, incorporating the safe sleep initiative
- After reviewing a fatality case where drowning was determined to be the cause of death, our local team worked diligently to promote safety in and around water. In an effort to increase knowledge and awareness of appropriate water safety measures, a team representative visited with all local pediatric practices and distributed water safety educational handouts for provider use with patients. The team also worked to ensure there were other free or affordable water safety education programs for children in Davie. Davie County YMCA continues to offer water safety education programming to all second graders in Davie County free of charge. The team also determined that water safety education should be added to the packet of resources and educational materials provided to and reviewed with every family involved with the child welfare system
- Davie’s Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team (CCP/CFPT) purchased pack n plays – a baby safe space used for sleeping or playing - to promote safe sleeping and prevent deaths and injury from co-sleeping. The purchases were made with state funds received by Davie County Health and Human Services for CCPT/CFPT purposes. The Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team was represented at Smart Start’s KidsFest event to promote safe sleeping and make people aware of Davie’s pack n play program. The CCPT/CFPT also attended and promoted safety in and around water to participants at the National Night Out event in August, and Davie County Public Safety Day in October
- Health Department held a Family Celebration in July 2023 to promote safe sleep, dental screenings, and car seat checks. There were more than 23 pack and plays given away
- In 2023, the CFPT purchased 8 pack-n-plays for infants as a safe alternative to co-sleeping with a parent. These were available at no cost to families who were unable to afford to purchase a crib and did not have a safe sleep alternative for their infants
- In August 2023, the Duplin County Health Department was awarded a Dr. Ann F. Wolfe Endowment Mini-Grant for the improvement of Child Health and Infant Mortality. The project was funded for \$8,000 to include a total of 70-cribette sets (each set includes a pack-n-play, sleep sack, fit sheet, pacifier, and education materials in English or Spanish) from the Crib for Kids’ program. Also included is a Sammi and Sasha Toy Kit which includes a miniature pack-and-play, a baby pacifier, and a sleep sack. This will be used as a visual aid to demonstrate safe sleep practice during education/training in-service and one-on-one participant appointments. The target population is Medicaid, uninsured, and low-income families with infants under 12 months of age and/or pregnant women living in Duplin County. The goal is to decrease infant mortality and provide medical providers with education about the

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importance of Safe Sleep. Clients can be referred by DSS and Health Department case managers who work with at-risk families with young children and pregnant women. There was a total of 38 pack-n-plays distributed throughout 2023 to those in need. There was safe sleep training provided to Duplin County's CFPT in November 2023

- During 2023, CFPT members participated in the 2023 Forsyth County Walk-A-Mile To Save Our Babies that was held on September 9, 2023. The Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition (FCIMRC) organized this event to commemorate the 9th year of the Infant Mortality Awareness month
- The team continued to promote the Child Passenger Safety (CPS) program. The Health Department purchased a car seat installation simulator to better protect the safety of the technician installing the car seat. Jones County DSS is considering a plan to have one to two staff members trained to install car seats as a back-up
- Continued to support Case Management of High-Risk Children case worker to be able to purchase car seats and pack and plays. The case worker is trained in installing car seats and if a parent completes the CMARC program they may get a car seat-which the case worker installs and gives education about. The case worker also works with Care Management of High-Risk Pregnancies- and in that program parents are provided pack and plays and given safe sleep education
- Discussed partnership with the Sheriff's Department to begin a gun lock give away at community events. Researching ways to obtain gun locks and what events to do giveaways
- The team participated in April Child Abuse Prevention Month and the team focused on Safe Sleep. We did a media campaign on Facebook. and handed material out to our patients in the clinic
- One Team member enrolled in a certified child passenger safety technician class
- Gun locks are available at the Mitchell County Health Department and are provided to families as needed
- CFPT funds were used to purchase nine convertible car seats that were distributed to families in need. Parents/guardians receiving the car seats were referred to New Hanover County Health and Human Services Safe Kids Program for education on proper installation and use
- Portable cribs purchased by CFPT funds were provided to families with infants, ages zero to six months when an unsafe sleeping environment was identified. The portable cribs were distributed by the NHC HHS Care Management for At Risk Children program. Individuals receiving the cribs were instructed how to set up the cribs and were given extensive education on Safe Sleep Practices and ways to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Information and training on water safety was provided to CFPT members. Additional resources were shared by team members and the DHHS local child fatality prevention team program coordinator in attendance, and distributed to the community via social media, school liaisons, etc; safe sleep practices training was provided to CCFPT members, and resources were provided to members for community distribution; fire and burn safety training was provided to CFPT members and resources were provided to members for community distribution
- Team received information for obtaining free smoke alarms with installation. Special presentation from Community Care of North Carolina to the Team
- Person County Health Department social workers are collaborating with community partners including Life Choices, Diaper Bank of NC, and Safe Haven
- Person County Health Department social workers continue to provide car seats along with education and installation (if needed) to the community

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- Person County Health Department social workers provide pack and play cribs to promote safe sleep
- Child Abuse Awareness Event was scheduled for April 22nd with local community partners that was cancelled due to weather, but rescheduled for April 27th, 2024; Planted Pinwheel Gardens were planted throughout the county and yard signs, banners and pole banners were displayed across the county
- Hosted Darkness to Light Training on April 4th
- Hosted 2 sessions of the training Disable the Label on April 14th and Mental Health First Aid September 15, 2023 in conjunction w/ Vaya Health, DSS, and WithAll
- In November 2023, the team requested and received education from representatives of Young Life of Randolph County. This community resource is a teen mentorship program that focuses on parenting education for teens, providing community resources, safe sleep education, basic CPR classes and more
- The Child Fatality Team Coordinator requested a Safe Sleep Educational kit from Cribs for Kids and 30 board books emphasizing safe sleep. The kit is anticipated to arrive in 2024. The Safe Sleep Educational kit will be used to train staff, community partners and CFPT members about creating a safe sleep environment for infants up to 12 months of age, with the goal of reducing the risk of death due to an unsafe sleep environment and/or sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The CFPT will continue to seek and obtain education regarding SIDS and Safe Sleep for children in 2024 since this continues to be an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed. The team will continue to address any unsafe sleep conditions by making Pack ‘n Play portable cribs available along with safe sleep education through the Books for Babies Program in partnership with the Randolph Partnership for Children and Randolph Health
- Co-Chairperson viewed a webinar by the Injury & Violence Prevention Branch that shared information & data from the Violent Death Reporting System, as well as NC FASTER & the link to supporting the new NC Safe Program
- Chairperson & Co-Chairperson participated in CFPT Open Forums, which are monthly meeting that serve as a medium for open conversations, questions, & idea exchange for new & current members to improve familiarity & confidence with their role on the team
- Established 2 workgroups for tactical approaches to the recommendations made; the Data/Research Work Group, and the Community Outreach Work Group
- Began process of establishing a system to track child fatality data locally
- Organized and established a CFPT Microsoft Team for roster management and inter-agency collaboration.
- Child Abuse Awareness signs and cups were purchased for child abuse awareness month and provided to the public and team members
- The team partnered with local county and community agencies (Trillium Health Resources and The John 3: 16 Center) in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The team gathered to plant pinwheels at the Warren County Courthouse. Pinwheel gardens and signs were displayed in front of the Health Department, Department of Social Services, and Warren County Courthouse to bring awareness to child abuse in the month of April
- The team ran two ads in local newspaper to provide community information about child abuse prevention, how to seek help, what the pinwheels represent and how to become a foster parent and fostering. The team also posted the proclamation on all of the county's social media platforms.
- Safe Sleep Billboard was on display for all Warren County residents

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- One team member participated in a webinar on Keeping Families and Communities Safe concerning firearm misuse
- The Team hosted a successful “Moments of Silence” event on Thursday April 6, 2023
- The team used the state funds to purchase car seats that could be distributed through the car seat program within the Yadkin County Human Services Agency
- The Health Department offers free Child Safety Seat Training with 5 certified technicians
- To promote safe sleep practices, members of CFPT collaborated with Babies Easy Safe Sleep Training (BESST) to provide pack-n-plays to participating mothers and fathers/partners. BESST has also been offered to health department nursing and social work staff, as well as to nursing staff in local obstetrical offices
- Continued to offer Back to Sleep education to parents during prenatal and pediatric visits
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) training is offered throughout the County
- Provided patient education on signs of impending delivery. Prenatal patients are encouraged to seek immediate medical care to potentially delay delivery
- Continued the Breast Feeding Peer Counselor Program/breastfeeding support
- Current members also participate in the Safe Kids Consortium
- The Health Department has a program called ‘Catch My Breath’ with education on vaping, smoking, and general substance abuse. This is offered in the school systems
- CFPT partnered with the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children to host two Safe Sleep training sessions for families that participated in their Pampered Pantry Program. After completion of the training, families received a pack n’ play and additional safe sleep resources. 13 pack n’ plays were distributed
- Distribution of pack & plays and car seats to promote safe practices
- In-service training on safe sleep presented by community partners
- Participated in National Night Out
- Offer car seat installation and training to community
- The Team focused on one concern in 2023: After-School Care
 - Tyrrell Elementary School now has an After School program that allows school aged children that are enrolled to stay afterschool until 6:00pm
 - In 2024, the team will re-visit options for a Boys and Girls Club
 - In 2024, the team will discuss the options for obtaining lock boxes to decrease the risk of children finding and swallowing a deadly substance
 - In 2024, the team will continue to work on reestablishing the Kinder Swim Program for grades K-5
- An in-service on fire safety was provided for 15 local CFPT members
- The team sponsored a tri-county workshop on child death scene investigation with guest speaker- Lisa Mayhew with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. There were thirty-five attendees
- Twelve team members participated in a webinar on safe sleep sponsored by the Children and Youth Branch, Division of Public Health
- Awarded the Level Up Parenting program with a \$1000 mini grant to assist with buying 5 new car seats, diapers and wipes for participants
- Lead CCPT subcommittee members attended a 5-part series on a nationally recognized Gun Safety Training model due to the recent spike in homicides and suicides by firearms in Guilford County.

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CCPT/CFPT distributed gun locks to community partners to help reduce the number of injuries and fatalities of children in Guilford County

- The team participated with other County agencies to help present the Maternal Health Expo that was held in April of 2023. Topics encompassed were car seat safety, smoking cessation, Safe sleep, distribution of pack n plays, as well as overall wellness through healthy eating and exercise. The team distributed car seats, pack n plays and Safe Sleep “This Side Up” Onesies. The 2024 Maternal Health Expo is currently being planned
- A Foster Care Picnic was held on Mother’s Day weekend at Blissful Ridge. There was a book-give-away, a petting zoo, and games
- Rockingham County’s Mobile Dental Unit, “Smart Mouth”, began serving children in the community on September 11, 2023 at Dillard Academy in Madison, NC. The purpose of the Mobile Dental Unit is to provide dental services to children who are uninsured/underinsured or receive Medicaid. In its first three days, there were nearly twenty children seen by our staff. Collective data shows we have seen 94 children since opening. The majority of the children that have been seen in the MDU have not seen a dentist in six months, have never been seen by a dentist, and/or do not have a home dentist.
- In September, we received the Ann Wolfe Grant through the NCPHA. This grant was for \$8000 and will benefit our community with our Safe Sleep Initiative providing cribs and pack n’ plays to those that need a safe sleep environment for their new baby
- The Family Care Coordination team were nominated for the GlaxoSmithKline LHD Recognition Award at the 2023 NCALPH Conference in Concord, NC
- Health Education participated in the #ClearTheCrib Challenge with various agencies across North Carolina. On November 8, 2023 we were notified that our team won the challenge and received a “Safe Sleep Toy Kit.” The kit consisted of a scaled down version of a pack n play, a baby, and a safe sleep onesie for the Health Education team to utilize for educating families with the safe sleep initiative. The Health Education team continues to provide individual appointments for safe sleep education, smoking cessation, and car seat inspections as referrals and requests are received
- The Annual Trunk or Treat was held on October 28, 2023 at Blissful Ridge. There were more than 285 attendees including partners
- Rockingham County Department of Public Health officially partnered with the National Cribs for Kids® Organization on November 6, 2023. A Trademark License Agreement was finalized and is filed with the Rockingham County Department of Public Health. Subsequently, on November 7, 2023 Rockingham County Department of Public Health was selected by the UNC Collaborative for Maternal and Infant Health as one of only three counties to participate in the Safe Sleep NC Pilot Initiative. Debra Allen was selected to be our Safe Sleep Champion. Expected timeframe: January 2024 – May 2025. Stay tuned for more details on the pilot program
- The team continued to work on suicide prevention and mental health and added A TV safety. Trillium remains a great partner and provides resources that are accessible to the public on their website. Medication lockboxes were distributed by ARHS, DSS and the local police department. The new 988 Suicide Prevention materials were distributed within the county
- Various team members continued partnering with Albemarle Overdose Prevention Coalition as schedules permitted
- Suicide Prevention and Mental Health resources, ATV Safety, and Safe Sleep resources were the 2023 focus project

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- Medication lockboxes were distributed by ARHS, DSS and the local police department. The new 988 Suicide Prevention materials were distributed within the county
- The team focused on mental health, cyber bullying, gun safety, and suicide prevention. Trillium is a great partner and provides resources. The team discussed the overdose prevention coalition and received updates. Gun safety was also frequently discussed as a project. The team discussed resources and a continued partnership with Healthy Opportunities. Medication lockboxes were distributed by ARHS, DSS and the local police department. The new 988 Suicide Prevention materials were distributed within the county
- The 2023 Focus Topic was Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Resources and Vaping Education
- The team focused on resources for Suicide Prevention, Mental Health, and A TV safety. The school district sent out information to school age clients at open house and start of school on Suicide, Mental Health Access, Vaping and A TV safety. Gates County Schools installed the Halo System that detects and alerts staff members to potential vape use in school. Gates County EMS established a Baby Safe Haven Box, which is a safety device for individuals in a crisis and provides a designated area to safely and securely turn a child over to EMS, medical personnel, and other appropriate resources. The Gates County Opioid Task force was established, met regularly, and is working towards distributing their funds where the county deems them the most necessary
- The 2023 Focus Topic was Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Resources
- The 2023 Focus Topic was Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Resources and Gun Violence
- Medication lockboxes were distributed by ARHS, DSS and the local police department. The new 988 Suicide Prevention materials were distributed within the county. River City/Youth Build received information for vaping and suicide prevention. The teams major focus for 2023 centered around the formation of a Safe Kids coalition for Pasquotank County. Various team agencies collaborated with Safe Kids representative Jason Nesbit, who visited and discussed with team leaders what would be required to form a coalition. Upon his visit and following further team discussion, considering the collective interest from agency partners, it was decided that the team would pursue and apply
- The 2023 Focus Project was Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Resources for youth

Beyond the requirement to submit a report to local BOH and CC, this information feedback loop provides a greater look at the responses, activities, and work of the LCPTs state-wide. Providing system problems, recommendations, actions, and accomplishments of teams across the state allows for shared ideas and coordination between county teams. Please use this information with your LCFPTs to gain additional ideas and build upon recommendations to prevent future child deaths.