

Item Title: Wake County Child Fatality Prevention Team/Community Child Protection Team (CFPT/CCPT) Annual Report For 2017

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners receive and review the annual report from the Wake County Child Fatality Prevention Team/Community Child Protection Team (CFPT/CCPT). This report describes causes of childhood mortality for Wake County in 2016, and shares examples of team recommendations for system changes to reduce the likelihood of future child deaths.

Item Summary:

Purpose: State statutes require local health departments to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist, and to submit a report annually to their local County Commissioners and boards of health.

Background: Wake County's CFPT/CCPT reviews representative child fatalities within the county and makes recommendations for preventing future fatalities. Local CFPT teams are the bedrock of the three-tier child fatality prevention system in North Carolina, which also includes the state CFPT and the Child Fatality Task Force. The total number of Wake County child deaths was minimally changed from 2015 to 2016. The largest category of deaths continued to occur in infancy. The Black Infant Mortality Rate was 2.4 times higher than the White Non-Hispanic Infant Mortality rate.

Board Goal: The action supports routine County operations.

Fiscal Impact: This action has no financial impact.

Additional Information:

This report presents infant and child mortality rates for the year 2016. State and county wide data are compiled and reported by the North Carolina Center for Health Statistics a full year after the calendar events. Representative 2016 child deaths were reviewed by the Wake County CFPT/CCPT throughout the 2017 year. Staff submitted this report to the Human Services Board on November 15, 2018.

The total number of Wake County child deaths was minimally changed from 2015 (105) to 2016 (103). Among children aged 1-17, injury accounted for as many deaths (15) as illness (15). Violent deaths (2 suicide and 4 homicide) accounted for about one third (6/19) of the injury deaths overall. Six infant deaths were classified as "other cause" because the infant was found co-sleeping, and in these cases, it is impossible to know if the cause of death was natural or accidental by suffocation.

The largest category of deaths continued to occur in infancy, before the first birthday. The infant mortality rate in Wake County was 5.5 per 1000 births overall, better than the statewide rate of 7.2 and the national rate of 5.9. This low infant mortality rate contributed to Wake County being named the Healthiest County in North Carolina in 2018.

The Black Infant Mortality Rate was 2.4 times higher, at 13.6, similar to the North Carolina rate of 13.4. The leading cause of infant mortality deaths is preterm delivery, and the March of Dimes ranks North Carolina 44th in terms of racial and ethnic disparities in preterm births. Differences in social determinants of health are believed to contribute to the higher premature birth rate found in African-American women.

In the last year, members of the Wake County CFPT/CCPT have participated in a number of partnerships focused on addressing social determinants of health and promoting resilience. These include the Wake County Population Health Task Force, Advocates for Health in Action, and the Wake County Medical Society's Community Health Foundation.

Child Fatality Prevention Team members have promoted community education efforts to reduce child deaths from unintentional injury from drowning, motor vehicle accidents, and infant bed suffocation. We have also educated community partners to improve recognition and reporting of suspected child maltreatment.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Cover Letter for Board of Health Annual Report
3. CFPT 2017 Annual Report
4. Wake County CFPT/CCPT Membership List per general Statute 7B-1407