

Item Title: Wake County Child Fatality Task Force/Community Child Protection Team Annual Reports for 2013 and 2014

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners receives a report and information from the Chairperson of the Wake County Child Fatality Task Force/Community Child Protection Team.

Item Summary:

Dr. Theresa Flynn, Chairperson for the Wake County Child Fatality Task Force/Community Child Protection Team (CFTF/CCPT), will present the 2016 Annual Report of Childhood Mortality in Wake County for years 2013 and 2014.

The Wake County Child Fatality Task Force/Community Child Protection Team is required to provide annual reports of activities to the Wake County Board of Commissioners according to GS 7B-1406(a)(2). State and County-wide data are compiled and reported a full year (or more) after the calendar events and are unavailable until released by the State Center for Health Statistics.

The intent of the task force is to assess the records of selected cases in which children are being served by child protective serves and the records of all deaths of children in NC from birth to age 18 in order to (1) develop a communitywide approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect, (2) understand the causes of childhood deaths, (3) identify any gaps or deficiencies that may exist in the delivery of services to children and their families by public agencies that are designed to prevent future child abuse, neglect or death, and (4) make and implement recommendations for changes to laws, rules, and policies that will support the safe and healthy development of our children and prevent future child abuse, neglect, and death.

Wake County's CFTF/CCPT performs regular confidential reviews of representative deaths of infants and children age 17 or less seeking systematic causes or conditions that might be preventable and suggesting public policy and programmatic solutions. The major data elements include the following:

The overall number of Wake County childhood deaths decreased by 19% between years 2012 to 2013, despite a significant increase in the Wake County population. Perinatal conditions caused the highest number of deaths followed by illnesses as the second leading cause of death during calendar years 2013 and 2014.

Cause of Death	Wake County 2012	Wake County 2013	Wake County 2014
Birth Defects	22	13	12
Perinatal Conditions	55	34	35
Sudden infant death syndrome	1	0	0
Illnesses	19	23	20
Unintentional injuries	12	16	16
<i>motor vehicle injuries</i>	6	5	11
<i>injuries caused by fire</i>	-	-	1
<i>drowning</i>	4	6	1
<i>Suffocation/Choking/Strangulation</i>	0	1	2
<i>poisoning</i>	0	0	0
<i>other unintentional injuries</i>	2	4	1
Homicide	3	1	1
Suicide	2	3	2
All other	5	6	10
TOTAL	119	96	96

Infant deaths, as defined as child death at less than one year of age, accounted for 65 percent of all child deaths in 2013 and 61 percent in 2014. In 2012, infant deaths accounted for 73% of the total child deaths in Wake County. Wake County's total infant mortality rate in 2013 was 5.1 (rate per 1000 live births) and was 4.7 in 2014, compared to a statewide rate of 7.1. These statistics were one factor in Wake County being named healthiest County in North Carolina in both 2013 and 2014. Unfortunately, racial disparities in infant mortality rates continue to exist.

Infant Deaths < One Year of Age	2012	2013	2014
Statewide	883	832	860
Wake County	87	63	59

While the number of deaths of children under ten decreased between 2013 and 2014, deaths of children older than ten increased from seven deaths to 11 deaths in children ages 10-14 and rose from six to 14 deaths in children ages 15-17.

Attachments:

1. 2013-2014 Child Deaths in North Carolina and Wake County
2. 2012-2013 Child Deaths in North Carolina and Wake County
3. Infant Mortality Report: North Carolina 2014 Final Infant Death Rates (per 1,000 live births)
4. 2014 Member List, Wake County Combined CFPT/CCPT
5. 2015 Member List, Wake County Combined CFPT/CCPT 2014-2015 CFPT/CCPT Team Activities