



**Department of Human Services**  
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## **UNION COUNTY CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM REPORT OF 2022 DEATHS REVIEWED**

The North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention System (CFP System) was created by General Statute in 1991, and beginning July 1995 local Child Fatality Prevention Teams were required by state statute to review the death of every child resident. The system's structure and authority are derived from Article 14 of the NC Juvenile Code. The purpose of the local team is to prevent future deaths by identifying gaps in systems and policies that may have contributed to child deaths, and to make recommendations for improvements to the North Carolina CFPT. Union County operates a dual Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) – Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) that meets quarterly.

Your Union County Child Fatality Prevention Team held (4) review meetings in 2023. A total of 24 deaths that occurred in children birth to 18 years of age were reviewed during calendar year 2023.

Cause of deaths were:

- 4 – due to Perinatal Conditions (Prematurity)
- 4 – due to Birth Defects
- 5 – due to Accident
- 1 – due to Homicide
- 6 – due to Illness/Medical Conditions
- 1 – due to Suicide
- 3 – due to Other

The leading cause of death for infants 0-1 year of age was natural causes. Of this age group, totaling 15 infants, the specific causes of death were (4) Perinatal Condition (prematurity); (4) Birth Defects; (6) Other (unknown cause of mortality; and SIDS); and (1) Homicide.

9 deaths that occurred in children aged 1-17 were reviewed in 2023. Of this age group, the specific causes of death were (5) Accident; (3) Illness/Medical Conditions; (1) Suicide.

### **Other Data:**

<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Other – Hispanic</b>
7 Males	6 Males	0 Males
6 Females	2 Females	3 Female

### **System Problems:**

1. Proper child restraint or booster seats not used in vehicle accidents.
2. Children that are excelling academically and are entering college before the average age may not be getting the support or counseling needed for college.

### **Team Recommendations:**

1. Continue to educate community on age/weight appropriate vehicle child restraints or booster seats.
2. 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.



## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM REPORT OF 2023 CASES REVIEWED

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Community Child Protection Teams (CCPT) were established by law (GS 7B-1406) in May of 1991 as a means for the state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection. Union County operates a dual Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) – Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) that meets quarterly.

Your Union County CCPT held (4) reviews in 2023. A total of 4 child welfare and 1 adult services cases were reviewed.

### Cases involved:

- 5 – abuse, neglect, or dependency was found
- 0 – substance affected infants
- 3 – active cases entailing near fatality
- 0 – active cases entailing actual fatality

The overarching trends, findings, or conclusions the team identified when reviewing these cases:

Cases (1-2) severe neglect, medical neglect, malnourished, involved 2 siblings who had severe health issues, hard to find appropriate placements, 1 has since passed away while in our care as a now adult ward due to congenital medical issues, Case (3) 4 y/o male with level 3 autism, nonverbal, very difficult to place and find appropriate treatments/therapies, Case (4) 14 y/o female, JJ involvement, concerns of sex trafficking, difficult to find therapies/treatment/services, Case (5) 10 month old female, closed skull fracture, hard to get records from hospital, sought feedback from CCPT specialists on team

### Most common issues:

finding appropriate placement and treatment for foster children, need for more mental health providers, and more services for low-income parents who don't have insurance.

**Team Recommendations:** No recommendations are sent to the State for CCPT, as the purpose of these reviews is to assist the Child Welfare staff in determining opportunities to better address complex cases.