



**Jackson County Department of Public Health**


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Anna Lippard  
DIRECTOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Jackson County Commissioners and Board of Health

**FROM:** Jackson County CFPT Chairperson (Anna Lippard)   
Jackson County Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)

**SUBJECT:** Local CFPT Annual Report

**DATE:** February 24, 2025

The North Carolina Statute, Article 14, 7B-1406 and the CFPT Agreement Addenda with local health departments requires Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist and submit a report annually to their local county commissioners and boards of health.

The purpose of the local CFPTs are to:

- identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies;
- make and carry out recommendations for changes that will prevent future child deaths; and
- promote understanding of the causes of child deaths.

Attached is the Jackson County CFPT annual report for your review for calendar year 2024. Please feel free to contact me at 828-587-8225 if you have any questions.

Attachment

# 2024 Annual Report

## Jackson County Child Fatality Prevention Team

### 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, DSS, District Attorney's Office, Community Action Agency, Mental Health, Guardian Ad Litem, health department, among others, that provide services to children and their families.

The purpose of this report is to provide 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.

### II. Role of the Jackson County Commissioners and Board of Health

- Receive annual reports which contain recommendations and advocate for system improvements and needed resources, if requested.
- Appoint members of the local team as identified by the membership.

### III. Child Deaths by Cause, System Problems Identified, Recommendations for Prevention & Proposed Action

In 2024, the Jackson County CFPT reviewed six child deaths. No system problems were identified, and as a result, no recommendations or actions were proposed.

Below are highlights:

#### Child deaths reviewed in 2024:

AGE IN YEARS	CAUSE OF DEATH
Adolescent (13-17 years of age)	Accidents; Car occupant injured in non-collision transport accident, passenger, traffic accident **
Child (5-12 years of age)	Illnesses; Malignant neoplasm of connective and soft tissues
	Illnesses; Other specified disorders of muscle
Neonate (less than 30 days old)	Other; Other ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality
	Other; Other ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality
	Perinatal Conditions; Extreme immaturity

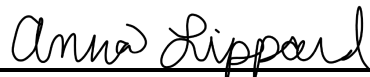
***\*\*This case is still under review and therefore pending.***

#### **IV. Jackson County CFPT Activities and Accomplishments**

- The team is preparing for new child fatality prevention system legislation that is set to go into effect July 1, 2025.
- As part of legislation changes, Jackson County BOCC unanimously voted for our Local Child Fatality Prevention Team to continue operating as a single-county team, rather than multi-county.
- In 2024, permanent child passenger safety checking stations were established at Jackson County Emergency Management, Balsam Fire Department, Cashiers Fire Department, Cullowhee Fire Department, Qualla Fire Department #2, and Savannah Fire Department.
- Safe Kids Jackson County had another big year, participating in 29 total events and serving 7,849 people.
  - A few examples of the events Safe Kids held or were apart of include:
    - Various Health Fairs and outreach events throughout the county
    - Jackson County Bike Rodeo
    - Two medication take back events, where 36.2 pounds of unwanted, expired medications were collected
- Social media outreach, press releases, and advertising play a key role in educating the public and promoting youth safety and injury prevention.

#### **V. Conclusion**

Thank you to the members of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and Board of Health 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 Health Director at 828-587-8225, respectively, should you have any questions about this report.



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Health Director

February 24, 2025

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Date