CATAWBA COUNTY

COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION & FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM
PURPOSE

- One team in every county
- Involve diverse agencies and disciplines
- Review Child Fatalities for children under the age of 18 in the County
- Identify system problems, needing improvements in order to maximize the safety of the community's children
- Make recommendations that act to prevent child deaths and address child protection issues
In 2014, Social Services received 3,362 reports of child maltreatment (6,796 children)

2,067 met state criteria to be accepted for assessment (4,158 children)

42% of children involved were birth to 5 yrs old

34% were between the ages of 6 and 11

24% were between the ages of 12 and 18

Neglect is most frequently type of report

50 reports assessed involved a positive drug screen for a newborn or mother at delivery

246 reports involving 497 children were investigated for significant physical abuse, sexual abuse or serious neglect
In 2014, there were 16 child deaths (15 in 2013)

62% of deaths involved children under the age of 1 (10)

13% ages 1-4 (2)

6% ages 5-9 (1)

13% ages 10-14 (2)

6% ages 15-17 (1)
CHILD FATALITY DATA

- 44% of child deaths in Catawba County stemmed from prenatal issues/perinatal conditions (7)
- 32% due to illness (5)
- 6% due to drowning (1)
- 6% due to asphyxiation (1)
- 6% due to SIDS (1)
- 6% due to choking (1)
AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- Properly assessing risk, safety, and trauma of children and families to prevent abuse, neglect, and inadequate prenatal care

- Continue prevention messages about Co-Sleeping/Safe Sleeping environments

- Enhance community awareness about the dangers of Distracted Driving Among Teens (Annual Preventing Distracted Driving Video Contest)

- Support the Period of Purple Crying for new parents

- Continue to advocate for early entry into Prenatal Care

- Support the Darkness to Light initiative regarding helping raise awareness of citizens to report child sexual abuse.
Areas of Emphasis

- Support substance abuse initiatives in the community (including Project Lazarus)

- Support Domestic violence initiatives in the community (Family Guidance Center)

- Examine prevalence of unrelated caretakers as perpetrators of abuse

- Explore legislation in other states criminalizing the abuse of substances by pregnant mothers
QUESTIONS?