

Drug Overdose Fatality Surveillance System (DOFSS)

Coordinator:

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State Website: <https://kiprc.uky.edu/programs/drug-overdose-surveillance>

Why is it used?

- To enhance the state's analytical capacity to identify drug overdose fatalities using multiple data sources.
- DOFSS data is routinely analyzed and is used to inform stakeholders and the public of state drug overdose fatalities through:
 - Reports, presentations and briefs on findings.
 - Peer-reviewed publications.
 - Multi-state prevention efforts and data collaborations.
 - Data requests from external and internal agencies, organizations and associations.
 - Creation of prevention and education materials.

What data is collected?

Over 400 data fields are collected, including, but not limited to:

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| • Demographics. | • Pill counts from scene. |
| • Place of injury and death. | • Evidence of needle or track marks. |
| • Cause of death. | • Compliance with prescribed medications. |
| • Drug paraphernalia found at scene. | • Detected drugs and concentrations found in blood, urine, or vitreous fluid. |
| • History of drug abuse or chronic pain. | |
| • Mental illness or suicidal ideation. | |
| • Known medical history. | |
| • Significant contributing conditions. | |

How is data collected?

Information is collected from:

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| • Vital statistics death certificates. | • Post-mortem toxicology results. |
| • Coroner investigation reports. | • KASPER records. |
| • Medical examiner autopsy reports. | |
| • Emergency Medical Services (EMS) patient run reports. | |



Data Strengths:

- Bridges the gaps by inputting the data into one centralized database.
- Captures additional drug overdose fatalities and identifies emerging trends and patterns.
 - Identification of specific drug involvement has increased from 76% to 98%.

Data Limitations:

- Data may not be available for all decedents.
- Investigative and toxicological data are not available for decedents when the death certificate is completed out-of-state or when the death is not referred to the local coroner's office.

How is the system evaluated?

- Routinely evaluated based on CDC guidelines to ensure data quality and completeness, and to measure the program's efficiency.

Data Set Availability:

- DOFSS data utilizes information from many proprietary data sets. A limited de-identified dataset can be made available on consultation with coordinators.

Data Release Policy:

- Due to DOFSS data sets being derived from data sources maintained by other entities, data release inquiries must go through the primary custodians.

Data Publications:

- An annual report, specialized briefs, and peer-reviewed publications are produced and available on the KIPRC website.

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