

Drug Overdose Fatality Surveillance System (DOFSS)

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State Web Site: <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/injury-topics/drug-overdose.html>

Sources of Information for DOFSS

The Drug Overdose Fatality Surveillance System (DOFSS) is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance the state's analytical capacity to identify drug overdose fatalities using multiple data sources.

Since 2013, DOFSS has collected surveillance data on fatal drug overdose fatalities in the state of Kentucky. Sources include:

- Vital statistics death certificates (with NCHS ICD-10 coding).
- Medical examiner autopsy reports.
- Coroner investigation reports.
- Post-mortem toxicology reports.
- Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) records.

Description of Data Collected

DOFSS includes over 400 individual data fields including, but not limited to: death certificate information (demographics, place of injury and death, causes of death literal text, significant contributing conditions text, ICD-10 coded underlying and multiple causes of death); coroner reports (e.g., drug paraphernalia found at scene, history of drug abuse, chronic pain, mental illness, or suicidal ideations, known medical history, compliance with prescribed medications, pill counts from scene, coroner narrative text); autopsy reports (e.g., body mass index, evidence of needle or track marks, internal organ weights, pills identified in stomach, causes of death per ME's opinions); post-mortem toxicology results (e.g., detected drugs and concentrations found in decedent's system in blood, urine, or vitreous fluid at time of death); and KASPER data (drug names, drug doses, date filled, pharmacy where prescription was filled, etc.)

Strengths of the Data

Without a centralized death investigation system, Kentucky drug overdose fatality data are not collected by a single agency. DOFSS is bridging the gaps by inputting the above data into one, centralized database. A comprehensive multi-source database is able to capture additional drug overdose fatalities and identify emerging trends and patterns of use and abuse that may not be readily identified through a single source. For example, identification of specific drugs involved in drug overdose deaths in Kentucky increased from 76% using a single data source to 98% using multiple data sources.

Data Limitations

All data elements within DOFSS may not be available for all decedents. Investigative and toxicological data is not available for decedents where the death certificate is completed out-of-state or where the death is not referred to the local coroner's office.

Specific Uses of Information

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.

System Evaluation

DOFSS is routinely evaluated based on CDC guidelines to ensure data quality, completeness, and measure the program's efficiency and validity of goals.

Data Set Availability

DOFSS data utilizes data from a number of proprietary data sets. The user will be required to request the original, identified data set from the appropriate data custodian.

Data Release Policy

DOFSS program data is derived from data sets maintained by other entities. Data release inquiries should be directed to the primary custodians of the data sets.

Data Publications

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

Suggested Data Citation

Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC). *Kentucky Drug Overdose Fatality Surveillance System (DOFSS)*. Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky [data year].

Contributing Author

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