**Medical Examiner/Toxicology Data Collection Items**

**Draft**

**Definition**

In the NFLIS ME/C data collection, a drug-involved death case is one in which the medical examiner or coroner requests toxicology analyses as a part of the death investigation and identification of a drug is confirmed. Thus, the primary data of interest is: identifying drugs present at time of death, as well as drugs identified as the cause of death or a contributing cause of death as determined by the medical examiner or corner.

**Medical Examiner and Coroner Office Core Data Items**

*Primary data collection items (required core data set)*

* Case ID/Unique Identifier
* Date of death
* Date of death record
* Examination completion date: this is the completion date of full autopsy, partial autopsy, or external exam
* Type of examination: full autopsy, partial autopsy, external exam
* Cause of death: include primary cause of death and contributing factors
* Manner of death: suicide, accident, homicide, natural, undetermined
* Location of death (county, city, and ZIP code)
* Age of Decedent
* Sex of Decedent
* Race/Ethnicity of Decedent
* Submitting agency

*Secondary data collection items (data elements as available)*

* Case history
  1. History of drug use, types of drugs reported in the history of use
* Known legitimate drug prescriptions of deceased
* Type of toxicology analysis requested (general screen, confirmation, synthetic cannabinoid panel etc.)

**Toxicology Laboratory Data Items**

*Primary data collection items (required core data set)*

* Case ID/Unique Identifier: if different from ME/C case ID/unique identifier
* Requesting agency name
* Date of analysis
* Drug(s) identified: this should include a list of individual drugs (alprazolam) and metabolites (alpha-hydroxy alprazolam), that have been confirmed in the body of the deceased even if that drug is not implicated in death.
* Identify whether samples were submitted to a reference laboratory for additional testing.

*Secondary data collection items (data elements as available)*

* If available provide confirmation result (concentration with units (e.g., concentrations established in ng/mL)).
* Identify matrices (i.e., peripheral blood, cardiac blood) along with the above confirmation data.