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
    a. 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.