

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION



NATIONAL FORENSIC LABORATORY INFORMATION SYSTEM

2022 Medical Examiner and Coroner Survey



Diversion Control Division

Drug Enforcement Administration

Conducted by



National Forensic Laboratory Information System Medical Examiner and Coroner Survey

The purpose of the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) Medical Examiner and Corner (MEC) survey is to gather key information from every U.S. MEC office about its caseload, toxicology requesting practices, and capability of collecting and reporting important data items (e.g., toxicology results).

This information will be used to update information gathered during the 2017 MEC Survey and to help the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) further enhance its drug surveillance data system, which provides an efficient, reliable, and comprehensive data resource for monitoring drug scheduling actions; tracking drug trends; and identifying new substances of use, misuse, and abuse. Aggregated survey results will be posted on the NFLIS website: www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

The survey will take approximately 45 minutes. Participation in the NFLIS-MEC survey is voluntary, but your information is vital to NFLIS and valuable to the MEC community. Responses to the survey will be kept confidential and only aggregate results will be reported.

Instructions for Completing the 2022 NFLIS-MEC Survey

- 1. Refer to the jurisdictions your toxicology laboratory serves when answering questions. If your laboratory's jurisdiction includes more than one county, respond for all counties.
- 2. Answer all questions based on calendar year 2021 data.
- 3. Please use a **BLACK** or **DARK BLUE** ink pen (enclosed) to mark your answers.
- 4. Be sure to read all the answer choices before marking your answer.
- 5. Some questions ask you to select only one answer option while others ask you to select all that apply. Look for instructions in *italics* after the question telling you which response style is appropriate for that item.
- 6. Sometimes the instructions will say to skip one or more questions. Look for notes in **bold** telling you whether you should go to a particular question based on your response. If there is no note, go to the next question.
- 7. Answer all questions by filling in the circle or square next to your answer choice, like this:

Example

- 1. Did you read this question? Select only one option.
 - Yes → Skip to Question 3

O No

Submission Instructions

After completing the form, log onto our website and enter your responses online. This will ensure a timely, secure, and confirmed receipt of your data.

URL: https://surveys.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov

Alternatively, you may scan your survey and upload it to the website.

If you are unable to enter information online or upload your survey, return the completed paper survey to:

RTI International ATTN: Data Capture (NFLIS-MEC) 5265 Capital Boulevard Raleigh, NC 27690

We appreciate your voluntary responses. Your participation provides information needed to continue a critical resource that supports the DEA's core mission of enforcing the nation's drug laws.

Thank you for your time!

SECTION 1: MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER OFFICE IDENTIFICATION

The purpose of this section is to ensure that we have the correct contact information for your medical examiner/coroner office and to gather a general profile of your office.

[FILL]		
Is this correct?	Select only one option.	
O A. Yes, this	is correct.	
В. No, this i	s not correct.	
► Please p	rovide the corrected name below.	
	he mailing address for this office a	s shown below. Is this correct? Select on
option.		
O A. Yes, this	is correct.	
В. No, this i	s not correct. <i>Please update the infor</i>	mation below: —
	Current Information on File	Enter Needed Changes Below
Address Line 1:	[FILL]	
Address Line 2:	[FILL]	
City:	[FILL]	
State:	[FILL]	
ZIP Code:	(FILL)	
We have the ch		nminer/coroner) <u>of your office</u> as shown b
Is this correct?		
A. Yes, this		mation below: —
A. Yes, this B. No, this i	s not correct. <i>Please update the information on File</i>	mation below: ————————————————————————————————————
O A. Yes, this	s not correct. <i>Please update the infor</i>	V
A. Yes, this B. No, this i	s not correct. Please update the information on File	V
A. Yes, this B. No, this i Honorific (e.g., Dr., Mr., Ms.):	s not correct. Please update the information on File [FILL]	V
A. Yes, this B. No, this i Honorific (e.g., Dr., Mr., Ms.): First Name: Last Name: Telephone	s not correct. Please update the information on File [FILL] [FILL]	V
B. No, this i Honorific (e.g., Dr., Mr., Ms.): First Name: Last Name:	s not correct. Please update the information on File [FILL] [FILL] [FILL]	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

	Honorifia (o a		mation on File	Enter N	leeded Changes Be
	Honorific (e.g., Dr., Mr., Ms.):	[FILL]			
	First Name:	[FILL]			
	Last Name:	[FILL]			
	Job Title:	[FILL]			
	c. Our office does not have a	toxicology labor	ratory		
	Off-site toxicology labora	•	gy laboratory tri		
	Off-site toxicology labora	ILUIV. A ILIXILLIII			with your in
	Off-site toxicology labora examiner/coroner office or	•	gy laboratory tri		
—		•	gy laboratory till		
——————————————————————————————————————	examiner/coroner office or	department.	gy laboratory tri		
	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes	department.	gy laboratory tri		
	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes B. No → Skip to Question The the name and location of the coroner of the	department. 7 each off-site to	xicology labora		ı., State/local crime,
	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes B. No → Skip to Question	department. 7 each off-site to ed by your office	xicology labora	itory (e.g	
	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes B. No → Skip to Question of the cate, or health laboratory) us	department. 7 each off-site to ed by your office	xicology labora ce.	itory (e.g	., State/local crime, Laboratory Stat
priva	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes B. No → Skip to Question of the cate, or health laboratory) us	department. 7 each off-site to ed by your office	xicology labora ce.	itory (e.g	
priva 1	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes B. No → Skip to Question of the cate, or health laboratory) us	department. 7 each off-site to ed by your office	xicology labora ce.	itory (e.g	
priva 1 2	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes B. No → Skip to Question of the cate, or health laboratory) us	department. 7 each off-site to ed by your office	xicology labora ce.	itory (e.g	
1 2 3	examiner/coroner office or A. Yes B. No → Skip to Question of the cate, or health laboratory) us	department. 7 each off-site to ed by your office	xicology labora ce.	itory (e.g	

8.	Selec	ct the best description of your office. Select only <u>one</u> option.
		A. State medical examiner office
		в. District/regional medical examiner office
		c. County medical examiner office
		D. City medical examiner office
		E. District/regional coroner office
		F. County coroner office
		G. City coroner office
		н. Justice of the Peace
		Private autopsy facility serving the medical examiner/coroner community
		 → 8A. How many cases were referred to your office during calendar year 2021, including all cases in which your office conducted a death investigation for the jurisdictions you serve?
9.	What	t are the responsibilities of your office? Select all that apply.
		A. Determine the cause of death
		в. Determine the manner of death
		c. Conduct death investigations
		D. Perform scene investigations
		E. Transport the decedent from location of death
		F. Order toxicology testing (directly or indirectly)
		G. None of the above → Skip to Question 29

SECTION 2: CASELOAD AND TESTING PRACTICES

This section asks about your caseload in calendar year 2021, types of inquiries, turnaround time, and selected drug and drug class toxicology requests for analysis. 10. Enter the total number of cases referred to your office during calendar year 2021, including all cases in which your office conducted a death investigation or documented referral of the case to your office. Referred cases: The number of human death cases referred to medical examiner/coroner offices by medical and law enforcement personnel. Please mark here if this number is an estimate cases 11. For calendar year 2021, enter the total number of human death cases accepted by your office. Do not include cremation approval cases or cases in which jurisdiction was declined. Accepted cases: The number of human death cases for which the medical examiner/coroner office accepted jurisdiction and conducted further investigations to determine cause and manner of death and completed the death certificate. Please mark here if this number is an estimate deaths 12. Of the total accepted cases for calendar year 2021, enter the number of cases that included any of the following procedures performed by your office or by an off-site laboratory at your request. If data are not available, provide an estimate and mark the square box to the right. **Instruction**: If your office did not perform a type of inquiry below, enter 0 for the number of cases for that type. Type of Inquiry **Number of Cases Estimate** A. Death scene investigation B. Autopsy performed c. Toxicology analysis D. External examination only E. Review of medical records only 13. For calendar year 2021, enter the total number of overdose death cases accepted by your office. Do not include cremation approval cases or cases in which jurisdiction was declined. Please mark here if this number is an estimate deaths

	Type of Overdose Death		Nun	nber o	Cases	Estimate
A. Accident	Type of Gvordose Bodin			, , ,		
в. Suicide						
B. Suicide				' '		
c. Homicide				,		
D. Undetermin	ned			,		
crash)?	ase (e.g., more extensive testing re	oquootou	101 4	gunon	ot wound	vo. a voilloi
В. No →	Skip to Question 17					
c. Decis	sion made by someone else → Skip	to Quest	ion 17			
What instanc	es warrant specific testing for dru	ıgs? Che	ck <u>all</u> t	hat app	oly.	
A. Dece	dent has history of drug abuse					
В. Suspe	ected overdose case					
c. Suspi	icious death (e.g., death of a child, p	oisoning)				
D. Suicio	de					
E. Drow	ning					
F. Death	ns at work					
G. Other	acute accidents					
н. Case	with any other drug connection (e.g.	., drug pai	rapher	nalia fo	ound with b	oody)
. Homi	cides/suspicious for criminal involver	ment				
J. Motor	r Vehicle-related death					
к. Fire-r	related death					
	e-involved deaths					

17.	Does your office perform toxicology screening (i.e., presumptive tests such as immunoassay, rapid urine drug screen at autopsy) prior to sending to a toxicology laboratory?
	O a. Yes
	O в. No
18.	In the case of emerging drugs, what is the normal course of action for requesting toxicology analysis? Check all that apply.
	В. We conduct some/all emerging drug testing in-house
	c. We screen for some emerging drugs in-house and then send to an off-site laboratory for confirmation
	D. We submit to a State laboratory or medical examiner's office
	E. We submit to a private reference laboratory
	F. Other
19.	On average, how long does it take, in days, to <u>receive toxicology results</u> when <u>an autopsy</u> is performed?
	days Please mark here if this number is an estimate
20.	On average, how long does it take, in days, to <u>receive toxicology results</u> when <u>no autopsy</u> is performed?
	days Please mark here if this number is an estimate
21.	On average, how long does it take, in days, to <u>finalize a cause of death</u> when <u>an autopsy</u> is performed?
	days Please mark here if this number is an estimate
22.	On average, how long does it take, in days, to <u>finalize a cause of death</u> when <u>no autopsy</u> is performed?
	days Please mark here if this number is an estimate
23.	In cases where a drug is found as a cause or contributing cause of death, which of the following best describes what would typically be listed as the cause of death on the <u>death certificate</u> ? Select only <u>one</u> option.
	A. All of the drug class(es) (e.g., opiates, benzodiazepines) would be listed on the death certificate.
	○ B. Some of the drug class(es) would be listed on the death certificate.
	o. All of the specific drug(s) (e.g., oxycodone, lorazepam) would be listed on the death certificate.
	O. Some of the specific drug(s) would be listed on the death certificate.
	○ E.A mixture of specific drug(s) and drug class(es) would be listed on the death certificate.
	F. None of the specific drugs or classes would be listed or it would only reflect overdose.

24. For the <u>2021 calendar year</u>, indicate the request frequency of the following drugs/drug classes that your office requests for toxicology analysis.

	Toxicolog	gy Request F	requency	Quantitat	ive Analysis F	requency	
<u>Drug/Drug Class</u>	Routinely: to	esting is part o	f a standard	Routinely: testing is part of a standard panel Sometimes: testing is done on an individual case basis			
	Rarely: testing	ng is rarely do	ne	Rarely: testing is rarely done			
	Routinely	Sometimes	Rarely	Routinely	Sometimes	Rarely	
1. Alcohol	0	0	0		0		
2. Amphetamines/ Methamphetamines		\circ	\circ				
3. Anticonvulsants		0	0	0	0	0	
4. Antidepressants		0	0	\circ			
5. Antipsychotics		\circ					
6. Barbiturates			0				
7. Benzodiazepines		0	0	\circ	0	\bigcirc	
8. Designer benzodiazepines (e.g., clonazolam, flualprazolam)		\circ	0	\bigcirc	\circ		
9. Buprenorphine		0	0		0	\bigcirc	
10. Cocaine		0		\circ		\bigcirc	
11. Fentanyl		\circ					
12. Fentanyl-related compounds (e.g., acetyl fentanyl, furanyl fentanyl)		0	0				
13. Gabapentin		0	0	\circ			
14. Heroin	0	0	0	0	0		
15. Inhalants/volatiles		0	0	0	0	\bigcirc	
16. Marijuana/THC		0	0	0	0	\bigcirc	
17. Muscle relaxants		0	0		0	<u> </u>	
18. Opiates/opioids (other than heroin and fentanyl)		0	0		0		
_{19.} Emerging synthetic opioids (AP, benzimidazoles, U- compounds)		0	0	\bigcirc	\circ		
20. Over-the-counter medications (e.g., guaifenesin, ibuprofen)		0	0		\circ		
21. Phencyclidine (PCP)		0	0	0	0	\bigcirc	
22. Phenethylamines (e.g., 2-Cl, 25I-NBOMe)		0	0		0		
23. Piperazines (e.g., BZP, TFMPP)		0	0		0	\bigcirc	
24. Synthetic cannabinoids			\circ		0	\bigcirc	
25. Synthetic cathinones		0	0		0	0	
26. Z-drugs (e.g., zolpidem, zopiclone)		0					

SECTION 3: RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW

This section gathers information on whether your office uses a records management system, whether your office captures the core data items we are interested in collecting, and your office's reporting capabilities.

	A. Computerized, networked system
	A computerized system that is connected to a network on which personnel can access the same information from different computers. Networked does not mean that instrumentation is networked to the records management system so that toxicology results are automatically imported.
	в. Computerized, non-networked system
	A computerized system that is not connected to a network on which personnel can access the same information from different computers.
	c. Partially computerized system, some manual record-keeping
	Some case data are stored in a computerized system, whereas other case data are stored as paper-based files.
	D. Fully computerized system with duplicated manual records
	Case data are stored in a computerized system with duplicated manual records as back-up.
9	E. Manual record-keeping system only
	All case data are stored as paper-based files and are not accessible by a computer.
	 A. Yes → Skip to Question 28 B. No → Skip to Question 28
	F. Other
	ase provide the name of the electronic records management system you are using. Select
	one option.
	A. In-house records management system
	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST)
0	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) c. Forensic Advantage
	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) c. Forensic Advantage D. JusticeTrax
	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) c. Forensic Advantage D. JusticeTrax E. LabHealth
	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) C. Forensic Advantage D. JusticeTrax E. LabHealth F. Orchard Harvest G. VertiQ
	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) C. Forensic Advantage D. JusticeTrax E. LabHealth F. Orchard Harvest G. VertiQ H. Epic
	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) C. Forensic Advantage D. JusticeTrax E. LabHealth F. Orchard Harvest G. VertiQ H. Epic I. MDI or MDILog
	A. In-house records management system B. Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) c. Forensic Advantage D. JusticeTrax E. LabHealth F. Orchard Harvest G. VertiQ H. Epic

O A. Yes, direc	ct data input to ou	r system					
О в. Yes, PDF	or scanned imag	e added to our sy	stem only				
O c. No							
O D. We do no	t send samples to	o an off-site toxico	logy laboratory				
○ E. We do no	t have an electroi	nic records manag	gement system.				
28. Indicate whethe	r vour office's ca	ase records capt	ure the following	data elem	ents and wh	ether	
they are stored		·					
Core Data Items Collected by the	Data Itam	Is Available in Ca	sa Pacords	[Instruction: Skip this colum your office keeps manual records only] Is the Data Item Stored in Electronic Records Management System?			
Medical Examiner/Coroner Office	<u>Data item</u>	15 Available III Ga	se Records				
	Routinely	Sometimes	Rarely	Routinely	Sometimes	Rarely	
Case ID/unique identifier	0						
2. Date of death	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3. Date of final death record	\circ						
4. Cause of death	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5. Manner of death	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6. Location of injury (county, city, or ZIP code)							
7. Date of incident	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8. Age of decedent	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9. Sex of decedent	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10. Prescription medications							
11. Date of toxicology analysis	\circ						
12. Drugs and metabolites confirmed	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13. Concentration with units for confirmed results	0	0	0			0	
14. Sample source used for confirmed result	0	0	0		0		
15. Toxicology results from off-site laboratory	0						

Do you incorporate results for samples sent to an off-site toxicology laboratory into your electronic records management system? Select only <u>one</u> option.

27.

SECTION 4: PARTICIPATION IN A NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

In this section, we ask about what benefits the NFLIS data collection could provide to your office. If you would like more information about the NFLIS program, please visit www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/FAQ.aspx. 29. What types of data would be helpful for your office to see? Select all that apply. A. Drug frequency trends в. New drug trends c. Concentrations of drugs found D. Geographic drug trends E. Polydrug trends F. Practices of other offices G. Our office does not see a benefit from this data collection effort н. Other benefits (please specify) . None of the above 30. What is the contact information of the person who is submitting this survey? We may follow-up with you if there are questions about answers you have provided or for data quality purposes. We may also use your information for potential future contact related to NFLIS participation. Honorific (e.g., Dr., Mr., Ms.): First Name: Last Name: **Telephone Number: Extension:** E-mail Address: **Submission Instructions** After completing the form, log onto our website and enter your responses online. This will ensure a timely, secure, and confirmed receipt of your data. URL: https://surveys.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov Alternatively, you may scan your survey and upload it to the website. If you are unable to enter information online or upload your survey, return the completed paper survey to: RTI International ATTN: Data Capture (NFLIS-MEC) 5265 Capital Boulevard Raleigh, NC 27690

Thank you!

We appreciate your time and responses. Your participation will help inform DEA's efforts to continue this important national drug surveillance system.