

# Overdose Fatality Reviews: A Multi-Agency Response

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health is partnering with Wisconsin Department of Justice to establish 10 collaborative overdose fatality review teams across Wisconsin to identify overdose risk factors and missed opportunities for prevention through an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Overdose deaths are a multifaceted issue requiring a coordinated, multi-sector response.

## GOAL

The goal of this effort is to establish sustainable overdose death reviews in local communities across the state to better understand the context these deaths and to take immediate action to prevent future overdose deaths. The overdose death reviews will include cross sector participation.

## POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION

- Public Health
- Behavior Health
- Public Safety
- Emergency Medical Services
- Physicians
- Other Stakeholders
- Poison Control

## OUTCOMES

Multi-agency participation will facilitate the coordination and integration of timely information sharing between stakeholders to:

1. Facilitate the identification of system issues and gaps.
2. Examine agency-specific and system policy and procedure to improve efficiencies and effectiveness.
3. Supplement overdose death surveillance to Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System (WVDRS).
4. Provide context to the surveillance data.
5. Develop innovative prevention and intervention strategies.

## REVIEW PROCESS

Through this process there will be:

1. Identification of trends, gaps and deficits within the already existing systems and programs designed to prevent and reduce violence.
2. Recommendations to strengthen these systems and programs.

The reviews will not only focus on the fatal event, but what lead up to the event, potentially going back years in an individual's history to identify prevention opportunities.

## FUNDING/TRAINING/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: 3-YEAR GRANT

DHS and DOJ will phase in 10 overdose death review teams across Wisconsin.

- Year 1 and 2 – Three teams
- Year 3 – Four teams

Each new team will receive:

- Funding, training and continual technical assistance.

The training and technical assistance will focus on the development and maintenance of the reviews including: team composition, data collection, analysis, report generation, recommendation development and implementation. Funding will be provided to each of the 10 overdose fatality review for data collection and review facilitation.

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