

Appendix E: Ideal State Required for Successful Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Exchange Across Data Exchange Entities

This graphic shows the ideal state of medicolegal death investigation data exchange among data entities (i.e., data users and data producers). Data users and data producers are all data entities located in the outermost ring. Each data entity segment indicates specifically named data types or data exchanged systems within it. Arrows in the background indicate the primary (larger arrow), secondary (smaller arrow) or equivalent (equal arrow size) direction of data workflow either coming from the medicolegal death investigation system (i.e., medical examiner and coroner offices within the United States) or being provided to the medicolegal death investigation system indicated by the innermost ring. A middle ring indicates the “System of data programmers and technology developers” that play a professional role by assisting with modernization and digitization of data for the medicolegal death investigation system.

This graphic provides explanations, definitions, and acronyms in a footnote to assist readers’ understanding. For example, MDI data exchange may not occur for all agencies or in some locations, or it may be incomplete. Thus, this graphic portrays an ideal state to document all potential data exchange pathways that can occur during and after an MDI to further educate MDI collaborators for public health and safety. This graphic does not provide the current state of data exchange for the medicolegal death investigation system within the United States.

IDEAL STATE REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION DATA EXCHANGE ACROSS DATA EXCHANGE ENTITIES



*Terms: Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS); Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA); Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS); Bureau of Prisons (BOP); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Combined DNA Index System (CODIS); Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC); Customs and Border Protection (CBP); Department of Defense (DOD); Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Department of Interior (DOI), Department of Labor (DOL); Department of Transportation (DOT); Domestic Policy Council (DPC); Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID); Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS); Emergency Department (ED); Electronic Health Record (EHR); Emergency Medical Services (EMS); Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOSS); Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Federal Emergency Management Agency/Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (FEMA/DMORT); High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program; Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System/Next Generation Identification (IAFIS/NGI); Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR); National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs); National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD); National Death Index (NDI); National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS); National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); National Institute of Justice (NIJ); National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB); National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS); National Vital Statistics System (NVSS); Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); Office of Drug Policy (ODP); Office of Justice Programs (OJP); Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP); Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP); Prescription Drug Monitoring (PDMP); Social Security Administration (SSA); State Board of Pharmacy (SBOP); State Unintentional Drug Overdose Report System (SUDORS); Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPX RX); Sudden Death in the Young (SDY); Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID); United States Postal Services (USPS); Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

A “data producer” is an interface, system, or device that provides data that are relevant to an organization (i.e., Medical Examiner and Coroner Systems are “data producers” for information surrounding a death investigation). A “data user” is a interface, system, or tool within an organization that consumes data (i.e., The National Vital Statistics System is a “data user” within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that collect data surrounding U.S. deaths as reported through death certificates). While all MDI data exchange relationships are represented, data exchange may not occur for all agencies, or in some locations, or may be incomplete in others. Arrowhead sizes indicate the amount of data being received by each data entity. Larger arrowhead sizes indicate a larger amount of data flow, while smaller arrowhead sizes indicate a smaller amount of data flow.

Note: This graphic portrays an ideal state required to document all potential data exchange pathways that can occur during and after a medicolegal death investigation (MDI) to further educate MDI collaborators for public health and public safety, policymakers, and legal proceedings. From Roper-Miller, Jeri, Nichole Bynum, Kelly Keyes, Erica Fornaro, and Micaela Ascolese. *Data Exchange Practices of Medicolegal Death Investigation*. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Office of Investigative Sciences, December 2022.