Overdose Fatality Review
Start-up Resources

Overdose fatality reviews (OFRs) are confidential death reviews conducted by local multidisciplinary teams to improve overdose prevention and intervention strategies.

OFRs are becoming a cornerstone of successful community responses to substance use. By combining collaboration between public safety and public health providers with effective use of data to identify system gaps, OFRs build trust among local stakeholders so they can fully comprehend the substance use challenge facing them and, by working together to implement evidence-based recommendations, prevent future deaths.

Jurisdictions interested in establishing their own OFRs should consider the resources listed below as a road map that will enable them to understand the methodology, commitment, and investments required to assemble an effective OFR, as well as the practical steps they can take to start their own teams. The resources were compiled through a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) (transitioning from the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program [COSSAP]), a U.S. Department of Justice program supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). They can be found individually on the COSSAP Resource Center (transitioning soon to the COSSUP Resource Center) website, www.cossapresources.org.

OFR Toolkit	An online package of tools, expert guidance, and training designed to provide prospective OFR teams self-guided direction through the steps necessary to build a successful team on a foundation of coalition building, data collection, and a commitment to overdose prevention. Site visitors are equipped with a practitioner's guide to OFR implementation; an array of supplemental resources, including sample meeting agendas, work plans, and data collection templates; and a user-friendly online form to request OFR training and technical assistance (TTA). Developed in partnership between COSSUP and the CDC.	https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR
OFR National Standards	These national standards were developed to ensure the effectiveness of OFRs and are based on multiple state and local jurisdictions' OFR and other fatality review practice-based experience.	https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/OFR/OFR_National_Standards.pdf
PHAST Toolkit	Developed by the CDC as a companion to the OFR Toolkit, the Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) Toolkit is designed to reduce opioid overdose deaths by using aggregate data and increasing collaboration among all sectors, with a particular focus on public health and public safety agencies. PHAST engages partners through the "SOS" process, which stands for shared understanding, optimized capacity, and shared accountability.	https://www.phast.org
New to OFR Virtual Training	In this 3-hour training, participants will receive information on how to staff, recruit, plan, and facilitate successful OFR meetings, as well as identify measures of success and strategies to store data and implement identified recommendations.	https://www.cossapresources.org/Media/Video/b1f67afd-3edf-47c2-a512-5ddd8261dc2e

View OFR resources at **https://www.cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR**.

OFR Start-up Resources

2023 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review	Held in January 2023, the 1½-day, in-person convening highlighted how OFRs are identifying and implementing recommendations to prevent substance-related deaths in communities across the country	https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/NationalForum2023
Mock OFR Meetings	The 2021 Virtual National Forum on OFR featured two mock OFR meetings conducted by actual OFR team members: one from an urban community and the other from a rural community.	Urban OFR meeting
		Rural OFR meeting
OFR Data System	COSSUP and the CDC developed the OFR Data System to enable communities to capture key information from OFRs and monitor recommendations to develop a framework of accountability. Open to all OFR sites, the system offers guidance on both inputting and analyzing data and on data sharing and confidentiality agreements, as well as information on relevant federal and state privacy laws.	https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR/Collect
OFR Mentor Program	The BJA OFR Mentor Program encourages the uptake of promising peer practices by new OFR sites by building bridges between nascent OFR teams and established ones that have demonstrated success. Participating OFR peer mentees are matched to experienced OFR peer mentor sites, which provide consultation and support through direct communication and virtual OFR site visits to see firsthand how OFRs work in practice.	https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/PeerToPeer
OFR Information Sharing Guidance	The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA), in partnership with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), developed information sharing fact sheets to provide OFR teams with an understanding of what members legally can and cannot share in regard to federal law (such as 42 Code of Federal Regulations and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA]).	https://www.cossapresources.org/Tools/InformationSharingScenarios/OFR
OFR Message Exchange	The OFR Message Exchange is a platform for OFR team members to engage with each other, share information, and problem-solve.	https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR/Exchange
Request OFR TTA	OFR teams may request customized TTA from OFR practitioners and experts directly via the COSSAP Resource Center website.	https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request/OFR
Register Your OFR Team	OFR coordinators may register their teams with the COSSAP Resource Center, featuring a full array of OFR resources, contacts, and networks.	http://s.iir.com/DxNZfkrw

Visit the COSSAP Resource Center at **www.cossapresources.org**.

About IIR

IIR serves as the connecting point for COSSUP TTA efforts and collaborates with BJA leadership and fellow TTA providers to work directly with COSSUP site-based grantees. IIR's role includes guidance and contributions by subject-matter experts in priority COSSUP areas of focus; coordination of the COSSUP TTA network's cadre of experts and providers; publication production and design of COSSUP resources; planning, coordination, and delivery of national-level trainings and working group meetings; COSSAP Resource Center development and maintenance; coordination of distance-learning opportunities and resource dissemination; and other complementary activities.

About BJA

BJA provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities. To learn more about BJA, visit www.bja.gov and follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.