

North Carolina State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (NC-SUDORS)

Informing North Carolina's state-level public health responses while contributing to national overdose prevention efforts.

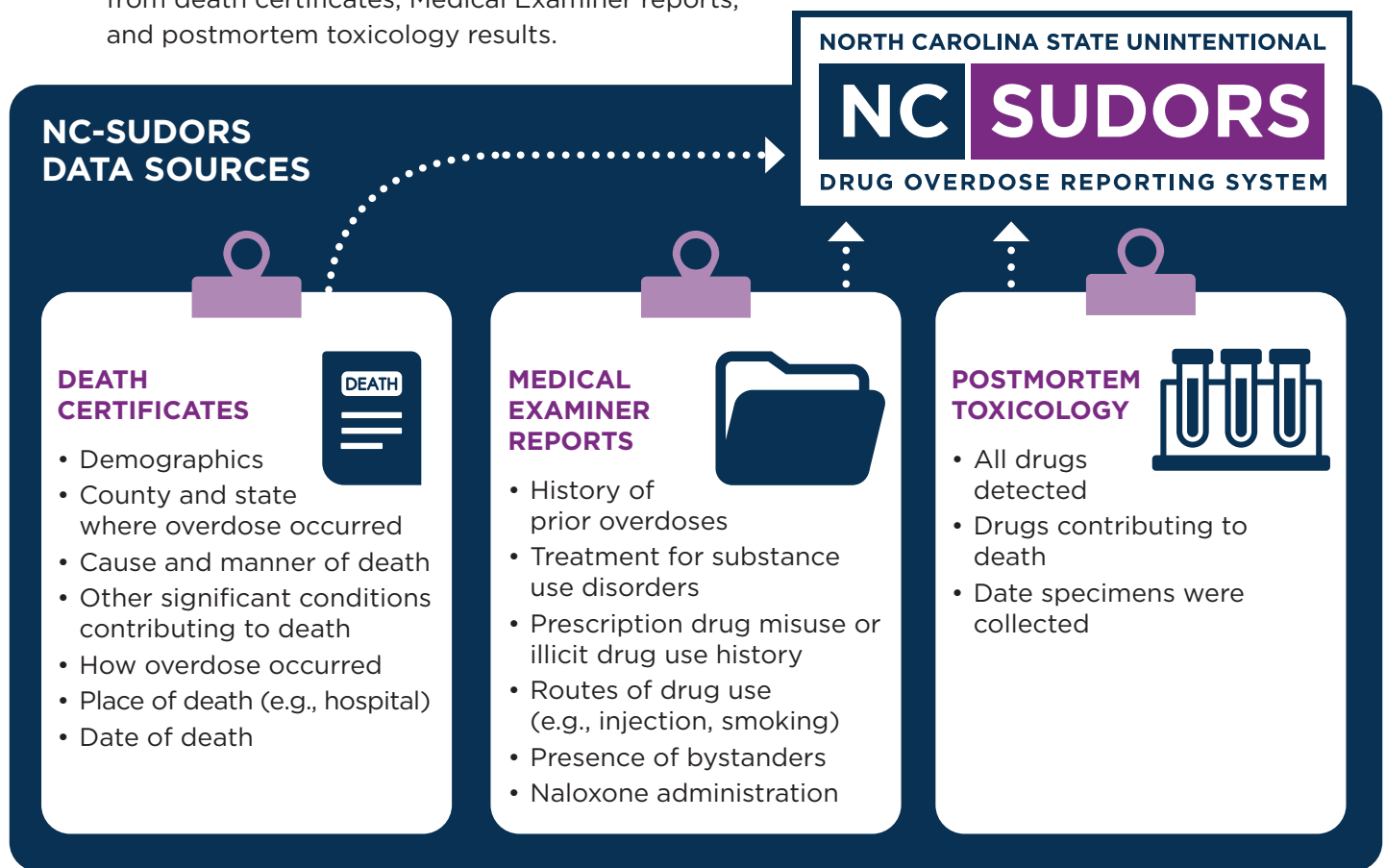
The North Carolina State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (NC-SUDORS) collects comprehensive data on overdose deaths of unintentional and undetermined intent – a leading cause of death in North Carolina.

NC-SUDORS was funded in 2017 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and began collecting data on fatal opioid-related overdoses in 2018. In 2019, SUDORS programs across the nation, including North Carolina, expanded to collect data on all drug overdose deaths as part of CDC's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program.

NC-SUDORS is a critical tool for understanding the overdose epidemic and providing high quality data to guide public health interventions. Continued investment will enhance data timeliness and strengthen overdose prevention efforts in NC, ultimately saving lives.

THE PROCESS

- By integrating data from death certificates, medical examiner reports, autopsies, and toxicology results, NC-SUDORS informs targeted prevention efforts.
- The wide variety of data collected provide valuable insights into the circumstances and substances contributing to overdose deaths in North Carolina.
- Data abstraction involves coding demographics, overdose circumstances, and toxicology results from death certificates, Medical Examiner reports, and postmortem toxicology results.



NORTH CAROLINA SPECIFICS



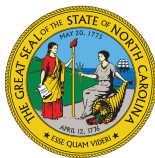
- NC-SUDORS data help tell the stories of those lost to overdose. Data abstractors are critical to this work. A small team of dedicated data abstractors use CDC protocols to ensure consistent, accurate data collection of over 320 possible variables with detailed case narratives on every NC-SUDORS death. Due to the work's challenging and sensitive nature, abstractors are encouraged to practice self-care and step away when needed to maintain their well-being.
- NC-SUDORS data are shared with the CDC for inclusion in the national dataset, featured on the [CDC dashboard](#), and incorporated into the overdose [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports \(MMWR\)](#) published by the CDC.
- Analysis of NC-SUDORS data has identified [racial and ethnic differences and COVID-19 pandemic-related changes in key characteristics of drug overdose deaths in North Carolina](#) and described [circumstances surrounding unintentional opioid-involved overdose deaths during pregnancy and the first year postpartum](#).
- NC-SUDORS data are available upon request for further analysis by researchers and may be used by Local Health Departments in Overdose Fatality Reviews.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Overdose Data Resources: [NCDHHS Overdose Epidemic Data Website](#)
- Prevention Resources: [NCDHHS Overdose Epidemic Website](#)
- About SUDORS: [CDC SUDORS Website](#)
- Contact the team at SubstanceUseData@dhhs.nc.gov with any questions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNINTENTIONAL

NC SUDORS
DRUG OVERDOSE REPORTING SYSTEM

Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

www.dph.ncdhhs.gov

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