

MDI CONNECT PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR

Background: As the centralized, statewide medical examiner agency for New Mexico, the Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) serves a population of two million people in the fifth-largest state in the U.S. Based in Albuquerque and part of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, OMI's board-certified forensic pathologists conduct approximately 2,000 autopsies per year and have an investigative role in over 10,000 deaths annually. OMI has maintained an electronic database of its medicolegal death investigation (MDI) data since the 1970s, long recognizing the significance of these data in identifying trends, assessing interventions and informing public health policy.

Description of Project: This project has three main objectives and strategies:

- 1) To improve data quality, OMI will customize its MDI case management system (CMS) by receiving International Classification of Diseases tenth revision (ICD-10) codes from the state's Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics;
- 2) To improve interoperability between the toxicology data import and OMI, legacy toxicology lab data will be added to the CMS and a custom report will be added; and
- 3) To support data utilization and documentation of key public health findings to address new health threats, OMI will create an interactive public-facing data dashboard.

By the end of two years, OMI plans to have a searchable toxicology database that receives ICD-10 codes, flags public health attributes and provides cleaner data. CMS enhancements and improved data quality will help OMI and its partners in their efforts to understand and decrease drug overdose fatalities.

IMPROVE DATA QUALITY



- Import and transfer ICD-10 codes from BVRHS
- Compare and analyze ICD-10 cause of death codes with OMI cause list and make recommendations for improvements to enhance OMI data quality



IMPROVE TOXICOLOGY DATA IMPORT

- Import legacy toxicology data
- Update cause and manner codes in system
- Refine search and report capabilities for new, existing and legacy toxicology data



SHARE KEY PUBLIC HEALTH FINDINGS

- Audit data and create and conduct trainings to improve data entry and completeness
- Create public-facing dashboard

Acronyms: • **MDI** – Medicolegal Death Investigation • **CMS** – Case Management System
• **HL7** – Health Level 7 • **FHIR** – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

About MDI Connect: MDI Connect is a joint initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation. Through MDI Connect, medical examiner and coroner offices work together to enhance data sharing between their offices and public health, toxicology or other agencies. MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data sharing partners, vendors and Fast Healthcare Interoperability (FHIR®) subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts exchanging data with others and increase access to information for office functioning and research. **For more information visit, MDIconnecthub.org**