



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Print Date: 8/5/22

Title: Improving Practices for Tracking and Reporting Disaster-Related Deaths Guidance Knowledge Assessment (NORC Task 3)

Project Id: 0900f3eb81cf421c

Accession #: NCEH-HST-4/12/21-f421c

Project Contact: Arianna C Hanchey

Organization: NCEH/ATSDR/DEHSP/EMRCB/HST

Status: **Project In Progress**

Intended Use: **Project Determination**

Estimated Start Date: 04/12/2021

Estimated Completion Date: 12/31/2022

CDC/ATSDR HRPO/IRB Protocol #:

OMB Control #: 0920-0879

Determinations

Determination	Justification	Completed	Entered By & Role
HSC: Does NOT Require HRPO Review	Research Not Involving Human Subjects <i>45 CFR 46.102(e)</i>	7/29/22	Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) CIO HSC
PRA: PRA Applies		7/29/22	Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) CIO OMB / PRA

HRPO: Concur		8/5/22	Bass_Micah (zgi7) HRPO Reviewer
ICRO: PRA Applies	OMB Approval date: 1/13/21 OMB Expiration date: 1/31/24	8/1/22	Zirger_Jeffrey (wtj5) ICRO Reviewer

Description & Funding

Description

Priority: Standard

Determination Start Date: 04/15/21

Description: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has contracted with NORC (NOTE: this is not an acronym) at the University of Chicago to conduct several activities aimed at improving processes for identifying and reporting disaster-related deaths. For the CDC Guidance Knowledge Assessment, NORC will assess 1) current awareness, knowledge, and use of the 2017 CDC Disaster-Related Death Certification Reference Guide and the 2017 CDC Death Scene Investigation After Natural Disaster or Other Weather-Related Events Toolkit; and 2) current practices, challenges and capacity related to identifying and documenting disaster-related deaths among individual death certifiers and organizations who represent death certifiers. Data will be collected through an online survey, focus groups, and in-depth interviews.

IMS/CIO/Epi-Aid/Lab-Aid/Chemical Exposure Submission: No

IMS Activation Name: Not selected

Primary Priority of the Project: Not selected

Secondary Priority(s) of the Project: Not selected

Task Force Associated with the Response: Not selected

CIO Emergency Response Name: Not selected

Epi-Aid Name: Not selected

Lab-Aid Name: Not selected

Assessment of Chemical Exposure Name: Not selected

Goals/Purpose The purpose of this overall project is to improve ways in which death certification data are collected and reported after a natural or human-induced disaster.

The objective is to conduct a mixed-methods approach to assess the awareness and use of the 2017 CDC Disaster-Related Death Certification Reference Guide and the 2017 CDC Death Scene Investigation After Natural Disaster or Other Weather-Related Events Toolkit. Using this approach, the study will benefit from the rigor of nation-wide participation in the survey while also obtaining detailed, in-depth information from the focus groups and interviews. The following overarching research questions will guide our data collection activities: 1. To what extent are medical examiners/coroners (ME/C) offices aware of the 2017 CDC

Objective:	Disaster-Related Death Certification Reference Guide and the 2017 CDC Death Scene Investigation After Natural Disaster or Other Weather-Related Events Toolkit? 2. To what extent are ME/C offices using the 2017 CDC Disaster-Related Death Certification Reference Guide and the 2017 CDC Death Scene Investigation After Natural Disaster or Other Weather-Related Events Toolkit? 3. What practices and tools (aside from the CDC reference guide and toolkit specified above) are ME/Cs using to investigate and certify disaster-related deaths? 4. How do ME/C offices report death data to public health and/or emergency management agencies during and after a disaster?
Does this project include interventions, services, or policy change work aimed at improving the health of groups who have been excluded or marginalized and /or decreasing disparities?:	No
Project does not incorporate elements of health equity science:	Yes
Measuring Disparities:	Not Selected
Studying Social Determinants of Health (SDOH):	Not Selected
Assessing Impact:	Not Selected
Methods to Improve Health Equity Research and Practice:	Not Selected
Other:	Not Selected
Activities or Tasks:	New Collection of Information, Data, or Biospecimens
Target Populations to be Included/Represented:	Other - Organizations that represent death certifiers; medical examiners; and elected death certifiers
Tags/Keywords:	Disasters ; Death Certificates ; Coroners and Medical Examiners
CDC's Role:	Activity originated and designed by CDC staff, or conducted at the specific request of CDC, or CDC staff will approve study design and data collection as a condition of any funding provided
Method Categories:	Focus Group; Individual Interviews (Qualitative); Survey
Methods:	<p>Both quantitative and qualitative data will be collected from the target population. Quantitative data collection includes an online survey to collect data from a sample of medical examiners and coroners. Qualitative data collection will include 9 or fewer interviews with subject matter experts with knowledge about disaster deaths from organizations that represent death certifiers. Qualitative data collection will also include focus groups of death certifiers, with 10 total focus groups with six participants per group. NORC will use a two-phase triangulation study design. This also includes two phases of data analysis, with the goal of interpreting and mixing the quantitative and qualitative data to bolster and inform the overall study findings. (See Exhibit 1 in the Task 3 Draft Workplan in supplemental info for an illustrative study design demonstrating phases 1 and 2). - Phase 1: Qualitative data collection from in-depth interviews and qualitative data analysis of the in-depth interviews - Phase 2: Qualitative data collection from focus groups and quantitative data collection from surveys The first phase of analysis will be performed after the in-depth interviews are completed. Once Phase 2 data collection is complete, NORC will then independently analyze the quantitative and qualitative data, then combine them into a single overall interpretation. They will identify similarities in the results from each data set, and also identify and seek to explain any differences through further review of the data. All differences that cannot be reconciled will be presented as opportunities for further exploration in the final report.</p> <p>NORC will collect data from participants to assess the awareness and use of the 2017 CDC Disaster-Related Death Certification</p>

	<p>Reference Guide and the 2017 CDC Death Scene Investigation After Natural Disaster or Other Weather-Related Events Toolkit. # Interviews with SMEs will collect data from organizations representing key professionals and systems in the field of death certification. NORC will approach leadership at up to nine organizations that represent death certifiers and ask for support identifying people at their organization with subject matter expertise in disaster death certification. The goal will be to ensure interviewees represent a range of positions and backgrounds, including hospitalists or other physicians, justices of the peace, medical examiners, coroners, and others who may be called upon to sign a death certificate in a disaster. NORC will solicit input from the Technical Working Group (TWG) to ensure the list is comprehensive and appropriate for the scope of the activity. Questions will ask about their awareness, knowledge, and use of CDC guidance documents; challenges of identifying and documenting disaster-related deaths, and opportunities for improving identification and documentation of disaster-related deaths. In-depth interviews will last about 45 minutes and be conducted using Zoom video conferencing software using a semi-structured interview guide. One NORC staff member will conduct the interview by asking questions and directing the conversation using the approved semi-structured interview guide. One additional NORC staff member will participate to take notes. Interviews will be recorded we will develop transcript-style notes for analysis. # Focus groups with a sample of death certifiers will collect data from priority medicolegal death investigation systems and geographical areas about their use of CDC guidance documents, and challenges with, and capacity related to identifying and documenting disaster-related deaths. The sample frame is a comprehensive list of medical examiners and elected death certifiers (justices of the peace, coroners, etc.) in the U.S. (same sample universe as the quantitative surveys described below). NORC has obtained this list from the National Public Safety Information Bureau. The focus groups will be segmented by size of population served and by geographic area of interest. The online focus groups will last about 60 minutes and will be conducted using Zoom. NORC will record the focus groups and develop transcript-style notes for analysis. # The online survey of death certifiers will collect nationally-representative data to describe current awareness, knowledge, and use of CDC guidance documents, and current practices, challenges with, and capacity related to identifying and documenting disaster-related deaths. NORC has procured the medical examiners and coroners segment of the National Directory of Law Enforcement Agencies (NDLEA) available from the National Safety Information Bureau. The NDLEA is a regularly updated directory of law enforcement agencies and departments throughout the nation, including medical examiners and coroners. The data elements in the database include name, title, email address (if available), department name, mailing address, phone number, and fax number. NORC will consent participants and CDC staff will have no involvement with consent process, will not interact with participants, and will not obtain or perform data analysis with PII.</p> <p>NORC will provide CDC with a comprehensive report. The report will include an executive summary and findings from the mixed-methods analysis. The report will also provide recommendations based on research questions, for example, how CDC can improve disaster-related death documentation and disseminate best practices. NORC will present the results of the assessment through a webinar using Zoom. NORC will oversee the development of the webinar and work closely with CDC to identify appropriate individuals or organizations to invite and disseminate information about the webinar to partners, as appropriate. This webinar will be a tool to ensure findings are shared with key stakeholders.</p>
Collection of Info, Data or Biospecimen:	
Expected Use of Findings/Results and their impact:	
Could Individuals potentially be identified based on Information Collected?	Yes
Will PII be captured (including coded data)?	Yes
Does CDC have access to the identifiers (including coded data)?:	Yes
Is this project covered by an Assurance of Confidentiality?	No
Does this activity meet the criteria for a Certificate of Confidentiality (CoC)?	No
Is there a formal written agreement prohibiting the	No

release of identifiers?

Funding

Funding Type	Funding Title	Funding #	Original Budget Yr	# Years Award	Budget Amount
CDC Contract	Improving Processes for Identifying and Reporting Disaster-Related Deaths, \$306,011.61	75D30120F09747	2020	3	306011.61

HSC Review

HSC Attributes

Other - Data collected on coroner-medical examiner practices related to death certificates and not on living human subjects. Yes

Regulation and Policy

Do you anticipate this project will be submitted to the IRB office No

Estimated number of study participants

Population - Children

Protocol Page #:

Population - Minors

Protocol Page #:

Population - Prisoners

Protocol Page #:

Population - Pregnant Women

Protocol Page #:

Suggested level of risk to subjects

Do you anticipate this project will be exempt
research or non-exempt research

Requested consent process wavers

Informed consent for adults	No Selection
Children capable of providing assent	No Selection
Parental permission	No Selection
Alteration of authorization under HIPPA Privacy Rule	No Selection

Requested Waivers of Documentation of Informed Consent

Informed consent for adults	No Selection
Children capable of providing assent	No Selection
Parental permission	No Selection

Consent process shown in an understandable language

Reading level has been estimated	No Selection
Comprehension tool is provided	No Selection
Short form is provided	No Selection
Translation planned or performed	No Selection
Certified translation / translator	No Selection
Translation and back-translation to/from target language(s)	No Selection
Other method	No Selection

Clinical Trial

Involves human participants	No Selection
Assigned to an intervention	No Selection
Evaluate the effect of the intervention	No Selection

Evaluation of a health related biomedical or behavioral outcome No Selection

Registerable clinical trial No Selection

Other Considerations

Exception is requested to PHS informing those bested about HIV serostatus No Selection

Human genetic testing is planned now or in the future No Selection

Involves long-term storage of identifiable biological specimens No Selection

Involves a drug, biologic, or device No Selection

Conducted under an Investigational New Drug exemption or Investigational Device Exemption No Selection

Institutions & Staff

Institutions

Name	FWA #	FWA Exp Date	IRB Title	IRB Exp Date	Funding #
National Opinion Research Center	FWA00000142	07/19/23	National Opinion Rsch Ctr IRB #1	01/05/24	

Staff

Staff Member	SIQT Exp. Date	CITI Biomedical Exp. Date	CITI Social & Behavioral Exp. Date	CITI Good Clinical Practice Exp. Date	Staff Role	Email	Phone	Organization
Arianna Hanchey	07/21/2025		09/27/2023		Co-Investigator	kye2@cdc.gov	770-488-3436	HEALTH STUDIES
Jackie Sheridan	09/04/2023				Co-Investigator	Sheridan-jackie@norc.org	301-634-9345	National Opinion Research Center
Kanru Xia	09/04/2023				Statistician	Xia-kanru@norc.org	312-759-4033	National Opinion Research Center

Sarah Hodge	09/04/2023				Co-Investigator	Hodge-sarah@norc.org	301-634-9561	National Opinion Research Center
Sarah Redman	09/04/2023				Principal Investigator	redman-sarah@norc.org	404-240-8406	
Shanice Williams	03/04/2024		10/26/2024		Co-Investigator	qqz3@cdc.gov	770-488-6635	HEALTH STUDIES
Stephanie Poland	09/04/2023				Co-Investigator	Poland-stephanie@norc.org	312-759-4261	National Opinion Research Center
Teresea Tuft	09/04/2023				Co-Investigator	Tufte-teresa@norc.org	217-372-0817	National Opinion Research Center
Terri Head	09/04/2023				Contract Official	iio1@cdc.gov	770-488-5341	SAFETY PROMOTION TEAM
Tesfaye Bayleyegn	01/18/2025				Principal Investigator	bvy7@cdc.gov	770-488-3476	HEALTH STUDIES

Data

DMP

Proposed Data Collection Start Date: 6/1/21

Proposed Data Collection End Date: 12/31/22

Proposed Public Access Level: Non-Public

Non-Public Details:

Reason For Not Releasing Data: Other - Protect confidentiality of participants. Please see further explanation below.

Public Access Justification: Transcripts from the interviews and focus groups will not be made publicly available to protect the confidentiality of participants. Also, because both methods are qualitative in nature and we will encourage free discussion, it is possible that identifying information may be included in the transcripts. The database from the quantitative surveys also be non-public. We anticipate few participants from the entire sampling universe and need to protect their personal identifying information.

How Access Will Be Provided for Data: N/A

Plans for Archival and Long Term Preservation:

Spatiality

Country	State/Province	County/Region
United States		

Dataset

Dataset Title	Dataset Description	Data Publisher /Owner	Public Access Level	Public Access Justification	External Access URL	Download URL	Type of Data Released	Collection Start Date	Collection End Date
Dataset yet to be added...									

Supporting Info

Current	CDC Staff Member and Role	Date Added	Description	Supporting Info Type	Supporting Info
	Zirger_Jeffrey (wtj5) ICRO Reviewer	08/01/2022	NOA 0920-0879 (2021)	Notice of Action	NOA 0920-0879.pdf
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) CIO HSC	07/29/2022	Clean GenIC files	Other	Clean GenIC July 2022.zip
	Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) CIO HSC	04/29/2022	GenIC zip file with commented documents	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	Cleaned Final Draft rev OS.zip
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) CIO HSC	04/25/2022	GenIC final files	Other	Cleaned Final Draft_zip.zip

	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) CIO HSC	04/23/2021	Survey instrument	Data Collection Form	Appendix C Draft_Survey Instrument_revisions 041421- CLEAN_OS rev.docx
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) CIO HSC	04/23/2021	Key informant interview guide	Other	Appendix A Draft_Key Informant Interview Guide_CLEAN_4.15.21_OS rev.docx
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) CIO HSC	04/23/2021	Focus group guide	Other	Appendix B Draft_Focus Group Discussion Guide_CLEAN_4.15.21_OS rev.docx
	Lawler_Tameka (giq3) CIO HSC	04/22/2021	NORC Task 3 Zip file proposal	Other	NORC Task 3 Improving Processes for Identifying and Reporting Disaster-Related.zip
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) Project Contact	04/15/2021	Survey instrument	Data Collection Form	Appendix C Draft_Survey Instrument_revisions 041421- CLEAN.docx
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) Project Contact	04/15/2021	Focus group discussion guide	Other-Focus Group Guide	Appendix B Draft_Focus Group Discussion Guide_CLEAN_4.15.21.docx
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) Project Contact	04/15/2021	Key informant interview guide	Other-Key informant interview guide	Appendix A Draft_Key Informant Interview Guide_CLEAN_4.15.21.docx
	Hanchey_Arianna (kye2) Project Contact	04/15/2021	Workplan	Other-Workplan	Task 3 Workplan_Final.docx



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