



Nebraska Autopsy Program (Pilot project effective 12/22)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health (DHHS DPH) is excited to announce a *continued* opportunity for *all* Nebraska County Attorneys/Coroners. Funds will be available, as outlined below, to pay for autopsies for suspected opioid or other drug overdose-related deaths.

CDC launched the multiyear Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) cooperative agreement in September, 2019; Nebraska was one of the jurisdictions awarded funds. In partnership with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), jurisdictions focus on some or all of the following strategies:

- Mortality Data: Collect and report timely and complete data on overdose-related deaths.
- Innovative Surveillance Strategies: Focus on new and innovative ways to identify and collect data on drug misuse or overdose better tailored to community needs.

To address these strategies, grant funds have been set aside to assist Nebraska counties with the cost of for suspected opioid or other drug overdose-related deaths. There is a limit of three autopsy requests per county. **This pilot project ends 8/31/23**

What are the steps you need to take?

- Fill out the form that is attached to this e-mail (save for future use) and send to Danielle.Garcia@nebraska.gov
- Once form is received, it will be sent to Physicians Lab to cover the cost of the autopsy.
 - **Please note:**
 - The county is responsible for all costs associated with the transportation of the body.
 - The county has to arrange transportation; this is done by a morgue/transportation service in your area.
- Once the autopsy is completed you will receive the full results from Physicians Lab.
- Physicians Lab will also provide de-identified data such as drugs found from autopsy, sex, age range, and the month of death, to DHHS.

If you have any questions, reach out to Danielle.Garcia@nebraska.gov