



National Institute of Justice Drugs and Crime Research and Technical Assistance

National Center on Forensics

The center provides: medicolegal learning opportunities for medical students to train as deputy medical examiners/coroners in underserved rural areas; forensic science and legal training to district attorneys, judges, and law enforcement; and opportunities among the partners to benefit current and future practitioners in the field.

Research and Evaluation in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories

The program funds projects that direct research and evaluation toward the identification of the most efficient, accurate, reliable, and cost-effective methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes. These projects identify and inform the forensic community of best practices through the evaluation of existing laboratory protocols, with direct and immediate impact on laboratory efficiency and assistance in making laboratory policy decisions.

Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes

The program seeks to direct the findings of basic scientific research; foster research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science; and support ongoing forensic science research toward the development of highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of forensic evidence for criminal justice purposes.

Graduate Research Fellowship

The program supports innovative doctoral dissertation research relevant to preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the U.S. It is open to doctoral students in both social and behavioral and STEM sciences.

NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime

The program funds rigorous applied research on evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for state, tribal, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies that address drug trafficking, drug markets, and drug-related violence. The research focus is on criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance relevant to narcotics law enforcement and medicolegal death investigation.

Research Grants on Stimulants and Opioids

- Oklahoma Methamphetamine Data Initiative
- Wastewater Epidemiology To Examine Stimulant Trends
- Prevalence of Fentanyl and Its Analogues in a Court-Ordered Testing Population
- Detecting Fentanyl and Major Players in Darknet Markets
- Illicit Fentanyl Markets on Clearnet Websites
- Fentanyl Distribution in America's Largest Port City
- Drug Intelligence To Combat Opioids in Rural Communities
- Quantitation Workflow for Improved Drug Surveillance
- Delaware Opioid Metric Intelligence Project
- Strategies for Disrupting Drug Distribution Networks
- Investigation and Prosecution of Heroin-Related Overdose
- Retrospective Datamining for Evaluating Rise and Fall of Novel Opioid and Fentanyl Analog Use

For more information visit NIJ's website at NIJ.ojp.gov.



Resources To Address the Opioid Crisis

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE), led by RTI International, is supported through a cooperative agreement from the National Institute of Justice (2016-MU-BX-K1110). The FTCoE supports the implementation of new forensic technology and best practices by end users and is dedicated to elevating the status of forensic science through advancing technology, sharing knowledge, and addressing challenges.

COSSAP-Related Activities

forensiccoe.org/cossap

Working Group on Data Exchange in Medicolegal Death Investigation

forensiccoe.org/working-group-data-exchange-mdi

Events

- 2021 Medicolegal Death Investigation Webinar Series forensiccoe.org/mdo-webinar-series/
- National Opioid and Emerging Drug Threats Policy and Practice Forum, July 2019, in Washington, D.C. An archival version of the event can be found here: forensiccoe.org/workshop/emerging-drug-opioid-forum-2019/

Virtual Learning Opportunities

- NPS Discovery Toolkit for Designing and Implementing Testing for New and Emerging Psychoactive Drugs forensiccoe.org/nps-discovery-toolkit/
- Webinar Series: Opioid Crisis: A Public Health Enemy forensiccoe.org/webinar/opioid-crisis-a-public-health-enemy-webinar-series/
- Webinar Series: Opioids & Emerging Drug Threats — Integrating Public Safety and Health Data for a Forensic Response forensiccoe.org/opioids-emerging-drug-threats-series
- Webinar: Multiple Perspectives on Overdose Fatality Reviews forensiccoe.org/multiple-perspectives-overdose-mdi-ofr

- Webinar: Novel Psychoactive Substance Naming Conventions & Challenges forensiccoe.org/nps-naming-conventions
- Webinar: The ROI from Reducing Turnaround Time for Processing DUI: Drug Cases forensiccoe.org/roi-reducing-turnaround-time
- Webinar: Novel Synthetic Opioids in Oral Fluid: Analytical Methods and Prevalence forensiccoe.org/novel-synthetic-opioids-oral-fluid

Reports & Articles

- Landscape Study of Field Portable Devices for Presumptive Drug Testing forensiccoe.org/landscape-study-of-field-portable-devices-for-presumptive-drug-testing
- Reports of Adverse Events Associated With Use of Novel Psychoactive Substances, 2013-2016: A Review forensiccoe.org/reports-of-adverse-events-associated-with-use-of-novel-psychoactive-substances-2013-2016-a-review/

Podcasts

- Just Polysubstance Use and the Importance of Data Trends
- Just the Intersection of Opioids and Illicit Stimulants
- Just Throwing DARTs at the Opioid Crisis
- Just Opioid Financial Burden on Crime Labs
- Just the State of Pathology forensiccoe.org/just-science-podcast