



# Overdose Fatality Review Start-Up Resources

**Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFRs)** are confidential death reviews conducted by local multidisciplinary teams to improve overdose prevention and intervention strategies.

OFRs are becoming a cornerstone of successful community responses to substance use. By combining collaboration between public safety and public health providers with effective use of data to identify system gaps, OFR teams build trust among local stakeholders so that they can fully comprehend the substance use challenge facing them and, by working together to implement evidence-based recommendations, prevent future deaths. Dozens of jurisdictions nationwide have established OFR teams in recent years—evidence itself of their effectiveness and growing acceptance as an essential tool in community efforts to reduce overdoses.

Jurisdictions interested in establishing their own OFR teams should consider the resources listed below as a road map that will enable them to understand the methodology, commitment, and investments required to assemble an effective team, as well as the practical steps they can take to start their own teams. The resources were compiled through a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the [Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program \(COSSAP\)](#), a U.S. Department of Justice program supported by the [Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\)](#). They can be found individually on the COSSAP website, [www.cossapresources.org](http://www.cossapresources.org).

<b>OFR Toolkit</b>	An online package of tools, expert guidance, and training designed to provide prospective OFR teams self-guided direction through the steps necessary to build a successful team on a foundation of coalition-building, data collection, and a commitment to overdose prevention. Site visitors are equipped with a practitioner’s guide to OFR implementation, an array of supplemental resources including sample meeting agendas, work plans, and data collection templates, and a user-friendly online form to request OFR training and technical assistance. Developed in partnership between COSSAP and CDC.	<a href="https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR">https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR</a>
<b>PHAST Toolkit</b>	Developed by the CDC Foundation as a companion to the OFR toolkit, the Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) toolkit is designed to reduce opioid overdose deaths by using aggregate data and increasing collaboration among all sectors, with a particular focus on public health and public safety agencies. PHAST engages partners through the “SOS” process, which stands for shared understanding, optimized capacity, and shared accountability.	<a href="https://www.cdcfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/PHAST_Web_Toolkit_Pilot_Version_2.0_For_Dissemination.pdf">https://www.cdcfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/PHAST_Web_Toolkit_Pilot_Version_2.0_For_Dissemination.pdf</a>
<b>OFR 101 Webinar</b>	Presented by leading OFR experts at COSSAP and CDC, this January 2021 webinar details roles and expectations of OFR team leaders and members, describes agenda items of an OFR meeting and measures of success, and provides guidance on OFR data collection and plans for implementing OFR team recommendations.	<a href="https://www.cossapresources.org/Media/Webinar/3c67cf45-050b-4edf-b38a-a3188c71180f">https://www.cossapresources.org/Media/Webinar/3c67cf45-050b-4edf-b38a-a3188c71180f</a>
<b>2021 Virtual National Forum on OFR</b>	Held in February 2021, the virtual forum provided detailed guidance about OFR recruitment and participation, confidentiality and information sharing, and data collection, concluding with mock OFRs for both urban and rural settings. The Forum’s recorded sessions are on the COSSAP resource site, providing a continuing resource for practitioners. Cohosted by COSSAP and CDC.	<a href="https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/ForumOFR">https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/ForumOFR</a>

View OFR resources at <https://www.cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR>.

# OFR Start-Up Resources

<b>Mock OFR Meetings</b>	The 2021 Virtual National Forum on OFR featured two mock OFR meetings conducted by actual OFR team members: one from an urban community and the other from a rural community.	Urban OFR meeting
		Rural OFR meeting
<b>OFR Data System</b>	COSSAP and CDC developed an OFR data system to enable communities to capture key information from OFRs and monitor recommendations to develop a framework of accountability. Open to all OFR sites, the system offers guidance on both inputting and analyzing data and on data-sharing and confidentiality agreements, as well as information on relevant federal and state privacy laws.	<a href="https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR/Collect">https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR/Collect</a>
<b>OFR Peer Mentor Program</b>	The OFR Peer Mentor Program encourages the uptake of promising peer practices by new OFR sites by building bridges between nascent OFR teams and established ones that have demonstrated success. Participating OFR peer mentees are matched to one of five experienced OFR peer mentor sites that provide consultation and support through direct communication and a virtual OFR site visit to see firsthand how OFRs work in practice.	<a href="https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/PeerToPeer/#OFR">https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/PeerToPeer/#OFR</a>
<b>OFR Information Sharing Guidance</b>	The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA), in partnership with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), developed information sharing fact sheets to provide OFR teams an understanding of what members legally can and cannot share in regards to federal law (such as 42 C.F.R. and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA]).	<a href="https://www.cossapresources.org/Tools/InformationSharingScenarios/OFR">https://www.cossapresources.org/Tools/InformationSharingScenarios/OFR</a>
<b>OFR Message Exchange</b>	The OFR message exchange is a platform for OFR team members to engage with each other, share information, and problem-solve.	<a href="https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR/Exchange">https://cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR/Exchange</a>
<b>Request OFR TTA</b>	OFR teams may request customized training and technical assistance (TTA) from OFR practitioners and experts directly via the COSSAP website.	<a href="https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request/OFR">https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request/OFR</a>
<b>Register Your OFR Team</b>	New OFR teams may register with the COSSAP website, providing them access to the full array of OFR resources, contacts, and networks available on the site.	<a href="https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6194863/Overdose-Fatality-Review-Team-Registration">https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6194863/Overdose-Fatality-Review-Team-Registration</a>

Visit the COSSAP Resource Center at [www.cossapresources.org](http://www.cossapresources.org).

## About IIR

IIR serves as the connecting point for COSSAP TTA efforts and collaborates with BJA leadership and fellow TTA providers to work directly with COSSAP site-based grantees. IIR's role includes guidance and contributions by subject-matter experts in priority COSSAP areas of focus; coordination of the COSSAP TTA network's cadre of experts and providers; publication production and design of COSSAP resources; planning, coordination, and delivery of national-level trainings and working group meetings; COSSAP Resource Center development and maintenance; coordination of distance-learning opportunities and resource dissemination; and other complementary activities.

## About BJA

BJA provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities. To learn more about BJA, visit [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov) and follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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