



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

Texas Overdose Data to Action (TODA) Surveillance Support

January 10, 2025

Jordan Baker, TODA Program Manager

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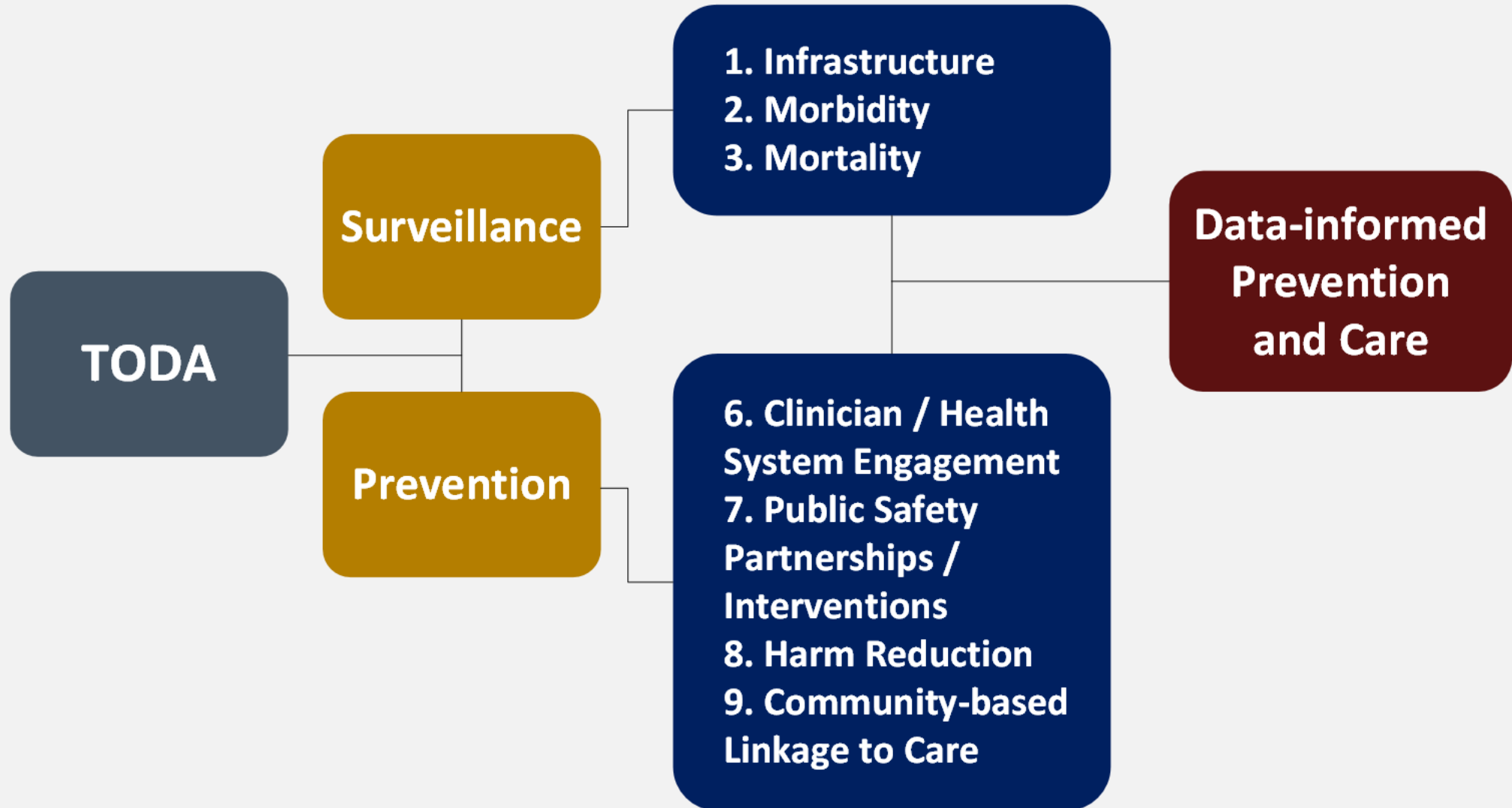
TODA Overview



Grant Overview

Grant Activity	Funding Information
Funding Agency	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Primary Grant	Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S).
Award Date	September 2023 – August 2028.
Funding Cycle	Five (5) years.
Objective	Using surveillance and prevention strategies, TODA will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Track fatal and non-fatal, unintentional and undetermined intent drug poisonings;• Identify emerging drug threats; and• Use data to drive drug poisoning prevention strategies.

Strategy Overview



Surveillance Strategies (1 of 3)

Strategy 1 Surveillance Infrastructure: Improve and enhance overall capacity to conduct surveillance.

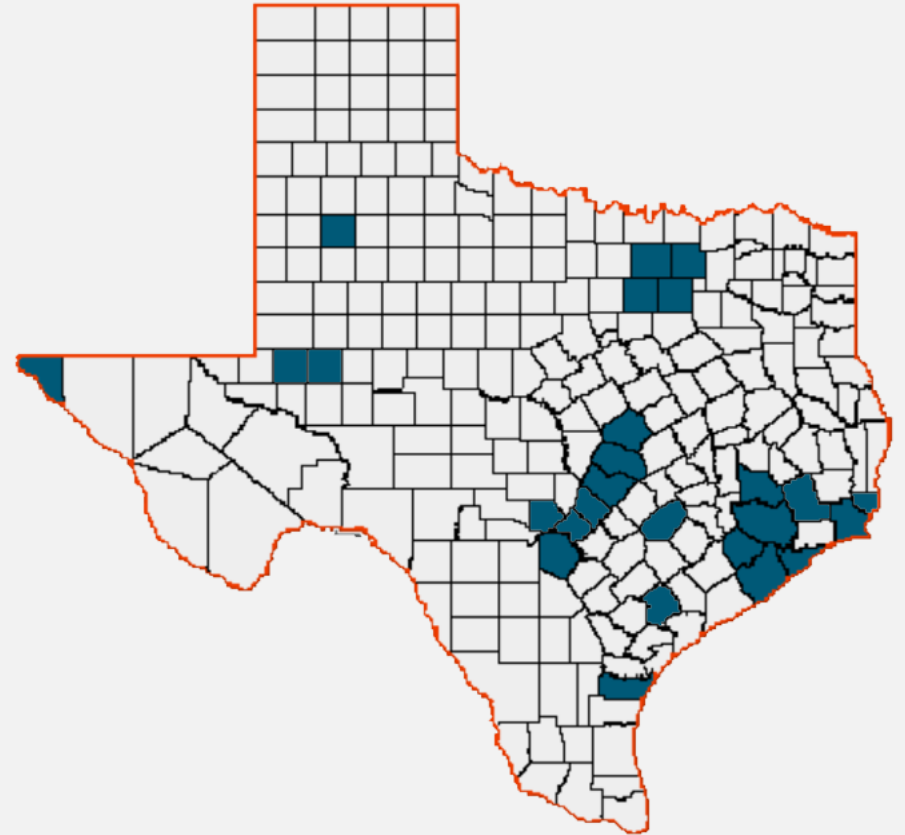
Strategy 2 Morbidity Surveillance: Collect and disseminate timely data from emergency departments and hospital admissions for suspected drug poisoning.

Strategy 3 Mortality Surveillance: Collect and disseminate timely data on unintentional and undetermined intent drug poisoning deaths.

Surveillance Strategies (2 of 3)

TODA submits records into the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) for all counties and all reported drug poisoning deaths.

TODA piloted the SUDORS program with the 26 counties that make up 82% of undetermined and unintentional drug poisoning deaths. TODA expanded to statewide in September of 2025.



Pilot Counties: Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector, El Paso, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Guadalupe, Harris, Hays, Jefferson, Liberty, Lubbock, Midland, Montgomery, Nueces, Orange, Tarrant, Travis, Victoria, and Williamson.

Surveillance Strategies (3 of 3)

Record Requesting Process:

- With Institutional Review Board approval, TODA receives death certificate data from the Texas Department of State Health Services Center for Health Statistics.
- TODA staff request additional records needed to fulfill SUDORS variable requirements.
- TODA data analysts abstract records and enter variables into the CDC SUDORS database.
- TODA must meet record abstraction requirements for 75% of participating counties to receive funding.



Texas Department of State Health Services

Jennifer A. Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Date: 12/13/2024

Re: Request for Death Records for Texas Overdose Data to Action.

Pursuant to [Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 92.003 legal authority](#), the following persons shall report cases or suspected cases of reportable injuries to the department:

- 1) a physician who diagnoses or treats a reportable injury; and
- 2) a medical examiner or justice of the peace.

All information and records relating to injuries that are reported to the Department of State Health Services are confidential under [Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 92.006](#).

DSHS Injury Prevention Unit requests the following information:

Manner of Death: Drug Poisoning Deaths, Deaths of Undetermined Intent
Ages: All Ages
County:

PLEASE PROVIDE INVESTIGATIVE / AUTOPSY/ TOXICOLOGY REPORTS

Name:
Date of Birth:
Date of Death:
Case number:
Manner of Death:
Additional Information:

Records by mail:
Injury Prevention Unit
Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 W. 49th Street
Mail Code: 1922
Austin, TX 78756

Records by e-mail:
toda@dshs.texas.gov

Records by Fax:
(512) 483-5736

Surveillance Strategy Support Programs

- Drug Poisoning Supplemental – The Drug Poisoning Supplemental provides a streamlined reporting template to facilitate data standardization and collection for SUDORS.
- Toxicology Reimbursement
 - The Toxicology Reimbursement program provides reimbursement for key toxicology testing to promote expanded toxicology testing for suspected drug poisonings.
 - The toxicology reimbursement program is currently restricted to counties participating in SUDORS data collection.
 - TODA has allocated \$703,200 for toxicology reimbursement per year through August 2028.
 - This project could be expanded based on project adoption and additional funding availability.



NMS Labs

Kacie Tross, Senior Territory Manager – Texas



Account Set Up

Current Users	New Users
NMS will create a separate account for the TODA program	Go to: Account Request Form · NMS Labs Client Account Form and complete the request form, or call <i>New Account Inquiries: 1-866-522-2216</i>
Submit all TODA toxicology test billing through the account with (TX HHS).	Ensure the (TX HHS) is attached to your account. Once your account is established, request testing materials and submit materials for testing through the portal.
<p>If you are unsure of your account number or do not think you have a grant account set up, please contact kacie.tross@nmslabs.com and jenna.lock@nmslabs.com</p>	

What's Included

Postmortem Expanded Testing (8052B recommended) 250 drugs in scope including:

- Classes of common drugs of abuse including THC and metabolites, opiates, opioids, benzodiazepines, alcohols, barbiturates, cocaine, and amphetamines
- Analgesics, Anesthetics, Anticonvulsants, Antidepressants, Antihistamines, Antipsychotics, Bath Salts, Cardiovascular, Gastrointestinal, Narcotics, Neurological, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), Opiates, Sedatives/Hypnotics, Stimulants, and Urological.
- Detailed scope of testing is available upon request

Collection supplies and FedEx materials included

Sample Disposition – Store 12 months, then discard

Requested Volume- 10mL, Minimum volume – 5mL

Turnaround Time– 15-18 days



Eligible Test Codes

Test Code	Test Description
8052B	Postmortem Expanded – Blood
8052FL	Postmortem Expanded – Fluid
8052SP	Postmortem Expanded – Serum/Plasma
8052TI	Postmortem Expanded – Tissue
8052U	Postmortem Expanded - Urine
8042B	Postmortem Expanded - Blood w/Vitreous Alcohol add-on
8084B	Postmortem Expanded – Blood w/ Vitreous Alcohol add-on and 6-MAM Screen

Please contact Kacie Tross and Jenna Lock if you have questions about additional testing options or for specific drugs

Questions/Contact Information

Kacie Tross, Senior Territory Manager – Texas

- kacie.tross@nmslabs.com
- **215-824-6095**

Jenna Lock, Account Manager – TX HHS

- jenna.lock@nmslabs.com
- 445-216-9081

Questions about Toxicology Reimbursement



Drug Poisoning Supplemental Overview



Drug Poisoning Supplemental (1 of 2)

Data Collection

- With Institutional Review Board approval, TODA receives death certificate data from the Department of State Health Services Center for Health Statistics.
- TODA uses death certificate information to request additional records from county medical examiner and justice of the peace offices.
- TODA data analysts abstract autopsies, toxicology reports, and death investigative reports.

State Unintentional Drug Overdose Response System (SUDORS) Drug Poisoning Supplement

Texas Overdose Data to Action (TODA), a statewide public health program, developed this supplemental form for medical examiners (MEs), justices of the peace (JPs), and death investigators to support data collection efforts and standardize death investigative reporting across Texas.

TODA is requesting voluntary information to achieve a comprehensive understanding of Texas drug poisoning incidents. For more detailed information about TODA and how the data is used, please visit dshs.gov/injury-prevention/texas-overdose-data-action.

All Personally Identifiable Information (PII) associated with any individual, case, or health care provider will be strictly confidential. TODA will not include PII in reports. All protocols comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rules and state medical privacy statutes.

Texas Overdose Data to Action

Texas Department of State Health Services

dshs.texas.gov/injury-prevention/texas-overdose-data-action



Texas Department of State Health Services

Drug Poisoning Supplemental (2 of 2)

Data Collection

- Data analysts collect **89** different variables from records obtained.

TODA developed the drug poisoning supplemental to help:

- Standardize reporting;
- Support timely data collection and dissemination and;
- Reduce strain on county resources.

Decedent Demographics

<p>1. Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>2. Sex (Check one): Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3. Age (years): <input type="text"/></p> <p>4. Height (ft. and in.): <input type="text"/></p> <p>5. Weight (lbs.): <input type="text"/></p> <p>6. Race and Ethnicity (Check one): Non-Hispanic White <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Unspecified <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>7. Address: <input type="text"/></p> <p>8. City, State, Zip Code: <input type="text"/></p> <p>9. County: <input type="text"/></p> <p>10. Military: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>11. Marital Status (Check one): Married <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>12. Next of Kin (NOK) Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>13. NOK Address: <input type="text"/></p>
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Pathology

1. Examination Type:	<input type="text"/>
2. Manner of Death:	<input type="text"/>
3. Post-Mortem Toxicology:	<input type="text"/>
4. Cause of Death:	<input type="text"/>
5. Contributing Cause of Death:	<input type="text"/>

Questions about the Drug Poisoning Supplemental



How You Can Help

- Identify additional areas where TODA may support JP and ME offices;
- Waive record requesting fees;
- Explore TODA prevention programming to share with communities;
- Use data provided; and
- Share data resources with stakeholders.

Thank you!

TODA@dshs.texas.gov