



December 31, 2025

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Drug Fatality Report

Dear Mr. Metzler:

The Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Teams Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-3422 to 71-3437) was passed and approved by Governor Pillen on June 6, 2023. The passage of this act allowed the formation of local overdose fatality review teams led by local public health departments, as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1626.

The team currently includes over 20 active partner organizations, with strategic guidance provided by the OFR Planning Team consisting of Douglas County Health Department, Coalition Rx, Creighton University, and CHI Health Bergan. During this reporting period, new partners were recruited, including Douglas County Corrections, the Veterans Administration, a physician specializing in pain management, and a program nurse specializing in homeless population care.

From June 2024 through June 2025, the Douglas County Overdose Fatality Review Team conducted eight case reviews during five meetings. Currently due to the small number of cases reviewed, DHHS cannot provide additional analysis, trends, or aggregate data results. In addition to case reviews, the team hosted informational meetings featuring subject matter experts on topics including fentanyl awareness from the FBI, treatment options, referrals, and client navigation with peer support specialists, and veteran-specific opioid use disorder policies and practices.

No other Local Review Team has been formed in 2025. Local health departments and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) continue to explore the formation of additional teams while supporting the ongoing development and implementation of the Douglas County Overdose Fatality Review Team.

Sincerely,

Ashley Newmyer
Interim Director, Division of Public Health