

# Building an Overdose Fatality Review Program in a Large Urban Setting

*Recommendations for OFR program development*

Lindsay Wilson, MPH  
Illinois Public Health Analyst



Funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**COLLABORATE • SHARE • INFORM & HELP**

# Federal Acknowledgement

---

*This presentation is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$8,400,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS or the U.S. government.*



# Objectives

1

Describe effective utilization of the national overdose fatality review tools, resources, and networks.

2

Identify strategies to address challenges around data sharing and case selection processes.

3

Describe strategies to keep momentum when encountering barriers.



# City of Chicago

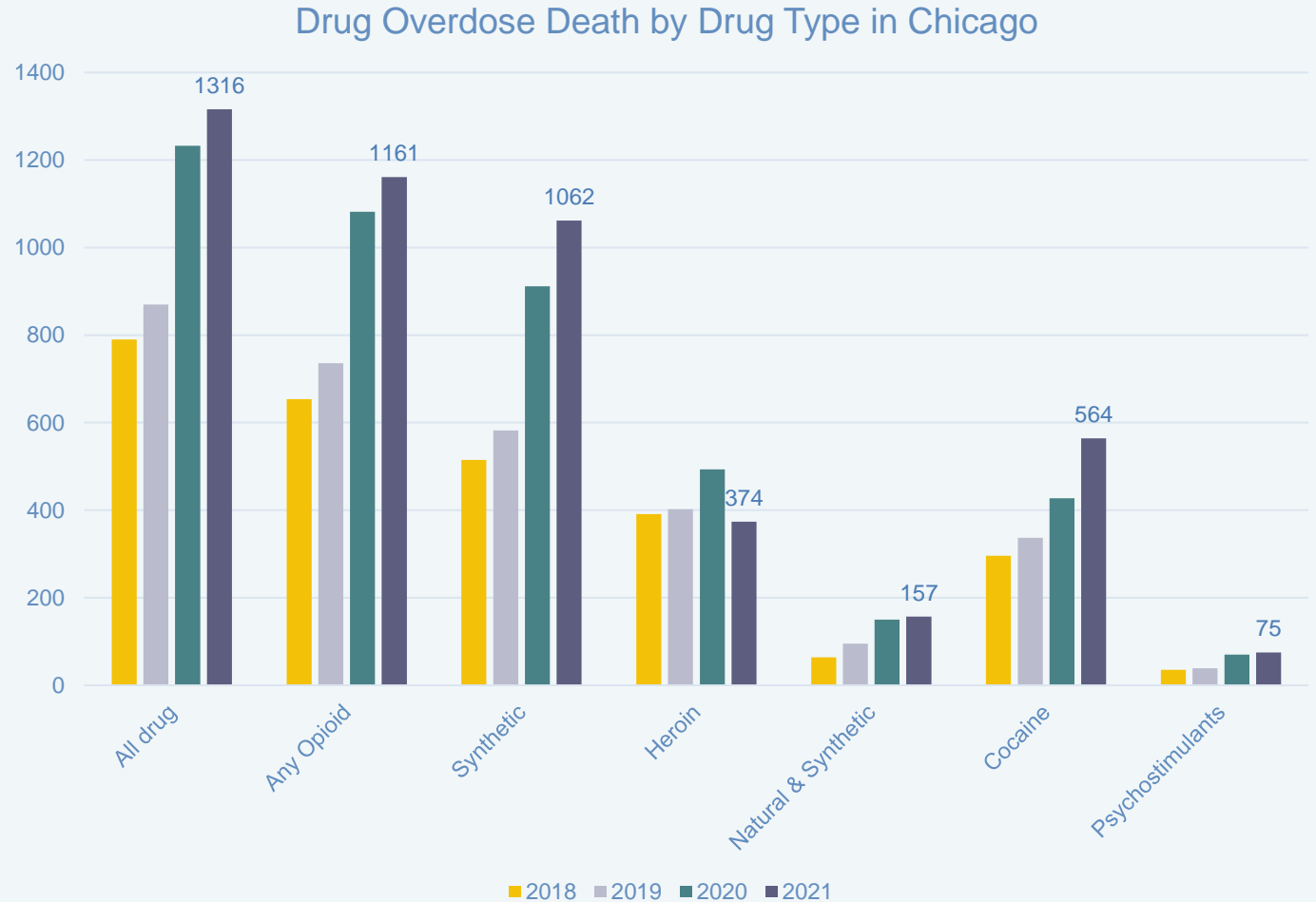
---

- Third largest city in the United States
- 2,715,450 residents
- 600 parks, 29 beaches, and 26 miles of open lakefront
- Over 7,300 restaurants
- 8 major league sports teams



# Data Trends

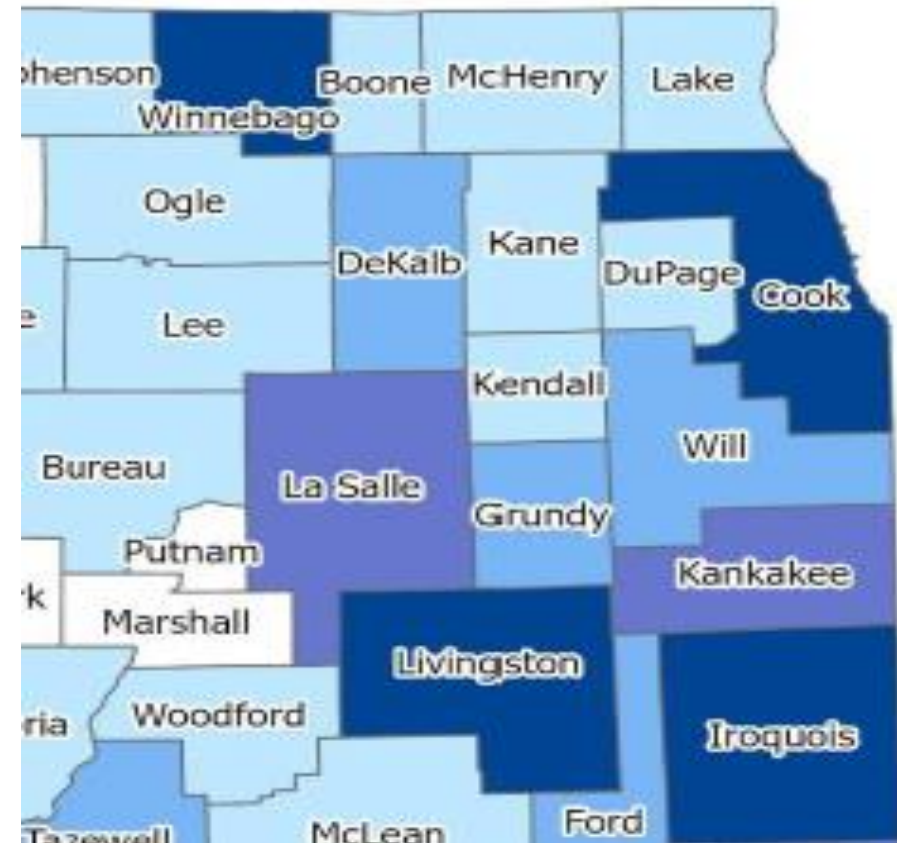
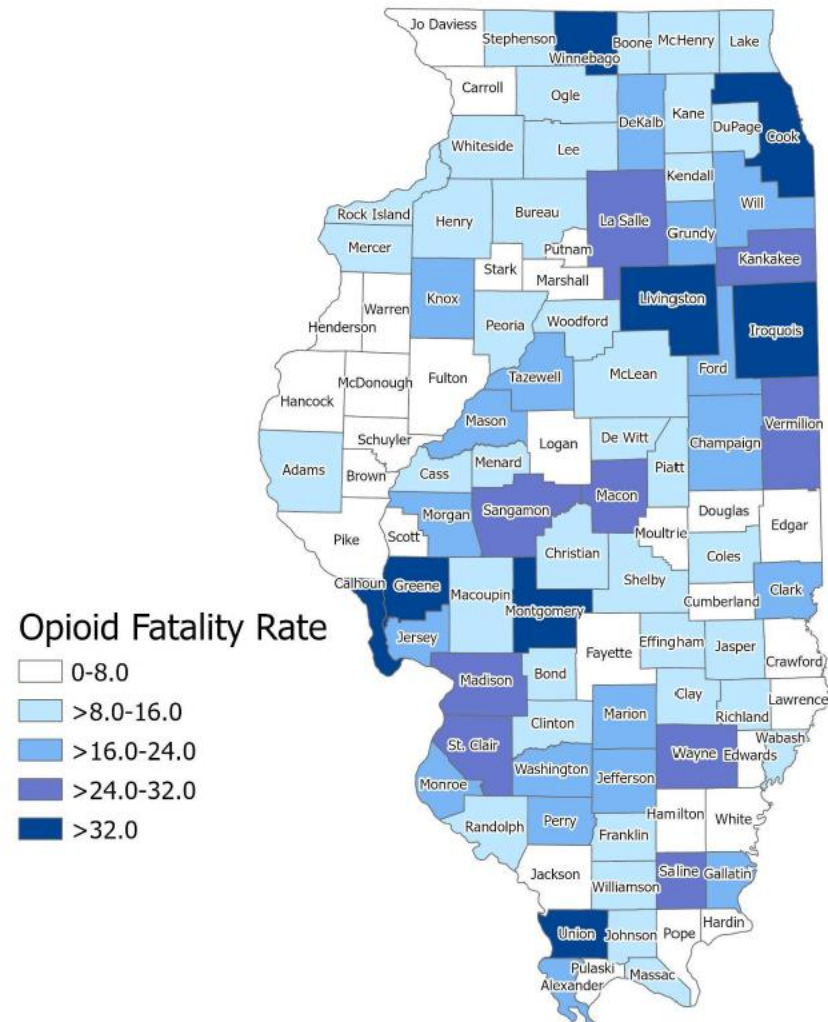
Yearly overdose fatalities by drug type in Chicago from 2018 to 2021



Illinois Death Statistics site: <https://dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/vital-statistics/death-statistics.html>

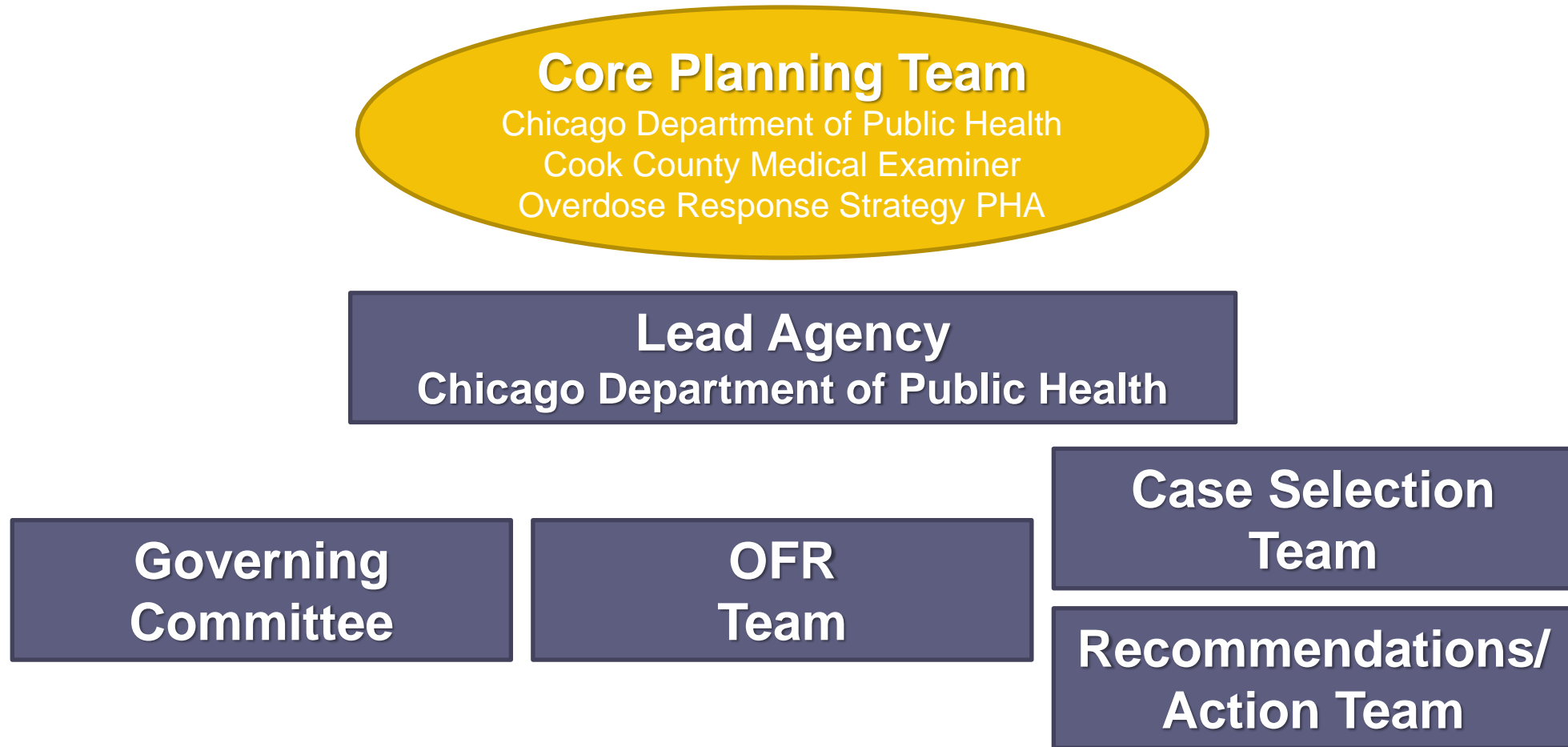


## 2021 Provisional Illinois Opioid Fatality Rate per 100,000 Capita



Source: Illinois Semi-Annual Opioid Report May 2022

# Structure



# Current OFR Panel Roster

Cook County Medical Examiner

Toxicologists (University of Illinois Chicago and Cook County Hospital)

City of Chicago Department of Public Health

- Behavioral Health
- Epidemiology

City of Chicago

- Mayor's Office Public Safety Team
- Department of Family Support Services
- Office for People with Disabilities

Chicago Police Department

Chicago Fire Department

Region 11 EMS

Cook County Sheriff

- Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC)
- Cermak Health Services (medical provider for CCDOC)

Community Leaders

Harm Reduction Outreach Teams





# Where We Have Been

OFR planning kick-off meeting

Data Use Agreement development and legal review



# Where We Are Heading

Data Use Agreement cleared through CDPH legal  
Official OFR Panel invite sent out

Case Selection Committee convenes



Feb. 2023

March 2023

June 2023

July 2023

OFR Panel Onboarding Presentation  
Data Use Agreement sent out to agencies

OFR Panel convenes



# Move Through Barriers

---

## Data Use Agreement

- Compiling and recommending sample data use agreement language
- Exploring state legislation
- Utilizing state statutes
- Reviewing other pathways for case review



# Move Through Barriers

---

## Developing Case Selection Methodology

- Using the National Standard's recommendations as a guide
- Leaning on Overdose Response Strategy Network
- Analyzing existing case selection approaches across the country



# Use resources available to you!

Existing Partnerships

COSSAP Technical Assistance Team

- <https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request/OFR>

Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) OFR Learning Community

- <https://www.hidtaprogram.org/ors.php>

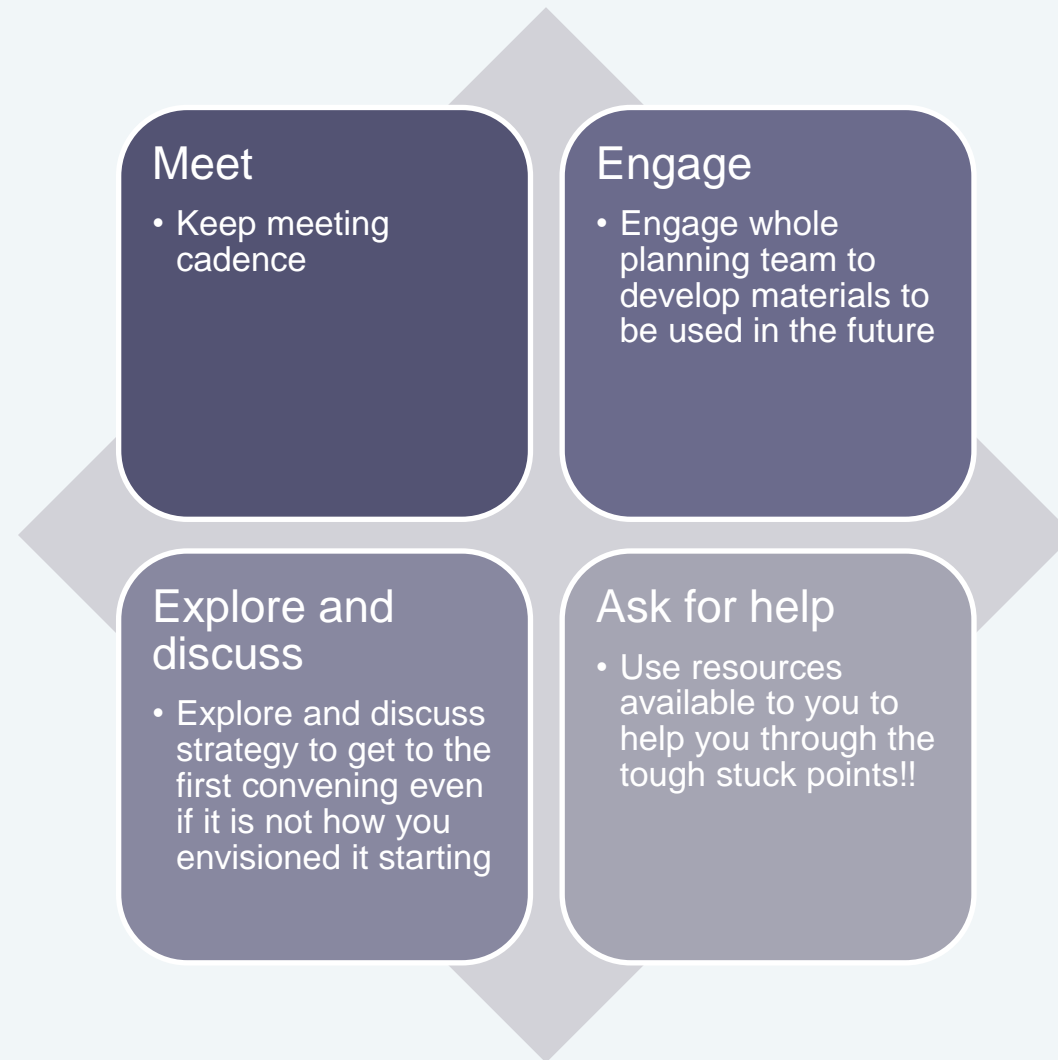
OFR National Standards

- [https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/OFR/OFR\\_National\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/OFR/OFR_National_Standards.pdf)

COSSAP OFR Tools and Resource



# Keep the Momentum



# Celebrate Successes



## Successes in Illinois

- Garnered commitment amidst many competing priorities
- Started the conversation around OFR legislation
- Provided platform to discuss expanding OFR programs across the state
- Provided opportunity to build and access invaluable networks



# Questions and Contact

---

## Lindsay Wilson

Illinois Public Health Analyst

[lindsay.Wilson@chicago-hidta.org](mailto:lindsay.Wilson@chicago-hidta.org)

Cell: (256) 225-3618

