

Suicide Fatality Review (SFR) Annual Reporting Guidance

A new Ohio law ([ORC Section 307.641](#)) took effect in September 2021 enabling a board of county commissioners to authorize a local health department to establish a Suicide Fatality Review (SFR) Committee. The purpose of an SFR is to effectively identify system gaps and innovative community-specific suicide prevention and intervention strategies. SFR committees shall establish a system for collecting and maintaining information necessary for the review of suicide deaths in the county. Maintaining records and collecting data are essential components of the SFR process. This allows the standardization of information collected for each case and contains the information that is aggregated and used to determine trends and make recommendations for prevention of future deaths.

Requirements

*1. Under the law, SFR committees must prepare and submit an annual report to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) by April 1. The report must include data points and summary information from the previous calendar year on suicide deaths where the underlying cause of death is listed on an Ohio death certificate using any of the following ICD-10 codes: X60-X84; Y87.0, and U03. **This document serves as an outline of the format and key information that should be included.***

2. To compile aggregate data for further analysis and reporting on Ohio's SFR, ODH is requesting the completion of a REDCap survey covering specific metrics and summary information to be pulled from the full annual report. A full annual report upload is required at the end of the survey. Please complete and submit here: <https://redcap.link/SFR2022>

Essential Annual Report Components

Cover Page

Please include a cover page inclusive of agency information, annual summary report title, and the appropriate date for the reporting period.

Table of Contents

Please include a table of contents demonstrating an overview of the document's contents and organization.

SFR Overview

Provide a summary of your jurisdiction specific SFR committee. This section should include the following:

- Purpose and objectives.
- SFR meeting frequency and structure.
- Committee members/partner agencies.
- Review process and utilization of specific data sources.

SFR Data & Findings

Provide narratives and data visualizations that represent important data and findings that came out of the SFR process. It is important to provide the annual suicide data for your jurisdiction and it can also be

helpful to compare this to suicide data for the appropriate year. Please make sure to include the following data points and information:

- Total number of suicide deaths in the county or region.
- Total number of suicide deaths reviewed by the committee.
- Total number of suicide deaths that were not reviewed by the committee.
- A summary of demographic information for the deaths reviewed, including age, sex, race, and ethnicity.
- Other important data the committee chooses to include.

Additional information to consider including:

- Toxicology findings.
- Decedent findings – factors contributing to the death; health factors; history; qualitative interviews (next of kin).

Identified Trends

Provide a summary of trends or patterns identified during the SFR review. Identifying trends among suicide fatalities allows SFR committees to discover systematic gaps, areas of improvement, and missed opportunities for prevention and interventions. Identifying and analyzing SFR trends can influence the creation or adaptation of recommendations.

Recommendations

Provide recommendations for actions by appropriate local community partners that were developed by the SFR committee. It is important that SFR committees develop program and policy recommendations to improve coordination and collaboration between agencies and community conditions to prevent future suicide deaths. This section can include recommendations that have been created, those that have not yet been implemented, as well as status updates on the recommendation activities being implemented.

Next Steps

Provide plans or ideas to review, improve, or enhance the SFR committee moving forward. The plans and ideas can be related to changes in membership, documentation, processes, procedures, or other important components of the SFR committee.

Full Annual Report

Each SFR Committee will be required to upload full SFR Annual Report in REDCap.