



These graphics show the elements that should be considered and reported with suspected substance related, drowning, falls, firearms, and SUID cases.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Case-Specific Frequently Used Data Elements and Chart

These case-specific data elements are meant to be used in addition to the commonly collected data elements that should be collected and recorded for every case. For example, overarching data elements such as location, decedent name, and age are not reiterated in these case-specific data element clusters. The intent of this is to highlight several specific case types (drowning, substance related, falls, firearm related, and sudden unexpected infant deaths) and the set of data elements that need to be collected when those types of cases are suspected by a MEC. The lists are not necessarily specific to investigating manner of death which requires additional data to be collected and recorded, and in certain situation multiple sets of these elements may need to be collected (such as a case that is suspected to be either substance related and/or drowning related). Ensuring that all frequently collected data elements as well as case-specific data elements are collected help to better inform investigative and public health/safety practices. This graphic can be downloaded and used in agency training to ensure all data are collected. Additionally, the graphic can be used to develop programming requirements for data developers to code medicolegal death information or assist with standardization and consistency among data exchange as part of other resources.

Full list of [Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements](#).

In the accompanying chart -from left to right- the data element name, definition, and primary documentation columns. Data element names may vary slightly in different case management systems (CMS) but are intended to be overarching in nature. The definitions column is meant to further describe and explain the type of information that should be documented for that specific data element. Oftentimes examples of this information are provided. The primary documentation column acts as a guide as to where that information may come from; Scenes is represented with the initial (S), Witness Reports is represented by the initial (W), Documentation/Records is represented with the initial (R), and Decedent is represented with the initial (D).

Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements

Demographic

Location

Circumstances

Date & Time

Narrative

Medical History

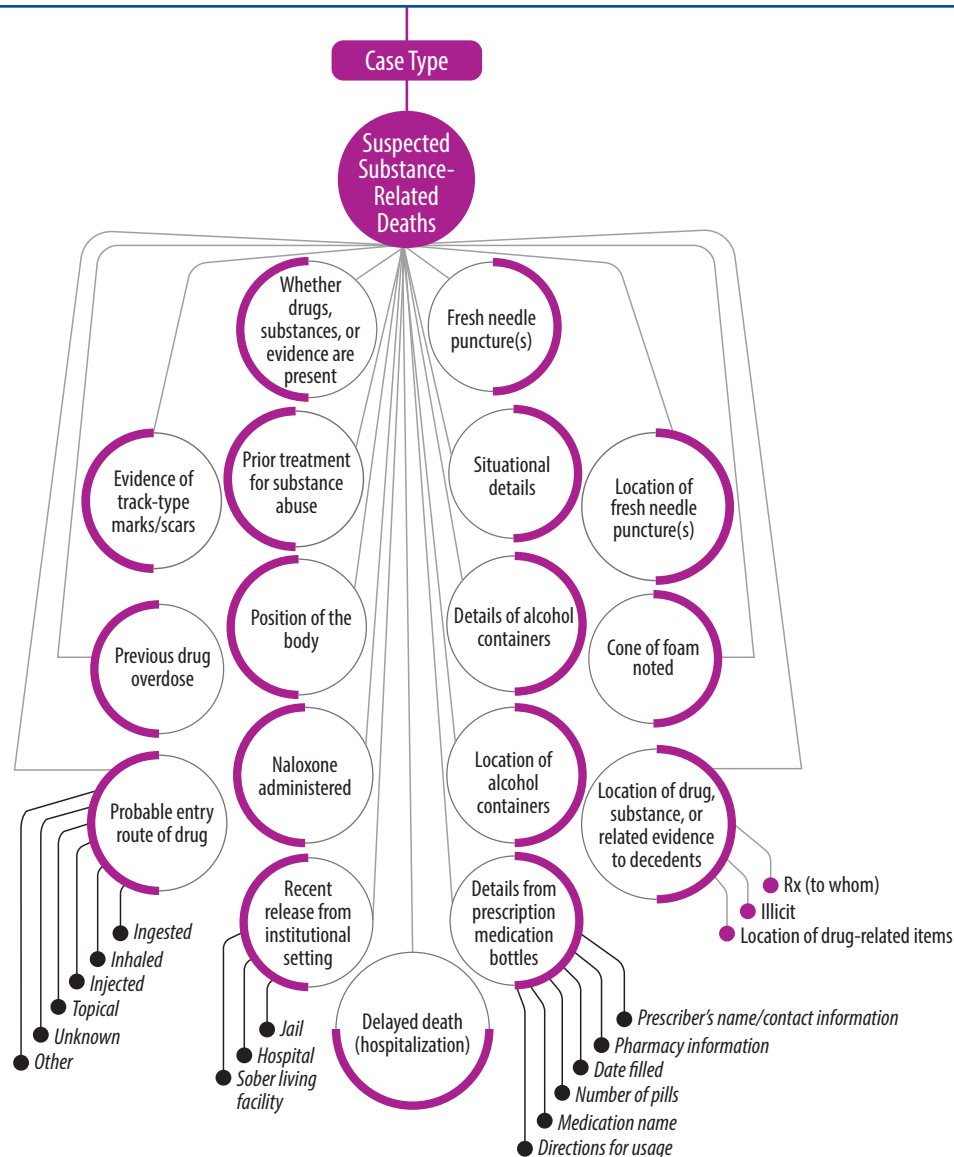
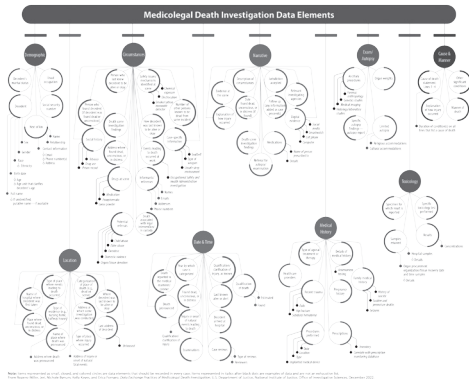
Exam/Autopsy

Toxicology

Cause & Manner

Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Elements — Case Specific: Suspected Substance Related Deaths

This graphic represents a list of data elements that should be collected for Suspected Substance-Related Death cases in addition to the Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements. In certain cases, it may be necessary to collect data elements from multiple case types until appropriate cause of death is determined.



Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements

Demographic

Location

Circumstances

Date & Time

Narrative

Medical History

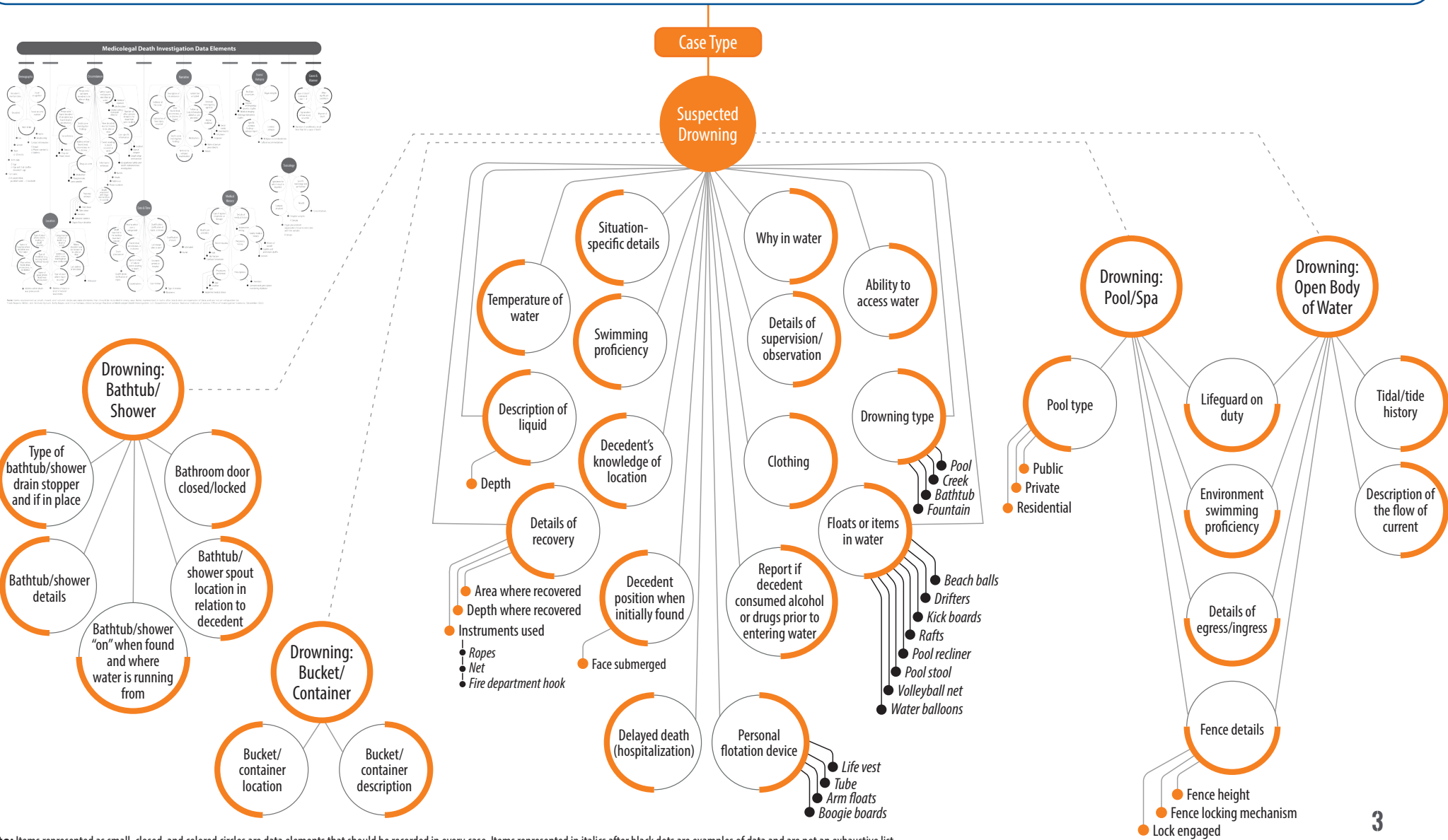
Exam/Autopsy

Toxicology

Cause & Manner

Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Elements — Case Specific: Suspected Drowning

This graphic represents a list of data elements that should be collected for Suspected Drowning cases in addition to the Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements. In certain cases, it may be necessary to collect data elements from multiple case types until appropriate cause of death is determined.



Note: Items represented as small, closed, and colored circles are data elements that should be recorded in every case. Items represented in italics after black dots are examples of data and are not an exhaustive list.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements

Demographic

Location

Circumstances

Date & Time

Narrative

Medical History

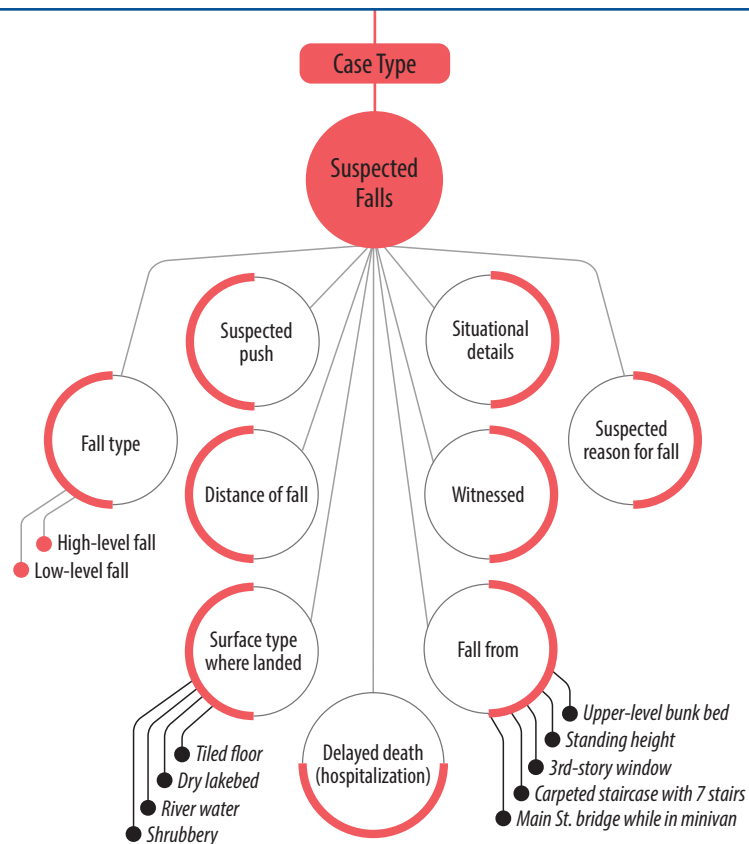
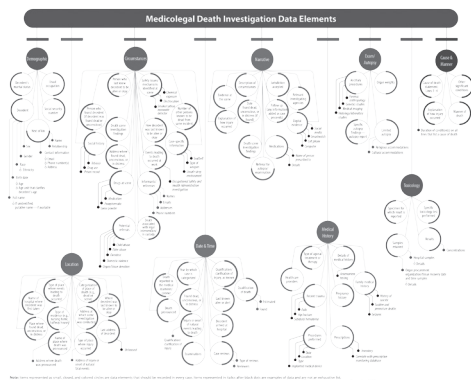
Exam/Autopsy

Toxicology

Cause & Manner

Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Elements — Case Specific: Suspected Falls

This graphic represents a list of data elements that should be collected for Suspected Falls cases in addition to the Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements. In certain cases, it may be necessary to collect data elements from multiple case types until appropriate cause of death is determined.



Note: Items represented as small, closed, and colored circles are data elements that should be recorded in every case. Items represented in italics after black dots are examples of data and are not an exhaustive list.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements

Demographic

Location

Circumstances

Date & Time

Narrative

Medical History

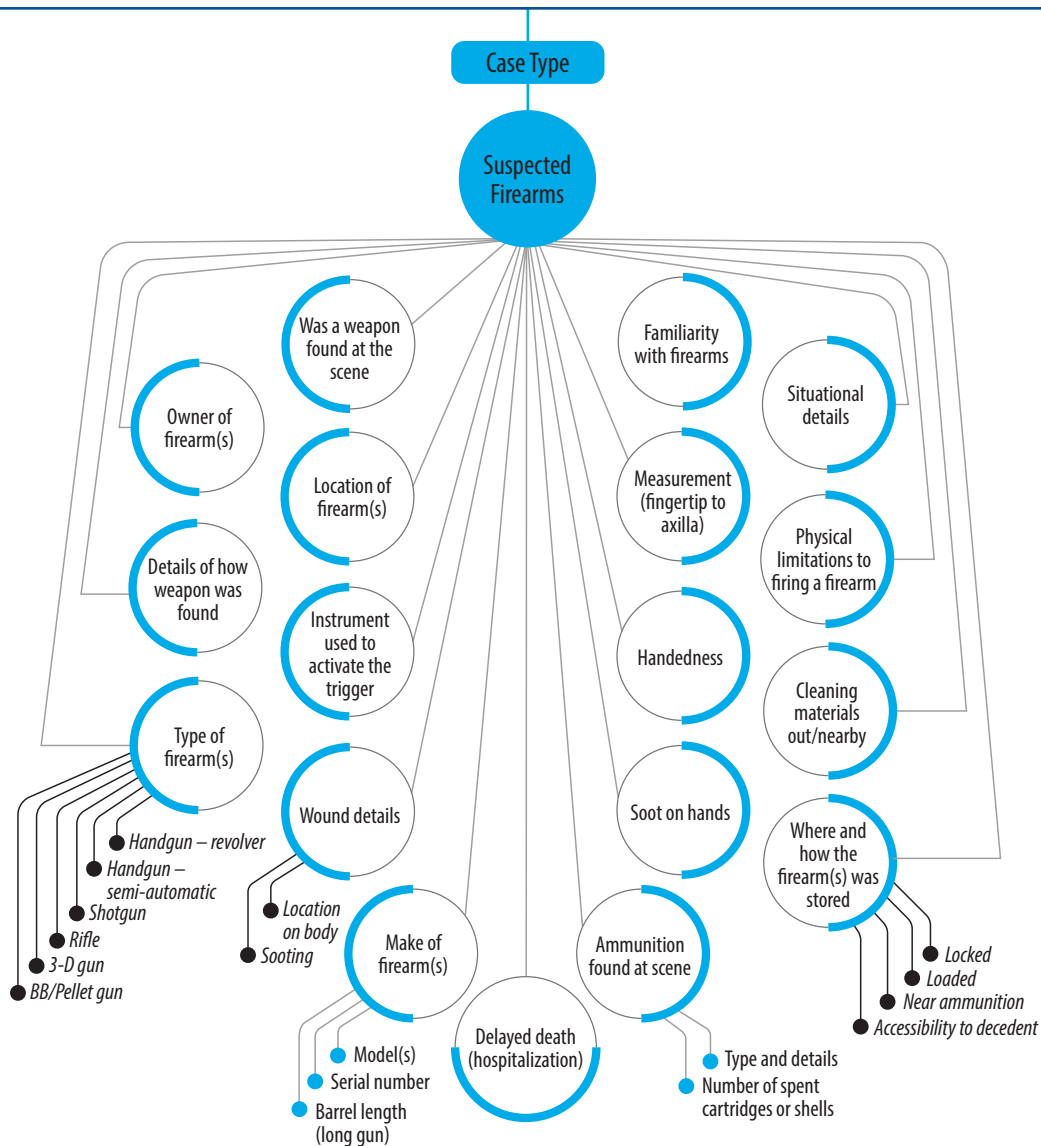
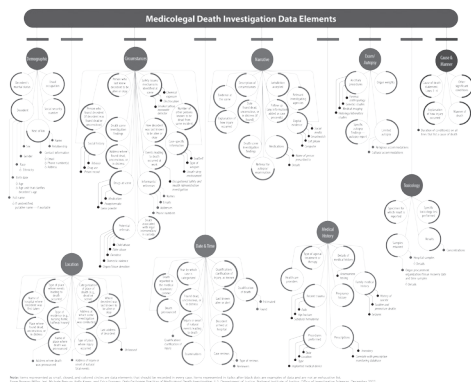
Exam/Autopsy

Toxicology

Cause & Manner

Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Elements — Case Specific: Suspected Firearms

This graphic represents a list of data elements that should be collected for Suspected Firearms cases in addition to the Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements. In certain cases, it may be necessary to collect data elements from multiple case types until appropriate cause of death is determined.



Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements

Demographic

Location

Circumstances

Date & Time

Narrative

Medical History

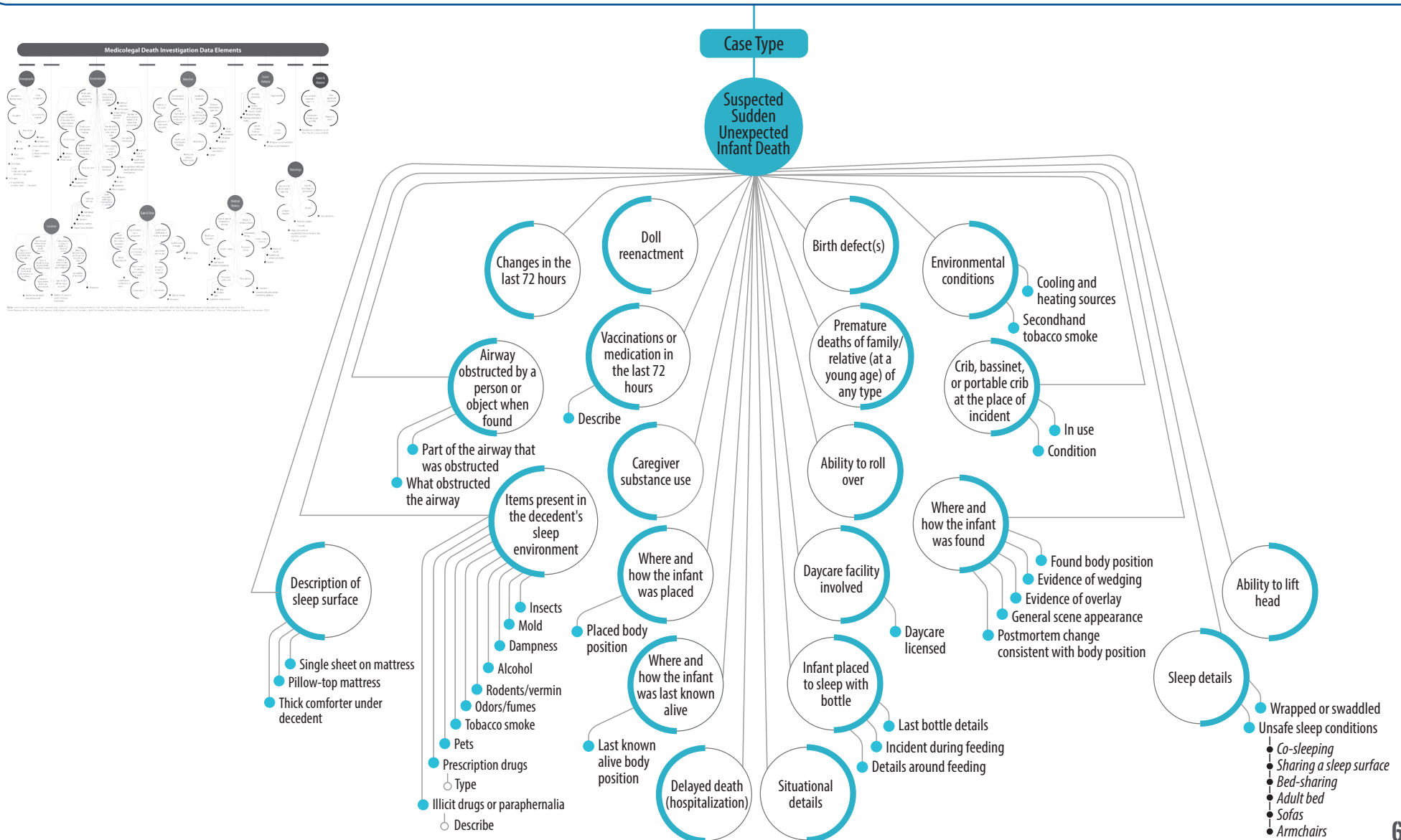
Exam/Autopsy

Toxicology

Cause & Manner

Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Elements — Case Specific: Suspected SUID

This graphic represents a list of data elements that should be collected for Suspected Sudden Unexpected Infant Death cases in addition to the Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements. In certain cases, it may be necessary to collect data elements from multiple case types until appropriate cause of death is determined.



Note: Items represented as small, closed, and colored circles are data elements that should be recorded in every case. Items represented in italics after black dots are examples of data and are not an exhaustive list.

MDI Case-Specific Elements

Suspected Substance-Related

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Whether Drugs, Substances, or Evidence Are Present (e.g., Paraphernalia):	Indicate the presence of any drugs, substances, or other possible evidence of an overdose or substance-related death at the incident location and whether found by the MDI or just reported. This includes prescription medication and things like rubbing alcohol, cough syrup, mouthwash, nail polish remover, or anything indicative of possible drug use like fentanyl test strips. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Location of Drug, Substance, or Related Evidence to Decedent:	Indicate the location and details of any drug, substance, or other evidence suggestive of overdose in relationship to the decedent. Include prescription medication and any suspected illicit drug or paraphernalia (e.g., miscellaneous blue and white pills located on the bed with the decedent, antifreeze bottle on the kitchen counter, empty pill packs in the trash can, or open bottle of cleaning chemicals on bathroom counter next to a glass with white chalky residue).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Probable Entry Route of Drug:	Based on evidence seen and interviews, indicate the probable method(s) through which any substances were taken (e.g., ingested, inhaled, injected).	D, S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Fresh Needle Puncture(s):	Indicate if any fresh needle punctures(s) were noted on the decedent at scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	D
Location of Fresh Needle Puncture(s):	If there were fresh needle punctures, indicate where on the body they were noted.	D
Evidence of Track-Type Marks/Scars:	Indicate if there is evidence of track mark type of scars. Marks or scars on the decedent. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	D
Details of Alcohol Containers:	List details of all alcohol (and alcohol-like substances) on scene, including how many and fill level (e.g., 7 vodka bottles, 3 empty and 2 about half full; dozens of empty beer cans).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Location of Alcohol Containers:	Indicate the location of any alcohol noted at scene.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Details from Prescription Medication Bottles:	Indicate the details of any prescription medications found on scene, including prescriber's name and contact information, pharmacy information, date filled, number of pills, medication name, and directions for usage. Photograph all bottles/labels. If medications are not prescribed to the decedent, indicate who the medication is prescribed to.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Position of the Body:	Indicate the position in which the decedent was initially found, specifically looking for any details that could be concerning for positional asphyxia.	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Cone of Foam Noted:	Indicate if a cone of foam from nose or mouth was noted on the decedent at the scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	D (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via W, R)
Previous Drug Overdose:	Indicate if the decedent ever experienced a nonfatal drug overdose at some time prior to the current event. Include date of previous overdose(s).	W, R
Recent Release From Institutional Setting:	Within a month prior to the fatal overdose, was the decedent released from or admitted to any institutional setting. This can include correctional institutions (e.g., jails, prisons), medical institutions (e.g., hospitals, psychiatric institutions, long-term health or treatment sites), and supervised residential facilities that may be related to alcohol or substance abuse treatment (e.g., halfway houses, work-release homes).	W, R
Naloxone Administered:	Indicate whether the decedent was administered Naloxone as a response to their fatal overdose. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W,R
Prior Treatment for Substance Use Disorders and Type of Treatment:	Indicate whether the decedent, at some point in the past, received any treatment (e.g., medications for opioid use disorder, cognitive behavioral therapy) for any type of substance use disorder (e.g., opioid use disorder, stimulant use disorder), excluding alcohol.	W, R

Suspected Substance-Related

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Delayed Death (Hospitalization):	For a delayed death related to, or suspected to be related to, substances, list relevant information from any hospitalizations since the injury, such as dates and locations of hospitalizations, diagnostic procedures, and surgeries.	R
Situational Details:	Provide relevant details about the circumstances that led up to the point of dying (e.g., injected drug believed to be heroin; was in increasing pain and took prescription medications; suicidal and locked self in bedroom, found by mom the next morning with empty pill bottles on the bed; had been out partying with friends, then heard snoring on the couch, found unresponsive and face down on the couch in the morning).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)

Suspected Drowning

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	All (A), Bath tub/Shower (BA), Bucket (B), Open Body of Water (OB), Pool/Hot Tub (P)	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Drowning Type:	Indicate the type of location in which the incident occurred (e.g., bay, brook, canal, cove, creek, gulf, lagoon, lake, marsh, ocean, pond, reservoir, river, sea, strait, stream, swamp, above-ground swimming pool, tide pool, bathtub, in-ground hot tub, shower, bucket, sink, fountain).	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Reason for Being in Water:	Indicate why the decedent is in or near water if known; this could be a supposition as well (e.g., swims for exercise each morning, appears to have fallen in the pool while doing yard work, was reportedly taking a bath after complaining of a headache, decedent is known to live along the river bank and recent rains lead to a sudden rise in water levels during the night, Hurricane Bob flooded streets).	A	W
Swimming Proficiency:	Indicate the decedent's overall swimming level/proficiency. <i>Options: none, basic swimmer, intermediate swimmer, advanced swimmer, endurance swimmer</i>	A	W
Personal Floating Device:	Indicate if the decedent was using any sort of Personal Floating Devices (e.g., life vest, tube, arm floats, boogie board).	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Decedent Position When Initially Found:	Indicate the position in which the decedent was initially found (e.g., stomach, back, right side, left side, unknown, supine over the edge of the tub, or face under the shower and feet outside).	A	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Environment Swimming Proficiency:	Indicate the decedent's overall swimming experience in a similar environment (i.e., if they are experienced in swimming in a pool but found dead the ocean, note this here). <i>Options: none, basic swimmer, intermediate swimmer, advanced swimmer, endurance swimmer</i>	OB	W
Face Submerged When Initially Found:	Indicate if the decedent's face was submerged when initially found. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown, partially</i>	A	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Details of Recovery:	Indicate who recovered the decedent and details of the recovery.		W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)

Suspected Drowning

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	All (A), Bathtub/Shower (BA), Bucket (B), Open Body of Water (OB), Pool/Hot Tub (P)	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Instruments Used to Recover Body (e.g., Fire Department Hook, Ropes, Net):	Indicate any tool or instruments used to recover the body (e.g., fire department hook, ropes, net) for comparison to postmortem artifacts.	A	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Area Where Recovered:	Indicate details about the area where the decedent was recovered (e.g., deep end of the pool, 5 miles off the coast of lifeguard tower 23).	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Depth Where Recovered:	Indicate the depth at which the decedent was recovered.	A	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Description of Liquid:	Provide details about the liquid in which the decedent was found (e.g., saltwater, chemicals solution, chlorinated water, if it was colored, or if it was cloudy/murky).	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Temperature of Water:	Indicate the temperature of the water in which the decedent was found as close to the time they were found as possible. Ideally, this should be a measured temperature, but if that is not available, indicate temperature with terms like cold, hot, frozen, or warm.	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Depth of Liquid:	Indicate the depth of the liquid in which the decedent was initially found (e.g., the known depth(s) of a pool or bucket, inches or feet of liquid). If an actual depth is unable to be measured, indicate via text such as "over decedent's head."	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Decedent's Knowledge of Location:	Indicate details of the decedent's knowledge of the location and of the body of water (e.g., lived in the apartment and swam nightly, family had no idea that the decedent had ever visited this location, or witnesses recall seeing the decedent at this location with several other people).	A	W
Details of Supervision/Observation (e.g., Who is Responsible for the Decedent):	Provide details of who, if anyone, was supervising or observing those at the location (i.e., who, if anyone, would have been responsible for the decedent). This may also be who was providing supervision prior to going into the water.	A	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Floats or Items in Water (If Applicable):	Indicate what, if any, items or toy floatation devices were present in the water. <i>Options: beach balls, drifters, kick boards, noodles, rafts, pool recliner, pool stool, volleyball net, water balloons, other</i>	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Whether Decedent Consumed Alcohol or Drugs Prior to Entering Water:	Indicate if it was reported that the decedent is suspected or believed to have consumed drugs or alcohol prior to entering the water. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	A	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Clothing:	List the clothing the decedent was wearing, specifically focusing of it was appropriate for being in the water.	A	D, S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Ability to Access the Water:	Indicate barriers that the decedent had to break to get to the water and if they had the ability to do so, such as a child opening a sliding glass door.	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Delayed Death (Hospitalization):	For a delayed death related to, or suspected to be related to, drowning, list relevant information from any hospitalizations since the injury (e.g., dates and locations of hospitalizations, diagnostic procedures, and surgeries).	A	R

Suspected Drowning

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	All (A), Bathtub/Shower (BA), Bucket (B), Open Body of Water (OB), Pool/Hot Tub (P)	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Situational Details:	Provide relevant details about the circumstances that lead up to the drowning (e.g., suicidal, having troubles with SCUBA gear and had partner turn off air; had been asking mom all morning to go swimming and she said not until after the nap; family pool party and nobody was designated to specifically watch the swimmers).	A	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Bathtub/Shower Details:	Indicate details about the bathtub or shower in which they were found such as length, width, and the presence of things like anti-slip mats or safety bars.	BA	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Bathtub/Shower Spout Location in Relation to Decedent:	Indicate the relationship of the tub/shower spout in relationship to how the decedent was found.	BA	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Bathtub/Shower On When Found and Where Water is Running From:	Indicate if the water was on when the decedent was found, and note where the water is running from (e.g., faucet, showerhead).	BA	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Bathtub/Shower Type of Drain Stopper and If In Place:	Note if any sort of stopper was in place and what type it was (e.g., built-in, external, other type of item used as stopper).	BA	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Bathroom Door Closed/Locked:	If found in a bathroom, indicate whether the door to the room open or closed and, if closed, if it was locked. <i>Options: neither, both, just closed, unknown, n/a</i>	BA	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Bucket Location:	Indicate details about where the bucket was stored or last seen and details about its location in relation to the decedent and accessibility.	B	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Bucket Description:	Indicate details about the bucket (e.g., height and diameter, if any safety markings are present).	B	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Tidal/Tide History:	Indicate descriptions of the recent tides for the area(s) in which the decedent was found and, when known, went missing.	OB	R
Description of the Flow of Current:	Indicate descriptions of the flow of the current for the area(s) in which decedent was found and, when known, went missing.	OB	R
Lifeguard on Duty:	If the incident occurred at a location where a lifeguard might be on duty (such as any sort of pool or beach type area) indicate whether there was a lifeguard on duty when the incident happened. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown, n/a</i>	P; OB	W, R
Details of Egress/Ingress:	Indicate details about how the body of water can be accessed and exited (e.g., ladder, moss-covered ramp).	P; OB	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Fence Details:	If the body of water is inside a fenced location, indicate details about the fence height.	P; OB	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Fence Locking Mechanism:	If the body of water is inside a fenced location, indicate details about whether the area has locks to access it. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	P; OB	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Lock Engaged:	If the body of water is inside a fenced location and has locks to access it, indicate whether the locks were believed to have been engaged. Provide additional details about the locks (e.g., the pool is accessible via sliding glass door from the living room and is normally kept locked, but on the day of incident there were workers coming in and out of the home so it was unlocked).	P; OB	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Pool Type: Public, Private, Residential:	If found in a pool or hot tub type location, indicate whether it is a public, private (e.g., apartment complex), or residential pool.	P	S, W, R

Suspected Falls

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Fall Type:	Indicate whether the fall occurred from a high level (i.e., above standing height where the decedent fell off something like a curb, stairs, or roof) or a low level (i.e., from standing, or from a chair or bed). If it is unknown whether they fell from a high level or low level, indicate unknown. <i>Options: high-level fall, low-level fall, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Fall From:	Indicate specific investigative details regarding where the decedent fell from (e.g., upper-level bunk bed, standing height, third-story window, carpeted staircase with 7 stairs, Main St. Bridge while in minivan).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Distance of Fall:	Indicate specifics such as measurements or number of stairs.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Witnessed:	Indicate whether the fall was witnessed. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Surface Type Where Landed:	Provide details on the surface where the decedent landed (e.g., tiled floor, dry lakebed, river water, shrubbery). Include impact related to surface or obstacles.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Suspected Reason for Fall:	Indicate brief details about the circumstances of the fall itself (e.g., pushed from standing height, tripped over dog falling backwards, suicidal and jumped, jumped into waterfall).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Suspected Push:	Indicate whether there are concerns that the decedent may have been pushed prior to the fall. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Delayed Death (Hospitalization):	For a delayed death related to or suspected to be related to a fall, list relevant information from any hospitalizations since the injury, such as dates and locations of hospitalizations, diagnostic procedures, and surgeries.	R
Situational Details:	Provide relevant details about the circumstances that led up to the point of falling (e.g., decedent has a psychiatric history with recent suicidal ideation, and a suicide note was left on the desk at home; the bed was next to the window, and the decedent was jumping on the bed prior to falling out the open window that had only a screen on it; he was wearing socks on slippery wooden stairs while carrying a box downstairs; he was involved in an altercation with another bar patron; she was jumping into the waterfall with friends for recreational purposes and the area near where she landed had some shallow rocks; the car the decedent was driving left the roadway for unknown reasons, and the decedent was found seatbelted into the car several hours later with significant damage to the driver's side of the car).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)

Suspected Firearms

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Whether a Weapon Was Found at Scene:	Indicate whether a firearm was found at scene of shooting.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Type of Firearm(s):	Indicate the category of the type of firearm involved in the death. List unknown if no firearm is recovered, unless witnesses or other investigation provides this information. <i>Options: Handgun – Revolver, Handgun – Semi-Automatic, Shotgun, Rifle, 3-D Gun, BB/Pellet Gun, Other, Unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Make of Firearm(s):	Provide the make of the firearm(s). List unknown if no firearm is recovered.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Model(s):	Provide the model of the firearm(s). List unknown if no firearm is recovered.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Serial Number:	Provide the serial number of the firearm(s). List unknown if no firearm is recovered.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Barrel Length (Long Gun):	For long guns, provide the length of the barrel or the gun (from trigger to the end of the gun). <i>Option: number</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Owner of Firearm(s):	List name and relationship of the owner of the gun to the decedent; indicate unknown if no weapon is recovered or it is unregistered.	W, R
Location of Firearm(s):	Indicate position of the firearm(s) in relation to the body when initially found by witnesses.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Ammunition Found at Scene:	Indicate whether ammunition was found at scene of shooting. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Ammunition Type and Details:	Indicate details about any ammunition found at the scene.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Number of Spent Cartridges or Shells:	Indicate the number of spent cartridges at scene (e.g., from test shots or other shots fired into walls or furniture).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Where and How Was the Weapon Stored:	Provide details of how the weapon was stored (e.g., storage location, locked, in safe, stored loaded, stored unloaded, under bed, proximity of ammunition, accessibility to decedent, unknown but not at the location of incident, other).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Familiarity with Firearms:	Indicate whether the decedent has any familiarity with firearms and, if so, specify details about their experience.	W
Physical Limitations to Firing a Firearm:	Indicate whether the decedent has any physical limitations to firing the firearm and, if so, specify details about these limitations in the narrative. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W
Cleaning Materials Out/ Nearby:	Indicate whether there were firearm cleaning materials out or nearby the area of the shooting. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Measurement (Fingertip to Axilla):	When a long gun is involved, indicate what the measurement is for the decedent's arm from fingertip to axilla.	D
Soot on Hands:	Indicate whether the decedent has any visible soot on their hands; if so, on which hand(s). <i>Options: right, left, both, none</i>	D
Instrument Used to Activate the Trigger:	Indicate whether any device was used to aid the decedent in activating the firearm or trigger, and, if so, specify details in the narrative. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Handedness:	Indicate the decedent's dominant hand. <i>Options: left, right, ambidextrous, unknown</i>	W
Wound Details (e.g., location on body, sooting):	Specify any details noted, outside of autopsy findings, about details of any wounds on the body.	D
Details of How the Weapon Was Found:	Provide details of how the weapon was initially found.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)

Suspected Firearms

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/ Records (R)
Delayed Death (Hospitalization):	For a delayed death related to, or suspected to be related to, a firearm, list relevant information from any hospitalizations since the injury (e.g., dates and locations of hospitalizations, diagnostic procedures, and surgeries).	R
Situational Details:	Provide relevant details about the circumstances that led up to the shooting or firearm discharge (e.g., decedent has a psychiatric history with recent suicidal ideation, and a suicide note was left on the desk at home; the decedent was cleaning his new gun after retrieving it from the flooded basement and commented to his spouse that it was jammed; the cousin came home to find the decedent in her parent's bedroom next to the open gun safe, her cousin had recently taken her to the range and she had been expressing a lot of interest in going again because it was so fun; decedent was involved in an altercation with another bar patron; the decedent was found down on the sidewalk with gunshot wounds after neighbors called 911 to report what sound like gunshots; the decedent had been drinking all night and kept asking friends to play Russian roulette, when they declined he called them chickens and said he would go play himself).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)

Suspected Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/ Records (R)
Doll Reenactment:	In addition to taking photos/videos, document details of when and by whom (ME/C personnel) the doll reenactment (found and placed) was completed.	W
Changes in the Last 72 Hours:	Indicate if there were any changes in the decedent within the last 72 hours prior to being found unresponsive (e.g., changes in sleeping location or amounts, decreased appetite, changes in stool, fever, cough/congestion, changes in caregiver, fussiness, excessive crying).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Vaccinations or Medication in the Last 72 Hours:	Indicate if in the 72 hours before being found unresponsive the decedent received any vaccinations or medication. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W, R
Describe Vaccinations and Medications in the Last 72 Hours:	Indicate whether the decedent received any vaccinations or medications in the 72 hours prior to being found unresponsive.	W, R
Decedent Placed to Sleep with Bottle:	Indicate whether the decedent was last placed to sleep with a bottle. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Last Bottle Details:	Include what was in the bottle, who gave it, when, and how.	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Incident During Feeding:	Indicate whether the incident occurred during feeding. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Details Around Feeding:	Indicate whether the decedent was breast- or bottle-fed if incident occurred during feeding.	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Environmental Conditions:	Indicate the conditions in the decedent's room when found (e.g., temperature, humidity, fans).	W, R
Crib, Bassinet, or Portable Crib in Use:	Indicate whether a crib, bassinet, or portable crib was being used by the decedent at the time of incident. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W, R
Crib, Bassinet, or Portable Crib at the Place of Incident:	If not being used by the decedent, indicate whether there was a crib, bassinet, or portable crib available. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Condition of Crib, Bassinet, or Portable Crib at Incident Location:	If there was a crib, bassinet, or portable crib at the place of incident, describe its condition.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)

Suspected Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Where and How the Decedent Was Placed:	Indicate where and how the decedent was placed, including any details of bedsharing (e.g., on her back in a crib, on his side in a portable crib, on her side in the middle of an adult bed, lying on top of dad who was sleeping on the couch, seated and buckled into a car seat).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Where and How the Decedent Was Last Known Alive:	Indicate where and how the decedent was last known alive, including any details of bedsharing (e.g., on left side in crib, prone under blankets in portable crib, in adult bed between mom and dad on back with head just below pillow, on 12 year old siblings chest napping on the couch, seated in car seat that was covered with a lightweight blanket).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Where and How the Decedent Was Found:	Indicate where and how the decedent was found (e.g., on her back in a crib, on his side in a portable crib, on her side in the middle of an adult bed fully under the covers, lying between dad who was sleeping and the back of the couch, slumped down in a car seat).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Unsafe Sleep Conditions:	Indicate if the decedent was sharing the sleeping space (e.g., co-sleeping, sharing a sleep surface, bed-sharing, adult bed, sofas, armchairs) with any other person(s). <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Decedent Wrapped or Swaddled:	Indicate whether the decedent was wrapped or swaddled. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Describe Swaddle or Wrapping:	If the decedent was wrapped or swaddled (when placed, last seen, or found), provide details (e.g., arms in, arms out, tight, loose).	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Sleep Position:	Indicate the decedent's usual sleep position (e.g., sitting, supine, prone, side, unknown).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Placed Body Position:	Indicate the decedent's body position, face position, and neck position when placed (e.g., prone, face to side, neck turned).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Found Body Position:	Indicate the decedent's body position, face position, and neck position when last known alive (e.g., prone, face to down, neck neutral).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Last Known Alive Body Position:	Indicate the decedent's body position, face position, and neck position when found (e.g., supine, face up, neck hyperextended).	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Airway Obstructed By a Person or Object When Found:	Indicate whether the decedent's airway was obstructed by a person or object when found (e.g., unobstructed, fully obstructed, partially obstructed, unknown).	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Part of the Airway that was Obstructed:	Indicate what part of the airway was obstructed (e.g., nose, mouth, neck, chest).	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
What Obstructed the Airway:	Indicate what obstructed the airway (e.g., person, bedding).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Description of Sleep Surface:	Indicate details about the surface on which the decedent was sleeping (e.g., single sheet on mattress, pillow-top mattress, thick comforter under decedent).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Items Present in the Decedent's Sleep Environment:	Indicate what items were present in the decedent's immediate environment when placed, last seen, and found and relationship to the decedent, including people and pets (e.g., head on decorative pillow when found, dad on opposite side of bed when placed, 2- and 4-year-old siblings on either side of decedent when last seen, 3 light-weight blankets covering decedent from waist down when found, multiple stuffed animals surrounding decedent in the crib when placed, last seen and found but none touching decedent).	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Evidence of Wedging:	Indicate whether there is evidence the decedent was wedged. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Evidence of Overlay:	Indicate whether there is evidence of overlay by any person or object. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Postmortem Change Consistent with Body Position:	Indicate whether the decedent's postmortem changes are consistent with the position and witness statements.	D, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Secondhand Tobacco Smoke:	Indicate if the decedent was regularly exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)

Suspected Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

Data Element Name/ Title	Definition	Primary Documentation: Decedent (D), Scenes (S), Witness Reports (W), Documentation/Records (R)
Caregiver Substance Use:	Indicate whether the caregivers were using or suspected to be using any alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, or illicit drugs.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Birth Defect(s):	Indicate whether the decedent had any birth defect(s) or congenital abnormalities.	W, R
Ability to Lift Head:	Indicate the reported ability of the decedent to lift their head from a surface (e.g., carpeted floor, crib mattress).	W
Ability to Roll Over:	Indicate whether the decedent was able to roll over on their own (i.e., back to front, front to back).	W, R
Premature Deaths of Family Members (at a Young Age) of Any Type:	Indicate whether there were any sudden or unexpected deaths among the decedent's blood relatives (e.g., siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or first cousins).	W, R
Daycare Facility Involved:	Indicate whether there was any daycare facility involved. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, R
Daycare Licensed:	If there was a daycare facility, indicate whether was it licensed. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, R
Cooling and Heating Sources:	Indicate details of cooling and heating sources in use.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Insects Present:	Indicate whether insects were present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Mold Present:	Indicate whether mold was present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Dampness Present:	Indicate whether dampness was present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Alcohol Present:	Indicate whether alcohol was present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Rodents/Vermin Present:	Indicate whether rodents/vermin were present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Odors/Fumes Present:	Indicate whether odors/fumes were present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Prescription Drugs Present:	Indicate whether prescription drugs were present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Type of Prescription Drugs Present:	Provide the details of any prescription medications at scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Illicit Drugs or Paraphernalia Present:	Indicate whether illicit drugs or paraphernalia were present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Describe Illicit Drugs or Paraphernalia Present:	Provide the details of any illicit drugs or paraphernalia at scene.	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Tobacco Smoke Smell Present:	Indicate whether a tobacco smoke smell was present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Pets Present:	Indicate whether a pet was present at the incident scene. <i>Options: yes, no, unknown</i>	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
General Scene Appearance:	Describe the general appearance of the scene.	S (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)
Delayed Death (Hospitalization):	For a delayed death, list relevant information from any hospitalizations since the injury (e.g., dates and locations of hospitalizations, diagnostic procedures, and surgeries).	R
Situational Details:	Provide relevant details about the circumstances that led up to the incident. At minimum, this should include information like decedent was fussy lately and placed for a nap in crib with a bottle, found in the morning unresponsive and face down in queen bed where mom and 3-year-old sibling slept after being placed between them at 2 am, was at a new daycare and placed to sleep in the car seat with a blanket over top of it and found dead 3 hours later.	S, W (for a delayed death, this info may only be available via R)



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