

Death in Custody State Implementation Plan

Data Collection Infrastructure

North Dakota does not have a death-in-custody reporting law, nor does it require state and local agencies to report this information to a state agency. The state has 53 sheriff departments, 51 police departments, 22 county jails/detention centers, and 3 state correctional facilities. None of these agencies are actively participating in DCRA data collection. Since the Attorney General's office is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the JAG funds, staff will attempt to establish lines of communication and gather information from these agencies.

Data Collection Methods

Currently, the Uniform Crime Reporting Manager, who also operates as the Statistical Analysis Center for North Dakota is the person responsible for DCRA data collection. All data reported is collected through media searches. The challenge that ND faces in collecting DCRA data is that we don't have a reporting law. We can work on relationships and reaching out to all law enforcement agencies, detention centers, and correctional facilities. We can also open the lines of communication with the State Forensic Examiner's Office. Expanding the scope of our search and contacts that we use to gather information will ensure the accuracy of our DCRA reporting. If a law is proposed, it would have to be brought before the ND Legislature, which meets biannually.

When there is a reportable death, the information is gathered via an Adobe PDF to capture all the required data to complete the DCRA reporting within the PMT system.

Data Reporting Methods

The quarterly DCRA data reported to BJA is entered manually by the JAG grant manager. The current process starts with the JAG grant manager requesting the quarterly data

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from the UCR Manager who is located within the ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The UCR Manager reviews the data prior to submitting to the grant manager for input. If there is any information missing, contact is made to gather it from a ND BCI Chief Agent. If there is any open or deaths pending investigation for that quarter, the grant manager keeps that in a pending file so it can be updated.