



*CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE  
ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)*

*BUDGET BRIEF*

*MAY 2026*

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice on behalf of its member organizations on matters of mutual interest regarding forensic science, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner and coroner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is national, state, & local policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

**UPDATE MAY 14, 2026**  
**FY27 PROPOSED FEDERAL FORENSICS BUDGET**

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The President has released his proposed FY27 budget. Forensic science has fared well despite dramatic cuts in domestic spending. Of note, NIST is cut 54%, but the detail regarding those cuts is not public yet.

The Department of Justice has remained flat or increased across the board and CDC is also flat or increased in areas of importance to forensics despite cuts. Please see below for detailed numbers and language.

The next steps will be for Congress to address, and they are moving quickly this year with anticipated action in the House as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. The CFSO will keep you apprised of the results and is advocating to keep the budgets as robust as possible.

DOJ	FY26 Proposed	FY26 Final	FY27 Proposed	House
Program				
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Discretionary	\$446.00m	\$537.97m	\$426.00m	
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	\$3m	\$3m	\$3m <sup>1</sup>	\$11m
Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act	\$5m	\$3m	\$5m	
Project Safe Neighborhood	\$21m	\$13m	\$20m	
DNA Programs	\$148m	\$138m	\$148m	\$148m
DNA Analysis and Capacity Enhancement Program-Debbie Smith	\$120m	\$115m	\$120m	\$115m
Other Federal, State, and Local Forensic Activities (note includes Medical Examiner/Coroner programs)	\$10m	\$6m	\$10m	
Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Program	\$14m	\$13m	\$14m	\$13m
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Guide	\$ 4m	\$4m	\$4m	\$9m
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	\$51.5m	\$50m	\$51.5	\$50m
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grants Strengthen Medical Examiner-Coroner	\$10m	\$32.5m	\$34m	\$28m \$2.5
CARA (carve out forensic support for opioid and synthetic drug investigations)	0	0	0	\$17m
NIJ Research and Development	\$22m	\$22m	\$22m	
Bureau of Justice Statistics	\$35m	\$33m	\$33m	
Wrongful Conviction Review	0	\$11.5	0	

Commerce: NIST	FY26 Proposed	FY26 Final	FY27 Proposed
Forensic Science Research	\$22M	\$22m	TBD
OSAC	\$3.5M	\$3.5m	TBD
Technical Merit Evaluations	\$1.5M	\$1.5m	TBD
SDO Grant	0	\$1.5m	TBD

\*NOTE: detail not yet published but its overall budget has been cut 54% from \$1,847.14 to \$853.93.

<sup>1</sup> For operation, maintenance, and expansion of National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

HHS (CDC)	FY26 Proposed	Final FY26	FY27 Proposed
Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance *Realigned in FY26 to Administrations Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)	\$475.579m	\$505.579m	\$505.5m
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) Realigned in FY26 to Administrations Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)	\$24.5m	\$24.5m	\$24.5m
Public Health Data Modernization Public Health Data Modernization (PPHF)	\$175m	\$215m	\$280m

## LANGUAGE

### DOJ

**Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).**—The Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program awards grants to State, local, and tribal governments to support a broad range of activities that prevent and control crime, including: law enforcement operations and programs; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections programs; drug treatment programs; and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. The 2027 Budget proposes \$426 million for the JAG appropriation, including \$359 million for the JAG formula program.

**Combatting Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking.**—The 2027 Budget invests in programs that assist state, local, and tribal governments in improving their response to sexual assault and eliminating forensic evidence analysis backlogs related to these cases, including \$51.5 million for the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. The 2027 Budget also requests \$88 million to support human trafficking grant programs, including support for comprehensive and specialized services for human trafficking victims, as well as multidisciplinary taskforces to identify, investigate, and prosecute these types of cases.

**Research, Development, and Evaluation Program.**—The 2027 Budget proposes a direct appropriation of \$22 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to support high-quality research, development, and evaluation in the forensic, social, and physical sciences.

**Criminal Justice Statistics Program.**—The 2027 Budget proposes \$33 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to carry out national statistical collections supporting data-driven approaches to reduce and prevent crime and to assist state, local and tribal governments in enhancing their statistical capabilities, including improving criminal history records and information systems. Current programs provide statistics on victimization, law enforcement, Federal justice systems, prosecution and adjudication (courts), corrections, and criminal histories and recidivism.

**Research, Evaluation and Statistics Set Aside.**—The 2027 Budget requests a set-aside of up to 2.5 percent for research, evaluation, and statistics. The side amount from OJP discretionary programs supports the base programs for NIJ and BJS.

**National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN):** \$7.8 million Additional funding will allow ATF to address key elements of Administration and Department strategies to reduce firearm violence; these programs enable ATF and its local, State territorial, Tribal, and partners to focus investigative resources on the most violent firearm-related offenders in communities. The request for \$7.8 million is to strengthen core capabilities, modernize infrastructure, and *expand support to Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners*. Crime Gun Intelligence (CGI) and NIBIN are cornerstone components of the Department's and the President's strategy to reduce violent firearm crime. The request includes support for:

NIBIN Program Infrastructure, NIBIN National Correlation and Training Centers (NNCTC), and the CGI/NIBIN Enforcement Support System (NESS). These programs enable ATF and its law enforcement partners to target the most violent offenders, link shooting incidents across jurisdictions, and generate actionable intelligence through ballistic imaging and data analysis.

## **NIST**

N/A

## **HHS**

**The State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)**, shares a web-based platform with the National Violent Death Reporting System, allows states to collect data on all unintentional or undetermined intent drug overdose deaths in one place. Data collected by SUDORS from 49 states and DC include valuable contextual information from death scene investigations, detailed information on toxicology and drugs contributing to death, routes of administration, demographic information, and other risk factors associated with fatal overdose. These data allow policymakers to implement strategies specifically tailored to the causes of overdose in their communities, all with the end goal of preventing overdose and associated risks while expanding access to treatment and long-term recovery. States are using these data in innovative ways; for example, Kentucky created a HIPAA-compliant tool that allows coroners to directly upload overdose case investigation documents, improving the timeliness of data transmission from coroner's offices to the drug control program

**National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)** Violence strains local economies, burdens law enforcement, and overwhelms social services, with 20,165 homicides and 48,830 suicides recorded in 2024—one suicide every 11 minutes.<sup>40</sup> However, every \$1 invested in violence prevention saves at least \$5 in costs, including criminal justice and healthcare expenses. The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) collects data from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico to inform targeted prevention efforts and enhance community safety. NVDRS supports data collection on all forms of violent deaths and suicides. NVDRS is the only system that consolidates data from multiple sources to help communities understand the causes of violent deaths and develop targeted, effective prevention strategies. Data on suicide and homicide (including mass and multiple homicides) and the circumstances surrounding these incidents help assess the effectiveness of prevention strategies and support the creation of safer, healthier communities. This program funds recipients to implement and maintain the NVDRS system, monitor and report data, and use these data to inform prevention efforts. Recent advancements in rapid data analysis give public health professionals and policymakers greater visibility into public health threats, allowing them to make decisions faster. NVDRS continues to use data science—such as machine learning, natural language processing, and software automation—to enhance efficiencies and will continue to pursue linking NVDRS to other data sources. The State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), which collects comprehensive data on fatal overdoses, shares a web-based platform for collecting and storing data with the previously established NVDRS to ensure the most efficient use of appropriated dollars rather than creating a duplicative system.

**Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance** Overdose is the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18-44 and a major cause for those 45 and older, with the epidemic driven by an evolving array of substances, including illegal fentanyl, stimulants, and emerging drugs like xylazine<sup>41</sup> and medetomidine. Overdose deaths cost the U.S. economy \$5.6 trillion, but community-based naloxone education and distribution can generate a \$2,742 return for every \$1 spent by saving lives. **Provisional 2025 data show a continued downward national trend. CDC's most recent data predict a 21% decline in overdose deaths** in the 12 months ending in August 2025, representing more than 80 lives saved every day compared to the prior 12-month period.<sup>42</sup> This program supports state and local health departments through initiatives like Overdose Data to Action (OD2A), the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS), and the Opioid Rapid Response Program (ORRP), helping communities use data to target prevention efforts, track emerging drug threats, and provide timely

support to those at risk. All overdose prevention activities align with the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) priorities, focusing on reducing overdose fatalities, especially from fentanyl, by collaborating with public health departments, drug intelligence officers, public safety officials, laboratories, hospitals, and community organizations to share real-time threat data, disrupt the illegal drug supply, and support local prevention efforts. Funded surveillance systems provide critical comprehensive and timely information for CDC and its partners to more effectively identify emerging threats, mobilize resources, and scale proven interventions. The State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) gathers comprehensive data on the who, what, where, when, and why of overdose deaths; much of what we know about the evolving nature of the overdose death epidemic comes from analyzing these data.<sup>43</sup> The Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology (DOSE) system standardizes and summarizes emergency department and hospitalization nonfatal overdose data, identifying the most significant threats and empowering jurisdictions to respond quickly to overdose spikes.<sup>44</sup> The program also works to secure the global supply chain against drug trafficking, partnering with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program through the ORS to enhance information sharing and protect communities. Prevention is a key priority, with resources like the Free Mind Campaign<sup>45</sup> and ENGAGE,<sup>46</sup> as well as initiatives like helping clinicians provide safe pain care. The program further supports innovative research, data systems, and surveillance to inform prevention strategies, with funding supporting grant management, performance reviews, and essential program operations

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/about-sudors.html>

**Maintaining Our Public Health Infrastructure** Improving Public Health Data Modernization Modernizing public health data is critical to national security and a fundamental component of response readiness. The budget includes +\$65 million, for a total of \$280 million, for public health data modernization, comprised of \$75 million in budget authority and \$205 million in PHS Evaluation funds. To improve efficiency and coordination across CDC's budget structure, the budget realigns funding for the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics and Response Ready Enterprise Data Integration Platform within this total. CDC will support state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions as they continue to build the infrastructure necessary for sharing standardized data across interoperable public and private health delivery systems. CDC will continue to support technical assistance and deploy CDC-developed tools that enable health departments to more effectively and efficiently collect, analyze, and use public health data. The Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics is leading the work to advance the U.S. capacity for modeling, forecasting, and simulating infectious disease outbreaks, and communicating those projections with state and local jurisdictions. CDC will continue to support InsightNet, a network of public health experts dedicated to creating, testing, and implementing next generation forecasting and modeling tools. CDC's modeling work supports measles response decision-making by delivering forward-looking scenario assessments that evaluate plausible outbreak trajectories; nowcasting that adjusts for reporting delays and strengthens situational awareness of trends; and an interactive outbreak simulator that enables local decision-makers to evaluate the impact of vaccination, isolation, and quarantine interventions in their communities. Supporting Public Health Infrastructure CDC leverages critical cross-cutting resources to effectively implement, manage, and provide oversight of federal funding appropriated to CDC. The budget includes \$102 million for Public Health Leadership and Support to maintain CDC's capacity for these crosscutting functions. In addition, the budget includes **\$260 million for a Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity grant to continue to address gaps in core public health capacity and infrastructure at the state, tribal, territorial, and local levels.** This grant's groundbreaking, flexible model lets health department recipients invest in the people, services, and systems that can address their communities' most pressing needs. **The budget also includes \$71 million to continue to invest in training and fellowships to develop the next generation of skilled public health professionals.**