

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

States struggle with inadequate Cause of Death (COD) reporting. The causes are often lack of training on proper COD standards for reporting, not understanding the impact of the data, and the misconception that proper reporting will take too much time. Sadly, the ultimate result of poor COD reporting is the loss of American lives. With two pilot training projects, QuantumMark developed and tested methodologies, and found remarkable success in improved participation, ease of reporting, and quality of COD data.



## CHALLENGES

Working with all parties involved in COD reporting (coroners, medical examiners, nurses, funeral homes, doctors, Vital Records staff, CDC/NCHS, etc.), and getting full-buy in on the value of COD training to improve the data. Additionally, working to make any changes accurately reflect the goals set by CDC/NCHS, and the local state Vital Records offices.

## RESULTS

With both pilots, happening in two different jurisdictions, we were able to see immediate results on many fronts. Some of them included: high participation in the trainings, feedback regarding the value participants received, improvements in quality, timelines and accuracy of COD reports, and alignment with the quality and timeliness standards set by the Centers for Disease Control/National Center for Health Statistics. Trainees at all levels expressed appreciation for the efficient and easy-to-use methods and tools allowing them to now quickly submit COD reports accurately and in a timely manner. This provided increased time-savings for the submitters and properly documented reports, saving time, money, and American lives.

## SOLUTIONS

QuantumMark developed a method that allows us to get maximum participation in all trainings, taking a bottom up approach to the improvement of the COD data. By using easy to understand and value add training, we show participants the bigger picture of saving lives – and saving themselves time - by reporting COD correctly and timely the first time around.