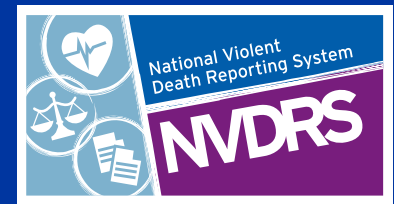


# CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System & Vital Statistics Partners



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) links details of violent deaths—**the who, when, where, and how**—and shares insights into **why** they occurred.

NVDRS relies on information from source documents, such as death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports (including toxicology results), and law enforcement reports, to pool anonymized data on violent deaths and their circumstances into one database. Such data pooled together are far more comprehensive than what is available elsewhere, so decision-makers and program planners may use the results to better tailor violence prevention efforts.

## What is the role of vital registrars in NVDRS?

The data that vital registrars provide through death certificates are an essential component of NVDRS. Many state violent death reporting systems (VDRS) use death certificates as the first source document to identify cases that meet criteria for inclusion in the national system, and state and national systems rely on death certificates to contain accurate information. Through International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes on the death certificate, NVDRS captures most reported violent deaths and deaths of undetermined intent. Death certificates provide important demographic information, as well as manner and cause of death data. Other source documents, such as coroner/medical examiner reports, toxicology results, and law enforcement reports, add to and validate each case.

Trained abstractors enter anonymized information into a secure database according to standardized CDC guidelines. Reports generated from NVDRS help prevention partners identify important populations affected by different types of violence and target prevention strategies effectively.



### Which types of death are included in NVDRS?

NVDRS compiles data for these types of cases:

- **Suicides**
- **Homicides**
- **Legal intervention**, excluding legal executions
- **Firearm-related deaths**, including unintentional firearm deaths
- **Deaths of undetermined intent**, including undetermined drug overdose deaths



### What types of data are collected?

NVDRS collects data for all age groups and includes information on:

- **Injury characteristics** (e.g., manner of death, cause of death)
- **Demographics** (e.g., sex, race/ethnicity)
- **Circumstances** that preceded or were related to a victim's death (e.g., intimate partner violence, financial problems)
- **Mental health problems**, including diagnoses
- **Toxicology**
- **Narratives** that provide a summary of the incident based on law enforcement and coroner/medical examiner reports
- **More than 600** unique data elements



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for Injury  
Prevention and Control

**NAPHSIS**  
Protecting Personal Identity  
Promoting Public Health



## Is the information in NVDRS secure? What protections are in place?

Since NVDRS data collection began in 2003, there have been no reported data breaches. VDRS programs enter data into an encrypted, web-based system. No personally identifiable information is entered into the web-based system. Data are submitted to CDC using the most up-to-date security protocols.



## Why does NVDRS collect information on deaths of undetermined intent?

NVDRS collects information on deaths of undetermined intent to:

- Provide a more **complete picture** of deaths that may be intentional
- Allow public health professionals and data analysts to examine what **unique factors** result in an undetermined classification
- **Shed light** on drug overdose deaths (the most common type of death of undetermined intent in NVDRS) that could not be classified as suicide or unintentional



## How can NVDRS data be used?

NVDRS data have been used since 2003 to:

- **Uncover timely topics** and emerging issues related to violent deaths
- **Reveal important variations** in patterns of violent deaths across locations and populations and over time
- **Help states and the violence prevention field better understand the circumstances** that contribute to violence in the county, state, territory, and country
- **Guide, inform, and help** target and evaluate violence prevention efforts, including suicide prevention

Using NVDRS data leads to ...

- **Greater understanding** of violent deaths
- **More effective use** of violence prevention resources
- **Enhanced monitoring** of the effectiveness of violence prevention strategies
- **Healthier, safer** communities



## The Reach of NVDRS

NVDRS began collecting data on violent deaths from six states in 2002, followed by progressive additions to the system over several years. In 2018, NVDRS was expanded to include data collection from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. This expansion brings NVDRS closer to the goal of providing a complete picture of violent deaths across the nation.

