



National Violent Death Reporting System

New Investigator Research Awards

OVERVIEW

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is the only state-based violent death reporting system that helps us to understand when and how violent deaths occur. NVDRS links data from vital records, coroner/medical examiner, and law enforcement agencies from multiple states to obtain the most comprehensive data available on suicides, homicides, deaths from legal intervention (i.e., a subtype of homicide where the victim is killed by law enforcement acting in the line of duty), deaths of undetermined intent, and unintentional firearm deaths.

The NVDRS Restricted Access Database (RAD) is a de-identified, multi-state, case-level microdata set comprised of over 600 unique variables, as well as narrative data from law enforcement and medical examiner or coroner reports that describe the events of each incident. These data provide the foundation for building successful strategies for preventing violence so that all communities are safe and free from violence and people can live life to their full potential.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in partnership with the American Public Health Association are pleased to launch the National Violent Death Reporting System New Investigator Research Award. This initiative is geared towards emerging researchers/investigators to promote innovative, quality analysis of violent death data. The NVDRS RAD consists of data from 27 states and selected researchers will be granted access as a component of this award program. Recipients of this award will receive a \$7500 stipend to support their analysis of this data and are required to submit their findings to a peer reviewed journal.

ACCESSING DATA

- Data files will be provided in a flat file format for ease of use and are available in SAS or SPSS
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) review is not required by CDC (unless required by your institution; still required by CDC if the request involves data linkages to other datasets)
- CDC will provide a detailed data documentation (e.g. a RAD User's Guide)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- U.S. Citizen
- Affiliated with an academic institution
- Have a Ph.D., Dr. P.H., M.D., ScD, D.O., or other doctoral level degree
- Received doctoral level degree within the last five years (no earlier than January 2013)
- Willing to sign the NVDRS RAD Data Sharing Agreement agreeing to comply with NVDRS RAD security, confidentiality, and data protection requirements
- Willing to sign a Memorandum of Agreement outlining the terms of your participation
- Provide an Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 if selected to participate

INTENT TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity please email Mighty Fine at **mighty.fine@apha.org** indicating your intent to apply. Please note this email is non-binding and does not commit you to submitting an application.

STIPEND

Selected participants will be awarded with a \$7500 stipend to assist with the analysis of RAD data. Participants will receive an initial award for \$5000 and a subsequent award of \$2500 will be provided once the manuscript has been submitted to a peer reviewed journal.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Name	
Address	
Email/Phone	
Academic Institution Affiliation	
Doctoral Degree/Institution	
Year of Graduation	

Please provide the following:

- One page bio sketch (include current workplace, educational background and research experience, and a statement of interest)
- Reference letter from mentor or immediate supervisor
- Current Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume
- Proof of US Citizenship status

DATA ANALYSIS PLAN: PLEASE SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT THAT INCLUDES

- Project title
- Background of study (**max. 250 words**):
 - Key study questions or hypotheses
 - Public health benefits. Requestors must provide evidence that there is a legitimate public health purpose that justifies the use of the data.

- Methods for the study (**max. 800 words**) including:
 - Summary of the variables needed for the proposed research. A variable specifications sheet that lists available variables in the NVDRS is provided in the attachment section of this application. Identify the variables you intend to use. In addition to specifying the requested NVDRS variables, any data from other sources that might be merged with NVDRS data should be described.
 - Proposed analytic strategy (e.g., statistical analysis, data linkages).

(To obtain the NVDRS coding manual and other NVDRS-related materials, please visit the NVDRS Technical Assistance page: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/trainingtechnicalassist.html>).

- Provide a description of the anticipated products, reports, and publications to be derived from the data analyses and proposed journal where findings will be submitted (**max. 300 words**).

APPLICATION REVIEW

All applications will be reviewed by a committee to determine quality and feasibility of the proposed plan. The committee will determine which applications are funded based on the scientific merit scores assigned by the peer reviewers, together with their judgment of the degree to which proposals are responsive to the CDC's Division of Violence Prevention's mission and have potential for high impact. Information about the Division of Violence Prevention, the strategic vision for violence prevention, and violence-related research priorities are available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/overview/index.html> and

<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/researchpriorities/index.html>.

TIMELINE

PROJECT MILESTONES	DATE
Application Open	February 13, 2018
Intent to Apply	February 18, 2018
Application Due	March 12, 2018
Awardees Notified	March 20, 2018
Granted Access to the RAD Data	March 23, 2018
Submit Draft Manuscript and Progress Report to CDC	June 1, 2018
Submit Manuscript to Peer Reviewed Journal	June 25, 2018

SELECTED APPLICANTS

All applicants will be contacted by email by March 20 with acceptances or regrets. If selected you will be provided with a Data Use Agreement, Memorandum of Agreement and a welcome letter. Your proof of US Citizenship status and a copy of your W9 will be requested as well. All documentation should be returned by March 23.

QUESTIONS

All questions can be directed to Mighty Fine at mighty.fine@apha.org.

Variables Collected in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

As of 11/2017

Incident-level Variables

Version of software (system variable)
 Site Identifier
 Incident Number
 Incident year
 Incident type
 Number of source documents in incident
 Number of victims in incident
 Date supervisor checked incident
 Date supervisor rechecked incident
 General comments field (*text field*)
 Number of non-fatally shot persons in incident
 Abstractor name(s)
 CME Incident narrative (*text field*)
 LE Incident narrative (*text field*)
 Flag incident for follow-up

Case Status

Death certificate data abstraction complete
 CME report data abstraction complete
 Toxicology data abstraction complete
 Law enforcement data abstraction complete
 Incident complete

Document Tracking

Document type
 Source agency requested from
 Data record requested/expected/sought
 Data record re-requested/re-researched
 Data record received
 Data record abstracted/imported
 Data entered data checked
 Document determined to be unavailable
 Document notes field

Variables Collected for Victim(s) and Suspect(s)

Age
 Age unit
 Sex
 White
 Black
 Asian
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 American Indian/Alaska Native
 Other race*

Variables Collected for Victim(s) and Suspect(s), cont'd

Unspecified race
 Hispanic/Latino/Spanish
**Removed as a category, beginning 2015 data collection year*

Victim Variables

Person type
 First initial of last name
 Day of birth
 Last 4 of CME
 Last for of DC
 Transgender
 Height
 Weight
 Marital status
 Relationship status
 Sex of partner
 Victim was pregnant
 Sexual orientation
 Ever served in US armed forces (veteran)
 Country of residence
 State of residence
 County of residence
 City of residence
 Zip code of residence
 US Census track of residence
 US Census block group pf residence
 Birth place
 Birth Country, if other
 Kind of business/ industry code
 Usual industry text
 Usual occupation code
 Usual occupation text
 Current occupation
 Homeless status
 Education by degree level
 Number of years of education

Injury & Death Variables

DC Manner of death
LE Manner of death
CME Manner of death
Abstractor-assigned Manner of death
State of injury, *(by FIPS code)*
County of injury, *(by FIPS code)*
City of injury, *(by FIPS code)*
Zip code of injury
US Census tract of injury
US Census block group of injury
Date of injury
Time of injury
Type of location where injured
Injured at work
Injured at victim's home
EMS at scene of injury
Victim in custody when injured
Recent release from an institution
Alcohol use suspected
Survival time no. of units
Unit of time used in survival time
Victim seen in emergency department
Victim admitted to inpatient care
1st external cause of injury code by hospital *(ICD-9 CM & ICD-10 CM)*
2nd external cause of injury code from hospital *(ICD-9 CM & ICD-10 CM)*
Underlying cause of death ICD-10 code
ICD 10 4th character
ICD 10 5th character
Immediate cause of death, *(text field)*
Cause leading to immediate cause, *(text field)*
Next antecedent cause of death, *(text field)*
Underlying cause of death, *(text field)*
Place of death
Place of death, if other *(text field)*
Date pronounced dead
Date of death
State of death
Autopsy performed
Multiple conditions on death certificate 1-10

Wound Location Variables

Number of wounds
Number of bullets that hit victim
Wound to the head
Wound to the face
Wound to the neck
Wound to the upper extremity

Wound Location Variables, cont'd

Wound to the spine
Wound to the thorax
Wound to the abdomen
Wound to the lower extremity

Poisons/Toxicology Variables

No toxicology report
Date specimens were collected
Time specimens were collected
Substance(s) Name
(Specific) Substance tested
(Specific) Substance result
Substance caused death
Person medication prescribed for
Substance categories *(auto-populated)*
Tested for alcohol
Alcohol test results
Tested for carbon monoxide
Results for carbon monoxide
Tested for amphetamines
Results for amphetamines
Tested for anticonvulsants
Results for anticonvulsants
Tested for antidepressants
Results for antidepressants
Tested for antipsychotics
Results for antipsychotics
Tested for barbiturates
Results for barbiturates
Tested for benzodiazepines
Results for benzodiazepines
Tested for cocaine
Results for cocaine
Tested for marijuana
Results for marijuana
Tested for muscle relaxant
Results for muscle relaxant
Tested for opiate(s)
Results for opiate(s)
Blood alcohol concentration results
Carbon monoxide source, if CO
Comments *(text field)*

Suspect Variables

Victim's relationship to suspect 1
Victim's relationship to suspect 2
Primary suspect for this victim (only shown with multiple suspects)
2nd suspect for this victim (only shown with multiple suspects)
3rd suspect for this victim (only shown with multiple suspects)
Suspect was also a victim
Suspect attempted suicide after incident
Suspect was caregiver
History of abuse of victim
Suspect was mentally ill
Suspect had developmental disability
Suspected alcohol use
Suspected substance use
Suspect had contact with law enforcement
Suspect recently released from institution

Circumstance Variables by Manners of Death

*(*Indicates Crisis Information Collected)*

All Manners of Death

Current depressed mood
Current diagnosed mental health problem*
Type of first mental illness diagnosed
Type of 2nd metal illness diagnosed
Other mental health diagnosis (*text field*)
Current treatment for mental illness/ substance abuse
Ever treated for mental illness
Alcohol problem*
Other substance problem*
Other addiction*
Terrorist attack
Family relationship problem*
Other relationship problem*
Abuse and neglect led to death
History of abuse as a child
Perpetrator of violence in the past month
Victim of violence in the past month
Physical fight (mutual between 2 people)
Argument
Timing of the most recent argument
Precipitated by another crime
Nature of first other crime
Nature of 2nd other crime
First other crime in progress
Circumstances known
Other circumstance, (*text field*)
Crisis in past 2 weeks

Homicide/Legal Intervention Deaths

Intimate partner violence related
Stalking*
Prostitution or sex trafficking*
Gang related
Justifiable self-defense/law enforcement
Victim was a police officer on duty
Victim was a bystander
Random violence
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim
Victim used a weapon
Mercy killing
Homicide/Legal Intervention Deaths, cont'd
Hate crime
Jealousy (lover's triangle)*
Brawl
Walk-by assault
Drive-by shooting (homicide only)
Drug Involvement

Suicide & Undetermined Deaths

History of suicidal thoughts or plans
History of suicide attempts
Recent disclosed suicidal thoughts or intent Disclosed suicidal intent to whom
Person left a suicide note
Contributing criminal legal problem*
Civil legal problems*
Physical health problem*
Job problem*
Financial problem*
School problem*
Eviction/loss of home*
Suicide of a friend or family member*
Other death of friend or family
Anniversary of traumatic event
Disaster exposure*
Intimate partner problem*

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

Hunting
Target shooting
Self-defensive shooting
Celebratory firing
Loading/ unloading gun
Cleaning gun
Showing gun to others
Playing with gun
Other context of injury
Thought safety was engaged
Thought unloaded, magazine disengaged
Thought gun was unloaded, other
Unintentionally pulled trigger
Bullet ricochet
Gun defect or malfunction
Fired while holstering/ un-holstering
Dropped gun
Fired while operating safety/lock
Gun mistaken for toy
Other mechanism of injury

Weapons

Weapon type
Additional weapon information (*text field*)
Firearm type
Firearm gauge
Firearm caliber
Firearm make or NCIC code
Other firearm make, (*text field*)
Firearm model
Firearm model, (*text field*)
Gun stored loaded
Gun stored locked
Gun access narrative (*text field*)
Gun owner
Firearm stolen
Primary weapon that killed victim (*only shown with multiple weapons*)
Second weapon causing injury (*only shown with multiple weapons*)
Third weapon causing injury (*only shown with multiple weapons*)
Total number of NVDRS weapons for this victim

Optional Module: Child Fatality Review

Incident Variables

Witness(es) to fatal incident
Child witness(es) to fatal incident
CFR additional information, (text field)
CFR records available on victim
Scene investigated by LE

Victim Variables

Victim Health Information

Victim had physical illness at time of incident
If yes, specify diagnosis (text field)
Victim had disability at time of incident
If yes, disability was physical, developmental or sensory

Prenatal history

Infant, prenatal care prior to 3rd trimester
Infant, maternal recreational drug use
Infant, maternal alcohol use
Infant, maternal tobacco use
Infant, victim born prematurely

CPS Contacts

Prior CPS report on victim's household
If yes, CPS report filed on whom
If yes, report substantiated
Physical abuse substantiated
Sexual abuse substantiated
Neglect substantiated
CPS case opened on other children due to this death

Other Prior System Contacts by Victim

Victim contact with police
Victim contact with juvenile justice system
Victim contact with mental health services
Households contact with police
Victim/ primary caregiver contact with social services
Victim/primary contact with WIC
Victim/ primary contact with Medicaid
Primary caregiver on welfare/financial assistance

Suspect Information

Specific person suspected
Suspect arrested as perpetrator in this death
Suspect charged as perpetrator in this death
Suspect prosecuted
Suspect convicted

Suspect Information, cont'd

Convicted of original charge
CPS report on referral ever filed on the suspect
Suspect ever charged with a prior homicide

Household Information

Type of residence in which the victim lived
Length of time in residence
Unrelated adult living in household
Other children < 18 years of age in household
Marital relationship of victim's biological parents

Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse

Intimate partner violence in victim's household
Intimate partner violence in victim's foster home
Substance abuse in victim's household
Substance abuse in victim's foster home

Supervision at the Time of Incident

Perpetrator was supervisor
Quality of supervision is a factor
Supervisor's relationship to victim
Supervisor's age
Supervisor's sex
No supervision
Supervisor drug/alcohol impaired
Supervisor distracted or asleep
Other supervisory factor

Primary Caregivers (Info collected ≥2)

Primary caregiver a victim or suspect in the incident
If yes, caregivers ID in the incident
Relationship to victim
Person lived with victim
Primary caregiver age at time of incident
Primary caregiver sex
Had legal custody of victim at time of death
Had documented history of maltreatment
Had a previous child die in care

Data Sources Used by CFR

CME records
SS/CPS records
Police/ LE records
School records

Data Sources Used by CFR, cont'd

EMS records
Health provider/ Hospital records
Public health department records
Mental health records
Juvenile justice records
Death certificate
Other records
Other records, specify (*text field*)

CFR Committee Decisions

CFR conclusion matches death certificate manner of death
If no, manner of death CFR designated
Text to specify other manner (*text field*)
Action taken to change the official manner
Result of action
CFR determination of preventability

CFR Circumstance Elements (Legacy)

Circumstances from CFR
Current depressed mood
Current mental health problem
Type of 1st mental illness diagnosed
Type of 2nd mental illness diagnosed
Other mental health diagnosis
Current treatment for mental illness
Ever treated for mental illness
History of inpatient psychiatric treatment
Taking psychiatric medication at time of death
Barriers to accessing mental health care
Brawl (mutual physical fight)
Argument over money/property
Perpetrator of IPV past month
Victim of IPV past month
Crisis in past 2 weeks
Other circumstance, (*text field*)
Alcohol problem
Other substance problem
Job problem
Financial problem
Other legal problems
Recent criminal legal problem
School problem
Physical health problem
Other death of friend or family
Justifiable self-defense/law enforcement
Victim was a police officer on duty

CFR Circumstance Elements (Legacy), cont'd

Victim was a bystander
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim
Victim used weapon
Mercy killing
Precipitated by another crime
Nature of first other crime
First other crime progress
Nature of 2nd other crime
Terrorist attack
Drug involvement
Gang related
Hate crime
Disclosed intent to commit suicide
Person left a suicide note
History of suicide attempts
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years
Intimate partner problem
Jealousy
Intimate partner violence related
Other relationship problem
Hunting
Target shooting
Self-defensive shooting
Celebratory firing
Loading/Unloading gun
Cleaning gun
Showing gun to others
Playing with gun
Thought safety was engaged
Thought unloaded: magazine disengaged
Thought gun unloaded, other
Unintentionally pulled trigger
Bullet ricochet
Gun defect or malfunction
Fired while holstering/unholstering
Dropped gun
Fired while operating safety/lock
Gun mistaken for toy
Other argument, abuse, conflict
Other context of injury
Other mechanism of injury

Optional Module: Intimate Partner Violence

Incident Variables

IPV incident type

IPV victim

IPV perpetrator

Data Sources

Death certificate

CME report

LE/police report

SHR/ NIBRS data

Crime lab report

Gun trace report

Hospital/ ED report

Court or prosecutor records

Restraining order records

Criminal history database

DVTRT report

Newspaper report

Other data sources, (text field)

Characteristics of circumstance

Evidence of premeditation

Homicide during argument

During child drop off/ pick-up

Suspect Information (System Response)

Warrant issued for suspect

Suspect arrested in this incident

Suspected arrested but fled

Suspect charged as perpetrator

Suspect convicted

Suspect convicted of original charge

Suspect died following incident

Living Arrangement (Relationship characteristics)

Cohabitation status

Relationship length in number of units

Unit of time used in relationship length

Break up or break up in progress

Unit of time used in break up length

Children under 18 living at home

Number of children < 18 living at home

Any children not offspring of IPV perpetrator

Any children not offspring of IPV victim

Living Arrangement (Relationship characteristics)

Number of children exposed to homicide

Number of children < 5 exposed to homicide

Use of child as shield during event

Child intervened during incident

Restraining Order

Restraining order ever

Restraining order at time of incident

Restraining order type

Restraining order issue date

Restraining order served

Persons protected by restraining order

Legal Intervention/ Criminal History (for Victim and Perpetrator)

Prior arrest(s)

Type of arrest(s)

Type if other, (text field)

Prior conviction(s)

Type of conviction(s)

Type if other, (text field)

Prior IPV arrest(s)

Health Information (for Victim and Perpetrator)

Perp/ Victim had physical illness at time of incident

Diagnosis of physical illness, (text field)

Perp/Victim had disability at time of incident

If yes, disability was physical, developmental, or sensory

Alcohol use suspected

Drug use suspected

Mental Health Information (for Victim and Perpetrator)

Perp/Victim had mental health problem

Mental health diagnosis 1

Mental health diagnosis 2

Mental health diagnosis 3

Other mental health diagnosis, (text field)

Currently in treatment for mental health problem

Alcohol dependence problem

Substance abuse problem

Disclosed intent to commit suicide

History of suicide attempts