



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> character  
ICD 10 5<sup>th</sup> 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)  
2<sup>nd</sup> suspect for this victim (only shown with multiple suspects)  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> mental illness diagnosed  
Type of 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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