CDC’s Injury Center helps people live to their full potential

CDC’s Injury Center advances violence prevention through the NVDRS, a state-based surveillance system that:

- Links data from multiple sources to create a more complete picture of the circumstances that lead to violent death;
- Collects data about each violent death, including circumstances related to the event (e.g., depression or major life stresses), the relationship between the perpetrator and the homicide victim, and concurrent crimes committed along with homicide, multiple homicides, or homicide-suicides; and
- Enables states to tailor and evaluate their violent death prevention efforts.

- Oklahoma uses its VDRS data on intimate partner violence homicides to evaluate a Lethality Assessment Program deployed at the scene of domestic violence incidents.
- The Alaska Veterans Administration (VA) Suicide Prevention Program partnered with the Alaska VDRS to identify all veteran suicides and the circumstances involved.
- Through NVDRS, Oregon identified many details about the circumstances of older adult suicides that informed a state Older Adult Suicide Prevention Plan.
- North Carolina VDRS data informed the development of the 2015 North Carolina Suicide Prevention Plan.

FUTURE GOALS

- Expand the NVDRS nationwide to provide nationally representative data offering a comprehensive picture of violent death across the U.S.
- Translate NVDRS data into prevention activities.

Violence-related deaths cost the U.S. over $77 billion annually in medical care and lost productivity across the victims’ lifetimes.

Violence claimed more than 57,000 American lives in 2013 – translating to more than six people dying each hour from a homicide or suicide. [Over 41,000 people died by suicide, more than 16,000 people from homicide.]

Violence inflicts a substantial toll on individuals, families and communities throughout the U.S. It affects people across the lifespan – from infants to the elderly. No one is immune to violence.

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