FUNDING REQUEST: Expand funding to $50 million by FY 2027 to strengthen the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS).

BACKGROUND

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is a state-based surveillance system that links information from multiple data sources to create a more complete picture of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths. One of the hallmarks of the system is that it does not require the collection of any new data; it simply supports centralization of data already collected when a violent death occurs. This provides characterization of the impact of violence and identification of factors that precipitate violent death so that future violent deaths can be prevented.

CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

NVDRS is the most comprehensive database on circumstances surrounding violent deaths in the U.S. Since the program’s inception in 2002, NVDRS has grown to a nationwide program with funding to support implementation in all 50 states and select territories.

Yet, the current funding is not sufficient for long-term program success. States are clamoring for additional resources to address various implementation challenges and support investments in program infrastructure, as well as program growth and innovation. NVDRS stakeholder organizations support a funding request of $50 million by FY 2027 (increase of $5 million annually for the next five years) to strengthen the program.

NEW INVESTMENTS IN NVDRS WILL SUPPORT:

Program Infrastructure funds would facilitate:

- Improvement to the NVDRS web-based submission portal
- Development of a centralized information management software program for states
- Additional incentives for data partners to participate in the program

Program growth and innovation needs include:

- Support for greater analysis and dissemination of NVDRS data
- Enhancement to NVDRS data linkage opportunities
- Improved outreach to data partners at the local level
- Competitive funding opportunities for states to pilot data improvement and timeliness approaches

Program Growth and Innovation: Additional resources are needed to support greater data utilization, while testing innovative approaches that improve data collection, timeliness, and analysis. Data linkage opportunities should also be maximized to unleash the true power of NVDRS as evidenced by efforts to link NVDRS with the Department of Defense Suicide Event Report System.