

STRYVE ACTION COUNCIL

STRIVING TO REDUCE YOUTH VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE

NVDRS: A Resource for Guiding Youth Suicide Prevention Efforts

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is an important source of information about factors contributing to violent deaths, including suicide.

WHAT IS NVDRS?

NVDRS is a national reporting system that combines state-based coroner, medical examiner, and law enforcement reports with death certificate data to create an anonymous database designed to better understand the circumstances of violent deaths. NVDRS is used to understand as much as possible about the "how" and "why" regarding violent deaths and to target prevention activities to where they are needed most.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH SUICIDE USING NVDRS

By bringing different types of data into one database, NVDRS provides a more complete picture than any one data source could offer on its own. To help professionals better understand the circumstances of suicides—and to prevent them in the future—NVDRS collects data that answers questions such as:

- Was the person who died from suicide depressed?
- Was the person who died from suicide facing school or relationship problems?
- Was there a crisis in the past or upcoming two weeks that contributed to the suicide?
- Were drugs or alcohol involved in the death?

Oregon and Rhode Island are examples of two states using their NVDRS to better focus their youth suicide prevention efforts.

NVDRS IN ACTION: RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Violent Death Reporting System team (RIVDRS) analyzed suicide deaths of youth under age 25 to better understand the circumstances surrounding these deaths. The analysis showed that the majority of youth suicides occurred among college students in four cities and the majority of those deaths were among

white males aged 18–24. A deeper dive into the data, including analysis of social media interactions, revealed a common risk factor: many of the suicides occurred during college breaks, when youth were away from campus. With this insight, the RIVDRS team reached out to Rhode Island's Suicide Prevention Program, which then contacted college behavioral health and counseling teams. The teams were advised to be more alert of students that may be experiencing signs of crisis before school breaks that may be related to social, academic, financial, disciplinary, or employment-related challenges.

NVDRS IN ACTION: OREGON

The Oregon Violent Death Reporting System team (ORVDRS) alerted officials to the high rates of suicide among veterans, particularly young veterans. For males in Oregon aged 18–24 years, the rate of suicide among veterans was eight times that of non-veterans (130 per 100,000 versus 15 per 100,000). The ORVDRS team reported the number of suicides among veterans, the specific locations, and if veterans were using the Veterans Health Administration health care system. These findings enabled the Oregon National Guard to develop a focused youth suicide prevention plan that utilizes reintegration teams to provide support to returning veterans.

NVDRS: SERVING OUR NATION

The NVDRS improves our understanding of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths, enabling states to implement effective youth suicide prevention strategies and enhance efforts to save lives.

For more on the **STRYVE Action Council** visit <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/stryve/actioncouncil.html> and <https://www.safestates.org/page/STRYVEAC>

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