

Summary of Surveillance for Violent Deaths — National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 States, 2013

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This summary is based on the research report, Surveillance for Violent Deaths — National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 States, 2013.¹ The report was prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The report details deaths that occurred in the United States in 2013 as a result of a violence related injury, utilizing the CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). This summary was created for the Arizona Department of Health Services and funded contractors for the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program. The full report is available from

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6510a1.htm?s_cid=ss6510a1_w.

NVDRS Description

The NVDRS is a reporting system that collects data from participating states regarding violent deaths. These data are obtained from: death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and secondary sources such as hospital and laboratory data. The 2013 summary report includes data from the following 17 states that collected statewide data: Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The NVDRS creates documents and links deaths that may be related (e.g., multiple homicides, a homicide followed by a suicide, or multiple suicides) from a single incident. In 2013 there were a total of 18,765 fatal incidents involving 19,251 deaths that were captured by the 17 states utilizing the NVDRS. The majority of deaths were suicides (66.2%), followed by homicides (23.2%), and deaths of undetermined intent (8.8%).

Highlighted Findings

Demographics

- For homicides and suicides, intimate partner problems, interpersonal conflicts, mental health problems, and recent crises were primary precipitating factors.
- Violent deaths occurring as a result of self-inflicted or interpersonal violence disproportionately affected individuals age 65 or younger, males, and minority populations.
- American Indian/Alaska Natives were disproportionately affected by suicide; it was the second leading cause of death among those aged 10–34 years.
- Homicide disproportionately affected young African American males; it was the leading cause of death among those aged 15–34 years.

¹ Lyons, B., Fowler, K., Jack, S., Betz, C., Blair, M. (2013). Surveillance for violent deaths—National Violent Death Reporting system, 17 states, 2013. *MMWR Surveillance Summary* 65(SS-10), 1-42. DOI:<http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss.6510a1>

*Suicides*²

- Suicide was the 10th leading cause of death overall in the United States and disproportionately affected young and middle-aged populations.
- Suicides were preceded primarily by a mental health, intimate partner, or physical health problem or a crisis during the previous or upcoming two weeks.

*Homicides*³

- Homicide was the 16th leading cause of death overall in the United States but disproportionately affected young people.
- Homicides primarily were precipitated by arguments and interpersonal conflicts, occurrence in conjunction with another crime, or were related to intimate partner violence (particularly for females). The type of crime most frequently precipitating the homicide was assault/homicide (44.3%), robbery (34.2%), burglary (13.1%), drug trade (11.4%), rape/sexual assault (2.9%), motor vehicle theft (2.8%), and arson (1.3%).
- A known relationship between a homicide victim and a suspected perpetrator was most likely either that of an acquaintance or friend or an intimate partner.

² Suicide is a death resulting from the use of force against oneself when a preponderance of evidence indicates that the use of force was intentional. This category includes deaths of persons who intended only to injure rather than kill themselves, deaths associated with risk-taking behavior without clear intent to inflict fatal self-injury but associated with high risk for death (e.g., playing Russian roulette), and suicide involving another person providing only passive assistance to the decedent (e.g., supplying the means or information needed to complete the act).

³ Homicide is a death resulting from the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group, or community when a preponderance of evidence indicates that the use of force was intentional.