Violent deaths are a serious public health problem in the United States.

- Every hour, nearly six Americans die from violence-related injuries and a total of 57,000 people die by homicide and suicide annually.

- Violent deaths cost $77 billion in annual medical and work-related costs.

- U.S. males aged 15-19 are five times more likely to die from violence than those in other OECD countries.

**Data to inform policy:** *Violent deaths are preventable.* To obtain the data necessary to track violent deaths and eventually develop prevention strategies, CDC administers the NVDRS.

- **NVDRS** is a state-based surveillance system that centralizes information from a variety of state and local agencies and sources – medical examiners, coroners, police, crime labs, and death certificates— to better characterize and monitor violent deaths.

- NVDRS provides tools necessary for public health officials and policymakers to design and implement targeted prevention efforts.

The 2014 World Health Organization Global Status Report on Violence Prevention calls on Congress to strengthen data collection on violent deaths from multiple sources and promote linkage of data to provide more complete and comprehensive information to inform prevention efforts.

NVDRS has been essential in identifying problem areas and developing successful prevention efforts in Rhode Island:

- **Rhode Island-VDRS** (RI-VDRS) data showed that 42% of suicides occurred among adults aged 35 to 54, identifying the importance of creating suicide prevention programs targeted towards this age group. Along with the suicide attempt data, RI-VDRS data were presented to the Rhode Island Injury Community Planning Group’s Suicide Prevention Subcommittee. In response to the presented information, the subcommittee launched new prevention efforts targeting working-age adults, focusing on ways to integrate suicide prevention into worksites and ways to reduce the burden of depression and suicide in Rhode Island.

- RI-VDRS data on drug-related violent deaths were used to raise awareness at a state substance abuse treatment media event, and RIVDRS homicide data were used to study factors contributing to the dramatic decrease in homicides in Providence, Rhode Island.

The National Violence Prevention Network supports the President’s request for nationwide expansion of NVDRS by providing an increase of $9 million to the CDC Injury Center.

**CONGRESSIONAL ASK:**
SUPPORT FY2017 FUNDING LEVEL OF $25.0M FOR NVDRS

For additional information, please visit PreventViolence.net or contact Paul Bonta at pbonta@acpm.org