In 2011, homicide claimed more than 16,000 people in the United States.

**National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)**

Before the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) was created, federal and state public health and law enforcement officials collected valuable information about violent deaths but did not combine it into one comprehensive reporting system. Instead, data were held in a variety of different systems, and policymakers lacked the clear picture necessary to develop effective violence prevention policies.

When it was created in 2002, the National Violent Death Reporting System promised to capture data that is critical to identifying patterns and developing strategies to save lives. With a clearer picture of why violent deaths occur, law enforcement and public health officials can work together more effectively to identify those at risk and provide effective preventive services.

Now funded and operating in 32 states, NVDRS is already providing data for studies that present in-depth findings on homicide, suicide, and child maltreatment.

**CONGRESSIONAL ASK:**
**SUPPORT FY 2016 FUNDING LEVEL OF $25M FOR NVDRS**

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

**Examples of How NVDRS will help Identify Prevention Strategies**

While the program is still in its early stages, the benefits of NVDRS are already evident.

- **Oklahoma** NVDRS intimate partner homicide data helped secure a National Institute of Justice grant to implement and evaluate an eleven-item lethality assessment given by police officers responding to domestic violence situations. This assessment is designed to determine if the victim is at high-risk for homicide. If so, they are immediately connected with a local domestic violence service provider.

- Using NVDRS data, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was able to analyze gang homicides in five large cities during 2003-2008. They found that the proportion of homicides due to the drug trade or criminal activity was low, compared to retaliatory homicides due to gang-related conflicts.

- Both **Virginia** and **North Carolina** produce regional/county-level reports analyzing violence in their states to assist local communities in targeted outreach and prevention programs.

- **New Jersey** uses the comprehensive data provided by NVDRS to create maps illustrating the prevalence of violent deaths in different locations across the state.