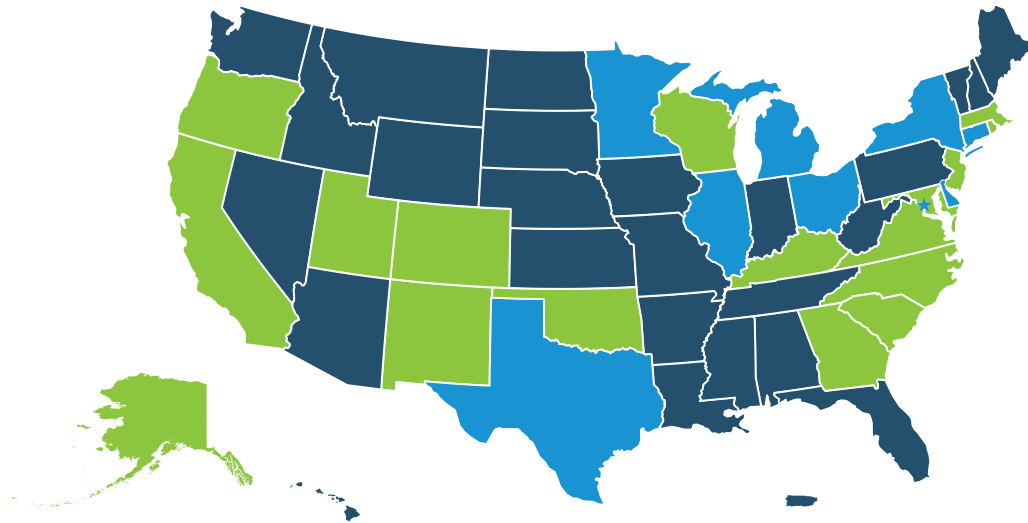
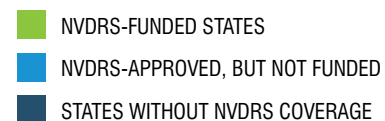




About NVDRS



NVDRS states as of January 2007. The CDC funds 17 states' participation in NVDRS, but has plans to expand the program to all 50.



The National Violent Death Reporting System

Every year, more than 50,000 Americans die violently as a result of domestic violence, child abuse, gang violence, homicide and suicide. Yet, in the United States, we have no nationwide system that enables law enforcement and public health officials to share information and develop a better understanding of the causes of violent deaths. Without this knowledge, our violence prevention policies and programs will remain less effective in eliminating or reducing violent deaths.

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 didn't combine it into one comprehensive reporting system. Instead, data was held in a variety of different systems, and policy-makers 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.

Housed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NVDRS is on its way to fulfilling that promise. Thanks to steady funding and a growing coalition of supporters, the momentum behind NVDRS is stronger than ever.

NVDRS operates in 17 states:

- Alaska
- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- North Carolina
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Utah
- Virginia
- Wisconsin

Eight additional states, plus the District of Columbia, have been approved for participation in the NVDRS, but lack the funding: Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Texas. Several additional states have expressed an interest in joining NVDRS once new funding becomes available, including Delaware, Hawaii, Florida, and Missouri.

Funding a National Violent Death Reporting System

The CDC has estimated that it would cost \$20 million annually to implement and maintain NVDRS in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. Overall, congressional funding for NVDRS has been generous, but it falls well short of that amount.

- In 2002, Congress appropriated \$1.5 million for NVDRS, allowing the program to be funded in six states: Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina and Virginia.
- In 2003, Congress again allocated \$1.5 million to NVDRS, allowing it to expand to an addition seven states: Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.
- In 2004, Congress appropriated \$725,000 to NVDRS to fund additional programs in California, Kentucky, New Mexico and Utah.
- From 2005-2008, congressional appropriations to CDC for NVDRS remained flat.

Two-thirds of the country still lacks NVDRS funding, leaving all but 17 states without vital data that provides a clear direction for violence prevention policies.

“NVDRS puts us on the front line to collect rapid, reliable data to better inform our prevention strategies.”

— Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, Director, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

How NVDRS Data Is Being Used to Save Lives

Now funded and operating in 17 states, NVDRS is already providing data for studies that present in-depth findings on homicide, suicide and child mistreatment. And at least six of the 17 states currently participating in NVDRS have released comprehensive suicide prevention plans based on NVDRS data. Following are examples of the ways that state health and law enforcement officials are using the data to shape states' responses to violent deaths.

South Carolina: Using Data to Prevent Suicide

To combat the problem of suicide in the state, South Carolina brought together a group of committed professionals to form the Suicide Prevention Task Force. Using data provided by South Carolina's National Violent Death Reporting System and the framework from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Strategy to Prevent Suicide, the task force crafted a plan to provide a unified strategy for suicide prevention efforts at all levels. Fueled by data from NVDRS, the plan gained momentum and was ultimately signed by the governor.

New Jersey: Using Data to Map Violence

New Jersey has used NVDRS data to create maps of crime and violent death statistics. Piggybacking on the state GIS program already in use, New Jersey has been using the comprehensive data provided by NVDRS to create a number of different informative maps that illustrate violent death prevalence and type geographically. Accessing different statistics, the system can already create a map for any number of different factors — intimate partner deaths where there was prior knowledge of abuse by county, or suicides by school district — adding one more layer to the way we understand violence and the ways we can work to stop it.