

NVDRS Variables List

Variables Collected in NVDRS Web System

As of February 2025

Note: This list does not include variables from optional modules, which are not currently available for distribution to external researchers.

Incident-level Variables

Version of software (system variable)
Site Identifier
Incident Number
Incident Year
Incident Type
Incident Category
Number of source documents in incident
Number of victims in incident
Date supervisor checked incident
Date supervisor rechecked incident
General comments field (*text field*)
Number of non-fatally shot persons in incident
Abstractor name(s)
CME Incident narrative (*text field*)
LE Incident narrative (*text field*)
Flag incident for follow-up

Case Status

Death certificate data abstraction complete
CME report data abstraction complete
Toxicology data abstraction complete
Law enforcement data abstraction complete
Incident complete

Document Tracking

Document type
Source agency requested from
Data record requested/expected/sought
Data record re-requested/re-researched
Data record received
Data record abstracted/imported
Data entered data checked
Document determined to be unavailable
Document notes field

Variables Collected for Victim(s) and Suspect(s)

Age
Age unit
Sex
White
Black
Asian

Variables Collected for Victim(s) and Suspect(s), cont'd

Asian Indian
Chinese
Filipino
Japanese
Korean
Vietnamese
Other Asian
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
Hawaiian
Guamanian or Chamorro
Samoan
Other Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native
Other race*
Unspecified race
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish

**Removed as a category, beginning 2015 data collection year*

Victim Variables

Person type
First initial of last name
Day of birth
Last 4 of CME
Last for of DC
Height
Weight
Marital status
Relationship status
Sex of partner
Victim was pregnant
Sexual orientation
Ever served in US armed forces (veteran)
Country of residence
State of residence
County of residence
City of residence
Zip code of residence
US Census tract of residence
US Census block group pf residence
Birth place
Birth Country, if other
Kind of business/ industry code

Variables Collected in NVDRS Web System

As of February 2025

Usual industry text
Usual occupation code
Usual occupation text
Current occupation
Homeless status
Education by degree level
Number of years of education

Date pronounced dead
Date of death
State of death
Autopsy performed
Multiple conditions on death certificate 1-10

Injury & Death Variables

DC Manner of death
LE Manner of death
CME Manner of death
Abstractor-assigned Manner of death
State of injury, *(by FIPS code)*
County of injury, *(by FIPS code)*
City of injury, *(by FIPS code)*
Zip code of injury
US Census tract of injury
US Census block group of injury
Date of injury
Time of injury
Type of location where injured
Injured at work
Injured at victim's home
EMS at scene of injury
Victim in custody when injured
Recent release from an institution
Alcohol use suspected
Survival time no. of units
Unit of time used in survival time
Victim seen in emergency department
Victim admitted to inpatient care
1st external cause of injury code by hospital *(ICD-9 CM & ICD-10 CM)*
2nd external cause of injury code from hospital *(ICD-9 CM & ICD-10 CM)*
Underlying cause of death ICD-10 code
ICD 10 4th character
ICD 10 5th character
Immediate cause of death, *(text field)*
Cause leading to immediate cause, *(text field)*
Next antecedent cause of death, *(text field)*
Underlying cause of death, *(text field)*
Place of death
Place of death, if other *(text field)*

Wound Location Variables

Number of wounds
Number of bullets that hit victim
Wound to the head
Wound to the face
Wound to the neck
Wound to the upper extremity

Wound Location Variables, cont'd

Wound to the spine
Wound to the thorax
Wound to the abdomen
Wound to the lower extremity

Poisons/Toxicology Variables

No toxicology report
Date specimens were collected
Time specimens were collected
Substance(s) Name
(Specific) Substance tested
(Specific) Substance result
Substance caused death
Person medication prescribed for
Substance categories *(auto-populated)*
Tested for alcohol
Alcohol test results
Tested for carbon monoxide
Results for carbon monoxide
Tested for amphetamines
Results for amphetamines
Tested for anticonvulsants
Results for anticonvulsants
Tested for antidepressants
Results for antidepressants
Tested for antipsychotics
Results for antipsychotics
Tested for barbiturates
Results for barbiturates
Tested for benzodiazepines
Results for benzodiazepines
Tested for cocaine
Results for cocaine
Tested for marijuana
Results for marijuana
Tested for muscle relaxant
Results for muscle relaxant

Variables Collected in NVDRS Web System

As of February 2025

Tested for opiate(s)
Results for opiate(s)
Blood alcohol concentration results
Carbon monoxide source, if CO
Comments (*text field*)

Suspect Variables

Victim's relationship to suspect 1
Victim's relationship to suspect 2
Primary suspect for this victim (*if multiple suspects*)
2nd suspect for this victim (*if multiple suspects*)
3rd suspect for this victim (*if multiple suspects*)
Suspect was also a victim
Suspect attempted suicide after incident
Suspect was caregiver
History of abuse of victim
Suspect was mentally ill
Suspect had developmental disability
Suspected alcohol use
Suspected substance use
Suspect had contact with law enforcement
Suspect recently released from institution

Circumstance Variables by Manners of Death

**Indicates Crisis Information Collected*

All Manners of Death

Current depressed mood
Current diagnosed mental health problem*
Type of first mental illness diagnosed
Type of 2nd mental illness diagnosed
Other mental health diagnosis (*text field*)
Current treatment for mental illness/ substance abuse
Ever treated for mental illness
Alcohol problem*
Other substance problem*
Other addiction*
Terrorist attack
Family relationship problem*
Family Stressor
Other relationship problem*
Abuse and neglect led to death
History of abuse as a child
Perpetrator of violence in the past month
Victim of violence in the past month
Prior Child Protective Services report on the child victim's household
Substance abuse in child victim's household

Living transition/loss of independent living
Household known to local authorities
Victim known to authorities
Non-adherence to mental health/substance abuse treatment
Physical fight (mutual between 2 people)
Argument
Timing of the most recent argument
Precipitated by another crime
Nature of first other crime
Nature of 2nd other crime
First other crime in progress
Circumstances known
Other circumstance (*text field*)
Crisis in past 2 weeks
Disaster exposure*

Homicide/Legal Intervention Deaths

Intimate partner violence related
Stalking*
Prostitution or sex trafficking*
Gang related
Justifiable self-defense/law enforcement
Victim was a police officer on duty
Victim was a bystander
Random violence
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim
Victim used a weapon

Homicide/Legal Intervention Deaths, cont'd

Mercy killing
Hate crime
Jealousy (lover's triangle)*
Brawl
Walk-by assault
Drive-by shooting (*homicide only*)
Drug Involvement
Caregiver use of corporal punishment contributed to the death of the child victim

Suicide & Undetermined Deaths

History of suicidal thoughts or plans
History of suicide attempts
History of Traumatic Brain Injury
Recent disclosed suicidal thoughts or intent Disclosed suicidal intent to whom
Person left a suicide note
Contributing criminal legal problem*
Civil legal problems*
Physical health problem*
Job problem*
Financial problem*
School problem*
Eviction/loss of home*

Variables Collected in NVDRS Web System

As of February 2025

Suicide of a friend or family member*
Other death of friend or family
Anniversary of traumatic event
Intimate partner problem*
Caregiver burden
History of non-suicidal self-injury/self-harm

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

Hunting
Target shooting
Self-defensive shooting
Celebratory firing
Loading/ unloading gun
Cleaning gun
Showing gun to others
Playing with gun
Other context of injury
Thought safety was engaged
Thought unloaded, magazine disengaged
Thought gun was unloaded, other
Unintentionally pulled trigger
Bullet ricochet

Unintentional Firearm Deaths, cont'd

Gun defect or malfunction
Fired while holstering/un-holstering
Dropped gun
Fired while operating safety/lock

Unintentional Firearm Deaths, cont'd

Gun mistaken for toy
Other mechanism of injury

Weapons

Weapon type
Additional weapon information (*text field*)
Firearm type
Firearm gauge
Firearm caliber
Firearm make or NCIC code
Other firearm make (*text field*)
Firearm model
Firearm model (*text field*)
Gun stored loaded
Gun stored locked
Gun access narrative (*text field*)
Gun owner
Firearm stolen
Primary weapon that killed victim (*if multiple weapons*)
Second weapon causing injury (*if multiple weapons*)
Third weapon causing injury (*if multiple weapons*)
Total number of NVDRS weapons for this victim

Variables Collected in NVDRS Web System

As of February 2025

School-Associated Violent Death Module

Applicable to eligible deaths occurring on and after January 1, 2021

Incident Variables

Number of non-fatally injured persons
SAVD location type
SAVD campus location
Type of school-sponsored event
Security measures present at the time of injury
Security measures in-use at the time of injury
Type of security measures present and in-use at the time of injury
Signs that the violent act was being considered by the victim or suspect
Information known in advance of the incident by witnesses, bystanders, or informants

Victim Variables

Timing of the fatal injury
Victim's primary affiliation with the school
Victim behavior in the 12 months prior to the injury

- Name calling, teasing and/or bullying peers or school personnel (in person or online)
- Sent verbal, written, or electronic threats
- Posted threats or manifestos online via social media or other platforms
- Participated in activity aligning themselves with violent ideologies
- Physically threatened or physically fought with peers
- Damaged or stole another's personal property or damaged school property
- Possessed/used illicit substances
- Possessed a weapon
- Other (text box)

Victimization experiences in the 12 months prior to the injury

- Called names, teased, or was bullied by peers or school personnel (in person or online)
- Had personal property damaged or stolen
- Received verbal, written, or electronic threats
- Physically threatened and/or assaulted by peers
- Abuse, neglect, or other victimization experienced
- Physical child abuse
- Sexual child abuse
- Emotional (verbal or psychological) abuse as a child
- Neglect (physical, emotional, medical or educational neglect) as a child
- Victimization in intimate partner violence/ teen dating violence
- Victimization in sexual violence

Suspect Variables

Suspect arrest history
Suspect alcohol or drug problem
Highest grade in school completed by the suspect
Suspect's primary affiliation with the school
Crises experienced by the suspect within two weeks of the incident

- School-related crisis
- Family-related crisis
- Relationship-related crisis
- Mental health-related crisis
- Other crisis
- Other crisis text box

Suspect's behavior in the 12 months prior to the incident

- Name calling, teasing and/or bullying peers or school personnel (in person or online)
- Sent verbal, written, or electronic threats
- Posted threats or manifestos online via social media or other platforms
- Participated in activity aligning themselves with violent ideologies
- Physically threatened or physically fought with peers
- Damaged or stole another's personal property or damaged school property
- Possessed/used illicit substances
- Possessed a weapon
- Other (text box)

Victimization experienced by the suspect in the 12 months prior

- Called names, teased, or was bullied by peers or school personnel (in person or online)
- Had personal property damaged or stolen
- Received verbal, written, or electronic threats
- Physically threatened and/or assaulted by peers
- Abuse, neglect, or other victimization experienced by the suspect
- Physical child abuse
- Sexual child abuse
- Emotional (verbal or psychological) abuse as a child
- Neglect (physical, emotional, medical or educational neglect) as a child
- Victimization in intimate partner violence/ teen dating violence
- Victimization in sexual violence

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As of February 2025

Public Safety Officer Suicide Module

Applicable to eligible deaths occurring on and after January 1, 2022

Agency, Role, and Status

Type of agency

- Law enforcement agency
 - State law enforcement
 - Campus police
 - City/county/town law enforcement
 - Tribal law enforcement
 - Federal law enforcement
 - Private law enforcement (non-governmental)
 - Unspecified
- Fire department
 - City/ county/town fire department
 - Federal fire agency
 - State fire department
 - Unspecified
- Emergency Medical Services
 - Private EMS Agency (non-governmental)
 - City/ county/town EMS Agency
 - Federal EMS agency
 - Tribal EMS agency
 - Campus EMS agency
 - State EMS agency
 - Air Medical Agency (e.g., air ambulance service)
 - Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
 - Unspecified
- Military (e.g., Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines)
- Jail/corrections facility
- Court
 - Federal court
 - State court
 - Local jurisdiction court
 - Unspecified
- 911/Telecommunications Agency
 - State 911 agency
 - City/ county/town 911 agency
 - Tribal 911 agency
 - Federal 911 agency
 - Unspecified
- Other
- Unknown

Type of agency, other (*free text*)

Role (occupation)

- Law enforcement role
 - LE Officer Role
 - LE, Supervisor Role

- LE, Unspecified Role
- Firefighting role
 - Firefighter Role
 - Firefighter, Supervisor Role
 - Firefighter, Unspecified Role
- Emergency Medical Services role
 - Emergency Medical Service Clinician
 - Emergency Medical Service, Supervisor Role
 - Other Emergency Medical Service Clinician
 - Emergency Medical Service Role, Unspecified Role
- Public Safety Telecommunications role
 - Public Safety Telecommunicators
 - Public Safety Telecommunicators, Supervisor Role
 - Public Safety Telecommunicators, Unspecified Role
- Other
- Unknown

Role, other (*free text*)

Pay status

Active vs. retired

Work Environment Variables

History of chronic or acute traumatic work-related event

Timing of most recent chronic or acute traumatic work-related event

Type of chronic or acute traumatic work-related event

Referred to Employee Assistance Program (EAP) or mental health services

Work-related stressors

Work-related stressors, other (*free text*)

Injury Detail Variables

Duty status at time of injury

Decedent affected by chronic or acute work-related injury/disability

Detail about where fatal injury occurred

Detail about where fatal injury occurred, Other (*free text*)

Weapon Variables

Injury weapon was a work-issued firearm