



Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System

Our Work

The Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System (WVDRS) works to prevent lives lost to violence by collecting, analyzing, and sharing data on violent death. WVDRS uses data from multiple sources, including death certificates, coroner and medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports so violence prevention partners can use the data to develop effective strategies.

Violent deaths include deaths by suicide, homicide, unintentional firearm (shot by accident), legal intervention (caused by law enforcement acting in the line of duty), and undetermined intent deaths that appear violent in nature.



70% of all violent deaths in Wisconsin are suicides.



86% of homicides and **56%** of suicides involved a firearm in 2022.



Veterans have a higher rate of suicide death than non-veterans in Wisconsin.

Funding

This work is supported over five years at \$311,848 annually by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) National Violent Death Reporting System.

Priorities

Define and monitor violence in Wisconsin

The first step in preventing violence is to understand the “who,” “what,” “where,” “when,” and “how” associated with it.

Identify risk and protective factors

Identify and share with the public what factors protect people or put them at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence.

Decrease violent deaths

Partners use WVDRS data to assess risk and protective factors and identify where prevention efforts need to be focused.

Impact

Veteran suicide mortality review

The Department of Veterans Affairs and Medical College of Wisconsin are using WVDRS data to develop and implement recommendations to prevent future veteran suicides.

Community violence interventions

WVDRS homicide and legal intervention death data is shared with local offices of violence prevention to inform their prevention efforts.

Advancing academic suicide research

The Medical College of Wisconsin is using WVDRS data to advance suicide research at The Division of Suicide Research and Healing.

Looking ahead

WVDRS looks to complete an internal research study on criminal involvement and suicide deaths this fall. The study’s results will inform suicide prevention efforts and collaboration opportunities with criminal justice partners.