**Appendix A:** Case definitions used to identify Traumatic Brain Injury

In 2003, NVDRS began data collection with six participating states (Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, and Virginia). Seven states (Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin) began data collection in 2004, three (Kentucky, New Mexico, and Utah) in 2005, two (Ohio and Michigan) in 2010, and 14 (Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington) in 2015. Eight states (Alabama, California, Delaware, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, and West Virginia), the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico began data collection in 2017.

The following keywords were used to search abstractor-drafted narratives of suicide decedents aged 10 years and older who died in the states participating in NVDRS during 2003–2017. The keyword searches were conducted using SAS (SAS Institute, Version 9.3). All cases were independently coded by two reviewers; all discrepancies were discussed and coded to consensus. The following information lists the keywords used as well as the decision process for case ascertainment.

**TBI narrative keywords**

* brain injury
* TBI
* traumatic brain injury
* concussion
* head injury
* head trauma
* hit head
* skull injury
* skull fracture
* facial fracture
* Blast injury
* fracture of facial bones or face

**TBI cases**

Code as “yes”

Any mention or variation of the following:

* Previously fell and hit head
* Had an accident with a head injury
* Concussion
* TBI or traumatic brain injury
* Head trauma or injury unrelated to cause of death

**Not a case**

Code as “no”

* Brain injury due to the suicide, such as gunshot wound, falling, asphyxiation
* Anoxia due to the manner of death

**Timing**

Each of the following categories are mutually exclusive and are determined based on a reading of the narrative

* Past month
* Past year
* Past 1-5 years
* Past 6-10 years
* ≥11 years