



Surveillance for Violent Deaths— National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 States, 2012

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Division of Violence Prevention



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Abstract

Problem/Condition: In 2012, more than 57,000 persons died in the United States as a result of violence-related injuries. This report summarizes data from CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) regarding violent deaths from 17 U.S. states for 2012. Results are reported by sex, age group, race/ethnicity, marital status, location of injury, method of injury, circumstances of injury, and other selected characteristics.

Reporting Period Covered: 2012.

Description of System: NVDRS collects data regarding violent deaths obtained from death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and secondary sources (e.g., child fatality review team data, supplementary homicide reports, hospital data, and crime laboratory data). NVDRS data collection began in 2003 with seven states (Alaska, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, and Virginia) participating; six states (Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin) joined in 2004, four (California, Kentucky, New Mexico, and Utah) in 2005, two in 2010 (Ohio and Michigan), and fourteen in 2014 for a total of 32 states. This report includes data from 17 states that collected statewide data in 2012; data from California are not included in this report because data were not statewide and not collected after 2008. Michigan was excluded because data collection was not statewide as of 2012.

Results: For 2012, a total of 18,615 fatal incidents involving 19,124 deaths were captured by NVDRS in the 17 states included in this report. The majority (64.9%) of deaths were suicides, followed by homicides (24.8%), including deaths involving legal intervention (i.e., deaths caused by law enforcement and other persons with legal authority to use deadly force, excluding legal

executions. The term legal intervention is the classification adopted by the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision* (ICD-10) and does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding a death caused by law enforcement, deaths of undetermined intent (9.7%), and unintentional firearm deaths (0.6%). Suicides occurred at higher rates among males, non-Hispanic whites and American Indian/Alaska Native, and persons aged 45–54 years. Suicides most often occurred in a house or apartment and most frequently involved the use of firearms. Suicides were preceded primarily by a mental health problem, an intimate partner problem, a crisis during the previous or impending 2 weeks, and/or a physical health problem. Homicide rates were highest among males, particularly non-Hispanic black males, and persons aged 15–44 years. The majority of homicides involved the use of a firearm and occurred in a house or apartment, or on a street/highway. Homicides were primarily precipitated by one or more of the following: arguments and interpersonal conflicts, occurrence in conjunction with another crime, or were related to intimate partner violence (particularly for women, for whom almost half of homicides were intimate partner violence-related). When the relationship between the homicide victim and suspected perpetrator was known, it was most frequently either an acquaintance/friend or intimate partner. Unintentional firearm deaths occurred most frequently among males, non-Hispanic whites, and persons aged 15-19 and 55-64 years. Unintentional firearm deaths most often occurred in a house or apartment, and were most often precipitated by a person playing with the firearm, unintentionally pulling the trigger, or while hunting.

Interpretation: This report provides a detailed summary of data from NVDRS for 2012. The results indicate that violent deaths resulting from self-inflicted or interpersonal violence disproportionately affected persons aged <65 years, males, and certain minority populations. For

both homicides and suicides, intimate partner problems, interpersonal conflicts, mental health problems, and recent crises were among the primary precipitating factors.

Public Health Action: The continued development and expansion of NVDRS to include all U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia is essential to CDC's efforts to reduce the public health impact of violence. NVDRS data can be used to monitor the occurrence of violence-related fatal injuries and assist public health authorities in the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies to reduce and prevent violent deaths.

Introduction

In 2012, more than 57,000 persons died in the United States as a result of violence-related injuries (1). Suicide was the 10th leading cause of death overall in the U.S. and disproportionately affected both young and middle-aged populations. It was among the top 3 leading causes of death for all age groups from 10-34 years, and was among the top 5 leading causes for persons aged 35-54. Homicide is a leading cause of death among younger persons; It was the 3rd leading cause of death for young people aged 15-34 years, 4th leading cause of death for children and young people aged 1-14 years and the 5th leading causes of death for adults aged 35-44 years.

Public health authorities require accurate, timely, and comprehensive surveillance data to better understand and ultimately prevent the occurrence of violent deaths in the United States (2). In 2000, in response to an Institute of Medicine Report noting the need for a national fatal intentional injury system (3), CDC began planning to implement the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) (4). Some of the goals of NVDRS include to:

- collect and analyze timely, high-quality data that monitor the magnitude and characteristics of violent death at the national, state, and local levels;
- ensure data are disseminated routinely and expeditiously to public health officials, law enforcement officials, policy makers, and the public;
- ensure data are used to develop, implement, and evaluate programs and strategies that are intended to reduce and prevent violent deaths and injuries at the national, state, and local levels; and,
- build and strengthen partnerships among organizations and communities at the

national, state, and local levels to ensure that data are collected and used to reduce and prevent violent deaths and injuries.

NVDRS was conceived as a state-based active surveillance system that would collect data on the characteristics and risk factors associated with all violence-related deaths in participating states, including homicides, suicides, and legal intervention deaths (i.e., deaths caused by law enforcement and other persons with legal authority to use deadly force, excluding legal executions). The term legal intervention is the classification adopted by the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision* (ICD-10) and does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding a death caused by law enforcement, as well as unintentional firearm deaths and deaths of undetermined intent*.

Before implementation of NVDRS, single data sources (e.g., death certificates, law enforcement data systems) provided only limited information and few circumstances from which to understand patterns of violent deaths collected by the system. NVDRS fills this surveillance gap. It is the first system to provide detailed information on circumstances precipitating violent deaths, the first to link multiple source documents on violent deaths to enable the understanding of each death more completely in order to inform the study of patterns of violent deaths, and the first to link multiple deaths that are related to one another (e.g., multiple homicides, suicide pacts, cases of homicide followed by the suicide of the suspected perpetrator).

NVDRS began data collection in 2003 with seven states (Alaska, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, and Virginia) participating; six states (Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin) joined in 2004, four more (California, Kentucky, New Mexico, and Utah) in 2005; and two (Ohio and Michigan) in 2010. Fourteen new states joined in 2015 (Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine,

Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington), bringing the current total to 32 states (Figure). California concluded its participation in 2008. CDC provides funding for state participation and anticipates that NVDRS will expand to include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories in the future.

This report summarizes data for 2012 for deaths meeting NVDRS inclusion criteria from the 17 states that collected statewide data in that year (Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin; approximately 30.1% of the U.S. population) (1,5). California data are not included in this report because data were not collected after 2008. Michigan data were excluded because data collection was not statewide in 2012. The fourteen states that joined in 2015 are not included because they did not collect 2012 data. NVDRS data are updated annually and are available through CDC's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)** at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nvdrs.html>.

Methods

NVDRS compiles information from multiple data sources. The core required data sources are: death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. In addition, some participating states collect information from secondary sources (e.g., child fatality review team data, supplementary homicide reports, and crime laboratory data). NVDRS collates documents for each death and links deaths that are related (e.g., multiple homicides, a homicide followed by a suicide, or multiple suicides) into a single incident. The ability to analyze linked data permits a comprehensive assessment of violent deaths.

NVDRS defines a violent death as a death resulting either from the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group or community. In addition, NVDRS collects information regarding unintentional firearm injury deaths (i.e., incidents in which the person causing the injury did not intend to discharge the firearm) and deaths of undetermined intent. NVDRS case definitions are coded on the basis of the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) (6)* or on the basis of manner of death assigned by the coroner, medical examiner, or law enforcement. Cases with selected ICD-10 codes (Box 1) or with a manner of death specified in one of the 3 primary data sources that is consistent with NVDRS case definitions are included in NVDRS. ICD-10 case finding is completed by participating states.

Variables analyzed in NVDRS include the following:

- manner of death (i.e., the intent [homicide/legal intervention, suicide, unintentional, undetermined] of the person inflicting a fatal injury);
- mechanism of injury (i.e., the method used to inflict a fatal injury);
- toxicology findings for all victims with available toxicology results
- circumstances preceding injury (i.e., the events that preceded and were identified by investigators as relevant and therefore might have contributed to the infliction of a fatal injury);
- whether the decedent was a victim (i.e., a person who died as a result of a violence related injury);
- information about suspects (i.e., a person believed to have inflicted a fatal injury on a victim);

- whether the decedent was both a suspect and a victim (i.e., a person believed to have inflicted a fatal injury on a victim who then was fatally injured, such as the perpetrator of a homicide-suicide);
- incident (i.e., an occurrence in which one or more persons sustained a fatal injury that was linked to a common event or perpetrated by the same suspect during a 24 hour period); and
- type of incident (i.e., a combination of the manner of death and the number of victims in an incident).

Unlike most public health surveillance systems that are based on the person who experiences the event under surveillance, NVDRS is an incident-based system, and all decedents associated with a given incident are grouped in one record. Decisions about whether two or more deaths are related and belong to the same incident are made on the basis of the timing of the injuries rather than on the timing of the deaths. Examples of a violent death incident include 1) a single isolated violent death, 2) two or more related homicides (including legal interventions) when the fatal injuries were inflicted <24 hours apart, 3) two or more related suicides or deaths of undetermined intent when the fatal injuries were inflicted <24 hours apart, and 4) a homicide followed by a related suicide when both fatal injuries were inflicted <24 hours apart.

Data are obtained from individual information sources and entered into source-specific computerized data entry screens (i.e., law enforcement report data are entered into law enforcement report screens and death certificate data into death certificate screens). This permits comparisons of the quality and completeness of individual data sources and allows states to provide feedback to sources regarding the consistency of their data compared with data from

other sources. The system also permits electronic importation of some specific data sources (e.g., death certificate data) without requiring manual entry.

Abstraction of identical variables across multiple source documents can result in data inconsistencies, which NVDRS resolves by assigning a primacy (i.e., hierarchical) rule for each variable. The primacy rules are applied to create a final analysis data set that uses data from all available sources. For each variable in NVDRS, primacy is established on the basis of a hierarchy of assumed reliability of all the sources for a single variable. For example, sex is collected in all three required documents (death certificate, coroner/medical examiner report, and law enforcement report). The primacy rule for sex is expressed as 1) death certificate, 2) coroner/medical examiner report, 3) law enforcement report, which means the analysis file is constructed using the sex recorded in the death certificate. If the sex is left blank or is unknown on the death certificate, the sex recorded in the coroner/medical examiner report is used and if the coroner/medical examiner report does not provide the sex or lists the sex as unknown, the law enforcement report is used.

Manner of Death

A manner (i.e., intent) of death for each decedent is assigned by a trained abstractor who takes into account information from all source documents. Typically, these documents are consistent regarding the manner of death, and the abstractor-assigned manner of death corresponds to that reported in all the source documents. The abstractor assigned manner of death must agree with at least one of the data sources. On rare occasions, when a discrepancy exists among the source documents, the abstractor must assign a manner of death on the basis of the preponderance of evidence in the source documents. For example, if two sources classify a death as a suicide and a third classifies it as undetermined, the death will be likely coded as a suicide.

NVDRS classifies data using one of five abstractor-assigned manners of death:

- **Suicide**. Suicide is defined as a death resulting from the use of force against oneself when a preponderance of the evidence indicates that the use of force was intentional. This category includes deaths of persons who intended only to injure rather than kill themselves, deaths associated with risk taking behavior without clear intent to inflict fatal injury but associated with high risk of death (e.g., “Russian roulette”) and suicides involving another providing only passive assistance to the decedent (e.g., supplying the means or information needed to complete the act). The category does not include deaths caused by chronic or acute substance abuse without the intent to die, or deaths attributed to autoerotic behavior (e.g., self-strangulation during sexual activity). Corresponding ICD-10 codes included in NVDRS are X60–X84 and Y87.0.
- **Homicide**. Homicide is defined as a death resulting from the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group, or community when a preponderance of evidence indicates that the use of force was intentional. Two special scenarios that the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) regards as homicides are included in the NVDRS definition: 1) arson with no intent to injure a person and 2) a stabbing with intent unspecified. This category excludes vehicular homicide without intent to injure, unintentional firearm deaths (a separate category listed below), combat deaths or acts of war, and deaths of unborn fetuses, but includes acts of terrorism. Corresponding ICD-10 codes included in NVDRS are X85–X99, U01-U03, Y00–Y09, and Y87.1.
- **Unintentional firearm**. An unintentional firearm death is defined as a death that results from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to

fire a projectile and for which a preponderance of evidence indicates that the shooting was not directed intentionally at the decedent. Examples of deaths included in this category include the death of a person as a result of celebratory firing that was not intended to frighten, control, or harm anyone; a soldier shot during a field exercise but not in a combat situation; a person who received a self-inflicted wound while playing with a firearm; and a person who mistakenly thinks a gun is unloaded and shoots another person. This category excludes firearm injuries caused by unintentionally striking a person with the firearm (e.g., hitting a person on the head with the firearm rather than firing a projectile) and unintentional injuries from non-powder guns (e.g., BB, pellet, or other compressed air-powered or gas-powered guns). Corresponding ICD-10 codes included in NVDRS are W32–W34 and Y86.

- **Undetermined intent.** A death of undetermined intent is defined as a death that results from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than evidence indicating another. This category includes coroner/medical examiner rulings (e.g., accident or suicide, undetermined, jumped or fell, or self-inflicted injury) when records give no evidence or opinions in favor of either unintentional or intentional injury. Corresponding ICD-10 codes included in NVDRS are Y10–Y34, Y87.2, and Y89.9.
- **Legal intervention.** A death from legal intervention is a death in which a decedent is killed by a law enforcement officer or other peace officer (a person with specified legal authority to use deadly force), including military police, acting in the line of duty. There are a small subset of legal intervention deaths in which force was applied without clear lethal intent (e.g., during restraint or when applying force with a typically non-deadly

weapon, such as a taser), or in which the victim's death occurred while fleeing capture. On average, about 3 cases per year fit the lattermost profile, accounting for an extremely small percentage of the overall total count of legal intervention deaths. This category excludes legal executions. Corresponding ICD-10 codes included in NVDRS are Y35.0–Y35.4, Y35.6, Y35.7, and Y89.0. The term legal intervention is a classification from ICD-10 (Y-35.0) and does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death. In this report, legal intervention deaths are grouped with homicides in the analyses of homicide deaths, and then are reported as a separate incident type in further analyses.

Variables Analyzed

NVDRS collects approximately 250 unique variables for each death. The number of variables recorded for each incident depends on the content and completeness of the source documents. Variables include manner of death, demographics, ICD-10 and cause-of-death codes and text descriptors, location and date/time of injury and death, toxicology results, bodily injuries, precipitating circumstances, victim-suspect relationship, and method of injury (Boxes 2 and 3).

Circumstances Preceding Death

The circumstances preceding death are defined as the precipitating events that contributed to the infliction of a fatal injury (Box 3). The circumstances that preceded a fatal injury are reported on the basis of the content of the coroner/medical examiner investigative records and law enforcement investigative reports. Different sets of circumstances are coded for suicide/undetermined deaths, homicide/legal intervention deaths, and unintentional firearm deaths. When selected, the variable “circumstances known” allows the abstractor to select from a

list of potential circumstances. Each incident requires the data abstractor to code all circumstances in cases for which the circumstances are known. If circumstances are not known (e.g., for a body found in the woods with no other details) the data abstractor leaves the “circumstances known” variable blank, and these cases are excluded from the denominator for circumstance values. If either the coroner/medical examiner record or the law enforcement report indicates the presence of a circumstance, then the abstractor endorses the circumstance (e.g., if the law enforcement report indicated that a decedent had disclosed an intent to commit suicide, then the suicidal intent variable is endorsed).

Coding Training and Quality Control

Ongoing coding support for data abstractors is provided through an e-mail help desk, monthly conference calls with all states, and regular conference calls with individual states. States may also conduct additional abstractor training workshops and activities within their state VDRS program at their own discretion. An NVDRS coding manual with CDC-issued standard guidance (e.g., coding criteria and examples) for coding each data element is provided. Software features enhance coding reliability, including automated validation rules and a hover-over feature containing variable-specific information.

States are requested to perform blind re-abstraction of a subset of cases yearly using multiple abstractors to identify inconsistencies. CDC also runs a quality-control analysis in which multiple variables are reviewed for their appropriateness, with special focus on abstractor-assigned variables (e.g., method selection and manner of death). If CDC finds any inconsistencies, CDC notifies the state and asks for a response or correction.

Time Frame

States are required to report all deaths within 6 months of the end of each calendar year for the preceding January–December time frame. States then have an additional 12 months to complete each incident record, for a total of 18 months to complete information for a given incident.

Although states typically meet these timelines, additional details sometimes arrive after a deadline has passed. New incidents also might be identified after the deadline (e.g., if a death certificate is revised, new evidence is obtained that changes a manner of death, or a miscoded ICD-10 coding is corrected to meet NVDRS inclusion criteria). These additional data are incorporated into NVDRS. Analysis files are updated monthly at CDC. On the basis of previous experience, CDC estimates that case counts might increase 1%–2% after the initial 18-month data collection period.

Fatal Injuries During 2012

This report provides data concerning fatal injuries meeting the NVDRS case definition for violent deaths in 2012 for 17 participating states that were received by CDC as of September 28, 2014. Participating states used vital statistics death certificate files or coroner/medical examiner reports to identify violent deaths meeting NVDRS case definitions. Each state reported all deaths of their residents that occurred within the state and deaths of non-residents in which the fatal injury occurred within the state. Once a death was identified, NVDRS data abstractors linked source documents, linked deaths within each incident, coded data elements, and wrote a short narrative of the incident. State-level data were then consolidated and analyzed for this aggregate report. Numbers, percentages, and crude rates are presented in aggregate for all deaths by abstractor-assigned manner of death. Rates for cells with a frequency of < 20 are not reported because of the instability of those rates (7). In addition, rates could not be calculated for some

variables (e.g., marital status and precipitating circumstances) because denominators were unknown. Bridged-race 2012 population estimates were used as denominators in the crude rate calculations (8). For compatible numerators for rate calculations to be derived, records listing multiple races were recoded to a single race, when possible, consistent with race-bridging methods described by NCHS (available at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm).

Results

All Deaths Captured by NVDRS

Deaths by Manner, Method, and Location

The 17 NVDRS states included in this report collected data concerning 18,615 incidents and 19,124 deaths that occurred during 2012. The crude death rate was 20.1 deaths per 100,000 population. Suicides (n = 12,409; 64.9% of total) accounted for the highest rate of violent deaths (13.0 per 100,000 population) followed by homicide/legal intervention (n = 4,745; 24.8% of total) deaths (5.0 per 100,000 population). Deaths of undetermined intent (n = 1,847, 9.7% of total) and unintentional firearm deaths (n = 123, 0.6% of total) occurred at lower rates (1.9 and 0.1 per 100,000 population, respectively). Firearms were the method used in 50.7% of included deaths, hanging/strangulation/suffocation for 17.6%, and poisoning for 16.4% (rates: 10.2, 3.5, and 3.3 per 100,000 population, respectively); rates for other methods were lower. For all deaths, a house or apartment was the most common location (70.1%). The second most common location of injury was a street or highway (6.6%) (Table 1).

Toxicology Results of Decedent

Tests for alcohol were conducted for 61.7% of decedents, and drug tests for amphetamines, antidepressants, cocaine, marijuana, and opiates were conducted for 41.0%, 35.5%, 44.4%, 33.9%, and 46.3% of decedents, respectively. Among decedents who tested positive for alcohol (35.7%), 68.7% had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of ≥ 0.08 g/dL (over the legal limit in all states). Opiates, including heroin and prescription pain medications, were identified in 28.9% of cases tested for these substances, antidepressants in 26.8%, marijuana in 20.2%, cocaine in 9.6%, and amphetamines in 6.6% (Table 2).

Suicides

Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Age Group, and Marital Status

The 17 NVDRS states included in this report collected data during 2012 concerning 12,191 suicide incidents, which included 12,409 suicide decedents (Table 1). Rates of suicide by month of death showed little variation throughout the year (range: 1.0–1.1 per 100,000 population). Overall, the crude suicide rate was 13.0 per 100,000 population (Table 3). The rate for males was more than three times that for females (20.5 and 5.8 per 100,000 population, respectively; Table 4). Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) and Non-Hispanic whites had the highest rates of suicide deaths (19.8 and 16.1 per 100,000 population, respectively). The highest rates of suicide by age group occurred among persons aged 45–54 years, 55–64 years, and >85 years (20.1, 17.4 and 16.9 per 100,000 population, respectively). Children aged 10–14 years had the lowest rates of suicide among all age groups (1.7 per 100,000 population). Rates of suicide among adolescents aged 15–19 years (8.4 per 100,000 population) were approximately half of those for persons aged 35–44 years (16.5 per 100,000 population).

Decedents aged 35–64 years accounted for more than half (53.0%) of suicides among males. Suicide rates among males were highest for those aged ≥ 85 years followed by those aged 75–84 and 45–54 years (46.4, 33.2, and 29.8 per 100,000 population, respectively). Non-Hispanic white males (25.3 per 100,000) and non-Hispanic AI/AN males (33.0 per 100,000) had the highest rates of any male subgroups and had rates that were approximately four times the rate for the group with the lowest rates, Asian/Pacific Islander males (8.0 per 100,000 population). Among females, decedents aged 35–64 years accounted for 63% of suicides, and rates were highest among those aged 45–54 years (10.8 per 100,000). Female suicide rates were highest among non-Hispanic whites (7.2 per 100,000 population) followed by non-Hispanic AI/ANs (7 per 100,000 population), and were lowest among non-Hispanic blacks (1.9 per 100,000 population) and Hispanics (2.2 per 100,000 population). Of all suicide decedents aged >18 years, 36.1% were married, 29.2% had never married, and 22.8% were divorced at the time of death (Table 4).

Method and Location of Injury

Firearms were used in more than half of suicides (51.4%), followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (25.6%), and poisoning (15.5%) (rates: 6.7, 3.3, and 2.0 per 100,000 population, respectively; Table 3). The most common method used by male suicide decedents was a firearm (57.3%), followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (25.9%) (Table 5). Among females, poisons were used most often (36.4%) followed by firearms (30.9%). The most common place of self-inflicted injury was a house or apartment (76.2%), followed by natural areas (4.9%), motor vehicles (3.6%), and streets or highways (2.4%). A total of 166 (1.3%) suicides occurred in a jail or prison setting (154 males and 12 females).

Toxicology Results of Decedent and Precipitating Circumstances

Tests for alcohol were conducted for 58.2% of suicide decedents, and drug tests for amphetamines, antidepressants, cocaine, marijuana, and opiates were conducted for 38.8%, 35.7%, 41.2%, 32.1%, and 42.2% of suicide decedents, respectively (Table 6). Among suicide decedents who tested positive for alcohol (36.1%), 70.4% had a BAC of ≥ 0.08 g/dL. Opiates, including heroin and prescription pain medications, were identified in 24.8% of cases tested for these substances; cocaine and marijuana were identified in 5.4% and 14.3% of tested cases, respectively. Of suicide decedents who were tested for antidepressants, 29.5% were positive at the time of their death (Table 6).

Precipitating circumstances were known for 89.7% of suicide decedents. Overall, mental health problems were the most commonly noted circumstance for suicide decedents, with 38.5% described as experiencing a depressed mood at the time of their deaths (Table 7). Approximately 45.2% were described as having a diagnosed mental health problem; and 34.0% were receiving mental health treatment. Of those with a diagnosed mental disorder, the most frequent diagnoses were depression/dysthymia (74.8%), bipolar disorder (14.9%), and anxiety disorders (14.7%) (Table 8).

Among the 11,132 suicide decedents with known circumstance information, 19.6% had a history of previous suicide attempts, 27.7% had disclosed suicidal intent to another person, and 33.9% left a suicide note (Table 7). Alcohol and/or other substance abuse problems were indicated for 17.7% and 16.2% of suicide decedents respectively. Other than mental health and substance abuse conditions, circumstances noted most often were intimate partner problems (30.4%) and a crisis of some kind in the preceding or impending 2 weeks (25.9%). Physical health problems

also were noted in 20.4% of cases, and job or financial problems in 12.8% and 10.9% of cases, respectively.

A substantial proportion of female (41.1%) and male (37.8%) suicide decedents were observed to have a depressed mood at the time of death. The majority of females (61.6%) and 40.3% of males had received a prior diagnosis of a mental health problem. The percentage of females (50.7%) and males (29%) being treated for a mental health problem were somewhat lower.

Among those with a diagnosed mental health problem, depression/dysthymia, bipolar disorder, and anxiety disorder were the three most common diagnoses for both males and females (Table 8). Approximately one-fifth of both male (20%) and female (21.5%) suicide decedents were indicated as having physical health problems that contributed to their suicide (Table 7). Job problems were indicated as a precipitant of the decedent's suicide in higher proportions of males than females (14.3% and 7.7%, respectively), as were financial problems (11.6% and 8.6%) and recent criminal legal problems (10.4% and 4.4%). Intimate partner problems also were cited as a precipitating factor in a higher percentage of male suicides than female suicides (31.5% and 26.7%, respectively). Other relationship problems (i.e., conflict with friends, family, and associates other than an intimate partner) was cited as a precipitating factor for a larger percentage of female (5.7%) than male (4.5%) suicide decedents. Although occurring in a relatively small percentage of cases, being a perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the month before death was more common among male suicide decedents (3.7%) than being a victim of such violence (0.3%), whereas the proportions were similar for females (1.2% and 0.8%, respectively).

Homicides/Legal Intervention Deaths

Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Age Group, and Marital Status

The 17 NVDRS states included in this report collected data concerning 4,474 homicide incidents (including legal intervention deaths), which included 4,745 homicides during 2012 (Table 9).

Rates of homicide by month of death showed little variation throughout the year (range: 0.3–0.5 per 100,000 population). Overall, the crude homicide rate was 5.0 deaths per 100,000 population. The majority of homicide decedents aged ≥ 18 years had never been married (56.5%), and 21.5% were married at the time of their death (Table 10). In 51% of homicides, the relation of the victim to the suspect was not known. When a suspect was identified, the suspect most often was an acquaintance or friend (21.3%), a spouse or intimate partner (21.3%), or a stranger (11.2%).

The homicide rate for males was 3.5 times that for females (7.8 and 2.2 per 100,000 population, respectively) (Table 11). Non-Hispanic blacks accounted for half (50.6%) of homicide deaths and had the highest rate (16.4 deaths per 100,000 population; 29.4 per 100,000 for non-Hispanic black males), followed by AI/ANs (8.6) and Hispanics (4.8). Age-specific homicide rates were highest among those aged 20–24 years (12.0 deaths per 100,000 population), followed by those aged 25–29 years (10.2 deaths per 100,000 population). The rate for infants aged <1 year was three times that for children aged 1–4 years (7.3 and 2.1 per 100,000 population, respectively). Rates were lowest among children aged 5–14 years and persons aged 65–84 years. The majority of male homicide decedents were aged 15–34 years (55.3%); males aged 20–24 years had the highest rates of homicide 20.1 per 100,000 population). For females, homicide rates were highest (5.9 deaths per 100,000 population) among infants aged <1 year, although the homicide rate for males aged <1 year was still higher (8.5 per 100,000).

Method and Location of Injury

Firearms were used in 65.8% of homicides, followed by sharp instruments (12%), blunt instruments (6.1%), and personal weapons (e.g., hands, feet, fists; 4.1%) (Table 9). No other single method was used in more than 4% of homicides. Firearms were the most common method used in homicides of males (71.6%) and females (46.2%) (Table 12).

Hanging/strangulation/suffocation was more common among female homicide decedents than among males (7.1% vs. 2.0%), as was use of blunt instruments (7.4% vs. 5.8%). The majority of homicides occurred either in a house or apartment (52.7%) or on a street or highway (19.3%) (Table 12). Female homicides occurred with greater frequency at home or apartment than male homicides (70.7% vs 47.4% respectively), whereas male homicides occurred with greater frequency on the street or highway than female homicides (22.9% vs 7.2%, respectively). The next most common locations of homicide for both males and females were a motor vehicle (5.2%) or a parking lot, public garage or public transport (4.5%).

Toxicology Results of Decedent and Precipitating Circumstances

Tests for alcohol were conducted for 65% of homicide decedents, and drug tests for amphetamines, antidepressants, cocaine, marijuana, and opiates were conducted for 44.9%, 28.8%, 48.8%, 38.2%, and 46.2% of homicide decedents, respectively (Table 13). Among homicide decedents who tested positive for alcohol (36.5%), 64.8% had a BAC of ≥ 0.08 g/dL. Marijuana, cocaine, and opiates were identified in 35.6%, 13.7%, and 16.6% of homicide decedents tested, respectively.

Precipitating circumstances were identified for 77.7% of homicide deaths. More than one in three of those homicides were precipitated by another crime (37.7) (Table 14). In 75.3% of cases

precipitated by another crime, the crime was in progress at the time of the incident. The type of crime most frequently precipitating the homicide was assault/homicide (40.7%), followed by robbery (35.3%), burglary (14.5%), drug trade (9.1%), rape/sexual assault (3%), motor-vehicle theft (2.7%), or arson (1%) (Table 15). Argument or conflict (38.1%) and drug involvement (11.7%) were other common precipitating circumstances. In 19% of cases with known circumstance information, intimate partner violence was identified as a contributing factor (Table 14).

Intimate partner violence was a precipitating factor in 49.4% of female homicides but only 9.4% of male homicides. An argument or a conflict was a factor in more homicides among males than among females (40.3% vs. 31.3%). Drug involvement homicides accounted for 13.7% of male homicides and 5.5% of female homicides. In 11.1% of male homicides with known circumstance information, the decedent also used a weapon during the altercation, compared with 1.3% of female homicides (Table 14).

Legal intervention Deaths

The 17 NVDRS states included in this report collected data concerning 223 legal intervention death incidents, which included 228 legal intervention deaths during 2012 (Table 16). Looking at legal intervention deaths separately from other homicides, the vast majority of legal intervention deaths were among males (96.5%). Males aged 25-29 had the highest rates of all groups (1.2 per 100,000). Non-Hispanic white males accounted for the highest percentage of legal intervention deaths (55.5%), but non-Hispanic black males had the highest rate (1.0 per 100,000), over two times the rate for non-Hispanic white males (0.4 per 100,000; Table 16). Firearms were the method used in almost all legal intervention deaths (91.2%). Most legal intervention deaths occurred in a house (49.6%), a street/highway (23.2%), or a motor vehicle (4.1%) (Table 17).

Tests for alcohol were conducted for 73.2% of legal intervention decedents, and drug tests for amphetamines, antidepressants, cocaine, marijuana, and opiates were conducted for 45.6%, 42.5%, 60.5%, 47.4%, and 58.3% of legal intervention decedents, respectively (Table 18).

Among legal intervention decedents who tested positive for alcohol (41.9%), 72.9% had a BAC of ≥ 0.08 g/dL. Opiates, including heroin and prescription pain medications, were identified in 25.6% of cases tested for these substances; cocaine and marijuana were identified in 15.2% and 30.6% of tested cases, respectively. Of legal intervention decedents who were tested for antidepressants, 22.7% were positive at the time of their death (Table 18).

Precipitating circumstances were identified for 97.8% of legal intervention deaths.

Approximately 86.5% were identified as precipitated by another crime (Table 19). In 77.2% of cases precipitated by another crime, the crime was in progress at the time of the incident. The type of crime most frequently precipitating the legal intervention death was assault/homicide (58%), robbery (9.3%), motor vehicle theft (7.3%), or burglary (6.7%) (Table 20). Other common precipitating circumstances were an argument or conflict (14.8%) or drug involvement (2.7%). In 13.9% of cases with known circumstance information, intimate partner violence was identified as a contributing factor (Table 19). The victim reportedly used a weapon in 68.2% of legal intervention deaths.

Deaths of Undetermined Intent

Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Age Group, and Marital Status

The 17 NVDRS states included in this report collected data concerning 1,828 incidents involving 1,847 deaths during 2012 for which a determination of intent could not be made (Table 21).

Rates of undetermined death by month of death ranged from 0.1 to 0.2 per 100,000 population

throughout the year. Overall, the crude rate of undetermined deaths was 1.9 per 100,000 population. Rates of undetermined death were higher among males than among females (2.4 and 1.4 per 100,000 population, respectively) (Table 22). Although non-Hispanic whites accounted for 75% of undetermined deaths, rates were highest among non-Hispanic AI/ANs (5.1 per 100,000 population). Non-Hispanic AI/AN males had the highest rates (6.6 per 100,000 population) of undetermined death compared with males or females of any other racial/ethnic population. More than half (59.2%) of decedents for whom the manner of death was undetermined were aged 35–64 years. Rates were highest (5.2 per 100,000 population) among infants aged <1 year. Among decedents with an undetermined manner of death at age ≥ 18 years, 35.3% never had been married, 24.0% were married, and 23.9% were divorced at the time of death (Table 22).

Method and Location of Injury

The most common method of injury in deaths of undetermined intent was poisoning (64.6%) (Table 23). No other known single method accounted for >5% of undetermined deaths overall. The majority of undetermined violent deaths occurred in a house or apartment, making it the most common place of injury for both males and females (70.2% and 80.6%, respectively), followed by a street or highway (3.4% and 1.4% respectively).

Toxicology Results of Decedent and Precipitating Circumstances

Tests for alcohol were conducted for 78% of decedents of undetermined intent, and drug tests for amphetamines, antidepressants, cocaine, marijuana, and opiates were conducted for 46.5%, 52.5%, 55.3%, 35.7%, and 74% of decedents, respectively (Table 24). Among decedents who tested positive for alcohol (32.1%), 67.7% had a BAC of ≥ 0.08 g/dL. Among decedents tested

for opiates, 65% were positive; of those tested for cocaine, 21.4% were positive; of those tested for marijuana, 14.1% were positive; and of those tested for antidepressants, 42.5% were positive (Table 24).

Precipitating circumstances were known in approximately 81.2% of deaths of undetermined intent. Of those, 25.5% of decedents had an indicated problem with alcohol, and 57.4% had other substance abuse problems (those involving an illicit drug or prescription drug abuse) (Table 25). Although a current depressed mood was reported for only 12.7% of decedents, 40.9% of decedents with known circumstance information had a diagnosed current mental health problem, 33% were in mental health treatment at the time of their death, 12.3% had a history of suicide attempts, 7.6% had disclosed intent to commit suicide, and 1.3% left a suicide note. Other circumstances noted most often were physical health problems (18.9%), a crisis during the preceding or impending 2 weeks (11.7%), or an intimate partner problem (11.1%) (Table 25). Of those with a current mental health problem, 64.3% had received a diagnosis of depression/dysthymia, 19.1% of bipolar disorder, and 20.2% of an anxiety disorder (Table 26).

A greater percentage of other substance abuse problems was reported for males than females (60.3% and 57.4%, respectively); this pattern was also found among male than female decedents that were noted to have an alcohol problem (29.7% and 19.0%, respectively) at the time of death (Table 25). Mental health problems were reported in a higher percentage of undetermined deaths of females than of males (52.3% and 33.7%, respectively), and a higher percentage of females were currently in treatment for a mental health problem than males (43.9% and 26%, respectively), and/or had a history of suicide attempts (17.9% and 8.7%, respectively) (Table 25).

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Age Group

The 17 NVDRS states included in this report collected data concerning 121 incidents involving 123 unintentional firearm deaths during 2012 (Table 27). Sixty-six (53.7%) of these deaths were caused by unintentional firearm injuries that were self-inflicted, 38 (30.1%) were known to be inflicted by another person, and it was unknown who inflicted the injury in the remaining 19 cases (15.5%) (data not depicted in table). Males accounted for 87% of decedents. The majority (68.3%) were non-Hispanic whites, followed by non-Hispanic blacks (18.7%). Those aged 10–24 accounted for 29.3% of all unintentional firearm deaths (Table 27).

Firearm Type, Seasonality, and Location of Injury

Handguns accounted for 52% of unintentional firearm deaths, while shotguns accounted for 13.8%, and rifles accounted for 18.7%. July had the most unintentional firearm deaths, accounting for 13.8% of the total, while October had the least (2.4%) (Table 27). Approximately 74% of all unintentional firearm deaths took place in a house or apartment, followed by natural areas (15.4%) (Table 27).

Context of the Injury and Associated Circumstances

The context of the injury or associated circumstances were known for 81.3% of unintentional firearm deaths. Overall, unintentional firearm injury deaths occurred most commonly while victims were playing with a gun (31%), hunting (11%), or showing a gun to others (9%). The circumstances of injury included unintentionally pulling the trigger (22%) and thinking the gun was unloaded, magazine was disengaged, or other (8%) (Table 28).

Discussion

The findings in this report document demographic variations in the occurrence of death from violent-related injuries in 2012. Since its inception in 2003, NVDRS has uniquely provided key circumstantial details on specific manners of violent deaths, identified incidents involving multiple decedents, as well as identified common factors that span multiple domains of violence. Therefore, findings described in this report can increase understanding about the nature of various forms of violence and appropriately guide primary prevention efforts.

States have used NVDRS data to plan, implement and evaluate public health policies and practices regarding violent deaths at the state level. Some examples include using data to provide new information on suicide and better understand who was at risk, and provide county level data to tailor suicide prevention efforts. NVDRS data has also been used to link to other data sources to provide first time descriptions of violent deaths including those associated with elder maltreatment and suicides following homicides involving intimate partner violence. For more details about these and other NVDRS success stories, see the following report:

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.safestates.org/resource/resmgr/NVDRS/NVDRS_Stories_-_2015.pdf

Recently, NVDRS has been cited as a model for collecting data on suicides and the associated circumstances in the 2012 revised National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) (9) and the World Health Organization's report Preventing Suicide: A Global Imperative (10). Further, NVDRS is also a relevant data source for The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (NAASP) and *Healthy People 2020*, two national suicide prevention initiatives (11,12). *Healthy People 2020* represents the nation's set of health promotion, health equity, and disease,

disability, and injury prevention goals. *Healthy People's* objectives call for reducing suicides by 10% in addition to other violent and injury deaths (i.e., homicides and fire-arm related deaths) (11). As part of its goals, in 2014, The Research Prioritization Task Force of the National Action Alliance for NAASP developed a prioritized research agenda to ensure that available resources target research with the greatest likelihood of reducing suicide mortality, by at least 20% in five years (12). In contrast to these goals, suicide rates in the U.S. have been increasing in many populations, including middle age adults, white non-Hispanics and American Indian and Alaska Natives (13). Unlike other sources of data on suicide, NVDRS allows for the closer examination of the specific circumstances and life events that can lead to a clearer understanding of these changing patterns of suicides, who is at risk, and ultimately informing recommendations for where to target suicide prevention efforts.

Limitations

The findings provided in this report are subject to at least eight limitations. First, NVDRS data are available only from a limited number of states and therefore are not nationally representative. Second, the availability, completeness, and timeliness of data are dependent on partnerships among state Violent Death Reporting Systems and state health departments, vital statistics registrars' offices, coroners/medical examiners, and law enforcement personnel. Data sharing and communication among partners is particularly challenging when states have independent county coroner systems rather than a centralized coroner/medical examiner system, a large number of law enforcement jurisdictions, or both. NVDRS incident data might be limited or incomplete for areas in which these data-sharing relationships are not developed fully. Third, toxicology data are not collected consistently across all states or for all alcohol and drug

categories. Not all decedents receive toxicology testing, so the percentage of decedents testing positive for specific substances might be affected by selective testing patterns in medical examiner or coroner offices (14). Fourth, abstractors are limited to the data included in the investigative reports they receive. Reports might not fully reflect all information known about an incident, particularly in the case of homicides and legal intervention deaths, when data are less readily available until after a full investigation and adjudication is/are complete. Fifth, case definitions present challenges when a single death is classified differently in different documents (e.g., “unintentional” in a law enforcement report, “homicide” in a coroner/medical examiner report, and “undetermined” on the death certificate). NVDRS abstractors reconcile these cases using standardized NVDRS case definitions and select a single manner of death on the basis of all source documents that must match a manner of death noted in at least one of the source documents. Sixth, variations in coding might occur depending on the abstractor's level of experience. For this reason, CDC provides abstractor training and states conduct blinded re-abstractation of cases to test consistency and identify training needs. Seventh, medical and mental health information (e.g., type of conditions and whether the victim was currently receiving treatment) are not often captured directly from medical records but from coroner/medical examiner reports, family members, and friends of the victims. Therefore, the completeness and accuracy of this information is limited by the knowledge of the informant. Finally, protective factor data (i.e., characteristics or circumstances that reduce the risk for violent death) are not collected by NVDRS because of the nature of death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports, which typically contain only circumstances associated with risk factors.

Conclusion

Accurate, timely, and comprehensive surveillance data such as those in NVDRS can be used to monitor the occurrence of violence-related fatal injuries and assist public health and other authorities in the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that reduce and prevent violent deaths and injuries at the national, state, and local levels (15,16). In the states where it operates, analysis and interpretation of NVDRS data have been instrumental in planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health policies and practices regarding violent deaths (17). NVDRS collects valuable data, linking law enforcement report, coroner/medical examiner report, and vital statistics report data that expands our understanding of the nature of violent deaths across the United States and in the communities where we live. NVDRS will also be a valued tool in tracking our nation's suicide prevention goals. Continued development and expansion of NVDRS is critical to the efforts of public health and criminal justice at the federal, state, and local levels to reduce the personal, familial, and societal costs of violence. Further efforts are needed to increase the number of states participating in NVDRS, with the ultimate goal of full national representation, including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

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Table 1. Number^{*}, percentage[†], and rate[§] of violent deaths by incident type, manner of death, method used and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states^{}, 2012**

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
Incident Type			
Suicide, single	12,184	65.5	12.8
Homicide, single	3,847	20.7	4.0
Undetermined intent, single	1,816	9.8	1.9
Unintentional firearm, single	121	0.7	0.1
Suicide, multiple	7	<0.1	††
Homicide, multiple	181	1.0	††
Undetermined intent, multiple	9	<0.1	††
Legal intervention ^{§§} , single/multiple	223	1.2	††
Homicide followed by suicide	219	1.2	††
Other combinations of deaths	8	<0.1	††
Total	18,615	100.0	19.5
Manner of death			
Suicide or intentional self-harm	12,409	64.9	13.0
Homicide/Legal Intervention	4,745	24.8	5.0
Unintentional firearm	123	0.6	0.1
Undetermined intent	1,847	9.7	1.9
Total	19,124	100.0	20.1
Method			
Firearm	9,699	50.7	10.2
Sharp instrument	802	4.2	0.8
Blunt instrument	359	1.9	0.4
Poisoning	3,142	16.4	3.3
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	3,360	17.6	3.5
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	205	1.1	0.2
Fall	258	1.3	0.3
Drowning	199	1.0	0.2
Fire/Burns	106	0.6	0.1
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	248	1.3	0.3

Table 1. Number^{*}, percentage[†], and rate[§] of violent deaths by incident type, manner of death, method used and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states^{}, 2012**

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
Intentional neglect	16	<0.1	¶
Other (single method)	79	0.4	0.1
Unknown	655	3.4	0.7
Total	19,128	100.0	20.1
Injury Location			
House, apartment	13,409	70.1	14.1
Street/Highway	1,262	6.6	1.3
Motor vehicle	736	3.8	0.8
Bar/Nightclub	101	0.5	0.1
Commercial/Retail Area	284	1.5	0.3
Industrial or construction area	51	0.3	0.1
Office building	40	0.2	0.0
Parking lot/Public garage/Public transport	399	2.1	0.4
Abandoned house/Building/Warehouse	36	0.2	0.0
Park, playground, sports/Athletic area	221	1.2	0.2
Preschool/School/College/School bus	37	0.2	0.0
Hospital or medical facility	64	0.3	0.1
Supervised residential facility	56	0.3	0.1
Farm	43	0.2	0.0
Jail/prison	205	1.1	0.2
Natural area	818	4.3	0.9
Hotel/Motel	314	1.6	0.3
Railroad tracks	96	0.5	0.1
Other	358	1.9	0.4
Unknown	598	3.1	0.6
Total	19,128	100.0	20.1

Table 1. Number^{*}, percentage[†], and rate[§] of violent deaths by incident type, manner of death, method used and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states^{}, 2012**

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
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^{*}No. incidents=18,615; No. victims=18,899 (98.8%); no. suspects/victims=229 (1.2%). Manner of death was unknown for n=4 victims. The Incident Type section reports number of violent death incidents. All others report number of violent death s.

[†]Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding.

[§]Per 100,000 population.

^{**}Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

^{††}Because the number of victims varies in incidents involving multiple deaths, numerators cannot be determined to compute rates.

^{§§}The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

[¶]Rates not reported when number of decedents is <20.

Table 2. Number^{*} and percentage of victims who were tested for alcohol and drugs whose results were positive, by toxicology variable - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[†], 2012

Toxicology variable	Tested		Positive [¶]	
	No.	%	No.	%
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) [§]	11,811	61.7	4,216	35.7
Alcohol < 0.08 g/dL [§]			1,219	28.9
Alcohol ≥ 0.08 g/dL [§]			2,895	68.7
Alcohol positive - level unknown			102	2.4
Amphetamines	7,842	41.0	518	6.6
Antidepressants	6,798	35.5	1,819	26.8
Cocaine	8,487	44.4	816	9.6
Marijuana	6,489	33.9	1,312	20.2
Opiates	8,848	46.3	2,556	28.9
Other drug(s)	4,202	22.0	1,870	44.5

^{*}N=19,128

[†]Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

[§]BAC of ≥0.08 g/dL used as the standard for intoxication. Other substances indicated if any results were positive; levels for these substances are not measured.

[¶]Percent is of those tested.

Table 3. Number^{*}, percentage[†], and rate[§] of suicides, by method used and month in which suicide occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states^{}, 2012**

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
Method			
Firearm	6,377	51.4	6.7
Sharp instrument	225	1.8	0.2
Blunt instrument	11	<0.1	¶
Poisoning	1,927	15.5	2.0
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	3,171	25.6	3.3
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	1	<0.1	¶
Fall	209	1.7	0.2
Drowning	118	1.0	0.1
Fire/Burns	45	0.4	0.0
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	164	1.3	0.2
Intentional neglect	3	<0.1	¶
Other (single method)	19	0.2	¶
Unknown	139	1.1	0.1
Total	12,409	100.0	13.0
Month			
January	1,010	8.1	1.1
February	990	8.0	1.0
March	1,021	8.2	1.1
April	1,042	8.4	1.1
May	1,092	8.8	1.1
June	1,064	8.6	1.1
July	1,064	8.6	1.1
August	1,067	8.6	1.1
September	1,080	8.7	1.1
October	1,019	8.2	1.1
November	972	7.8	1.0
December	922	7.4	1.0
Unknown	66	0.5	0.1
Total	12,409	100.0	13.0

*No. incidents=12,410; No. victims=12,409.

†Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding.

§Per 100,000 population.

**Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Rates not reported when number of decedents is <20.

Table 4. Number, percentage* and rate† of suicides, by decedent's sex, age group, race/ethnicity, and marital status - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states§, 2012

Characteristic	Male			Female			Total¶		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Age Group (years)									
<10	§§§	§§§	§§§	§§§	§§§	§§§	§§§	§§§	§§§
10-14	78	0.8	2.4	31	1.1	1.0	109	0.9	1.7
15-19	408	4.3	12.3	129	4.6	4.1	538	4.3	8.4
20-24	801	8.3	23.2	167	6.0	5.1	968	7.8	14.3
25-29	831	8.7	25.7	179	6.4	5.6	1,010	8.1	15.8
30-34	781	8.1	24.7	214	7.7	6.8	995	8.0	15.7
35-44	1,538	16.0	25.0	503	18.0	8.0	2,041	16.4	16.5
45-54	1,991	20.7	29.8	753	26.9	10.8	2,744	22.1	20.1
55-64	1,563	16.3	27.4	506	18.1	8.2	2,069	16.7	17.4
65-74	803	8.4	23.7	209	7.5	5.4	1,012	8.2	13.9
75-84	546	5.7	33.2	74	2.6	3.3	621	5.0	15.9
85>	256	2.7	46.4	32	1.1	2.8	288	2.3	16.9
Unknown	1	<0.1	¶	0	0.0	¶	13	0.1	¶
Total	9,598	100.0	20.5	2,797	100.0	5.8	12,409	100.0	13.0
Race/ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	8,186	85.3	25.3	2,416	86.4	7.2	10,603	85.4	16.1
Black, non-Hispanic	626	6.5	9.0	147	5.3	1.9	773	6.2	5.3
AI/AN ^{††}	181	1.9	33.0	40	1.4	7.0	221	1.8	19.8
A/PI ^{§§}	149	1.6	8.0	74	2.6	3.6	223	1.8	5.7
Hispanic¶¶	426	4.4	8.4	107	3.8	2.2	534	4.3	5.4
Other	20	0.2	¶	5	0.2	¶	25	0.2	¶
Unknown	10	0.1	¶	8	0.3	¶	30	0.2	¶
Total	9,598	100.0	20.5	2,797	100.0	5.8	12,409	100.0	13.0
Marital Status^{**}									
Married	3,385	36.3	†††	959	35.7	†††	4,345	36.1	†††
Never Married	2,897	31.0	†††	618	23.0	†††	3,515	29.2	†††
Widowed	510	5.5	†††	219	8.1	†††	729	6.1	†††
Divorced	1,976	21.2	†††	767	28.5	†††	2,743	22.8	†††
Married, but separated	194	2.1	†††	51	1.9	†††	245	2.0	†††
Single, not otherwise specified	157	1.7	†††	23	0.9	†††	180	1.5	†††
Unknown	215	2.3	†††	53	2.0	†††	281	2.3	†††
Total	9,334	100.0	†††	2,690	100.0	†††	12,038	100.0	†††

Table 4. Number, percentage* and rate† of suicides, by decedent's sex, age group, race/ethnicity, and marital status - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Characteristic	Male			Female			Total¶		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding. Sex was unknown for n=14 victims.

†Per 100,000 population.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Rates not reported when number of decedents is <20 or when race/ethnicity or age categories are 'other' or 'unknown.'

¶¶ American Indian/Alaskan Native.

¶¶¶ Asian/Pacific Islander.

¶¶¶¶ Includes persons of any race.

** Includes only decedents aged ≥18 years.

††† Rates cannot be computed for marital status because denominators are unknown.

§§§ Suicide is not reported for decedents under 10 years of age, as per standard in the suicide prevention literature.

Table 5. Number and percentage* of suicides, by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states†, 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Method						
Firearm	5,503	57.3	865	30.9	6,377	51.4
Sharp instrument	182	1.9	43	1.5	225	1.8
Blunt instrument	8	<0.1	3	0.1	11	<0.1
Poisoning	906	9.4	1,019	36.4	1,927	15.5
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	2,489	25.9	680	24.3	3,171	25.6
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	1	<0.1	0	0.0	1	<0.1
Fall	155	1.6	53	1.9	209	1.7
Drowning	66	0.7	52	1.9	118	1.0
Fire/Burns	34	0.4	11	0.4	45	0.4
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	125	1.3	39	1.4	164	1.3
Intentional neglect	1	<0.1	2	<0.1	3	<0.1
Other (single method)	17	0.2	2	<0.1	19	0.2
Unknown	111	1.2	28	1.0	139	1.1
Total	9,598	100.0	2,797	100.0	12,409	100.0
Injury Location						
House, apartment	7,146	74.5	2,306	82.4	9,452	76.2
Street/Highway	253	2.6	42	1.5	295	2.4
Motor vehicle	364	3.8	87	3.1	451	3.6
Bar/Nightclub	4	<0.1	0	0.0	4	<0.1
Commercial/Retail Area	84	0.9	8	0.3	92	0.7
Industrial or construction area	35	0.4	1	<0.1	36	0.3
Office building	29	0.3	6	0.2	35	0.3
Parking lot/Public garage/Public transport	146	1.5	27	1.0	173	1.4
Abandoned house/Building/Warehouse	13	0.1	1	<0.1	14	0.1
Park, playground, sports/Athletic area	140	1.5	24	0.9	164	1.3
Preschool/School/College/School bus	19	0.2	7	0.3	26	0.2
Hospital or medical facility	22	0.2	11	0.4	33	0.3
Supervised residential facility	17	0.2	7	0.3	24	0.2
Farm	34	0.4	1	<0.1	35	0.3
Jail/prison	154	1.6	12	0.4	166	1.3
Natural area	522	5.4	81	2.9	603	4.9
Hotel/Motel	163	1.7	64	2.3	227	1.8

Table 5. Number and percentage* of suicides, by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states†, 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Railroad tracks	63	0.7	21	0.8	84	0.7
Other	219	2.3	35	1.3	255	2.1
Unknown	171	1.8	56	2.0	240	1.9
Total	9,598	100.0	2,797	100.0	12,409	100.0

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding. Sex was unknown for n=14 victims.

†Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 6. Number* and percentage of suicide victims who were tested for alcohol and drugs whose results were positive, by toxicology variable - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states†, 2012

Toxicology variable	Tested		Positive [¶]	
	No.	%	No.	%
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) [§]	7,218	58.2	2,606	36.1
Alcohol < 0.08 g/dL [§]			693	26.6
Alcohol ≥ 0.08 g/dL [§]			1,835	70.4
Alcohol positive - level unknown			78	3.0
Amphetamines	4,815	38.8	288	6.0
Antidepressants	4,435	35.7	1,307	29.5
Cocaine	5,107	41.2	278	5.4
Marijuana	3,982	32.1	569	14.3
Opiates	5,241	42.2	1,298	24.8
Other drug(s)	2,798	22.5	1,302	46.5

*N=12,409

†Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

§BAC of ≥0.08 g/dL used as the standard for intoxication. Other substances indicated if any results were positive; levels for these substances are not measured.

¶Percent is of those tested.

Table 7. Number* and percentage† of suicides, by precipitating circumstances and victim's sex - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Associated circumstances	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mental Health/Substance Abuse						
Current depressed mood	3,226	37.8	1,065	41.1	4,291	38.5
Current mental health problem	3,440	40.3	1,597	61.6	5,037	45.2
Current mental health treatment	2,475	29.0	1,313	50.7	3,788	34.0
Alcohol problem	1,551	18.2	417	16.1	1,968	17.7
Other substance abuse problem	1,293	15.1	509	19.6	1,802	16.2
Interpersonal						
Intimate partner problem	2,694	31.5	691	26.7	3,385	30.4
Other relationship problem (non-intimate)	385	4.5	149	5.7	534	4.8
Suicide of family member or friend within past five years	142	1.7	85	3.3	227	2.0
Other death of family member or friend within past five year	525	6.1	188	7.3	713	6.4
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence within past month	317	3.7	30	1.2	347	3.1
Victim of interpersonal violence within past month	24	0.3	21	0.8	45	0.4
Life Stressor						
Crisis in past or impending two weeks	2,270	26.6	608	23.5	2,878	25.9
Physical health problem	1,709	20.0	557	21.5	2,266	20.4
Job problem	1,224	14.3	200	7.7	1,424	12.8
Recent criminal legal problem	892	10.4	115	4.4	1,007	9.0
Non-criminal legal problem	300	3.5	73	2.8	373	3.4
Financial problem	992	11.6	222	8.6	1,214	10.9
School problem	115	1.3	32	1.2	147	1.3
Suicide Event						
Left a suicide note	2,728	31.9	1,041	40.2	3,769	33.9
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	2,368	27.7	719	27.7	3,087	27.7
History of suicide attempt(s)	1,322	15.5	855	33.0	2,177	19.6

*N=11,132 (8,540 males and 2,592 females). Circumstances were unknown for 1,277 deaths.

†Total decedents with known circumstances represents the number of decedents indicated as having one or more circumstances, and will not equal the sum of the column due to the fact that more than one circumstance may be coded per person. Likewise, percentages may exceed 100% because one or more circumstances per person could be coded.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 8. Number* and percentage† of suicide decedents who had received a diagnosis of a current mental health problem, by diagnosis - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[§], 2012

Mental health problem	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Depression/dysthymia	2,516	73.1	1,250	36.3	3,766	74.8
Bipolar disorder	475	13.8	274	8.0	749	14.9
Schizophrenia	209	6.1	68	2.0	277	5.5
Anxiety disorder	454	13.2	288	8.4	742	14.7
PTSD [¶]	129	3.8	35	1.0	164	3.3
ADD/ADHD ^{**}	83	2.4	18	0.5	101	2.0
Eating disorder	2	<0.1	14	0.4	16	0.3
OCD ^{††}	27	0.8	4	0.1	31	0.6
Other	238	6.9	92	2.7	330	6.6

*N = 5,037 (3,440 males and 1,597 females). Diagnosis was unknown for n=314 males and n=136 females.

†Total decedents with mental health problems represent the number of decedents indicated as having a current diagnosed mental health problem, and will not equal the sum of the column due to the fact that more than one diagnosis may be coded per

person. Likewise, percentages may exceed 100% because two or more diagnosis categories per person could be coded

[§]Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

[¶]Posttraumatic stress disorder.

^{**}Attention deficit disorder/attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder.

^{††}Obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Table 9. Number^{*}, percentage[†], and rate[§] of homicides/legal intervention^{} deaths, by method used and month in which death occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states^{††}, 2012**

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
Method			
Firearm	3,122	65.8	3.3
Sharp instrument	570	12.0	0.6
Blunt instrument	291	6.1	0.3
Poisoning	21	0.4	0.0
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	150	3.2	0.2
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	196	4.1	0.2
Fall	9	0.2	¶
Drowning	14	0.3	¶
Fire/Burns	18	0.4	¶
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	53	1.1	0.1
Intentional neglect	11	0.2	¶
Other (single method)	36	0.8	0.0
Unknown	254	5.4	0.3
Total	4,745	100.0	5.0
Month			
January	349	7.4	0.4
February	330	7.0	0.3
March	403	8.5	0.4
April	404	8.5	0.4
May	380	8.0	0.4
June	374	7.9	0.4
July	480	10.1	0.5
August	405	8.5	0.4
September	408	8.6	0.4
October	412	8.7	0.4
November	392	8.3	0.4
December	394	8.3	0.4
Unknown	14	0.3	¶
Total	4,745	100.0	5.0

Table 9. Number^{*}, percentage[†], and rate[§] of homicides/legal intervention^{} deaths, by method used and month in which death occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states^{††}, 2012**

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
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^{*}No. incidents=4,474; no. victims=4,745 and includes 4,731 victims and 14 suspects who were subsequently killed.

[†]Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding.

[§]Per 100,000 population.

^{**}The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

^{††}Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

[¶]Rates not reported when number of decedents is <20.

Table 10. Number and percentage* of homicides/legal intervention† deaths, by victim's marital status and relationship to suspect - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Characteristic	No.	%
Marital Status[¶]		
Married	882	21.5
Never Married	2,320	56.5
Widowed	170	4.1
Divorced	587	14.3
Married, but separated	51	1.2
Single, not otherwise specified	93	2.3
Total	4,103	100.0
Relationship		
Spouse/Intimate Partner (Current or Former)	494	21.3
Parent	105	4.5
Child	135	5.8
Other intimate partner involvement**	65	2.8
Other relative	155	6.7
Acquaintance/Friend	494	21.3
Rival gang member	25	1.1
Stranger	260	11.2
Victim injured by a law enforcement officer	208	9.0
Other specified relationship	382	16.4
Total	2,323	100.0

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding. Marital status was unknown for n=237 victims. Victim-suspect relationship unknown for n=2,422 victims.

†The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.”

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Includes only those victims equal to or over 18 years of age.

**Death due to intimate partner-related violence but not between the intimate partners themselves (e.g. child killed by mom’s boyfriend or teenager kills his mom’s boyfriend).

Table 11. Number, percentage* and rate† of homicides/legal intervention‡ deaths, by victim's sex, age group, and race/ethnicity - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states, 2012**

Characteristic	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Age Group (years)									
<1	51	1.4	8.5	34	3.2	5.9	86	1.8	7.3
1-4	55	1.5	2.2	48	4.5	2.0	103	2.2	2.1
5-9	21	0.6	0.7	16	1.5	¶	37	0.8	0.6
10-14	26	0.7	0.8	27	2.5	0.9	53	1.1	0.8
15-19	332	9.1	10.0	69	6.4	2.2	401	8.5	6.2
20-24	692	18.9	20.1	119	11.1	3.6	811	17.1	12.0
25-29	545	14.9	16.9	106	9.9	3.3	651	13.7	10.2
30-34	456	12.4	14.4	98	9.1	3.1	554	11.7	8.8
35-44	591	16.1	9.6	191	17.8	3.1	782	16.5	6.3
45-54	474	12.9	7.1	155	14.4	2.2	629	13.3	4.6
55-64	261	7.1	4.6	89	8.3	1.4	350	7.4	2.9
65-74	108	2.9	3.2	55	5.1	1.4	163	3.4	2.2
75-84	39	1.1	2.4	39	3.6	1.7	78	1.6	2.0
85>	12	0.3	¶	30	2.8	2.6	42	0.9	2.5
Unknown	4	0.1	¶	0	0.0	¶	5	0.1	¶
Total	3,667	100.0	7.8	1,076	100.0	2.2	4,745	100.0	5.0
Race/ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	1,067	29.1	3.3	567	52.7	1.7	1,634	34.3	2.5
Black, non-Hispanic	2,046	55.8	29.4	356	33.1	4.6	2,402	50.6	16.4
AI/AN ^{††}	74	2.0	13.5	22	2.0	3.9	96	2.0	8.6
A/PI ^{§§}	45	1.2	2.4	28	2.6	1.4	73	1.5	1.9
Hispanic ^{¶¶}	375	10.2	7.4	95	8.8	2.0	470	9.9	4.8
Other	19	0.5	¶	2	0.2	¶	21	0.4	¶
Unknown	41	1.1	¶	6	0.6	¶	49	1.0	¶
Total	3,667	100.0	7.8	1,076	100.0	2.2	4,745	100.0	5.0

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding. Sex was unknown for n=2 victims.

†Per 100,000 population.

‡The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

**Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Rates not reported when number of victims is <20 or when race/ethnicity or age categories are 'other' or 'unknown.'

††American Indian/Alaskan Native.

§§Asian/Pacific Islander.

¶¶Includes persons of any race.

Table 12. Number and percentage* of homicides/legal intervention† deaths, by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Method						
Firearm	2,625	71.6	497	46.2	3,122	65.8
Sharp instrument	378	10.3	191	17.8	570	12.0
Blunt instrument	211	5.8	80	7.4	291	6.1
Poisoning	9	0.2	12	1.1	21	0.4
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	74	2.0	76	7.1	150	3.2
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	136	3.7	60	5.6	196	4.1
Fall	6	0.2	3	0.3	9	0.2
Drowning	6	0.2	8	0.7	14	0.3
Fire/Burns	13	0.4	5	0.5	18	0.4
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	36	1.0	17	1.6	53	1.1
Intentional neglect	3	<0.1	8	0.7	11	0.2
Other (single method)	25	0.7	11	1.0	36	0.8
Unknown	145	4.0	108	10.0	254	5.4
Total	3,667	100.0	1,076	100.0	4,745	100.0
Injury Location						
House, apartment	1,738	47.4	761	70.7	2,499	52.7
Street/Highway	840	22.9	78	7.2	918	19.3
Motor vehicle	203	5.5	43	4.0	246	5.2
Bar/Nightclub	85	2.3	7	0.7	92	1.9
Commercial/Retail Area	146	4.0	32	3.0	178	3.8
Industrial or construction area	12	0.3	1	<0.1	13	0.3
Office building	4	0.1	1	<0.1	5	0.1
Parking lot/Public garage/Public transport	192	5.2	23	2.1	215	4.5
Abandoned house/Building/Warehouse	10	0.3	3	0.3	13	0.3
Park, playground, sports/Athletic area	32	0.9	13	1.2	45	0.9
Preschool/School/College/School bus	9	0.2	2	0.2	11	0.2
Hospital or medical facility	10	0.3	10	0.9	20	0.4
Supervised residential facility	5	0.1	3	0.3	8	0.2
Farm	6	0.2	2	0.2	8	0.2
Jail/prison	32	0.9	1	<0.1	33	0.7
Natural area	84	2.3	27	2.5	111	2.3
Hotel/Motel	35	1.0	15	1.4	50	1.1

Table 12. Number and percentage* of homicides/legal intervention† deaths, by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Railroad tracks	2	<0.1	0	0.0	2	<0.1
Other	73	2.0	14	1.3	87	1.8
Unknown	149	4.1	40	3.7	191	4.0
Total	3,667	100.0	1,076	100.0	4,745	100.0

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding. Sex was unknown for n=2 victims.

†The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 13. Number* and percentage of homicide/legal intervention† victims who were tested for alcohol and drugs whose results were positive, by toxicology variable - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Toxicology variable	Tested		Positive¶	
	No.	%	No.	%
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)**	3,084	65.0	1,125	36.5
Alcohol < 0.08 g/dL**			380	33.8
Alcohol ≥ 0.08 g/dL**			729	64.8
Alcohol positive - level unknown			16	1.4
Amphetamines	2,130	44.9	149	7.0
Antidepressants	1,367	28.8	97	7.1
Cocaine	2,315	48.8	318	13.7
Marijuana	1,812	38.2	645	35.6
Opiates	2,194	46.2	364	16.6
Other drug(s)	826	17.4	223	27.0

*N=4,745

†The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Percent is of those tested.

**BAC of ≥0.08 g/dL used as the standard for intoxication. Other substances indicated if any results were positive; levels for these substances are not measured.

Table 14. Number* and percentage† of homicides/legal intervention‡ deaths, by precipitating circumstances and victim's sex - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states¶, 2012

Associated circumstances	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Precipitated by another crime	1,160	41.5	230	25.9	1,390	37.7
Crime in Progress**	881	75.9	166	72.2	1,047	75.3
Argument or conflict	1,128	40.3	278	31.3	1,406	38.1
Jealousy (lover's triangle)	82	2.9	49	5.5	131	3.6
Drug involvement	382	13.7	49	5.5	431	11.7
Brawl	48	1.7	4	0.4	52	1.4
Mercy killing	3	0.1	6	0.7	9	0.2
Victim was a bystander	34	1.2	23	2.6	57	1.5
Victim was a police officer on duty	9	0.3	2	0.2	11	0.3
Victim was an intervener assisting a crime victim	21	0.8	5	0.6	26	0.7
Victim used a weapon	311	11.1	12	1.3	323	8.8
Intimate partner-violence-related	263	9.4	439	49.4	702	19.0
Hate crime	16	0.6	3	0.3	19	0.5
Mentally ill suspect	41	1.5	32	3.6	73	2.0
Drive-by shooting	87	3.1	12	1.3	99	2.7
Random violence	45	1.6	12	1.3	57	1.5
Gang-related	202	7.2	16	1.8	218	5.9

*N=3,687 (2,798 males and 889 females). Circumstances were unknown for 1,058 deaths.

†Percentages might exceed 100% because multiple circumstances can be coded for each decedent.

‡The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

¶Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

**Denominator is only cases that were precipitated by another crime.

Table 15. Number and percentage* of homicides/legal intervention† deaths precipitated by another crime, by type of crime - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Crime Type	No.	%
Drug trade	126	9.1
Robbery	490	35.3
Burglary	202	14.5
Motor vehicle theft	37	2.7
Arson	14	1.0
Rape, sexual assault	42	3.0
Gambling	3	0.2
Assault, homicide	566	40.7
Witness intimidation/elimination	5	0.4
Other (specify in narrative)	160	11.5
Unknown	47	3.4

*Of the 4,745 homicide/legal intervention victims, N=1,390 (29.3%) were involved in an incident which was precipitated by another crime. Percentages might exceed 100% because multiple crimes might have been coded.

†The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 16. Number, percentage* and rate† of legal intervention‡ deaths, by victim's sex, age group, and race/ethnicity - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states, 2012**

Characteristic	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Age Group (years)									
<1	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶
1-4	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶
5-9	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶
10-14	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶
15-19	15	6.8	¶	0	0.0	¶	15	6.6	¶
20-24	31	14.1	0.9	1	12.5	¶	32	14.0	0.5
25-29	39	17.7	1.2	1	12.5	¶	40	17.5	0.6
30-34	21	9.5	0.7	1	12.5	¶	22	9.6	0.3
35-44	53	24.1	0.9	2	25.0	¶	55	24.1	0.4
45-54	35	15.9	0.5	1	12.5	¶	36	15.8	0.3
55-64	21	9.5	0.4	0	0.0	¶	21	9.2	0.2
65-74	4	1.8	¶	1	12.5	¶	5	2.2	¶
75-84	0	0.0	¶	1	12.5	¶	1	0.4	¶
85>	1	0.5	¶	0	0.0	¶	1	0.4	¶
Unknown	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶	0	0.0	¶
Total	220	100.0	0.5	8	100.0	¶	228	100.0	0.2
Race/ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	122	55.5	0.4	5	62.50	¶	127	55.75	0.2
Black, non-Hispanic	67	30.5	1.0	2	25.0	¶	69	30.3	0.5
AI/AN ^{††}	6	2.7	¶	0	0.0	¶	6	2.6	¶
A/PI ^{§§}	3	1.4	¶	0	0.0	¶	3	1.3	¶
Hispanic ^{¶¶}	21	9.5	0.4	1	12.5	¶	22	9.6	0.2
Other	0	0.0	¶	1	12.5	¶	0	0.0	¶
Unknown	1	0.5	¶	0	0.0	¶	1	0.4	¶
Total	220	100.0	0.5	8	100.0	¶	228	100.0	0.2

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding.

†Per 100,000 population.

‡The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

**Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Rates not reported when number of victims is <20 or when race/ethnicity or age categories are 'other' or 'unknown.'

††American Indian/Alaskan Native.

§§Asian/Pacific Islander.

¶¶Includes persons of any race.

Table 17. Number and percentage* of legal intervention† deaths, by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Method						
Firearm	203	92.3	5	62.5	208	91.2
Sharp instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Blunt instrument	3	1.4	0	0.0	3	1.3
Poisoning	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.9
Fall	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Drowning	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	0.4
Fire/Burns	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	2	0.9	1	12.5	3	1.3
Intentional neglect	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other (single method)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	7	3.2	1	12.5	8	3.5
Total	220	100.0	8	100.0	228	100.0
Injury Location						
House, apartment	110	50.0	3	37.5	113	49.6
Street/Highway	51	23.2	2	25.0	53	23.2
Motor vehicle	9	4.1	2	25.0	11	4.8
Bar/Nightclub	3	1.4	0	0.0	3	1.3
Commercial/Retail Area	9	4.1	0	0.0	9	3.9
Industrial or construction area	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Office building	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Parking lot/Public garage/Public transport	15	6.8	0	0.0	15	6.6
Abandoned house/Building/Warehouse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Park, playground, sports/Athletic area	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Preschool/School/College/School bus	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Hospital or medical facility	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Supervised residential facility	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Farm	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Jail/prison	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Natural area	11	5.0	1	12.5	12	5.3
Hotel/Motel	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.9

Table 17. Number and percentage* of legal intervention† deaths, by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Railroad tracks	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	3	1.4	0	0.0	3	1.3
Unknown	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.9
Total	220	100.0	8	100.0	228	100.0

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding.

†The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 18. Number* and percentage of legal intervention† victims who were tested for alcohol and drugs whose results were positive, by toxicology variable - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Toxicology variable	Tested		Positive¶	
	No.	%	No.	%
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) **	167	73.2	70	41.9
Alcohol < 0.08 g/dL **			19	27.1
Alcohol ≥ 0.08 g/dL **			51	72.9
Alcohol positive - level unknown			0	0.0
Amphetamines	104	45.6	27	26.0
Antidepressants	97	42.5	22	22.7
Cocaine	138	60.5	21	15.2
Marijuana	108	47.4	33	30.6
Opiates	133	58.3	34	25.6
Other drug(s)	55	24.1	21	38.2

*N=228

†The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Percent is of those tested.

**BAC of ≥0.08 g/dL used as the standard for intoxication. Other substances indicated if any results were positive; levels for these substances are not measured.

Table 19. Number* and percentage† of legal intervention‡ deaths, by precipitating circumstances and victim's sex - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states¶, 2012

Associated circumstances	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Precipitated by another crime	185	86.0	8	100.0	193	86.5
Crime in Progress**	143	77.3	6	75.0	149	77.2
Argument or conflict	33	15.3	0	0.0	33	14.8
Jealousy (lover's triangle)	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.9
Drug involvement	6	2.8	0	0.0	6	2.7
Brawl	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mercy killing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Victim was a bystander	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Victim was a police officer on duty	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Victim was an intervener assisting a crime victim	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Victim used a weapon	148	68.8	4	50.0	152	68.2
Intimate partner-violence-related	31	14.4	0	0.0	31	13.9
Hate crime	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mentally ill suspect	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Drive-by shooting	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Random violence	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Gang-related	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.9

*N=223 (215 males and 8females). Circumstances were unknown for 5 deaths.

†Percentages might exceed 100% because multiple circumstances can be coded for each decedent.

‡The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

¶Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

**Denominator is only cases that were precipitated by another crime.

Table 20. Number and percentage* of legal intervention† deaths precipitated by another crime, by type of crime - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2012

Crime Type	No.	%
Drug trade	2	1.0
Robbery	18	9.3
Burglary	13	6.7
Motor vehicle theft	14	7.3
Rape, sexual assault	3	1.6
Assault, homicide	112	58.0
Witness intimidation/elimination	1	0.5
Other (specify in narrative)	55	28.5
Unknown	25	13.0

*Of the 228 legal intervention victims, N=193 (84.6%) were involved in an incident which was precipitated by another crime. Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple crimes might have been coded.

†The term legal intervention does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 21. Number*, percentage†, and rate§ of undetermined deaths§§, by method used and month in which death occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states, 2012**

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
Method			
Firearm	75	4.1	0.1
Sharp instrument	7	0.4	¶
Blunt instrument	57	3.1	0.1
Poisoning	1,194	64.6	1.3
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	39	2.1	0.0
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	8	0.4	¶
Fall	40	2.2	0.0
Drowning	67	3.6	0.1
Fire/Burns	43	2.3	0.0
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	31	1.7	0.0
Intentional neglect	2	0.1	¶
Other (single method)	24	1.3	0.0
Unknown	260	14.1	0.3
Total	1,847	100.0	1.9
Month			
January	154	8.3	0.2
February	134	7.3	0.1
March	151	8.2	0.2
April	135	7.3	0.1
May	163	8.8	0.2
June	163	8.8	0.2
July	155	8.4	0.2
August	166	9.0	0.2
September	139	7.5	0.1
October	140	7.6	0.1
November	139	7.5	0.1
December	134	7.3	0.1
Unknown	74	4.0	0.1
Total	1,847	100.0	1.9

Table 21. Number*, percentage†, and rate§ of undetermined deaths§§, by method used and month in which death occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states††, 2012

Characteristic	No.	%	Rate
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*No. incidents=1,828 ; No. victims=1,847 .

†Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding.

§Per 100,000 population.

††Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Rates not reported when number of decedents is <20.

§§Deaths that result from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than evidence indicating another.

Table 22. Number, percentage* and rate† of undetermined deaths§, by victim's sex, age group, race/ethnicity, and marital status - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states††, 2012

Characteristic	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Age Group (years)									
<1	45	3.9	7.5	16	2.3	¶	61	3.3	5.2
1-4	13	1.1	¶	16	2.3	¶	29	1.6	0.6
5-9	7	0.6	¶	2	0.3	¶	9	0.5	¶
10-14	5	0.4	¶	5	0.7	¶	10	0.5	¶
15-19	31	2.7	0.9	10	1.4	¶	41	2.2	0.6
20-24	95	8.3	2.8	43	6.1	1.3	138	7.5	2.0
25-29	111	9.7	3.4	62	8.8	2.0	173	9.4	2.7
30-34	118	10.3	3.7	55	7.8	1.7	173	9.4	2.7
35-44	204	17.9	3.3	128	18.2	2.0	332	18.0	2.7
45-54	271	23.8	4.1	193	27.5	2.8	464	25.1	3.4
55-64	177	15.5	3.1	120	17.1	1.9	297	16.1	2.5
65-74	38	3.3	1.1	27	3.8	0.7	65	3.5	0.9
75-84	17	1.5	¶	11	1.6	¶	28	1.5	0.7
85>	8	0.7	¶	13	1.9	¶	21	1.1	1.2
Unknown	1	<0.1	¶	1	0.1	¶	6	0.3	¶
Total	1,141	100.0	2.4	702	100.0	1.4	1,847	100.0	1.9
Race/ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	829	72.7	2.6	556	79.2	1.7	1,385	75.0	2.1
Black, non-Hispanic	1192	16.8	2.8	74	10.5	1.0	266	14.4	1.8
AI/AN§§	36	3.2	6.6	21	3.0	3.7	57	3.1	5.1
A/PI¶¶	15	1.3	¶	7	1.0	¶	22	1.2	0.6
Hispanic***	66	5.8	1.3	43	6.1	0.9	109	5.9	1.1
Other	1	(<0.1)	¶	1	0.1	¶	2	0.1	¶
Unknown	2	0.2	¶	0	0.0	¶	6	0.3	¶
Total	1,141	100.0	2.4	702	100.0	1.4	1,847	100.0	1.9

Table 21. Number*, percentage†, and rate§ of undetermined deaths§§, by method used and month in which death occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states, 2012**

Characteristic	No.		%		Rate				
Marital Status***									
Married	217	20.5	§§§	196	29.8	§§§	413	24.0	§§§
Never Married	436	41.2	§§§	171	26.0	§§§	607	35.3	§§§
Widowed	35	3.3	§§§	52	7.9	§§§	87	5.1	§§§
Divorced	232	21.9	§§§	179	27.2	§§§	411	23.9	§§§
Married, but separated	21	2.0	§§§	13	2.0	§§§	34	2.0	§§§
Single, not otherwise specified	35	3.3	§§§	13	2.0	§§§	48	2.8	§§§
Unknown	82	7.8	§§§	33	5.0	§§§	119	6.9	§§§
Total	1,058	100.0	§§§	657	100.0	§§§	1,719	100.0	§§§

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding. Sex was unknown for n=4 victims.

†Per 100,000 population.

§Deaths that result from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than evidence indicating another.

**Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

¶Rates not reported when number of victims is <20 or when race/ethnicity or age categories are 'other' or 'unknown.'

§§American Indian/Alaskan Native.

¶¶Asian/Pacific Islander.

***Includes persons of any race.

†††Includes only decedents aged ≥18 years.

§§§Rates cannot be computed for marital status because denominators are unknown.

Table 23. Number and percentage* of undetermined deaths[§], by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[†], 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Method						
Firearm	57	5.0	17	2.4	75	4.1
Sharp instrument	5	0.4	2	0.3	7	0.4
Blunt instrument	38	3.3	19	2.7	57	3.1
Poisoning	712	62.4	481	68.5	1,194	64.6
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	24	2.1	15	2.1	39	2.1
Personal weapons (hands, feet, fists)	5	0.4	3	0.4	8	0.4
Fall	27	2.4	13	1.9	40	2.2
Drowning	48	4.2	18	2.6	67	3.6
Fire/Burns	23	2.0	19	2.7	43	2.3
Motor vehicles (e.g., buses, motorcycles and other transport vehicles)	23	2.0	8	1.1	31	1.7
Intentional neglect	1	<0.1	1	0.1	2	0.1
Other (single method)	16	1.4	8	1.1	24	1.3
Unknown	162	14.2	98	14.0	260	14.1
Total	1,141	100.0	702	100.0	1,847	100.0
Injury Location						
House, apartment	801	70.2	566	80.6	1,367	74.0
Street/Highway	39	3.4	10	1.4	49	2.7
Motor vehicle	30	2.6	6	0.9	36	1.9
Bar/Nightclub	5	0.4	0	0.0	5	0.3
Commercial/Retail Area	10	0.9	2	0.3	12	0.6
Industrial or construction area	2	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.1
Office building	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Parking lot/Public garage/Public transport	6	0.5	4	0.6	10	0.5
Abandoned house/Building/Warehouse	8	0.7	1	0.1	9	0.5
Park, playground, sports/Athletic area	10	0.9	2	0.3	12	0.6
Preschool/School/College/School bus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hospital or medical facility	4	0.4	7	1.0	11	0.6
Supervised residential facility	16	1.4	8	1.1	24	1.3
Farm	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Jail/prison	6	0.5	0	0.0	6	0.3
Natural area	71	6.2	14	2.0	85	4.6
Hotel/Motel	26	2.3	11	1.6	37	2.0

Table 23. Number and percentage* of undetermined deaths[§], by victim's sex, method used, and location in which injury occurred - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[†], 2012

Characteristic	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Railroad tracks	7	0.6	3	0.4	10	0.5
Other	10	0.9	4	0.6	14	0.8
Unknown	90	7.9	64	9.1	158	8.6
Total	1,141	100.0	702	100.0	1,847	100.0

*Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding. Sex was unknown for n=4 victims.

[§]Deaths that result from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than evidence indicating another.

[†]Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 24. Number* and percentage of victims of undetermined intent[§] who were tested for alcohol and drugs whose results were positive, by toxicology variable - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[†], 2012

Toxicology variable	Tested		Positive [¶]	
	No.	%	No.	%
Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) [§]	1,441	78.0	462	32.1
Alcohol < 0.08 g/dL [§]			141	30.5
Alcohol ≥ 0.08 g/dL [§]			313	67.7
Alcohol positive - level unknown			8	1.7
Amphetamines	858	46.5	79	9.2
Antidepressants	969	52.5	412	42.5
Cocaine	1,022	55.3	219	21.4
Marijuana	660	35.7	93	14.1
Opiates	1,367	74.0	889	65.0
Other drug(s)	554	30.0	340	61.4

*N=1,847

[§]Deaths that result from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than evidence indicating another.

[†]Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

[§]BAC of ≥0.08 g/dL used as the standard for intoxication. Other substances indicated if any results were positive; levels for these substances are not measured.

[¶]Percent is of those tested.

Table 25. Number* and percentage† of deaths of undetermined intent‡, by precipitating circumstances and victim's sex - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states¶, 2012

Associated circumstances	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mental Health/Substance Abuse						
Current depressed mood	119	13.0	72	12.3	191	12.7
Current mental health problem	308	33.7	306	52.3	614	40.9
Current mental health treatment	238	26.0	257	43.9	495	33.0
Alcohol problem	272	29.7	111	19.0	383	25.5
Other substance abuse problem	552	60.3	309	52.8	861	57.4
Interpersonal						
Intimate partner problem	100	10.9	66	11.3	166	11.1
Other relationship problem (non-intimate)	26	2.8	15	2.6	41	2.7
Suicide of family member or friend within past five years	3	0.3	4	0.7	7	0.5
Other death of family member or friend within past five year	33	3.6	18	3.1	51	3.4
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence within past month	12	1.3	2	0.3	14	0.9
Victim of interpersonal violence within past month	4	0.4	11	1.9	15	1.0
Life Stressor						
Crisis in past or impending two weeks	112	12.2	64	10.9	176	11.7
Physical health problem	155	16.9	129	22.1	284	18.9
Job problem	35	3.8	16	2.7	51	3.4
Recent criminal legal problem	36	3.9	8	1.4	44	2.9
Non-criminal legal problem	10	1.1	11	1.9	21	1.4
Financial problem	32	3.5	16	2.7	48	3.2
School problem	5	0.5	1	0.2	6	0.4
Suicide Event						
Left a suicide note	14	1.5	6	1.0	20	1.3
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	68	7.4	46	7.9	114	7.6
History of suicide attempt(s)	80	8.7	105	17.9	185	12.3

*N=1,500 (915 males and 585 females). Circumstances were unknown for 347 deaths.

†Percentages might exceed 100% because multiple circumstances can be coded for each decedent.

‡Deaths that result from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than evidence indicating another.

¶Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Table 26. Number* and percentage[§] of victims of undetermined intent[§] who had received a diagnosis of a current mental health problem, by diagnosis - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[¶], 2012

Mental health problem	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Depression/dysthymia	195	63.3	200	64.9	395	64.3
Bipolar disorder	47	15.3	70	22.7	117	19.1
Schizophrenia	24	7.8	17	5.5	41	6.7
Anxiety disorder	52	16.9	72	23.4	124	20.2
PTSD**	12	3.9	11	3.6	23	3.7
ADD/ADHD ^{††}	2	0.6	4	1.3	6	1.0
Eating disorder	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.2
OCD ^{§§}	2	0.6	0	0.0	2	0.3
Other	26	8.4	26	8.4	52	8.5

*N = 614 (308 males and 306 females). Diagnosis was unknown for n=41 males and n=36 females.

[†]Total decedents with mental health problems represent the number of decedents indicated as having a current diagnosed mental health problem, and will not equal the sum of the column due to the fact that more than one diagnosis may be coded per person. Likewise, percentages may exceed 100% because two or more diagnosis categories per person could be coded.

[§]Deaths that result from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than evidence indicating another.

[¶]Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

** Posttraumatic stress disorder.

^{††} Attention deficit disorder/attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder.

^{§§} Obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Table 27. Number* and percentage† of unintentional firearm deaths, by victim's sex, race/ethnicity, age group, month in which the death occurred, location of injury, and type of firearm - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[§], 2012

Characteristic	No.	%
Sex		
Male	107	87.0
Female	16	13.0
Total	123	100.0
Race/ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	84	68.3
Black, non-Hispanic	23	18.7
AI/AN**	1	0.8
A/PI [¶]	0	0.0
Hispanic ^{††}	8	6.5
Other	7	5.7
Total	123	100.0
Age		
<1	0	0.0
1-4	12	9.8
5-9	2	1.6
10-14	12	9.8
15-19	14	11.4
20-24	10	8.1
25-29	13	10.6
30-34	6	4.9
35-44	15	12.2
45-54	7	5.7
55-64	19	15.4
65-74	6	4.9
75-84	6	4.9
85>	1	0.8
Total	123	100.0
Month		
January	9	7.3
February	11	8.9
March	15	12.2
April	7	5.7
May	6	4.9
June	9	7.3

Table 27. Number* and percentage† of unintentional firearm deaths, by victim's sex, race/ethnicity, age group, month in which the death occurred, location of injury, and type of firearm - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[§], 2012

Characteristic	No.	%
July	17	13.8
August	9	7.3
September	16	13.0
October	3	2.4
November	12	9.8
December	9	7.3
Total	123	100.0
Location		
House, apartment	91	74.0
Street/Highway	0	0.0
Motor vehicle	3	2.4
Bar/Nightclub	0	0.0
Commercial/Retail Area	2	1.6
Industrial or construction area	0	0.0
Office building	0	0.0
Parking lot/Public garage/Public transport	1	0.8
Abandoned house/Building/Warehouse	0	0.0
Park, playground, sports/Athletic area	0	0.0
Preschool/School/College/School bus	0	0.0
Hospital or medical facility	0	0.0
Supervised residential facility	0	0.0
Farm	0	0.0
Jail/prison	0	0.0
Natural area	19	15.4
Hotel/Motel	0	0.0
Railroad tracks	0	0.0
Other ^{§§}	2	1.6
Unknown	5	4.1
Total	123	100.0
Firearm Type		
Handgun	64	52.0
Shotgun	17	13.8
Rifle	23	18.7
Other firearm	1	0.8
Unknown	18	14.6

Table 27. Number* and percentage† of unintentional firearm deaths, by victim's sex, race/ethnicity, age group, month in which the death occurred, location of injury, and type of firearm - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states[§], 2012

Characteristic	No.	%
Total	123	100.0

*N=123.

†Percentages might not total 100% due to rounding.

[§]Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

** American Indian/Alaskan Native.

[¶]Asian/Pacific Islander.

^{††}Includes persons of any race.

^{§§}Includes military training exercise, private land campsites and private hunting land attached to homes.

Table 28. Number* and percentage† of unintentional firearm deaths, by context and circumstances of injury - National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states‡, 2011

Characteristic	No.	%
Context of Injury		
Shooter or victim was hunting or on a hunting trip	11	11.0
Shooter was aiming for a target and unintentionally hit a person	6	6.0
Shooter was loading or unloading ammunition from the gun when it discharged	5	5.0
Shooter pulled the trigger or the gun otherwise discharged (e.g., bumped gun while cleaning) while cleaning, repairing, or assembling	12	12.0
Shooter was showing the gun to another person when the gun discharged	9	9.0
Shooter was playing with gun when it discharged	31	31.0
Shooting occurred during some context other than those described by the existing codes	28	28.0
Circumstances of Injury		
Shooter thought the gun was unloaded because the magazine was disengaged	8	8.0
Shooter unintentionally pulled the trigger	22	22.0
Shooter thought the safety was on and the firearm would not discharge	2	2.0
Shooter thought the gun was unloaded for a reason other than the magazine being disengaged, or for an unspecified reason	9	9.0
Bullet ricocheted off course from its intended target and struck the victim	0	0.0
Firearm discharged due to some defect or mechanical malfunction	3	3.0
Firearm discharged while it was being placed in or removed from its holster or clothing	1	1.0
Gun was dropped and unintentionally discharged upon impact	4	4.0
Gun unintentionally discharged while the gun handler was attempting to open or close the lock	1	1.0
Gun was mistaken for a toy and discharged during handling/play	3	3.0
Shooting occurred as the result of a mechanism not already described by one of the existing codes	27	27.0

*N=100. Circumstances were unknown for 23 deaths.

†Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple circumstances might have been coded. Therefore number and percentage are

still reported when number of decedents is <5 because no particular circumstance identifies a single decedent.

‡Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.

In Text Footnotes

*To be included in NVDRS, deaths of undetermined intent must have some evidence that there is a possibility that the intent was purposeful, including use of a weapon or other evidence that force was used to inflict the injury. Most commonly, the coroner/medical examiner (C/ME) is unsure if the death is a suicide or unintentional.

**Frequencies and rates of violent deaths included in this report will differ slightly from the frequencies and rates of violent deaths reported by NVDRS WISQARS. This is due to the exclusion by NVDRS WISQARS of non-resident deaths that occur in participating states. NVDRS tracks both resident and occurrent violent deaths in the overall dataset, and the numbers in this report reflects both.

***Drug trade is defined as the buying, selling, or passing of drugs in exchange for goods or money, whereas drug involvement includes drug use in addition to drug trade.

BOX 1. *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used in the National Violent Death Reporting System*

Manner of death	Death ≤1 year after injury	Death >1 year after injury
Intentional self-harm (suicide)	X60–X84	Y87.0
Assault (homicide)	X85–X99, Y00–Y09	Y87.1
Event of undetermined intent	Y10–Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional exposure to inanimate mechanical forces (firearms)	W32–W34	Y86 determined to be attributable to firearms
Legal intervention (excluding executions, Y35.5)	Y35.0–Y35.4, Y35.6–Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

BOX 2. Methods used to inflict injury — National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states, 2012

- Firearm: method that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile
- Sharp instrument: knife, razor, machete, or pointed instrument (e.g., chisel or broken glass)
- Blunt instrument: club, bat, rock, or brick
- Poisoning: street drug, alcohol, pharmaceutical, carbon monoxide, gas, rat poison, or insecticide
- Hanging/strangulation/suffocation: hanging by the neck, manual strangulation, or plastic bag over the head
- Personal weapons: hands, fists, or feet
- Fall: being pushed or jumping
- Drowning: inhalation of liquid in bathtub, lake, or other source of water/liquid
- Fire/burn: inhalation of smoke or the direct effects of fire or chemical burns
- Shaking: shaking a baby, child, or adult
- Motor vehicle: car, bus, or motorcycle
- Other transport vehicle: train or airplane
- Intentional neglect: starvation, lack of adequate supervision, or withholding of health care
- Other: any method other than those listed above
- Unknown: method not reported or not known

BOX 3. Circumstances preceding fatal injury, by manner of death — National Violent Death Reporting System, 17 states, 2012

Suicide/Undetermined Intent

- Current depressed mood: decedent was perceived by self or others to be depressed.
- Current mental health problem: decedent has been identified as having a mental health disorder or syndrome listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Version IV (DSM-IV), with the exception of alcohol and other substance dependence (these are captured in separate variables).
- First/second type of mental illness diagnosis: identifies the DSM-IV diagnosis made by a medical or mental health practitioner.
- Current treatment for mental illness: decedent was currently receiving mental health treatment as evidenced by a current prescription for a psychotropic medication or visit to a mental health professional in the previous 2 months.
- Alcohol/other substance problem: decedent was perceived by self or others to have a problem with, or to be addicted to, alcohol or other drugs.

- Person left a suicide note: decedent left a note, e-mail message, video, or other communication indicating intent to die by suicide.
- Disclosed intent to die by suicide: decedent had previously expressed suicidal feelings to another person with time for that person to intervene; disclosure only at the time of the event, with no opportunity to intervene, is not coded as "disclosed intent to commit suicide."
- History of suicide attempts: decedent was known to have made previous attempts, regardless of the severity of those attempts.
- Crisis during previous 2 weeks: a very current crisis or acute precipitating event appears to have contributed to the suicide. This is designed to measure impulsivity. The crisis event must have occurred in the previous 2 weeks or be impending in the following 2 weeks (e.g., a trial for a criminal offense begins the following week).
- Physical health problem: decedent was experiencing physical health problems that are believed to have contributed to the suicide (e.g., a recent cancer diagnosis or chronic pain).
- Intimate partner problem: problems with a current or former intimate partner that appear to have contributed to the suicide.
- Other relationship problem: problems with a family member, friend, or associate (other than an intimate partner) that appear to have contributed to the suicide.
- Job problem: decedent was either experiencing a problem at work or was having a problem with joblessness.
- School problem: decedent was experiencing a problem such as poor grades, bullying, social exclusion at school, or performance pressures.
- Financial problem: decedent was experiencing problems such as bankruptcy, overwhelming debt, or foreclosure of a home or business.
- Suicide of friend or family in previous 5 years: decedent was distraught over, or reacting to, a relatively recent suicide of a friend or family member.
- Other death of friend or family in previous 5 years: decedent was distraught over, or reacting to, a relatively recent non-suicide death of a friend or family member.
- Recent criminal legal problem: decedent was facing criminal legal problems that appear to be associated with the suicide.
- Other legal problem: decedent was facing civil legal problems (e.g., a child custody or civil lawsuit).
- Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in previous month: decedent perpetrated interpersonal violence (e.g., being sought by police for assault or having been issued a restraining order resulting from recent violence) during the previous month.
- Victim of interpersonal violence in previous month: decedent was the target of interpersonal violence in the past month.

Homicide/Legal Intervention

- Precipitated by another crime: incident occurred as the result of another serious crime.
- Nature of crime: identifies the actual crime (e.g., robbery or drug trafficking).
- Crime in progress: serious crime was in progress at the time of the death.

- **Argument over money/property:** conflict between decedent and suspect was over money or property (including drugs).
- **Other argument, abuse, conflict:** conflict between decedent and suspect was over something other than money, property, or drugs.
- **Jealousy ("lovers' triangle"):** jealousy or distress over an intimate partner's relationship or suspected relationship with another person led to the homicide.
- **Intimate-partner violence–related:** homicide is related to conflict between current or former intimate partners; includes the death of actual intimate partners and non-intimate partner decedents killed to cause pain to an intimate partner (e.g., child or parent).
- **Drug involvement:** drug dealing or illegal drug use is suspected to have played a role in precipitating the homicide.
- **Gang-related:** homicide is suspected to have resulted from gang activity or gang rivalry; not used if the decedent was a gang member but the homicide did not appear to result from gang activity.
- **Hate crime:** decedent was intentionally selected because of his/her actual or perceived gender, religion, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, or disability.
- **Brawl:** mutual physical fight involving three or more persons.
- **Decedent was a bystander:** decedent was not directly involved in the incident (e.g., pedestrian walking past a gang fight).
- **Decedent was a police officer on duty:** a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.
- **Decedent was an intervener assisting a crime victim:** decedent was attempting to assist a crime victim at the time of the incident (e.g., a child attempts to intervene and is killed while trying to assist a parent who is being assaulted).
- **Mercy killing:** the decedent wished to die because of terminal or hopeless disease or condition, and documentation indicates that the decedent wanted to be killed.

Unintentional Firearm Death

- **Hunting:** death occurred anytime after leaving home for a hunting trip and before returning home from a hunting trip; the shooting need not have been during an active hunt to be coded.
- **Target shooting:** a shooter was aiming for a target and unintentionally hit a person; can be at a shooting range or an informal backyard setting (e.g., teenagers shooting at signposts on a fence).
- **Self-defensive shooting:** self-inflicted shooting in which the decedent was attempting to use a gun in self-defense.
- **Celebratory firing:** shooter fired the gun upward in a celebratory manner with no intention of threatening or endangering others.
- **Loading/unloading gun:** firearm discharged when the shooter was loading/unloading ammunition.
- **Cleaning gun:** firearm discharged when the shooter was cleaning the gun.
- **Showing gun to others:** showing the gun to another person when the gun discharged or the trigger was pulled.

- **Playing with gun:** the shooter and one or more others were playing with a gun when it discharged.
- **Thought safety was engaged:** shooter thought the gun was inoperable because the safety was engaged.
- **Thought unloaded/magazine disengaged:** shooter thought the gun was unloaded because the magazine was disengaged.
- **Thought gun was unloaded/other:** shooter thought the gun was unloaded for other unspecified reason.
- **Unintentionally pulled trigger:** shooter unintentionally pulled the trigger (e.g., while grabbing the gun or holding it too tightly).
- **Bullet ricochet:** bullet ricocheted from its intended target and unintentionally struck the decedent.
- **Gun defect or malfunction:** gun had a defect or malfunctioned as determined by a trained firearm examiner.
- **Fired while holstering/unholstering:** gun was being replaced or removed from holster/clothing.
- **Dropped gun:** gun discharged when it was dropped or when something was dropped on it.
- **Fired while operating safety/lock:** shooter unintentionally fired the gun while operating the safety lock.
- **Gun mistaken for toy:** gun was mistaken for a toy and was fired without the user understanding the danger.

Figure. Thirty-two U.S. states (bolded) currently participating in the National Violent Death Reporting System.

