

# The Maine-Vermont Violent Death Reporting System

## MVVDRS Case Definition

The Maine-Vermont Violent Death Reporting System collects information on “deaths that result from the use of force or power against oneself or another person”. This definition encompasses homicides, suicides, deaths from legal intervention, deaths of undetermined intent, and deaths resulting from the accidental discharge of a firearm.

## Goals

- 1) Collect and analyze timely, high quality data on violent deaths in Maine and Vermont
- 2) Ensure MVVDRS partners, and the public receive high quality data to inform policy and prevention activities
- 3) To better understand factors affecting rural suicide
- 4) To better understand factors, surrounding intimate partner violence
- 5) To better understand factors surrounding undetermined intent.



**Maine - Vermont**  
Violent Death  
Reporting System

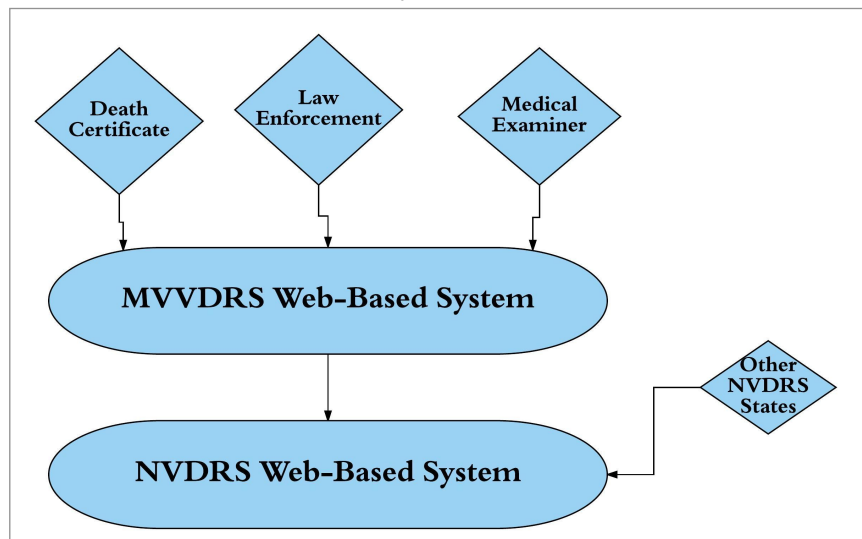
## Purpose of NVDRS

Established in 2002, the National Violent Death Reporting System is a comprehensive, state-based public health surveillance system, which allows states to collect comprehensive data on circumstances surrounding violent deaths. Data are collected from three primary sources: the death certificate; the medical examiner’s report; and law enforcement reports. By combining information on a violent death from these three sources, NVDRS builds a comprehensive picture of the circumstances in a victim’s life which have led to, or contributed to their death.

In 2014, the Maine Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), on behalf of the, Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services, was funded to establish the Maine-Vermont Violent Death Reporting System. The Maine OCME, in partnership with the Vermont Dept. of Health, the Vermont OCME, and the University of Maine’s Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, collects data on all violent deaths which occur annually in the states of Maine and Vermont. By collecting comprehensive data on violent deaths in Maine and Vermont, MVVDRS prevention partners can create targeted, evidence-based prevention strategies to help reduce the burden of violent death in Maine and Vermont.



## Overview of the Maine-Vermont Violent Death Reporting System



## Benefits of Two State Partnership

Maine and Vermont are both rural states with relatively small, aging populations. Suicide rates are much higher than the national average, while homicide rates are much lower. Additionally, both states have centralized medical examiner systems, allowing for more rapid access to information about qualifying deaths

By working with data providers and prevention partners in Maine and Vermont the MVVDRS is able to combined information on violent deaths from the two states to create a more robust picture of violence-related mortality that either state could on its own.

## MVVDRS Data Collection

Over 600 variables may be collected on a single violent death incident. General circumstance data is collected on each case, while manner-specific circumstances are collected on homicides, suicides, and deaths of undetermined intent.

## Contact Information

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Deaths Per 100,000 in Maine and Vermont Compared Against the National Average			
Manner	Maine 2015	Vermont 2015	National Average 2015
Homicide	2.26	2.56	5.00
Suicide	17.69	16.61	13.40
Firearm Suicide	9.85	9.58	6.70

Selected Data and Circumstances Collected	
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age/Sex/Gender/Race</li> <li>Military/Veteran status</li> </ul>
Injury and Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place &amp; City of Injury</li> <li>Place &amp; City of Death</li> <li>Cause &amp; Manner of death from: law enforcement, medical examiner, and death certificate</li> </ul>
General Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health diagnosis</li> <li>Current alcohol or substance abuse problem</li> <li>Intimate partner or Family relationship problem</li> <li>Recent argument or fight</li> </ul>
Homicide Specific Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug-involvement</li> <li>Hate crime or Random Violence</li> <li>Justifiable self-defense</li> </ul>
Suicide Specific Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial/school/job problem</li> <li>Recent eviction</li> <li>History of suicidal thoughts</li> <li>Recent suicide of friend or family</li> <li>Other death of friend or family</li> </ul>
Other Data Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information of toxicology tests,</li> <li>weapon type, and suspect information</li> </ul>

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