



FY 2016 FUNDING LEVEL	FY 2017 PRESIDENT'S REQUEST	FY 2017 NVPN'S REQUEST
\$16 M	\$23.5 M	\$25 M

NATIONAL VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM (NVDRS)

More than 1,570 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in 2011, according to the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Additionally, studies suggest that 50 to 60 percent of child fatalities from abuse or neglect are not reported as such. Child abuse and other violence involving children and adolescents remain a significant problem in America, and only a comprehensive understanding of the root causes will help prevent unnecessary deaths.

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

A vital public health tool available for understanding violence is the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2002. Now underway in 32 states, **NVDRS links data from medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement reports and other sources to provide a more complete picture of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths**; such as homicide and suicide. Understanding these circumstances will help communities develop effective prevention policies. Although the program is still in its early stages, the benefits of NVDRS are already evident.

Examples of How NVDRS will help Identify Prevention Strategies

- With data generated by NVDRS, state health officials in **Massachusetts**, have been able to secure grants for violence prevention programs for specific populations such as foster children and youths in custody.
- Combined NVDRS data from **Alaska, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, and Virginia** determined that African-American children four years old and under are more than four times likely to be victims of homicide than Caucasian children. Homicides in young children under four years of age are most often committed by a parent or caregiver in the home using “weapons of opportunity,” such as common household items.
- Data from NVDRS sites in seven states found that almost 20 percent of suicide victims aged 19 and under told someone they felt suicidal. In addition, many teen suicides appear to be linked to recent events in their lives. For example, nearly one-quarter of suicides took place within two weeks of a crisis in the teen’s life. This data underscores the importance of developing community-based programs to rapidly respond to the warning signs of suicide.

For additional information, please visit PreventViolence.net or contact Paul Bonta at pbonta@acpm.org