



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)

Men and women in uniform are experiencing multiple tours of duty and longer deployments—all of which can contribute to an increase in mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and even suicide.

Because symptoms of mental health issues may take months or years to manifest, it is critical that data gathering takes place not only for active duty military personnel, but also for veterans. Data on the number of troops committing suicide is readily available through military and government agencies. However, there is currently no agency keeping track of the number of veterans who kill themselves after their service has ended. This gap in data is addressed by the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), which provides in-depth information on circumstances of death, suicide method, location, and more.

### National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2002, NVDRS is a vital public health tool available for understanding violence. 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 so that effective prevention strategies can be developed and evaluated.

### Examples of How NVDRS will help Identify Prevention Strategies

NVDRS states continue to document the significant number of suicides among veterans:

- In Oregon, nearly 27 percent of all suicides are among military veterans.
- In 2009, 88 percent of violent deaths occurring among war veterans in Massachusetts were suicides.
- From 2004-2010, nearly one-quarter of Oklahomans who died by suicide were veterans.

NVDRS captures data that are useful in identifying suicide patterns and trends, such as decedents' mental health treatment status, diagnoses, the existence of drug or alcohol problems, employment status and the results of toxicology screening for the presence of antidepressants. This data can then be used to form prevention programs that address the unique needs of veterans.

**The National Violence Prevention Network supports nationwide expansion of NVDRS by providing an increase of \$9 million to the CDC Injury Center in FY 2017.**

*For additional information, please visit [PreventViolence.net](http://PreventViolence.net) or contact Paul Bonta at [pbonta@acpm.org](mailto:pbonta@acpm.org)*