



# National Violence Prevention Network

August 23, 2012

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH  
Director,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE,  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden,

The undersigned members of the National Violence Prevention Network (Network) are writing to express our sincere thanks for your continuing strong support of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). As you prepare the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's FY 2014 budget request, we respectfully urge that you continue your commitment to this small but critical public health surveillance tool aimed at preventing violent deaths.

Our Network continues to be very active in working to achieve increased visibility, resources and understanding of NVDRS in Congress and at the Office of Management and Budget. We work to promote and highlight the need for this surveillance program in the states and discuss its capacity and potential to flourish as a national resource -- especially if it were to become available nationally.

This year we have been working to support the President's previous NVDRS request of \$5 million and would like to see this request carry forward in FY 2014. We are presently participating in efforts on Capitol Hill to highlight the likely effects of sequestration on CDC programs and to protect domestic funding generally from any further reductions in end-of-year negotiations that might occur.

As recent events in Colorado and Wisconsin highlight, the challenge of reducing violent deaths remains even though budgets tighten. More than 50,000 Americans suffer violent death each year. Unfortunately, most communities lack data about the circumstances surrounding these deaths.

An issue of particular concern is the alarmingly high rate of suicides among military personnel and veterans, as well as adults aged 25 to 64. These tragic deaths account for 26,680 of the 36,909 suicides in 2009, leaving many families and communities without their loved ones. Therefore, it is imperative that we work towards national implementation of the NVDRS program so we can better understand and work to reverse these tragic trends. We are very pleased to learn about recent data sharing

agreements between CDC and the Department of Veterans Affairs that will enhance joint analytical work using NVDRS to measure suicide rates among U.S. veterans. Our Network offers you our profound gratitude for your continued support of NVDRS in this challenging fiscal environment and we look forward to our continued work with you and other CDC officials to help build a national commitment to this critical state-based surveillance network.

Sincerely,

American Association of Suicidology  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Kentucky Department of Public Health  
Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center  
Mental Health America  
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)  
National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)  
New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System  
North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System  
North Carolina Chronic Disease and Injury Section  
Oregon Department of Health  
Police Foundation  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
Safe States Alliance  
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)