

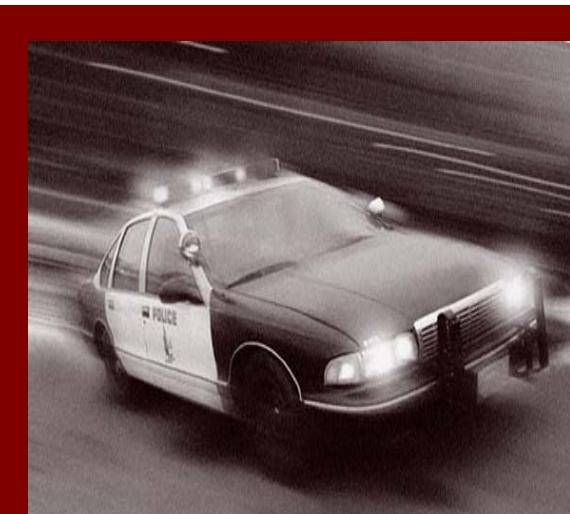
Violent Death in Massachusetts (2003-2006)

- Violent death claimed the lives of about 14 victims per week in 2006.
- Approximately 445 suicides occur each year.
- Approximately 175 homicides occur each year.
- There are more than two times as many suicides as homicides each year.



Violent Death in the U.S. (2005)

- Homicide is the second leading cause of death for persons aged 15-24 years.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for persons aged 25-34 years.
- Violent death costs the United States more than \$52 billion in medical care and lost productivity every year.



Massachusetts Violent Death Reporting System

Injury Surveillance Program
Bureau of Health Information,
Statistics, Research, and Evaluation

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**For more information,
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MAVDRS

An Overview of the Massachusetts Violent Death Reporting System

Injury Surveillance Program

**Massachusetts
Department of Public Health**

What is the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)?

NVDRS is an incident-based surveillance system, enabling identification of multiple deaths from the same incident or between victims and suspects. The program specific to Massachusetts is called MAVDRS.

Until NVDRS, the nation lacked a system that gathered the pieces of incidents of violent death and put them into one comprehensive, linked reporting system.

What is Violent Death?

For inclusion in MAVDRS, a violent death is defined as a death which results from the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or a group or community. **Violent deaths include suicides, homicides, deaths due to legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. All firearm-related deaths, regardless of intent, are included in the MAVDRS case definition.**



Data Sources and Partners

MAVDRS utilizes multiple data sources, including death certificates, medical examiner files, local and state police reports, district attorney press releases, National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR), and state police crime lab documents in creating its data records.

Information about the circumstances associated with violent death is a particularly unique and important feature of MAVDRS, since it helps in identifying specific risk factors leading to violence.

MAVDRS Data Partners:

- MA Registry of Vital Records & Statistics
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- MA State Police Crime Reporting Unit
- MA State Police Lab
- Boston Police Department
- Local Police Departments

“Police agencies throughout the country are realizing the potential of comprehensive, integrated databases for crime fighting and crime prevention. Using data more effectively allows police to do their job better in protecting and defending their citizenry.”

-Daniel B. Bibel

*Crime Reporting Unit,
Massachusetts State Police*

What Information is Collected?

Violent death cases in the MAVDRS database are identified by reviewing the “manner of death” field on death certificates. The final determination for cases included in the database is based on International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) codes. Over 270 data elements may be collected for each incident in the database, including information on the following, when applicable:

- Demographics of victim
- Demographics of suspect
- Toxicology
- Weapon (s)
- Circumstances of the death
- Relationship between the victim and suspect(s)