SDVDRS
SOUTH DAKOTA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

SD-VDRS: Linking Data to Save Lives

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

NVDRS is the only state-based anonymous surveillance system that covers all types of violent deaths. NVDRS collects information about the who, when, where, and how of violent deaths to help us better understand why they occurred. No personally identifiable information is collected in the web-based system. NVDRS started in 2002 and went nationwide in 2018.

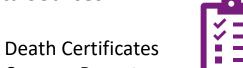### South Dakota Violent Death Reporting System (SD-VDRS)

The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) received funding from CDC in 2018 to implement SD-VDRS. The first year of data collection started January 1, 2019, which was a pilot year and focused on Minnehaha and Pennington county. Statewide data collection started January 1, 2020. The DOH continues to work with coroners and law enforcement agencies across the state to collect data and reduce the number of violent deaths in South Dakota.

Types of Violent Deaths

- Suicides
- Homicides
- Deaths of Undetermined Intent
- Unintentional Firearm Deaths
- Legal Intervention and Terrorism

Data Sources

- Death Certificates
- Coroner Reports
- Toxicology Reports
- Law Enforcement Reports

Data Collection Process

1. **CORONERS** file death certificates with the Office of Vital Records
2. **DATA ABSTRACTORS** query electronic vital records system for violent deaths
3. **DATA ABSTRACTORS** request information from Coroners and Law Enforcement
4. **LAW ENFORCEMENT** and **CORONERS** provide case reports and/or completed worksheet and toxicology form to the Data Abstractors
5. **DATA ABSTRACTORS** de-identify and enter information into the web-based system

How can SD-VDRS data be used to prevent violent deaths?

- **Uncover timely topics** and emerging issues related to violent deaths
- **Reveal important variations** in patterns of violent deaths across locations, populations, and over time
- **Better understand the circumstances** that contribute to violence in the state
- **Guide, inform, and help** target and evaluate violence prevention efforts

Leading to...

- **Greater understanding** of violent deaths
- **More effective use** of violence prevention resources
- **Healthier, safer** communities across South Dakota

Data Collected

Over 600 data elements are captured, including:

- Demographics
- Cause of Death
- Location of Injury
- Weapons Used
- Toxicology Results
- Alcohol or Substance Abuse
- Mental Health Problems
- Relationship Problems
- Physical Health Problems
- Job/Financial Problems
- Suspect Information (Homicides)

For more information, resources, and data on SD-VDRS, visit **doh.sd.gov/statistics/sd-vdrs**

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SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH