

**National Violent Death Reporting System
Coding Manual
Version 3**

Additions for NVDRS 3.0 Software

**National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
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Table of Contents

Topic	Section	Page
Introduction		1
Victim Weapon and Suspect Variables	1	1-1
New Homicide/Suicide/Undetermined Circumstances	2	2-1
Intimate Partner Violence Module	3	3-1

Introduction

This document contains material to update the NVDRS Coding Manual, Version 3, with coding guidance and reference information for new variables added to Version 3.0 of the NVDRS software. This information is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Victim Weapon and Suspect Variables details the fields on the new “Weapon and Suspect” panel of Victim and Victim-Suspect type persons in NVDRS incidents. This panel replaces both the Person-Weapon Relationship and Victim-Suspect Relationship components of prior versions of the NVDRS software.

Section 2: New Homicide/Suicide/Undetermined Circumstances details new circumstance variables that are available for victims with all assigned types of death except unintentional firearm injuries.

Section 3: Intimate Partner Violence Module details the variables that make up a new optional data source for the NVDRS software, which may be used to gather data specific to intimate partner violence. The new IPV data source is in many ways analogous to the existing Child Fatality Review Module in the NVDRS software, in that it provides data collectors the capability to collect additional data on a specific type of NVDRS incident.

The material in these additions will be incorporated into the main body of the NVDRS Coding Manual at its next revision.

Section 1

Victim Weapon and Suspect Variables

Variable Label	Variable Name	Page
Primary weapon that killed victim	Weapon1	1-3
Second weapon causing injury	Weapon2	1-3
Third weapon causing injury	Weapon3	1-3
Total number of NVDRS weapons for this victim	TotWep	1-5
Primary suspect for this victim	Suspect1	1-7
Second suspect for this victim	Suspect2	1-7
Third suspect for this victim	Suspect3	1-7
Victim's relationship to suspect 1	Rela1	1-9
Victim's relationship to suspect 2	Rela2	1-9
Suspect was caregiver	CareTk	1-9
History of abuse of victim	Abuse	1-13
Total number of NVDRS suspects for this victim	TotSusp	1-15

Primary weapon that killed victim: Weapon1

Second weapon causing injury: Weapon2

Third weapon causing injury: Weapon3

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
Weapon1	The weapon responsible for causing the death of the victim, or, if multiple weapons coded, the weapon causing the most damage to the victim.
Weapon 2	For victims injured by multiple weapons, the weapon causing the second most damage to the victim.
Weapon 3	For victims injured by multiple weapons, the weapon causing the third most damage to the victim.

Response Options:

NVDRS Weapon Number

Uses

This variable links victims to weapons by identifying the weapon or weapons most responsible for the death of a victim, and prioritizing them if there is more than one such weapon.

Discussion

When possible, only weapons that caused a fatal injury to one or more victims should be entered in NVDRS. In most incidents, it will only be necessary to designate a primary weapon for each victim—this will be the weapon that caused the fatal injury to the victim.

In incidents where it is not possible to determine the weapon that caused the fatal injury, it is possible to link up to three weapons to a single victim, ranking them as primary, second and third. The abstractor will make this ranking by determining which of the weapons inflicted the most harm to the victim. For example, if a victim was injured in the torso by shots fired from two handguns, the handgun that resulted in the greater number of wounds to the victim would be coded as primary.

Note that most weapon types in NVDRS are entered only once, regardless of the number of physical weapons involved. For instance, any number of knives are coded as a single “sharp instrument” NVDRS weapon. A victim that was stabbed by multiple knives, or bludgeoned by multiple blunt objects, will only have a single weapon entered into the NVDRS (as the Primary Weapon). Decisions about ranking various weapons will only need to be made in incidents involving multiple firearms (which are entered into the system individually), or a victim who was injured by multiple weapons of different types (firearm and sharp instrument, for example).

Weapon and Suspect

Poisonings will require special handling for a limited time, as each poisonous substance is currently entered into NVDRS as a separate weapon. If it is impossible to determine from the data sources which of several poisons was responsible for a victim's death, register any one of the poisons entered in the incident as the primary weapon, and do not designate a second or third weapon. A future change to the NVDRS software will consolidate all poisons in an incident into a single NVDRS Weapon record, eliminating this situation.

Prior to 2007, abstractors were instructed to enter every weapon that caused harm to a victim in NVDRS, even if a given weapon did not inflict a fatal wound, so there may be weapons in older incidents that did not inflict fatal wounds on any victims. These weapons should **not** be entered as primary, second or third weapon in these variables. Only code weapons causing fatal injury to the victim.

In summary:

- If only one NVDRS weapon was responsible for the fatal injury, list it as Primary Weapon.
- If unable to determine which of two or more NVDRS weapons was responsible for the fatal injury, attempt to rank them based on which weapon did the most harm.
- If unable to rank weapons, pick one arbitrarily to list as Primary.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Weapon1	Primary weapon that killed victim	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	CME/PR
Weapon2	Second weapon causing injury	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	CME/PR
Weapon3	Third weapon causing injury	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
WEAPON1	WEAPON1
WEAPON2	WEAPON2
WEAPON3	WEAPON3

Total number of NVDRS weapons for this victim: TotWep

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
TotWep	Total number of NVDRS weapons in this incident contributing to fatal injury of the victim

Response Options:

Number of weapons

Uses

This variable links victims to weapons by identifying the total number of weapons that inflicted fatal wounds on a victim.

Discussion

Enter the number of weapons in the NVDRS incident that contributed to the fatal injury of the victim. If only a primary weapon is designated for this victim, this number will be 1. If a primary and second weapon are designated, the number will be 2, and if primary, second and third weapons are designated, the number will be 3. The number may be greater than 3 if more than three weapons injured the victim, but this will only be true in rare cases.

Note that the number entered should correspond to the number of NVDRS weapon records, which may differ from the number of physical weapons that caused injury to a victim. For example, any number of blunt instruments in an incident are coded with a single NVDRS “blunt instrument” weapon, so if a victim is bludgeoned by three attackers with blunt instruments, only one NVDRS weapon record would be created, and the response to this field would be “1.”

Examples

- A victim is shot by four attackers with handguns. The data sources do not indicate which handgun inflicted the fatal wound. Enter 4 for TotWep.
- A man takes an overdose of prescription medication and shoots himself in the head. The cause of death on the Death Certificate is a gunshot wound. Only the firearm should be entered in NVDRS as a weapon, as it was responsible for the fatal injury. Enter 1 for TotWep.

Weapon and Suspect

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
TotWep	Total number of NVDRS weapons for this victim	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	PR/CME

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
TOTWEP	TOTWEP

Primary suspect for this victim: Suspect1

Second suspect for this victim: Suspect2

Third suspect for this victim: Suspect3

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
Suspect1	Identity of the NVDRS person designated as the primary suspect in this victim’s death
Suspect2	For victims with multiple suspects, the identity of the NVDRS person designated as the second suspect in the victim’s death
Suspect3	For victims with multiple suspects, the identity of the NVDRS person designated as the third suspect in the victim’s death

Response Options:

NVDRS Person Number

Uses

This variable links victims to suspects by identifying the suspect or suspects most responsible for the death of a victim, and prioritizing them if there is more than one such suspect.

Discussion

These variables allow the system to directly link each victim to as many as three suspects and capture information on the relationship between them, as well as the relative importance of each suspect in causing the death of the victim. Unlike NVDRS weapons, it is not necessary for a suspect to inflict a fatal injury, or any injury at all on a victim. For example, if one person drives a car and a second person fires a handgun in a drive-by shooting, both of these persons are NVDRS suspects, and should be entered in the case. Abstractors should refer to source documents to determine who should be entered as a suspect in any given case. See “Entering a Case/Data Structure” for additional guidance.

If there is only one suspect for a victim, then that suspect will be the Primary Suspect, and should be coded in Suspect1.

If there are multiple suspects for a victim, it is possible to link up to three suspects to a victim, ranked as the primary, second and third suspects. It is not necessary for a suspect to have personally wounded a victim to be listed here—accomplices such as drivers in drive-by shootings can be listed, for example. Where there are multiple suspects for a given victim, the abstractor will need to rank the suspects using the following criteria:

- If it is possible to determine which suspect inflicted the fatal injury, then that suspect will be the Primary Suspect. Accomplices or other persons that qualify as NVDRS suspects may be listed in the Second and Third Suspect fields.
- If it is unclear which suspect inflicted the fatal injury, then attempt to rank them based on which suspect inflicted the greatest harm on the victim, as in the discussion on designating a Primary Weapon.

Weapon and Suspect

- If it is impossible to determine which suspect inflicted the greatest harm, then attempt to rank the suspects based on the closeness of their relations to the victim as the Primary Suspect (e.g., list a sibling ahead of a stranger).
- If all victim-suspect relationships are identical (e.g., “Stranger”), attempt to rank the suspects based on which have the most identifying or demographic information (e.g., list a suspect with a partial description ahead of one about which nothing is known).
- If it is impossible to designate a Primary Suspect under any of these criteria, select any one suspect to designate as Primary. This will be a rare occurrence, and is not anticipated to have a significant impact on analysis.

There are never suspects for suicide victims. There will be a suspect for an unintentional firearm injury victim if another person was responsible for discharging the firearm, but not if the victim was.

Examples

- In an altercation, two men attack a victim. One man holds the victim down while the other stabs him with a knife. Both men are listed as suspects in the source documents and charged with the death. The wielder of the knife would be the Primary Suspect, and the accomplice would be the Second Suspect.
- A victim is attacked and killed by his brother and a friend of the brother, who was not known to the victim. If it is not possible to determine who inflicted the fatal injury or the most damage, the brother would be designated as Primary Suspect, and the friend as Second Suspect.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Suspect1	Primary suspect for this victim	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	CME/PR
Suspect2	Second suspect for this victim	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	CME/PR
Suspect3	Third suspect for this victim	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
SUSPECT1	SUSPECT1
SUSPECT2	SUSPECT2
SUSPECT3	SUSPECT3

Victim to Suspect relation 1: S1Rela1, S2Rela1, S3Rela1

Victim to Suspect relation 2: S1Rela2, S2Rela2, S3Rela2

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
S1Rela1	Description of relationship of the victim to the first suspect
S1Rela2	Description of secondary relationship of the victim to the first suspect
S2Rela1	Description of relationship of the victim to the second suspect
S2Rela2	Description of secondary relationship of the victim to the second suspect
S3Rela1	Description of relationship of the victim to the third suspect
S3Rela2	Description of secondary relationship of the victim to the third suspect

Response Options:

- 1 Spouse
- 2 Ex-spouse
- 3 Girlfriend or boyfriend
- 7 Ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend
- 8 Girlfriend or boyfriend, unspecified whether current or ex
- 10 Parent
- 11 Child
- 12 Sibling
- 13 Grandchild
- 14 Grandparent
- 15 In-law
- 16 Stepparent
- 17 Stepchild
- 18 Child of suspect's boyfriend/girlfriend (e.g., child killed by mom's boyfriend)
- 19 Intimate partner of suspect's parent (e.g., teenager kills his mother's boyfriend)
- 20 Foster child
- 21 Foster parent
- 29 Other family member (e.g., cousin, uncle, etc.)
- 30 Babysitter (e.g., child killed by babysitter)
- 31 Acquaintance
- 32 Friend
- 33 Roommate (not intimate partner)
- 34 Schoolmate
- 35 Current/former work relationship (e.g., co-worker, employee, employer)
- 36 Rival gang member
- 44 Other person, known to victim
- 45 Stranger
- 50 Victim was injured by law enforcement officer
- 51 Victim was law enforcement officer injured in the line of duty
- 88 Suspect is not a suspect for this victim (if entered in the Rela1 field)

Weapon and Suspect

88 All relevant information about relationship is already provided in Relation 1 (if entered in the Rela 2 field)

99 Relationship unknown

Uses

Data describing the relationship between the victim and the suspect are useful for developing and evaluating prevention programs and for characterizing various forms of family and intimate violence.

Discussion

These variables will be assigned by the abstractor for each suspect designated as primary, second or third suspect for a given victim.

- Use the following sentence as a guide for selecting the appropriate description of the relationship: **the victim is the _____ of the suspect.** For example, when a parent kills a child, the relationship is “Child” not “Parent.” (“The victim is the child of the suspect.”)
- Homosexual relationships should be coded in the same way as heterosexual relationships (e.g., “Girlfriend” or “Boyfriend”). The homosexual or heterosexual nature of the relationship will be indicated by the sex of the victim and suspect.
- The classification “babysitter” includes child care providers such as nannies or relatives of a child other than a parent or guardian.
- For this data element, an acquaintance is someone with or about whom the victim has had some prior interaction or knowledge. A stranger is someone with whom the victim has had no prior interaction before the event that culminated in the violent injury.
- Where more than one offender is working in concert in an incident (as in a drive-by shooter and his or her driver), code the victim’s relationship to each offender. Do not use 88s in the Relationship 1 field in this situation to identify the offender who did not actually fire the weapon because all offenders working in concert are considered offenders on the Supplementary Homicide Report and in police reports.
- If the nature of the relationship is unknown, code “Rela1” as “99”. If all relevant information regarding the relationship is captured in “Rela1”, then code “Rela2” as 88 for: “All relevant information about relationship is already provided in Relation 1 “Not applicable.” (88 is not a suspect for this vic)??

Examples

- Code the following scenario as “Stranger”: two individuals who do not know each other play pool together, argue, then one stabs the other.
- Two strangers shoot a victim and three other persons help cover-up the crime by creating an alibi for the suspects. The three persons who only helped to cover up the crime should not be loaded in NVDRS. The other two suspects should be loaded as “stranger”.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
S1Rela1	Victim to Suspect Relation 1	Person	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME
S1Rela2	Victim to Suspect Relation 2	Person	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME
S2Rela1	Victim to Suspect Relation 1	Person	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME
S2Rela2	Victim to Suspect Relation 2	Person	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME
S3Rela1	Victim to Suspect Relation 1	Person	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME
S3Rela2	Victim to Suspect Relation 2	Person	Number	2	LR/LR	PR/CME

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
S1RELA1	S1RELA1
S1RELA2	S1RELA2
S2RELA1	S2RELA1
S2RELA2	S2RELA2
S3RELA1	S3RELA1
S3RELA2	S3RELA2

Weapon and Suspect

Suspect was caregiver: S1CareTk, S2CareTk, S3CareTk

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
S1CareTk	Was this suspect a caregiver for this victim
S2CareTk	Was this suspect a caregiver for this victim
S3CareTk	Was this suspect a caregiver for this victim

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Collected, Not Available, Unknown
- 1 Yes

Uses

This variable will help identify deaths resulting from intimate partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and other forms of caregiver violence.

Discussion

After indicating the relationship for each victim-suspect pair (Rela1 from previous page), determine whether the offender was a caregiver for the victim. This variable is included because some definitions of child abuse and elder abuse are based solely on whether the offender was the victim's caregiver.

Examples

- a parent who kills his or her child.
- a babysitter who kills his or her charge.
- a nursing home attendant who kills a patient.
- an adult who kills a dependent elderly parent.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
S1CareTk	Suspect was caregiver	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR
S1CareTk	Suspect was caregiver	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR
S1CareTk	Suspect was caregiver	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
S1CARETK	S1CARETK
S2CARETK	S2CARETK
S3CARETK	S3CARETK

History of abuse of victim: S1Abuse, S2Abuse, S3Abuse

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
S1Abuse	History of abuse of victim by this suspect
S2Abuse	History of abuse of victim by this suspect
S3Abuse	History of abuse of victim by this suspect

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Collected, Not Available, Unknown
- 1 Yes

Uses

These variables will help identify deaths resulting from intimate partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and other forms of caretaker violence.

Discussion

For each victim-suspect pair in which (1) the offender was a caretaker of the victim or (2) the offender was a current or ex-intimate partner, indicate whether the data sources document a history (or suspected history) of abuse of this victim by the suspect.

- The evidence of ongoing abuse may be suspected but not confirmed.
- Abuse can be physical, psychological, sexual or others as long as the source document refers to ‘abuse’.

Examples

Yes

- Stepparent killed child during an altercation. Family investigated by Child Protective Services last year.
- Autopsy evidence reported as an indication of previous abuse is enough to endorse the “Abuse” variable.

No

- Husband shot wife after learning that she was having an affair. No history of previous police visits to the residence or restraining orders; neighbors indicate no previous problems.

Weapon and Suspect

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
S1Abuse	History of abuse of victim	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	PR/CME
S2Abuse	History of abuse of victim	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	PR/CME
S3Abuse	History of abuse of victim	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	PR/CME

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
S1ABUSE	S1ABUSE
S2ABUSE	S2ABUSE
S3ABUSE	S3ABUSE

Total number of NVDRS suspects for this victim: TotSusp

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
TotSusp	Total number of NVDRS persons in the incident who are suspects in the death of this victim.

Response Options:

Number of NVDRS Suspects

Uses

This variable links victims to suspects by identifying the total number of suspects that are associated with the death of a victim.

Discussion

Enter the number of suspects (or victim/suspects) in the NVDRS incident that contributed to the death of the victim. If only a primary suspect is designated for this victim, this number will be 1. If a primary and second suspect are designated, the number will be 2, and if primary, second and third suspects are designated, the number will be 3. The number may be greater than 3 if more than three suspects are involved in the death, but this will only be true in rare cases.

Examples

- A victim is killed in a drive-by shooting. The car used in the shooting was driven by one man and the shooter rode in the front passenger seat. Enter 2 for TotSusp.
- A victim is amushed and beaten to death by six rival gang members. Enter 6 for TotSusp.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
TotSusp	Total number of NVDRS suspects for this victim	Person	Number	4	LR/LR	PR/CME

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
TOTSUSP	TOTSUSP

Section 2

New Homicide/Suicide/Undetermined Circumstances

Variable Label	Variable Name	Page
Other addiction	OtherAddict	2-3
Family stressors	FamStress	2-4
Anniversary of a traumatic event	TraumaAnniv	2-5
History of abuse as a child	AbuseAsChild	2-6
Eviction/loss of home	Eviction	2-7
Mentally ill suspect	SusMental	2-8
Random violence	Random	2-9
Drive-by shooting	Driveby	2-11

Other addiction: OtherAddict

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
OtherAddict	Person has an addiction other than alcohol or other substance abuse, such as gambling, sexual, etc.

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
- 1 Yes

Uses

Can be used to assess the proportion of suicide victims who were identified as having an addiction not related to substance abuse. The information can be helpful in exploring the role of these addictions in planning suicide prevention service delivery.

Discussion

Code a victim as “Yes” for “OtherAddict” if the victim was perceived by self or others to have an addiction not related to substance abuse, and there is some indication that this addiction may have contributed to the suicide. Such addictions might include gambling or sexual addictions. The incident narrative should describe the nature of the addiction.

Examples

Yes

- The victim was participating in a rehabilitation program or undergoing therapy for compulsive gambling.

No

- The victim was noted to travel to casinos and gamble several times a year. No indication that this behavior was a problem in the victim’s life.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
OtherAddict	Other addiction	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
OTHERADDICT	OTHERADDICT

New Circumstances

Family stressors: FamStress

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
FamStress	Family stressors appear to have contributed to the suicide

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
- 1 Yes

Uses

This variable identifies suicides that are related to stresses within the family. Identifying specific circumstances that appear to play a precipitating role in suicide will help to identify, develop, and evaluate preventive interventions.

Discussion

Code “FamStress” as “Yes” if at the time of the incident the victim was experiencing significant problems related to family members or the family home environment. Describe the nature of these problems in the narrative.

Examples

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
FamStress	Family Stressors	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
FAMSTRESS	FAMSTRESS

Anniversary of a traumatic event: TraumaAnniv**Data Sources:** CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
TraumaAnniv	Suicide occurred on or near the anniversary of a traumatic event in the victim's life

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
1 Yes

Uses

This variable identifies suicides that may be related to the anniversary of a traumatic experience in the victim's life, such as the death of a relative or friend. Identifying specific circumstances that appear to play a precipitating role in suicide will help to identify, develop, and evaluate preventive interventions.

Discussion

Code "TraumaAnniv" as "Yes" if at the incident occurred on or near the date of a traumatic event in the victim's life, regardless of how far in the past the event was. Indicate the nature of the event in the incident narrative.

Examples

Yes

- The victim committed suicide ten years to the day after the suicide of her mother.
- The victim survived a plane crash four years ago and committed suicide the evening before the anniversary.

No

- The victim committed suicide on September 11, 2008, but there is no indication that the victim was traumatized by the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, or connected with any of the victims.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
TraumaAnniv	Anniversary of a traumatic event	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
TRAUMAANNIV	TRAUMAANNIV

History of abuse as a child: AbuseAsChild

Data Sources: CFR/CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
AbuseAsChild	The victim had a history of abuse (physical, mental or emotional) as a child

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
- 1 Yes

Uses

This variable identifies suicides victims that were victims of abuse as children, whether they are adults or children at the time of the incident, and regardless of whether the abuse is ongoing or in the past. Identifying specific circumstances that appear to play a precipitating role in suicide will help to identify, develop, and evaluate preventive interventions.

Discussion

Code “AbuseAsChild” as “Yes” if at the victim had been the victim of child abuse at any point in the past. The victim may be a child or an adult at the time of the incident, and the abuse may be ongoing or in the past. Abuse may be physical, psychological or emotional. Indicate the nature of the abuse in the incident narrative.

Examples

Yes

- Victim had been sexually molested by an older relative twenty years earlier.
- Victim had been placed in foster care by the state due to physical abuse.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
AbuseAsChild	History of abuse as a child	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
ABUSEASCHILD	ABUSEASCHILD

Eviction/loss of home: Eviction**Data Sources:** CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
Eviction	A recent eviction or other loss of the victim's home, or the threat of it, appears to have contributed to the suicide

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
1 Yes

Uses

This variable identifies suicides that are related to loss of housing. Identifying specific circumstances that appear to play a precipitating role in suicide will help to identify, develop, and evaluate preventive interventions.

Discussion

Code "Eviction" as "Yes" if at the time of the incident the victim had recently been, was in the process of being evicted or foreclosed on, or was confronted with an eviction, foreclosure, or other loss of housing. Describe the situation in the incident narrative.

Examples**Yes**

- The victim's mortgage was in arrears and the lender was threatening foreclosure.
- The victim had been thrown out of his parents' house, where he had been living since dropping out of school one year earlier.
- The victim and his wife were arguing about money problems.

No

- The victim had been homeless for two years and sought refuge in shelters when the weather was especially cold.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Eviction	Eviction/loss of home	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
EVICTION	EVICTION

Mentally ill suspect: SusMental

Data Sources: CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
SusMental	The suspect’s attack on the victim is believed to be the direct result of a mental illness

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
- 1 Yes

Uses

This data element characterizes the precipitants of violent deaths and help to identify trends in subtypes of violence over time. It will aid in planning and evaluating prevention programs targeted at specific subtypes of violence.

Discussion

Code “SusMental” as “Yes” if the suspect’s attack on the victim is believed to be the direct result of the suspect’s mental illness..

Examples

Yes

- A suspect attacks a woman on the street and claims that an angel told him the woman was one of Satan’s minions

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
SusMental	Mentally ill suspect	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
SUSMENTAL	SUSMENTAL

Random violence: Random**Data Sources:** CFR/CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
Random	The victim was killed by a random act of violence

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
1 Yes

Uses

This data element characterizes the precipitants of violent deaths and help to identify trends in subtypes of violence over time. It will aid in planning and evaluating prevention programs targeted at specific subtypes of violence.

Discussion

Code "Random" as "Yes" if the victim was killed by a random act of violence. A random act is one in which the suspect is not concerned with who is being harmed, just that someone is being harmed, such as a person who shoots randomly at passing cars from a highway bridge or opens fire in a crowded shopping mall.

This code should not be used for unsolved homicides.

It should also not be used for cases in which the overall target was chosen intentionally (such as a white supremacist group opening fire in a daycare center that serves children of color, or a suspect returning to the job from which he was recently fired and kills several people; while the actual individuals may have been selected at random, the place was intentionally targeted).

Examples

Yes

- The suspect intentionally drives his car into a crowded bus stop. There is no indication that he was deliberately targeting any group as victims.

No

- A victim is found shot to death behind a store. There was no evidence of robbery and no suspects were identified.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Random	Random violence	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

New Circumstances

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
RANDOM	RANDOM

Drive-by shooting: Driveby**Data Sources:** CME/PR

NVDRS Name	Definition
Driveby	Suspect was the victim of a drive-by shooting

Response Options:

- 0 No, Not Available, Unknown
1 Yes

Uses

This data element characterizes the precipitants of violent deaths and help to identify trends in subtypes of violence over time. It will aid in planning and evaluating prevention programs targeted at specific subtypes of violence.

Discussion

A drive-by shooting is one in which the suspect or group of suspects drives near an intended victim or target and shoots while driving, or uses a car to approach and flee the scene of a homicide, but steps out of the car just long enough to use a weapon.

- Code “Drive-by” even if the actual victim was a bystander and not the intended victim.
- Drive-by is the mechanism by which the victim was shot; also choose a precipitating circumstance code to document why the drive-by occurred, if known.

Drive-by shootings must involve a motorized vehicle (e.g., car, motorcycle, truck) and does not include modes of transportation like bicycles, skateboards, etc.

Examples

Yes

- The victim was asleep in bed and killed by bullets fired by a suspect in a car, who had intended to shoot out the windows of the house.

No

- The suspects kidnapped the victim in a van and later killed the victim in a house.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Driveby	Drive-by shooting	Person	Checkbox	1	LR/LR	CME/PR

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

CME	PR
DRIVEBY	DRIVEBY

Section 3

Intimate Partner Violence Module

Variable Label	Variable Name	Page
IPV Incident Type	IncidType	3-4
IPV Victim	IPVVict	3-6
IPV Perpetrator	IPVPerp	3-6
Death Certificate	Sourc_DC	3-8
Coroner/Medical Examiner Report	Sourc_ME	3-8
Police Report	Sourc_PR	3-8
SHR or NIBRS Data	Sourc_SHR	3-8
Crime Lab Report	Sourc_Lab	3-8
Gun Trace Report	Souc_Gun	3-8
Hospital/ED Report	Sourc_ER	3-8
Court or Prosecutor Records	Sourc_DA	3-8
Restraining Order Records	Sourc_RO	3-8
Criminal History Database	Sourc_CH	3-8
DVTRT Report	Sourc_DV	3-8
Newspaper Reports	Sourc_News	3-8
Other data sources	Sourc_Other	3-8
Evidence of premeditation	Premed	3-11
Homicide during argument	MidstArg	3-12
During child drop-off/pick-up	ChildDrop	3-14
Warrant issued for suspect	SWarrant	3-15
Suspect arrested in this incident	SArrest	3-15
Suspect arrested but fled	SFled	3-15
Suspect charged as perpetrator	SusChgP	3-15
Suspect convicted	SConvict	3-15
Suspect convicted of original charge	SOriginalP	3-15
Suspect died following incident	SDied	3-15
Cohabitation status	Cohabit	3-18
Relationship length number of units	RelLegth	3-19
Unit of time used in relationship length	RelUnits	3-19
Breakup or breakup in progress	RelBrkup	3-21
Breakup length number of units	BrkupLgth	3-21
Unit of time used in breakup length	BrkupUnit	3-21
Children under 18 living at home	ChildHome	3-23
Any children not offspring of IPV Perpetrator	ChildP	3-23
Any children not offspring of IPV Victim	ChildV	3-23
Number of children exposed to homicide	ChildSaw	3-25

Use of child as shield during event	ChildShield	3-25
Child intervened during incident	ChildInterv	3-25
Restraining order ever	RestrainEver	3-27
Restraining order at time of incident	RestrainNow	3-27
Restraining order type	RestrainType	3-27
Restraining order issue date	RestrainDate	3-27
Restraining order served	RestrainServ	3-27
Persons protected by restraining order	RestrainProt	3-27
Prior arrest(s)	PARrest	3-30
Type of arrest(s)	ArrestType	3-30
Type if other	ArrestTypeMemo	3-30
Prior conviction(s)	PConvict	3-30
Type of conviction(s)	ConvType	3-30
Type if other	ConvTypeMemo	3-30
Prior IPV arrest(s)	IPVArr	3-33
Physical illness	IPVillness	3-34
Diagnosis of physical illness	IPVillTxt	3-34
Disability	IPVDisable	3-34
Disability was physical	IPVDisPhy	3-34
Disability was developmental	IPVDisDev	3-34
Disability was sensory	IPVDisSens	3-34
Alcohol use suspected	Intox	3-37
Drug use suspected	IllDrug	3-37
Mental health problem	IMental	3-39
Mental health diagnosis 1	IMDiag1	3-41
Mental health diagnosis 2	IMDiag2	3-41
Mental health diagnosis 3	IMDiag3	3-41
Other mental health diagnosis	IMenTxt	3-41
Currently in treatment for mental health problem	ITxMen	3-43
Ever treated for mental health problem	IHistMental	3-43
Alcohol problem	IAlcoh	3-45
Other substance abuse problem	ISubst	3-45
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	ISuiInt	3-47
History of suicide attempts	ISuicAtt	3-49

IPV Module Background

This IPV Data Module allows states to capture additional information on homicide incidents classified as intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents. IPV incidents are defined as incidents in which violence, or the threat of violence, by a person against his or her current or former intimate partner results in the violent death of one or more people. This may involve cases in which there is a death of a third party that is directly linked to the intimate partner (IP) relationship (e.g., the child of the intimate partner, friend of the victim, a bystander).

An intimate partner is defined as a current or former girlfriend/boyfriend, date, or spouse. This definition includes same-sex partners. The definition of intimate partner includes first dates. It will be apparent in the Victim-Suspect Relationship variable whether the victim and suspect were intimate partners or not.

IPV Incident Type: IncidType

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IncidType	Type of IPV homicide incident

Response Options:

- 1 Type 1: IPV
- 2 Type 2: IPV-Related
- 3 Type 3: IP-Associated

Uses

Used to identify the type of IPV incident associated with the violent death. The information collected will be helpful in determining the prevalence of different types of IPV incidents related to homicides.

Discussion

The Incident Type (IncidType) should be determined using police reports or other available information on the relationship history of the intimate partners. The IPV module is designed to collect information on intimate partners and the circumstances that contributed to the violent death. The following categories should be used for coding the incident type:

Type 1: IPV: Incidents in which an individual is killed by a current or former intimate partner.

Case Examples

- A woman's ex-boyfriend walks up to the woman and shoots her on the street.
- A man and woman are out on their first date. They go back to her apartment after the date. The man tries to force the women into bed and strangles her to death.
- A woman and her lawyer are getting into a car; the woman's ex-boyfriend walks up to the woman and shoots her and the lawyer.

Type 2: IPV-Related: Incidents that involve a third party (either as NVDRS victim or NVDRS suspect) but where the homicide is directly related to violence in the intimate relationship. For Type 2 incidents, information should be included on the intimate partners not on the third party involved.

Case Examples

- A woman kills her ex-husband's new wife. The suspect has a history of previously threatening her ex-husband.
- A man confronted, then killed, another man he believed was having an affair with his girlfriend. The suspect had a history of physically assaulting his girlfriend and had told her on multiple occasions that he would kill her if she was ever with anybody else.
- A husband shoots and kills his child while attempting to attack his wife during an argument.

Type 3: IP-Associated: Incidents that involve a third party (either as NVDRS victim or NVDRS offender) and that are directly related to an intimate partner relationship, but have no evidence of violence in the intimate partner relationship. The homicide can be committed by or against any of the third parties involved but must involve at least one of the intimate partners as the victim or the suspect. To further clarify, the incident should be included as an intimate partner-associated death if it does not meet the criteria for Type I or Type II IPV incidents AND the homicide would not have occurred in the absence of the intimate partner relationship.

Case Examples

- A man sees another man flirting with his wife in a bar; the two men argue and one stabs the other to death. No evidence of previous violence or threats between the man and wife.
- A grandmother is murdered by her teenage granddaughter and her granddaughter's lover because the grandmother was trying to keep the two young women apart.
- A man shot his landlord to death. In his confession, the suspect stated that the landlord habitually touched or made sexual comments about his (the suspect's) wife and that he got tired of it.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IncidType	IPV Incident type	Person	Number	2	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
INCIDTYPE

IPV Victim: IPVVict

IPV Perpetrator: IPVPerp

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IPVVict	Identification of whether the IPV Victim is the NVDRS Suspect, Victim, or neither
IPVPerp	Identification of whether the IPV Perpetrator is the NVDRS Suspect, Victim, or neither

Response Options:

999999999 Unknown

Uses

Used to identify the roles of the IPV Victim and IPV Perpetrator in the homicide incident.

Discussion

For this module, the terms IPV Victim and IPV Perpetrator are used to identify persons on whom information is collected as opposed to victim and suspect as are used in the general NVDRS. These elements identify the role that the IPV Victim and IPV Perpetrator had in the homicide incident. The definitions for IPV Victim and IPV Perpetrator terms are as follows:

The IPV Victim (IPVVict) is the partner in the intimate relationship who is the target of violence perpetrated by his/her intimate partner. This person may be the victim, suspect, or neither in the NVDRS. Intimate partners who are not directly involved in the violent incident (e.g., they are targets of violence but are not killed during the incident) should be coded as “other.” In cases of mutually combative violence where the target of the violence cannot be determined, the IPV victim should be listed as the partner who was killed. Coders should list the NVDRS identification number for the individual listed as the IPV Victim.

The IPV Perpetrator (IPVPerp) is the partner in the intimate relationship who has committed violence against his/her intimate partner. This person may be the victim, suspect, or neither in the NVDRS. Coders should list the NVDRS person identification number for the individual listed as the IPV Perpetrator.

Case Examples

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IPVVict	IPV Victim	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
IPV Perp	IPV Perpetrator	Person	Number	2	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
IPVVICT
IPVPERP

Death Certificate: Sourc_DC

Coroner/Medical Examiner Report: Sourc_ME

Police Report: Sourc_Pol

SHR or NIBRS Data: Sourc_SHR

Crime Lab Report: Sourc_Lab

Gun Trace Report: Sourc_Gun

Hospital/ED Report: Sourc_ER

Court or Prosecutor Records: Sourc_DA

Restraining Order Records: Sourc_RO

Criminal History Database: Sourc_CH

DVTRT Report: Sourc_DV

Newspaper Reports: Sourc_News

Other Data Sources: Sourc_Other

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
Sourc_DC	Death certificate used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_ME	Medical examiner used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_Pol	Police report used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_SHR	SHR or NIBRS data used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_Lab	Crime laboratory data used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_Gun	Gun trace data used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_ER	Hospital data used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_DA	Court or prosecutor records used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_RO	Restraining order data used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_CH	Criminal history records data used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_DV	Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team data used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_News	Newspapers used as a data source to complete module
Sourc_Othr	Other source used as a data source to complete module

Response Options:

- 0 Data source used
- 1 Data source not used

Uses

These variables indicate the various data sources used by the data abstractor in completing the IPV data module for the incident. Abstractors are able to call on a wide array of resources in assembling information for the IPV module. This stands in contrast to many NVDRS variables, which are linked to a single, specific, data source.

Discussion

Select all of the data sources used by the coder to complete the IPV data module. The following should be coded as “data source used” if the sources were used to complete the module: Sourc_DC (death certificate); Sourc_ME (medical examiner, coroner report, or toxicology report); Sourc_Pol (police report); Sourc_SHR (data from the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Reports or National Incident Based Reporting Reports); Sourc_Lab (crime laboratory reports); Sourc_Gun (gun trace data); Sourc_ER (Hospital records including hospital discharge and emergency department records); Sourc_DA (prosecution or court records); Sourc_RO (national or state restraining order databases); Sourc_CH (national or state criminal history databases); Sourc_DVFRT (Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team report); Sourc_News (newspaper article or other print media source); and Sourc_Othr (specify any other sources used).

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Sourc_DC	Death Certificate	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_ME	Coroner/Medical Examiner Report	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_Pol	Police Report	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_SHR	SHR or NIBRS Data	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_Lab	Crime Lab Report	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_Gun	Gun Trace Report	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_ER	Hospital/ED Report	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_DA	Court of Prosecutor Records	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_RO	Restraining Order Records	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_CH	Criminal History Database	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_DV	DVTRT Report	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_News	Newspaper Reports	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV
Sourc_Othr	Other data sources	Person	Checkbox	1	O	IPV

IPV Module

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
SOURCDC
SOURCME
SOURCPOL
SOURCSHR
SOURCLAB
SOURCER
SOURCDA
SOURCRO
SOURCCH
SOURCDV
SOURCNEWS
SOURCOTHR

Evidence of Premeditation: Premed**Data Sources:** IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
Premed	Homicide appears to have involved premeditation or advance planning

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

Some homicides appear to have involved premeditation or advance planning whereas others are more impulsive and erupt spontaneously in the midst of an argument. Because prevention strategies aimed at planned versus unplanned homicides may differ, this variable helps differentiate the two groups.

Discussion

Evidence of premeditation includes signs such as the suspect's lying in wait for the victim(s) or taking precautions before the incident to avoid discovery. Most state laws differentiate levels of homicide, with homicide in the first degree, involving premeditation or malice aforethought, and other homicide charges (homicide in the second degree, voluntary manslaughter) showing no evidence of premeditation.

Case Examples

Yes

- Suspect arrived at the victim's house with two handguns and extra clips.
- Suspect was waiting outside the victim's workplace; when she arrived, he shot her.
- Suspect was aware of when her husband was meeting with his lawyer; she arrived at the office and shot both.
- Suspect was charged with first degree murder.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Premed	Evidence of premeditation	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
PREMED

Homicide during argument: MidstArg

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
MidstArg	Homicide occurred in the midst of an argument or altercation

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

Some homicides appear to have involved advance planning whereas others are more impulsive and erupt spontaneously in the midst of an argument or altercation. This variable helps differentiate the two groups by identifying homicides that may be spontaneous rather than planned.

Discussion

It is difficult to ascertain whether a homicide was impulsive; this variable instead captures objective information about whether a verbal altercation of some sort immediately preceded the homicide. Although some of these cases may also involve advance planning (e.g., suspect lies in wait for the victim armed with a weapon and intending to kill him; upon seeing him, they argue, she produces the weapon and shoots him), the variable is likely to serve as a rough proxy for more impulsive homicides (see also “Planned” on the previous page). This information will frequently be unknown. Legally, differentiating homicides involving premeditation versus those occurring in the “heat of passion” is a major point as this distinction, in part, informs whether the suspect is charged with homicide in the first degree, homicide in the second degree, or manslaughter.

Case Examples

Yes

- Husband and wife had been drinking during a party; after the guests left, they began arguing and wife stabbed husband.
- Victim told suspect that she wanted him out of the apartment; he became angry and beat her to death.

No

- Victim and sister were sitting in the moving van when victim’s husband pulled alongside the vehicle and shot her.
- Suspect shot the victim while she was sleeping and then shot himself.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
MidstArg	Homicide during argument	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
MIDSTARG

During child drop-off/pick-up: ChildDrop

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
ChildDrop	Homicide occurred during drop-off or pick-up of children

Response Options:

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 9 Unknown

Uses

Relationship breakups can be a trigger for homicide. For couples with children in common who share custody or have visitation rights, the periods during which one partner drops off or picks up the children from the other partner can provide opportunities for violence. This variable identifies homicides that occur during such exchanges.

Discussion

This variable refers to those periods of overlap when one partner is picking up or dropping off children to or from the other partner or a court-supervised visit.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
ChildDrop	During child pick-up/drop-off	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
CHILDDROP

Warrant issued for suspect: SWarrant
Suspect arrested in this incident: SArrest
Suspect arrested but fled: SFled
Suspect charged as perpetrator: SusChgP
Suspect convicted: SConvict
Suspect convicted of original charge: SOriginalP
Suspect died following incident: SDied

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
SWarrant	Warrant issued for the suspect in this incident
SArrest	Suspect arrested in this incident
SFled	Suspect arrested but fled while on bond or escaped custody
SusChgP	Suspect charged in this incident
SConvict	Suspect convicted in this incident
SOriginalP	Suspect convicted of the original charge
SDied	Suspect died following the incident

Response Options:

SWarrant
 SArrest
 SFled
 SOriginal
 0 No
 1 Yes
 7 Not collected in data sources
 8 Not applicable
 9 Unknown
 SusChg
 SusPros
 SConvict
 0 No
 1 Yes
 3 Pending/In progress
 7 Not collected in data sources
 8 Not applicable
 9 Unknown
 SDied
 0 No
 1 Yes
 9 Unknown

Uses

Information regarding the outcome for suspects in a homicide (i.e., whether they were arrested, charged, prosecuted, convicted, or subsequent death) is helpful for evaluating law enforcement and criminal justice system response to violent deaths.

Discussion

These variables originated with the Child Fatality Review module. Code variables with reference to the intimate partner who was arrested, charged, prosecuted, etc. as a suspect for the death). Arrests or prosecution on lesser charges only, such as possession of a firearm without a license, should not trigger endorsing these variables. If the individual died following the incident then the other information does not have to be completed.

Warrant issued (SWarrant)—“SWarrant” indicates that a warrant was issued for the arrest of the suspect in the incident. Code SWarrant as “yes” if a warrant for the suspect’s arrest has been issued.

Suspect arrested (SArrest)—“SArrest” indicates that the suspect was arrested by law enforcement. If a suspect is arrested, the arrest record will indicate the criminal statutes the person is suspected of having violated (e.g., first-degree homicide, second-degree homicide, etc.). If the suspect has not been arrested, or if the arrest charges do not include perpetration of the victim’s death, code “SArrest” as “no.” Also code SArrest as “no” if a warrant for the suspect’s arrest has been issued but the arrest has not yet been made.

Suspect fled (SFled)—“SFled” indicates that the suspect was arrested by law enforcement as a suspected perpetrator in the victim’s death; however, the suspect fled while on bond or escaped from custody prior to any closure to the case.

Suspect charged by prosecutor (SusChg)—“SusChg” indicates that a prosecutor such as the district attorney or federal prosecutor has issued charges against the suspect. These charges are not to be confused with the initial charges on which law enforcement arrested a suspect. Rather, they refer to the charges filed by the prosecutor that initiated the prosecution process. If the records reflect that the suspect is being prosecuted, code “SusChg” as “yes.” Reasons to endorse “no” include that the case was never presented to prosecutors, the suspect was administratively released by police prior to charging (which means that the police no longer consider the person a suspect and s/he can be dropped as a suspect from the incident), or the prosecutor did not issue charges (because of lack of evidence, witness difficulties, defendant granted immunity, jurisdictional problem, constitutional defects, or physical evidence difficulty).

Prosecution of suspect is complete (SusPros)—Examples of completed prosecutions include cases in which the IPV Victim or Perpetrator suspect pleaded guilty, the prosecutor dropped the charges, the court convicted or acquitted or dismissed the suspect, or the IPV Perpetrator or Victim suspect died. If a conviction is entered at the trial court, code the prosecution as complete even if the suspect has filed an appeal. Code the prosecution as incomplete if the case has not yet gone to trial or the trial is still underway or if the suspect fled or if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim suspect and prosecutors are still negotiating the terms of a plea to a lesser charge.

Suspect was convicted (SConvict)—If prosecution is complete, “SConvict” indicates whether the IPV Victim or Perpetrator suspect was convicted as a perpetrator in the victim’s death. Code “no” if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim was acquitted or the case was dismissed. Also code “no” if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim was convicted only of lesser charges (e.g., a weapons charge) but not as a perpetrator in the victim’s death (e.g., convicted of homicide, murder, or manslaughter). Assume the IPV Perpetrator or Victim has been convicted if she/he has been sentenced or is awaiting sentencing.

Suspect convicted of original charge (SOriginal)—If the IPV Victim or Perpetrator suspect was convicted of a lesser charge and not the original charge (e.g., charged with first degree murder but convicted of second degree), code SOriginal as “no.”

Suspect died during legal proceedings (SDied)—If the IPV Victim or Perpetrator suspect died at any time during the legal proceedings.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
SWarrant	Warrant issued for suspect	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
SArrest	Suspect arrested in this incident	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
SFled	Suspect arrested but fled	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
SusChgP	Suspect charged as perpetrator	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
SConvict	Suspect convicted	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
SOriginalP	Suspect convicted of original charge	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
SDied	Suspect died following incident	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
SWARRANT
SARREST
SFLED
SUSCHGP
SCONVICT
SORIGINALP
SDIED

Cohabitation Status: Cohabit

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
Cohabit	Cohabitation status of the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim at the time of the incident, i.e., living together in the same household, irrespective of marital status

Response Options:

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 9 Unknown

Uses

This data element indicates whether the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim were residing in the same household at the time of the incident.

Discussion

If indication is provided through police narratives or other data sources that the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim shared a primary residence at the time of the incident, then “cohabit” should be coded as “yes.” If the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim are listed as having the same address and there is no information contrary about their having separated, code as “yes” even in the absence of an affirmative statement about cohabitation status. If the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim lived together fairly consistently, but there had been a recent change of status (e.g., less than 1 week of living in separate households) or they have separate addresses, then “cohabit” should still be coded as “yes.” For example, if it was reported that a IPV Victim had been staying with her parents for a few days or the IPV Victim had a separate mailing address, but primarily resided with the IPV Perpetrator, they should be coded as cohabitating.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Cohabit	Cohabitation status	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
COHABIT

Relationship length number of units: RelUnit

Unit of time used in relationship length: RelLgth

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
RelUnit	Unit of time for IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim involvement in a romantic relationship
RelLgth	Length of time the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim were involved in a romantic relationship

Response Options:

RelUnit

- 1 Years
- 2 Months
- 3 Days
- 4 Hours
- 9 Unknown

RelLgth

- 99 Unknown

Uses

These data elements describe the length of the romantic relationship between the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim and can be useful in providing information on the context and situation surrounding the IPV homicide incident.

Discussion

This variable provides information on the length of time the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim were involved in a romantic relationship. This time period should be estimated from information drawn from CME or police narrative reports. It should reflect the total time the couple have been in a relationship and not just, in the case of married couples, the length of the marriage.

It is coded using a numerical indication of the number of years, months, weeks, and days the relationship lasted. First the coder should provide information on the unit that best describes the amount of time of the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim relationship in terms of years, months, or less than 1 month. Indicate the length of the romantic relationship in RelLgth and the units of measurement for the interval (e.g., hours, days, weeks) in RelUnit. For 2 hours through 47 hours, use hours; for 48 hours and to 29 days, use days. For 30 or more days, use months. For 365 or more days, use years. Round to the nearest unit. If relationship length was noted as a range, use the high end of the range (e.g., 15–29 days, use 29). If relationship length is not precisely noted, indicate 999 in RelLgth and the applicable unit in RelUnit (e.g., “couple dated for a few days” would be 999 in RelLgth and 1 [day] in RelUnit).

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
RelUnit	Relationship length number of units	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
RelLgth	Unit of time used in relationship length	Person	Number	2	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
RELUNIT
RELLGTH

Breakup or breakup in progress: RelBrkup

Breakup length number of units: BrkupLgth

Unit of time used in breakup length: BrkupUnit

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
RelBrkup	Indication of a breakup or in-process breakup of IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim
BrkupUnit	Unit of time for IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim breakup
BrkupLgth	IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim relationship breakup length

Response Options:

RelBrkup

0 No, there was no indication of a breakup between the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim

1 No, a breakup was threatened by the IPV Perpetrator or IPV Victim but did not happen

2 Yes, a breakup occurred immediately preceding or during the incident

3 Yes, a breakup occurred at some point prior to the incident but not during or immediately preceding the incident

9 Unknown

BrkupUnit

1 Years

2 Months

3 Weeks

4 Days

5 Hours

8 Not Applicable

9 Unknown

BrkupLgth

88 Not Applicable

99 Unknown

Uses

These data elements describe whether a breakup had occurred or was in process of occurring and, if so, how long ago the breakup occurred. This information can be used for prevention efforts in determining key stages of relationships, particularly those with histories of IPV, when risks for IPV-related homicides may be greatest.

Discussion

These variables provide information drawn from CME or police narrative reports that provide information whether a breakup occurred between the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim. "RelBrkup" should be coded as "yes" if there is information in the reports indicating the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim had broken up or were in the process of breaking up. This should include cases in which the partners recently divorced or one of the partners filed

IPV Module

for divorce or threatened divorce. “BrkupUnit” and “BrkupLgth” time period should be estimated from information drawn from CME or police narrative reports. It is coded using a numerical indication of the number of years, months, weeks, and days of how long ago the breakup occurred. First the coder should provide information on the unit that best describes the amount of time that has passed since the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim breakup in terms of years, months, or less than 1 month. This is then followed by the number that best describes the time length of the breakup. If the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim relationship is described as having numerous breakups, the length should be measured using the most recent breakup. Information on the status of the relationship and timing of relationship termination may provide insight into precipitating events that may have contributed to the incident.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
RelBrkup	Breakup or breakup in progress	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
BrkupUnit	Unit of time used in breakup length	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
BrkupLgth	Breakup length number of units	Person	Number	2	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
RELBRKUP
BRKUPUNIT
BRKUPLGTH

Children under 18 living at home: ChildHome

Number of children under 18 living at home: Child#

Any children not offspring of IPV Perpetrator: ChildP

Any children not offspring of IPV Victim: ChildV

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
ChildHome	Were any children under age 18 living at the victim's home at the time of the incident
Child#	How many of children under age 18 were living at the victim's home at the time of the incident
ChildV	Were any of those children not the IPV Perpetrator's offspring
ChildP	Were any of those children not the IPV Victim's offspring

Response Options:

ChildHome

StepChildP

StepChildV

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Child#

88 Not Applicable

99 Unknown

Uses

These data elements help quantify the potential impact on children of the violent death of a parent at the hands of the other parent or at the hands of a parent's intimate partner. This information can be useful in planning prevention and treatment efforts with children exposed to such trauma.

Discussion

This set of variables is only for IPV Victims or IPV Perpetrators who are killed by an intimate partner.

Children <18 at home (ChildHome)—Code "yes" if there were children under age 18 living in the IPV Victim's home at the time of the incident.

Number of Children <18 at home (Child#)—Code the number of children under age 18 living in the IPV Victim's home at the time of the incident. If a report indicates that children were living in the home but does not specify their age, it is acceptable to code this variable.

Any children not the IPV Perpetrator's (ChildV)—Code "yes" if any of the children at home were not the IPV Perpetrator's offspring. For example, if the victim had one child with her

IPV Module

ex-husband (the IPV Perpetrator) and one from a previous or subsequent relationship, code “yes.”

Any children not the IPV Victim’s (ChildP)—Code “yes” if any of the IPV Perpetrator’s children at home were not the IPV Victim’s offspring. For example, if the perpetrator had one child with an ex-spouse (the IPV Victim) and one from a previous or subsequent relationship, code “yes.”

Because we are attempting to describe the problem of children who are exposed to the violent death of a parent by a partner, please answer these questions with reference to the IPV Victim’s or IPV Perpetrator’s children and not with reference to other children who may be living in the house (such as cousins or neighbors) or witnessed the incident (such as a passer-by).

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
ChildHome	Children under 18 living at home	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
Child#	Number of children under 18 living at home	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
ChildV	Any children not offspring of IPV Victim	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ChildP	Any children not offspring of IPV Perpetrator	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
CHILDHOME
CHILDNUM
CHILDP
CHILDV

Number of children exposed to homicide: ChildSaw

Number of children 5 or under exposed to homicide: Child5under

Use of child as shield during incident: ChildShield

Child intervened during incident: ChildInterv

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
ChildSaw	Number of children directly exposed to the incident (i.e., saw it, heard it, or discovered the body)
Child5under	Number of children age 5 or younger who witnessed the incident
ChildShield	Use of child as shield during the incident
ChildInterv	Child intervened during the incident

Response Options:

ChildSaw

Child5under

9 Some, but unknown number

99 Unknown

ChildShield

ChildInterv

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

These data elements help to quantify the potential impact witnessing a violent death on children and the level of involvement that children may have during the incident, such as being used as a shield by an adult or attempting to intervene during the incident. This information can be useful in planning prevention and treatment efforts with children exposed to such trauma.

Discussion

Children exposed to the homicide (ChildSaw)—Code the number of children (under the age of 18) who were directly exposed to the homicide. For example, they saw it, they heard it through the walls, they witnessed the suspect abducting the victim, they were attacked or threatened during the incident or were used as a shield, or they discovered the body.

Children 5 or younger exposed to the homicide (Child5under)—Code the number of children (age 5 and younger) who were directly exposed to the homicide. For example, they saw it, they heard it through the walls, they witnessed the suspect abducting the victim, they were attacked or threatened during the incident or were used as a shield, or they discovered the body.

IPV Module

Children used as shields during the incident (ChildShield)—Code “yes” if a person in the incident attempted to use a child as a physical shield to prevent or end an attack.

Children who attempted to intervene during the incident (ChildInterv)—Code “yes” if a child attempted to intervene during the homicide incident. For example, if a child tried to in some way prevent the IPV Perpetrator from harming the IPV Victim by stepping between them, made verbal threats, etc.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
ChildSaw	Number of children exposed to homicide	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
Child5under	Number of children 5 or under exposed to homicide	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
ChildShield	Use of child as shield during incident	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ChildInterv	Child intervened during incident	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
CHILDSAW
CHILD5UNDER
CHILDSHIELD
CHILDINTERV

Restraining order ever: RestrainEver
Restraining order at time of incident: RestrainNow
Restraining order type: RestrainType
Restraining order issue date: RestrainDate
Restraining order served: RestrainServ
Persons protected by restraining order: RestrainProt

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
RestrainEver	Refers to whether there was ever a restraining order between the members of the couple (IPV Vict and IPV Perp)
RestrainNow	Refers to whether there was a restraining order between the members of the couple at the time of incident
RestrainType	The type of restraining order in place
RestrainDate	The date the restraining order was issued
RestrainServ	Indication of whether the restraining order was served
RestrainProt	Individual(s) protected by the restraining order

Response Options:

RestrainEver

RestrainNow

0 No
 1 Yes
 9 Unknown

RestrainType

1 Emergency
 2 Temporary
 3 Permanent
 8 No restraining order
 9 Unknown

RestrainDate

Date

RestrainServ

0 No
 1 Yes
 8 No restraining order
 9 Unknown

RestrainProt

1 IPV Victim
 2 IPV Perpetrator

IPV Module

3	Both
8	Other
9	No restraining order
88	Not applicable
99	Unknown

Uses

Restraining orders were developed specifically to protect threatened persons, including current or former intimate partners. The information collected in this data element will help in evaluating whether restraining orders are effective in deterring IPV, as well as whether the timing of restraining orders is related to IPV deaths.

Discussion

RestrainEver Refers to whether there was ever a restraining order between the members of the couple (IPV Vict and IPV Perp)

RestrainNow Refers to whether there was a restraining order between the members of the couple at the time of incident

RestrainType The type of restraining order in place

RestrainDate The date the restraining order was issued

RestrainServ Indication of whether the restraining order was served

RestrainProt Individual(s) protected by the restraining order

Code “RestrainNow” as “yes” if a restraining order involving both the IPV Perpetrator and IPV Victim was issued at the time of the incident. Data sources for this information will likely vary by state. Some states can utilize statewide restraining order databases, while other states must rely on contacting county courthouses where the fatal incident took place. The police report is another possible source for this information. Restraining orders may be referred to in a number of ways including restraining order, protective order, or by specific state statute number. Restraining orders that are not abuse prevention orders do not qualify and should not be included. For example, a restraining order not to spend money from a joint account filed as part of divorce proceedings should not be included. Information may also be available on the date that the restraining order was issued and served documentation of the restraining order should indicate the date on which it was issued. This should be entered with month, day, and year. The date served may not be as readily available. This information may be found in police, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) report, or court records. The RestrainServ element only requires a yes, no, or unknown response.

Documentation for the restraining order should also include information on the individual(s) protected by the order. While most restraining orders will include only one of the partners, some may also include other child dependents. The information requested for the restraining orders provides more detail on the timing and coverage of the restraining order and may provide insight into precipitating events of the incident. If multiple restraining orders exist, record only the most recent between the intimate partners.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
RestrainEver	Restraining order ever	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
RestrainNow	Restraining order at time of incident	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
RestrainType	Restraining order type	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
RestrainDate	Restraining order issue date	Person	Date	10	O	IPV
RestrainServ	Restraining order serverd	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
RestrainProt	Persons protected by restraining order	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
RESTRAINEVER
RESTRAINNOW
RESTRAINTYPE
RESTRAINSERV
RESTRAINPROT

Prior arrest(s): PArrestP, PArrestV

Type of arrest(s): ArrestTypeP, ArrestTypeV

Type of arrest(s) if other: ArrestTypePMemo, ArrestTypeVMemo

Prior conviction(s): PConvictP, PConvictV

Type of conviction(s): ConvTypeP, ConvTypeV

Type of conviction(s) if other: ConvTypePMemo, ConvTypeVMemo

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
PArrestP	IPV Perpetrator had prior arrest(s)
PArrestV	IPV Victim had prior arrest(s)
ArrestTypeP	Type of arrests for IPV Perpetrator
ArrestTypeV	Type of arrests for IPV Victim
ArrestTypePMemo	Test describing other type(s) of arrest for IPV Perpetrator
ArrestTypeVMemo	Test describing other type(s) of arrest for IPV Victim
PConvictP	IPV Perpetrator had prior criminal conviction(s)
PConvictV	IPV Victim had prior criminal conviction(s)
ConvTypeP	Type of convictions for IPV Perpetrator
ConvTypeV	Type of convictions for IPV Victim
ConvTypePMemo	Test describing other type(s) of conviction for IPV Perpetrator
ConvTypeVMemo	Test describing other type(s) of conviction for IPV Victim

Response Options:

PArrestP

PArrestV

PConvictP

PConvictV

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

ArrestTypeP

ArrestTypeV

ConvTypeP

ConvTypeV

1 Homicide

2 Robbery

3 Sexual assault (forcible)

4 Assault offenses (other than sexual assault)

5 Property offenses

6 Weapons offenses

7 Drug abuse violations

8 Offenses against family or children

9 Alcohol-related offenses

- 10 Restraining order violations
- 11 Other (specify)
- 12 Other unspecified
- 99 Unknown

Uses

These data are used to identify persons who have come to the attention of law enforcement as suspected criminal offenders. The information collected may be helpful in determining the extent to which previous arrests, including the types of arrests, are predictors of future acts of intimate partner violence (IPV).

Discussion

The data elements provide information from state criminal history records. The coder should first indicate if an arrest or conviction occurred and then indicate the category. If a person has arrests and/or convictions in more than one category, list the most severe type of offense (homicide, then sexual assault, other assaults, offenses against family or children, robbery, property offenses, weapons offenses, drug abuse violations, and alcohol-related offenses). If this data element is coded from the criminal history records of a specific municipal or county police department, the variable should be coded “unknown” if no arrest is found, because these records do not include other law enforcement departments in the state. Definitions for all Part I and Part II offenses can be found in the UCR handbook (FBI, 2004): <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/handbook/ucrhandbook04.pdf>. Prior arrests or convictions for homicide offenses include murder/non-negligent manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, and justifiable homicide. Sex offenses include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling. Assault offenses include aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation. Property offenses should include the crimes of burglary, larceny/theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, embezzlement, and vandalism. Weapons offenses include the any crimes related to the manufacture, sale, or possession of deadly weapons. Drug abuse violations are defined as “the violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use.” Offenses against family or children are defined as “unlawful nonviolent acts by a family member (or legal guardian) that threaten the physical, mental, or economic well-being or morals of another family member and that are not classifiable as other offenses, such as assault or sex offenses.” Alcohol-related offenses include driving under the influence and drunkenness.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
PArrestP	Prior arrest(s)	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
PArrestV	Prior arrest(s)	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ArrestTypeP	Type of arrest(s)	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
ArrestTypeV	Type of arrest(s)	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
ArrestTypePMemeo	Type if other	Person	Text	50	O	IPV
ArrestTypeVMemeo	Type if other	Person	Text	50	O	IPV
PConvictP	Prior conviction(s)	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
PConvictV	Prior conviction(s)	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ConvTypeP	Type of conviction(s)	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
ConvTypeV	Type of conviction(s)	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
ConvTypePMemeo	Type if other	Person	Text	50	O	IPV
ConvTypeVMemeo	Type if other	Person	Text	50	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
PARRESTP
PARRESTV
ARRESTTYPEP
ARRESTTYPEV
ARRESTTYPEPEMEMO
ARRESTTYPEVMEMO
PCONVICTP
PCONVICTV
CONVTYPEP
CONVTYPEV
CONVTYPEPEMEMO
CONVTYPEVMEMO

Prior IPV Arrest(s): IPVArrP, IPVArrV**Data Sources:** IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IPVArrP	IPV Perpetrator had prior arrest for violence against an intimate partner
IPVArrV	IPV Victim had prior arrest for violence against an intimate partner

Response Options:

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 9 Unknown

Uses

These data elements identify persons who have previously come to the attention of law enforcement as a suspected IPV Perpetrator of intimate partner violence, whether against the partner in this incident or any other partner.

Discussion

This variable provides information that is most likely to be included in the police reports. Some state criminal history databases explicitly identify domestic violence offense, but some do not, so this variable may be difficult for some states to code. Prior IPV arrests “IPVArrP/V” should be defined as any UCR Part I crimes—homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—or the Part II crime of simple assault when committed against a former or current intimate partner.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IPVArrP	Prior IPV arrest(s)	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVArrV	Prior IPV arrest(s)	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
IPVARRP
IPVARRV

Physical illness: IPVillnessP, IPVillnessV

Diagnosis of physical illness: IPVillTtxtP, IPVillTtxtV

Disability: IPVDisableP, IPVDisableV

Disability was physical: IPVDisPhyP, IPVDisPhyV

Disability was developmental: IPVDisDevP, IPVDisDevV

Disability was sensory: IPVDisSensP, IPVDisSensV

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IPVillnessP	IPV Perpetrator had an acute or chronic physical illness at the time of the incident
IPVillnessV	IPV Victim had an acute or chronic physical illness at the time of the incident
IPVillTtxtP	Free text field to indicate diagnosis if IPV Perpetrator was physically ill at the time of the incident
IPVillTtxtV	Free text field to indicate diagnosis if IPV Victim was physically ill at the time of the incident
IPVDisableP	IPV Perpetrator had a disability at the time of the incident
IPVDisableV	IPV Victim had a disability at the time of the incident
IPVDisPhyP	IPV Perpetrator's disability was physical (e.g., paraplegia, cerebral palsy)
IPVDisPhyV	IPV Victim's disability was physical (e.g., paraplegia, cerebral palsy)
IPVDisDevP	IPV Perpetrator's disability was developmental (e.g., mental retardation)
IPVDisDevV	IPV Victim's disability was developmental (e.g., mental retardation)
IPVDisSensP	IPV Perpetrator's disability was sensory (e.g., blindness, deafness)
IPVDisSensV	IPV Victim's disability was sensory (e.g., blindness, deafness)

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

Useful in identifying the subset of intimate partner homicides that occur in the context of the IPV Victim's or IPV Perpetrator's state of health. The stress of caring for an acutely or chronically ill individual can be a contributing factor to abusive behavior on the part of the caregiver. These cases appear to be overrepresented among intimate partner homicides perpetrated by older suspects.

Discussion

Physical illness may be acute (e.g., viral gastroenteritis, pneumonia) or chronic (e.g., diabetes, asthma, sickle cell anemia). However, if the chronic illness did not impose increased care demands at the time of the incident, do not code “yes.” For example, if an individual had a history of asthma, but had no acute exacerbation at the time of the incident, code “no.” The severity of the illness should not be considered when coding IPVIllnessP/V; any mention in the record of the individual being physically ill at the time of the incident is sufficient to warrant coding IPVIllnessP/V as “yes.” Physical disability implies a chronic physical impairment that has a substantial, long-term effect on the individual’s day-to-day functioning (e.g., cerebral palsy). Developmental disability implies a chronic cognitive or developmental deficit that has a substantial, long-term effect on the individual’s day-to-day functioning (e.g., autism, mental retardation). Sensory disability implies a chronic sensory deficit that has a substantial, long-term impact on the individual’s day-to-day functioning (e.g., blindness, deafness). If an individual was not specifically diagnosed with or documented to have one of the listed disabilities, answer “no.” The information used to complete this data element may come from medical records and/or autopsy.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IPVillnessP	Physical illness	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVillnessV	Physical illness	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVillTxtP	Diagnosis of physical illness	Person	Text	50	O	IPV
IPVillTxtV	Diagnosis of physical illness	Person	Text	50	O	IPV
IPVDisableP	Disability	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVDisableV	Disability	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVDisPhyP	Disability was physical	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVDisPhyV	Disability was physical	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVDisDevP	Disability was developmental	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVDisDevV	Disability was developmental	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVDisSensP	Disability was sensory	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IPVDisSensV	Disability was sensory	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

IPV Module

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
IPVillnessP
IPVillnessV
IPVillTxtP
IPVillTxtV
IPVDisableP
IPVDisableV
IPVDisPhyP
IPVDisPhyV
IPVDisDevP
IPVDisDevV
IPVDisSensP
IPVDisSensV

Alcohol use suspected: IntoxP, IntoxV

Drug use suspected: IllDrugP, IllDrugV

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IntoxP	IPV Perpetrator suspected to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident
IntoxV	IPV Victim suspected to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident
IllDrugP	IPV Perpetrator suspected to be under the influence of an illicit drug at the time of the incident
IllDrugV	IPV Victim suspected to be under the influence of an illicit drug at the time of the incident

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

Useful in evaluating the possible role of drugs or alcohol in violent incidents.

Discussion

“Intox” is a current NVDRS variable asked of victims only. In the IPV module it is also asked of both the IPV Victim and IPV Perpetrator. “IllDrug” is a new variable also asked of both IPV Victims and Perpetrators.

Alcohol use suspected (“IntoxP/V”)—“IntoxP/V” should be coded “yes” using information from witness or investigator reports (e.g., police note that the IPV Perpetrator or Victim had been drinking), circumstantial evidence (e.g., empty six pack scattered around IPV Perpetrator or Victim), or test results (e.g., police breathalyzer). This variable refers only to alcohol use and not drug use. Therefore, if a IPV Perpetrator or Victim was said to have been smoking crack on the day of the incident, but tested negative for alcohol and there is no evidence of drinking, “Intox” should be coded as “no.” The phrase “in the hours preceding the incident” can be interpreted relatively broadly. For example, if friends report that a IPV Perpetrator or Victim was drinking heavily at a party, and returned home that evening and was killed sometime later that night, “IntoxP/V” should be coded as “yes.” The level of intoxication is not relevant in coding this variable. If there is no evidence of alcohol use, code this variable as “no.” Use the “unknown” option only if the source does not have a narrative that could provide the evidence of intoxication.

Drug use suspected (“IllDrugP/V”)—“IllDrugP/V” should be coded “yes” based on witness or investigator reports or test results from the IPV Perpetrator or Victim. Illicit drugs include not only street drugs like heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine, but also illicitly obtained prescription drugs like oxycodone and substances that are sniffed for their mood-

IPV Module

altering effects (e.g., sniffing glue, “huffing” gasoline). Prescription drugs believed to be taken in accordance with the prescription directions should not be included as illicit drug use.

Both “IntoxP/V” and “IllDrugP/V” will include some false positives, since they are not necessarily based on test results. For a more conservative evaluation of drug and alcohol use in suspects, use toxicological testing if available.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IntoxP	Alcohol use suspected	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IntoxV	Alcohol use suspected	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IllDrugP	Drug use suspected	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IllDrugV	Drug use suspected	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
INTOXP
INTOXV
ILLDRUGP
ILLDRUGV

Mental health problem: IMentalP, IMentalV**Data Sources:** IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IMentalP	IPV Perpetrator had a mental health problem
IMentalV	IPV Victim had a mental health problem

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

This variable can be used to examine the role of mental health problems as risk factors both for suicide and for homicide perpetration and victimization.

Discussion

If the case involves a suicide, this information will be captured in the general NVDRS system for the suicide victim. Code a person as “yes” for “IMentalP/V” if he or she has been identified as having a mental health problem. Mental health problems include disorders and syndromes listed in the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Revision) with the exception of alcohol and other substance disorders (as these are captured in separate variables). Examples of disorders qualifying as mental health problems include not only diagnoses such as major depression, schizophrenia, and generalized anxiety disorder, but developmental disorders (e.g., mental retardation, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), eating disorders, personality disorders, and organic mental disorders such as Alzheimer’s and other dementias. Also indicate “yes” if the person was being treated for a mental health problem including treatment through involuntary mechanisms such as an Emergency Order of Detention, even if the nature of the problem is unclear (e.g., “was being treated for various psychiatric problems”). It is acceptable to endorse this variable on the basis of past treatment of a mental health problem, unless it is specifically noted that the problem has been resolved. For example, “IPV Victim or Perpetrator was hospitalized twice for mental problems,” is adequate basis for coding “IMentalP/V” as “yes.” Code “IMentalP/V” if a mental health problem is noted even if the timeframe is unclear (as in “history of depression”), or if the person was seeking mental health treatment or someone was seeking treatment on his or her behalf (e.g., “family was attempting to have him hospitalized for psychiatric problems”). “IMentalP/V” should also be coded as “yes” if the IPV Victim or Perpetrator has a prescription for an antidepressant or other psychiatric medication. The drug list provided in the training notebook identifies drugs that can be considered psychiatric medications. We have separate questions for substance use problems. Therefore, do not include substance abuse as a “current mental health problem.”

Coding “no” (as opposed to “unknown”) means that the record explicitly stated that the person had no known mental health problems. Code “unknown” if there is no information about the person’s mental health status or if the information is unclear.

IPV Module

Case Examples

Yes

- Toxicology report from medical examiner indicates that the IPV Victim or Perpetrator tested positive for Sertraline (an antidepressant)
- Person had post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- History of depression
- Was under the care of a psychiatrist

No

- Record states “no known mental disorders”

Unknown

- Neighbor indicates that the person was not acting normally.
- Was depressed over a recent break-up.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IMentalP	Mental health problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IMentalV	Mental health problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
IMENTALP
IMENTALV

Mental health diagnosis 1: IMDiagP1, IMDiagV1

Mental health diagnosis 2: IMDiagP2, IMDiagV2

Mental health diagnosis 3: IMDiagP3, IMDiagV3

Other mental health diagnosis: IMenTxtP, IMenTxtV

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IMDiagP1	IPV Perpetrator mental health diagnosis 1
IMDiagV1	IPV Victim mental health diagnosis 1
IMDiagP2	IPV Perpetrator mental health diagnosis 2
IMDiagV2	IPV Victim mental health diagnosis 2
IMDiagP3	IPV Perpetrator mental health diagnosis 3
IMDiagV3	IPV Victim mental health diagnosis 3
IMenTxtP	IPV Perpetrator other mental health diagnosis
IMenTxtV	IPV Victim other mental health diagnosis

Response Options:

- 1 Depression/dysthymia
- 2 Bipolar disorder
- 3 Schizophrenia
- 4 Anxiety disorder
- 5 Post traumatic stress disorder
- 6 ADD or hyperactivity disorder
- 7 Eating disorder
- 8 Obsessive-compulsive disorder
- 9 Mental retardation
- 10 Autism
- 11 Personality disorders
- 12 Alzheimer's
- 88 Not applicable
- 99 Unknown

Uses

These variables identify the diagnoses of persons who were noted as having a mental health problem, and whose mental health problem has been assessed by a mental health practitioner.

Discussion

Code up to three diagnoses. If a diagnosis is not on the code list, code "other" and record the diagnosis in the text field, "IMenTxtP/V." If the record indicates more than three diagnoses, note the additional diagnoses in "IMenTxtP/V." For cases in which the person was noted as being treated for a mental health problem, but the actual diagnosis is not documented, code "IMDiagP/V1" as "unknown." If the person had a mental health problem ("IMentalP/V" = "yes"), but the nature of the problem has not been diagnosed (e.g., "was hearing voices and having paranoid delusions; family was attempting to have her committed"), code

IPV Module

“IMDiagP/V1” as “not applicable” since she/he had not been treated or diagnosed. Do not attempt to apply a diagnosis based on reading the symptoms. While it is acceptable to code “mental health problem” based on the IPV Victim’s or Perpetrator’s prescription for a psychiatric medication, do not infer a specific diagnosis based on the medication.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IMDiagP1	Mental health diagnosis 1	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
IMDiagV1	Mental health diagnosis 1	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
IMDiagP2	Mental health diagnosis 2	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
IMDiagV2	Mental health diagnosis 2	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
IMDiagP3	Mental health diagnosis 3	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
IMDiagV3	Mental health diagnosis 3	Person	Number	2	O	IPV
IMenTxtP	Other mental health diagnosis	Text	Number	50	O	IPV
IMenTxtV	Other mental health diagnosis	Text	Number	50	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
IMDiagP1
IMDiagV1
IMDiagP2
IMDiagV2
IMDiagP3
IMDiagV3
IMenTxtP
IMenTxtV

Currently in treatment for mental health problem: ITxMentP, ITxMentV

Ever treated for mental health problem: IHistMentalP, IHistMentalV

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
ITxMentP	IPV Perpetrator currently in treatment for a mental health problem
ITxMentV	IPV Victim currently in treatment for a mental health problem
IHistMentalP	IPV Perpetrator ever treated for a mental health problem
IHistMentalV	IPV Victim ever treated for a mental health problem

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

This variable can be used to assess the proportion of IPV Victims and Perpetrators who were currently or formerly in mental health treatment. The information can be helpful in planning and delivering mental health services and in evaluating quality of care.

Discussion

The variable “ITxMentP/V” (current mental health treatment) should be coded “yes” if the IPV Victim or Perpetrator was in current treatment (that is, had a current prescription for a psychiatric medication or saw a mental health professional within the past 2 months). Treatment includes seeing a psychiatrist, psychologist, medical doctor, therapist, or other counselor for a mental health or substance abuse problem; receiving a prescription for an antidepressant or other psychiatric medicine (see training notebook for list of psychiatric drugs); or residing in an inpatient or halfway house facility for mental health problems. The variable “IHistMentalP/V” indicates whether the IPV Perpetrator or Victim was noted as ever having received professional treatment for a mental health problem, either at the time of death or in the past. If an IPV Perpetrator or Victim is in current treatment, by definition “IHistMentalP/V” (ever in treatment) should be endorsed. If a decedent died as the result of an overdose from multiple medications and it is not clear whether the medications were his or her own (as in an IPV Victim or Perpetrator swallowing everything in the family’s medicine cabinet), the existence of an antidepressant or other psychiatric medication in the IPV Victim’s or Perpetrator’s bloodstream is not sufficient evidence of mental health treatment. For IPV Perpetrators and Victims who die by other means than drug overdose (e.g., shooting, hanging), toxicologic test results indicating the presence of a psychiatric medication is sufficient evidence of mental health treatment.

Case Examples

Current treatment for mental illness

IPV Module

Yes

- A recently filled, unopened prescription belonging to the IPV Victim or Perpetrator for an antidepressant is found in the medicine cabinet.
- In treatment for depression for the last 10 years.
- Released from inpatient care for bipolar disorder a week ago.

No

- Records indicate not in mental health treatment
- Taking St. John's Wort (nonprescription herb) for depression because of a magazine article s/he had read.
- Taking sleeping pills for insomnia.

Ever treated for mental illness

Yes

- Several years ago the IPV Victim or Perpetrator was treated for bipolar disorder.
- The IPV Victim or Perpetrator had begun seeing a psychiatrist recently, but had previously never been in treatment.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
ITxMentP	Currently in treatment for mental health problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ITxMentV	Currently in treatment for mental health problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IHistMentalP	Ever treated for mental health problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IHistMentalV	Ever treated for mental health problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
ITxMentP
ITxMentV
IHistMentalP
IHistMentalV

Alcohol problem: IAlcohP, IAlcohV

Other substance abuse problem: ISubstP, ISubstV

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
IAlcohP	IPV Perpetrator had alcohol dependence or alcohol problem
IAlcohV	IPV Victim had alcohol dependence or alcohol problem
ISubstP	IPV Perpetrator had other illicit or prescription drug abuse problem
ISubstV	IPV Victim had other illicit or prescription drug abuse problem

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

Can be used to assess the proportion of IPV Victims and Perpetrators who were identified as having alcohol, drug, or other substance abuse problems. The information can be helpful in exploring the role of substance abuse in IPV homicides and planning substance abuse services delivery.

Discussion

Code “yes” for “IAlcohP/V” or “ISubstP/V” if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim was perceived by self or others to have a problem with, or to be addicted to, alcohol or other drugs. An IPV Perpetrator or Victim who is noted as participating in a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or treatment—including self-help groups and 12-step programs—should be coded as “yes” for “ISubstP/V” or “IAlcohP/V” respectively even if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim was noted as being currently clean and sober. A problem from the past (i.e., 5 years or more ago) that has resolved and no longer appears to apply should not be coded. “ISubstP/V” can be endorsed if an IPV Perpetrator or Victim was noted as using illegal drugs (such as heroin or cocaine), abusing prescription medications (such as pain relievers or Valium), or regularly using inhalants (e.g., sniffing gas). If the IPV Perpetrator or Victim is mentioned as using illegal drugs—even if addiction or abuse is not specifically mentioned—code “ISubstP/V” as “yes.” An IPV Perpetrator or Victim who takes methadone can be assumed to be in treatment for heroin addiction. The phrase “history of drug abuse” is sufficient to justify endorsing “ISubstP/V,” unless it is noted that the IPV Perpetrator or Victim is no longer a drug user. Previously attempting suicide via overdose is not sufficient justification for endorsing “ISubstP/V” in the absence of other information.

Case Examples

IAlcohP

IAlcohV

Yes

IPV Module

- CME report indicates the IPV Victim or Perpetrator was in an alcohol rehabilitation program last year.
- Called AA sponsor the day before the incident.
- Noted in CME report that the IPV Perpetrator or Victim had been drinking a lot lately and family was concerned.

No

- CME report indicates that 20 years ago the IPV Perpetrator or Victim had trouble with drugs and alcohol as a teenager, but not since then.

ISubstP

ISubstV

Yes

- CME report indicates that the perpetrator or victim abuses his/her own painkiller prescription.
- IPV Perpetrator or Victim made regular visits to a methadone clinic.
- IPV Perpetrator or Victim had track marks and drug paraphernalia at his/her apartment.
- IPV Victim or Perpetrator shot him/herself after a fight with spouse over drug use and mounting debts.

No

- IPV Perpetrator or Victim smoked marijuana occasionally.
- IPV Perpetrator or Victim attempted suicide via medication overdose on two previous occasions. No evidence of substance use or abuse.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IAlcohP	Alcohol problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
IAlcohV	Alcohol problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ISubstP	Other substance abuse problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ISubstV	Other substance abuse problem	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
IAlcohP
IAlcohV
ISubstP
ISubstV

Disclosed intent to commit suicide: ISuiIntP, ISuiIntV

Data Sources: IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
ISuiIntP	IPV Perpetrator disclosed to another person intentions to commit suicide
ISuiIntV	IPV Victim disclosed to another person intentions to commit suicide

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

This variable can be used to identify the subset of IPV homicides for which opportunities to intervene and prevent the death may have been present. It is also useful for exploring stated intent as a risk factor for suicide.

Discussion

Code “ISuiIntP/V” as “yes” if the IPV Perpetrator or victim had previously expressed suicidal feelings to another person, whether explicitly (e.g., “I’m considering killing myself”) or indirectly (e.g., “I think everyone would be better off without me” or “I know how to put a permanent end to this pain”). Do not code this variable as “yes” if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim disclosed his/her intention to kill him/herself only at the moment of the suicide (i.e., when there was no opportunity to intervene to stop the suicide). Also, do not endorse this variable if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim had talked about suicide sometime in the distant past, but had not disclosed his/her current intent to commit suicide to anyone. When the police or CME document whether the IPV Perpetrator or Victim stated his/her intent to commit suicide, they are doing so less for the purpose of documenting a missed opportunity for intervention and more for the purpose of indicating why the death is being treated as a suicide and not a potential homicide. Therefore, the records may be unclear about timing. For example, the record may state, “IPV Perpetrator or Victim has spoken of suicide in the past,” and it is not entirely clear whether the talk about suicide was only in the past or was related to the current incident. This will frequently be a gray area for coding. If the record indicates disclosure of intent in the past but affirmatively states that there was no disclosure for the current incident, code “ISuiIntP/V” as “no.” If the record indicates disclosure of intent, but is unclear about the time frame, code “ISuiIntP/V” as “yes.” This will sometimes be incorrect; however, the specificity to allow precise coding is too often missing in the records to justify using a narrower interpretation.

Case Examples

Yes

- The IPV Perpetrator or Victim told a spouse that s/he was planning to end his/her suffering and was going to stop being a burden.

IPV Module

- The IPV Perpetrator or Victim has mentioned on and off to friends that s/he was considering suicide; no one thought s/he would do it.

No

- The IPV Perpetrator or Victim has spoken of suicide in the past, but not in the past few months when things seemed to be going better for him/her.
- Family members were unaware of any suicidal feelings. During a heated argument over being grounded, the IPV Perpetrator or Victim shouted, “I’m gonna blow my head off, and it’s your fault.” He left the room and shot himself.

Unknown

- Had previously threatened to kill his family. No further information available on mental health history.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
ISuiIntP	Disclosed intent to commit suicide	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ISuiIntV	Disclosed intent to commit suicide	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
ISuiIntP
ISuiIntV

History of suicide attempts: ISuicAttP, ISuicAttV**Data Sources:** IPV

NVDRS Name	Definition
ISuicAttP	IPV Perpetrator had a history of attempting to commit suicide
ISuicAttV	IPV Victim had a history of attempting to commit suicide

Response Options:

0 No

1 Yes

9 Unknown

Uses

This variable is useful for exploring suicide attempts as a risk factor for completed suicides and as an opportunity for preventive intervention.

Discussion

Code ISuicAttP/V as “yes” if the IPV Perpetrator or Victim was known to have made previous suicide attempts, regardless of the severity of those attempts.

Analysis

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
ISuicAttP	History of suicide attempts	Person	Number	1	O	IPV
ISuicAttV	History of suicide attempts	Person	Number	1	O	IPV

SAS Variable Names by Data Source

IPV
ISuicAttP
ISuicAttV