

Finding ways to prevent violent deaths in Iowa by understanding contributing circumstances.

Iowa Department of Public Health • University of Iowa Summer 2022

IAVDRS Newsletter



What Have We Been Doing?

In November 2021, Jonathan Davis, PhD, IAVDRS Data Analyst and Wendy Ringgenberg, PhD, IAVDRS Program Abstractor, presented and exhibited at the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners regarding the IAVDRS program and the annual Suicide in Iowa report. They were able to connect with approximately 100 people at the event.

In December, Wendy and new IAVDRS Program Manager, Nafla Poff, exhibited at the Iowa State Sheriffs and Deputies Association Winter School. About 150 people stopped by their booth and learned about the program. (See Picture)

In May 2022, Wendy exhibited at the Iowa Police Chiefs Association Executive Leadership Training Conference, about 50 people learned a bit about IAVDRS.

As of May 24, 2022, there have been 680 deaths entered into the database for CY2021.

- ✓ 79% were suicides
- ✓ 14% were homicides
- ✓ 6% were undetermined
- ✓ <1% were unintentional firearm-related

Grant Activities Update

- In January 2022, the IAVDRS team released the program's first report on Homicides in Iowa between 2016 and 2020. The report can be found on the [IAVDRS IDPH webpage](#) under "Data Reports".
- We closed out 2020 cases in the beginning of May and have already begun requesting Medical examiner reports for 2021 cases.
- The IAVDRS team finished and submitted their next NVDRS grant application! This next grant cycle will begin September 1, 2022, and will be a five year cycle. If there are any topics or projects you would like IAVDRS to undertake in the next cycle, please reach out to Nafla Poff at nafla.poff@idph.iowa.gov. We would like to move beyond data collection and into data utilization and practice recommendations in the next five years.

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New Module! Public Safety Officer Suicide

Public safety officers may be at increased risk of suicide because of the stresses associated with their position. The CDC has added a new module that allows states to capture additional information on suicides classified as public safety officer suicide incidents. Public safety officer suicide incidents are defined as incidents in which a public safety officer dies by suicide. The suicide may have happened on or off duty and with or without the use of a work-issued weapon. Public safety officers are considered for inclusion if the person served in a public service agency in an official capacity, including a paid or volunteer position. Additionally, individuals who have retired from a public safety officer occupation are included.

A public safety officer is defined as: All local, state, federal, military, and tribal law enforcement, corrections officers, parole/probation officers, officers of the court, firefighters, emergency medical service clinicians (emergency medical technicians, paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders, etc.), and public safety telecommunicators (e.g., 911 operators and dispatchers).



Public safety officers may be at increased risk of suicide because of the stresses associated with their position.

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Staff SPOTLIGHT!



Nafla Poff, MPH

Nafla Poff joined The Iowa Department of Public Health in November 2021 as the Injury and Violence Prevention Coordinator. In her role Nafla will be the Iowa Violent Death Reporting System program manager. She will also be working on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention, as well as supporting Title V Health Equity efforts. Nafla earned her Bachelors of Arts in Biology and Philosophy from Coe College, and her Masters of Public Health from the University of Minnesota. In her spare time she enjoys playing and watching sports, reading and playing with her two cats.



Nafla Poff



This document was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number CDC-RFA-CE 19-1905 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next Advisory Committee meeting will be July 20, 2022 – mark your calendars now!

If you know of upcoming meetings or conferences where the IAVDRS could present or display materials, please let us know! You can reach out to Lisa Roth lisa-m-roth@uiowa.edu or Nafla Poff nafla.poff@idph.iowa.gov and they will work to get something scheduled.

Partnering Together



<http://www.idph.iowa.gov>

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



<https://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/iprc/>



IAVDRS
IOWA VIOLENT DEATH
REPORTING SYSTEM

IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

Office of Disability, Injury & Violence Prevention
Iowa Department of Public Health

515-322-6918

<https://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/iavdrs>