

Iowa Violent Death Reporting System Data Book

2016-2024

A Resource for Injury and Violence Prevention Planning



Health and
Human Services



Injury Prevention
Research Center

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Introduction

The Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS) is part of the CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), a state-based surveillance system. IAVDRS collects and links information from multiple data sources including death certificates, coroner and medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to provide a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths in Iowa.

This data book provides an overview of selected variables available through IAVDRS and is intended to help potential data users identify information that may support injury and violence prevention planning, research, and program development. It is designed as a reference tool to help users understand the types of information available through IAVDRS and identify variables that may be useful for future data requests.

Each section provides a snapshot of the information available for that topic area and illustrates the wide range of data collected by IAVDRS. Detailed analyses, customized data requests, and additional variables may be available upon request.

Demographics

Demographic information provides important context for understanding the characteristics of victims represented in the Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS). The system collects a range of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, including age, sex, race and ethnicity, military service, education, and other information about victims.

These data can help describe the populations affected by violent death and may support the identification of populations and communities that could benefit from targeted prevention efforts.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Sex of the Victim

IAVDRS variable: Sex

Sex	Number	Percent
Male	3,415	82.0
Female	752	18.0

Age of the Victim

IAVDRS variable: AgeYears_c

Age	Number	Percent
Under 25 years	633	15.2
25 - 44 years	1,481	35.5
45 - 64 years	1,340	32.2
65 years and older	713	17.1

Race of the Victim

IAVDRS variable: Race_c

Race	Number	Percent
White	3,898	93.5
Black or African American	125	3.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	22	0.5
Asian	53	1.3
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	0.2
Other or Unspecified	30	0.7
Two or more races	24	0.6
Unknown	6	0.1

DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity of the Victim

IAVDRS variable: *Ethnicity*

Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Not Hispanic	4,022	96.5
Hispanic	135	3.2
Unknown	10	0.2

Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces

IAVDRS variable: *Military*

Military Service	Number	Percent
No	3,486	83.7
Yes	629	15.1
Unknown	52	1.2

Educational Attainment

IAVDRS variable: *EducationLevel*

Education Level	Number	Percent
8th grade or less	124	3.0
9th-12th grade, no diploma	451	10.8
High school graduate or GED	2069	49.7
Some college, no degree	541	13.0
Associate's degree	338	8.1
Bachelor's degree	420	10.1
Master's degree	99	2.4
Doctorate or professional degree	63	1.5
Unknown	62	1.5

DEMOGRAPHICS

Circumstance Information Available

IAVDRS variable: *CircumstancesKnown_c*

*Indicates whether circumstance information was available from the CME record or LE report

Circumstance Information	Number	Percent
Yes	3,991	95.8
No	176	4.2

Mental Health & Well-Being

Mental health and well-being information can provide important context for understanding circumstances surrounding violent deaths. This section includes selected variables related to mental health conditions, depression, and current or past mental health treatment, as well as alcohol and other substance use problems and related treatment. It also includes information related to previous suicide attempts, suicidal thoughts or plans, and recent disclosures of suicidal intent.

These data may help potential data users identify information relevant to suicide prevention, behavioral health initiatives, substance use prevention, and other efforts aimed at addressing factors associated with violent death.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Current Mental Health Problem

IAVDRS variable: *MentalHealthProblem_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	2,376	57.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	1,791	43.0

Mental Health Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisMentalHealth_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	444	10.7
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,723	89.3

Depressed Mood

IAVDRS variable: *DepressedMood_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1,867	44.8
No, Not Available, or Unknown	2,300	55.2

Current Mental Health or Substance Use Treatment

IAVDRS variable: *MentalIllnessTreatmentCurrnt_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1,277	30.6
No, Not Available, or Unknown	2,890	69.4

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

History of Mental Health or Substance Use Treatment

IAVDRS variable: HistoryMentalIllnessTreatment_c

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1,750	42.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	2,417	58.0

Alcohol Problem

IAVDRS variable: AlcoholProblem_c

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	897	21.5
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,270	78.5

Alcohol Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: CrisisAlcoholProblem_c

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	162	3.9
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,005	96.1

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Non-Alcohol Substance Use Problem

IAVDRS variable: *SubstanceAbuseOther_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	793	19.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,374	81.0

Substance Use Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisSubstanceAbuse_c*

*Added July 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	109	2.6
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,058	97.4

Other Addiction

IAVDRS variable: *OtherAddiction_c*

*Added 2009

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	15	0.4
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,152	99.6

Other Addiction Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisOtherAddiction_c*

*Added July 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	2	0.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,165	100.0

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

History of Suicide Attempt

IAVDRS variable: *SuicideAttemptHistory_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	962	23.1
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,205	76.9

History of Suicidal Thoughts or Plans

IAVDRS variable: *SuicideThoughtHistory_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1,774	42.6
No, Not Available, or Unknown	2,393	57.4

Recent Disclosure of Suicidal Intent

IAVDRS variable: *SuicideIntentDisclosed_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1,271	30.5
No, Not Available, or Unknown	2,896	69.5

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

RECIPIENT OR METHOD OF RECENT DISCLOSURE

Disclosure to an Intimate Partner

IAVDRS variable: *DisclosedToIntimatePartner_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	524	12.6
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,643	87.4

Disclosure to a Family Member

IAVDRS variable: *DisclosedToOtherFamilyMember_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	373	9.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,794	91.0

Disclosure to a Health Care Worker

IAVDRS variable: *DisclosedToHealthCareWorker_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	54	1.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,113	98.7

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

RECIPIENT OR METHOD OF RECENT DISCLOSURE

Disclosure to a Friend or Colleague

IAVDRS variable: *DisclosedToFriend_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	209	5.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,958	95.0

Disclosure to a Neighbor

IAVDRS variable: *DisclosedToNeighbor_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	14	0.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,153	99.7

Disclosure to an Unknown Person

IAVDRS variable: *DisclosedToUnknown_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	98	2.4
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,069	97.6

Disclosure via Social Media or Electronic Means

IAVDRS variable: *DisclosedToSocialMedia_c*

*Added November 2020

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	36	0.9
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,131	99.1

Interpersonal Conflicts

Relationships and interpersonal interactions can provide important context for understanding the circumstances surrounding a violent death. This section includes information about problems involving current or former intimate partners, family members, friends, and other associates. It also includes circumstances involving arguments or conflicts and jealousy.

These data may help potential data users examine patterns of interpersonal conflict and identify information relevant to violence prevention, relationship-focused interventions, and other prevention strategies.

INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS

Intimate Partner Problem

IAVDRS variable: *IntimatePartnerProblem_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1,347	32.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	2,820	67.7

Intimate Partner Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisIntimatePartnerProblem_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	600	14.4
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,567	85.6

Family Relationship Problem

IAVDRS variable: *FamilyRelationship_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	430	10.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,737	89.7

Family Relationship Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisFamilyRelationship_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	96	2.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,071	97.7

INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS

Friend or Associate Relationship Problem

IAVDRS variable: *RelationshipProblemOther_c*

*Updated August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	128	3.1
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,039	96.9

Other Relationship Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisRelationshipProblemOth_c*

*Added July 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	36	0.9
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,131	99.1

Argument or Conflict

IAVDRS variable: *Argument_c*

*Modified August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	847	20.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,320	79.7

Jealousy-Related Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisJealousy_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,167	100.0

Criminal & Legal Circumstances

Criminal and legal circumstances can provide context about events and problems associated with violent deaths. This section includes information about deaths precipitated by other serious crimes, criminal legal problems, stalking, prostitution-related activities, and civil or legal problems. The data also identify whether certain criminal or legal circumstances were considered a crisis.

These data may help potential data users better understand the role of criminal and legal circumstances in violent death and identify information relevant to violence prevention, community safety, and related prevention efforts.

CRIMINAL & LEGAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Death Precipitated by Another Serious Crime

IAVDRS variable: *PrecipitatedbyOtherCrime_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	113	0.5
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,054	97.3

Precipitating Crime in Progress

IAVDRS variable: *OtherCrimeInProgress_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	19	0.5
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,148	99.5

Stalking Precipitated the Incident

IAVDRS variable: *Stalking_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	3	0.1
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,164	99.9

Stalking Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisStalking_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1	0.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,166	100.0

CRIMINAL & LEGAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Prostitution-Related Activity Precipitated the Incident

IAVDRS variable: *Prostitution_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	1	0.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,166	100.0

Prostitution Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisProstitution_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,167	100.0

Criminal Legal Problem

IAVDRS variable: *RecentCriminalLegalProblem_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	384	9.2
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,783	90.8

Criminal Legal Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisCriminal_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	177	4.2
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,990	95.8

CRIMINAL & LEGAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Civil Legal Problem

IAVDRS variable: *LegalProblemOther_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	178	4.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,989	95.7

Civil Legal Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisCivilLegal_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	63	1.5
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,104	98.5

Other Circumstances

Violent deaths may occur in the context of a range of circumstances that extend beyond demographic, mental health, relationship, or criminal and legal factors. This section includes selected information about disaster exposure, physical health problems, employment/financial problems, school-related problems, housing loss, recent deaths of family members or friends, traumatic events, and prior interpersonal violence.

These data provide additional context about circumstances surrounding violent deaths and may help potential data users identify areas for further research, community assessment, and injury and violence prevention planning.

DISASTER & PHYSICAL HEALTH

Disaster Exposure

IAVDRS variable: *DisasterExposure_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	86	2.1
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,081	97.9

Disaster Exposure Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisDisasterExposure_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	38	0.9
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,129	99.1

Physical Health Problem

IAVDRS variable: *PhysicalHealthProblem_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	800	19.2
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,367	80.8

Physical Health Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisPhysicalHealth_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	333	8.0
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,834	92.0

EMPLOYMENT & FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Job Problem

IAVDRS variable: *JobProblem_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	400	9.6
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,767	90.4

Job Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisJob_c*

*Added July 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	113	2.7
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,054	97.3

Financial Problem

IAVDRS variable: *FinancialProblem_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	358	8.6
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,809	91.4

Financial Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisFinancial_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	94	2.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,073	97.7

SCHOOL & HOUSING PROBLEMS

School-Related Problem

IAVDRS variable: *SchoolProblem_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	75	1.8
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,092	98.2

School-Related Problem Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisSchool_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	18	0.4
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,149	99.6

Eviction or Loss of Housing

IAVDRS variable: *EvictionOrLossOfHome_c*

*Added in 2009

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	119	2.9
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,048	97.1

Eviction or Loss of Housing Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisEviction_c*

*Added July 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	32	0.8
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,135	99.2

DEATH OF FAMILY OR FRIEND

Suicide of a Family Member or Friend

IAVDRS variable: *RecentSuicideFriendFamily_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	98	2.4
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,069	97.6

Suicide of a Family Member or Friend Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisRecSuicideFriendFamily_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	20	0.5
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,147	99.5

Non-Suicide Death of a Family Member or Friend

IAVDRS variable: *DeathFriendOrFamilyOther_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	284	6.8
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,883	93.2

Non-Suicide Death of a Family Member or Friend Identified as a Crisis

IAVDRS variable: *CrisisDeathFriendOrFamilyOth_c*

*Added August 2013

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	97	2.3
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,070	97.7

TRAUMA & PRIOR VIOLENCE

Anniversary of a Traumatic Event

IAVDRS variable: *TraumaticAnniversary_c*

*Added in 2009

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	39	0.9
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,128	99.1

Perpetrated Interpersonal Violence in the Past Month

IAVDRS variable: *InterpersonalViolencePerp_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	169	4.1
No, Not Available, or Unknown	3,998	95.9

Experienced Interpersonal Violence in the Past Month

IAVDRS variable: *InterpersonalViolenceVictim_c*

Circumstance	Number	Percent
Yes	39	0.9
No, Not Available, or Unknown	4,128	99.1