

KY Violent Death Reporting System (KVDRS)

Coordinator:

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State Website: <https://kiprc.uky.edu/programs/kentucky-violent-death-reporting-system>

Why is it used?

- Used in peer-review publications, reports, briefs for advocacy groups, preventing suicide, intimate partner violence, veteran suicide, child abuse and responding to media requests.
- Used to develop proposals for National Institute of Health funding and National Institute of Justice funding.

What data is collected?

In the past, information related to homicides, suicides, and firearm-related deaths has been inaccessible and unreliable but by integrating multiple data sources to form the KVDRS, the following information can be compiled and analyzed:

- Information related to homicides, suicides and firearm-related deaths.
- Death certificates, coroner and medical examiner reports, forensic crime laboratory and toxicology reports and Kentucky State Police reports.

How is data collected?

- Electronic Death Certificates are imported into an internal database, linked with other investigative reporting sources, which are primarily manually abstracted, and hand entered.
- Data is then imported into the National Violent Death Reporting System, housed at the CDC.
- PII is removed before the national import.

Data Strengths:

- The Coroner Investigation Reporting System (CIRS) was designed, developed, and distributed to improve coroner reporting.
- CIRS is expanding to the Death Scene Investigation (DSI) system with users being any death investigator.

Data Limitations:

- Only deaths occurring in Kentucky are included.
 - Deaths of Kentucky residents that occur out-of-state are not included.
- Reporting may differ from the Office of Vital Statistics and the National Center for Health Statistics, who report on Kentucky residents regardless of where the death occurred.



How is the system evaluated?

- Data collection is routinely monitored utilizing CDC-developed quality control standards.
- Evaluation of quality is determined through monthly and annual reports of these performance standards.

Data Set Availability:

- Data set includes over 600 variables and circumstantial data such as events leading to the violent death, demographics and information about the weapon.
- National data are also available following the approval of a data sharing agreement (DSA) with the CDC.
- Data with cell counts less than five will be reported as <5. Average yearly sample size is 1000 - 1300.
- Smallest geographic level released is the county.

Data Release Policy:

Statewide and county-level aggregate summary data can be provided upon request through the website listed at the top of this section. If you would like to request data, please provide the following information:

- Name and organization.
- Intended use of the data.
- What years of data are needed.
- Geographic level needed.
- It is not necessary, but we would greatly appreciate a return email specifying in what capacity the data was used such as a citation from a presentation, grant application, or report.

Data Publications

- For a full list of publications, visit the state website listed at the top of this section.

Suggested Citation:

Brown SV, Seals J. Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, a bona fide agent for the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Kentucky Violent Death Reporting System Data. Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky, College of Public Health, [data year].

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