The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) sponsored by the CDC, is a state-based violent death surveillance system conducted by health departments in 50 states. Rhode Island has participated in NVDRS since 2003 with data collection beginning in 2004. The goals of RIVDRS are to collect timely, accurate, and comprehensive surveillance data on all violent deaths using web-based data entry system and guidelines provided by the CDC, and to disseminate data to the public and stakeholders to develop prevention strategies and reduce violent deaths in their communities (Figure 1).

RIVDRS NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined Cause</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATA ELEMENTS

- Manner
- Mechanism
- Location
- Toxicology
- Mental and Physical Health
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Sexual Preference

The data are collected and stored in a nested manner. Analyses and data linking must consider this three-level hierarchy structure (Figure 2).

RIVDRS can be analyzed on the incident, the victim or the suspect level.

DATA STRUCTURE

DATA SOURCES

- Required Primary Sources:
  - Death certificates
  - Medical Examiner records
  - Law enforcement reports
  - Data abstractor input

- Secondary or Optional Sources:
  - State Crime Laboratory
  - National Incident-Based Reporting System
  - Child Death Review Team data

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RIVDRS is funded through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant (U17CE002615) awarded to the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis. We would also like to thank staff at the Center for Vital Records, Office of State Medical Examiners, the Rhode Island State Police, local law enforcement agencies, and the State Crime Laboratory for their participation and data.

Table 1. Rhode Island Violent Deaths Under Surveillance, 2017-2019

![Figure 1. RIVDRS Data Flow](image1.png)

![Figure 2. Nested Structure of NVDRS Web Export Files](image2.png)

![Figure 3. Death Manner by Incident Year, Rhode Island 2004-2019](image3.png)