



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

Partnering Together



Promoting and Protecting
the Health of Iowans

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



IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

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

515.281.5032

<http://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/violent-death-reporting>

Summer 2016 Update

IDPH and the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center have been working to get our surveillance system up and running since last year.

Beginning in May 2015, we began receiving death certificate data from the IDPH Office of Vital Statistics for violent deaths from the largest Iowa counties. During the latter part of 2015, most data-sharing agreements had been signed with Medical Examiner offices and we began receiving those records. We began requesting law enforcement records in spring 2016 and are still getting procedures in place with the different jurisdictions.

In January 2016, the IAVDRS began collecting data on **all** violent deaths in Iowa, not just from the largest counties.

Status of Data Collection & Reporting

Our program abstractor receives all of the data on cases and is responsible to abstract the required elements for the system. Iowa is able to upload death certificate data directly due to our electronic death records system. Medical examiner, toxicology and law enforcement reports are all entered individually by our abstractor.

CDC holds Iowa accountable for the time period within which a case is initiated and closed within the national system. Here is a snapshot of where we stand as of June 30, 2016:

- For CY2015, there are 270 cases entered into the system. Of them, we have 86% of ME records completed and 2% of LE records completed.
- For CY2016, there are 136 cases entered in the system to date. Of them, we have 63% of ME records completed and 0% of LE records completed.

Our Staff

There are three staff working on the Iowa VDRS team – get to know them!

Binnie LeHew is the project director and is housed at the Iowa Dept. of Public Health. She has been at IDPH for 18 years, and also coordinates Iowa's violence and injury prevention program. Binnie also staffs the Iowa Domestic Abuse Death Review Team. You can reach her at 515-281-5032 or vivian.lehew@idph.iowa.gov.

Lisa Roth is the project coordinator and is also the Deputy Director of the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center (IPRC). Lisa has been at the IPRC for 3 years and manages several other projects. She is married to the Police Chief of Clear Lake, Pete Roth. You can reach her at 319-359-9444 or lisa-m-roth@uiowa.edu.

Marlene Callahan is our full-time abstractor and works for the IPRC. She has been with the project since November 2015 and has a background in health records abstracting. She can be reached at marlene-callahan@uiowa.edu.

Tracy Young is our part-time epidemiologist and works for the IPRC. She assists with data uploading and will do data analysis for our reports. She can be reached at tracy-young@uiowa.edu.

Members of the Advisory Committee

The program is guided by an advisory committee that consists of data providers and data users. These are some organizations represented on Iowa's Committee:

- Iowa Department of Public Health
- U. of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center
- Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Investigation
- Office of the State Medical Examiner
- Johnson and Polk County Medical Examiners
- Iowa State Sheriffs and Deputies Association