What is the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)?
NVDRS is an incident-based surveillance system which collects comprehensive variables surrounding violent death. NVDRS combines data from death certificates and coroner and law enforcement reports into one comprehensive reporting system.

What is considered a violent death?
For inclusion in NVDRS, a violent death is defined as a death which results from the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or a group or community.

Violent deaths include:
- Homicides
- Suicides
- Deaths due to legal intervention
- Undetermined intent
- Unintentional firearm-related deaths

Child Fatality Review
NVDRS will capture violent death incidents involving children by utilizing and enhancing the work done through Child Fatality Review. From 1999-2013 in Indiana, there were 1,212 violent deaths among children under the age of 18.

What Information is collected?
NVDRS will help understand the circumstances surrounding violent death in Indiana. Data elements include information on the following, when applicable:
- Demographics of victim
- Demographics of suspect
- Toxicology
- Weapon(s)
- Circumstances of death
- Relationship between the victim and suspect(s)

Data sources
NVDRS uses multiple data sources, including death certificates, coroner reports, local and state police reports, and crime lab reports in creating its incident records.

Information about the circumstances associated with violent death is a particularly unique and important feature of NVDRS, since it helps identify specific risk factors leading to violence, which can help us better understand how to curb it.

Translating data into action
The data will be used to:
- Inform communities of their specific problems and suggest possible intervention opportunities
- Assist local violence prevention programs in obtaining state and federal funding by demonstrating need
- Inform data providers, such as police departments and coroner’s offices, on their data quality and timeliness
- Guide and target violence prevention programs, policies, and practices
- Support planning and implementation of these programs, policies, and practices and monitor and evaluate prevention efforts
Violent deaths in Indiana (2010-2013)
- 3,625 Hoosiers died by suicide, approximately 906 deaths a year.
- 1,366 Hoosiers died by homicide.
- Suicides occur almost three times as often as homicides.
- Indiana’s suicide and homicide rates exceed the national rates.

Violent deaths in the U.S. (2010-2013)
- Violent deaths accounted for about 244,000 deaths.
- For every 100,000 persons, 12.4 will die by suicide. This is over 39,000 individuals each year.
- For every 100,000 persons, 5.2 will die by homicide. This is over 16,000 individuals per year.