



Developing an IPV Module for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

RTI International has conducted research on crime, violence, justice systems, and behavioral health for over 30 years. Using rigorous multidisciplinary approaches, RTI research advances knowledge and informs policy, practice, and programs nationally and internationally.

Professional backgrounds of RTI researchers span a wide variety of disciplines including criminology, economics, law, psychology, public health, and sociology. Crime, violence, and justice staff are located in RTI's main office in Research Triangle Park, NC, and in offices throughout the United States. RTI maintains a presence in Washington, DC, for consultation on crime, violence, justice, and behavioral health topics.

Overview

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health problem in the United States. Past research shows that 25% of women and nearly 8% of men have been the victim of an intimate partner physical assault or rape in their lifetime. The threat of IPV is especially serious for women, as nearly one in three homicides of women is committed by an intimate partner. Despite the profound negative effects of IPV, valid, reliable, and detailed IPV surveillance data are lacking—a key concern for federal, state, and local stakeholders.

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) provides a strategic approach to understanding the scope and characteristics of violent deaths, including homicide, suicide, legal intervention, and accidental shootings. Currently implemented in 17 states, the reporting system collects data on violent deaths from death certificates, law enforcement reports, medical examiner and coroner office reports, and crime laboratories. Yet the NVDRS does not systematically collect many data elements specific to IPV. If more detailed IPV data could be collected from available data sources such as law enforcement records, the NVDRS could provide truly unique information on deaths related to IPV.



Approach

The **IPV Data Module Development** project, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, represents an important opportunity to enhance our understanding of IPV-related violent deaths. The central objective of this project is to ensure that the resulting module produces attainable, useful, and practical data elements on deaths committed by an intimate partner. A secondary goal of the project is to develop an improved understanding of the forensic data already collected as part of the NVDRS, by determining how data reporting by forensic laboratories on the victims' substance and alcohol use should be interpreted by and standardized by users of the NVDRS. The development of a uniform and detailed data collection on IPV-related deaths can increase our awareness and understanding of these events, which in turn can lead to increased opportunities for intervention and prevention.

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