Establishing the Arizona Violent Death Reporting System (Az-VDRS)

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Agenda

- Introductions
- National perspective
- Purpose of NVDRS
- Local perspective
- Next steps
NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
History of NVDRS

1999: Institute of Medicine report cited need for a national fatal intentional injury surveillance system

2000: National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS) piloted at 12 sites, mostly universities

2000: Meeting with Harvard and the Joyce Foundation to suggest that CDC direct a publicly funded system

2000: CDC begins planning

2002: First appropriation from Congress for NVDRS

2003: NVDRS data collection begins with six states

2004 - 2009: More states added

2014: Additional expansion to 32 states
Current NVDRS States (N=32)
Most Critical Output of FOA

- Establishing a surveillance system that collects high quality and comprehensive violent death information in a timely manner that complies with CDC guidelines
Create and Institute a Plan to Implement NVDRS

- Integrate with other required data sources (vital statistics, CMEs and LE)
- Revise plans based on partner feedback
- Form an advisory group that includes violence prevention groups
- Monitor and improve data collection
- Develop strong relationships with partners
- Make a data dissemination plan
PURPOSE OF THE NVDRS
Multiple and deep barriers to data sharing

**Causes**
- Lack of data centralization
- No infrastructure to formally share data
- Legal barriers to sharing data
- Lack of shared language

**Impacts**
- Researchers
- Public
- Partners
  - Law enforcement
  - Public health
  - Etc.
Partner uses

- Increase capacity
  - Partnerships: Formal mechanism to build partnerships across agencies/industries
  - Surveillance: Provides a common core of data to scan for and analyze problems
  - Education: Provides a platform for education (public, policymakers, etc.) on issues surrounding violence
  - Data driven planning & resource allocation

- Increase accountability
  - Goal management
  - Evaluate impact of state and local policies
  - Evaluate impact of programs

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Exemplar: Milwaukie Homicide Review Commission

Purpose
- Understand homicide through strategic problem analysis
- Develop innovative responses and prevention strategies
- Focuses prevention and intervention resources

Structure
- Four paid staff
- Executive committee comprised of city, state, & community partners
- Grant funded, $350,000 annually

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Increases community capacity

- Media
  - Provide public with accurate information
  - Timely, accessible information about violence
- Non-profits
  - Outreach, grass roots programs, community coalitions
  - Education of stakeholders, policymakers, etc.
- Public health oriented organizations
  - Suicide prevention & intervention
    - Formal: county, state, municipal
    - Schools, university groups, GBLT groups, etc.
- Data inspired programming

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The special case of law enforcement

- Develop alternative responses to violence
  - Encourages police to evoke responses other than those based on the criminal law

- Evaluate the impact of programs
  - Platform for evaluating interdiction efforts
  - Trend analysis of violence

- Law Enforcement Intelligence
  - GIS/ crime mapping
  - Analysis of violence (victim/offender networks)
  - Causes and correlates

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Other potential applications of data

- General surveillance program
- Evaluate policies, legislation, and ordinances
- Special topic studies
  - Veterans
  - Native Americans
  - Gangs
LOCAL PERSPECTIVE
History of the NVDRS in AZ: In Brief

- **2009:**
  - Partnership between ASU and Injury Prevention & Child Fatality unit in the AZ Dept. of Health Services (ADHS)
  - Attended CDC reverse site visit meeting
  - ASU hired part-time program development officer

- **2010:**
  - Attended CDC reverse site visit meeting

- **2011:**
  - Attended CDC reverse site visit meeting
  - ASU development officer left for full time job

- **2012:**
  - Attended CDC reverse site visit meeting

- **2013**
  - Attended CDC reverse site visit meeting

- **2014**
  - Applied and received CDC funding

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Signed MOU’s in place

- **Death certificates:**
  - Arizona Department of Health Services (100%)

- **Medical examiners:**
  - Agencies representing 88% of violent deaths signed

- **Police reports:**
  - Agencies representing 68% of violent deaths signed

- **Other possibilities**
  - Crime lab reports
  - Child fatality review team data
  - Supplemental homicide report data
  - Hospital data
  - ATF trace data on guns
AZ-VDRS Expansion Activities Past Month

- Press release sent out
- Interviews with media conducted
- Content for website is currently being constructed
- Meeting with executive committee
- Human subjects protection approval

- Presentation to National Instant Background Check workgroup
- Hired Ph.D. student
- Hired lead abstractor
- Visit to Utah site
- Respond to comments
Executive Steering Committee meeting will be held quarterly
Advisory Board meetings will be held quarterly
Feedback reports issued quarterly
Next Steps

- Detailed list of additional partners
- Reverse Site visit to CDC, Atlanta, 12/2/14
- Web site to go live, 12/15/14
- Advisory Board meetings, 12/15/14
  - Existing partners (protocol for exchanging data developed)
  - New partners (recruitment)
- Marketing material, 12/30/14
- Protocol for data exchange established, 3/15/15
- Data tracking system established, 3/30/15
Signed MOU’s representing 90% of statewide violent deaths, 6/30/15
All training complete, 6/30/15
Initiation of data collection for 2015 violent deaths, 6/30/15
Data liaison contact information
Other sites that might be enthusiastic and interested
Methods and Types of Dissemination
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