arizona violent death
reporting system

The Arizona Violent Death Reporting System (AZ-VDRS) seeks to reduce the number of homicides and suicides in Arizona. With an understanding of the facts behind these occurrences we can start to gain insight into why they occur and help communities, policy makers and planners guide local decisions.

ASU® Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety at Arizona State University is implementing the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) on behalf of the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

One of 32 states to adopt this system, the AZ-VDRS program was established through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Arizona was identified as a critical state for participation due in part to its geographic importance as a U.S.-Mexico border state, the diversity of urban and rural communities, race and ethnic composition and its significant population growth.

By collecting comprehensive data on violent deaths in Arizona—death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement—CVPCS is leading a statewide surveillance system that will provide a more complete understanding of violent events. The data goes beyond a count of deaths. Information includes the entire violent incident which may have multiple victims or suspects, relationships between the people involved, historical facts and more. It is pooled in a secure, dark-net facility to build an anonymous database rich with information—one that goes beyond data collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting program and Supplemental Homicide Reports. State and local agencies use NVDRS information to guide prevention programs and practices.

56,000 violent deaths in the u.s. annually

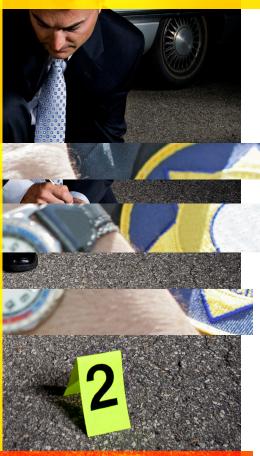## 17,000 deaths by homicide
39,000 deaths by suicide

$107 billion in medical care, lost productivity

The AZ-VDRS is a collaborative effort among a broad stakeholder group—state and county health officials, political leaders, police agencies, Native American communities, nonprofit service providers, and others who are interested in issues related to violent deaths, including suicide prevention, veterans, domestic violence.

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More information on the Centers for Disease Control's VDRS and what other states are doing can be found at

cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NVDRS

cvpcs.asu.edu/projects/az-vdrs