

NC-VDRS Codebook

Variable Name	Description
Location	
residencestate	Residential U.S. state or territory of victim
residencecounty	Residential county address of victim
injurycounty	County in which injury was inflicted
injurylocationtype	Type of location where the injury occurred
Year	
incidentyear	Year in which the incident occurred
Demographics	
sex	Biological sex of victim
Race	Race of Victim
ethnicity	Ethnicity of Victim
Race_eth	Race/Ethnicity of Victim
calcage	Age of the victim in years
educationlevel	Victim's educational level as measured by the highest degree attained
maritalstatuslabel	Marital status of the victim
militarylabel	Has the victim ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?
pregnant	Victim was pregnant or recently pregnant at the time of death
Manner	
deathmannerabstractorlabel	Manner of death based on abstractor review of all available data
Method	
NumberofWeapons	Number of weapons identified
weapontype1	Type of weapon or means used to inflict the fatal injury (1st weapon)
weapontype2	If second weapon is used: Type of weapon or means used to inflict the fatal injury
weapontype3	If a third weapon is used: Type of weapon or means used to inflict the fatal injury
firearmtype1	If weapon used was a firearm (weapontype=1), the specific type of firearm used to inflict injury
firearmtype2	If weapon used was a firearm: Specific type of second firearm used to inflict injury
firearmtype3	If weapon used was a firearm: Specific type of third firearm used to inflict injury
Circumstances	
tcircum	Circumstance information available for the violent death
Suicide Circumstances	
tmentah	Victim has history of ever being treated for a mental health or substance abuse problem either at the time of death or in the past.
tcmental	Victim has current diagnosed mental health problem. There does not need to be any indication that the mental health condition directly contributed to the death. Mental health problems include those disorders and syndromes listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) with the exception of alcohol and other substance dependence
tdepres	Victim was perceived by self or others to be depressed at the time of the injury. There does NOT need to be a clinical diagnosis and there does not need to be any indication that the depression directly contributed to the death.
tmentat	Victim currently in treatment for a mental health problem or substance abuse problem at the time of the injury.
tetohd	Victim was perceived by self or others to have a problem with, or to be addicted to, alcohol.
tsubstd	victim was perceived by self or others to have a problem with, or to be addicted to drugs other than alcohol.

totheraddict	victim was perceived by self or others to have an addiction not related to alcohol or other substance abuse such as gambling or sexual addictions, and there is some indication that this addiction may have contributed to the death.
tipp	At the time of the incident the victim was experiencing problems with a current or former intimate partner, such as a divorce, break-up, argument, jealousy, conflict, or discord, and this appears to have contributed to the death. (intimate partner is defined as a current or former girlfriend/boyfriend, dating partner, ongoing sexual partner, or spouse)
trelo	At the time of the incident the victim was experiencing a relationship problem with someone other than an intimate partner or other family member (e.g., a friend or schoolmate), and this appears to have contributed to the death.
tvperp	Victim was a perpetrator of violence (e.g., a robbery of a stranger or an assault in a bar) within the past month that was distinct and occurred before the violence that killed the victim.
tdof	Death of a family member or friend due to something other than suicide appears to have contributed to the death.
tsuicf	Suicide of a family member or friend appears to have contributed to the death. There is no time limit for when the suicide of the family or friend occurred, except that it occurred during the victim's lifetime and that it is noted to have contributed to the victim's death.
tvioipv	Victim experienced violence (e.g., a robbery targeting the victim or the victim is assaulted in a bar) in the past month that was distinct and occurred before the violence that killed the victim.
thistchild	The victim had a history of abuse (physical, sexual, or psychological) or neglect (physical, including medical/dental, emotional, or educational neglect; or exposure to violent environments or inadequate supervision) as a child
tanniversary	Incident occurred on or near the anniversary of a traumatic event in the victim's life and was perceived as a contributing factor.
thealth	Victim's physical health problem(s) appear to have contributed to the death
tjob	Job problem(s) appear to have contributed to the death
tlegalp	Criminal legal problems appear to have contributed to the death
tfinanc	Financial problems appear to have contributed to the death
tlegal	Civil legal (non-criminal) problems appear to have contributed to the death
teviction	A recent eviction or other loss of the victim's housing, or the threat of it, appears to have contributed to the death.
tschool	Problems at or related to school appear to have contributed to the death
tsuicn	Victim left a suicide note (or other recorded communication). Note can be written or electronic.
tsuicd	Victim disclosed to another person their thoughts and/or plans to commit suicide within the last month. Disclosure of suicidal thoughts or plan can be verbal, written or electronic
tsuich	Victim has a history of attempting suicide before the fatal incident
tsuict	Victim had a history of suicidal thoughts or plans. Disclosure of suicidal thoughts or plan can be verbal, written or electronic
tdisaster	Exposure to a disaster was perceived as a contributing factor in incident
tcrisis	Victim experienced a crisis within two weeks of the incident, or a crisis was imminent within two weeks of the incident that was not associated with another circumstance variable
tselfdef	Victim was attempting to defend him or herself with a gun and inadvertently shot him or herself.
tfamily	Victim had relationship problems with a family member (other than an intimate partner) that appear to have contributed to the death

Homicide Circumstances	
targue	There was an argument or conflict that led to the victim's death
tcrime	The death was precipitated by another serious crime (e.g., drug dealing, robbery)
tdrug	Drug dealing, drug trade, or drug use is suspected to have played a role in precipitating the incident
tipv	homicide or legal intervention is related to immediate or ongoing conflict or violence between current or former intimate partners. This includes all deaths where a victim is killed by their current or former intimate partner.
tjealous	jealousy or distress over a current or former intimate partner's relationship or suspected relationship with another person led to the incident
tgang	The incident is classified as gang motivated (i.e., motive of the incident was gangrelated) or had suspected involvement of a gang member
tbrawl	Immediately before the violent death, there was a mutual physical fight between three or more individuals which resulted in the death of individuals involved in the fight or, bystanders or individuals trying to stop the argument
tmercy	Victim was killed, at the victim's request, out of compassion in order to end his or her pain or distress
tweapon	The victim used a weapon during the course of the incident
tbystander	The victim was a bystander and not directly involved in the incident (e.g., pedestrian walking past a gang fight, customer in a convenience store at the time of a robbery, or victim struck by stray bullet)
tselfd	The homicide was committed by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty or was committed by a civilian in legitimate self-defense or in defense of others.
tassist	An intervener other than a law enforcement officer was killed while assisting a crime victim
thate	The homicide was associated with a hate crime
tfight	Immediately before the violent death, there was a physical fight between two people which resulted in the death of individuals involved in the fight, bystanders, or individuals trying to stop the fight
deathabuse	The victim experienced abuse (physical, sexual, or psychological) or neglect (physical, including medical/dental, emotional, or educational neglect; or exposure to violent environments or inadequate supervision) by a caretaker that resulted in death
trandom	The victim was killed by a random act of violence
twalk	A targeted attack, such as an ambush, where the suspect(s) approached and fled on foot
driveby	Victim was killed in shooting where the suspect or group of suspects drives near the victim or target and shoots while driving, or uses a car to approach and flee the scene of a homicide, but steps out of the car just long enough to use a weapo
tprost	Prostitution or prostitution-related activities played a precipitating role in the incident
tstalk	Stalking behaviors precipitated the violent incident.
tterror	The death resulted from a terrorist attack
tonduty	The victim was a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty
Unintentional Firearm Circumstances	
TGunTrigger	Shooter unintentionally pulled the trigger
TGunPlay	Shooter was playing with gun when it discharged
TGunUnload	Shooter was loading or unloading ammunition from the gun when it discharged.
TGunShowing	The shooter was showing the gun to another person when the gun discharged.
TGunTarget	The shooter was aiming for a target and unintentionally hit a person.
TDefect	Firearm discharged due to some defect or mechanical malfunction
TGunDrop	Gun was dropped and unintentionally discharged upon impact.

TClean	The shooter pulled the trigger or the gun otherwise discharged (e.g., bumped gun while cleaning) while cleaning, repairing, or assembling/disassembling the gun.
THunting	The shooter or victim was hunting or on a hunting trip.
TGunSafetyOn	Shooter thought the safety was on and the firearm would not discharge.
TRicochet	Bullet ricocheted off course from its intended target and struck the victim.
Tcelebrate	The shooter was firing the gun in a celebratory manner with no intention of threatening or endangering others (e.g., revelers on New Year's Eve shooting their guns in the air at midnight).
TGunMag	Shooter thought the gun was unloaded because the magazine was disengaged.
TGunOther	The shooting occurred during some context other than those described by the existing codes
TGunOther2	The shooting occurred as the result of a mechanism not already described by one of the existing codes.
TGunToy	Gun was mistaken for a toy and discharged during handling/play
TGunHolster	Firearm discharged while it was being placed in or removed from its holster or clothing
TGunUnloadedOthr	Shooter thought the gun was unloaded for a reason other than the magazine being disengaged, or for an unspecified reason
TGunSafety	Gun unintentionally discharged while the gun handler was attempting to open or close the lock.
TSelfDefense	Victim was attempting to defend him or herself with a gun and inadvertently shot him or herself.
Precipitating Crimes	
TypeFCrimeA	Nature of the first crime that precipitated the incident (Applies only to crime-related deaths)
TypeSCrimeA	Nature of the second crime that precipitated the incident (Applies only to crime-related deaths with more than one precipitating crime)
Suspect Information	
NumberOfSuspects	Total number of suspects identified
victimsuspect1relationship1	Description of the primary relationship of the victim to the first suspect
victimsuspect1relationship2	Description of the secondary relationship of the victim to the first suspect
victimsuspect2relationship1	Description of the primary relationship of the victim to the second suspect (if second suspect was identified)
victimsuspect2relationship2	Description of the secondary relationship of the victim to the second suspect (if second suspect was identified)
Toxicology	
AlcoholTested	Tested for alcohol
AlcoholResult	Alcohol results summary
AmphetamineTested	Tested for amphetamine
AmphetamineResult	Amphetamine results summary
AntiDepressantTESTED	Tested for antidepressants
AntiDepressantResult	antidepressant results summary
CocaineTested	Tested for cocaine
CocaineResult	cocaine results summary
MarijuanaTested	Tested for marijuana
MarijuanaResult	marijuana results summary
OpiateTested	Tested for opiate
OpiateResult	opiate results summary
CarbonMonoxideTested	Tested for carbon monoxide
CarbonMonoxideResult	carbon monoxide results summary
AnticonvulsantsTested	Tested for Anticonvulsants
AnticonvulsantsResult	anticonvulsants results summary

AntipsychoticTested	Tested for antipsychotics
AntipsychoticResult	antipsychotic results summary
BarbituratesTested	Tested for barbiturates
BarbituratesResult	barbiturates results summary
BenzodiazepinesTested	Tested for benzodiazepines
BenzodiazepinesResult	benzodiazepines results summary
MuscleRelaxentTested	Tested for muscle relaxent
MuscleRelaxentResult	muscle relaxent results summary