



*Finding ways to prevent violent deaths in Iowa
by understanding contributing circumstances*

Partnering Together



*Protecting and Improving
the Health of Iowans*

<http://www.idph.iowa.gov>



<https://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/iprc/>

IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

Office of Disability, Injury &
Violence Prevention
Iowa Department of Public Health

515.281.5032

<https://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/iavdrs>

Fall 2017 Update

Status of Data Collection & Reporting

- For CY2016, there are 619 cases entered in the database. This is the first year we captured data on violent deaths across the whole state. Of them, death certificate data is 96% complete; ME records are 90% complete, and LE records are 37% complete.
- There are 503 cases identified for CY2017 deaths to date.
- Death certificate data is uploaded monthly from IDPH Vital Records, and we receive ME records electronically from the IOSME usually within 1-2 months of the death. Early in 2018, we expect to receive ME records directly from Polk Co. ME and Johnson Co. ME for the cases they autopsy and investigate.
- At the October Advisory Committee meeting, we presented some data on undetermined deaths (2015-2017; n=98). Of those with known substance information, the top five substances included:
 - anti-depressants (34.7%)
 - benzodiazepines (32.9%)
 - opiates (31.2%)
 - amphetamines (24.1%)
 - alcohol (24.0%)Some of these deaths included more than one substance.

Program Updates

- Program staff exhibited at the 2017 IACME Fall Meeting and Education Expo in Coralville on September 22-23.
- The program webpage (<https://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/iavdrs>) is now live and includes information on our program, archived newsletters and special reports. Please visit!

- We finished a special report on suicide in September, using data from the 2015 deaths in Iowa. It is posted on the webpage.

Congratulations!!

At the October Advisory committee meetings, five law enforcement agencies were recognized for their timeliness responding to records requests from the program. The following agencies provided records within two days of the request:

- Council Bluffs Police Department
- Davenport Police Department
- Linn County Sheriffs Office
- Polk County Sheriffs Office
- Sioux City Police Department

We thank you for your diligent responses and support for the program!!

Staff Changes

Binnie LeHew will be retiring from her position at the State of Iowa at the end of December. She has been with IDPH for over 20 years, working in the field of violence prevention. There will be someone assigned to manage the program until her position can be filled. Stay tuned for more information in the coming month. In the meantime, please reach out to Lisa Roth (lisa-m-roth@uiowa.edu) or Marlene Callahan (marlene-callahan@uiowa.edu) for any questions or concerns!

Upcoming Events

12/4 – 12/5/17 Staff will exhibit at the 2017 ISSDA Winter School in Des Moines. Please come visit our booth!

4/10 – 4/11/18 IAVDRS will offer a presentation on the work of the program at the 2018 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health.