

Using the Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System Dashboard to Answer Your Questions and Inform Your Work



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Outline

- National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) Overview
- Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System (WVDRS) dashboard
- Interaction session: Data to Action Steps
 - Identify goal
 - Goal → question
 - Define Who, What, Where, When, Why, How
 - Brainstorm data strategy
 - Answer your question

NVDRS Overview

- Funded by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Violent death:
 - Suicide
 - Homicide
 - Undetermined intent
 - Legal intervention
 - Unintentional firearm
 - Terrorism-related

NVDRS Overview

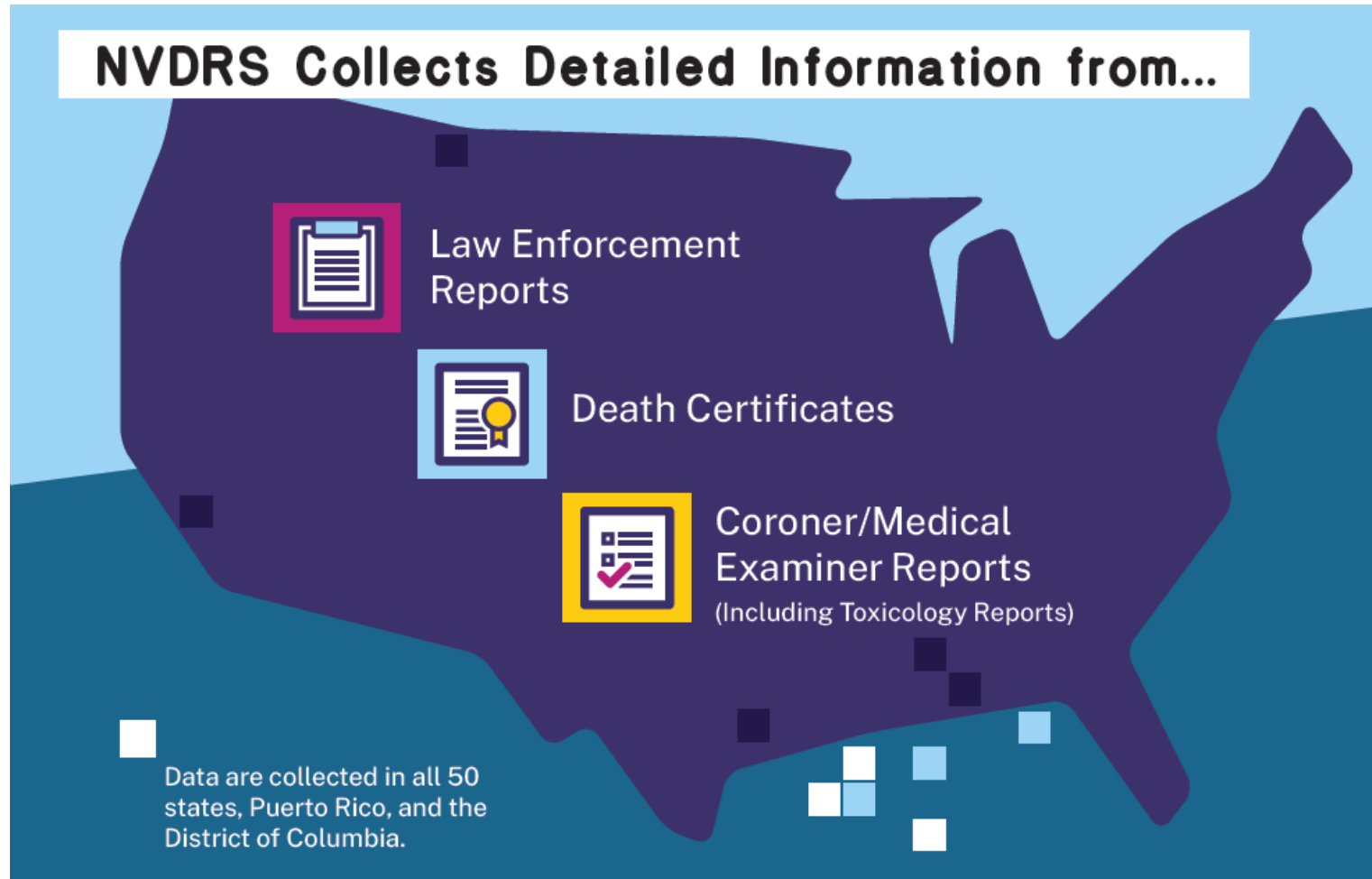


Figure 1: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NVDRS Overview

What KIND of Data Does NVDRS Collect?

NVDRS covers all types of violent deaths, in all settings, for all age groups. Over 600 data elements are captured, including:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Location of injury |  Mental health problems and treatment |
|  Characteristics of victim |  Intimate partner violence |
|  Relationship of victim to suspect |  Physical health problems |
|  Weapons used |  Relationship problems |
|  Toxicology reports |  Problems with job or finances |
|  Alcohol or substance abuse | |

Figure 2: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NVDRS Overview

- Circumstances of violent death
 - Suicide and Undetermined Intent
 - ◆ History of self-harm, suicidal thoughts or plans, or prior attempts
 - ◆ Recent legal, physical health, job, financial, school, housing problem?
 - Homicide and Legal Intervention
 - ◆ Intimate partner violence-related?
 - ◆ Drug Involvement? Gang-related?
 - Unintentional Firearm Death
 - ◆ Context of injury: hunting, playing with gun, cleaning, etc.
 - ◆ Mechanism of injury: Unintentionally pulled trigger, thought gun safety was engaged, thought gun was unloaded, etc.

WVDRS

- Part of NVDRS since 2004
- Decentralized, home rule state
- 72 counties
- 68 coroners and medical examiners
- Nearly 600 law enforcement agencies

Wisconsin Coroners and Medical Examiners June 2025

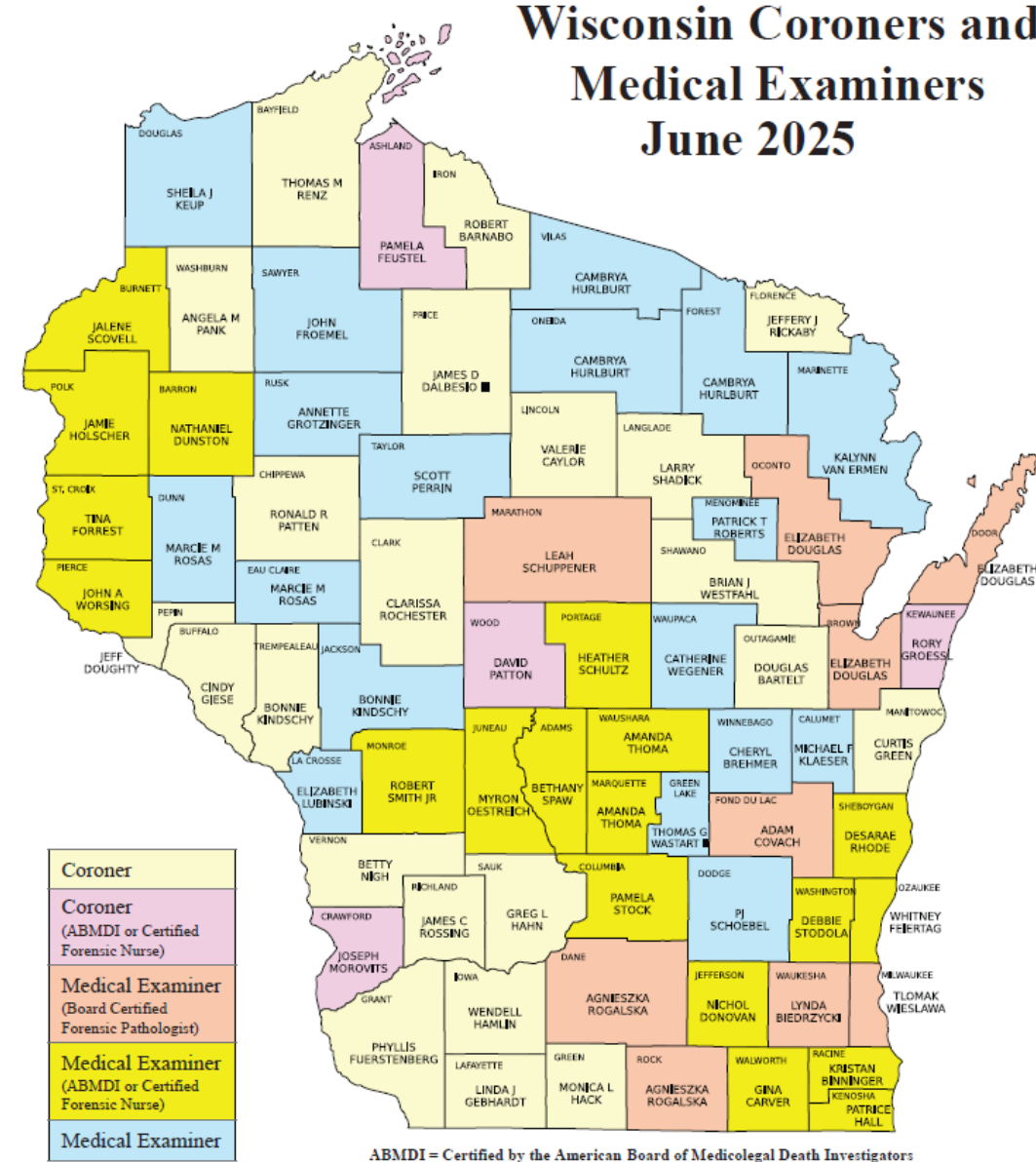


Figure 3: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

WVDRS

- Secured funding for dashboard from the Joyce Foundation in spring 2024
- Iterative development process—community feedback in December 2024
- [Dashboard](#) published late summer 2025

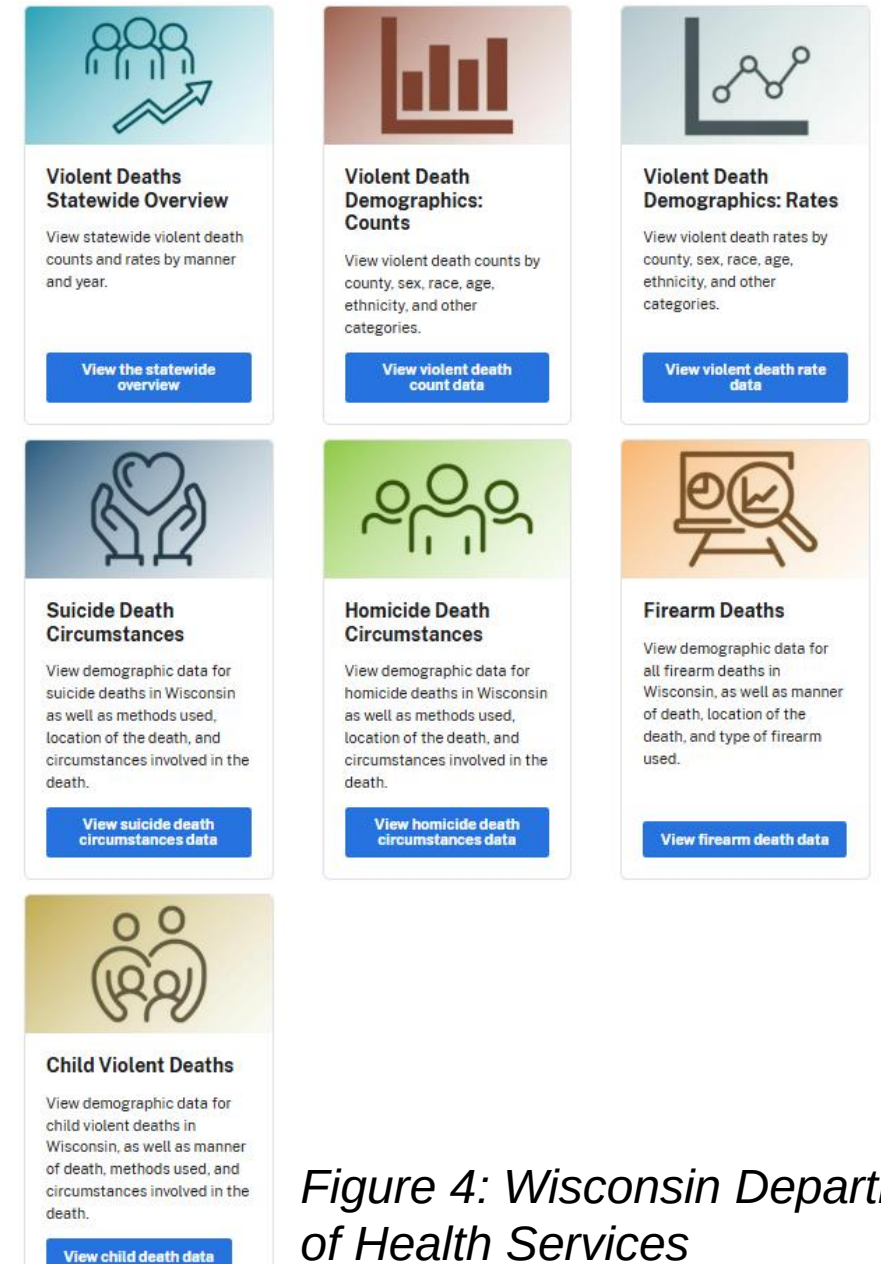
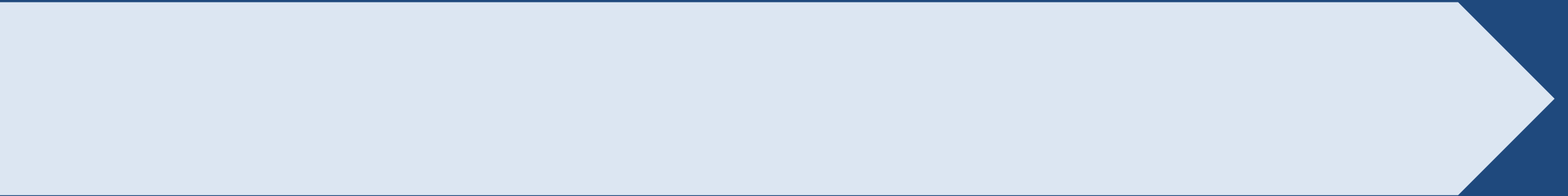


Figure 4: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

**Let's use the WVDRS dashboard to
answer your questions and inform your
work...**



Data → Action: Steps

1. Identify the goal.

Example:

I need to know where to direct our resources to prevent homicides of women in Wisconsin.

****Take a minute to identify your goals****

Data → Action: Steps

2. Convert your goal into a question or multiple questions.

Example:

Who is at increased risk for (female) homicide in Wisconsin?

What is happening before the (female) homicide occurs?

Where are the (female) homicides happening?

****Take a minute to turn your goal into a question****

Data → Action: Steps

3. Define the [who, what, where, when, why, how].

Example:

Who might mean: age group, race, ethnicity

What might mean: circumstances prior to the death

Where might mean: physical location of incident (that is,
house or apartment)

When might mean: 2023

****Take a minute to define the who, what, where****

Data → Action: Steps

4. If needed, break your question down further based on #3.

Example:

In 2023, what were the age groups, races, ethnicities of women who died by homicide in Wisconsin?

In 2023, what were the circumstances prior to homicides of women in Wisconsin?

In 2023, what was the physical location of the homicides of women in Wisconsin?

****Take a minute to break down your question further, if needed****

Data → Action: Steps

5. Brainstorm a data strategy.

Which data sources are most helpful? —WVDRS Homicide Death Circumstances dashboard

Which data elements in those data sources?—Incident year, Sex, Race, Ethnicity, Age range, Circumstances, Location type

What secondary questions arise?—By county? Method?

What are the gaps and caveats?—Wisconsin residents only; Timing of data release vs Need; Sources (CME and LE reports)

****Take a minute to brainstorm a data strategy****

6. Answer the question(s) **or** refine by repeating steps 4–6.

Other DHS Resources

- Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health
 - [Violent Deaths](#) (NVDRS data)
 - Injury-related Health Outcomes (non-fatal shootings)
 - ◆ [Injury-related emergency department visits](#)
 - ◆ [Injury-related hospitalizations](#)
 - Other health outcomes
- Data request—send to:
 - Send to dhsdphdataresourcecenter@dhs.wisconsin.gov
 - Send NVDRS requests to Lindsayr.Emer@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Questions?



Thank you!

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