

# Montana Violent Death Reporting System

## FACTS

- The CDC funds all 50 states through a grant to report violent deaths.
- The purpose of the grant is to create & implement a plan to collect accurate, timely, and comprehensive surveillance data on violent deaths in Montana using CDC guidelines and web-based data entry system
- The grant will be administered by DPHHS: EMS and Trauma Systems
- Montana will receive \$203,175.00 for the next year for this project.
- Data will be disseminated to stakeholders and partners to develop prevention programs and strategies.

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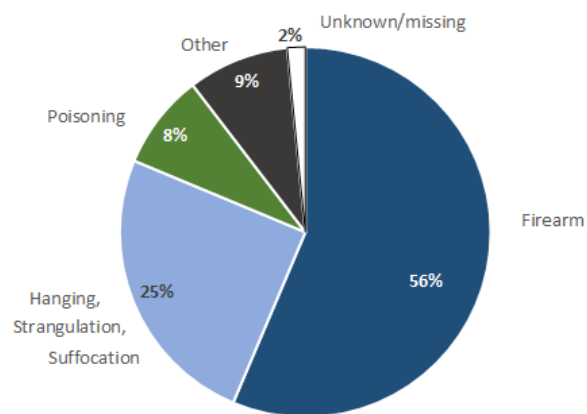
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## MONTANA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM (MT-VDRS) FOCUS AREAS

- Violent death is a major public health concern across the United States, including Montana. Montana has approximately 350 violent deaths each year; the majority of which are suicides. For nearly 40 years, Montana's suicide rate has been among the highest nationwide, consistently ranking within the top five.<sup>1</sup>
- The Montana Violent Death Reporting System (MT-VDRS) captures information such as mental health treatment status, physical and mental health problems and diagnoses, employment and financial status, relationship and emotional crisis, legal issues, and toxicological results of alcohol, antidepressants, and other drugs at the time of death. The data provides information on an individual's condition and mental state at death. It also provides a better understanding of the personal and environment characteristics in order to develop and implement prevention programs.
- MT- VDRS gathers unidentifiable data from death certificates, law enforcement records, medical examiner reports, and coroner reports into one central web-based registry in order to better understand the circumstances of violent deaths, including homicides, suicides, undetermined intent deaths, and unintentional firearm deaths.
- With the data collected, MT-VDRS aids in prevention efforts, decision making, and provides understanding of violent death in Montana. Prior to funding of the MT-VDRS, single data sources provided limited information from which to understand patterns and the circumstances surrounding violent deaths. These efforts aid in creating prevention strategies in Montana to help save lives.

The figure below is an example of the data MT-VDRS collects and distributes. The figure represents the method of injury among Violent Deaths in Montana during 2019.<sup>3</sup>



## RESOURCES

- <sup>1</sup> Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. 2019 Suicide Mortality Review Team Report. Helena; 2019.
- <sup>2</sup> Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Office of Vital Statistics, 2011-2019. CDC website—<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/index.html>
- <sup>3</sup> Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. 2019 Montana Violent Death Reporting System Annual Report. Helena; 2019.