



Partnering Together



*Promoting and Protecting
the Health of Iowans*

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



IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

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

515.281.5032

<http://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/violent-death-reporting>

Winter/Spring 2017 Update

Thanks to everyone who participated in the December IAVDRS Advisory Committee Meeting.

Status of Data Collection & Reporting

Beginning in January 2017, cases must be initiated within four months (reduced from 6 months of the date of death).

Here's where we currently stand:

- For CY2015, our Death Certificate data is 100% complete, ME reports are 95% complete and LE reports are 78% complete. We only have a few months left to close out our data for 2015, so we will be making a big push to obtain the remaining LE records we need from Iowa's 7 largest counties. Special thanks to Altoona PD and Linn Co SO for providing LE reports within hours of the request!
- For CY2016, we expanded data collection to all violent deaths in Iowa. By early March, there are 585 cases entered in the database. Of them, death certificate data is 85% complete; ME records are 77% complete, and we are now requesting LE reports.
- CY2017 cases have started rolling in already. There are 22 cases we have received so far. Our death certificates are received monthly from IDPH Vital Records, which allows us to upload them within 1 – 2 months after the death. The Iowa State Medical Examiner is now sending all ME records electronically, decreasing the amount of time to initiate those data elements. We are so grateful to our colleagues in IDPH Vital Records and the IOSME for their strong support of the IA VDRS.

Once the 2015 cases are "closed", we will be ready to begin analysis of the data and hope to release some brief reports in Fall 2017.

Spotlight on Staff



Marlene Callahan is our Data Abstractor and has been with the NVDRS program since November 2015. Marlene is a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) and has an extensive background in records management, HIPAA privacy laws and medical coding. She requests and tracks the receipt of all information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement records, then abstracts and enters the information into the CDC database. We hope to be able to provide some additional abstracting support for her later this spring. Marlene works from home in Marion, IA and her favorite hobby is genealogy research. She can be reached at marlene-callahan@uiowa.edu.

Upcoming Events

4/5/2017 – IAVDRS Advisory Committee
11:30 am - 2:30 pm at the Altoona City Fire Department.

5/16-5/18/2017 – Staff will attend the CDC Reverse Site Visit in New Orleans, LA (All VDRS state programs will attend)

5/24/2017 – LECC 31st Annual Conference
7:30 am - 5:00pm at the Coralville Marriott IAVDRS will have an exhibit in the vendor hall – come visit us!

IAVDRS staff will attend regional LEIN meetings around the state over the coming months to introduce themselves.