

ARIZONA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

What is the AZ-VDRS?

The **Arizona Violent Death Reporting System (AZ-VDRS)** is part of the National Violent Death Reporting System, a project administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and present in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. Managed by faculty and staff at the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety at Arizona State University, the AZ-VDRS collects details about violent deaths—primarily homicides, suicides, and legal intervention deaths—thanks to agreements with the Arizona Department of Health Services, state medical examiners, and local law enforcement. This collection process results in a rich dataset that can be used to research and understand issues related to violent deaths in Arizona.

What's in the AZ-VDRS and what can I do with it?

The AZ-VDRS collects data on violent deaths that occur in Arizona from 2015 through the present. Most variables in the dataset describe **victim characteristics**—such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, education level, homelessness status, military status, and occupation; **precipitating circumstances**—such as the victim's mental health history, life stressors, interpersonal problems, and more; **geotemporal variables**—such as the city or county in which the event occurred, the kind of location the event occurred at (e.g. a street or bar), and the month or year it occurred; as well as other variables.

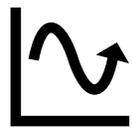
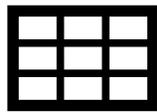


Chart events over time



Generate top n lists



Create interactive tables



Map data



Write data-informed stories



Link to Census data

What *can't* I do with AZ-VDRS data?

AZ-VDRS data abstraction is complete for 2015 through most of 2023; more recent data will be incomplete for some variables (e.g. precipitating circumstances). All variables require that the necessary information is contained in the appropriate data sources, which may be incomplete for some victims. To protect victims, statistics based on counts of ≤ 5 cannot be shared or displayed, though zero counts can be. Very specific geographies also cannot be shared for privacy concerns.

EXAMPLES OF AZ-VDRS DATA STORIES

Question: Do most Arizonans who die by suicide have a mental health disorder?

Data visual: Proportional chart

Question: Are homicides increasing or decreasing in your city?

Data visual: Interactive table

Question: When do suicides spike during the year?

Data visual: Time series chart