

NC Violent Death Reporting System

NC-VDRS Data Sharing & Publication Guidance

Introduction

The purpose of the North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is to provide accurate and timely data on violence that leads to fatalities in North Carolina as the basis for conducting injury surveillance and for developing and evaluating injury and violence prevention programs. NC-VDRS data is not designed to support criminal investigations. The NC-VDRS policy on data release and publication of data reflects the collaborative nature of the NC-VDRS program.

The NC-VDRS policy on data release incorporates the data release and publication policies of the National Violent Death Reporting System, which is maintained by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).¹ The NC-VDRS policy also reflects the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) data security and sharing standards and policies.

1. Data Sharing

For researchers seeking access to NC-VDRS data, the first step is to contact the NC-VDRS staff to discuss potential projects and ideas. The second step is to complete and submit a Data Request Form for NC-VDRS to the NC-VDRS Director. Once the Data Request Form has been completed and data sharing approved, that information provided in the Data Request Form will be used to complete a standard DPH Data Use Agreement (DUA). The DUA is signed by the person/people with whom the data is shared and representatives from their institution authorized to execute the DUA.

Requests from media outlets should be referred to the DHHS Communications Office at news@dhhs.nc.gov.

2. Data Storage

For researchers with a DUA in place, the appropriate data storage and security methods will be set forth in the DUA. Once the project is complete, all original and copies of the data must be destroyed as outlined in the DUA.

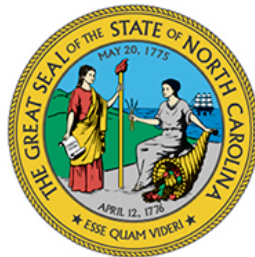
3. Publications Using NC-VDRS Data

For researchers with a DUA in place, the process for involving DPH and the NC-VDRS team in a review of publications and presentations that include or were developed using NC-VDRS data will be set forth in the DUA. To the extent that the data recipient(s) require technical assistance from NC-VDRS staff in analyzing or interpreting the data that goes above and beyond providing non-manipulated data, the NC-VDRS program may request that these activities be considered a substantial contribution to the research that warrant consideration as a research collaborator or co-author in any resulting publications or presentations.

¹ The full National CDC Violent Death Reporting System data release policy is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/dataaccess.html>. Aggregate, de-identified violent death data are also available through the CDC WISQARS Violent Death Module. More information about accessing data through the CDC is available at the same URL provided above.

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NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Public Health