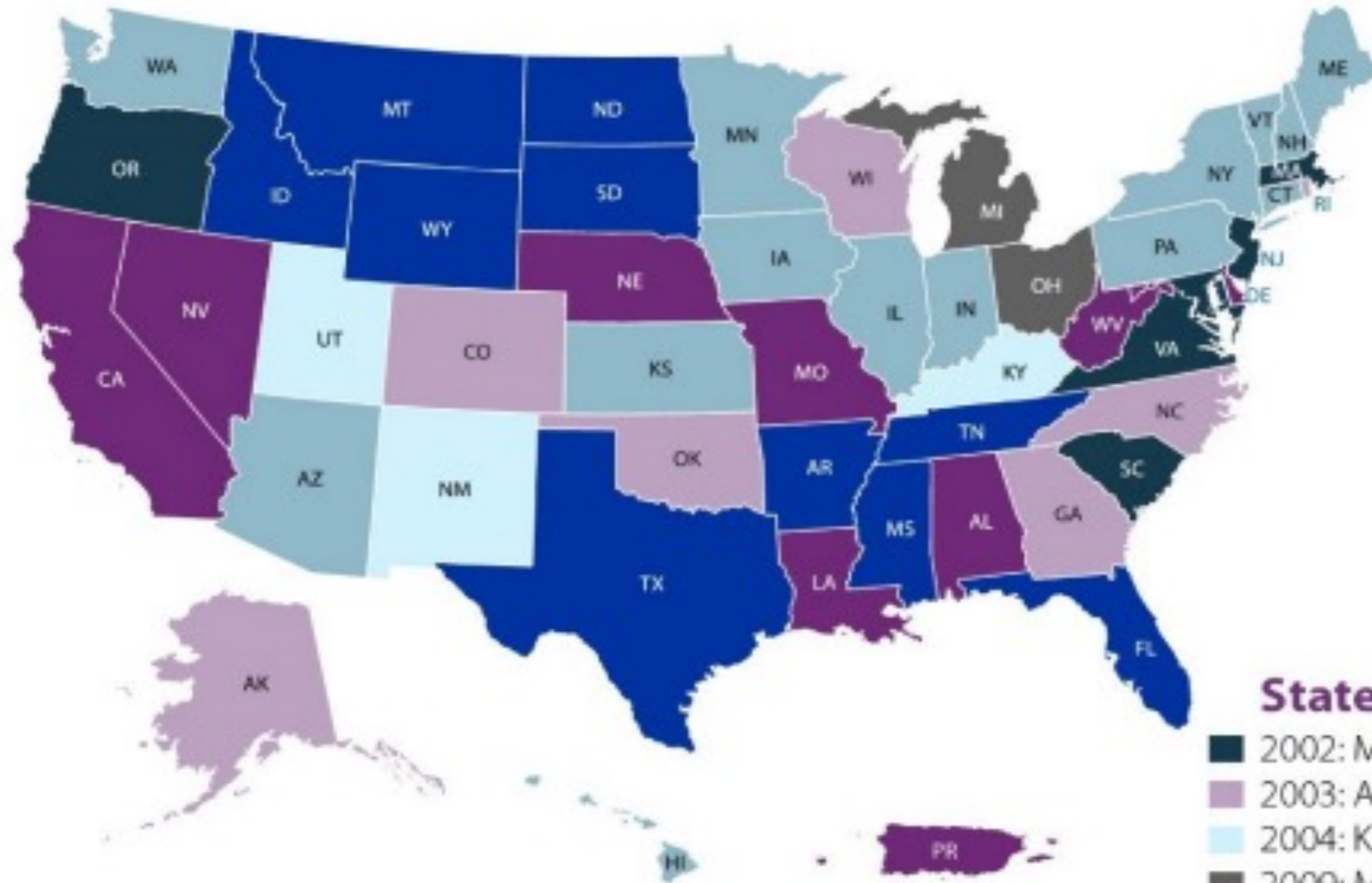


Montana Violent Death Reporting System (VDRS)

National Violent Death Reporting System



- NVDRS is a population-based active surveillance system
- census of violent deaths, unintentional firearm deaths, and deaths due to undetermined intent that occur among both residents and nonresidents of all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

States added by year:

- 2002: MA, MD, NJ, OR, SC, VA
- 2003: AK, CO, GA, NC, OK, RI, WI
- 2004: KY, NM, UT
- 2009: MI, OH
- 2014: AZ, CT, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, ME, MN, NH, NY, PA, VT, WA
- 2016: AL, CA, DE, DC, LA, MO, NE, NV, Puerto Rico, WV
- 2018: AR, FL, ID, MS, MT, ND, SD, TN, TX, WY

The NVDRS Objective

Collect and report timely, high-quality data for monitoring the magnitude and characteristics of violent deaths at the national, state, and local levels

1 →

Ensure that violent death data are routinely and expeditiously **analyzed** and disseminated to both public health and LE officials, policy makers, and the public in accordance with data dissemination plans.

2 →

Track and facilitate the use of NVDRS data to research, **develop, implement, and evaluate strategies**, programs, and policies designed to **prevent violent deaths and injuries** at the national, state, and local levels.

3

Identify creative strategies for sustaining NVDRS in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories

4 →

Build and strengthen partnerships with organizations and communities at the national, state, and local levels to ensure that data collected are used for action to **prevent violent deaths and injuries**.



Meet the Montana VDRS Team

- Principal Investigator: Alyssa Johnson, *MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN*
- Program Coordinator: Victoria Green, *Psychology and Criminal Justice*
- Forensic Data Abstractor and Analyst: Lauren Marshman, *BA-Law & Justice, Forensics Certification*

MT Violent Death Reporting System

State-based surveillance system that pools data on *violent deaths*

Circumstances from multiple sources into a single anonymous database.

Established in 2019



Program Overview

Data is collected from:

- Death Certificates
- Coroner Reports
- Law enforcement reports
- Toxicology reports

CDC Database

- De-Identified in MTVDRS and National VDRS

MT Violent Death Reporting System

Toughbooks



MT Violent Death Reporting System

Toughbooks

Training
Opportunities



MT Violent Death Reporting System

Toughbooks

Training Opportunities

VDRS Advisory Board



Defining 'Violent Death'?



Suicide

Homicide

Unintentional Firearm

Violent Deaths of Undetermined Nature

What is NOT considered 'Violent Death'?

Unintentional Vehicle
Deaths

Accidental Deaths

Unintentional Overdoses

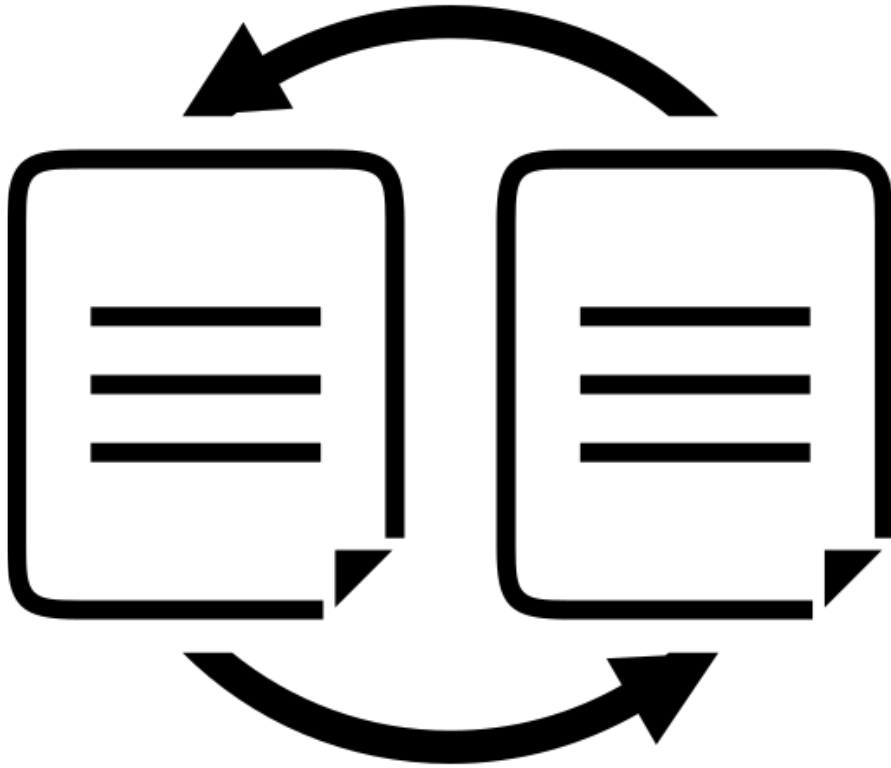


Program Overview : Data Storage

MTVDRS houses the statewide **Death Case Management System** (DCMS). DCMS is used by coroners and crime lab staff to store and share death data.

MCA 46-4-123 requires coroners to use DCMS.

Ability to Obtain Data



Executive Order signed by Governor Bullock in 2019 designates MT-VDRS a recipient of criminal justice information.

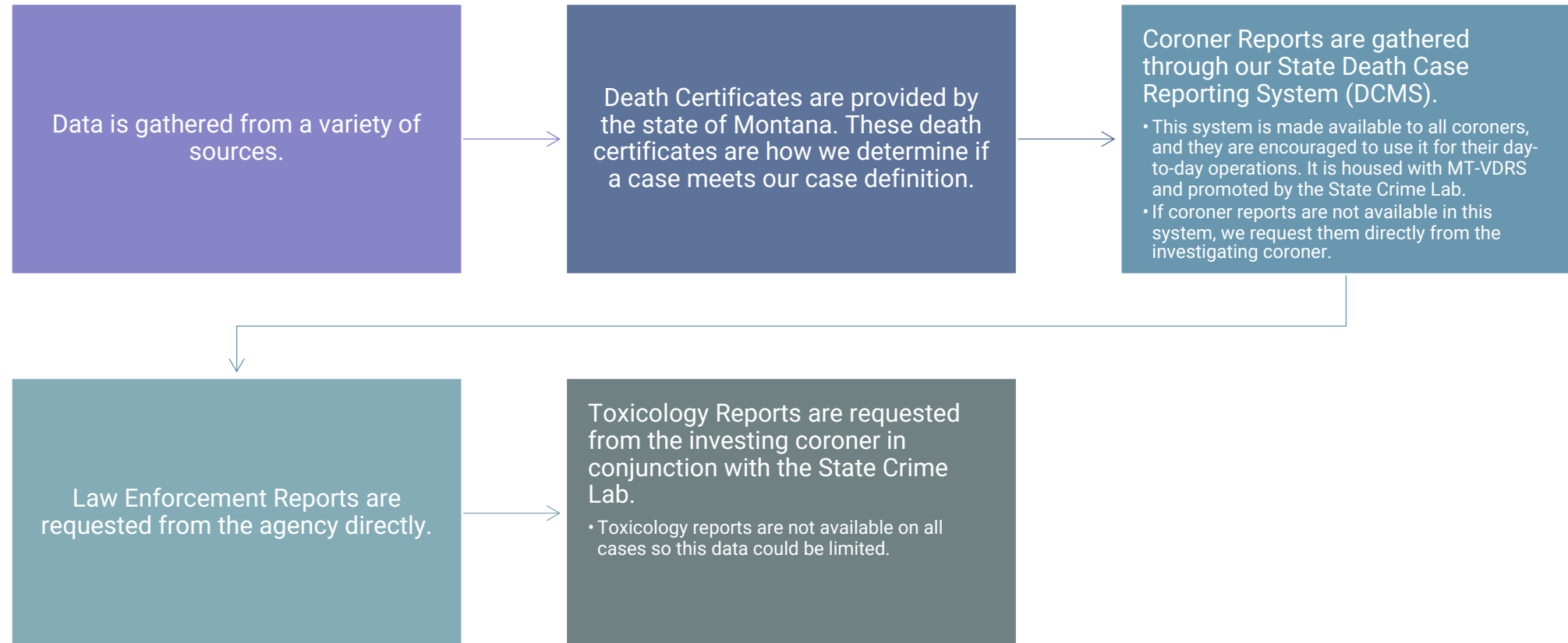
This is allowed through Montana Code Annotated 44-5-303 allowing the dissemination of confidential criminal justice information.

With these two legal tools in place, MT-VDRS can access all necessary data sources, and gives the program credibility to data providers.

What we collect



Data Abstraction Process



MT-VDRS Data Set

- Data variables are broken down within the following categories
 - Incident Variables
 - Victim Variables
 - Suspect Variables
 - Circumstance Variables by Manner of Death
 - Weapon Variables
- Interesting variables of note
 - Legal intervention deaths
 - In custody deaths
 - Toxicology information
 - Intimate partner violence information

<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nvdrs/data-elements.html>

Data Limitations

Data only goes back to 2019.

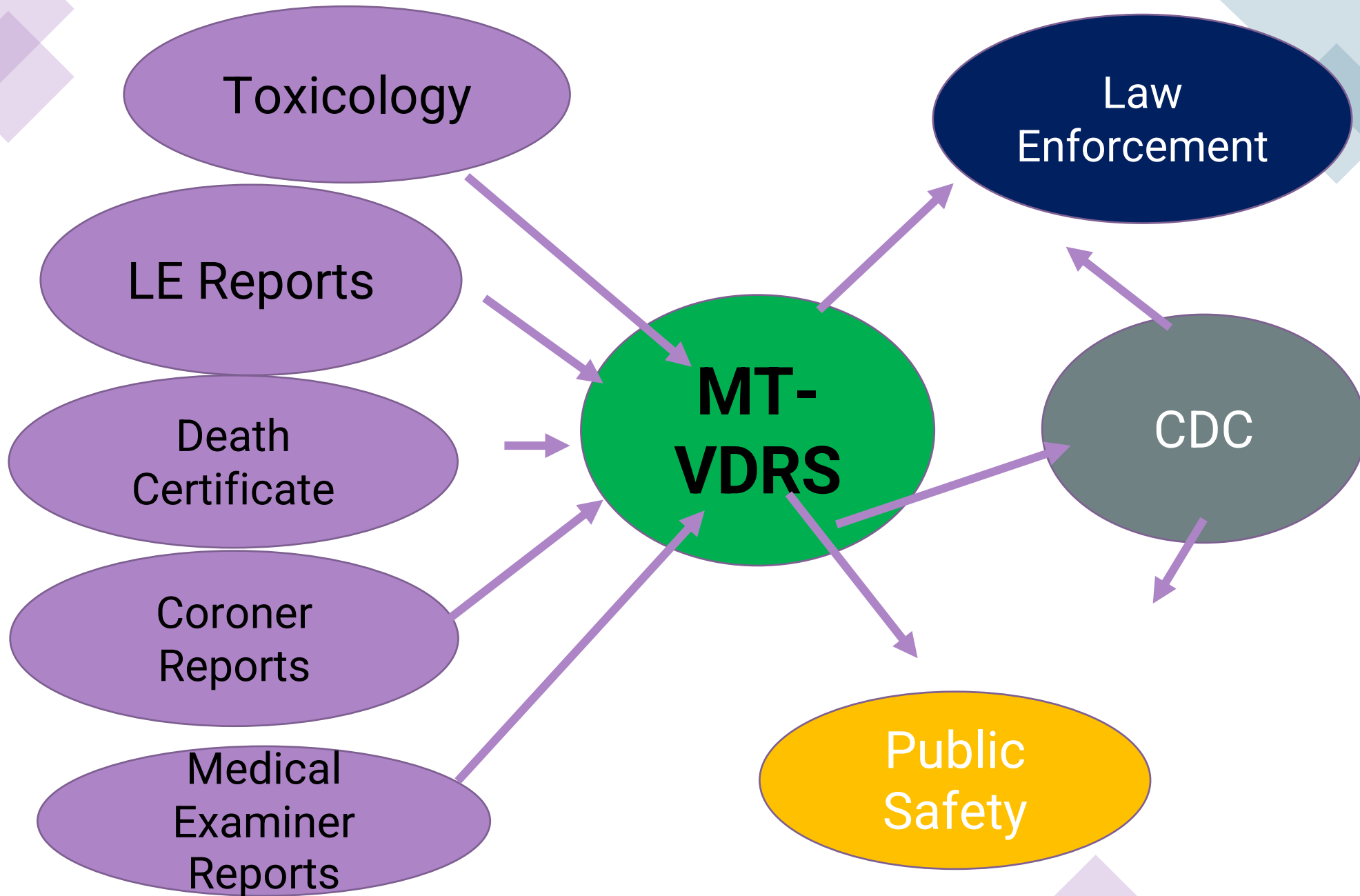
Some county level data cannot be released due to low count.

Data is considered complete 18 months after date of death and is available to be requested at that time.

Data Mapping

- The next slide shows where our data comes from and where it goes.
- All data is de-identified and no individual case information is shared.
- Examples of circumstantial data: mental and physical health diagnoses, mental health treatment status, employment and financial status, relationship and emotional crises, legal issues, and alcohol and drug levels at time of death.
- Prior to the implementation of MT-VDRS, information on these deaths was limited to what was on the state issued death certificate.







2019-2020 Annual Report



Report Highlights (2019-2020)

- 782 violent deaths occurred in 2019 and 2020
- Most common violent death was suicide (77%) followed by homicide (13%)
- American Indians had a higher suicide and homicide rate than Whites
- Of suicides, 53% of decedents had two or more substances detected in their system at time of death (alcohol 31%, antidepressants 20%)
- Most common method of suicide was firearm, followed by hanging
- Healthcare workers were only warned of suicidal intent in 5% of deaths
- 33% of decedents had a diagnosed mental health condition

2022 Data

405 violent deaths
and 176 SUDORS
deaths

Construction
workers have the
highest rate of
suicide and
overdose deaths

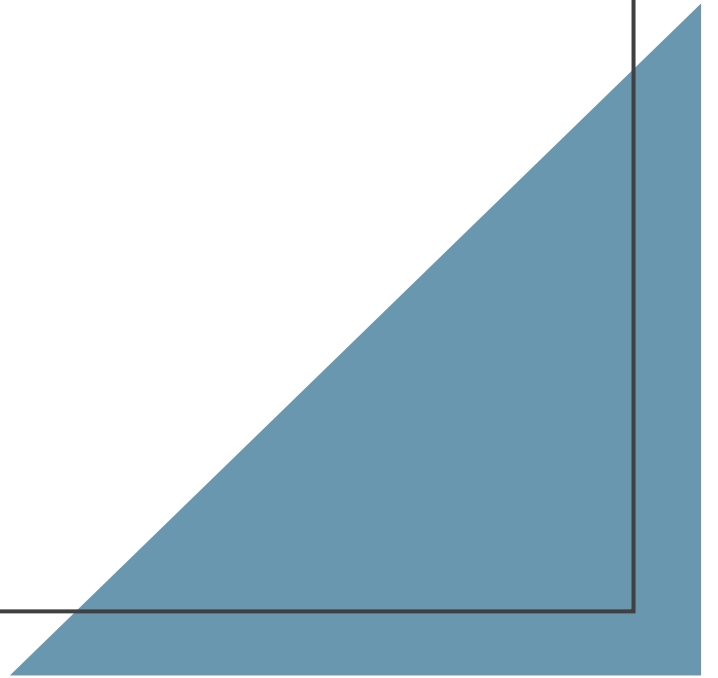
38% of homicides
occurred within 24
hours of an
argument or conflict

Males aged 25-34
have the highest
suicide rate

Only 12% of victims
died in ED/outpatient
or inpatient care



How to access MT- VDRS data

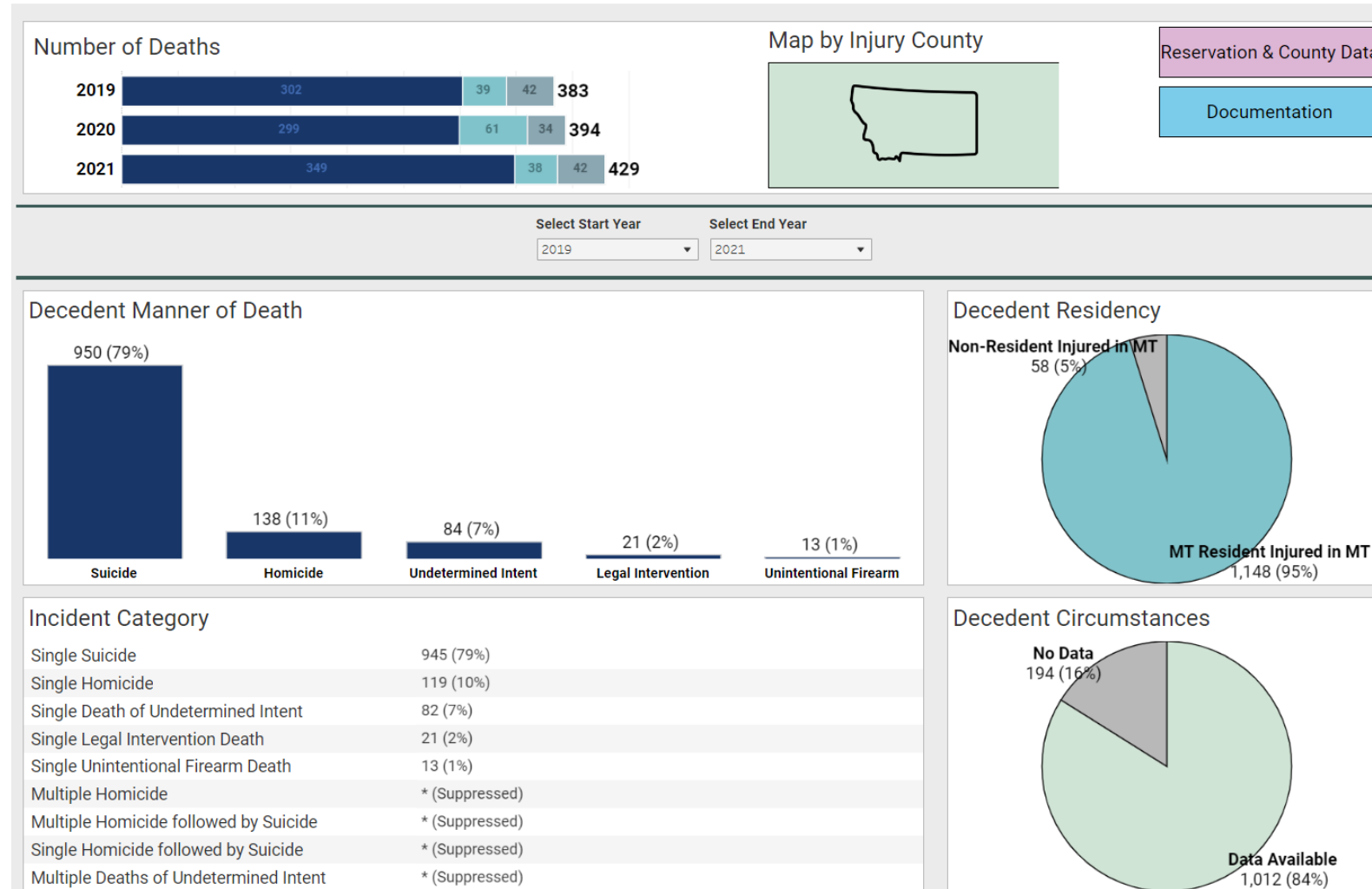


Violent Death Reporting Systems Dashboard

The Montana Violent Death Reporting System (MT-VDRS) interactive dashboard displays de-identified data from several sources: death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports (including toxicology), and law enforcement reports. *Violent deaths* are defined as: homicides, suicides, undetermined intent, deaths due to legal intervention, or unintentional firearm deaths.



To begin, select your **Start Year** and **End Year** range. Next, hover over or select charts to view additional data.



Data Dashboard

Remember to check out the MT Violent Death Reporting Dashboard:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/VDRS-Dashboard>

[Back to Main Page](#)

1,277 Suicide deaths (2019-2022)

Select Start Year

2019

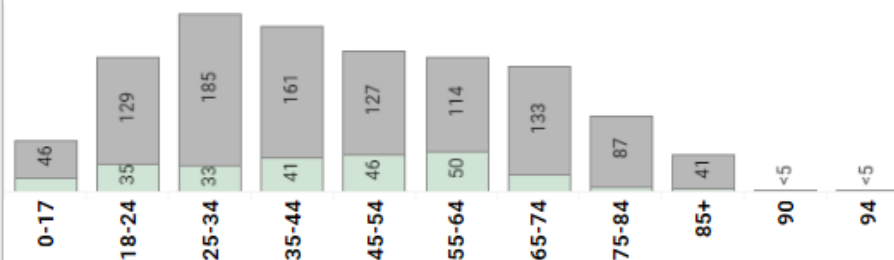
Select End Year

2022

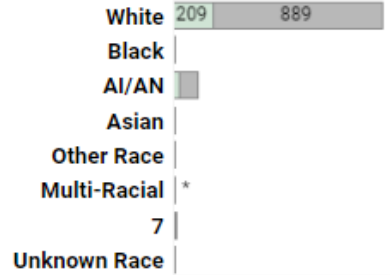
Male
(80%)

Female
(20%)

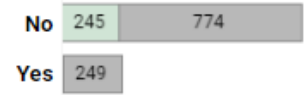
Suicide by Decedent Sex and Age



Decedent Race



Veteran Status



Gender Identity



Data Dashboard

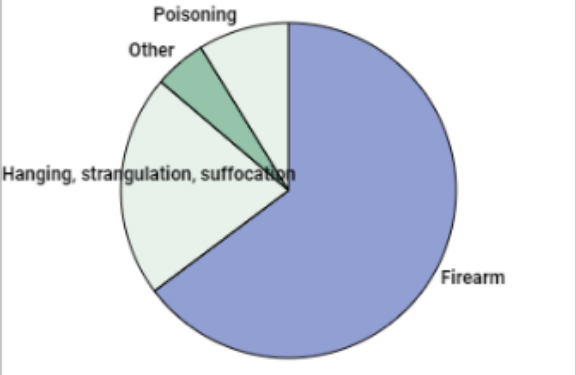
Remember to check out the MT Violent Death Reporting Dashboard:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/VDRS-Dashboard>

Injury Location

House/Apt	1,064 (66%)
Natural area	138 (9%)
Street/Road, sidewalk, alley	101 (6%)
Transportation	67 (4%)
Parking Lot/Parking Garage	47 (3%)
Other & Unknown	40 (2%)
Hotel/Motel	39 (2%)
Public Use Area	39 (2%)
Non-Private Residence	29 (2%)
Commercial Establishment	26 (2%)
Farm	10 (1%)

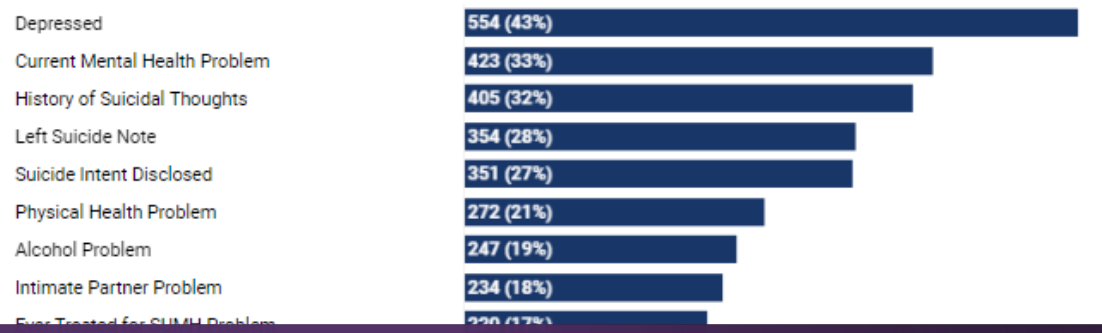
Injury Mechanism



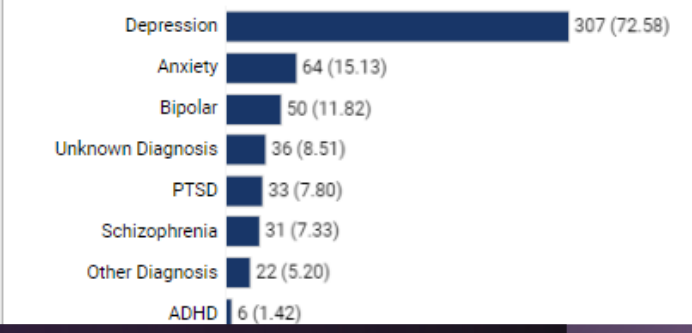
Top 5 Counties of Injury Occurrence



Suicide Top 10 Circumstances



Top 10 Mental Health Diagnoses



What's Next

MDILog

- A new Death Case Management System

Data

- Strong data collection

Questions?

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/vdr>

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