

## South Carolina Violent Death Reporting System Indicators List (as of December 21, 2023)

The SC Violent Death Reporting System (SCVDRS) combines data from death certificates, coroner/medical examiner records, and law enforcement reports to identify contributing factors motivating suicides, homicides, and deaths due to legal intervention, unintentional firearm injury, or undetermined intent in South Carolina as well as resources and interventions utilized in an attempt to prevent death resulting from those fatal injuries. Data availability is subject to the knowledge of family members, friends, medical officials, and others who report to coroners and law enforcement during investigations. SCVDRS is an incident-based mortality data system that reports resident and non-resident decedents who were fatally injured in South Carolina. Death counts may differ from the South Carolina Vital Registry dashboard which reports data on SC resident deaths only. For more information or to submit a data request, email the SCVDRS Program Manager, Susan L. Jackson at [jacksosl@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:jacksosl@dhec.sc.gov) or [scvdrs@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:scvdrs@dhec.sc.gov).

### STANDARD DATA ELEMENTS (2003 deaths and later)

#### Incident Descriptors

Number of nonfatally shot victims	Incident category (e.g., single suicide)
Number of deaths	Homicide-suicide (y/n)
Number of victims (decedents)	Person type (victim, victim/suspect)
Number of victim/suspects (people who died after killing another person)	

#### Decedent Demographics

Sex	Age (in years)
Race	Height (feet/inch) – <i>restricted release</i>
Ethnicity	Weight (in pounds) - <i>restricted release</i>
Race/ethnicity (combined)	

#### Extended Decedent Demographics

Marital status	Transgender - <i>2013 deaths or later</i>
Relationship status	Pregnant/postpartum
Sex of partner – <i>2016 deaths and later</i>	Military
Sexual orientation – <i>2014 deaths and later</i>	Education level

#### Decedent Residence

Residence state/county/city/zip	Housing instability – <i>2020 deaths and later</i>
Homeless – very strict definition	Eviction/loss of housing (suicide only)

#### Locations of Injury and Death

Death state	Injured at home
Death place (e.g., hospital, home)	Injured at work
Death county – <i>2021 deaths or later</i>	Injury location type (e.g., playground)
Injury state/county/city/zip	School-associated violent death (y/n) – <i>2021 deaths or later</i>

Restricted Release - requested data element will be available only upon review and approval by SCVDRS Data Request Review Team; Y/N/U = yes, no, or unknown;  
\*Substance categories include - Alcohol, Blood Alcohol Level, Carbon Monoxide, Amphetamines, Anticonvulsants, Antidepressants, Antipsychotics, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Marijuana, Opiate

**Timing of Injury and Death**

Injury Date

Death date

Injury Time

Date pronounced dead

**Method of Injury/Weapons**

Number of weapons

Firearm storage (e.g., loaded, locked)

Weapon types (e.g., firearm, hanging)

Owner of firearm

Firearm type (e.g., rifle, handgun)

Firearm stolen

Firearm descriptors (make, model, caliber/gauge)

**Events and Context of Fatal Incident**

Alcohol use suspected

Recently released from institution – *2013 deaths and later*

Victim in custody when injured

Children present/witnessed incident – *2020 deaths or later***Medical Services Rendered**

EMS present on scene

Admitted to hospital

Seen in emergency department

**Injury Description**

Manner of death (e.g., homicide)

Number of bullets

Underlying cause of death ICD-10 code

Number of penetrating wounds

Wound locations (e.g., face, abdomen)

**Precipitating/Contributing Factors**

Circumstances known (y/n)

Number of crises (#)

Any crises (y/n)

**Behavioral Health Status**

Mental health problem

Other addiction

Mental health diagnosis (up to 4)

Other addiction crisis

Mental health crisis

Lifetime history of mental health/substance abuse treatment

Alcohol problem

Current mental health/substance abuse treatment

Alcohol abuse crisis

Non-adherence to mental health/substance abuse treatment  
– *2020 deaths or later*

Other substance abuse (not alcohol)

History of traumatic brain injury – *2020 deaths and later*

Other substance abuse crisis

**Interpersonal Conflicts and Relationship Problems**

Intimate partner problem

Family relationship crisis

Intimate partner crisis

Caregiver burden – *2020 deaths or later*

Family relationship problem

Family stressor – *2020 deaths or later*

Other relationship problem

Victim of other interpersonal violence

Other relationship crisis

Fight Between Two People – *2013 deaths or later*

Abuse/neglect led to death

Argument –*definition modified 2013*

Abused as a child

Argument timing

Perpetrator of interpersonal violence

**Household Environment**

Household known to authorities – *2020 deaths or later*

Substance abuse in child’s household – *2020 deaths or later*

Victim known to authorities – *2020 deaths or later*

Loss of independent living/transition – *2020 deaths or later*

Prior child protective services report – *2020 deaths or later*

Disaster exposure (incl. COVID-19)

**Crime and Criminal Activity**

Precipitated by another crime

Gang related (homicides only)

Nature of other crime

Terrorist attack

Other crime in progress (y/n)

**Homicide/Legal Intervention Circumstances**

Intimate partner violence

Victim used a weapon

Jealousy (lover’s triangle)

Drive-by shooting – *2009 deaths or later*

Stalking

Drug involvement

Prostitution

Random violence (not targeted) – *2009 deaths or later*

Justifiable self defense

Mercy killing

Victim was a police officer on duty

Hate Crime

Victim was a bystander

Brawl (3 or more people)

Victim was an intervener

Caregiver use of corporal punishment led to death – *2020 deaths or later*

Walk-by assault – *2013 deaths or later*

**Suicide/Undetermined Intent Circumstances**

History of suicide attempts

Physical health problem

History of expressed suicidal thoughts – *2013 deaths or later*

Physical health problem type – *2020 deaths and later*

History of non-suicidal self-harm/self-injury – *2020 deaths or later*

Job problem

Recently disclosed suicidal intent

Financial problem

Disclosed intent to whom – *2013 deaths or later*

Eviction/loss of home – *2009 deaths or later*

Left suicide note

School problem

Contributing legal problem

Suicide death of family or friend

Civil legal problems

Non-suicide death of family or friend

Anniversary of a traumatic event

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**Unintentional Firearm Circumstances**

Hunting  
Target shooting  
Self-defensive shooting  
Celebratory firing  
Loading/unloading gun

Context of Injury

Cleaning gun  
Showing gun to others  
Playing with gun  
Other context of injury

Mechanism of Injury

Thought safety was engaged  
Thought gun was unloaded  
Unintentionally pulled trigger  
Bullet ricochet  
Gun defect or malfunction

Fired while holstering/unholstering  
Dropped gun  
Gun fired while operating safety/lock  
Gun mistaken for toy  
Other mechanism of injury

**Other Circumstances**

Other crisis in past two weeks or upcoming two weeks

**Suspect Demographics**

**Suspect**

Age of suspect (in years)  
Sex of suspect  
Race of suspect

Ethnicity of suspect  
Race-ethnicity of suspect  
Victim-to-suspect relationship

**Suspect-Related Circumstances**

History of abuse of victim by suspect  
Suspect was caregiver of victim  
Suspect attempted suicide after incident  
Suspect also died in incident – *2013 deaths or later*  
Suspect mentally ill

Suspect had developmental disability – *2016 deaths or later*  
Suspect alcohol use suspected - *2016 deaths or later*  
Suspect substance use suspected - *2016 deaths or later*  
Suspect recently released - *2016 deaths or later*  
Recent contact with law enforcement – *2016 or later*

**Toxicology – restricted release**

No toxicology information available  
Substance tested (y/n/u)  
Substance present (y/n/u)

Substance caused death  
Substance category\*  
Person drug prescribed for

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**School Associated Violent Death Module** (2021 deaths or later)

School Associated Violent Death (SAVD) includes any homicide, suicide, legal intervention death, unintentional firearm death, or death of undetermined intent that occurs on a public or private K-12 school property, at a K-12 school-sponsored event, or on K-12 school-sponsored transportation. SAVD death can involve any person (e.g., student, staff, faculty member, community member, person unknown to the campus) regardless of affiliation to the school.

SAVD Incident Variables:

Number of non-fatally injured persons	Security measures <u>present</u> at time of injury (y/n)
SAVD location type (on-campus, off-campus, unknown)	Security measures <u>in use</u> at time of injury (y/n)
SAVD campus location (e.g., classroom, hallway, cafeteria)	Types of security measures present or in use
Type of school event (e.g., sporting event, field trip)	Timing of SAVD incident (e.g., school day during recess)

Warning signs left by any victim or suspect

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes</li> <li>• Journal entry</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Verbal threats</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic media (e.g., email, IM, texts)</li> <li>• Other actions (e.g., play suggestions, suicidal thoughts)</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Advanced Knowledge: did anyone know about the possibility of this event before it happened? (y/n/u)

- Witnesses' relationship to suspect or victim

The following data elements are collected for both Victims and Suspects:

School Affiliation

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Former student</li> <li>• Teacher, administrator, other staff</li> <li>• Security guard or police officer</li> <li>• Family member of a student or staff member</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of surrounding community</li> <li>• Not associated with the school or community</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Victim's (Suspect's) behavior in previous 12 months (e.g., bullying)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Sent threats</li> <li>• Posted threats online</li> <li>• Aligned with violent ideologies online</li> <li>• Physically threatened/fought with peers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damaged or stole property</li> <li>• Possessed or used illicit substances</li> <li>• Possessed weapon</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Prior Victimization of Victim (Suspect) in previous 12 months (e.g., bullied, threatened)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Called names/teased/bullied</li> <li>• Property was damaged or stolen</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received threats</li> <li>• Physically threatened/assaulted by peers</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

History of abuse/neglect (victim, suspect)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical child abuse</li> <li>• Sexual child abuse</li> <li>• Emotional child abuse</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child neglect</li> <li>• Intimate partner violence (or teen dating violence)</li> <li>• Sexual violence (as an adult)</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

SAVD Suspect (only) Variables:

- Prior arrest
- Alcohol drug use
- Highest grade completed
- Crises within two weeks of death (either prior or impending)
  - School related crisis
  - Family related crisis
  - Relationship related crisis
  - Mental health related crisis
  - Other crisis

**Public Safety Officer Suicide (PSOS) Module** (2021 deaths or later)

A public safety officer (PSO) is defined as: All local, state, federal, military, and tribal law enforcement, corrections officers, parole/probation officers, officers of the court, firefighters, emergency medical service clinicians (e.g., EMTs, paramedics, advanced EMTs, emergency medical responders), and public safety telecommunicators (e.g., 911 operators and dispatchers)

Agency, Role, and Status

Type of Agency (up to two agencies can be reported)

- Law enforcement
  - State law enforcement
  - Campus police
  - City/county/town law enforcement
  - Tribal law enforcement
  - Federal law enforcement
  - Private law enforcement
  - Unspecified
- Fire department
  - City/county/town fire department
  - Federal fire agency
  - State fire department
  - Unspecified
- Emergency Medical Services
  - Private EMS agency (non-governmental)
  - City/county/town EMS agency
  - Federal EMS agency
  - Tribal EMS agency
  - Campus EMS agency
  - State EMS agency
  - Air Medical Agency (e.g., air ambulance service)
  - Urban Search and Rescue
  - Unspecified
- Military
  - Air Force
  - Air National Guard
  - Army
  - Coast Guard
  - Marine Corps
  - National Guard
  - Navy
  - Space Force
- Jail/Corrections Facility
  - Federal court
  - State court
  - Local jurisdiction court
  - Unspecified
- 911/Telecommunications Agency
  - State 911 agency
  - City/county/town 911 agency
  - Tribal 911 agency
  - Federal 911 agency
  - Unspecified
- Other
- Unknown

Public Safety Officer Role

- Law enforcement role
  - LE Officer Role (e.g., police, corrections officer)
  - LE, Supervisor Role (e.g., Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Commissioner)
  - LE, Unspecified Role
- Firefighting role
  - Firefighter Role (e.g., firefighter, wildland firefighter)
  - Firefighter, Supervisor Role (e.g., Fire chief, Lieutenant)
  - Firefighter, Unspecified Role
- Emergency Medical Services role
  - Emergency Medical Service Clinician (e.g., paramedic, A-EMT, EMT, EMR)
  - Emergency Medical Service, Supervisor Role (e.g., Chief, Captain, Preceptor)
  - Other Emergency Medical Service, Unspecified Role
- Public Safety Telecommunications role
  - Public Safety Telecommunicators (e.g., 911 telecommunicator, dispatchers, tactical dispatch)
  - Public Safety Telecommunicators, Supervisor Role
  - Public Safety Telecommunicators, Unspecified Role

Pay Status

- Fulltime
- Parttime
- On-call
- Volunteer
- N/A (e.g., retired)
- Other
- Unknown

PSOS Work Environment

- History of chronic or acute injury
- Timing of chronic/acute injury
- Work-related Stressors
  - Homicide of colleague
  - Suicide of colleague
  - Witness to serious injury of colleague
  - Interpersonal conflict with partner, crew, or other co-worker
  - Psychological stress of work
- Type of chronic/acute injury
- Referred to Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
  - Signs or feelings of burnout
  - Shift-work related stress
  - Personnel/human resources issues
  - Recent/upcoming retirement
  - Other

PSOS Injury Detail

Duty status (on duty, off duty, other, unknown)

Chronic/acute work-related injury/disability

Injury location

- Work vehicle
- Work site
- Training site
- Military post
- Dispatch location
- Field
- No additional information (all relevant information captured on injury location type in standard module)
- Shooting range
- Courthouse
- Correctional facility
- Other
- Unknown

Work issued firearm (e.g., Was the injury weapon a work-issued firearm?)