

## If You Want to Save Lives, Start with the Dead:

Epidemiologists and Medicolegal Death Investigators Unite  
to Stop Suicide Using Novel Surveillance Methodology

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## Why Suicide?




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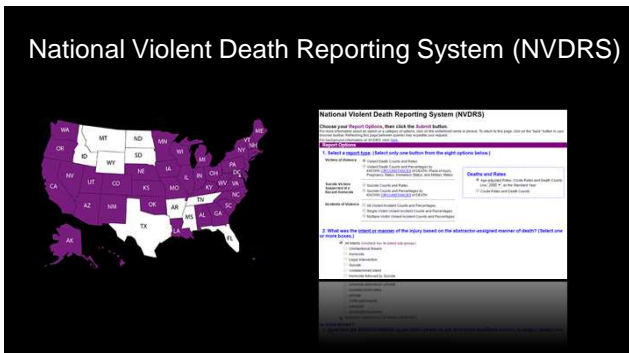
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## National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)




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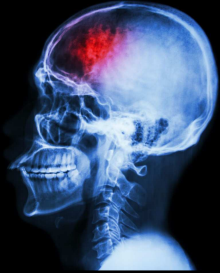
## NVDRS Strengths and Limitations

Data elements are standardized across states

County data difficult to obtain

Timeliness

Abstraction errors




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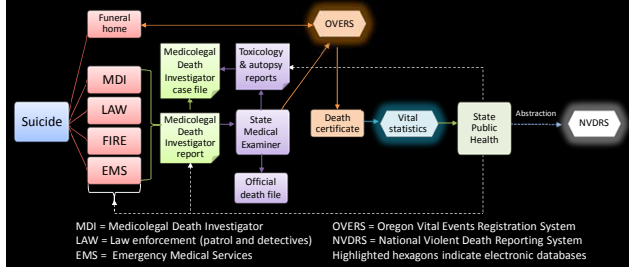
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## From Death to Data




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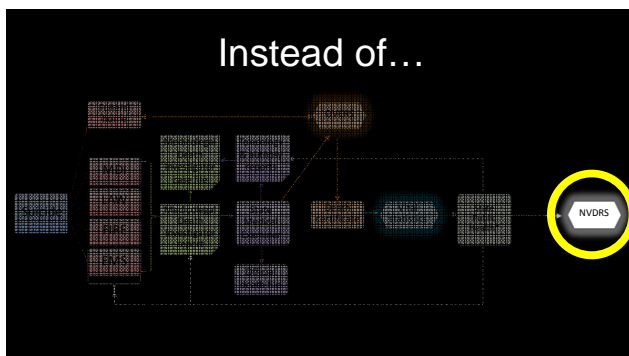
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## Instead of...




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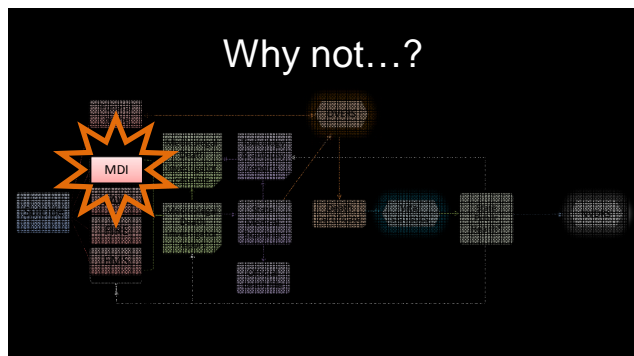
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


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 		Consolidated Risk Assessment Profile			
Last name:		DOB:			
First name:					
<b>a) the list of incident</b>		<b>b) the list of events</b>			
1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4			
<input type="checkbox"/> Serial incident <input type="checkbox"/> One-off event <input type="checkbox"/> Current event health problem <input type="checkbox"/> Current event health treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted problem <input type="checkbox"/> Other substance abuse problem <input type="checkbox"/> Other education <input type="checkbox"/> Physical health problem <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health problem <input type="checkbox"/> Family relationship issue <input type="checkbox"/> Other relationship problem <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment of human agent <input type="checkbox"/> Included event to control cause <input type="checkbox"/> Personal problem <input type="checkbox"/> Job problem <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient efficacy <input type="checkbox"/> School problem <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal legal problem <input type="checkbox"/> Non-criminal legal problem		<input type="checkbox"/> In past 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> In past 2 months <input 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## Death match: CRAP Form vs. NVDRS

27 suicide risk factors  
2 years of data  
133 suicides

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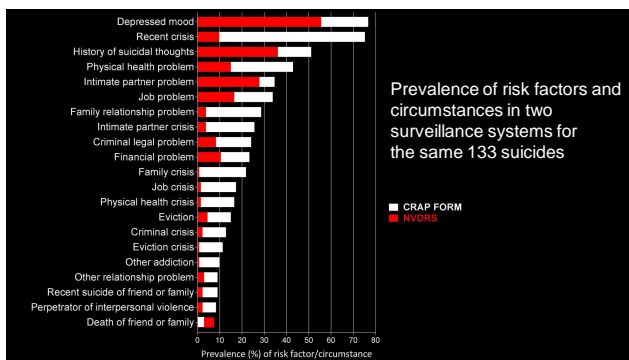
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## Why the difference?

No standardization of narrative elements  
Can't abstract what's not there  
Neutral professional language  
Abstraction error




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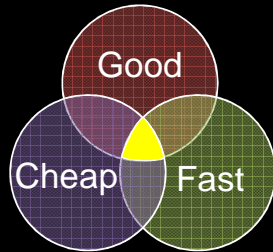
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## Why Use Death Investigation Data?



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## Impact



- Detection of clusters
- Directs suicide prevention training
- Data-driven decision making

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Thank you!

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

MEDICAL  
EXAMINER

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