

# Illinois Violent Death Reporting System



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## Overview

Homicide and suicide are among the top five leading causes of death in Illinois for people under age 35. The Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) was developed to help prevent these deaths. IVDRS provides the fullest possible picture of the circumstances of violent death in Illinois, including both homicide and suicide.

This issue of the IVDRS newsletter combines data for 2005 and 2006 violent deaths in Cook, Kane and Peoria counties. Table 1 compares two-year average violent death rates from the three IVDRS counties with the Illinois and U.S. rates for 2006. The number of deaths is the average for 2005 and 2006; the rates are averaged across the two years for stability, as two of the IVDRS counties have rates which fluctuate significantly from year to year. Cases include homicides, suicides, unintentional firearm deaths, deaths from legal intervention and deaths from undetermined causes for residents of each jurisdiction.

The overall 2005-06 homicide rate in the three IVDRS counties is 10.4 homicide deaths per 100,000 three-county residents, while the overall suicide rate is 6.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 three-county residents (Table 1). On the whole, Illinois has a homicide rate about comparable to the national rate and a suicide rate somewhat lower than the national rate.

In 2006 in Illinois, there were 1,010 suicides and 865 homicides. The 2006 Illinois homicide rate was 6.7 deaths per 100,000 residents, which was larger than the U.S. homicide rate of 6.2 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2006. The Illinois suicide rate for 2006 was 7.9 per 100,000 residents, which was less than the U.S. suicide rate of 11.2 deaths per 100,000 residents that year. When comparing IVDRS deaths in these three counties to the most recent statewide figures, IVDRS has accounted for approximately 55% of all Illinois violent deaths for 2006.

**TABLE 1: Violent death rates for the United States, Illinois and the three IVDRS counties, 2006**

	IVDRS <sup>†</sup>	Illinois 2006	U.S. 2006
Homicide (N)	615	865	18,573
Homicide rate	10.4	6.7	6.2
Suicide (N)	408	1,010	33,300
Suicide rate	6.9	7.9	11.2
Unintentional Firearm (N)	3	24	642
Unintentional Firearm rate	*	0.2	0.2

<sup>†</sup> 2005 and 2006 two-year average

\* denotes rates not calculated; fewer than six events.

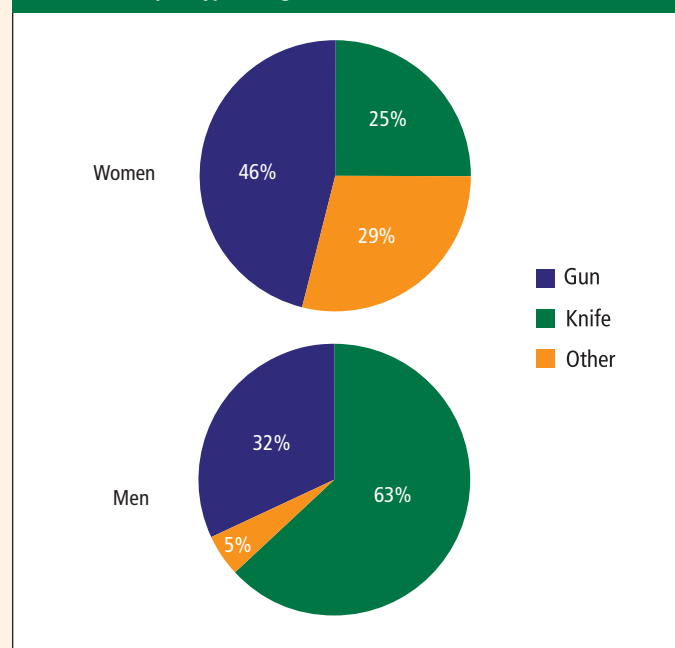
## Violent Death and Intimate Partner Violence

Seventy of the violent death incidents were intimate-partner related deaths. This means the victim was either killed by an intimate partner, or the homicide is related to conflict between current or former intimate partners.

Women were much more likely to die in intimate-partner related incidents than men. Fifty-one (73%) of the victims were women, and 19 (27%) of the victims were men. Women were more likely to be killed with a gun, while men were more likely to be killed with a knife (Figure 1).

- Six women had orders of protection against the suspect at the time of their death, and 15 had been victims of reported abuse prior to their death.
- Children were present during 20% of the intimate partner homicides. It is possible that children were present even more often; however IVDRS relies on written investigative reports which may not be complete for this subject area.

**FIGURE 1: Weapon type and gender of victim, IVDRS 2005 and 2006, IPV**



# Homicide and Suicide Rates by Age, 2005 and 2006

The overall suicide rate for the three IVDRS counties increases in older age groups. Rate variations by county are most notable in the 40-74 year old age groups. Peoria County, Kane County and Suburban Cook County (excluding Chicago) have the highest suicide rates among IVDRS locations (Figure 2).

The homicide rate for the IVDRS three-county area is notably highest in 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29 year-old age groups. For residents of the three counties taken together, the homicide rate peaks for persons 20-24 years old (33.6 deaths per 100,000 Cook, Kane and Peoria residents). Chicago and Peoria residents experience the highest homicide rates.

FIGURE 2: Suicide rates, IVDRS 2005 and 2006

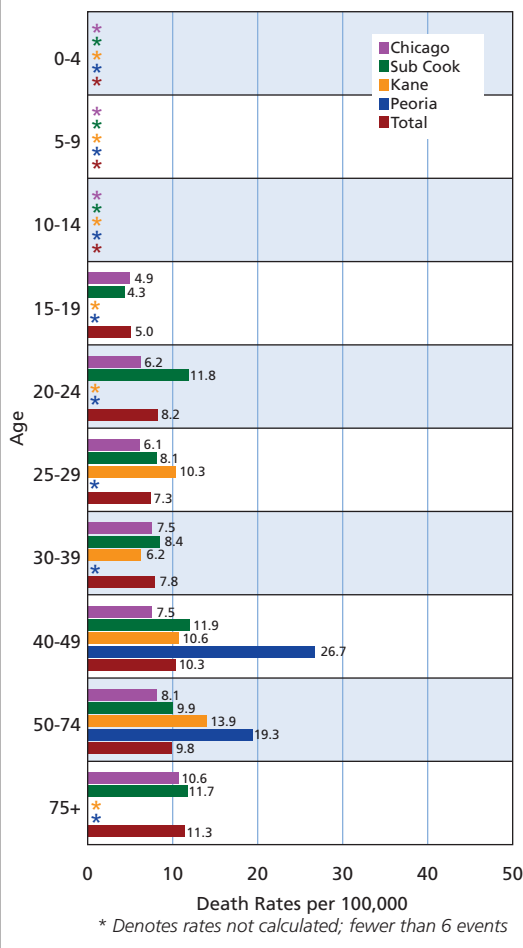
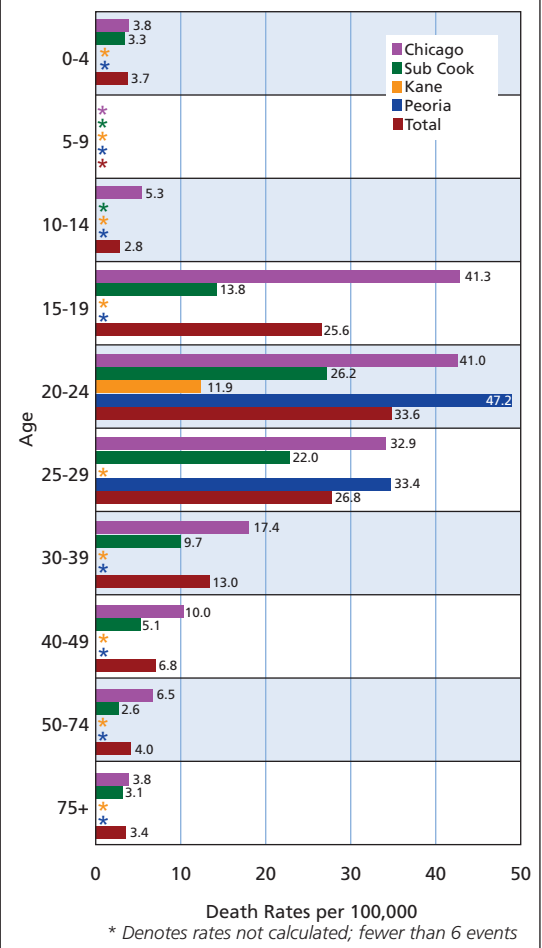


FIGURE 3: Homicide rates, IVDRS 2005 and 2006



## WEAPON AND MANNER

Seventy-four percent of homicide victims were killed by a firearm in IVDRS in 2005/2006, followed by sharp instruments, blunt instruments, and other weapons. In contrast, 36% of suicide victims died from a firearm injury, 30% died from hanging or strangulation, 19% died from poisoning, followed by all other weapons.

FIGURE 5: Suicide weapon, IVDRS 2005 and 2006

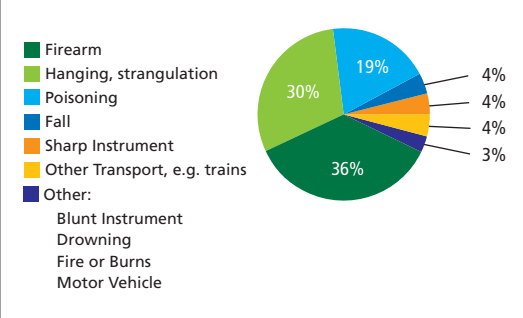
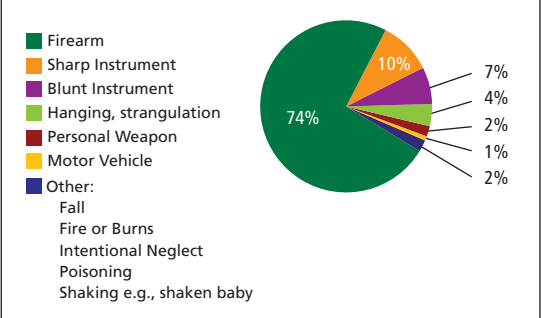


FIGURE 4: Homicide weapon, IVDRS 2005 and 2006

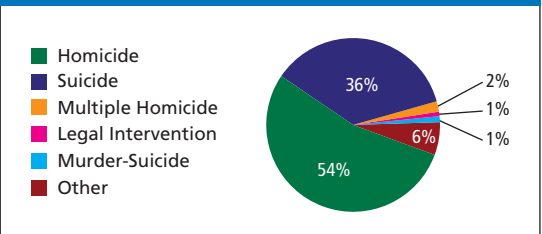


## Multiple-victim Incidents in IVDRS

IVDRS is an incident-based system which allows for analysis of more complex incidents such as murder-suicides and multi-victim homicides. There were several multi-victim incidents in the three counties during 2005 and 2006 (Figure 6). Of the 20 murder-suicides for 2005 and 2006, 15 of the incidents involved intimate partners. All 20 of the suicide victims in these incidents were male.

There were 31 multiple homicide incidents. Most involved two victims. There were four incidents with three victims, and one incident with four victims.

FIGURE 6: Types of violent incidents in IVDRS counties, 2005 and 2006, all ages



# Violent Death by Race and Ethnicity, 2005 and 2006

	Homicide		Suicide		Other <sup>†</sup>	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
<b>CHICAGO</b>	825	15.1	315	5.8	80	1.5
Male	701	26.5	238	9.0	67	2.5
Female	124	4.4	77	2.7	13	0.5
Black	613	32.0	84	4.4	45	2.4
White	52	3.1	185	11.1	22	1.3
Hispanic	151	9.7	33	2.1	7	0.5
Asian	2	*	11	4.2	4	*
Other	7		2		2	
<b>SUBURBAN COOK</b>	345	6.8	385	7.6	45	0.9
Male	277	11.3	284	11.6	35	1.4
Female	68	2.6	101	3.9	10	0.4
Black	204	25.5	42	5.2	13	1.6
White	78	2.6	309	10.1	24	0.8
Hispanic	56	6.8	18	2.2	5	*
Asian	4	*	16	5.1	0	*
Other	3		0		3	
<b>KANE</b>	27	2.8	71	7.3	13	1.3
Male	22	4.5	61	12.5	5	*
Female	5	*	10	2.1	8	1.7
Black	9	16.8	1	*	2	*
White	5	*	55	9.0	11	1.8
Hispanic	13	4.8	10	3.7	0	*
Asian	0	*	1	*	0	*
Other	0		4		0	
<b>PEORIA</b>	33	9.2	45	12.6	10	2.8
Male	27	15.7	35	20.3	2	*
Female	6	3.2	10	5.4	8	4.3
Black	25	39.9	1	*	4	*
White	7	2.6	43	15.8	6	2.2
Hispanic	0	*	1	*	0	*
Other	1		0		0	

\* denotes rates not calculated; fewer than six events.  
<sup>†</sup> "Other" deaths include unintentional firearm, legal intervention and deaths from undetermined intent.

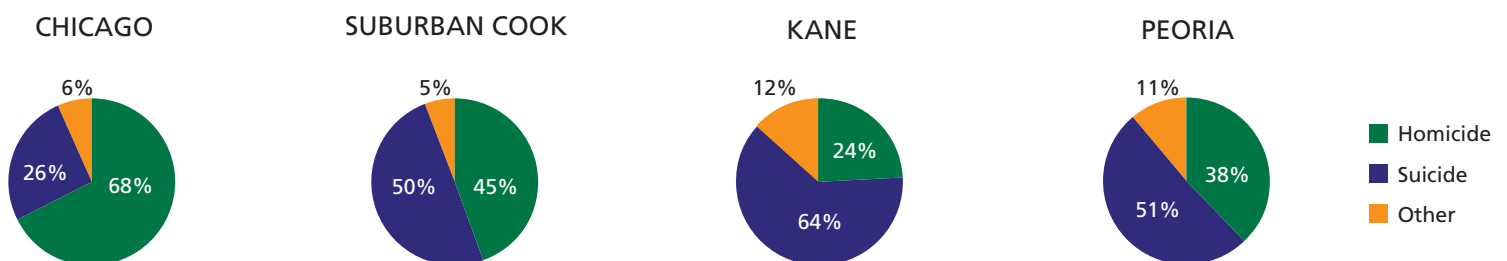
# Location of Injury

IVDRS collects all violent deaths that occur in a county. However, some of these victims were injured in another county. For example, a person may experience the violent injury in Tazewell County but subsequently die in Peoria County. The table below details the location of death, and the county of injury, for IVDRS deaths in 2005 and 2006.

Illinois counties where just one violent injury occurred but the resulting death occurred in Cook, Kane or Peoria Counties in 2005-06: Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, Livingston, Mason, Rock Island, Will, Woodford.

Location of IVDRS Death	County of Injury	N	%
<b>CHICAGO</b>			
	COOK	1365	100.0%
<b>SUBURBAN COOK</b>			
	COOK	680	96.0%
	DUPAGE	6	0.9%
	KANE	5	0.7%
	WILL	5	0.7%
	MCHENRY	3	0.4%
<b>KANE</b>			
	KANE	111	91.0%
	COOK	3	2.5%
	MCHENRY	3	2.5%
	WILL	2	1.6%
<b>PEORIA</b>			
	PEORIA	94	81.0%
	TAZEWELL	5	4.3%
	MCDONOUGH	4	3.5%
	FULTON	3	2.6%
	LASALLE	3	2.6%
	PUTNAM	2	1.7%

# Manner of Death 2005 and 2006



# Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Violent Death

The risk of death from homicide and suicide differs between genders and among races and ethnicities. In IVDRS counties, in 2005 and 2006, where race and ethnicity are known, black males are at highest risk of violent death.

- Nineteen violent death victims were pregnant at the time of their death. Twelve were homicide victims, and seven committed suicide.
- 80% of all violent death victims were male.

<b>Homicide</b>	67% of all homicide victims were Black males
	15% of all homicide victims were Hispanic males
<b>Suicide</b>	73% of suicide victims were White
	16% of suicide victims were Black
	8% of suicide victims were Hispanic
	3% of suicide victims were Asian

FIGURE 7: Percent of suicides by race and gender, IVDRS, 2005 and 2006

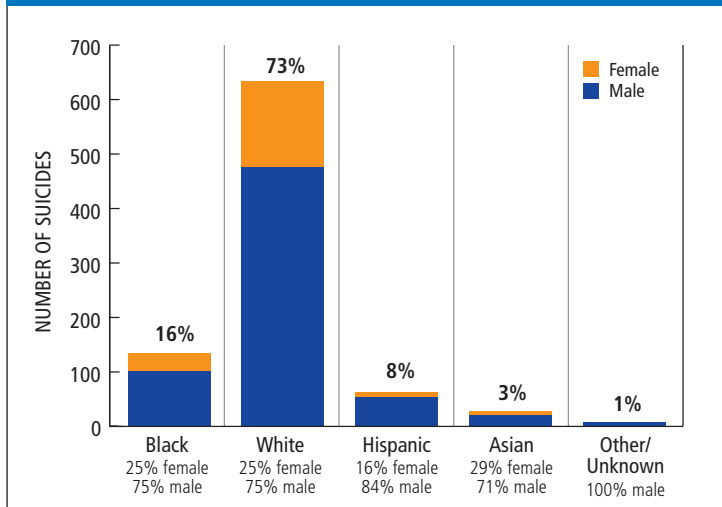


FIGURE 8: Percent of homicides by race and gender, IVDRS, 2005 and 2006

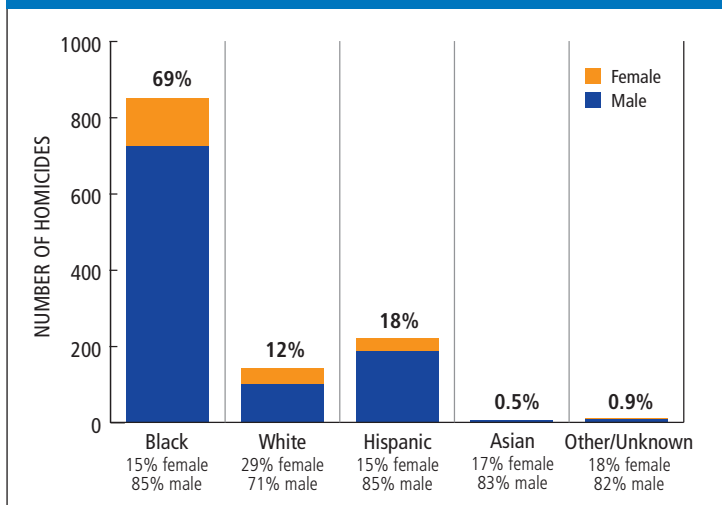
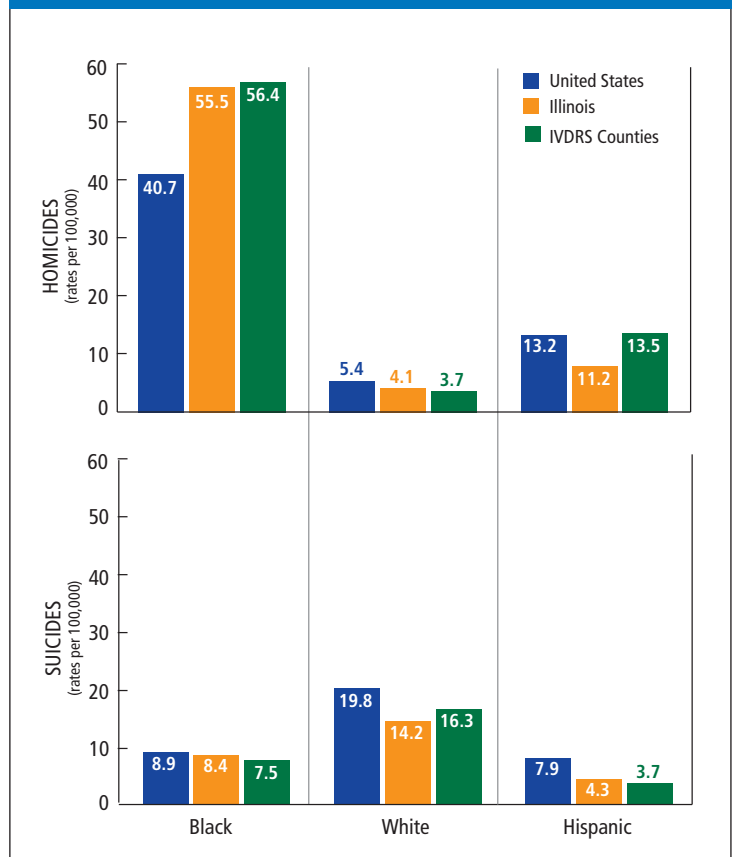


FIGURE 9: Male rate comparisons, homicide and suicide, 2005 and 2006



## TECHNICAL NOTES

The Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) is a project of the Child Health Data Lab at Children’s Memorial Hospital. It is based on the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). The project seeks to help researchers and policymakers determine the circumstances and risk factors associated with homicide, suicide and other violent deaths by linking timely data from multiple sources. In Illinois, we collect this information in Cook, Kane and Peoria counties. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of our data-providing agencies including the Cook County Medical Examiner, the Kane and Peoria County Coroners, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Chicago Police Department. For additional information on NVDRS, see [www.preventviolence.net](http://www.preventviolence.net).

## What is a violent death?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) establishes standards for all of the state-level Violent Death Reporting Systems, such as the one in Illinois. The CDC defines violent death as homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm death, death from legal intervention, death related to terrorism and death from undetermined causes.

- Cook County (which includes Chicago) is the source of the majority of IVDRS data; the data cannot be understood as representative of Illinois as a whole.
- All rates calculated for this newsletter are based on resident deaths. Rates are not computed for fewer than six cases. All data is accurate as of the date received and is subject to change due to ongoing investigations. Numbers will not always match as data is incomplete in some cases.
- Population data for IVDRS counties, including Chicago, from US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2005, 2006, and 2005-2007 Estimates). Available from URL: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

[www.chdl.org](http://www.chdl.org)

