

# California's Violent Death Reporting System (CaIVDRS)

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# Violence in the United States

- Violence causes approximately 50,000 deaths each year and results in over 2.5 million injuries.
- Homicide and suicide are the second and third leading causes of death, respectively, among Americans aged 15-34.
- Hospital emergency departments treat an average 55 people for injuries every minute.

# Costs of Violence in the U.S.

- The total costs associated with nonfatal injuries and deaths due to violence in 2000 were more than \$70 billion. Most of this cost (\$64.8 billion or 92%) was due to lost productivity. However, an estimated \$5.6 billion was spent on medical care for the more than 2.5 million injuries due to interpersonal and self-directed violence. The estimates reported here provide evidence of the large health and economic burden of violence in the United States.

# Violence in California

- Homicides and suicides account for approximately 6,000 lives annually
- Violence, either directed at self or others, results in ~34,000 hospitalizations annually
- Violence results in ~146,000 ED visits annually
- Serious violence (resulting in at least hospitalization) costs approximately \$8.2 billion annually in medical costs (\$561 million) and lost productivity
- Underlying issues contribute significantly to economic burden

# Violence Prevention in CA

- Governor established Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy
- Governor commanded a suicide prevention strategic plan and office in DMH to implement this plan
- How do we prevent violence?
  - By understanding the causes (data)
  - Participation in NVDRS

# National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

- 17 states funded by CDC to collect information on violent deaths from
  - Death Certificates
  - Coroner Records
  - Police Reports
  - Crime Lab Records

# NVDRS

- Strengths
  - Timeliness
  - Detail
  - Standardized
  - Incident-based
- Weaknesses
  - Expensive
  - Labor-intensive

# CaIVDRS

- Began data collection in 2005 in 3 sites:
  - City of Oakland
  - City and County of San Francisco
  - Santa Clara County
- Expanded data collection in 2006 and 2007:
  - Los Angeles County
  - Riverside County
  - Alameda County
  - Shasta County

# CaIEVDRS

- Opportunity to capitalize on EDRS
- Violent Death Supplement
- Much more timely, inexpensive, and less labor-intensive than NVDRS methodology
- Data quality to be assessed
- Supported by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF)

# CaIEVDRS

- Five counties began submitting data in 2007:
  - Kern
  - Monterey
  - Sacramento
  - San Mateo
  - Santa Clara\*
- Five more trained in 2008:
  - Contra Costa
  - San Joaquin
  - Solano
  - Stanislaus
  - Yolo

Certificates	Reporting	Supplements	Supplement Options
Record Options	Amendment Options	Permit Options	Violent Death

Violent death supplement

3052005000001 STATE FILE NUMBER

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
VS-11e (REV 10/4)

Record Status : REG SR  
3200534005555 LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER

1. NAME OF DECEDENT - FIRST (Given) <b>DONALD</b>		2. MIDDLE <b>T</b>		3. LAST (Family) <b>DUCK</b>	
AKA ALSO KNOWN AS - Include full AKA (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)			4. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) <b>02/02/1960</b>	5. AGE Yrs. <b>45</b>	6. SEX <b>MALE</b>
9. BIRTH STATE/FOREIGN COUNTRY <b>CA</b>		10. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <b>888334444</b> <a href="#">Show SSNV Info</a>	11. EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? <b>NO</b>	12. MARITAL STATUS (at Time of Death) <b>NEVER MARRIED</b>	7. Date of Death MM/DD/YYYY <b>03/07/2005 FND</b>
13. EDUCATION - Highest Level/Degree <b>MASTER'S DEGREE</b>		14/15. WAS DECEDENT SPANISH/HISPANIC/LATINO? <b>NO</b>		16. DECEDENT'S RACE - Up to 3 races may be listed <b>MALARD, WOOD DUCK</b>	
17. USUAL OCCUPATION - Type of work for most of life. DO NOT USE RETIRED <b>ACTOR</b>			18. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY (e.g. grocery store, road construction, employment agency, etc.) <b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>		19. YEARS IN OCCUPATION <b>30</b>
20. DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE (Street and number or location) <b>1 SOME STREET</b>					
21. CITY <b>SOMECITY</b>		22. COUNTY/PROVINCE <b>SACRAMENTO</b>		23. ZIP CODE <b>99999</b>	24. YEARS IN COUNTY <b>30</b>
25. STATE/FOREIGN COUNTRY <b>CA</b>			26. INFORMANT'S FIRST NAME, LAST NAME AND RELATIONSHIP <b>DAISY DUCK DUCKLING</b>		
27. INFORMANT'S MAILING ADDRESS (Street and number or rural route number, city or town, state, ZIP) <b>1 SOMESTREET, SOMECITY, CA 99999</b>			28. NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE - FIRST -		
29. MIDDLE -		30. LAST (Maiden Name) -		31. NAME OF FATHER - FIRST <b>DAD</b>	
32. MIDDLE <b>DE</b>		33. LAST <b>DUCK</b>		34. BIRTH STATE <b>CA</b>	
35. NAME OF MOTHER - FIRST <b>MOM</b>		36. MIDDLE <b>ZA</b>		37. LAST (Maiden) <b>MOTHERHEN</b>	
38. BIRTH STATE <b>CA</b>		39. DISPOSITION DATE MM/DD/YYYY <b>04/01/2005</b>			
40. PLACE OF FINAL DISPOSITION <b>DUCK POND</b>		41. TYPE OF DISPOSITION(S) <b>CREMATION/SCATTERING AT SEA</b>			
42. SIGNATURE OF EMBALMER <b>DEMO EMBALMER</b>		43. LICENSE NUMBER <b>T1234</b>		44. NAME OF FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT <b>GOODBODY MORTUARY</b>	
45. LICENSE NUMBER <b>FD00000790</b>		46. SIGNATURE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR <b>GLENNAH I TROCHET, MD</b>		47. DATE MM/DD/YYYY <b>03/08/2005</b>	
101. PLACE OF DEATH <b>GOLDEN ACRES ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE CENTER</b>		102. IF HOSPITAL, SPECIFY ONE <b>DOA</b>		103. IF OTHER THAN HOSPITAL, SPECIFY ONE	
104. COUNTY <b>SACRAMENTO</b>		105. FACILITY ADDRESS OR LOCATION WHERE FOUND (Street and number or location) <b>9134 WOODMAN AVENUE</b>		106. CITY <b>ARLETA</b>	
107. CAUSE OF DEATH <b>(A) FOWL PLAY</b>		108. DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER? <b>YES</b>		109. BIOPSY PERFORMED? <b>NO</b>	
110. AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <b>NO</b>		111. USED IN DETERMINING CAUSE?		112. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RESULTING IN THE UNDERLYING CAUSE GIVEN IN 107 <b>NONE</b>	
113. WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION IN ITEM 107 or 112? (If yes, list type of operation and date.)		113A. IF FEMALE, PREGNANT IN LAST YEAR?			

Certificates

Reporting

Record Options

Supplement Options

## Incident Information

Allows to create incident

**Save Incident**

# of deaths (suicides, homicides) associated with this suicide incident :

# of non-fatal victims in this incident :

Police agency investigating the death :

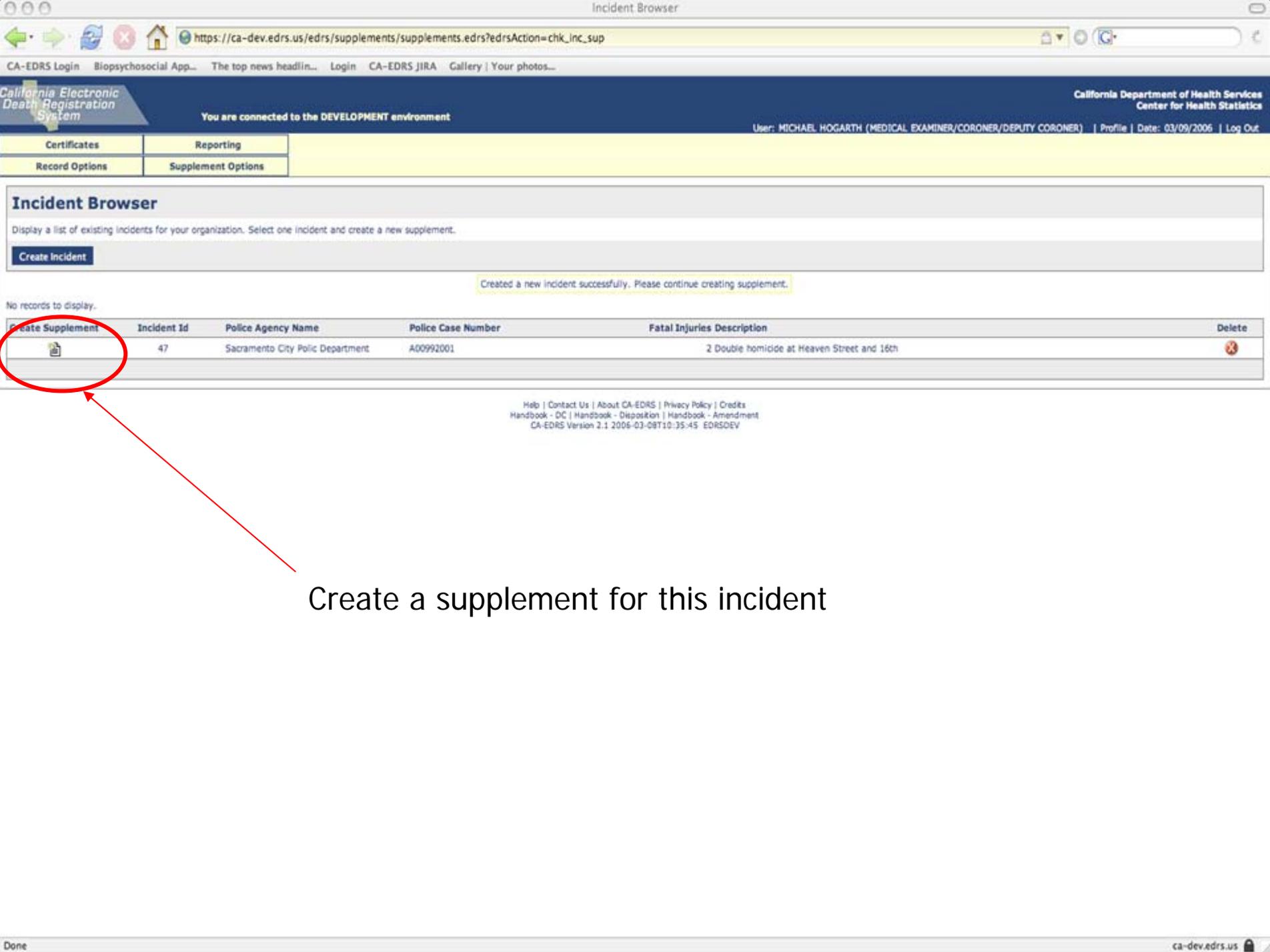
Police agency case # :

# of weapons involved in this incident :

Description :



Enter incident information



You are connected to the DEVELOPMENT environment

User: MICHAEL HOGARTH (MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER/DEPUTY CORONER) | Profile | Date: 03/09/2006 | Log Out

Certificates	Reporting
Record Options	Supplement Options

### Incident Browser

Display a list of existing incidents for your organization. Select one incident and create a new supplement.

Create Incident

Created a new incident successfully. Please continue creating supplement.

No records to display.

Create Supplement	Incident Id	Police Agency Name	Police Case Number	Fatal Injuries Description	Delete
	47	Sacramento City Polic Department	A00992001	2 Double homicide at Heaven Street and 16th	

Create a supplement for this incident

Certificates	Reporting
Record Options	Supplement Options

### Supplement

This is a generic supplement

[Save Supplement](#)

# of deaths (suicides, homicides) associated with this suicide incident : 2  
# of non-fatal victims in this incident : 1  
Police agency investigating the death : Sacramento City Police Department  
Police agency case # : A00992001  
# of weapons involved in this incident : 2

Supplement description :

Victim killed another person prior to committing suicide (check if yes)

EMS :

Victim in custody when injured? :

Was victim a gang member? :  (Please name the the gang)

Specific location where injured :

Homeless? :

Suspected alcohol use in hours prior to death? :

Toxicology performed?

Date and time specimens were collected :

Blood alcohol tested :   (BAC content. For e.g 0.08.)

Dextroamphetamines :

Amphetamines :  List specific drugs :

Cocaine :

Antidepressants :

Marijuana :

Opiates :  List specific drugs :

Select manner of death :

General information

Toxicology

Manner of death

## Supplement

Allows to create a new supplement or update an existing supplement.

[Save Supplement](#)

# of deaths (suicides, homicides) associated with this incident : 1  
 # of non-fatal victims in this incident : 1  
 Police agency investigating the death : sacramento  
 Police agency case # : 4561615615614156116511651165156416547+1+414111  
 # of weapons involved in this incident : 2  
 Description : argument turned to fight then to gun fight

### Add new weapon type information

Supplement description :

EMS : --

Victim in custody when injured? : --

Was victim a gang member? :

Specific location where injured : --

Homeless? : --

Suspected alcohol use in hours prior to death? : --

Toxicology performed?

Select manner of death : 0 SUICIDE

Circumstances known?

<input type="checkbox"/> Victim killed another person prior to committing suicide (check if yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Intimate partner problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Problem	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relationship problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Current depressed mood	<input type="checkbox"/> Job problem
<input type="checkbox"/> In current treatment for mental illness	<input type="checkbox"/> School problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Ever treated for mental illness	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol problem	<input type="checkbox"/> Suicide of friend or family member (in past 5 years)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other substance problem	<input type="checkbox"/> Other death of friend or family member (in past 5 years)
<input type="checkbox"/> Left a suicide note	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent or impending criminal legal problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Disclosed intent to commit suicide	<input type="checkbox"/> Other legal problems
<input type="checkbox"/> History of suicide attempts	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim was perpetrator of interpersonal violence (in past month)
<input type="checkbox"/> Crisis within 2 weeks (recent/impending)	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim of interpersonal violence (in past month)
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical health problem	<input type="checkbox"/> Other suicide circumstances (specify in narrative)

# Supplement

Allows to create a new supplement or update an existing supplement.

Save Supplement

# of deaths (suicides, homicides) associated with this incident : 1  
 # of non-fatal victims in this incident : 1  
 Police agency investigating the death : sacramento  
 Police agency case # : 456161561561415611651165156416547+1+414111  
 # of weapons involved in this incident : 2  
 Description : argument turned to fight then to gun fight

## Add new weapon type information

Supplement description :

EMS : --

Victim in custody when injured? : --

Was victim a gang member? :

Specific location where injured : --

Homeless? : --

Suspected alcohol use in hours prior to death? : --

Toxicology performed?

Select manner of death : 1 HOMICIDE

Circumstances known?

<input type="checkbox"/> suspect attempted suicide after committing homicide	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim used a weapon
<input type="checkbox"/> Argument over money/property	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim (not law enforcement officer) was intervener assisting crime victim
<input type="checkbox"/> Jealousy (lover's triangle)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mercy killing
<input type="checkbox"/> Intimate partner violence related	<input type="checkbox"/> Precipitated by another crime
<input type="checkbox"/> Other argument, abuse, conflict	Nature of first other crime : -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Crime was in progress at time of the homicide
<input type="checkbox"/> Gang related	Nature of second other crime : -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hate crime	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentally ill suspect
<input type="checkbox"/> Brawl (mutual physical fight, > 2 people)	<input type="checkbox"/> Random violence
<input type="checkbox"/> Terrorist attack	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim of interpersonal violence (in past month)
<input type="checkbox"/> Victim was a bystander, not intended target	<input type="checkbox"/> Drive-by shooting
<input type="checkbox"/> Victim was a police office on duty	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify in narrative)
<input type="checkbox"/> Justifiable self defense by law enforcement or civilian	

Relationship of the victim to suspect 1 : --

Relationship of the victim to suspect 2 : --

# Supplement

Allows to create a new supplement or update an existing supplement.

Save Supplement

# of deaths (suicides, homicides) associated with this incident : 1  
 # of non-fatal victims in this incident : 1  
 Police agency investigating the death : sacramento  
 Police agency case # : 4561615615614156116511651165156416547+1+414111  
 # of weapons involved in this incident : 2  
 Description : argument turned to fight then to gun fight

## Add new weapon type information

Supplement description :

EMS : --

Victim in custody when injured? : --

Was victim a gang member? :

Specific location where injured : --

Homeless? : --

Suspected alcohol use in hours prior to death? : --

Toxicology performed?

Select manner of death : 3 UNINTENTIONAL GUN DEATH

Circumstances known?

Context of Injury: What was the shooter doing at the time of injruy? Check all that apply:

- Hunting
- Target shooting
- Self-defense shooting
- Celebratory firing
- laoding/Unloading gun
- Cleaning gun
- Showing gun to others
- Playing with gun
- Other context of injury (specify in narrative)

Mechanism of Injury: What was the shooter doing at the time of injruy? Check all that apply:

- Thought safety was engaged
- Thought gun was unloaded; magazine was disengaged
- Thought gun was unloaded; other
- Unintentionall pulled trigger
- Bullet ricochet
- Gun defect or malfunction
- Fired while holstering/unholstering
- Dropped gun
- Fired while operating safety/lock
- Gun mistaken for a toy
- Other mechanism of injury (specify in narrative)

# CaIVDRS/CaIEVDRS Data\*

Year	CaIVDRS	CaIEVDRS	Total
2005	563	N/A	563
2006	3,329	N/A	3,329
2007	2,797	644	3,441
2008	0	403	403
All Years	6,689	1,047	7,736

\* As of 9/29/2008



# Example of data utility

- Sacramento suicide data requested from Sacramento County Health Department
  - Age – Mean = 47 years, Range = 14-90 years
  - Gender – 87.6% male, 12.4% female
  - Race/Ethnicity – 74.6% Non-Hispanic White, 12.8% Asian, 9.1% Hispanic White, 3.6% black
  - Veteran – 29.2% yes, 70.8% no

# Example (cont.)

- Mental Illness – 22.1% had a mental health diagnosis, 51.3% were noted to seem depressed before the incident, 8% were known to have current or past MH treatment, 10.6% were noted to have an alcohol problem and 6.2% were noted to have another substance abuse problem, 31.9% left a suicide note, 0.9% had a suicide of friend or family member in past 5 years, and 8.9% had a non-suicide death of friend or family member in past 5 years.
- Drug/ETOH Abuse – Blood alcohol positive for 26.9% of victims tested (n=25), 57.7% of victims tested for methamphetamines positive (n=20), 80% of victims tested for antidepressants were positive (n=10), 75% of victims tested for Cocaine were positive (n=20), 76.2% of victims tested for opiates were positive (n=21), and 81.8% of victims tested for marijuana were positive (n=11).
- Major Physical Illness – 15% had a physical health problem that was known to contribute to the suicide.

# Example (cont.)

- Family History of Suicide – Other than the information on whether a friend or family member's suicide had contributed to their own suicide, we do not collect this information. Adding to module.
- Job or Financial Loss – 16.8% of victims had a financial problem that contributed to the suicide and 12.4% had a job problem that contributed.
- Relationship or Social Loss – 23.9% of victims had an intimate partner problem and 5.3% had another relationship problem that contributed to the suicide.
- Previous/Current Prison Inmate – We do not currently collect this information for suicides. Adding to module.
- Rural Areas – I'll let you do that assessment (table of city below)
- Homeless – 3.5% of victims were homeless.
- LGBTQ – Added to module.

# Future of CalVDRS

- Currently in our last year of CDC funding
- Need to evaluate both data systems
- Several counties lined up to report in 2009
- Develop electronic data import in EDRS
- Publish reports and data on the web
- Return data to counties so they can conduct their own analyses

# What can you do? Expose us!

- Encourage your coroner or Medical Examiner to participate in CaIVDRS, if they are not currently doing so
- Obtain, analyze, and publish data from your county
- The more exposure we can get showing the statewide and local utility of these data, the more likely we'll be to get more permanent statewide funding!

# Questions?

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