

Dated: October 27, 2005.

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*Acting Reports Clearance Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 05-21910 Filed 11-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[60Day-06-0604]

**Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations**

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call 404-639-4766 and send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D74, Atlanta, GA 30333 or send an e-mail to [omb@cdc.gov](mailto:omb@cdc.gov).

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the

use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Proposed Project**

School Associated Violent Death Surveillance System (0920-0604)—Reinstatement without change—National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

*Background and Brief Description*

The Division of Violence Prevention (DVP), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) proposes to maintain a system for the surveillance of school-associated homicides and suicides. The system will rely on existing public records and interviews with law enforcement officials and school officials. The purpose of the system is to (1) estimate the rate of school-associated violent death in the United States and (2) identify common features of school-associated violent deaths. The system will contribute to the understanding of fatal violence associated with schools, guide further research in the area, and help direct ongoing and future prevention programs.

Violence is the leading cause of death among young people, and increasingly recognized as an important public health and social issue. In 1998, over 3,500 school aged children (5 to 18 years old) in the United States died violent deaths due to suicide, homicide, and unintentional firearm injuries. The vast majority of these fatal injuries were not school associated. However, whenever a homicide or suicide occurs in or around school, it becomes a matter of particularly intense public interest and concern. NCIPC conducted the first scientific study of school-associated

violent deaths during the 1992-99 academic years to establish the true extent of this highly visible problem. Despite the important role of schools as a setting for violence research and prevention interventions, relatively little scientific or systematic work has been done to describe the nature and level of fatal violence associated with schools. Until NCIPC conducted the first nationwide investigation of violent deaths associated with schools, public health and education officials had to rely on limited local studies and estimated numbers to describe the extent of school-associated violent death.

The system will draw cases from the entire United States in attempting to capture all cases of school-associated violent deaths that have occurred. Investigators will review public records and published press reports concerning each school-associated violent death. For each identified case, investigators will also interview an investigating law enforcement official (defined as a police officer, police chief, or district attorney), and a school official (defined as a school principal, school superintendent, school counselor, school teacher, or school support staff) who are knowledgeable about the case in question. Researchers will request information on both the victim and alleged offender(s)—including demographic data, their academic and criminal records, and their relationship to one another. They will also collect data on the time and location of the death; the circumstances, motive, and method of the fatal injury; and the security and violence prevention activities in the school and community where the death occurred, before and after the fatal injury event. There are no costs to the respondents other than their time.

ESTIMATE OF ANNUALIZED BURDEN TABLE

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/ respondents	Average burden/response (in hours)	Total annual burden (in hours)
School Officials .....	35	1	60/60	35
Policy Officials .....	35	1	60/60	35
Total .....	70	.....	.....	70

Dated: October 28, 2005.

**Betsy Dunaway,**

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[FR Doc. 05-21913 Filed 11-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[60Day-06-0607]

**Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations**

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Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Proposed Project**

The National Violent Death Reporting System-Revision-National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Violence is an important public health problem. In the United States, homicide and suicide are the second and third leading causes of death, respectively, in the 1-34 year old age group. Unfortunately, public health agencies do not know much more about the problem than the numbers and the sex, race, and age of the victims—all information obtainable from the standard death certificate. Death certificates, however, carry no information about key factors necessary for prevention such as the victim-suspect relationship or the circumstances of the deaths. This makes it impossible to discern anything but the gross contours of the problem.

Furthermore, death certificates are typically not available until 20 months after the completion of a calendar year. Official publications of national violent death rates, e.g., those in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, rarely use data that are more than two years old. Public health interventions aimed at a moving target last seen two years ago may well miss the mark.

Local and Federal criminal justice agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) provide slightly more information about homicides, but they do not routinely collect standardized data about suicides, which are much more common within all age groups than homicides. The FBI's Supplemental Homicide Report System (SHRS) does collect basic information about the victim-suspect relationship and circumstances. But, as with death certificates, SHRS does not link violent deaths that are part of one incident such as homicides-suicides. Because it is a voluntary system, approximately 10-20 percent of police departments nationwide do not participate. The FBI's National Incident Based Reporting

System (NIBRS) addresses some of these deficiencies, but covers less of the country than SHRS, includes only homicides, and collects only police information. Also, the Bureau of Justice Statistics Reports do not use data that are more than two years old.

CDC therefore proposes to continue a state-based surveillance system for violent deaths that will provide more detailed and timely information. It taps into the case records held by medical examiners/coroners, police, and crime labs. Data are collected centrally by each state in the system, stripped of identifiers, and then sent to the CDC. Information is collected from these records about the characteristics of the victims and suspects, the circumstances of the deaths, and the weapons involved. States use standardized data elements and software designed by CDC. Ultimately, this information is intended to guide states in designing programs that reduce multiple forms of violence.

Neither victim families nor suspects are contacted to collect information for The National Violent Death Reporting System. Data come from existing records and are collected by state health department staff or their subcontractors. Health departments incur an average of 2.5 hours per death in identifying the deaths from death certificates, contacting the police and medical examiners to get copies of or to view the relevant records, abstracting the records, various data processing tasks, various administrative tasks, etc.

The number of state health departments to be funded may be as high as 22 by 2009. Seventeen states are currently funded. NCIPC hopes to eventually fund all 50 states. Violent deaths include all homicides, suicides, legal interventions, deaths from undetermined causes, and unintentional firearm deaths. There are 50,000 such deaths annually among U.S. residents; thus the average state will experience approximately 1,000 such deaths each year.

ESTIMATE OF ANNUALIZED BURDEN TABLE

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/respondent	Average burden/response (in hours)	Total burden (in hours)
State Health Departments .....	22	1,000	2.5	
Total .....				55,000