



Adult National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long has the Adult National Fatality Case Reporting System (Adult NFR-CRS) been in use?

A: The Adult NFR-CRS was launched in April 2025 by the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (National Center), a program of the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), to support Suicide Mortality Review Committees (SMRCs). The Adult NFR-CRS borrowed very heavily questions and features from the Pediatric NFR-CRS, which has been in use since 2005. Currently, 50 states - more than 2,000 user accounts - are active in the Pediatric NFR-CRS to support child death review and fetal and infant mortality review team efforts.

Q: What are the major features of the Adult NFR-CRS to support SMRCs?

A: The Adult NFR-CRS can:

- Collect detailed data about the decedent, including military service history, the cause of death, suicide risk and protective factors, team deliberations, and prevention recommendations.
- Generate 19 preprogrammed reports by setting a few filters, including the Suicide Consolidated Risk Assessment Profile (SCRAP) and a Team Findings/Recommendations report.
- Extract all data fields entered into Adult NFR-CRS.
- Create data visualizations with a data query tool called Data Explorer.
- Check data entry through automated error checking (e.g., date of incident cannot be after the date of death).
- Provide feedback on the completion of priority variables.
- Contribute to a de-identified research dataset for future investigators to better understand suicide in the military population to enhance prevention efforts.

Q: Can users see other jurisdiction's data?

A: No, jurisdictions can only see their own data. For example, State A SMRC cannot see State B SMRC team's data and vice versa.

Q: What are the different types of access in the Adult NFR-CRS?

A: Users within a jurisdiction can be assigned to different permission levels. The permission levels are:

- Administrator: Can manage accounts (add, delete, unlock, restore deleted users, restore deleted cases).
- Case Reporter: Can enter and edit case information, conduct searches, use Data Explorer, and create reports for their SMRC team.
- Data Analyst: Can download data (identified or de-identified), use Data Explorer, and create reports for their SMRC team.
- Case Viewer: Can view information about individual cases (read only), conduct searches, use Data Explorer, and create reports for their SMRC team. Users of this permission level cannot edit case information.

Users can have more than one permission level (e.g., Case Reporter and Data Analyst).

Q: Is the data in the Adult NFR-CRS de-identified?

A: It is a team's decision. There are a few questions in the Adult NFR-CRS that contain Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) identifiers, such as decedent's date of birth, date of death, name, and address. However, none of these fields are mandatory to complete for data entry. A jurisdiction could elect not to answer these fields during data entry.

For those users that have Data Analyst permission levels (the ability to download data into text files for analysis), the permission role can be modified such that only de-identified variables are included in the data extract. In this option, the system automatically strips out the HIPAA identifier fields as part of the download process. The HIPAA identifier fields are listed in the Data Use Agreement between MPHI and each jurisdiction.

Q: Are there any setup costs and annual maintenance costs to use the Adult NFR-CRS?

A: No, there are no set up costs or maintenance costs to use the Adult NFR-CRS, and all software updates are free. Each jurisdiction must complete a Data Use Agreement with MPHI to use the software.

Q: Is there a 'hard copy' of the data reporting variables/questions?

A: Yes, there is a fillable PDF that teams can use for training and data capture purposes. The reporting form can be found at <https://ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/Adult-NFRCRS-Report-Form.pdf>.

Q: Is there a training environment available to practice data entry or to learn more about its features?

A: Yes, the National Center can provide SMRC program leaders with access to the Adult NFR-CRS training site for exploration of the system's features and data variables. Please contact the National Center at SMRC@ncfrp.org to request access.

Q: What are the differences between the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and the Adult NFR-CRS?

A: Key differences between NVDRS and Adult NFR-CRS include the following:

- SMRCs are composed of team members from many disciplines. During team meetings, SMRC members review records and discuss risk and protective factors related to the decedent and how systems interacted. This rich discussion may not be reflected in records. This important contextual information is captured in the Adult NFR-CRS questions. Whereas NVDRS is primarily a records-based review and often uses a single abstractor to enter information predominantly from death certificates, medical examiner/coroner reports, and law enforcement investigation reports.
- The Adult NFR-CRS encourages the documentation of challenges and protective factors (including the SCRAP) to the decedent, family, and systems with which they interacted. With this rich data collection, SMRCs will be able to identify and document recommendations to address gaps.
- Each jurisdiction that enters data into the Adult NFR-CRS has access to Tableau data dashboards that contain their team's data. The dashboards are dynamic (i.e., 'clickable' into a variety of filters that can be combined) and show relationships among key risk and protective factors. There is no additional cost to access this feature.
- Jurisdictions retain ownership of their fatality review data in the Adult NFR-CRS. Through the Data Use Agreement with MPHI, jurisdictions are able to specify how SMRC de-identified data may be shared and used.

Please note that every effort has been made to ensure this document is as accessible as possible. If you encounter any issues or have any questions or concerns, please contact the National Center at SMRC@ncfrp.org.