



Adult NFR-CRS SMRC Data Quality Priority Variables

The Adult National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (Adult NFR-CRS) is a web-based data system designed to capture comprehensive information from suicide mortality review committees (SMRC). This system collects detailed data about the decedent, including military service history, cause of death, suicide risk and protective factors, team deliberations, and prevention recommendations. Due to the large number of data elements and complexity of information being entered into the Adult NFR-CRS, data quality is critical to ensuring the usefulness of the data for informing prevention and system improvements. One effective strategy to improve data quality is to focus on a smaller set of questions addressed during the review process.

The National Center identified several key SMRC data variables (called “priority variables”) that are reported in the Adult NFR-CRS. **Priority variables were selected with two guiding criteria: 1.) Is the variable important for prevention and systems improvement initiatives? and 2.) Is the data accessible?**

The priority variables in the Adult NFR-CRS are noted with an orange triangle next to the question number, as shown in the image below.

A screenshot of a survey question within a blue-bordered box. The question is "e. Did the decedent have any previous suicide attempts?" with a small orange triangle to the left of the letter 'e' and a speech bubble icon to the right. Below the question are three radio button options: "Yes", "No", and "Unknown". In the top right corner of the box, there is a blue link that says "Deselect answer".

Completing the priority variables is an important step to ensuring accurate data collection. To help teams monitor priority variables, the Adult NFR-CRS contains several tools, including a data quality review section and a standardized report that identifies which priority variables have missing data. If teams find that they are consistently struggling with missing information for the priority variables, SMRCs can discuss strategies to assist with improving data collection, such as brainstorming a list of potential data sources to improve data accuracy. Focusing on priority

variables may be especially helpful for teams that are new to conducting reviews and using the Adult NFR-CRS.

The Adult NFR-CRS SMRC Data Quality Priority Variables are the following:

Section A. Decedent Information

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
A2	Decedent's date of birth	A3	Decedent's date of death
A5	Decedent's race	A7	Sex on death certificate
A8	Relationship/marital status	A10	Military status
A13	Decedent had disability or chronic illness	A14	Decedent's health insurance
A15	Decedent's last contact with a healthcare system	A17	Decedent had history of maltreatment as victim
A19	Decedent's work status	A21	Decedent had history of intimate partner violence
A22	Decedent was receiving mental health services in the 90 days before death	A23	Decedent was on medications for mental health illness in the 90 days before death
A24	Decedent had received prior mental health services at any time prior to the 90 days before death	A25	Decedent was on medications for mental health illness at any time prior to the 90 days before death
A26	Decedent had emergency department visit for mental health care within previous 12 months	A27	Decedent was hospitalized for mental health care within previous 12 months
A28	Issues prevented decedent from receiving mental health services	A29	Decedent had history of substance use or abuse
A30	Did decedent have any interactions with justice system	A31	Decedent served time in jail/prison incarceration (including any military experiences, if applicable)
A32	Decedent acutely ill in the two weeks before death		

Section B. Incident Information

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
B3	Place of incident	B4	Type of area
B9	At time of incident to death, had decedent used drugs or alcohol	B10	Total number of deaths at incident, including decedent

Section C. Investigation Information

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
C1	Was a death scene investigation performed?	C3	Death referred to a ME/C
C5	Autopsy performed	C8	Was any toxicology testing performed on the decedent?
C9	Was decedent's medical history reviewed as part of the autopsy	C13	Adult Protective Services record check conducted
C14	Decedent ever have any injuries suspicious of physical abuse	C16	Adult Protective Services action taken

Section D. Official Manner and Primary Cause of Death

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
D1	Cause of death code (ICD-10) assigned to case	D5	Official manner of death
D6	Primary cause of death		

Section E5. Detailed Information by Cause of Death (Weapon or Bodily Force)

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
E5a	Was the death a result of a weapon	E5b	Type of weapon
E5e	Was firearm kept loaded	E5f	Was firearm kept locked

Section E7. Detailed Information by Cause of Death (Poisoning, Overdose, or Acute Intoxication)

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
E7a	Type of substance	E7b	Did decedent have prescription for a controlled substance within previous 24 months
E7c	Did the decedent have a non-fatal overdose within previous 12 months		

Section F2. Suicide

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
F2a	Decedent history of head injury	F2b	Decedent history of chronic pain
F2c	At time of death (does not need to contribute to the death)	F2d	Did decedent have suicide safety plan in the previous 12 months before death
F2e	Did decedent have previous suicide attempts	F2f	Did decedent ever communicate suicide thoughts, actions, or intent
F2g	Evidence death was planned or premeditated	F2h	Death occurs under circumstances where it would be likely to be observed or intervened by others
F2i	History of non-suicidal self-harm	F2j	Warning signs within 90 days of death
F2k	Decedent experienced known crisis within 2 weeks of death	F2l	Suicide was part of a cluster, contagion, pact, or murder

Section F3. Life Stressors/Risk Factors and Protective Factors

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
F3a	Social/economic	F3b	Medical
F3c	Relationships	F3d	School
F3e	Technology	F3f	Transitions
F3g	Trauma	F3h	Other life stressors
F3i	Protective factors		

Section H. Findings Identified During the Review

Variable	Description
H3	List any recommendations and/or initiatives that could be implemented

Section I. Review Meeting Process

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
I3	Is review complete	I4	Agencies and individuals at review meeting

Section K. Form Completion

Variable	Description
K	Data entry complete

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.