



# Developing a Shooting Victim Database

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## Background

Shootings are often times viewed as predictable and preventable events. The creation of an inclusive database of shooting incidents would greatly enhance the current analysis of gun-related crime. Understanding and diligently tracking all surrounding cases will likely lead to better prediction and prevention of further shooting victims.

Such databases have been put into use by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and by the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission.

## Literature

Existing literature has found the following areas to be the most important for analyzing shooting incidents:

- Incident information
- Location information
- Victim/Suspect demographics
- Victim/offender relationship
- Weapon type
- Circumstantial information

## Database Overview

The structure of the shooting victims database would consist of multiple “tabs” or tables to provide for varied one-to-many ratios within incidents. The breakdown of tabs is as follows:

- **Incident**
- **Victims**
- **Suspects**
- **Weapons**
- **Circumstance**
- **Investigation**

## Field Breakdown

Within each tab, additional fields are broken down to track every identified variable. A general breakdown of included information is provided below:

### Incident

<b>Incident Info</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident Address</li> <li>• PSA</li> <li>• Division</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor/Outdoor</li> <li>• Location Type</li> <li>• Zoning</li> </ul>
<b>Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occur Date</li> <li>• Occur Time</li> <li>• Platoon</li> </ul>
<b>Charge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top Charge</li> <li>• Case Status</li> <li>• Clearance Type</li> </ul>
<b>Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # Fatal victims</li> <li>• # Nonfatal victims</li> <li>• # Offenders</li> </ul>
<b>Detection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call For Service for Incident</li> <li>• How discovered</li> <li>• First Responder</li> </ul>

### Weapons

<b>Weapons Info</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firearm Type</li> <li>• Caliber</li> <li>• Make/Model</li> </ul>
<b>Recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live Ammo Recovered</li> <li>• Spent Ammo Recovered</li> <li>• Gun Recovered</li> </ul>
<b>Tracking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stolen</li> <li>• Ballistics Match</li> <li>• Crime Gun</li> </ul>

## Persons

<b>Primary Info</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• DOB</li> <li>• Gender</li> </ul>
<b>Residence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Residence Type</li> <li>• Incident-Residence Distance</li> </ul>
<b>Current Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marital Status</li> <li>• Gang Affiliation</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> </ul>
<b>V/O Relationship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strangers</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• Romantic Relationship</li> </ul>
<b>Criminal History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violent Arrest</li> <li>• Property Victimization</li> <li>• Substance Sale</li> </ul>
<b>Past CJ Interaction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Victimization</li> <li>• Co-Offending</li> <li>• Repeat Victim of Suspect</li> </ul>
<b>Injury Info</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # Shots</li> <li>• Taken to Hospital</li> <li>• Where on body Injured</li> </ul>

## Circumstance

<b>Crime Involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During Another Crime</li> <li>• Crime Precipitated</li> <li>• Victim Aggressor</li> </ul>
<b>Dispute</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$/Property/Drugs</li> <li>• Romantic Dispute</li> <li>• Domestic Dispute</li> </ul>
<b>Other Circumstances</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug Trade</li> <li>• Mutual Physical Fight</li> <li>• Victim Bystander</li> </ul>

## Investigation

<b>Investigation Info</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time of Incident to Arrest</li> <li>• Time of Incident to Conviction</li> <li>• Time of Incident to Sentence</li> </ul>
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## Benefits

- Track all shooting cases in one complete database
- Organize data by variables of interest
- Detect patterns of:
  - Crime
  - Location
  - Participants
  - Cause
- Assist the Rochester Police Department in predicting and preventing further incidents of firearm violence
- Producing a more comprehensive database could create opportunities for:
  - Quicker and more informed police investigations
  - Identification of disputes that could turn lethal
  - Predict future shootings
  - Identify potential victims and/or offenders

## References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2008). *National Violent Death Reporting System Coding Manual, Version 3*.

Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation

World Health Organization. (2012). *International Classification of Diseases (ICD)*.

## Acknowledgements

Monroe Crime Analysis Center  
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## Contact

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