



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47890, Olympia, Washington 98504-7890

Tel: (360) 236-4030 FAX: (360) 586-7424 TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

March 4, 2013

Dear Councilmember Burgess, Mayor Cooke, Deputy Mayor Gregerson, Mayor Law, Councilman Snyder, Council President Stuckart, Mayor Strickland, and Mayor Warden:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Inslee regarding the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). I agree with you; information on circumstances that contribute to violent deaths can help us target efforts to prevent them from occurring in the future.

I asked my staff to get additional information about this important Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) program. Since the program started in 2002, CDC has selected 18 states to participate in the NVDRS program through a competitive grant application process. At this time, the CDC is not accepting data from non-grantee states. They do not have resources to complete the program's rigorous data quality checks nor provide useful feedback and technical assistance.

The CDC is hopeful Congress will appropriate additional funds to add states to the NVDRS. They expect to release a new competitive application in 2014, maybe sooner. My staff will watch for the application release.

Our partners at Public Health-Seattle and King County are also very interested in gathering information on violent deaths. We will work with them over the next few months to be prepared to consider a strong NVDRS proposal. We will also explore an offer from CDC to provide a copy of the NVDRS software for collection of Washington state data should state funds become available.

Again, thank you for your interest in this important program. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Karen Jensen, Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Quality Assurance Division, at 360-236-4600.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Selecky  
Secretary

cc: John Lane, Office of the Governor  
Karen Jensen, Department of Health



The Honorable Tim Burgess  
Seattle City Council  
[tim.burgess@seattle.gov](mailto:tim.burgess@seattle.gov)

The Honorable Suzette Cooke  
Mayor, City of Kent  
[mayor@kentwa.gov](mailto:mayor@kentwa.gov)

The Honorable Mia Gregerson  
SeaTac City Council  
[mgregers@hotmail.com](mailto:mgregers@hotmail.com)

The Honorable Denis Law  
Mayor, City of Renton  
[dlaw@rentonwa.gov](mailto:dlaw@rentonwa.gov)

The Honorable Jon Snyder  
Spokane City Council  
[jsnyder@spokanecity.org](mailto:jsnyder@spokanecity.org)

The Honorable Ben Stuckart  
President, Spokane City Council  
[bstuckart@spokanecity.org](mailto:bstuckart@spokanecity.org)

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland  
Mayor, City of Tacoma  
[marilyn.strickland@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:marilyn.strickland@cityoftacoma.org)

The Honorable Paul Warden  
Mayor, City of Prosser  
[citycouncil@cityofprosser.com](mailto:citycouncil@cityofprosser.com)