Description: The Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) is an interactive, online database system that provides fatal injury data at the national, regional, and state levels and nonfatal injury data at the national level. This sheet focuses on fatal injury data.

Sponsoring institution: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Data:
- Suicides
- Leading cause of death reports showing the impact of injury-related deaths compared to other leading causes of death
- Years of potential life lost (YPLL) reports showing the impact of premature death resulting from injury compared to other leading causes of premature death
- Color-coded maps showing patterns of county-level injury death rates across geographic areas (national, regional, and state levels) to help users identify populations at high risk of injury by intent and mechanism (cause) of injury
- Medical and work-loss costs associated with suicides

Variables:
- Suicide can be separated out by mechanism of injury, geographic region/state, race/ethnicity, sex, and age.
- Cost of injury reports include both medical (treatment and rehabilitation) and work-loss costs (lost wages, benefits, and self-reported household services).

Source of data:
- Suicide data come from a national mortality database compiled by CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics.
- Information from death certificates, including causes of death reported by attending physicians, medical examiners, and coroners, comes from state vital statistics offices.
- Demographic information about decedents comes from funeral directors, who obtain the information from family members and other informants.
- The user interface is very easy to use.

Strengths:
- Standardized national data on fatal injuries can be compared across demographic groups, states, and by mechanism (cause).
- The vital statistics mortality data are the fundamental source of cause-of-death information in the United States.
- Mortality data are generally available 18 months after the end of the calendar year.

Limitations:
- The quality of the mortality data entered into the vital statistics system can be inconsistent due to the reporting practices of individual medical examiners and coroners.
- Not all suicides are recorded as suicides.
- Other information that appears on death certificates, such as race and ethnicity, can be inconsistently reported.
- Long delays in reporting can occur, e.g., two to three years.
Data Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Data

Access:

- WISQARS’ Fatal Injury Data webpage can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html.
- The WISQARS website has a menu-driven interface that allows users to choose how the data is presented, for example, as a table, bar graph, or map, or downloaded into a spreadsheet or statistical analysis program.