

## Minimum Basic Data Set - Intentional Injuries

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The following major data elements were recommended as either minimum (core) or optimum in the deliberations on establishing a consistent, uniform, and standardized bases for intentional data collection efforts on intentional injury surveillance or research.

The data elements are not in any particular order but appear as discussed by participants of two workshops.

### 1) (MINIMUM) the Intent of Injury

A classification scheme is urged which separates injuries according to intentionality and perpetrator. One possible scheme is:

<u>Perpetrator</u>	<u>Intentionality</u>		
	Intentional	Unintentional	Unknown
Self			
Other			
Unknown			

The issue of intentionality will require some discussion to reach a consensus definition. Illustrations of various types is urged.

### 2) (MINIMUM) Place of Occurrence of the Injury Event

Specificity of geographic and/or detail of the event location for descriptive purposes was deemed essential.

### 3) (MINIMUM) Time of Event

As recorded by date and hour.

### 4) (MINIMUM) Circumstances, Motive, or How the Event Occurred

The workshop addressed several issues on this data variable, including:

- a. whether the injury arose from an isolated event or multiple connected events
- b. a need to reconcile criminal justice and public health terminology
- c. difficulties associated with capturing multiple and not mutually exclusive circumstances (e.g., arguments, alcohol, drugs, and gangs may all be important "circumstances" for a single event
- d. **optimally**, a narrative field describing the events would aid precision and flexibility

### 5) (MINIMUM) Substances Involved: Victim and Perpetrator

A simple dichotomous yes/no is essential. The workshops felt that type of substance, for example, alcoholic beverages, cocaine, heroin, and other drugs would ultimately be desirable for purposes of description and countermeasures development.

**6) (MINIMUM) Data Source**

This variable is essential in order to be able to distinguish the source of the information and the nuances or differences in definition from various sources such as police reports, coroner's investigative reports, hospital documents, etc. We want to key all of the variables to a hierarchy of authenticity.

**7) (MINIMUM) Weapon Involved**

This important variable is unique, in many respects, to intentional injuries. The variable will need to be operationalized. Methods to record single and multiple weapons, and to encompass the various methods used for self-inflicted injury will be needed. It was judged **optimal** to work toward greater detail on the type of weapon particularly firearms.

**8) (MINIMUM) Relationship of Victim to Perpetrator**

**9) (MINIMUM) Demographics of Victim and Perpetrator**

<b>FACTOR</b>	<b>VICTIM</b>	<b>PERPETRATOR</b>
Sex	X	X
Age	X	X (interval)
Race/Ethnicity	X	X

The workshop concluded that it would be optimal also to develop some indicator of socio-economic status. Factors such as occupation, census track of residence, employment status, zip code of victim (and event), and a unique identifier were suggested and would need to be operationalized.

**10) (MINIMUM) Injury Factors (of Victim)**

The workshops felt that this variable is shared equally with the unintentional minimum data set. It should address factors surrounding severity of the injury, nature/body part involved, post-injury disability, impairment or deficit, expected medical care payer, source of treatment, type of transport, pre-existing medical or emotional/psychiatric questions. These variables would have to be operationalized for factors of accessibility, standardization of terminology, etc.

**11) (OPTIMUM) Elements of Preventive Actions or Countermeasures**

The workshop participants felt that it might be important to determine if the violence related injuries occurred in the presence of existing countermeasures, programs, prevention devices, etc.

**12) (OPTIMUM) Prior Events**

Among assault victims, prior injury experience associated with the same or similar perpetrators would be an optimal item.

**13) (OPTIMUM) Living Status of the Victim**

A classification scheme to record whether the victim was living alone, living with a significant other, living with family, living with a child, etc., at the time of or immediately before the injury would be an optimal item.