Suicides, Police Data, & Occupation Coding Challenges

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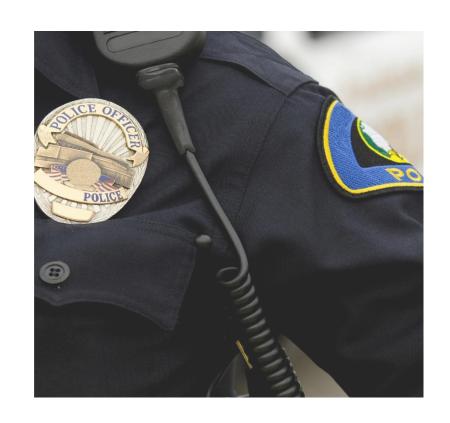
Committee on National Statistics Approaches to Improve the Measurement of Suicide in Law Enforcement in the U.S.





Agenda

- Collecting and Coding Occupation Data
- Occupation in Relevant Databases
- What <u>is</u> a Law Enforcement Officer?
- Issues for Law Enforcement Officer
 Suicide Research





Collecting and Coding Occupation Data

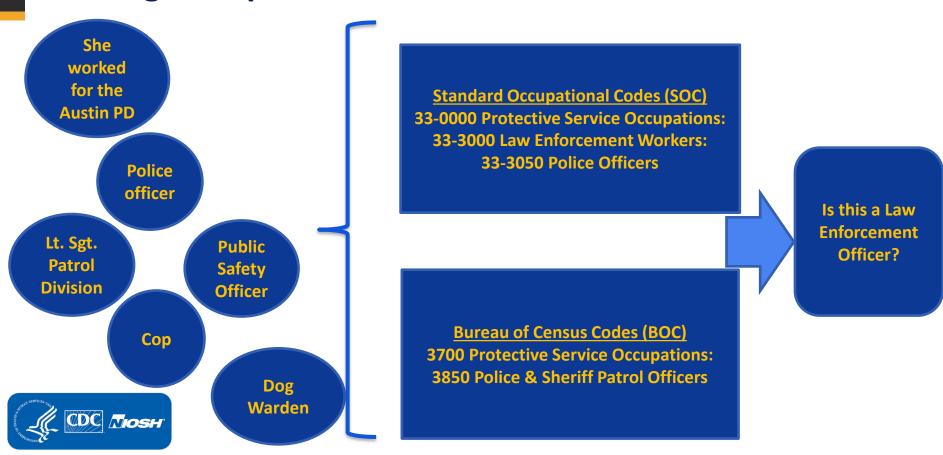
Narrative Text

Occupation
Code

Is this a Law
Enforcement
Officer?



Coding Occupation Data – In Real Life



Commonly Used Databases for Law Enforcement Officer Suicide Research

Database	Source	Occupation Definition	Maintained	Recent Year	Codes
Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)	Various sources*	What were they doing for work at time of death?	BLS	2021	2010 SOC
National Occupational Mortality Surveillance (NOMS)	Death certificate	Usual occupation	NIOSH	2020	2000 BOC
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)	Death certificate	Usual occupation	NCIPC	2020 (2024)	2010 SOC

^{*} Death certificates, autopsy reports, law enforcement reports, family/friend interviews



What is a Law Enforcement Officer?



All local, state, federal, military, & tribal law enforcement, corrections officers, parole/probation officers, officers of the court, firefighters, emergency medical service clinicians, and public safety telecommunicators



Any current or former officer (including a correctional officer), agent, or employee of the US, a State, Indian Tribe, or political subdivision of a State authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of the criminal laws of the US, a State, Indian Tribe, or political subdivision of a State



What <u>is</u> a Law Enforcement Officer?

- Include/Exclude?
 - Correctional Officers
 - Bailiffs
 - Parking Enforcement
 - Fish and Game Wardens
 - Public Safety Telecommunicators
 - Private Security Guards
 - Court Officer
 - School Resource Officer
 - Cadet



Considerations for Law Enforcement Officer Suicide Research

- Potential misclassification of occupation due to inaccurate reporting by family/friends
- Retirement
- Work in other occupations
- Lack of a standardized law enforcement officer definition for suicide research





Additional Reading

 NIOSH [2021]. Guidelines for reporting occupation and industry on death certificates. By Robinson C, Schumacher P, Sweeney HM, Steege A, Free H, Lainez J. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, NIOSH, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2012-149.



Questions?

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The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

