

## **Circumstance Definitions**

\*From 2005-2008, suicide/undetermined circumstances were separated from homicide circumstances. Beginning in 2009, circumstances could be applied to any type of incident. For example, suicide/undetermined circumstances could be applied to homicide incidents and vice versa.

**Argument over money/property** – Specifically involving conflicts over money, property or drugs.

**Bystander** – The victim was not directly involved in the incident. For example: the bystander was walking past a gang fight when killed

**Intervener** – The victim was not directly involved in the incident. For example, a person tried to break up a heated argument and was attacked.

**Drug involvement** – Any activity related to the illegal trafficking of drugs such as a drug deal gone bad, or theft of drugs or drug money.

**Gang related** – Specifically related to gang rivalry or gang activity.

**Brawl** – Three or more persons involved in a mutual, physical fight.

**Intimate partner violence** – Violence between current or former partners.

**Jealousy** – Characterizes violence between intimate partners and sexual rivals.

**Other argument/abuse** – Arguments or conflicts that cannot be identified by any other means.

**Precipitated by another crime** – The homicide was related to another felony-type crime like robbery or drug trafficking.

**Victim used weapon** – The victim was armed with a weapon and used or threatened to use it during the incident.

**Current Mental Illness** – The person has been “diagnosed” by a healthcare or mental health professional and is currently seeking treatment and/or taking medication.

**Physical health problem** – Problems relevant to the event such as a terminal illness or debilitating conditions like chronic pain.

**Crisis** – Acute precipitating events which appear to have contributed to the incident. These events can be 2 weeks before or pending.

**Undetermined Intent** – A death resulting from the use of force against oneself or another person with no clear cut evidence available to determine if the death was intentional or unintentional.

**Alcohol Abuse** – Self admitted or observed by others to have an alcohol problem.

**Current Depressed** – Identifies if the victim was observed to be depressed or had made statements as to being depressed. This is not a clinical diagnosis.

**Ever treated for Mental Illness** – Noted as ever having been treated for mental illness whether it be by therapy or medication.

**Substance abuse** – Self admitted or observed by others to have a prescription drug problem any illicit drug use with the exception of marijuana.

**Disclosed Intent** – The victim has expressed suicidal feelings to another person. This code is only used if there was opportunity to intervene between the time the person disclosed intent and the injury event.

**History of Suicide Attempts** – The victim has previously attempted suicide regardless of the severity of those attempts.

**Suicide Note** – A note left stating intent of injury. This can be in many form from paper to text message.

**Death of Friend/family** – The death of a friend or family member within the past 5 years.

**Financial problems** – Specific problems related to financial situations such as overwhelming debt or bankruptcy.

**Intimate partner problem** – Friction or conflict between current or former intimate partners.

**Job/school problem** – The victim was experiencing problems at work or at school which seem to contribute to the event.

**Other relationship problem** – Friction or conflict between friends or family members.

**Perpetrator of Interpersonal violence** - The victim was the perpetrator of interpersonal violence during the past month or has had a restraining order filed against them within the past month.

**Recent criminal problem** – The victim was facing criminal legal problems like impending arrest, police pursuit, court dates for criminal sentencing etc.

**Legal problem** – Legal problems of a civil nature such as custody disputes or lawsuits.

**Victim of interpersonal problem** – The victim was a victim of interpersonal violence within the past month.

**Amphetamines** – Central nervous system stimulant class drug. They can be illicit drugs such as methamphetamines or prescription drugs used to treat neurological or psychological disorders like Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

**Opiates** – Narcotic type drugs such as codeine, morphine, hydrocodone and heroin.

**Other substances** – Drugs not specifically classified by guidelines like “Anti-depressants” or “Opiates”. These drugs can be prescription or over-the-counter.