

NIBRS Coding Scenarios

Murder and Negligent Manslaughter

Issue #1: A female citizen was beat to death with a blunt object causing her to lose her life as well as the life of her unborn baby. Would this incident be coded with two victim segments?

Coding: In NIBRS, there would be only one victim in this case. For the unborn baby to be coded as a separate victim, the baby would have to be out of the mother's womb and would have had to taken at least one breath.

Issue #2: Would a hunting accident even be coded as an incident in NIBRS? Two citizens were out hunting and one accidentally shot and killed the other.

Coding: A hunting accident like the scenario above or kids playing with guns and one accidentally shots and kills the other are both incidents that should be coded to 09B Negligent Manslaughter.

Issue #3: A drug dealer sold drugs to a citizen who died of an overdose. Would this be coded as Negligent Manslaughter?

Coding: No, this would be coded as a drug violation 35A. There has been a case where a drug overdose was coded to 09B. In this incident, two people were partying and one injected the other with drugs. The overdose caused the person to die. This death was a direct result of the other person injecting them with drugs, something a "reasonable" person would not do.

Issue #4: A boyfriend/girlfriend were doing drugs and partying. She passed out and it was apparent that she was in distress. The boyfriend loaded her in their vehicle and took her to their home, not to the hospital. He was afraid of repercussions of taking her to the hospital with illegal drugs in both their systems. She died that night. Is this a reportable incident or merely an unfortunate accident?

Coding: This case would be coded as a 09B Negligent Manslaughter. A "reasonable" person would have sought medical help for someone in distress.

Issue #5: Our jurisdiction had a Vehicular Homicide occur. How would I code that?

Coding: An accidental Vehicular Homicide would be coded as a 90Z - All Other Offenses. If the driver was arrested for DUI, it could be coded to 90D Driving Under the Influence instead. If it was not accidental, for instance if the driver purposely ran the vehicle into a tree wanting to willfully and intentionally kill the passenger(s), then it would be coded to 09A Murder if someone were to die. The vehicle would be the Type of Weapon.

Reference: *Volume 1: Data Collection Guidelines (blue cover)*, Page 29 – defines Murder and Negligent Manslaughter.



Note that the preceding gives general examples. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Coding is based on individual case circumstances. Please direct NIBRS questions to:

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