Table 1. Code Names and Definitions: Circumstances Preceding Firearm Suicide Decedents Among Hispanic Adults. ***Version: 04/30/2025***

CODE	DEFINITION
alcohol use	The decedent was noted to have used alcohol the day of death. This may be indicated by a next-of-kin interview, indications of empty alcohol bottles at the scene of death in combination with supplemental information included in the narrative, such as a toxicology report.
another person's firearm accessible	The decedent was noted to have accessed the firearm used in the fatal suicide attempt from a family member, romantic partner, friend, or non-family acquaintance. In other words, the firearm was NOT owned by the decedent. This includes indications that the firearm was stolen, taken, or borrowed from someone else, or otherwise accessible to the decedent prior to death.
argument with non-romantic partner	The decedent was noted to have an argument or dispute with someone other than a romantic partner (e.g., family member, friend, coworker) during the days prior to death or the day of death.
argument with romantic partner	The decedent was noted to have an argument or dispute with their romantic partner (e.g., spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, partner) during the days prior to death or the day of death. Note: This alone is NOT necessarily also an indication of a "romantic relationship issues."
committing crime	The decedent was noted to have been in the act of committing a crime or other illegal activities within the days prior to death or the day of death. This does not include prior criminal histories that occurred earlier in a decedent's life. Note: This includes instances of homicide-suicide where the suicide killed another person(s).
criminal history	The decedent was noted to have experienced a criminal history in the past, such as indications of committing a crime(s), being incarcerated, or otherwise breaking the law. This does NOT include current crimes being committed during the day of death (see "committing crime").
current/former military personnel	The decedent was noted to have been current (e.g., Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard) or former (e.g., veteran) military or U.S. Armed Forces personnel.
death of family/friend/romantic partner	The decedent was noted to have experienced the death of a family member, romantic partner, or friend within 5 years prior to death *or* noted to be struggling emotionally or psychologically about the death of a family member, romantic partner, or friend from any time in the past.
domestic violence	The decedent was noted to have (1) been violent, aggressive, or abusive toward a romantic partner or (2) the recipient of violence, aggression, or abuse from a romantic partner within the days prior to death, including the day of death. This includes, for example, physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual abuse. This may also be referred to as intimate partner violence.

domestic violence history	The decedent was noted to have a history of (1) being violent, aggressive, or abusive toward a romantic partner or being (2) the recipient of violence, aggression, or abuse from a romantic partner in the past.
drug use	The decedent was noted to have used at least one recreational/illicit drug the day before death or the day of death, such as, but not limited to, THC, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, MDMA. This does NOT include prescription medications/drugs. This can be indicated by a next-of-kin interview or supplemental information included in the narrative, such as a toxicology report.
drug/alcohol use history	The decedent was noted to have experienced a known substance use disorder (SUD), alcoholism, *or* past/patterned/recent history of drug or alcohol use, either indicated by next-of-kin or supplemental information included in the narrative (e.g., medical history/ information). This is NOT alcohol or drug use during the day of the fatal suicide attempt (see "alcohol use" and "drug use").
feeling depressed/melancholy	The decedent was noted to have been feeling depressed, dejected, morose, despondent, down, melancholy, etc., during the day of death or in the weeks and/or days leading up to death. This does NOT include indications of known mental health/ psychiatric conditions or disorders (see "mental health condition known"), but both codes can be applied at the same time.
financial/economic difficulties	The decedent was noted to have experienced a financial/economic setback or financial/economic distress within the months, weeks, and/or days prior to death. This does NOT include job or employment-related difficulties (see "job difficulties/stress" and "job loss/unemployment").
firearm acquired legally	The decedent was noted to have acquired the firearm used in the fatal suicide attempt per a legal process for purchasing a firearm (e.g., through an FFL holder upon receiving a federal background check).
found at residence	The decedent's body was noted to have been found inside their primary residence, e.g., house, apartment. This includes their own front yard, back yard, and driveway.
found by family/romantic partner	The decedent's body was noted to have been found by a family member or romantic partner.
found by law enforcement	The decedent's body was noted to have been found by law enforcement or emergency services personnel, including fire fighters and EMS.
found in car	The decedent's body was noted to have been found inside a car or other automobile, e.g., truck. Note: If the decedent’s car was located on site at the decedent’s residence, then the "found at residence" code may also be applied. If the decedent’s car was located away from the decedent’s residence, then the "found outside of residence" code may also be applied.

found outside of residence	The decedent's body was noted to have been found outside of their primary residence. This includes public places, parking lots, nature, forests, other people's residences, and family residences.
general medical condition known (non-mental health)	The decedent experienced a known physical health/general medical condition within the year leading up to death, as indicated by next-of-kin or supplemental information included in the narrative (e.g., medical history/information). E.g., chronic illnesses and diseases like hypertension and diabetes mellitus, kidney disease/renal failure, cancer, heart disease, obesity, liver disease, arthritis, asthma. This does NOT include mental health or psychiatric conditions. This may be indicated by (1) the mentioning of a specific diagnosis, (2) receiving treatment for physical health/general medical issues, (3) medical history included in the narrative document, (4) individuals in the narrative documents indicating a decedent experienced physical health/general medical issues and received care for those issues leading up to death. Do NOT code if it was explicitly stated that the condition occurred >1 year prior; however, yes code if no specific timeframe was given and it was noted that the condition happened recently, lately, etc., or was ongoing.
handgun	It was noted that a handgun or pistol was used in the fatal suicide attempt. This includes semi-automatic pistols, revolvers, and bolt-action pistols, including single and dual action firearms. This includes handguns chambered for all caliber types, e.g., 0.22 LR, 9mm, .380, .38, .357, .45, .40.
history of family/friend suicide	The decedent was noted to have experienced the suicide death of a family member, romantic partner, or friend in the past.
history of suicidal ideations	The decedent was noted to have previously experienced suicidal thoughts or ideations in the past. This does NOT include the most recent suicidal thoughts/ideations associated with the death.
history of suicide attempt	The decedent was noted to have made at least one additional suicide attempt in the past, different from the attempt resulting in death. This does NOT include the most recent suicide attempt that resulted in death.
history of trauma	The decedent was noted to have experienced a physical, sexual, and/or psychological trauma earlier in their life.
housing instability	The decedent was noted to have experienced homelessness or housing instability within the year prior to death. Housing instability includes the known or expected loss of an apartment, house, or other home, which may be indicated by eviction, foreclosure, or the inability to pay mortgage or rent. Housing instability may also be indicated by the necessity of living with family members or friends due to high housing costs. Note: Homelessness may be referred to as “being transient.”
job difficulties/stress	The decedent was noted to have experienced problems or stress at work or related to their job within the months, weeks, and/or days prior to death. This does NOT include being unemployed or losing their job (see "job loss/unemployment").
job loss/unemployment	The decedent was noted to have experienced either (1) job loss or (2) unemployment within the months, weeks, and/or days prior to death. This does NOT include other difficulties or stresses in the workplace (see "job difficulties/stress").
known/suspected infidelity	There were noted indications of either (1) known or (2) suspected infidelity, including romantic affairs and cheating within the year prior to death. This includes known/suspected infidelity committed by either the decedent OR the decedent's romantic partner. This includes marriages and all other romantic relationships. Note: If this specific code is applied, then the "romantic relationship issues" code should also be applied.

law enforcement occupation	The decedent was noted to have been employed as a law enforcement officer currently or in the past. This includes corrections officers and security personnel.
legal issues	The decedent was noted to have been experiencing legal troubles or distress in the months, weeks, and/or days prior to death. This may include, for example, court hearings, being accused of a crime, being sued, fraud, sexual misconduct allegations, etc. This does NOT include indications of known, past criminal history (see "criminal history") or actively committing a crime (see "committing crime").
medication	The decedent was noted to be taking prescribed medications at the time of death. This can be indicated by next-of-kin or supplemental information included in the narrative (e.g., medical history/information).
mental health condition known	The decedent was noted to have experienced a mental health/psychiatric condition or disorder within the year leading up to death, as indicated by next-of-kin or supplemental information included in the narrative (e.g., medical history/information). This may be indicated by (1) the mentioning of a specific diagnosis, (2) receiving treatment for mental health issues, (3) medical history included in the narrative document, (4) individuals in the narrative documents indicating a decedent experienced mental health/psychiatric issues and received care for those issues leading up to death. This does NOT include only indications of decedents feeling depressed, melancholy, or down (see "feeling depressed/melancholy/ stressed"), or sleep or eating disorders. Do NOT code if it was explicitly stated that the condition occurred >1 year prior; however, yes code if no specific timeframe was given and it was noted that the condition happened recently, lately, was ongoing, or had a history of the mental health condition (i.e., “history of depression”). Examples of mental health conditions include (but are not limited to) mood disorders (depression, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, persistent depressive disorder), anxiety disorders (generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD], psychotic disorders (schizophrenia, delusional disorder), obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), delusional disorder, dissociative disorders, and eating disorders.
methamphetamine	The decedent was noted to have used methamphetamine the day before death or the day of death. This can be indicated by a next-of-kin interview or supplemental information included in the narrative, such as a toxicology report. Methamphetamine may be referred to as meth, crank, glass, or speed. Note: If this code is applied, then the "drug use" code should also be applied. Note: Amphetamine is not methamphetamine and should not be coded as such.
multiple firearms	The decedent was noted to have multiple firearms accessible at the time of death.
pain	The decedent was noted to have been experiencing physical pain within the months, weeks, and/or days preceding death. Note: This code can be applied together with "general medical condition known (non-mental health)" or "mental health condition known."
psychiatric/mental health hospitalization	The decedent was noted to have had an inpatient hospitalization, rehabilitation, or residential treatment facility stay for psychiatric/mental health reasons at any time prior to death. Note: Terminology such as “placing a person/patient on a hold” and “voluntary or involuntary hold” may indicate a mental health hospitalization or treatment stay, as jurisdiction-specific terminology such as “blue sheet, “pink slip,” “5150,” or “Baker Act,” depending on the state.
reaching out for help/threatening	The decedent was noted to have communicated their (1) plans to harm themselves or (2) thoughts about harming themselves to other people within the week leading up to death, including the day of death (i.e., an advanced warning/notification). This includes phone calls, text messages, in-person communication, or social media/online communication.

rifle	It was noted that a rifle or long gun was involved in the fatal suicide attempt.
romantic relationship end/breakup	The decedent was noted to have experienced either (1) the end of a romantic relationship or (2) plans to end a romantic relationship. This includes marriages and all other romantic relationships. This includes indications of, for example, recent or planned separation, divorce, annulment, and break up within the year prior to death. Note: If this specific code is applied, then the "romantic relationship issues" code should also be applied.
romantic relationship issues	The decedent was noted to have experienced problems in an established romantic relationship, situationship, or marriage within the months, weeks, and/or days prior to death. This does NOT include ONLY a single indication of an interpersonal argument (see "argument with romantic partner"). Rather, this includes indications of a deeper-rooted/patterned trouble in the relationship, situationship, or marriage or indications that the problem could threaten the continuation of the relationship. E.g., indications of known or suspected infidelity, separation, break up, or divorce.
service weapon	It was noted that the firearm involved in the fatal suicide attempt was used for the decedent's occupation as a law enforcement officer or military personnel.
shotgun	It was noted that a shotgun was involved in the fatal suicide attempt.
sleep trouble	The decedent was noted to have experienced trouble sleeping, including conditions like insomnia and sleep apnea, or sleeping more than they usually did. This can be indicated by next-of-kin or supplemental information included in the narrative (e.g., medical history/information).
treatment stopped	The decedent was known to have a mental or physical health condition but stopped treatment/care within the months, weeks, and/or days prior to death. This may be indicated by a decedent who stopped going to healthcare-related appointments or taking a prescribed medication (i.e., treatment non-adherence or non-compliance). Note: The reason for stopping treatment may not be indicated, e.g., did not feel the treatment worked or could no longer continue/afford care.
unsafely stored/unlocked firearm	The decedent was noted to have not practiced safe firearm storage behavior prior to death. This includes indications of keeping loaded firearms unlocked or stored in an open/accessible location in the home, vehicle, or on their person, such as in a bag instead of a lock box or gun safe.