



# VIOLENT DEATH IN VIRGINIA:

A Report from the Virginia  
Violent Death Reporting System

# 2004

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Health  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
December 2006



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by

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## INTRODUCTION

Understanding violence is the first step towards preventing it. This report uses information collected through a national public health surveillance system to provide a refined understanding of violent death in Virginia for 2004. It will educate the general public, inform policy makers, and provide the background needed to substantiate efforts to address violence as a serious public health problem.

Active violent death surveillance requires depth of detail to allow users to understand the specific circumstances of such deaths. It links several disparate sources of information – death investigations by medico-legal death investigators, forensic pathologists, law enforcement officers, and toxicologists; records from health and mental health care providers; newspaper articles; and other relevant sources. Described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as “linking data to save lives,” this comprehensive surveillance system extends current knowledge about where, when, and to whom violent death occurs to include why and how the death occurred. “Collecting data on the circumstances of violent death will clarify the association of personal and social risk factors with violence [to] allow interpretation of trends in violent deaths [and] help identify potential prevention strategies.”<sup>1</sup>

In order to create a comprehensive surveillance system, Congress appropriated funding for the CDC to develop and initiate the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) in December of 2001. In late 2002, the CDC made the first awards for the NVDRS to six states, including Virginia. Virginia was the first medical examiner system to receive funding and began implementation of the NVDRS in late 2003.

The NVDRS documents violent deaths that originate within a state’s borders. It compiles all information sources involved in violent death investigation, and links victims to circumstances such as drug and alcohol use, mental illness, intimate partner violence, and the other events leading up to and contributing to the violent death. The Virginia Violent Death Reporting System (VVDRS) is the operation and reporting system of the NVDRS within Virginia, and uses the methodology, definitions, coding schema, and software of the NVDRS.

**VIOLENT DEATH DEFINED** A violent death results from the intentional use of force or power against oneself, another person, group, or community.<sup>2</sup> The person(s) using the force does not have to intend to kill. Violent death types under surveillance by the NVDRS include suicide, homicide, unintentional firearm fatalities, legal intervention, terrorism, and deaths of an undetermined manner.

The Virginia Violent Death Reporting System collects information on the following types of violent deaths that originate within Virginia’s borders:

- Suicide;
- Homicide;
- Legal Intervention;
- Unintentional Firearm Death;
- Undetermined Death; and,
- Terrorism-related death.

The Virginia Violent Death Reporting System does not collect information on the following:

- Executions ordered by a court of law;
- Victims who died in Virginia, but were residents and were injured in another state;
- Victims who were Virginia residents but were injured and died out of the state;
- Natural deaths; and,
- Accidental deaths not caused by a firearm, such as motor vehicle accidents or accidental falls.

<sup>1</sup> Patel, N., et al. (2006) “Homicides and Suicides – National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003-2004.” JAMA, August 2 – Vol. 296, No. 5: 509.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2004) National Violent Death Reporting System Coding Manual: Version 2. (Atlanta, GA.), 1.

**ORGANIZATION OF THIS REPORT** The report begins with an overview of violent death, including basic demographic findings about victims, death types, methods of fatal injury, and highlighted findings. Subsequent sections on suicide, homicide, legal intervention, unintentional firearm injury, and child death detail the characteristics and relevant circumstances surrounding these types of violent death. A final appendix provides summary information about violent death in Virginia in 2003 and 2004.

## METHODOLOGY

**IDENTIFICATION OF VVDRS CASES** VVDRS cases are identified through the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), the office that has jurisdiction over all deaths that are classified by the NVDRS as “violent deaths.” Each Surveillance Coordinator (Coordinator) - an individual intensively trained in the concepts and definitions of the NVDRS and the use of the software application - is given a daily update of the deaths reported to the OCME and determines which cases to include by using the established guidelines.

Each victim’s records are obtained and reviewed by a Coordinator. The Coordinator ensures that all relevant sources of information required by the NVDRS are in the record, and requests reports that are required. The Coordinator synthesizes the many sources present in the records and then abstracts and manually enters the relevant information into the software application (database). Year-round quality assurance activities ensure accurate data entry and consistency among Coordinators. Deaths entered into the VVDRS are reconciled with deaths reported by the Virginia Center for Health Statistics and the OCME to ensure comprehensive case ascertainment.<sup>3</sup>

**DEATHS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT** The use of rates in this report provides a population based comparison and demonstrates varied levels of risk in different localities and groups. Rates allow policy makers and prevention groups to accurately understand how numbers translate into risk, and inform planning and prevention decisions. To accurately calculate rates this report excludes information on the 51 non-Virginia residents who were injured and died a violent death in Virginia in 2004.

It is also notable that death records on state residents who died outside of Virginia are not available to the VVDRS. In 2004 twenty-seven Virginia residents died a violent death in another state and are therefore not included in this report.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED IN THIS REPORT** Information on violent deaths come from the 2004 VVDRS database, which is the synthesis of medico-legal death, forensic, and toxicological investigations; police reports; hospital records; physician and mental health records; newspaper articles; and other relevant sources. Population data used to calculate rates comes from both the Virginia Center for Health Statistics<sup>4</sup> and the American Community Survey.<sup>5</sup>

**CAUTIONS** Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are considered statistically unreliable and should be interpreted and used with caution. Similarly, percentages may reflect a small number of cases and should therefore be interpreted with care.

<sup>3</sup> As the types of violent death highlighted in this report are defined by the NVDRS, the number of violent deaths presented in this report will differ from other mortality statistics published by the OCME, the Virginia Center for Health Statistics, and the CDC.

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthstats/stats.asp>.

<sup>5</sup> Available at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

## SECTION I:

Within the National Violent Death Reporting System, a violent death is defined as a death that results from the intentional use of physical force against oneself or another person or persons.

The persons using the force need only have intended to use force; they need not have intended to cause a death. The definition also includes deaths of an undetermined manner and deaths that result from unintentional firearm injuries. The only accidental deaths included in this definition are those that are caused by a firearm. Accidental deaths caused by motor vehicles, falls, and drowning, for example, are excluded.

## Highlighted Findings

- ▶ In 2004, violent death claimed the lives of 1,303 Virginia residents.
- ▶ Males were at a greater risk to die a violent death than females. Over three-fourths of victims (77.0%) were male, and the violent death rate for males (27.3) was more than three times the rate for females (7.9).
- ▶ While Blacks comprised a smaller number of violent death victims, they had a higher risk of violent death than Whites; the violent death rate for Blacks (24.3) was more than 1.5 times the violent death rate for Whites (16.0).
- ▶ Hispanics had a lower rate of violent death (9.9) relative to the violent death rate for all Virginians (17.5).
- ▶ The median age of violent death victims was 41 years.
- ▶ More violent deaths were the result of suicide (62.6%) than any other violent death type.
- ▶ Firearms were the most common method of fatal injury used in violent death (60.9%).
- ▶ Black males had the highest violent death rate (40.1) of any race/sex grouping. The next highest rate was among White males (24.8).
- ▶ Nearly all Virginia localities (95.5%) had at least one violent death. Ten localities had at least 25 violent deaths. Richmond City had the highest number (119) and highest rate (61.8) of violent death in 2004.
- ▶ The Central Medical Examiner District had the highest violent death rate (22.0).
- ▶ With regard to Health Services Area, violent death rates were highest in the Central (24.3) and Southwest (20.5) areas of Virginia.
- ▶ Violent death rates were highest in the Cumberland Plateau Planning District (27.0); the Southside Planning District (26.4); the Richmond Regional Planning District (25.2); the Mount Rogers Planning District (24.8); and the West Piedmont Planning District (24.5). Four of these Planning Districts are in the southern and western areas of Virginia.
- ▶ Most violent deaths occurred in or immediately outside a house or apartment (66.2%).
- ▶ June saw a higher proportion of violent deaths than any other month (10.4%). The fewest violent deaths occurred in December (6.5%).
- ▶ The highest frequency of violent deaths occurred between 10:01 a.m. and noon (6.1%), and between 8:01 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (5.8%). The lowest frequency of violent deaths occurred between the hours of 4:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. (2.9%).

Table 1. Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Victims in Virginia: 2004

	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	1003	77.0	27.3
Female	300	23.0	7.9
<b>Race</b>			
White	892	68.5	16.0
Black	368	28.2	24.3
Asian	32	2.5	9.0
American Indian	2	0.2	7.1
Other Race	3	0.2	-
Unknown	6	0.5	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>			
Hispanic	42	3.2	9.9
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	30	2.3	29.9
1-4	13	1.0	3.3
5-9	4	0.3	0.8
10-14	14	1.1	2.7
15-19	83	6.4	16.0
20-24	143	11.0	26.6
25-34	226	17.3	22.3
35-44	262	20.1	22.3
45-54	226	17.3	20.7
55-64	131	10.1	16.8
65-74	70	5.4	15.4
75-84	73	5.6	25.1
85 and older	28	2.1	27.3
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Violent Death Type<sup>3</sup></b>			
Suicide	816	62.6	10.9
Homicide	379	29.1	5.1
Undetermined	74	5.7	1.0
Unintentional Firearm	22	1.7	0.3
Legal Intervention	12	0.9	0.2
Terrorism	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Method of Fatal Injury<sup>4</sup></b>			
Firearm	793	60.9	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	172	13.2	-
Poison	142	10.9	-
Sharp Instrument	60	4.6	-
Blunt Instrument	26	2.0	-
Drowning	15	1.2	-
Fall	11	0.8	-
Personal Weapon	11	0.8	-
Motor Vehicle	10	0.8	-
Fire or Burn	7	0.5	-
Shaking	6	0.5	-
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	-
Other	1	0.1	-
Unknown	49	3.8	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>

<sup>1</sup>Rate per 100,000 persons. Virginia's population in 2004 was estimated at 7,460,066. The symbol - refers to categories where a rate is not an appropriate measure.

<sup>2</sup>Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup>Undetermined deaths occur when the medico-legal death and forensic investigation do not indicate a clear manner of death.

<sup>4</sup>Homicides and suicides from falls result from being pushed or intentionally jumping from high places. Personal weapons are hands or feet used to punch or kick. Shaking deaths occur when infants die from being shaken, but not from being punched or kicked. Homicides and suicides from motor vehicles occur when a motor vehicle is intentionally used to fatally injure oneself or someone else.

Table 2. Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Race and Sex: 2004

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	684	68.2	24.8	208	69.3	7.4	892	68.5	16.0
Black	292	29.1	40.1	76	25.3	9.6	368	28.2	24.3
Asian	18	1.8	10.5	14	4.7	7.6	32	2.5	9.0
American Indian	2	0.2	14.1	0	0.0	0.0	2	0.2	7.1
Other Race	3	0.3	-	0	0.0	-	3	0.2	-
Unknown	4	0.4	-	2	0.7	-	6	0.5	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

Table 3. Virginia Localities with the Highest Number of Violent Deaths: 2004

Locality	No.
Richmond City	119
Fairfax County	77
Virginia Beach City	67
Norfolk City	66
Henrico County	44
Chesterfield County	43
Newport News City	39
Chesapeake City	35
Hampton City	31
Prince William County	27
Augusta County	21
Roanoke City	21

These 12 localities accounted for 45.3% of all violent deaths in Virginia in 2004.

Table 4. Violent Death Rates for Virginia Localities with Twenty or more Violent Deaths: 2004

Locality	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Richmond City	61.8
Augusta County	30.5
Norfolk City	27.7
Roanoke City	22.7
Newport News City	21.4
Hampton City	21.2
Portsmouth City	20.1
Chesapeake City	16.3
Henrico County	15.9
Virginia Beach City	15.2
Chesterfield County	15.2
Loudoun County	8.4
Prince William County	8.0
Fairfax County	7.7

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

Table 5. Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Selected Regions: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
<b>Medical Examiner District</b>			
Central	435	33.4	22.0
Northern	236	18.1	10.1
Tidewater	303	23.3	19.2
Western	329	25.2	20.9
<b>Health Services Area</b>			
1. Northwest	203	15.6	18.1
2. Northern	164	12.6	8.3
3. Southwest	268	20.6	20.5
4. Central	308	23.6	24.3
5. Eastern	333	25.6	18.6
Unknown	27	2.1	-
<b>Planning District<sup>3</sup></b>			
1. LENOWISCO	18	1.4	19.5
2. Cumberland Plateau	31	2.4	27.0
3. Mount Rogers	47	3.6	24.8
4. New River Valley	31	2.4	18.7
5. Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	47	3.6	17.8
6. Central Shenandoah	56	4.3	21.0
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley	46	3.5	22.8
8. Northern Virginia	164	12.6	8.3
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan	23	1.8	15.1
10. Thomas Jefferson	39	3.0	18.6
11. Region 2000	33	2.5	14.2
12. West Piedmont	61	4.7	24.5
13. Southside	23	1.8	26.4
14. Piedmont	15	1.2	15.2
15. Richmond Regional	231	17.7	25.2
16. RADCO	39	3.0	13.4
17. Northern Neck	7	0.5	13.7
18. Middle Peninsula	17	1.3	19.2
19. Crater	82	6.3	18.2
22. Accomack-Northampton	11	0.8	20.9
23. Hampton Roads	306	23.5	18.7
Unknown	27	2.1	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix D for a listing of localities in Virginia's Medical Examiner Districts, Health Services Areas, and Planning Districts.

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>3</sup> Chesterfield County is a member of Planning District 15 and Planning District 19; Gloucester County is a member of Planning District 18 and Planning District 23. Deaths that occurred in Chesterfield County are counted in Planning District 15 and Planning District 19. Deaths that occurred in Gloucester County are counted in Planning District 18 and Planning District 23.



## SECTION II:

Within the National Violent Death Reporting System, a suicide is a death that results from the intentional use of force against oneself.

**A preponderance of evidence should indicate that force was used intentionally.**

## Highlighted Findings

- Males were more likely than females to be suicide victims. Most suicide victims (79.5%) were male, and the suicide rate for males (17.7) was four times the rate for females (4.4).
- The vast majority of suicide victims were White (85.7%). Whites had a suicide rate (12.6) that exceeded the overall rate (10.9).
- The median age of suicide victims was 45 years.
- Firearms (59.4%), hanging or strangulation or suffocation (19.2%), and poison (16.1%) were the three most common methods of fatal injury.
- Suicide rates were especially high for White males (20.3) and specifically males ages 85 and older (64.3); the suicide rate for White males was nine times the rate for Black females (2.3).
- Persons with education beyond high school had a lower suicide rate (9.4) than persons with only a high school education (21.0), persons with some high school education but no diploma (24.5), and persons with less than a high school education (23.0).
- Married persons had a lower suicide rate (11.0) than divorced or separated persons (22.8); the suicide rate for widowed males (70.4) was four times the rate for married males (17.5).
- Mental health problems were noted in 45.4% of suicide victims. Over one-third of victims (38.4%) had a diagnosis of depression.
- Many suicide victims (29.3%) were having problems with an intimate partner at the time of suicide.
- A life crisis was often an immediate catalyst to suicide. Over one-third of victims (36.9%) had a crisis within two weeks prior to the suicide event.
- A previous suicide attempt was known in 18.3% of victims. Thirty percent of female victims were known to have made a previous suicide attempt as were 15.2% of males.
- Many suicide victims (20.3%) told others of their intent to commit suicide.
- Physical health problems were a factor in 54.9% of suicides committed by persons over the age of 64.
- The Cumberland Plateau Planning District and the Mount Rogers Planning District, which are located in southwest Virginia, had the highest suicide rates (20.9 and 20.6, respectively) of any Planning District.
- The presence of alcohol and cocaine were common in suicide victims. Over 18% of victims had blood alcohol content above the legal driving limit at the time of their death while 11.8% had a positive post-mortem test for cocaine.
- Mental health problems appeared to be more common among Whites (47.5%) than Blacks (30.1%) or Asians (40.0%).
- Blacks frequently had an existing or impending criminal legal problem at the time they committed suicide (24.1%).
- Suicides most commonly occurred during the months of June (10.4%), July (9.2%), and October (9.2%). The fewest suicides occurred during December (6.5%).
- A total of 188 suicide victims (23.5% of all suicide victims over age 18) were known to be veterans. Most suicide victims who were veterans were males (96.8%). Veterans comprised 28.7% of all male suicide victims over age eighteen. In the United States overall population, 32% of males over 18 are either combat veterans or currently in the Armed Forces.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These figures are based upon the 2000 Decennial Census, Summary File 3, Table P39 ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)).

Table 6. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia: 2004

	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	649	79.5	17.7
Female	167	20.5	4.4
<b>Race</b>			
White	699	85.7	12.6
Black	87	10.7	5.7
Asian	23	2.8	6.4
American Indian	1	0.1	3.6
Other Race	2	0.2	-
Unknown	4	0.5	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>			
Hispanic	19	2.3	4.5
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	5	0.6	1.0
15-19	38	4.7	7.3
20-24	57	7.0	10.6
25-34	115	14.1	11.3
35-44	186	22.8	15.9
45-54	171	21.0	15.6
55-64	105	12.9	13.5
65-74	59	7.2	13.0
75-84	58	7.1	19.9
85 and older	22	2.7	21.5
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>			
Firearm	485	59.4	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	157	19.2	-
Poison	131	16.1	-
Sharp Instrument	13	1.6	-
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	-
Drowning	12	1.5	-
Fall	8	1.0	-
Motor Vehicle	6	0.7	-
Fire or Burn	3	0.4	-
Other	1	0.1	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> Twenty-one suicides occurred in Virginia that were committed by victims who were residents of another state. These victims are not included in this report.

Table 7. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia by Race and Sex: 2004

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	559	86.1	20.3	140	83.8	5.0	699	85.7	12.6
Black	69	10.6	9.5	18	10.8	2.3	87	10.7	5.7
Asian	15	2.3	8.7	8	4.8	4.3	23	2.8	6.4
American Indian	1	0.2	7.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.1	3.6
Other Race	2	0.3	-	0	0.0	-	2	0.2	-
Unknown	3	0.5	-	1	0.6	-	4	0.5	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

Table 8. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia by Ethnicity and Sex: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Hispanic	15	2.3	6.6	4	2.4	2.0	19	2.3	4.5
Non-Hispanic	634	97.7	18.4	163	97.6	4.5	797	97.7	11.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>2</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

Table 9. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia by Age Group and Sex: 2004

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	4	0.6	1.5	1	0.6	0.4	5	0.6	1.0
15-19	32	4.9	12.0	6	3.6	2.4	38	4.7	7.3
20-24	49	7.6	17.2	8	4.8	3.2	57	7.0	10.6
25-34	90	13.9	17.5	25	15.0	5.0	115	14.1	11.3
35-44	135	20.8	23.3	51	30.5	8.6	186	22.8	15.9
45-54	127	19.6	23.9	44	26.3	7.8	171	21.0	15.6
55-64	86	13.3	22.9	19	11.4	4.7	105	12.9	13.5
65-74	54	8.3	25.8	5	3.0	2.1	59	7.2	13.0
75-84	52	8.0	45.6	6	3.6	3.4	58	7.1	19.9
85 and older	20	3.1	64.3	2	1.2	2.8	22	2.7	21.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

Table 10. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia by Years of Education Completed: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
<9	62	8.7	23.0
9-11	111	15.6	24.5
12	267	37.6	21.0
>12	264	37.1	9.4
Unknown	7	1.0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Calculated for persons ages 25 and over; 12th grade education includes persons earning a General Educational Development (GED).

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

Table 11. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia by Marital Status: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
Married	351	43.3	11.0
Not Married / Separated	458	56.5	18.1
Divorced or Separated	161	19.9	22.8
Never Married	243	30.0	16.1
Widowed	54	6.7	16.9
Unknown	2	0.2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Calculated for persons ages 15 and over.

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

Table 12. Characteristics of Suicide in Virginia: 2004  
(Number and Percentage; N=789)<sup>1,2</sup>

Victim Characteristics	No.	%
Current Mental Health Problem	358	45.4
Diagnosis of Depression	303	38.4
Diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder	49	6.2
Diagnosis of Schizophrenia	23	2.9
Diagnosis of Anxiety Disorder	19	2.4
Current Mental Health Treatment	292	37.0
<b>Substance Use Characteristics</b>		
Problem with Alcohol or Other Substance	163	20.7
Problem with Alcohol	80	10.1
Problem with Other Substances	57	7.2
Problem with both Alcohol and Other Substances	26	3.3
<b>Relationship Characteristics</b>		
Intimate Partner Problem	231	29.3
Non-intimate Partner Relationship Problem	55	7.0
Death of Family Member or Friend within Past Five Years	54	6.8
Suicide of Family Member or Friend within Past Five Years	11	1.4
Perpetrator of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	51	6.5
Victim of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	6	0.8
<b>Life Stressor Characteristics</b>		
Recent Criminal Legal Problem	106	13.4
Non-criminal Legal Problem	21	2.7
Financial Problem	69	8.7
Job Problem	72	9.1
Physical Health Problem	168	21.3
School Problem	4	0.5
<b>Event Characteristics</b>		
Crisis within Two Weeks of the Suicide	291	36.9
History of Suicide Attempt	144	18.3
Current Depressed Mood	305	38.7
Left a Suicide Note	281	35.6
Disclosed Intent to Commit Suicide	160	20.3
Other Suicide Characteristics	7	0.9

<sup>1</sup> More than one characteristic may be noted for each suicide victim. Totals will not equal 100%. Percentages are based on only those suicides where characteristics are known.

<sup>2</sup> For complete descriptions of these characteristics, see pages 7-3 through 7-31 of the NVDRS Coding Manual at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/nvdrs-coding/V2/NVDRS%20Coding%20Manual%20Full.pdf>.

Table 13. Characteristics of Suicide in Virginia by Age Group: 2004  
(Percentage; N=789)<sup>1</sup>

	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 and older	All Ages
	n=5	n=37	n=56	n=113	n=179	n=165	n=101	n=57	n=56	n=20	n=789
<b>Mental Health Characteristics</b>											
Current Mental Health Problem	0.0	48.6	35.7	55.8	48.6	47.3	49.5	33.3	33.9	20.0	45.4
Diagnosis of Depression	0.0	43.2	26.8	46.9	39.1	42.4	42.6	29.8	26.8	20.0	38.4
Diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder	0.0	5.4	8.9	9.7	5.6	6.1	8.9	3.5	0.0	0.0	6.2
Diagnosis of Schizophrenia	0.0	2.7	7.1	5.3	2.8	1.8	1.0	3.5	1.8	0.0	2.9
Diagnosis of Anxiety Disorder	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.7	3.4	2.4	0.0	5.3	1.8	5.0	2.4
Current Mental Health Treatment	0.0	45.9	28.6	43.4	40.8	40.6	36.6	28.1	25.0	15.0	37.0
<b>Substance Use Characteristics</b>											
Problem with Alcohol or Other Substance	0.0	10.8	28.6	24.8	25.1	25.5	19.8	14.0	0.0	0.0	20.7
Problem with Alcohol	0.0	0.0	3.6	8.8	14.5	13.3	11.9	14.0	0.0	0.0	10.1
Problem with Other Substances	0.0	8.1	19.6	10.6	7.3	7.3	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2
Problem with both Alcohol and Other Substances	0.0	2.7	5.4	5.3	3.4	4.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3
<b>Relationship Characteristics</b>											
Intimate Partner Problem	0.0	32.4	39.3	40.7	42.5	24.8	19.8	17.5	7.1	0.0	29.3
Non-intimate Partner Relationship Problem	40.0	24.3	8.9	5.3	9.5	3.6	4.0	10.5	0.0	0.0	7.0
Death of Family Member or Friend within Past Five Years	0.0	5.4	5.4	5.3	2.8	5.5	11.9	8.8	16.1	15.0	6.8
Suicide of Family Member or Friend within Past Five Years	0.0	8.1	0.0	0.9	2.2	1.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.4
Perpetrator of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	0.0	8.1	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.9	5.0	7.0	1.8	0.0	6.5
Victim of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.8
<b>Life Stressor Characteristics</b>											
Recent Criminal Legal Problem	0.0	10.8	16.1	22.1	18.4	14.5	7.9	3.5	1.8	0.0	13.4
Non-criminal Legal Problem	0.0	5.4	1.8	1.8	4.5	2.4	2.0	3.5	0.0	0.0	2.7
Financial Problem	0.0	0.0	3.6	8.0	10.1	13.9	9.9	7.0	5.4	0.0	8.7
Job Problem	0.0	5.4	5.4	10.6	11.7	13.3	9.9	0.0	3.6	0.0	9.1
Physical Health Problem	0.0	2.7	5.4	6.2	10.6	23.0	26.7	50.9	58.9	55.0	21.3
School Problem	20.0	8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
<b>Event Characteristics</b>											
Crisis within Two Weeks of the Suicide	20.0	51.4	39.3	42.5	39.7	40.0	26.7	35.1	23.2	20.0	36.9
History of Suicide Attempt	0.0	24.3	17.9	28.3	23.5	15.8	15.8	7.0	8.9	0.0	18.3
Current Depressed Mood	20.0	40.5	28.6	37.2	34.1	37.6	44.6	47.4	42.9	60.0	38.7
Left a Suicide Note	40.0	40.5	32.1	36.3	38.0	37.0	30.7	38.6	32.1	25.0	35.6
Disclosed Intent to Commit Suicide	40.0	24.3	12.5	22.1	21.8	18.2	18.8	12.3	28.6	30.0	20.3
Other Suicide Characteristics	0.0	5.4	1.8	0.0	1.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9

<sup>1</sup> More than one characteristic may be noted for each suicide victim. Totals will not equal 100%. Percentages are based on only those suicides where characteristics are known.

Table 14. Virginia Localities with the Highest Number of Suicides: 2004

Locality	No.
Fairfax County	62
Virginia Beach City	48
Chesterfield County	30
Norfolk City	27
Henrico County	21
Chesapeake City	19
Prince William County	19
Richmond City	18
Newport News City	17
Loudoun County	17
Warren County	16
Hampton City	15

These 12 localities accounted for 37.9% of all suicides in Virginia in 2004.

Table 15. Suicide Rates for Virginia Localities with Twenty or more Suicides: 2004

Locality	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Norfolk City	11.3
Virginia Beach City	10.9
Chesterfield County	10.6
Henrico County	7.6
Fairfax County	6.2

<sup>1</sup>Rate per 100,000 persons.

Table 16. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia by Selected Regions: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
<b>Medical Examiner District</b>			
Central	232	28.4	11.7
Northern	187	22.9	8.0
Tidewater	160	19.6	10.1
Western	237	29.0	15.1
<b>Health Services Area</b>			
1. Northwest	158	19.4	14.1
2. Northern	127	15.6	6.4
3. Southwest	199	24.4	15.2
4. Central	139	17.0	11.0
5. Eastern	187	22.9	10.5
Unknown	6	0.7	-
<b>Planning District<sup>3</sup></b>			
1. LENOWISCO	17	2.1	18.4
2. Cumberland Plateau	24	2.9	20.9
3. Mount Rogers	39	4.8	20.6
4. New River Valley	25	3.1	15.1
5. Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	31	3.8	11.7
6. Central Shenandoah	40	4.9	15.0
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley	40	4.9	19.9
8. Northern Virginia	127	15.6	6.4
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan	20	2.5	13.1
10. Thomas Jefferson	30	3.7	14.3
11. Region 2000	22	2.7	9.5
12. West Piedmont	41	5.0	16.5
13. Southside	17	2.1	19.5
14. Piedmont	14	1.7	14.2
15. Richmond Regional	89	10.9	9.7
16. RADCO	28	3.4	9.6
17. Northern Neck	3	0.4	5.9
18. Middle Peninsula	15	1.8	17.0
19. Crater	49	6.0	10.9
22. Accomack-Northampton	6	0.7	11.4
23. Hampton Roads	170	20.8	10.4
Unknown	6	0.7	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix D for a listing of localities in Virginia's Medical Examiner Districts, Health Services Areas, and Planning Districts.

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>3</sup> Chesterfield County is a member of Planning District 15 and Planning District 19; Gloucester County is a member of Planning District 18 and Planning District 23. Deaths that occurred in Chesterfield County are counted in Planning District 15 and Planning District 19. Deaths that occurred in Gloucester County are counted in Planning District 18 and Planning District 23.

Table 17. Presence of Alcohol and Selected Drugs at Death in Suicide Victims by Selected Characteristics: 2004 (Percentage)<sup>1,2</sup>

	Alcohol (BAC > .08) <sup>3</sup>	Cocaine	Opiates
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	18.8	12.9	20.5
Female	16.8	9.0	39.2
<b>Race and Sex</b>			
White	19.1	10.6	31.8
Male	19.1	12.1	25.6
Female	19.1	7.0	45.3
Black	16.5	18.6	0.0
Male	20.6	18.2	0.0
Female	0.0	20.0	0.0
Asian	8.7	0.0	25.0
Male	6.7	0.0	25.0
Female	12.5	-	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>			
Hispanic	17.7	0.0	16.7
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	-	-	-
1-4	-	-	-
5-9	-	-	-
10-14	0.0	0.0	33.3
15-19	5.4	5.3	10.5
20-24	21.8	18.2	9.1
25-34	22.5	13.5	25.9
35-44	24.9	14.7	25.8
45-54	21.4	9.1	33.3
55-64	15.7	8.7	30.4
65-74	11.9	0.0	33.3
75-84	5.5	0.0	50.0
85 and older	0.0	-	100.0
Unknown	-	-	-
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>			
Firearm	21.5	12.2	10.7
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	17.2	8.0	2.0
Poison	9.8	13.8	59.8
Sharp Instrument	7.7	33.3	25.0
Drowning	16.7	0.0	0.0
Fall	25.0	-	-
Motor Vehicle	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fire or Burn	0.0	-	-
Other	0.0	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-
<b>Location Where Injured</b>			
Motor Vehicle	15.2	14.3	19.1
Street or Road	0.0	0.0	0.0
House or Apartment	19.3	13.8	28.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>26.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are based upon the number of victims who were tested for each substance.

<sup>2</sup> The symbol - indicates the absence of testing for this substance.

<sup>3</sup> BAC stands for blood alcohol content. A BAC above .08 is the legal standard for intoxication in Virginia.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

## SECTION III:

# HOMICIDE

Within the National Violent Death Reporting System, a homicide is a death resulting from the intentional use of force against another person or persons.

**A preponderance of evidence must indicate that the use of force was intentional. This definition of homicide does not include legal interventions by police officers, judicial executions, and unintentional firearm deaths.**

## Highlighted Findings

- In 2004, 379 Virginia residents died as a result of homicide.
- Males had a higher homicide rate (7.5) than females (2.7).
- In terms of race, Blacks had the higher risk for homicide in Virginia. The homicide rate for Blacks (16.1) was over seven-times the rate for Whites (2.2) or Asians (2.2).
- Black males represented a disproportionate number of homicide victims. While Black males comprised 9.8% of all Virginia residents in 2004, they accounted for 51.5% of all homicide victims.
- The median age of homicide victims was 29 years.
- A firearm was used in the majority of homicides (71.2%).
- Persons with an education beyond high-school had a lower homicide rate (1.7) than those with less than a high school education (6.3), some high school education without a diploma (14.3) or a high school education (8.0).
- The homicide rate for persons who were not married or separated (10.9) was more than four times the rate for persons who were currently married (2.5).
- Over one-fourth (27.6%) of all homicides were related to violence inflicted by a current or former intimate partner, or to conflict between current or former intimate partners.
- Intimate partner violence or conflict was a primary factor for homicides with female victims (60.5%).
- Richmond City had more homicides (93) than any other locality, and the highest homicide rate (48.3) in Virginia. The homicide rate for Richmond City was over three times the rate of Norfolk City (14.7), the locality with the second highest rate.
- The Central Health Services Area (11.7) and the Richmond Regional Planning District (13.8) had the highest homicides rates. Richmond City is included in both of these regions.
- Cocaine was found in 20.3% of homicide victims who were tested. Overall 88.4% of homicide victims were tested for the presence of cocaine. Cocaine was most frequently found in persons ages 35-44 (52.9%), Black females (30.2%), Black males (22.8%), and all males (21.2%).
- The Northwest Health Services Area had more homicide victims test positive for cocaine (38.9%) than any other Health Services Area.
- Homicides with an Asian victim were frequently precipitated by another crime (57.1%).
- Homicides most frequently occurred in or immediately outside of a house or apartment (48.0%). Homicides also occurred in a street or road (23.0%), when the victim was inside a motor vehicle (8.4%), and in a parking lot or parking garage (4.5%).
- While homicides occurred at all times of the day and night, 30.3% occurred between the hours of 9:01 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.
- January (10%) and June (11.1%) saw the most frequent occurrence of homicide; homicide occurred least frequently in November (5.8%) and December (6.1%).

Table 18. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia: 2004

	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	275	72.6	7.5
Female	104	27.4	2.7
<b>Race</b>			
White	123	32.5	2.2
Black	244	64.4	16.1
Asian	8	2.1	2.2
American Indian	1	0.3	3.6
Other Race	1	0.3	-
Unknown	2	0.5	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>			
Hispanic	18	4.7	4.2
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	3	0.8	3.0
1-4	11	2.9	2.8
5-9	3	0.8	0.6
10-14	6	1.6	1.2
15-19	40	10.6	7.7
20-24	79	20.8	14.7
25-34	95	25.1	9.4
35-44	60	15.8	5.1
45-54	41	10.8	3.8
55-64	19	5.0	2.4
65-74	7	1.8	1.5
75-84	10	2.6	3.4
85 and older	5	1.3	4.9
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>			
Firearm	270	71.2	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	14	3.7	-
Poison	0	0.0	-
Sharp Instrument	46	12.1	-
Blunt Instrument	23	6.1	-
Drowning	0	0.0	-
Fall	1	0.3	-
Personal Weapon	11	2.9	-
Motor Vehicle	3	0.8	-
Fire or Burn	3	0.8	-
Shaking	6	1.6	-
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	-
Other	0	0.0	-
Unknown	2	0.5	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> Twenty-two homicide victims who were injured in Virginia, but were residents of another state, are not included in this report.

Table 19. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia by Race and Sex: 2004

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	75	27.3	2.7	48	46.2	1.7	123	32.5	2.2
Black	195	70.9	26.8	49	47.1	6.2	244	64.4	16.1
Asian	2	0.7	1.2	6	5.8	3.3	8	2.1	2.2
American Indian	1	0.4	7.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.3	3.6
Other Race	1	0.4	-	0	0.0	-	1	0.3	-
Unknown	1	0.4	-	1	1.0	-	2	0.5	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

Table 20. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia by Ethnicity and Sex: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Hispanic	14	5.1	6.1	4	3.8	2.0	18	4.7	4.2
Non-Hispanic	261	94.9	7.6	100	96.2	2.8	361	95.3	5.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>2</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

Table 21. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia by Age Group and Sex: 2004

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<1	2	0.7	3.9	1	1.0	2.0	3	0.8	3.0
1-4	3	1.1	1.5	8	7.7	4.1	11	2.9	2.8
5-9	1	0.4	0.4	2	1.9	0.8	3	0.8	0.6
10-14	6	2.2	2.3	0	0.0	0.0	6	1.6	1.2
15-19	32	11.6	12.0	8	7.7	3.2	40	10.6	7.7
20-24	70	25.5	24.6	9	8.7	3.6	79	20.8	14.7
25-34	72	26.2	14.0	23	22.1	4.6	95	25.1	9.4
35-44	33	12.0	5.7	27	26.0	4.5	60	15.8	5.1
45-54	32	11.6	6.0	9	8.7	1.6	41	10.8	3.8
55-64	12	4.4	3.2	7	6.7	1.7	19	5.0	2.4
65-74	5	1.8	2.4	2	1.9	0.8	7	1.8	1.5
75-84	4	1.5	3.5	6	5.8	3.4	10	2.6	3.4
85 and older	3	1.1	9.6	2	1.9	2.8	5	1.3	4.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

Table 22. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia by Years of Education Completed: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
<9	17	7.2	6.3
9-11	65	27.4	14.3
12	101	42.6	8.0
>12	48	20.3	1.7
Unknown	6	2.5	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Calculated for persons ages 25 and over; 12th grade education includes persons earning a General Educational Development (GED).

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

Table 23. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia by Marital Status: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
Married	81	22.8	2.5
Not Married / Separated	275	77.2	10.9
Divorced or Separated	44	12.4	6.2
Never Married	219	61.5	14.5
Widowed	12	3.4	3.8
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Calculated for persons ages 15 and over.

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

Table 24. Characteristics of Homicide in Virginia: 2004  
(Number and Percentage; N=250)<sup>1,2</sup>

Event Characteristics	No.	%
Argument or Abuse or Conflict	86	34.4
Intimate Partner Violence Related	69	27.6
Precipitated by Another Crime	56	22.4
Drug Related	45	18.0
Argument over Money or Property	15	6.0
Intimate Partner Jealousy or Rivalry	15	6.0
Mutual Physical Fight	10	4.0
Gang Related	7	2.8
Drive-by Shooting	6	2.4
Random Violence	6	2.4
Mercy Killing	1	0.4
Justifiable Self Defense	1	0.4
Mentally Ill Suspect	0	0.0
Hate Crime	0	0.0
Terrorist Attack	0	0.0
Victim Characteristics		
Used a Weapon	17	6.8
Bystander	6	2.4
Intervened to Assist a Crime Victim	3	1.2
Police Officer on Duty	1	0.4

<sup>1</sup> More than one characteristic may be noted for each homicide victim. Totals will not equal 100%. Percentages are based on only those homicides where characteristics are known.

<sup>2</sup> For complete descriptions of these characteristics, see pages 8-3 through 8-22 of the NVDRS Coding Manual at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/nvdrs-coding/VS2/NVDRS%20Coding%20Manual%20Full.pdf>.

**Table 25. Characteristics of Homicide in Virginia by Age Group: 2004 (Percentage; N=250)<sup>1</sup>**

	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 and older	All Ages
	n=2	n=9	n=2	n=4	n=25	n=51	n=64	n=40	n=26	n=14	n=6	n=5	n=2	n=250
<b>Event Characteristics</b>														
Argument or Abuse or Conflict <sup>2</sup>	100.0	55.6	100.0	25.0	28.0	43.1	35.9	22.5	46.2	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.4
Intimate Partner Violence Related	0.0	44.4	0.0	50.0	20.0	13.7	23.4	47.5	26.9	21.4	66.7	60.0	0.0	27.6
Precipitated by Another Crime	0.0	22.2	0.0	0.0	20.0	19.6	23.4	17.5	19.2	42.9	33.3	40.0	100.0	22.4
Drug Related	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	12.0	25.5	20.3	25.0	11.5	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0
Argument over Money or Property	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	4.7	10.0	11.5	7.1	16.7	0.0	0.0	6.0
Intimate Partner Jealousy or Rivalry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	7.8	6.3	10.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
Mutual Physical Fight	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	7.8	3.1	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Gang Related	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	3.9	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8
Drive-by Shooting	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	4.0	2.0	1.6	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4
Random Violence	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	2.0	1.6	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4
Mercy Killing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.4
Justifiable Self-Defense	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
<b>Victim Characteristics</b>														
Used a Weapon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	11.8	3.1	2.5	15.4	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	6.8
Bystander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	2.0	3.1	0.0	3.8	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	2.4
Intervened to Assist a Crime Victim	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
Police Officer on Duty	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4

<sup>1</sup> More than one characteristic may be noted for each homicide victim. Totals will not equal 100%. Percentages are based on only those homicides where characteristics are known. Characteristics from Table 24 that were not reflected in at least one case are excluded from this table.

<sup>2</sup> This characteristic includes any incident where a caretaker inflicts a fatal injury upon a child or an elder who is under their care. Aside from caretaker homicide, Argument or Abuse or Conflict characterizes interpersonal conflict that is not related to intimate partner violence, intimate partner jealousy or rivalry, or argument over money or property.

Table 26. Virginia Localities with the Highest Number of Homicides: 2004

Locality	No.
Richmond City	93
Norfolk City	35
Henrico County	20
Virginia Beach City	18
Newport News City	18
Chesapeake City	14
Hampton City	13
Fairfax County	10

These eight localities accounted for 58.3% of all homicides in Virginia in 2004.

Table 27. Homicide Rates for Virginia Localities with Twenty or more Homicides: 2004

Locality	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Richmond City	48.3
Norfolk City	14.7
Henrico County	7.2

<sup>1</sup>Rate per 100,000 persons.

Table 28. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia by Selected Regions: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
<b>Medical Examiner District</b>			
Central	171	45.1	8.7
Northern	29	7.7	1.2
Tidewater	122	32.2	7.7
Western	57	15.0	3.6
<b>Health Services Area</b>			
1. Northwest	27	7.1	2.4
2. Northern	24	6.3	1.2
3. Southwest	44	11.6	3.4
4. Central	148	39.1	11.7
5. Eastern	125	33.0	7.0
Unknown	11	2.9	-
<b>Planning District<sup>3</sup></b>			
1. LENOWISCO	0	0.0	0.0
2. Cumberland Plateau	4	1.1	3.5
3. Mount Rogers	4	1.1	2.1
4. New River Valley	4	1.1	2.4
5. Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	13	3.4	4.9
6. Central Shenandoah	9	2.4	3.4
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley	3	0.8	1.5
8. Northern Virginia	24	6.3	1.2
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan	0	0.0	0.0
10. Thomas Jefferson	5	1.3	2.4
11. Region 2000	5	1.3	2.2
12. West Piedmont	14	3.7	5.6
13. Southside	4	1.1	4.6
14. Piedmont	1	0.3	1.0
15. Richmond Regional	126	33.2	13.8
16. RADCO	10	2.6	3.4
17. Northern Neck	3	0.8	5.9
18. Middle Peninsula	2	0.5	2.3
19. Crater	26	6.9	5.8
22. Accomack-Northampton	4	1.1	7.6
23. Hampton Roads	117	30.9	7.2
Unknown	11	2.9	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix D for a listing of localities in Virginia's Medical Examiner Districts, Health Services Areas, and Planning Districts.

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>3</sup> Chesterfield County is a member of Planning District 15 and Planning District 19; Gloucester County is a member of Planning District 18 and Planning District 23. Deaths that occurred in Chesterfield County are counted in Planning District 15 and Planning District 19. Deaths that occurred in Gloucester County are counted in Planning District 18 and Planning District 23.

Table 29. Presence of Alcohol and Selected Drugs at Death in Homicide Victims by Selected Characteristics: 2004 (Percentage)<sup>1,2</sup>

	Alcohol (BAC > .08) <sup>3</sup>	Cocaine	Opiates
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	19.5	21.2	8.4
Female	9.8	17.7	3.6
<b>Race and Sex</b>			
White	14.3	12.2	7.1
Male	19.7	16.4	8.1
Female	6.3	5.4	5.6
Black	18.5	24.2	7.6
Male	19.4	22.8	8.7
Female	14.9	30.2	2.4
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>			
Hispanic	22.2	6.3	0.0
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	0.0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0.0	0.0	16.7
5-9	33.3	0.0	0.0
10-14	0.0	0.0	16.7
15-19	7.5	0.0	7.9
20-24	23.7	15.5	5.6
25-34	17.9	19.6	10.8
35-44	13.6	52.9	5.9
45-54	30.0	31.4	2.9
55-64	11.1	0.0	0.0
65-74	0.0	20.0	0.0
75-84	11.1	0.0	14.3
85 and older	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	-	-	-
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>			
Firearm	15.2	21.3	7.9
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	7.1	8.3	8.3
Poison	-	-	-
Sharp Instrument	22.2	19.5	0.0
Blunt Instrument	28.6	25.0	11.1
Drowning	-	-	-
Fall	0.0	0.0	-
Personal Weapon	27.3	30.0	10.0
Motor Vehicle	33.3	0.0	0.0
Fire or Burn	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shaking	0.0	0.0	20.0
Intentional Neglect	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Unknown	50.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Location Where Injured</b>			
Motor Vehicle	9.4	43.8	9.4
Street or Road	18.4	25.6	7.0
House or Apartment	15.4	13.7	6.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are based upon the number of victims who were tested for each substance.

<sup>2</sup> The symbol - indicates the absence of testing for this substance.

<sup>3</sup> BAC stands for blood alcohol content. A BAC above .08 is the legal standard for intoxication in Virginia.

<sup>4</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

## SECTION IV:

Within the National Violent Death Reporting System, a legal intervention is a death where the decedent is killed by a police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty.

**Peace officers are persons, including military police officers, with specified legal authority to use deadly force. Legal interventions do not include judicial executions.**

## Highlighted Findings

- ▶ All legal intervention victims were males between the ages of 20 and 54.
- ▶ With respect to race, Blacks were more frequently the victims of legal intervention (66.7%) than Whites (33.3%).
- ▶ More legal interventions occurred in the Central Medical Examiner District (41.7%) than any other district.
- ▶ Legal intervention victims frequently tested positive for blood alcohol content above the legal limit (25.0%) and for cocaine (25.0%).

Table 30. Number, Percent, and Rate of Legal Intervention Death Victims in Virginia: 2004

	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	12	100.0	0.3
Female	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Race</b>			
White	4	33.3	0.1
Black	8	66.7	0.5
Asian	0	0.0	0.0
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0
Other Race	0	0.0	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>			
Hispanic	1	8.3	0.2
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	0	0.0	0.0
15-19	0	0.0	0.0
20-24	4	33.3	0.7
25-34	4	33.3	0.4
35-44	2	16.7	0.2
45-54	2	16.7	0.2
55-64	0	0.0	0.0
65-74	0	0.0	0.0
75-84	0	0.0	0.0
85 and older	0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Years of Education Completed<sup>3</sup></b>			
<9	0	0.0	0.0
9-11	0	0.0	0.0
12	1	8.3	0.1
>12	6	50.0	0.2
Unknown	1	8.3	-
<b>Marital Status<sup>4</sup></b>			
Married	3	25.0	0.1
Divorced or Separated	2	16.7	0.3
Never Married	6	50.0	0.4
Widowed	0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1	8.3	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> Calculated for persons ages 25 and over; 12th grade education includes persons earning a General Educational Development (GED).

<sup>4</sup> Calculated for persons ages 15 and over.

<sup>5</sup> One legal intervention death that occurred in Virginia is not included in this report because the victim was not a resident of Virginia.



## SECTION V:

Within the National Violent Death Reporting System, unintentional firearm deaths result from a gunshot wound when there is a preponderance of evidence that the shooting was not intentionally directed at the victim.

A key element of unintentional firearm death is that a firearm was not brandished with the intent to frighten, control, or harm anyone.

## Highlighted Findings

- ▶ Males (90.9%) and Whites (77.3%) were the most common victims of unintentional firearm deaths.
- ▶ Victims' age varied widely, from two to 78 years.
- ▶ Unintentional firearm death victims most commonly inflicted the fatal injury themselves (72.7%).
- ▶ Unintentional firearm deaths most frequently occurred while the victim was hunting (27.8%) or while the victim or someone else was playing with a firearm (22.2%).
- ▶ Most incidents occurred in the Western Medical Examiner District (40.9%); this area also had the highest rate (0.6).

Table 31. Number, Percent, and Rate of Unintentional Firearm Death Victims in Virginia: 2004

	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	20	90.9	0.5
Female	2	9.1	0.1
<b>Race</b>			
White	17	77.3	0.3
Black	5	22.7	0.3
Asian	0	0.0	0.0
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0
Other Race	0	0.0	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>			
Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	2	9.1	0.5
5-9	1	4.5	0.2
10-14	3	13.6	0.6
15-19	2	9.1	0.4
20-24	2	9.1	0.4
25-34	4	18.2	0.4
35-44	2	9.1	0.2
45-54	3	13.6	0.3
55-64	1	4.5	0.1
65-74	1	4.5	0.2
75-84	1	4.5	0.3
85 and older	0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Years of Education Completed<sup>3</sup></b>			
<9	1	4.5	0.4
9-11	0	0.0	0.0
12	8	36.4	0.6
>12	3	13.6	0.1
<b>Marital Status<sup>4</sup></b>			
Married	4	18.2	0.1
Divorced or Separated	4	18.2	0.6
Never Married	7	31.8	0.5
Widowed	1	4.5	0.3
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Injury Caused by Self or Other</b>			
Self-inflicted	16	72.7	-
Inflicted by Other	6	27.3	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> Calculated for persons ages 25 and over; 12th grade education includes persons earning a General Educational Development (GED).

<sup>4</sup> Calculated for persons ages 15 and over.

Table 32. Characteristics of Unintentional Firearm Deaths in Virginia: 2004 (Number and Percentage; N=18)<sup>1,2</sup>

Context	No.	%
Hunting	5	27.8
Playing with Firearm	4	22.2
Showing Firearm to Others	3	16.7
Cleaning Firearm	2	11.1
Loading or Unloading Firearm	1	5.6
Celebratory Firing	0	0.0
Self-Defensive Shooting	0	0.0
Target Shooting	0	0.0
Other Accidental Context of Injury	5	27.8
Mechanism of Injury		
Thought Firearm was Unloaded	3	16.7
Pulled Trigger Unintentionally	2	11.1
Dropped Firearm	2	11.1
Fired While Holstering / Unholstering	0	0.0
Fired While Operating Safety / Lock	0	0.0
Firearm Defect or Malfunction	0	0.0
Ricochet	0	0.0
Thought Safety was Engaged	0	0.0
Thought Firearm was a Toy	0	0.0
Other Mechanism of Firearm Injury <sup>3</sup>	7	38.9

<sup>1</sup> More than one characteristic may be noted for each victim. Totals will not equal 100%. Percentages are based on only those unintentional firearm deaths where characteristics are known.

<sup>2</sup> For complete descriptions of these characteristics, see pages 9-4 through 9-9 of the NVDRS Coding Manual at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/nvdrs-coding/V52/NVDRS%20Coding%20Manual%20Full.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Other Mechanism of Firearm Injury includes victims being mistaken for a hunting target; cases where a firearm was handled but it was unclear what caused it to discharge; cases where the victim fell while carrying a firearm; and cases where a firearm was being struggled over and it was unclear what caused it to discharge.

SECTION VI:

A child violent death is when the victim of any of the previously defined violent death types is under the age of 18.

## Highlighted Findings

- ▶ In Virginia, 94 children died a violent death in 2004.
- ▶ Male children had a higher violent death rate (6.9) than female children (3.4).
- ▶ Black children (10.0) died from violent death at a higher rate than White children (3.7) or when compared with the overall rate for Virginia's children (5.2).
- ▶ The median age of violent death child victims was nine years.
- ▶ Children more frequently died from homicide (39.4%) than any other type of violent death.
- ▶ Black children more frequently died from homicide (59.1%) while White children more frequently died from suicide (31.9%) and undetermined manner (36.2%).
- ▶ Male children (23.4%) more frequently died from suicide than females (13.3%); female children more frequently died from homicide (46.7%) than males (35.9%).
- ▶ Homicide was the most common manner of violent death for children ages 1-4 (84.6%), ages 5-9 (75.0%), and ages 10-14 (42.9%). Children ages 15-17 were victims of homicide and suicide in equal proportions (42.4%).
- ▶ A firearm was the method of fatal injury in 40.4% of child violent deaths. In general, firearm deaths became more common as age increased.
- ▶ The rate of child violent death was highest in the Central Medical Examiner district (6.8).

Table 33. Number, Percent, and Rate of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia: 2004

	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	64	68.1	6.9
Female	30	31.9	3.4
<b>Race</b>			
White	47	50.0	3.7
Black	44	46.8	10.0
Asian	3	3.2	3.5
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0
Other Race	0	0.0	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>			
Hispanic	5	5.3	3.7
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	30	31.9	29.9
1-4	13	13.8	3.3
5-9	4	4.3	0.8
10-14	14	14.9	2.7
15-17	33	35.1	10.8
<b>Violent Death Type</b>			
Homicide	37	39.4	2.0
Undetermined	30	31.9	1.7
Suicide	19	20.2	1.1
Unintentional Firearm	8	8.5	0.4
Legal Intervention	0	0.0	0.0
Terrorism	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>			
Firearm	38	40.4	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	10	10.6	-
Poison	3	3.2	-
Sharp Instrument	1	1.1	-
Blunt Instrument	2	2.1	-
Drowning	0	0.0	-
Fall	2	2.1	-
Personal Weapon	3	3.2	-
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	-
Fire or Burn	1	1.1	-
Shaking	6	6.4	-
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	-
Other	0	0.0	-
Unknown	28	29.8	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>

<sup>1</sup>Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup>Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

Table 34. Number and Percent of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Selected Race and Violent Death Type: 2004

	White		Black		Asian		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Suicide	15	31.9	2	4.5	2	66.7	19	20.2
Homicide	10	21.3	26	59.1	1	33.3	37	39.4
Unintentional Firearm	5	10.6	3	6.8	0	0.0	8	8.5
Undetermined	17	36.2	13	29.5	0	0.0	30	31.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 35. Number and Percent of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Sex and Violent Death Type: 2004

	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Suicide	15	23.4	4	13.3	19	20.2
Homicide	23	35.9	14	46.7	37	39.4
Unintentional Firearm	6	9.4	2	6.7	8	8.5
Undetermined	20	31.3	10	33.3	30	31.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 36. Number and Percent of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Ethnicity and Violent Death Type: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Suicide	1	20.0	18	20.2	19	20.2
Homicide	3	60.0	34	38.2	37	39.4
Unintentional Firearm	0	0.0	8	9.0	8	8.5
Undetermined	1	20.0	29	32.6	30	31.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

Table 37. Number and Percent of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Violent Death Type and Age Group: 2004

	<1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Homicide	3	10.0	11	84.6	3	75.0	6	42.9	14	42.4	37	39.4
Undetermined	27	90.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	9.1	30	31.9
Suicide	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	35.7	14	42.4	19	20.2
Unintentional Firearm	0	0.0	2	15.4	1	25.0	3	21.4	2	6.1	8	8.5
Legal Intervention	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Terrorism	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	30	100.0	13	100.0	4	100.0	14	100.0	33	100.0	94	100.0

Table 38. Number and Percent of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Method of Fatal Injury and Age Group: 2004

	<1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	0	0.0	4	30.8	2	50.0	10	71.4	22	66.7	38	40.4
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	25.0	3	21.4	5	15.2	10	10.6
Poison	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	9.1	3	3.2
Sharp Instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.0	1	1.1
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	2	15.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.1
Drowning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fall	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.0	2	2.1
Personal Weapon	0	0.0	2	15.4	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.2
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fire or Burn	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Shaking	3	10.0	2	15.4	0	0.0	1	7.1	0	0.0	6	6.4
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	27	90.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.0	28	29.8
	30	100.0	13	100.0	4	100.0	14	100.0	33	100.0	94	100.0

Table 39. Number, Percent, and Rate of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia by Selected Regions: 2004<sup>1</sup>

	No.	%	Rate <sup>2</sup>
<b>Medical Examiner District</b>			
Central	32	34.0	6.8
Northern	18	19.1	3.1
Tidewater	27	28.7	6.4
Western	17	18.1	5.3
<b>Health Services Area</b>			
1. Northwest	13	13.8	4.9
2. Northern	11	11.7	2.2
3. Southwest	14	14.9	5.1
4. Central	25	26.6	8.2
5. Eastern	29	30.9	6.4
Unknown	2	2.1	-
<b>Planning District<sup>3</sup></b>			
1. LENOWISCO	0	0.0	0.0
2. Cumberland Plateau	1	1.1	4.3
3. Mount Rogers	1	1.1	2.6
4. New River Valley	2	2.1	6.8
5. Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	1	1.1	1.7
6. Central Shenandoah	4	4.3	7.1
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley	5	5.3	10.6
8. Northern Virginia	11	11.7	2.2
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan	0	0.0	0.0
10. Thomas Jefferson	3	3.2	6.5
11. Region 2000	5	5.3	9.6
12. West Piedmont	4	4.3	7.4
13. Southside	2	2.1	10.8
14. Piedmont	0	0.0	0.0
15. Richmond Regional	20	21.3	8.9
16. RADCO	1	1.1	1.3
17. Northern Neck	1	1.1	10.3
18. Middle Peninsula	1	1.1	5.0
19. Crater	7	7.4	6.2
22. Accomack-Northampton	1	1.1	8.2
23. Hampton Roads	27	28.7	6.4
Unknown	2	2.1	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix D for a listing of localities in Virginia's Medical Examiner Districts, Health Services Areas, and Planning Districts.

<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 persons.

<sup>3</sup> Chesterfield County is a member of Planning District 15 and Planning District 19; Gloucester County is a member of Planning District 18 and Planning District 23. Deaths that occurred in Chesterfield County are counted in Planning District 15 and Planning District 19. Deaths that occurred in Gloucester County are counted in Planning District 18 and Planning District 23.

# APPENDIX A:

NUMBER, RATE, AND  
VIOLENT DEATH TYPE  
IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITY  
OF INJURY

Table 40. Number, Rate, and Violent Death Type in Virginia by Locality of Injury: 2004<sup>1</sup>

LOCALITY	Violent Death		Suicide		Homicide		Legal Intervention		Unintentional Firearm		Undetermined	
	No.	Rate <sup>2</sup>	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Accomack County	4	10.2	2	5.1	2	5.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albemarle County	17	19.2	14	15.8	1	1.1	-	-	-	-	2	2.3
Alexandria City	18	14.0	14	10.9	2	1.6	1	0.8	1	0.8	-	-
Alleghany County	2	11.9	1	6.0	1	6.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amelia County	3	25.1	3	25.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amherst County	4	12.5	2	6.3	-	-	-	-	1	3.1	1	3.1
Appomattox County	2	14.4	2	14.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arlington County	16	8.6	13	7.0	2	1.1	-	-	-	-	1	0.5
Augusta County	21	30.5	12	17.5	5	7.3	-	-	2	2.9	2	2.9
Bath County	2	40.1	2	40.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedford City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedford County	7	11.0	6	9.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.6
Bland County	2	28.4	2	28.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Botetourt County	2	6.3	2	6.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bristol City	6	34.7	6	34.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunswick County	5	27.5	3	16.5	1	5.5	-	-	1	5.5	-	-
Buchanan County	8	31.7	6	23.8	2	7.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buckingham County	1	6.3	1	6.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buena Vista City	2	32.1	2	32.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campbell County	8	15.5	6	11.6	1	1.9	-	-	-	-	1	1.9
Caroline County	2	8.3	1	4.2	1	4.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carroll County	8	27.1	7	23.7	1	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charles City County	1	14.1	1	14.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charlotte County	1	8.1	1	8.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charlottesville City	7	19.1	3	8.2	3	8.2	-	-	1	2.7	-	-
Chesapeake City	35	16.3	19	8.8	14	6.5	1	0.5	-	-	1	0.5
Chesterfield County	43	15.2	30	10.6	9	3.2	1	0.4	-	-	3	1.1
Clarke County	3	21.7	1	7.2	1	7.2	-	-	-	-	1	7.2
Colonial Heights City	5	28.5	1	5.7	3	17.1	1	5.7	-	-	-	-
Covington City	3	47.9	2	32.0	1	16.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Craig County	2	38.9	-	-	2	38.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culpeper County	6	14.9	6	14.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland County	1	10.9	1	10.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danville City	12	25.9	7	15.1	5	10.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dickenson County	5	30.9	3	18.6	2	12.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dinwiddie County	6	23.8	3	11.9	3	11.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emporia City	2	35.2	-	-	1	17.6	-	-	-	-	1	17.6
Essex County	3	29.0	2	19.4	1	9.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfax City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfax County	77	7.7	62	6.2	10	1.0	-	-	1	0.1	4	0.4
Falls Church City	2	18.6	1	9.3	1	9.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fauquier County	13	20.6	12	19.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.6
Floyd County	3	20.7	3	20.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fluvanna County	2	8.5	2	8.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin City	1	11.8	-	-	1	11.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin County	10	20.1	7	14.0	2	4.0	-	-	-	-	1	2.0
Frederick County	12	18.0	11	16.5	1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fredericksburg City	6	29.3	3	14.7	2	9.8	1	4.9	-	-	-	-
Galax City	1	15.0	1	15.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

LOCALITY	Violent Death		Suicide		Homicide		Legal Intervention		Unintentional Firearm		Undetermined	
	No.	Rate <sup>2</sup>	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Giles County	5	29.4	3	17.7	1	5.9	-	-	1	5.9	-	-
Gloucester County	8	21.5	7	18.8	1	2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goochland County	4	21.3	2	10.7	1	5.3	-	-	-	-	1	5.3
Grayson County	6	36.4	5	30.3	-	-	-	-	1	6.1	-	-
Greene County	4	23.5	3	17.6	-	-	-	-	1	5.9	-	-
Greensville County	1	8.7	1	8.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax County	7	19.3	5	13.8	2	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hampton City	31	21.2	15	10.3	13	8.9	-	-	1	0.7	2	1.4
Hanover County	12	12.5	9	9.4	3	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harrisonburg City	3	7.3	1	2.4	1	2.4	-	-	-	-	1	2.4
Henrico County	44	15.9	21	7.6	20	7.2	1	0.4	-	-	2	0.7
Henry County	18	31.6	13	22.8	3	5.3	-	-	1	1.8	1	1.8
Highland County	3	120.9	2	80.6	1	40.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hopewell City	3	13.4	1	4.5	1	4.5	-	-	-	-	1	4.5
Isle of Wight County	8	24.4	5	15.3	2	6.1	-	-	-	-	1	3.1
James City County	7	12.6	6	10.8	-	-	-	-	1	1.8	-	-
King and Queen County	1	14.8	1	14.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
King George County	5	25.8	4	20.7	1	5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
King William County	3	20.9	3	20.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancaster County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lee County	9	37.7	9	37.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lexington City	1	14.5	1	14.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loudoun County	20	8.4	17	7.1	-	-	-	-	3	1.3	-	-
Louisa County	6	20.8	6	20.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunenburg County	2	15.3	2	15.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lynchburg City	12	18.5	6	9.2	4	6.2	-	-	-	-	2	3.1
Madison County	1	7.6	1	7.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manassas City	4	10.6	1	2.7	3	8.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manassas Park City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Martinsville City	6	39.9	3	19.9	2	13.3	-	-	-	-	1	6.6
Mathews County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mecklenburg County	11	33.8	9	27.7	1	3.1	-	-	-	-	1	3.1
Middlesex County	2	19.1	2	19.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montgomery County	11	13.1	8	9.5	2	2.4	-	-	1	1.2	-	-
Nelson County	3	20.1	2	13.4	1	6.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Kent County	4	25.7	4	25.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newport News City	39	21.4	17	9.3	18	9.9	1	0.5	-	-	3	1.6
Norfolk City	66	27.7	27	11.3	35	14.7	-	-	1	0.4	3	1.3
Northampton County	6	45.1	4	30.1	2	15.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumberland County	2	15.5	1	7.8	1	7.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norton City	3	79.9	3	79.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nottoway County	4	25.6	4	25.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange County	2	6.9	-	-	-	-	1	3.5	-	-	1	3.5
Page County	2	8.4	2	8.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Patrick County	8	41.6	6	31.2	2	10.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petersburg City	9	27.5	5	15.3	4	12.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pittsylvania County	7	11.3	5	8.1	-	-	1	1.6	-	-	1	1.6
Poquoson City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portsmouth City	20	20.1	11	11.1	8	8.1	-	-	-	-	1	1.0
Powhatan County	4	15.5	4	15.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# APPENDIX A

LOCALITY	Violent Death		Suicide		Homicide		Legal Intervention		Unintentional Firearm		Undetermined	
	No.	Rate <sup>2</sup>	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Prince Edward County	3	14.8	2	9.8	1	4.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prince George County	7	20.4	6	17.5	1	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prince William County	27	8.0	19	5.6	6	1.8	-	-	-	-	2	0.6
Pulaski County	8	22.8	8	22.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Radford City	4	27.1	3	20.3	1	6.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rappahannock County	1	13.9	1	13.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richmond City	119	61.8	18	9.4	93	48.3	1	0.5	2	1.0	5	2.6
Richmond County	2	22.3	1	11.1	1	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roanoke City	21	22.7	11	11.9	8	8.7	-	-	1	1.1	1	1.1
Roanoke County	13	14.8	11	12.5	1	1.1	-	-	-	-	1	1.1
Rockbridge County	5	23.7	5	23.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rockingham County	9	12.8	7	10.0	1	1.4	-	-	-	-	1	1.4
Russell County	9	31.2	8	27.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3.5
Salem City	4	16.4	4	16.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott County	4	17.4	3	13.1	-	-	-	-	1	4.4	-	-
Shenandoah County	8	21.0	7	18.4	1	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smyth County	6	18.4	5	15.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3.1
Southampton County	4	22.7	1	5.7	2	11.4	-	-	-	-	1	5.7
Spotsylvania County	11	9.8	9	8.0	2	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stafford County	15	13.1	11	9.6	4	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staunton City	6	25.2	5	21.0	1	4.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk City	12	15.7	8	10.4	4	5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surry County	1	14.3	-	-	1	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex County	5	42.0	2	16.8	3	25.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tazewell County	9	20.1	7	15.6	-	-	1	2.2	-	-	1	2.2
Virginia Beach City	67	15.2	48	10.9	18	4.1	-	-	-	-	1	0.2
Warren County	17	49.5	16	46.5	-	-	1	2.9	-	-	-	-
Washington County	11	21.1	8	15.4	2	3.8	-	-	-	-	1	1.9
Waynesboro City	4	19.3	3	14.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4.8
Westmoreland County	3	17.6	1	5.9	1	5.9	-	-	-	-	1	5.9
Williamsburg City	4	34.9	3	26.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8.7
Winchester City	4	16.1	3	12.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4.0
Wise County	2	4.8	2	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wythe County	7	25.0	5	17.9	1	3.6	-	-	-	-	1	3.6
York County	4	6.6	3	4.9	1	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	28	-	6	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of readability, localities without a violent death type are represented by the symbol – instead of a 0 in the number and rate columns. Where locality of injury is unknown, the symbol – is used as there is no population on which to base a rate.

<sup>2</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

# APPENDIX B:

VIOLENT DEATH  
IN VIRGINIA,  
SUMMARY TABLES FOR  
2003 - 2004

Table 41. Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Victims in Virginia: 2003-2004

	2003			2004		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	995	76.8	27.4	1003	77.0	27.3
Female	300	23.2	8.0	300	23.0	7.9
<b>Race</b>						
White	867	66.9	15.7	892	68.5	16.0
Black	389	30.0	25.8	368	28.2	24.3
Asian	22	1.7	6.6	32	2.5	9.0
American Indian	2	0.2	7.3	2	0.2	7.1
Other Race	12	0.9	-	3	0.2	-
Unknown	3	0.2	-	6	0.5	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>						
Hispanic	37	2.9	9.4	42	3.2	9.9
<b>Age Group</b>						
<1	15	1.2	15.1	30	2.3	29.9
1-4	13	1.0	3.3	13	1.0	3.3
5-9	10	0.8	2.1	4	0.3	0.8
10-14	14	1.1	2.7	14	1.1	2.7
15-19	91	7.0	17.9	83	6.4	16.0
20-24	171	13.2	32.3	143	11.0	26.6
25-34	236	18.2	23.2	226	17.3	22.3
35-44	258	19.9	21.8	262	20.1	22.3
45-54	211	16.3	19.6	226	17.3	20.7
55-64	116	9.0	15.6	131	10.1	16.8
65-74	87	6.7	19.6	70	5.4	15.4
75-84	51	3.9	17.6	73	5.6	25.1
85 and older	22	1.7	22.1	28	2.1	27.3
Unknown	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
<b>Violent Death Type</b>						
Suicide	786	60.7	10.6	816	62.6	10.9
Homicide	424	32.7	5.7	379	29.1	5.1
Undetermined	58	4.5	0.8	74	5.7	1.0
Unintentional Firearm	15	1.2	0.2	22	1.7	0.3
Legal Intervention	12	0.9	0.2	12	0.9	0.2
Terrorism	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>						
Firearm	776	59.9	-	793	60.9	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	162	12.5	-	172	13.2	-
Poison	159	12.3	-	142	10.9	-
Sharp Instrument	52	4.0	-	60	4.6	-
Blunt Instrument	41	3.2	-	26	2.0	-
Drowning	20	1.5	-	15	1.2	-
Fall	16	1.2	-	11	0.8	-
Personal Weapon	1	0.1	-	11	0.8	-
Motor Vehicle	6	0.5	-	10	0.8	-
Fire or Burn	15	1.2	-	7	0.5	-
Shaking	5	0.4	-	6	0.5	-
Other Transport Vehicle	5	0.4	-	0	0.0	-
Intentional Neglect	1	0.1	-	0	0.0	-
Other	5	0.4	-	1	0.1	-
Unknown	31	2.4	-	49	3.8	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1295</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons. Virginia's population was estimated at 7,460,066 in 2004 and at 7,386,300 persons in 2003. The symbol - refers to rates that cannot be calculated, as there is no specified population on which to base the rate.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> There are 37 violent death victims from 2003 and 51 violent death victims from 2004 that are not included in this report because they were not residents of Virginia.

Table 42. Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Victims in Virginia: 2003-2004

	2003			2004		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	608	77.4	16.7	649	79.5	17.7
Female	178	22.6	4.7	167	20.5	4.4
<b>Race</b>						
White	681	86.6	12.3	699	85.7	12.6
Black	89	11.3	5.9	87	10.7	5.7
Asian	13	1.7	3.9	23	2.8	6.4
American Indian	1	0.1	3.6	1	0.1	3.6
Other Race	2	0.3	-	2	0.2	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	4	0.5	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>						
Hispanic	12	1.5	3.0	19	2.3	4.5
<b>Age Group</b>						
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	7	0.9	1.3	5	0.6	1.0
15-19	37	4.7	7.3	38	4.7	7.3
20-24	58	7.4	10.9	57	7.0	10.6
25-34	135	17.2	13.3	115	14.1	11.3
35-44	163	20.7	13.8	186	22.8	15.9
45-54	154	19.6	14.3	171	21.0	15.6
55-64	89	11.3	12.0	105	12.9	13.5
65-74	76	9.7	17.1	59	7.2	13.0
75-84	47	6.0	16.2	58	7.1	19.9
85 and older	20	2.5	20.1	22	2.7	21.5
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>						
Firearm	441	56.1	-	485	59.4	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	148	18.8	-	157	19.2	-
Poison	145	18.4	-	131	16.1	-
Sharp Instrument	6	0.8	-	13	1.6	-
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
Drowning	18	2.3	-	12	1.5	-
Fall	15	1.9	-	8	1.0	-
Motor Vehicle	4	0.5	-	6	0.7	-
Fire or Burn	3	0.4	-	3	0.4	-
Other Transport Vehicle	4	0.5	-	0	0.0	-
Other	2	0.3	-	1	0.1	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> There are 13 suicide victims from 2003 and 21 suicide victims from 2004 that are not included in this report because they were not residents of Virginia.

Table 43. Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Victims in Virginia: 2003-2004

	2003			2004		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	329	77.6	9.1	275	72.6	7.5
Female	95	22.4	2.5	104	27.4	2.7
<b>Race</b>						
White	132	31.1	2.4	123	32.5	2.2
Black	271	63.9	18.0	244	64.4	16.1
Asian	8	1.9	2.4	8	2.1	2.2
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.3	3.6
Other Race	10	2.4	-	1	0.3	-
Unknown	3	0.7	-	2	0.5	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>						
Hispanic	23	5.4	5.8	18	4.7	4.2
<b>Age Group</b>						
<1	9	2.1	9.1	3	0.8	3.0
1-4	7	1.7	1.8	11	2.9	2.8
5-9	8	1.9	1.7	3	0.8	0.6
10-14	7	1.7	1.3	6	1.6	1.2
15-19	49	11.6	9.6	40	10.6	7.7
20-24	103	24.3	19.4	79	20.8	14.7
25-34	89	21.0	8.8	95	25.1	9.4
35-44	78	18.4	6.6	60	15.8	5.1
45-54	42	9.9	3.9	41	10.8	3.8
55-64	17	4.0	2.3	19	5.0	2.4
65-74	9	2.1	2.0	7	1.8	1.5
75-84	4	0.9	1.4	10	2.6	3.4
85 and older	2	0.5	2.0	5	1.3	4.9
Unknown	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>						
Firearm	306	72.2	-	270	71.2	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	12	2.8	-	14	3.7	-
Poison	2	0.5	-	0	0.0	-
Sharp Instrument	45	10.6	-	46	12.1	-
Blunt Instrument	32	7.5	-	23	6.1	-
Drowning	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
Fall	1	0.2	-	1	0.3	-
Personal Weapon	1	0.2	-	11	2.9	-
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	-	3	0.8	-
Fire or Burn	9	2.1	-	3	0.8	-
Shaking	5	1.2	-	6	1.6	-
Intentional Neglect	1	0.2	-	0	0.0	-
Other	3	0.7	-	0	0.0	-
Unknown	7	1.7	-	2	0.5	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>424</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> There are 14 homicide victims from 2003 and 22 homicide victims from 2004 that are not included in this report because they were not residents of Virginia.

Table 44. Number, Percent, and Rate of Legal Intervention Death Victims in Virginia: 2003-2004

	2003			2004		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	12	100.0	0.3	12	100.0	0.3
Female	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Race</b>						
White	4	33.3	0.1	4	33.3	0.1
Black	7	58.3	0.5	8	66.7	0.5
Asian	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
American Indian	1	8.3	3.6	0	0.0	0.0
Other Race	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>						
Hispanic	1	8.3	0.3	1	8.3	0.2
<b>Age Group</b>						
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
15-19	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
20-24	5	41.7	0.9	4	33.3	0.7
25-34	5	41.7	0.5	4	33.3	0.4
35-44	1	8.3	0.1	2	16.7	0.2
45-54	1	8.3	0.1	2	16.7	0.2
55-64	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
65-74	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
75-84	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
85 and older	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> There is one legal intervention death victim from 2004 that is not included in this report because the victim was not a resident of Virginia.

Table 45. Number, Percent, and Rate of Unintentional Firearm Death Victims in Virginia: 2003-2004

	2003			2004		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	14	93.3	0.4	20	90.9	0.5
Female	1	6.7	<0.1	2	9.1	0.1
<b>Race</b>						
White	9	60.0	0.2	17	77.3	0.3
Black	5	33.3	0.3	5	22.7	0.3
Asian	1	6.7	0.3	0	0.0	0.0
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Other Race	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>						
Hispanic	1	6.7	0.3	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Age Group</b>						
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	2	9.1	0.5
5-9	2	13.3	0.4	1	4.5	0.2
10-14	0	0.0	0.0	3	13.6	0.6
15-19	4	26.7	0.8	2	9.1	0.4
20-24	3	20.0	0.6	2	9.1	0.4
25-34	2	13.3	0.2	4	18.2	0.4
35-44	3	20.0	0.3	2	9.1	0.2
45-54	0	0.0	0.0	3	13.6	0.3
55-64	0	0.0	0.0	1	4.5	0.1
65-74	1	6.7	0.2	1	4.5	0.2
75-84	0	0.0	0.0	1	4.5	0.3
85 and older	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

<sup>3</sup> There is one unintentional firearm death victim from 2003 that is not included in this report because the victim was not a resident of Virginia.

Table 46. Number, Percent, and Rate of Child Violent Death Victims in Virginia: 2003-2004

	2003			2004		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	62	75.6	6.7	64	68.1	6.9
Female	20	24.4	2.3	30	31.9	3.4
<b>Race</b>						
White	38	46.3	3.0	47	50.0	3.7
Black	41	50.0	9.3	44	46.8	10.0
Asian	0	0.0	0.0	3	3.2	3.5
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Other Race	2	2.4	-	0	0.0	-
Unknown	1	1.2	-	0	0.0	-
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>						
Hispanic	6	7.3	4.9	5	5.3	3.7
<b>Age Group</b>						
<1	15	18.3	15.1	30	31.9	29.9
1-4	13	15.9	3.3	13	13.8	3.3
5-9	10	12.2	2.1	4	4.3	0.8
10-14	14	17.1	2.7	14	14.9	2.7
15-17	30	36.6	9.9	33	35.1	10.8
<b>Violent Death Type</b>						
Homicide	46	56.1	2.6	37	39.4	2.0
Suicide	19	23.2	1.1	19	20.2	1.1
Undetermined	13	15.9	0.7	30	31.9	1.7
Unintentional Firearm	4	4.9	0.2	8	8.5	0.4
Legal Intervention	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Terrorism	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>						
Firearm	39	47.6	-	38	40.4	-
Hanging or Strangulation or Suffocation	5	6.1	-	10	10.6	-
Poison	2	2.4	-	3	3.2	-
Sharp Instrument	2	2.4	-	1	1.1	-
Blunt Instrument	9	11.0	-	2	2.1	-
Drowning	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
Fall	1	1.2	-	2	2.1	-
Personal Weapon	1	1.2	-	3	3.2	-
Motor Vehicle	1	1.2	-	0	0.0	-
Fire or Burn	4	4.9	-	1	1.1	-
Shaking	4	4.9	-	6	6.4	-
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
Other	2	2.4	-	0	0.0	-
Unknown	12	14.6	-	28	29.8	-
<b>TOTAL<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rates are per 100,000 persons.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanic persons may be members of any race.

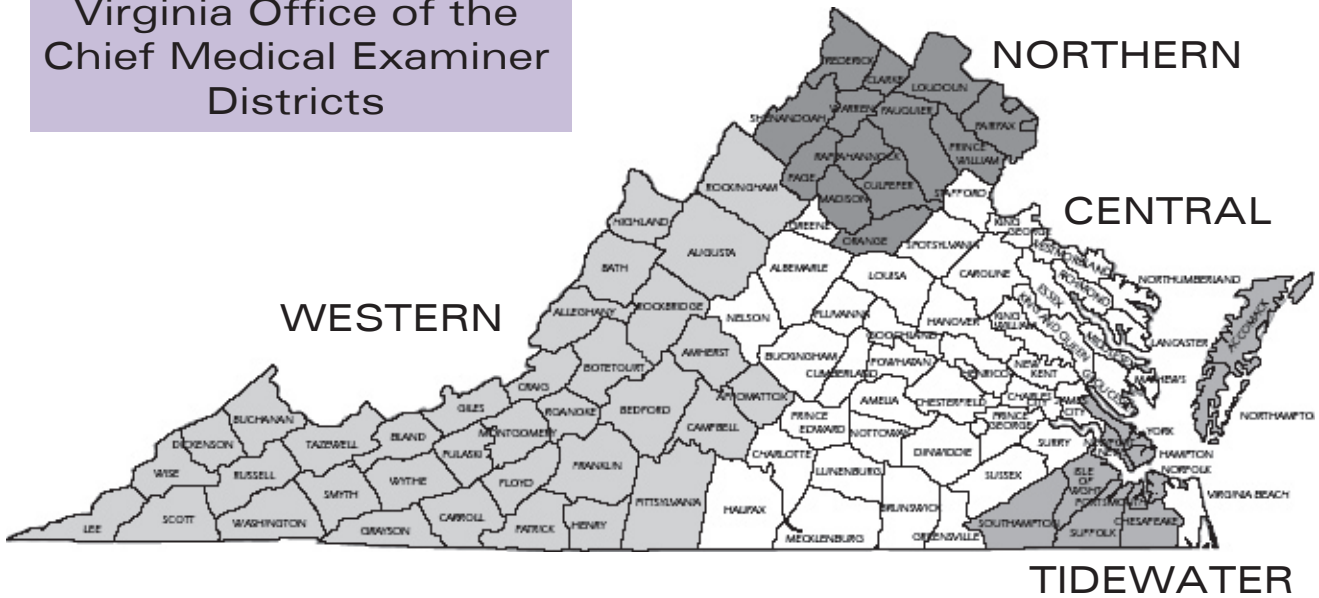
<sup>3</sup> There is one child violent death victim from 2003 that is not included in this report because the victim was not a resident of Virginia.



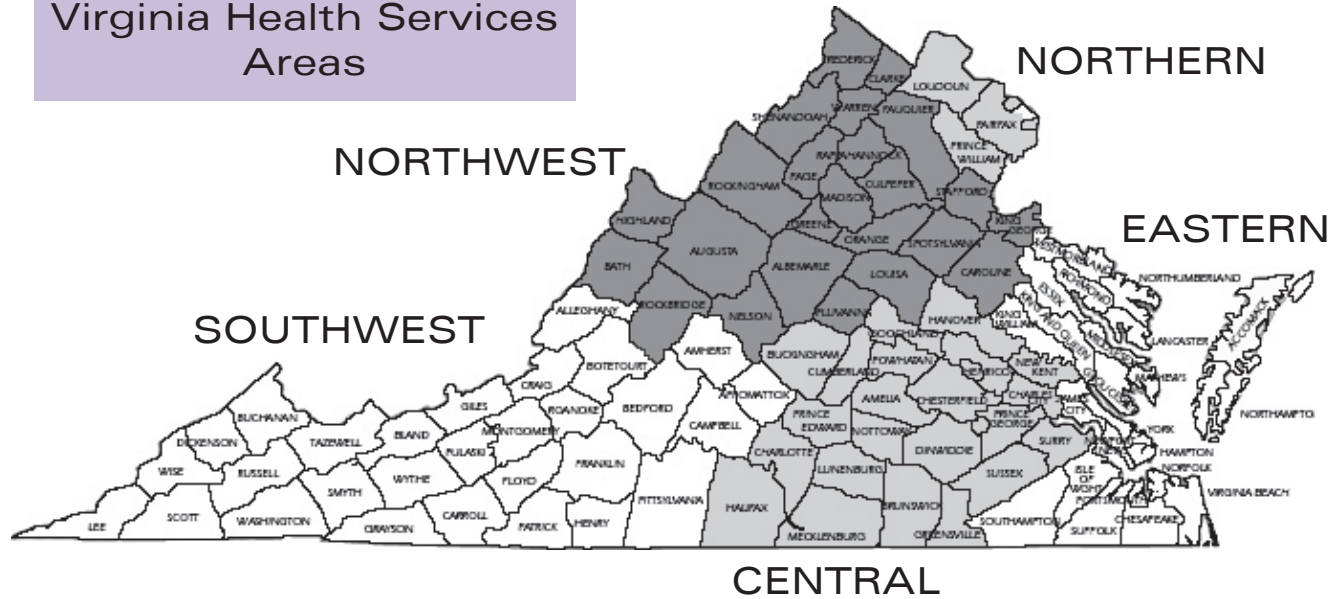
# APPENDIX C:

MAPS OF VIRGINIA  
MEDICAL EXAMINER  
DISTRICTS, HEALTH  
SERVICES AREAS, AND  
PLANNING DISTRICTS

Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Districts

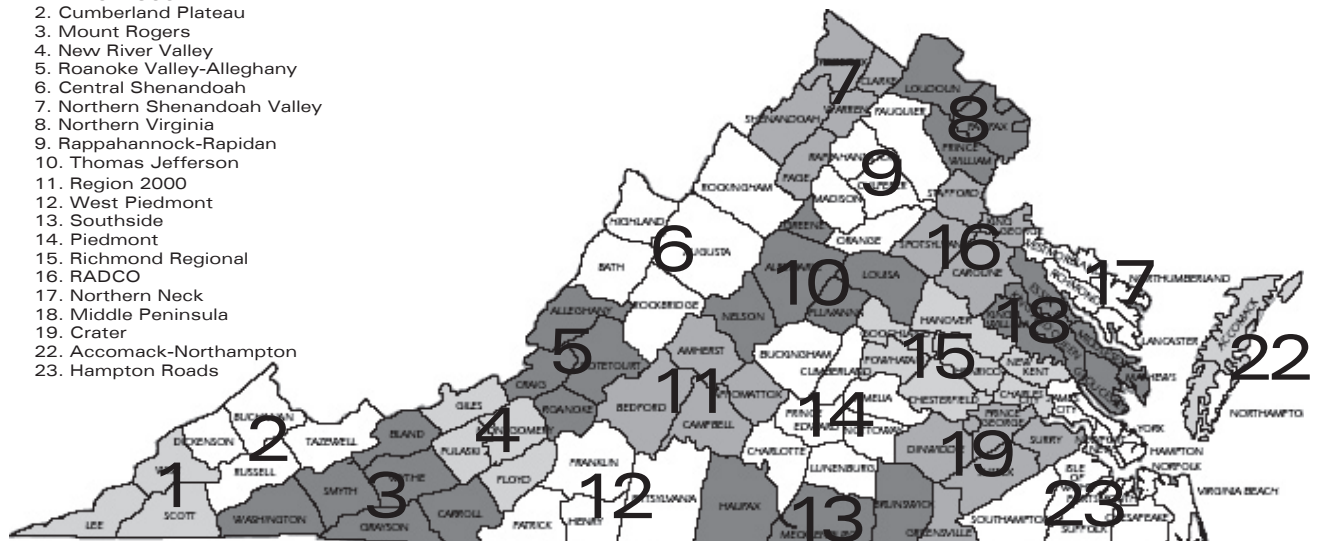


Virginia Health Services Areas



Virginia Planning Districts

1. LENOWISCO
2. Cumberland Plateau
3. Mount Rogers
4. New River Valley
5. Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
6. Central Shenandoah
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
8. Northern Virginia
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan
10. Thomas Jefferson
11. Region 2000
12. West Piedmont
13. Southside
14. Piedmont
15. Richmond Regional
16. RADCO
17. Northern Neck
18. Middle Peninsula
19. Crater
22. Accomack-Northampton
23. Hampton Roads



# APPENDIX D:

VIRGINIA LOCALITIES  
BY MEDICAL EXAMINER  
DISTRICT, HEALTH  
SERVICES AREA, AND  
PLANNING DISTRICT

Table 47. Virginia Localities by Medical Examiner District, Health Services Area, and Planning District: 2004

LOCALITY	MEDICAL EXAMINER DISTRICT (OCME)	HEALTH SERVICES AREA	PLANNING DISTRICT <sup>1</sup>
Accomack County	Tidewater	5. Eastern	22. Accomack - Northampton
Albemarle County	Central	1. Northwest	10. Thomas Jefferson
Alexandria City	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Alleghany County	Western	3. Southwest	5. Roanoke Valley - Alleghany
Amelia County	Central	4. Central	14. Piedmont
Amherst County	Western	3. Southwest	11. Region 2000
Appomattox County	Western	3. Southwest	11. Region 2000
Arlington County	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Augusta County	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Bath County	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Bedford City	Western	3. Southwest	11. Region 2000
Bedford County	Western	3. Southwest	11. Region 2000
Bland County	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
Botetourt County	Western	3. Southwest	5. Roanoke Valley - Alleghany
Bristol City	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
Brunswick County	Central	4. Central	13. Southside
Buchanan County	Western	3. Southwest	2. Cumberland Plateau
Buckingham County	Central	4. Central	14. Piedmont
Buena Vista City	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Campbell County	Western	3. Southwest	11. Region 2000
Caroline County	Central	1. Northwest	16. RADCO
Carroll County	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
Charles City County	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional
Charlotte County	Central	4. Central	14. Piedmont
Charlottesville City	Central	1. Northwest	10. Thomas Jefferson
Chesapeake City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Chesterfield County	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional; 19. Crater
Clarke County	Northern	1. Northwest	7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
Colonial Heights City	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Covington City	Western	3. Southwest	5. Roanoke Valley - Alleghany
Craig County	Western	3. Southwest	5. Roanoke Valley - Alleghany
Culpeper County	Northern	1. Northwest	9. Rappahannock - Rapidan
Cumberland County	Central	4. Central	14. Piedmont
Danville City	Western	3. Southwest	12. West Piedmont
Dickenson County	Western	3. Southwest	2. Cumberland Plateau
Dinwiddie County	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Emporia City	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Essex County	Central	5. Eastern	18. Middle Peninsula
Fairfax City	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Fairfax County	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Falls Church City	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Fauquier County	Northern	1. Northwest	9. Rappahannock - Rapidan
Floyd County	Western	3. Southwest	4. New River Valley
Fluvanna County	Central	1. Northwest	10. Thomas Jefferson

LOCALITY	MEDICAL EXAMINER DISTRICT (OCME)	HEALTH SERVICES AREA	PLANNING DISTRICT <sup>1</sup>
Franklin City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Franklin County	Western	3. Southwest	12. West Piedmont
Frederick County	Northern	1. Northwest	7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
Fredericksburg City	Central	1. Northwest	16. RADCO
Galax City	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
Giles County	Western	3. Southwest	4. New River Valley
Gloucester County	Central	5. Eastern	18. Middle Peninsula; 23. Hampton Roads
Goochland County	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional
Grayson County	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
Greene County	Central	1. Northwest	10. Thomas Jefferson
Greensville County	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Halifax County	Central	4. Central	13. Southside
Hampton City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Hanover County	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional
Harrisonburg City	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Henrico County	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional
Henry County	Western	3. Southwest	12. West Piedmont
Highland County	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Hopewell City	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Isle of Wight County	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
James City County	Central	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
King and Queen County	Central	5. Eastern	18. Middle Peninsula
King George County	Central	1. Northwest	16. RADCO
King William County	Central	5. Eastern	18. Middle Peninsula
Lancaster County	Central	5. Eastern	17. Northern Neck
Lee County	Western	3. Southwest	1. LENOWISCO
Lexington City	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Loudoun County	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Louisa County	Central	1. Northwest	10. Thomas Jefferson
Lunenburg County	Central	4. Central	14. Piedmont
Lynchburg City	Western	3. Southwest	11. Region 2000
Madison County	Northern	1. Northwest	9. Rappahannock - Rapidan
Manassas City	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Manassas Park City	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Martinsville City	Western	3. Southwest	12. West Piedmont
Mathews County	Central	5. Eastern	18. Middle Peninsula
Mecklenburg County	Central	4. Central	13. Southside
Middlesex County	Central	5. Eastern	18. Middle Peninsula
Montgomery County	Western	3. Southwest	4. New River Valley
Nelson County	Central	1. Northwest	10. Thomas Jefferson
New Kent County	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional
Newport News City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Norfolk City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Northampton County	Tidewater	5. Eastern	22. Accomack - Northampton
Northumberland County	Central	5. Eastern	17. Northern Neck
Norton City	Western	3. Southwest	1. LENOWISCO

LOCALITY	MEDICAL EXAMINER DISTRICT (OCME)	HEALTH SERVICES AREA	PLANNING DISTRICT <sup>1</sup>
Nottoway County	Central	4. Central	14. Piedmont
Orange County	Northern	1. Northwest	9. Rappahannock - Rapidan
Page County	Northern	1. Northwest	7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
Patrick County	Western	3. Southwest	12. West Piedmont
Petersburg City	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Pittsylvania County	Western	3. Southwest	12. West Piedmont
Poquoson City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Portsmouth City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Powhatan County	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional
Prince Edward County	Central	4. Central	14. Piedmont
Prince George County	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Prince William County	Northern	2. Northern	8. Northern Virginia
Pulaski County	Western	3. Southwest	4. New River Valley
Radford City	Western	3. Southwest	4. New River Valley
Rappahannock County	Northern	1. Northwest	9. Rappahannock - Rapidan
Richmond City	Central	4. Central	15. Richmond Regional
Richmond County	Central	5. Eastern	17. Northern Neck
Roanoke City	Western	3. Southwest	5. Roanoke Valley - Alleghany
Roanoke County	Western	3. Southwest	5. Roanoke Valley - Alleghany
Rockbridge County	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Rockingham County	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Russell County	Western	3. Southwest	2. Cumberland Plateau
Salem City	Western	3. Southwest	5. Roanoke Valley - Alleghany
Scott County	Western	3. Southwest	1. LENOWISCO
Shenandoah County	Northern	1. Northwest	7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
Smyth County	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
Southampton County	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Spotsylvania County	Central	1. Northwest	16. RADCO
Stafford County	Central	1. Northwest	16. RADCO
Staunton City	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Suffolk City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Surry County	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Sussex County	Central	4. Central	19. Crater
Tazewell County	Western	3. Southwest	2. Cumberland Plateau
Virginia Beach City	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Warren County	Northern	1. Northwest	7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
Washington County	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
Waynesboro City	Western	1. Northwest	6. Central Shenandoah
Westmoreland County	Central	5. Eastern	17. Northern Neck
Williamsburg City	Central	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads
Winchester City	Northern	1. Northwest	7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
Wise County	Western	3. Southwest	1. LENOWISCO
Wythe County	Western	3. Southwest	3. Mount Rogers
York County	Tidewater	5. Eastern	23. Hampton Roads

<sup>1</sup> Chesterfield County is a member of Planning District 15 and Planning District 19; Gloucester County is a member of Planning District 18 and Planning District 23. Planning District 23 was created in 1990 when Planning Districts 20 and 21 merged.





Additional copies of this report are available at the following website:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medexam/NVDRS.htm>

Or through:

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Health  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
400 E. Jackson Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 786-9841

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