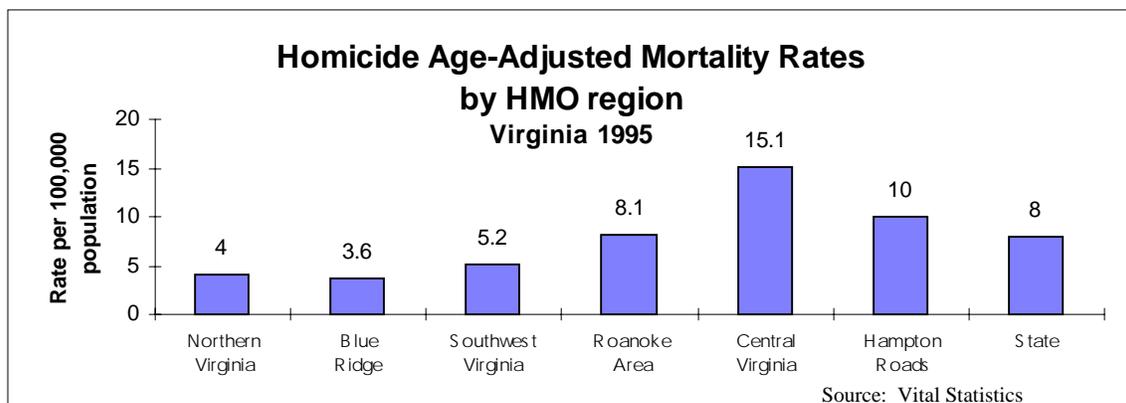
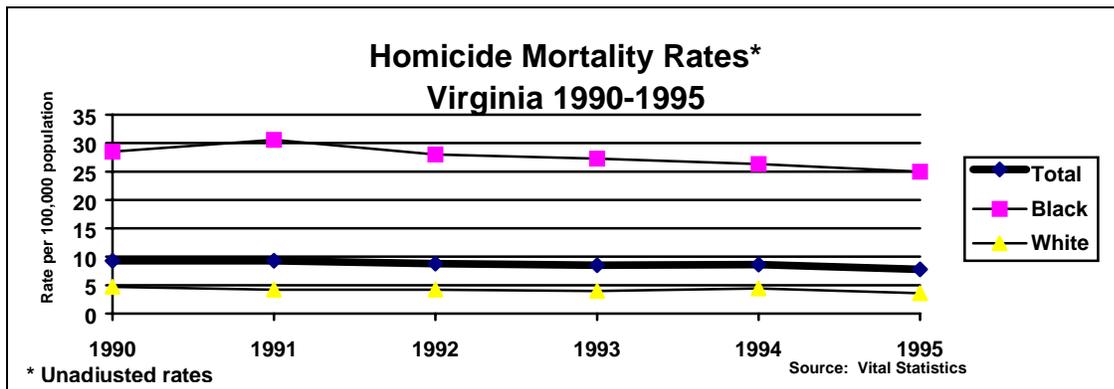


## Intentional Injury Deaths, Other Inflicted: Homicide

**Objective:** *Reduce deaths caused by homicide to no more than 7.2 per 100,000 people (age-adjusted).*

Because of its rapidly growing prominence as a source of the leading health problems experienced by Americans, violent and abusive behavior has been increasingly recognized as an important public health issue. Approximately 500 people were homicide victims in Virginia in 1995, and although the rate has dropped 16% since the start of the decade, almost 10 residents of the state each week are murdered. The reasons for this violent behavior are many and varied, with alcohol and other drug abuse, and the availability of weapons seen as major contributing factors. Other related factors include poverty, lack of opportunity, social isolation, dysfunctional family structures, the acceptance of violence as a cultural norm, a dearth of non-violent role models, and positive reinforcement of violent behaviors in the media. It has become apparent that a reduction in violent deaths will require commitment, participation and joint initiatives by groups who have traditionally not worked closely together, including public health agencies, law enforcement organizations, social services providers, children's services organizations, mental health providers, legal and judicial entities and others.



**Homicide Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates\*  
by Health District, Virginia 1995**

<b>FIRST QUARTILE</b>	Alleghany	1.7	
	Loudoun	2.4	
	Lord Fairfax	2.7	
	Three Rivers	2.9	
	Hanover	2.9	
	Fairfax	3.3	
	Cumberland Plateau	3.5	
	Central Shenandoah	3.6	
	Virginia Beach	3.9	
	Chesterfield	3.9	
<b>SECOND QUARTILE</b>	Alexandria	4.0	
	Western Tidewater	4.2	
	Rappahannock/Rapidan	4.2	
	Arlington	4.8	
	Prince William	5.2	
	Rappahannock	5.6	
	New River	5.7	
	Thomas Jefferson	6.6	
<b>THIRD QUARTILE</b>	Lenowisco	6.8	
	Mount Rogers	6.8	
	Central Virginia	7.1	7.2 per 100,000
	Chesapeake	7.8	
	Pittsylvania/Danville	7.9	Virginia Rate 1995
	Peninsula	8.9	
	Henrico	9.4	
	Eastern Shore	9.6	8.0 per 100,000
	Piedmont	10.9	
	West Piedmont	11.6	U.S. Rate 1993
<b>FOURTH QUARTILE</b>	Crater	12.1	
	Hampton	12.3	
	Roanoke	15.7	10.6 per 100,000
	Norfolk	17.0	
	Southside	18.2	
	Portsmouth	30.6	
	Richmond	49.6	

\*Rate per 100,000 population