

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide *Virginia, 2007*

2009



*Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Health
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Published October, 2009*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

LEAH L. E. BUSH, MS, MD
Chief Medical Examiner

Central District

400 E. Jackson Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804)786-3174

Assistant Chief Medical Examiners

William T. Gormley, MD
Deborah Kay, MD
Kevin Whaley, MD

Medicolegal Death Investigators

Nikki Ambrose
Sarah Carney
Bridget M. Kinnier, D-ABMDI
Elisabeth Romano
Debi Spencer MFS, D-ABMDI
Sandra Williams
Jennifer Winner

Tidewater District

830 Southampton Avenue, Suite 100
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757)683-8366

Assistant Chief Medical Examiners

Jeffery Gofton, MD
Wendy M. Gunther, MD
Elizabeth L. Kinnison, MD

Medicolegal Death Investigators

David R. Baldwin
Brandy N. McCoy
Pamela McCoy
Donald R. Norrell
G. V. "Rob" Robinson, BS

Northern District

10850 Pyramid Place, Suite 121
Manassas, Virginia 22032
(703)530-2600

Assistant Chief Medical Examiners

Shane Chittenden, DO
Constance R. DiAngelo, MD
Frances P. Field, MD

Medicolegal Death Investigators

Katherine A. Collins, MA
Erin Cullen
William H. Whildin, MS, RMDI

Western District

6600 Northside High School Road, Suite 100
Roanoke, VA 24019
(540)561-6615

Assistant Chief Medical Examiners

Paul V. Benson, MD
Christena L. Roberts, MD
Amy M. Tharp, MD

Medicolegal Death Investigators

William B. Everett, D-ABMDI
Audie M. Ferris
Michael E. Meador



FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

A descriptive analysis of the
characteristics and circumstances
surrounding family and intimate partner
homicide in Virginia, 2007

Nicole Lynn Lee, PhD
Family and Intimate Partner Homicide
Surveillance Coordinator
(804)205-3857
nicole.lee@vdh.virginia.gov



Suggested Citation: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Virginia Department of Health (2009). *Family and intimate partner homicide: A descriptive analysis of the characteristics and circumstances surrounding family and intimate partner homicide in Virginia, 2007*. Retrieved [insert date of retrieval here] from <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/violence.htm>.

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Introduction

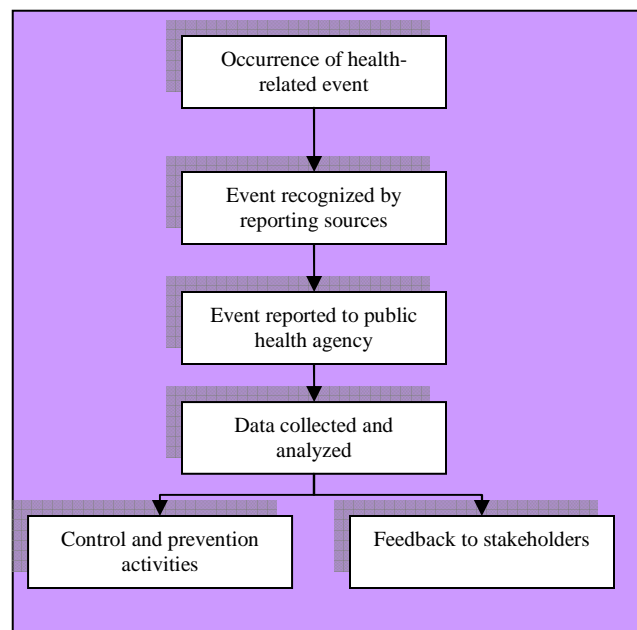
Collecting accurate information on family and intimate partner homicide (FIP) is essential for the overall health and well-being of a community. These data provide policy makers, community groups, and the general public information needed to understand the magnitude of homicide in their communities and the circumstances surrounding these events. Specifically, these data provide stakeholders with the ability to track changes, identify trends over time, identify at-risk populations, and develop evidence-based interventions.

Data are important for understanding a community's functioning and needs; however, before 1999, collecting data and understanding the degree to which FIP homicide impacted Virginia was difficult. Virginia lacked standard criteria for identifying FIP cases and a commonly accepted method to input and analyze data. In summary, the absence of a standardized monitoring process impacted public health by limiting the ability to identify and respond to FIP homicide.

In 1999, the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation that mandated the development and implementation of a statewide Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide Surveillance System. The overall goal was for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to develop a system that would provide accurate, timely, and complete information about FIP homicide. This mandate included two additional objectives, (a) the development of a FIP classification system and (b) the production of comprehensive annual reports to be used for prevention activities, public health planning, and policy development and change.

For almost ten years the FIP Surveillance Program has collected key data elements and helped community leaders quantify the rate of FIP homicide in Virginia. Program goals are the same goals established in 1999; however, the data collection, classification, and analysis tools continue to evolve based on current trends regarding public health surveillance.

Figure 1. Steps in a Public Health Surveillance System



Adaptation of CDC (2001). *Updated guidelines for evaluating public health surveillance systems*. Available: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5013a1.htm. Accessed June 1, 2009.

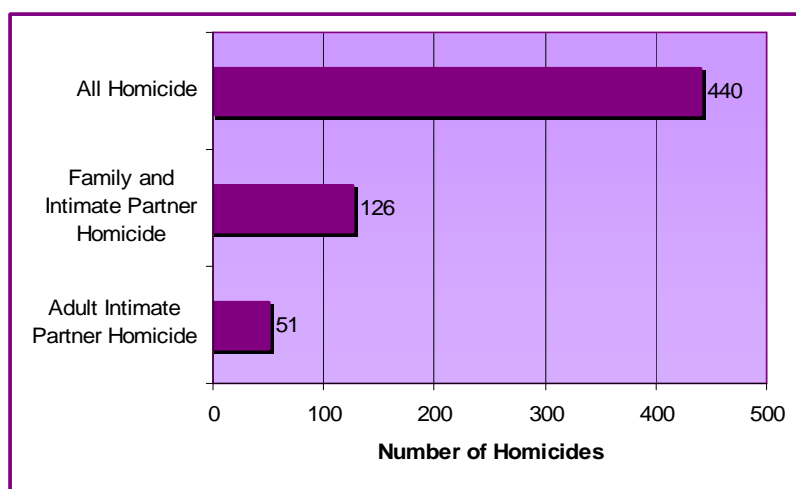
Organization and Methodology

The fatalities included in this report were those deaths classified as “homicide” after a medicolegal death investigation conducted by the OCME.¹ Family and intimate partner (FIP) deaths in which the fatal injury occurred in Virginia and the subsequent death occurred out-of-state were also included. These deaths, identified through newspaper surveillance, were important to include because they allowed a more comprehensive portrait of the magnitude of domestic violence in Virginia and the circumstances surrounding fatal injuries. Consequently, data presented in this report may differ from homicide data reported by law enforcement agencies and mortality data published by the Virginia Division of Health Statistics.

The Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Coordinator compiled a list of all homicides in Virginia and evaluated each case, paying particular attention to the relationship between the decedent and the alleged offender. Information reviewed included the following two types: (a) medicolegal death records, including documents such as the victim’s death certificate, autopsy, death investigation reports, and other documentation compiled during the medical examiner investigation and (b) articles on homicides from surveillance of Virginia newspapers. Data extracted from these sources were crucial in identifying FIP homicides and providing demographic and epidemiological information about risk factors and other characteristics surrounding these deaths.

Cases in which the alleged offender was a current or past intimate partner or a family member were placed into one of five mutually exclusive categories. These categories are listed and defined in Table 1. The remaining cases were categorized as “other homicide.” Figure 2 illustrates the number of homicides, family and intimate partner homicides, and intimate partner homicides in Virginia in 2007.

Figure 2. Overview of Homicide in Virginia: 2007



¹ Deaths attributed to legal injection were excluded.

TABLE 1. CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE: 2007

Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH)	A homicide in which a victim was killed by one of the following: spouse (married or separated), former spouse, current or former boyfriend, girlfriend or same-sex partner, or dating partner. This group could include homicides in which only one of the parties had pursued a relationship or perceived a relationship with the other, where at least one of the following was historically noted: rejection, threats, harassment, stalking, possessiveness, or issuance of a protective order.
Intimate Partner Associated Homicide (IPA)	A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from an intimate partner relationship. Victims could include alleged abusers killed by law enforcement or persons caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence such as friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, new intimate partners, or bystanders.
Child Homicide by Caregiver (CHC)	A homicide in which a victim was a child under the age of 18 killed by a caregiver.
Elder Homicide by Caregiver (EHC)	A homicide in which a victim was an adult 55 years or older who was killed by a caregiver.
Other Family Homicide (OFH)	A homicide in which a victim was killed by an individual related to them biologically or by marriage (e.g. grandparent, [step] parent, [step] sibling, cousin, in-laws) and who does not meet the criteria for one of the four groups above
Family Associated Homicide (FAH)	A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from a familial relationship. Victims could include persons killed by law enforcement during a familial conflict or persons caught in the crossfire, such as, friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, or bystanders.

Explanation and Interpretation of Data

Throughout this report, information about homicide is presented using three statistics: (a) the number of cases that fit a category, (b) the percentage of cases that fit a category, and (c) the homicide rate for selected categories. Rates provide a standard unit of measurement and permit precise comparisons between groups. However, rates (and percentages) based on small numbers of cases (20 or fewer) should be interpreted with caution.

Rates for this report were calculated per 100,000 persons in the population using U.S. Census data or U.S. Census estimates for every year available from 1999 – 2007. For example, in Table 3, the homicide rate for females was calculated using Virginia’s female

population in 2007. In 2007, 96 homicide victims were female. Census data estimated Virginia's female population at 3,927,052. The female homicide rate per 100,000 was calculated by dividing 96 by 3,927,052 and then multiplying that figure by 100,000. The resulting rate was 2.4. Specifically, 2.4 of every 100,000 females in Virginia were homicide victims in 2007.

Hispanic persons can identify as a member of any race and are a separate ethnic group. Therefore, beginning in 2004, Hispanic persons may appear both in the race categories (White, Black and Other) *and* in the separate ethnic category labeled "Hispanic." Prior to 2004, Hispanic persons were reported exclusively as a separate ethnic category, not as part of a racial category.

This report describes the geographic location of homicide in three ways: by locality of fatal injury, OCME District, and Health Planning Region. The OCME divides Virginia's localities into four geographic regions: Central, Northern, Tidewater, and Western. Similarly, Virginia has five Health Planning Regions: Central, Eastern, Northern, Northwest, and Southwest. For public health purposes, this report presents data by both OCME District and Health Planning Region. Please refer to page 60 for a list of all localities indicating their OCME District and Health Planning Region.

TABLE 2. VIRGINIA POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY: 2007*		
RACE	No.	%
White	5,703,666	74.0
Black	1,577,345	20.0
Other	431,080	6.0
Total	7,712,091	100.0
ETHNICITY	No.	%
Hispanic	508,217	6.7


*Population estimates are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007.

Homicide numbers are reported for the locality or Health Planning Region in which the *fatal injury occurred*. The actual death may have occurred in a different locality, Health Planning Region, or out-of-state.

Information describing the characteristics and circumstances of homicides is provided in two ways, by individual *case* and by *event*. For instance, if two persons are killed in a car accident, there are two victims and one event. Individual demographic information is captured for each decedent; however, the circumstances surrounding the car accident and the events leading up to it are counted only one time. This process ensures that all decedents are included in the description of at-risk groups while providing an unduplicated count of the *circumstances surrounding events*.

Organization of Report


This report is divided into four parts. Each section provides a summary section, tables, and figures (when appropriate). Part One provides a general overview of all homicides in Virginia during 2007 and is organized by the type of homicide. A portrait of all homicides is presented first to provide the reader with a "big picture" understanding of homicide in Virginia. The



second half of this section discusses family and intimate partner (FIP) homicide in 2007. Information regarding homicides categorized as FIP is presented in aggregate and then divided by the type of FIP homicide.

Part Two examines family and intimate partner homicide among the following special populations: pregnant decedents, persons with disabilities, older adults, and decedents killed as a result of violence stemming from a same-sex relationship. Part Three provides a longitudinal examination of intimate partner violence for the years 1999-2007, including a summary of risk factors present in intimate partner homicide during this time period.

The final section is the appendix and includes a glossary and a list of localities by Virginia OCME District and Health Planning Region. A supplemental section contains longitudinal tables for FIP homicides that occurred between 1999 and 2007.



PART ONE: 2007 OVERVIEW

Homicide

This section provides a summary of the characteristics of homicide victims in Virginia for 2007 ($N = 440$). Tables 3 – 7 and Figures 3 – 4 provide additional information regarding homicide.

- During 2007, there were **440** homicides in Virginia.
- The homicide rate for males was over three and a half times the rate for females (9.1 compared to 2.4).
- The homicide rate for Blacks was over seven times the rate for Whites (16.6 compared to 2.3) and two and a half times the rate for Hispanics (6.5).
- The average age of homicide victims was 33.09 years with ages ranging infant (under 12 months) to 87 years. The average age of male victims was 32.46; the average age of female victims was 35.35 years.
- The highest homicide rate of any age group was among victims 15 – 24 years of age (13.4), followed by victims 25 – 34 years of age (9.9).
- The Tidewater OCME District, which includes the City of Norfolk, had the highest homicide rate (10.0). The Northern District, which includes the Virginia suburbs of Washington D.C., had the lowest rate (2.1).
- Regarding Health Planning Region, the Eastern Region (which includes the Cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach) had the highest homicide rate (9.1). The Northern Region had the lowest rate (2.0).
- More than one out of every four homicides ($n = 126$, 28.6%) was family or intimate partner-related.
- Almost 12.0% ($n = 52$, 11.8%) of all homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner.
- Black males were killed at nearly seven times the rate of Black females (30.0 compared to 4.4), and ten times the rate of White males (3.0).
- Black females were killed at more than two and a half times the rate of White females (4.4 compared to 1.6).
- Among females, the homicide rate was highest for children under the age of one (5.8), followed by victims 15 – 24 years of age (5.2). Among males, the homicide rate was highest for those 15 – 24 years of age (21.0), followed by those 25–34 years of age. (16.7).
- Nearly half of all homicides took place at a residence ($n = 213$, 49.5%), followed by on a street, alley, or sidewalk ($n = 82$, 19.1%).²
- The highest percentage of homicides took place between the hours of 6:01 P.M. and 12:00 A.M. ($n = 105$, 31.3%).³
- A firearm was used in the majority of homicides ($n = 330$, 75.0%).

² The location of homicide was known for 430 cases.

³ The time of homicide was known for 335 cases.

TABLE 3. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA (N = 440): 2007

	No.	%	Rate
SEX			
Female	96	21.8	2.4
Male	344	78.2	9.1
RACE/ETHNICITY			
White	132	30.0	2.3
Black	262	59.5	16.6
Hispanic	33	7.5	6.5
Other	13	3.0	3.0
AGE			
< 1	8	1.8	7.5
1 - 4	5	1.1	1.2
5 - 14	6	1.4	0.6
15 - 24	144	32.7	13.4
25 - 34	104	23.6	9.9
35 - 44	67	15.2	5.8
45 - 54	55	12.5	4.8
55 - 64	35	8.0	4.1
> 64	16	3.6	1.8
OCME DISTRICT			
Central	142	32.3	6.9
Northern	51	11.6	2.1
Tidewater	158	35.9	10.0
Western	89	20.2	5.6
HEALTH PLANNING REGION OF INJURY			
Central	113	25.7	8.6
Eastern	163	37.0	9.1
Northern	42	9.5	2.0
Northwest	33	7.5	2.8
Southwest	85	19.3	6.4
Out-of-State	4	0.9	--
TYPE OF HOMICIDE			
Intimate Partner Under 18	1	0.2	0.1
Intimate Partner 18 and Over	51	11.4	0.8
Intimate Partner Associated	41	9.1	0.5
Child Homicide by Caregiver	11	2.5	0.6
Elder Homicide by Caregiver	1	0.2	0.1
Other Family	20	4.5	0.3
Family Associated	1	0.2	<0.1
Other Homicide	314	71.8	4.1
TOTAL	440	100.0	5.7

TABLE 4. HOMICIDES IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES WITH TEN OR MORE VICTIMS: 2007*

LOCALITY	No.	Rate
Richmond City	62	31.0
Norfolk City	55	23.3
Montgomery County	33	37.0
Newport News City	29	16.2
Virginia Beach City	19	4.4
Portsmouth City	18	17.7
Fairfax County	15	1.5
Chesapeake City	13	5.9
Henrico County	13	4.5
Prince William County	11	3.1
TOTAL	268	---

*In 2007, 60.9% of all homicides in Virginia occurred in these 10 localities. Approximately one out of every four homicides (26.6%) occurred in the cities of Richmond or Norfolk. Population estimates are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 5. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX (N = 440): 2007*

	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	47	49.0	1.6	85	24.7	3.0	132	30.0	2.3
Black	36	37.5	4.4	226	65.7	30.0	262	59.5	16.6
Hispanic	8	8.3	3.4	25	7.3	9.2	33	7.5	6.5
Other	5	5.2	2.2	8	2.3	3.8	13	3.0	3.0
TOTAL	96	100.0	2.4	344	100.0	9.1	440	100.0	5.7

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 6. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY AGE AND SEX (N = 440): 2007*

	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
< 1	3	3.1	5.8	5	1.5	9.2	8	1.8	7.5
1 - 4	3	3.1	1.5	2	0.6	0.9	5	1.1	1.2
5 - 14	4	4.2	0.8	2	0.6	0.4	6	1.4	0.6
15 - 24	27	28.1	5.2	117	34.0	21.0	144	32.7	13.4
25 - 34	15	15.6	2.9	89	25.9	16.7	104	23.6	9.9
35 - 44	14	14.6	2.4	53	15.4	9.2	67	15.2	5.8
45 - 54	13	13.5	2.2	42	12.2	7.6	55	12.5	4.8
55 - 64	8	8.3	1.8	27	7.8	6.6	35	8.0	4.1
> 64	9	9.4	1.7	7	2.0	1.8	16	3.6	1.8
TOTAL	96	100.0	2.4	344	100.0	9.1	440	100.0	5.7

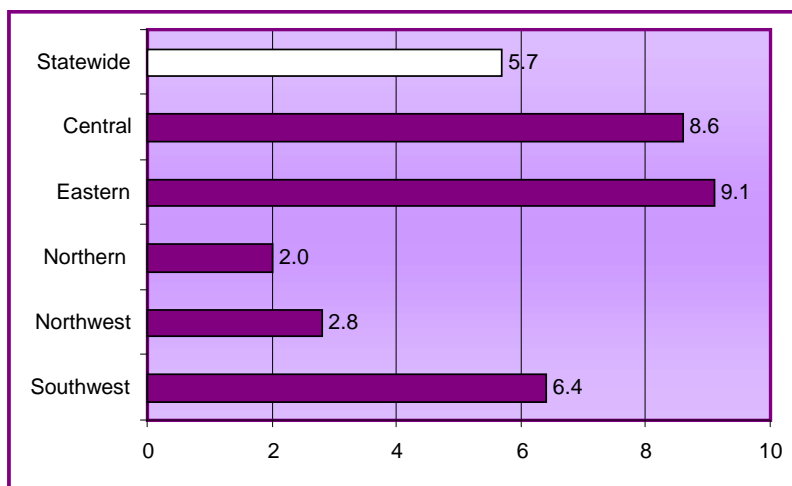
*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 7. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY FATAL AGENCY AND SEX (N = 440): 2007*

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	57	59.4	273	79.4	330	75.0
Sharp Instrument	17	17.7	33	9.6	50	11.4
Personal Weapon	4	4.2	19	5.5	23	5.2
Blunt Instrument	8	8.3	10	2.9	18	4.1
Strangulation or Choking	8	8.3	1	0.3	9	2.0
Pushing, Slamming or Throwing Against an Object	1	1.0	2	0.6	3	0.7
Smothering or Suffocation	2	2.1	1	0.3	3	0.7
Fire or Smoke Inhalation	1	1.0	1	0.3	2	0.5
Motor Vehicle	1	1.0	1	0.3	2	0.5
Poisoning or Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	2	0.6	2	0.5
Drowning	1	1.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Other	0	0.0	3	0.9	3	0.7
Unknown	1	1.0	2	0.6	3	0.7

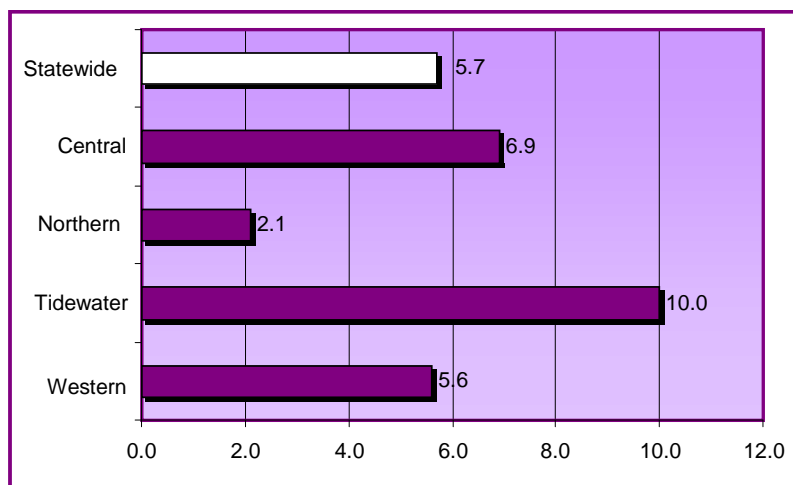
*More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide. Therefore, fatal agencies may not sum to the total number of homicides nor sum to 100%.

Figure 3. Homicide Rate by Virginia Health Planning Region (N = 440): 2007*



*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

Figure 4. Homicide Rate by Virginia OCME District (N = 440): 2007*



*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide

Family and intimate partner (FIP) homicide includes victims of intimate partner, intimate partner associated, child homicide by caregiver, elder homicide by caregiver, other family, and family associated homicides. See Table 1 for definitions of each case type. In 2007, there were **117** family and intimate partner homicide events with **126** homicide victims in Virginia. Tables 8 – 12 and Figures 5 – 6 provide additional details regarding key characteristics of family and intimate partner homicide victims.

- The average age of homicide victims was 35.92 years with ages ranging from 0 (infant under 12 months) to 87 years of age. Half of all victims were 35 years of age or younger. Males and females had similar average ages, 35.69 years and 36.16, respectively.
- FIP homicide rates for females and males were similar, 1.6 and 1.7, respectively.
- Blacks were killed at more than four times the rate of Whites (3.7 compared to 0.9).
- Infants had the highest family and intimate partner homicide rate of all age groups (6.6), followed by those 25 – 34 and 35 – 44 (2.2 for each group). The lowest homicide rate was among children 5 – 14 years of age (0.5).
- The Northern OCME District had the lowest homicide rate (0.9). The Central, Tidewater, and Western OCME Districts had equal rates of homicide (each 2.0).
- The Southwest Health Planning Region had the highest FIP homicide rate (2.2). The Northern Region had the lowest rate (0.8).
- The majority of FIP homicides ($n = 93$, 73.8%) stemmed from violence between intimate partners (e.g., intimate partner or intimate partner associated homicide). In 41.3% of FIP homicide cases ($n = 52$), the alleged offender was a current or past intimate partner.
- Hispanic women were killed at almost three times the rate of White Women (2.9 compared to 1.0). Black men were killed at over five times the rate of White men (4.6 compared to 0.9).
- When examining gender and age, the FIP homicide rate was highest among males under the age of one (7.4). The second highest rate was among females under the age of one (5.8).
- Over half of all family and intimate partner homicides (59.5%) were committed with a firearm.
- The highest percentage of FIP homicides ($n = 30$, 33.7%) took place between the hours of 6:01 P.M. and 12:00 A.M.⁴
- The majority of FIP homicides ($n = 101$, 81.5%) took place at a residence.⁵

⁴ The time of homicide was known for 89 cases.

⁵ The premise of the homicide was known for 124 cases.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

- One in ten FIP homicide victims ($n = 13$, 10.3%) was temporarily impaired or permanently disabled at the time of the homicide.⁶
- In addition to the 126 FIP homicide victims, there were 31 people who were attacked and survived these homicide events.
- A total of 60 children were present during a family or intimate partner homicide. These children lived through the event. The type of exposure varied and included the following: witnessing the event ($n = 24$), hearing the event ($n = 17$), and finding the homicide victim ($n = 11$).
- Precipitating factors are factors that immediately preceded the event. The precipitating factor/event was known in 68.2% ($n = 86$) of family and intimate partner homicide cases. The most commonly reported precipitating factor was the termination or break-up of a relationship (22.1%) followed by a new partner or the perception of a new partner (18.6%).

⁶ The definition of disability was adapted from the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990). Available: <http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm>. Last accessed June 1, 2009. For additional clarification, please see the glossary and the section in this report on decedents with disabilities.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 8. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA (N = 126): 2007*

	No.	%	Rate
SEX			
Female	61	48.4	1.6
Male	65	51.6	1.7
RACE/ETHNICITY			
White	52	41.3	0.9
Black	58	46.0	3.7
Hispanic	12	9.5	2.4
Other	4	3.2	0.9
AGE			
< 1	7	5.6	6.6
1 - 4	5	4.0	1.2
5 - 14	5	4.0	0.5
15 - 24	21	16.7	1.9
25 - 34	23	18.3	2.2
35 - 44	26	20.6	2.2
45 - 54	12	9.5	1.0
55 - 64	17	13.5	2.0
> 64	10	7.9	1.1
OCME DISTRICT			
Central	42	33.3	2.0
Northern	21	16.7	0.9
Tidewater	31	24.6	2.0
Western	32	25.4	2.0
HEALTH PLANNING REGION			
Central	26	20.6	2.0
Eastern	35	27.8	1.9
Northern	17	13.5	0.8
Northwest	18	14.3	1.5
Southwest	29	23.0	2.2
Out of State	1	0.8	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--
TYPE OF HOMICIDE			
Intimate Partner Under 18	1	0.8	0.1
Intimate Partner 18 and Over	51	40.5	0.9
Intimate Partner Associated	41	32.5	0.5
Child Homicide by Caregiver	11	8.7	0.6
Elder Homicide by Caregiver	1	0.8	0.1
Other Family	20	15.9	0.3
Family Associated	1	0.8	< 0.1
TOTAL	126	100.0	1.6

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 9. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES WITH FIVE OR MORE VICTIMS: 2007*

LOCALITY	No.	Rate
Richmond City	11	5.5
Norfolk City	8	3.4
Chesapeake City	6	2.7
Fairfax County	6	0.6
Virginia Beach City	6	1.4
TOTAL	37	--

*In 2007, 29.4% of all family and intimate partner homicides occurred in these five localities. Richmond City had the highest homicide rate among these localities (5.5). Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 10. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX (N = 126): 2007*

	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	28	45.9	1.0	24	36.9	0.9	52	41.3	0.9
Black	23	37.7	2.8	35	53.8	4.6	58	46.0	3.7
Hispanic	7	11.5	2.9	5	7.7	1.8	12	9.5	2.4
Other	3	4.9	1.3	1	1.5	0.5	4	3.2	0.9
TOTAL	61	100.0	1.6	65	100.0	1.7	126	100.0	1.6

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 11. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY AGE AND SEX (N = 126): 2007*

	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
< 1	3	4.9	5.8	4	6.2	7.4	7	5.6	6.6
1 - 4	3	4.9	1.5	2	3.1	0.9	5	4.0	1.2
5 - 14	4	6.6	0.8	1	1.5	0.2	5	4.0	0.5
15 - 24	12	19.7	2.3	9	13.8	1.6	21	16.7	1.9
25 - 34	8	13.1	1.5	15	23.1	2.8	23	18.3	2.2
35 - 44	11	18.0	1.9	15	23.1	2.6	26	20.6	2.2
45 - 54	7	11.5	1.2	5	7.7	0.9	12	9.5	1.0
55 - 64	7	11.5	1.6	10	15.4	2.4	17	13.5	2.0
> 64	6	9.8	1.1	4	6.2	1.0	10	7.9	1.1
TOTAL	61	100.0	1.6	65	100.0	1.7	126	100.0	1.6

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

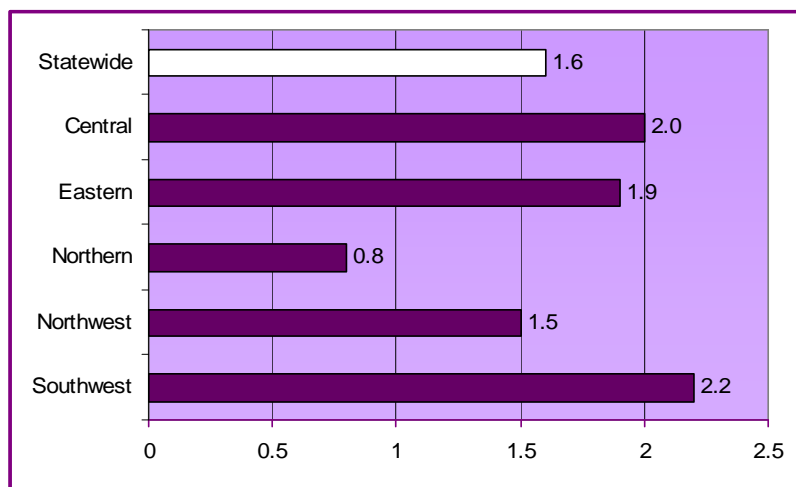
**TABLE 12. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA
BY FATAL AGENCY AND SEX (N = 126): 2007***

<i>FATAL AGENCY</i>	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	31	50.8	44	67.7	75	59.5
Sharp Instrument	12	19.7	10	15.4	22	17.5
Personal Weapon	4	6.6	6	9.2	10	7.9
Blunt Instrument	7	11.5	2	3.1	9	7.1
Strangulation or Choking	5	8.2	0	0.0	5	4.0
Motor Vehicle	1	1.6	1	1.5	2	1.6
Drowning	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	0.8
Pushing, Slamming, or Throwing Against an Object	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	0.8
Fire or Smoke Inhalation	1	1.6	1	1.5	2	1.6
Smothering or Suffocation	2	3.3	0	0.0	2	1.6
Poisoning or Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	0.8
Other	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	0.8
Unknown	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	0.8

*More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide. Therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of family and intimate partner homicides nor sum to 100%.

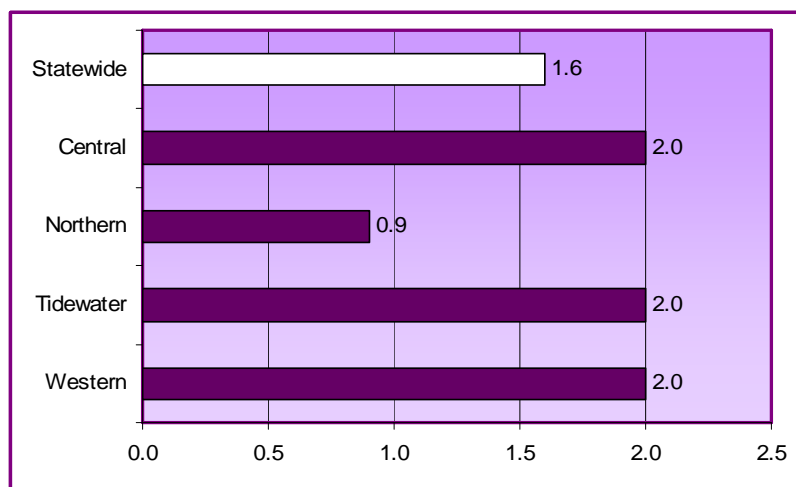
FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 5. Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Rate by Virginia Health Planning Region (N = 126): 2007*



*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

Figure 6. Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Rate by Virginia OCME District (N = 126): 2007*



*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

Intimate Partner Homicide

Intimate partner homicide victims were victims 18 years of age and older who were killed by a current or former spouse, current or former boyfriend or girlfriend, same-sex partner, or dating partner.⁷ In 2007 there were **51** intimate partner homicide victims age 18 and over. Tables 13 – 18 and Figures 7 – 8 provide additional details about intimate partner homicide.

- The average age of intimate partner homicide victims was 41.06 years with ages ranging from 18 to 87 years. Half of all victims were 41 years of age or younger.
- Female victims had a homicide rate three and a half times the rate of male victims (1.4 compared to 0.4). In addition, four out of five ($n = 41$, 80.4%) intimate partner homicide victims were female.
- Blacks were killed at four times the rate of Whites and over one and a half times the rate of Hispanics (2.0 for Blacks compared to 0.5 for Whites and 1.2 for Hispanics).
- Almost one in three (31.4%) intimate partner homicides occurred among those 35 – 44 years of age. This age group also had the highest rate of homicide (1.4).
- The Tidewater OCME District had the highest intimate partner homicide rate (1.4), followed by the Western OCME District (0.9). The lowest rate was in the Northern OCME District (0.6).
- Among Health Planning Regions, the Eastern Region had the highest intimate partner homicide rate (1.2), followed by the Central Region (1.0).
- The most common relationship between the intimate partner homicide victim and the alleged offender was spouse (41.2%), followed by boyfriend/girlfriend (37.3%), and ex-boy/girlfriend (15.7%).
- Black females were killed at over three and a half times the rate of White females (3.0 compared to 0.8). Black males were killed at four times the rate of White males (0.8 compared to 0.2).
- Examining sex and age showed that females 18 – 24 years of age had the highest intimate partner homicide rate (2.2).
- A firearm was used in most ($n = 29$, 56.9%) intimate partner homicides, followed by a sharp instrument ($n = 10$, 19.6%), and strangulation or choking ($n = 4$, 7.8%).
- Almost forty-three percent of all female homicide victims ($n = 41$, 42.7%) were killed by an intimate partner. In comparison, only 2.9% of adult male homicide victims ($n = 10$) were killed by an intimate partner.
- Almost one in four intimate partner homicide victims ($n = 11$, 21.6%) was killed in a homicide–suicide event. In addition, two intimate partner homicide victims (3.9%) were killed during an attempted homicide-suicide event.
- In addition to the 51 intimate partner homicide victims, there were 10 people who were attacked and survived these homicide events.

⁷ There was **one** intimate partner homicide victim under the age of 18. This victim was killed by her boyfriend. The focus of this section is to understand the circumstances surrounding adult relationships; thus, information regarding this event is not included in this section.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

- In more than one in four cases ($n = 13$, 25.5%), a child witness was present during the event. A total of 26 children were exposed to the intimate partner homicide.
- More than one in four intimate partner homicides (27.5%) involved more than one decedent (e.g., an alleged offender killing more than one person or him or herself).
- Four intimate partner homicide cases (7.8%) involved same-sex intimate partners.
- Seven intimate partner homicide victims (13.7%) were affiliated with the military. This affiliation may have included being on active duty, a veteran, or a military dependent.
- Three victims (5.9%) were sexually assaulted at the time of the fatal injury.
- A majority of intimate partner homicides ($n = 44$, 88.0%) took place at a residence followed by in the woods, a body of water, or a clearing/field ($n = 2$, 4.0%).⁸
- The highest percentage of homicides ($n = 13$, 43.3%) took place between the hours of 6:01 P.M. and 12:00 A.M.⁹
- Precipitating factors are factors that immediately preceded the event. Precipitating factors/events were known in 66.7% of family and intimate partner homicide events ($n = 34$). Some cases ($n = 5$, 14.7%) had multiple precipitating factors. The most commonly reported precipitating factor was the termination or break-up of a relationship ($n = 12$, 35.3%), followed by an argument that was unspecified by sources ($n = 9$, 26.5%).

⁸ The premise of homicide was known for 50 cases.

⁹ The time of homicide was known for 30 cases.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 13. ADULT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA (N = 51): 2007

	No.	%	Rate
SEX			
Female	41	80.4	1.4
Male	10	19.6	0.4
RACE/ETHNICITY			
White	22	43.1	0.5
Black	23	45.1	2.0
Hispanic	4	7.8	1.2
Other	2	3.9	0.6
AGE			
18 – 24	8	15.7	1.1
25 – 34	9	17.6	0.9
35 – 44	16	31.4	1.4
45 – 54	9	17.6	0.8
55 – 64	6	11.8	0.7
> 64	3	5.9	0.3
OCME DISTRICT			
Central	13	25.5	0.8
Northern	11	21.6	0.6
Tidewater	16	31.4	1.4
Western	11	21.6	0.9
HEALTH PLANNING REGION			
Central	10	19.6	1.0
Eastern	16	31.4	1.2
Northern	10	19.6	0.6
Northwest	5	9.8	0.5
Southwest	10	19.6	0.9
Out of State	0	0.0	--
RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER			
Spouse	21	41.2	--
Ex-Spouse	2	3.9	--
Boy/Girlfriend	19	37.3	--
Ex-Boy/Girlfriend	8	15.7	--
Other	1	2.0	--
TOTAL	51	100.0	0.9

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 14. ADULT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES WITH THREE OR MORE VICTIMS: 2007

LOCALITY	No.	Rate
Chesapeake City	5	3.1
Fairfax County	5	0.7
Norfolk City	5	2.9
Richmond City	4	2.6
Virginia Beach City	3	0.9
TOTAL	22	--

*In 2007, 43.1% of all adult intimate partner homicides occurred in these five localities. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

**TABLE 15. ADULT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA
BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX (N = 51): 2007***

	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	17	41.5	0.8	5	50.0	0.2	22	43.1	0.5
Black	18	43.9	3.0	5	50.0	0.8	23	45.1	2.0
Hispanic	4	9.8	2.6	0	0.0	0.0	4	7.8	1.2
Other	2	4.9	1.2	0	0.0	0.0	2	3.9	0.6
TOTAL	41	100.0	1.4	10	100.0	0.4	51	100.0	0.9

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

**TABLE 16. ADULT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA
BY AGE AND SEX (N = 51): 2007***

	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
18 - 24	8	19.5	2.2	0	0.0	0.0	8	15.7	1.1
25 - 34	8	19.5	1.5	1	10.0	0.2	9	17.6	0.9
35 - 44	11	26.8	1.9	5	50.0	0.9	16	31.4	1.4
45 - 54	6	14.6	1.0	3	30.0	0.5	9	17.6	0.8
55 - 64	5	12.2	1.1	1	10.0	0.2	6	11.8	0.7
> 64	3	7.3	0.6	0	0.0	0.0	3	5.9	0.3
TOTAL	41	100.0	1.4	10	100.0	0.3	51	100.0	0.9

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 17. ADULT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY FATAL AGENCY AND SEX (N = 51): 2007*

FATAL AGENCY	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	21	51.2	8	80.0	29	56.9
Sharp Instrument	9	22.0	1	10.0	10	19.6
Personal Weapon	2	4.9	0	0.0	2	3.9
Blunt Instrument	2	4.9	1	10.0	3	5.9
Strangulation Or Choking	4	9.8	0	0.0	4	7.8
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Drowning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pushing, Slamming or Throwing Against an Object	1	2.4	0	0.0	1	2.0
Fire or Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smothering or Suffocation	2	4.9	0	0.0	2	3.9
Poisoning or Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	1	2.4	0	0.0	1	2.0

*More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide. Therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of intimate partner homicides nor sum to 100%.

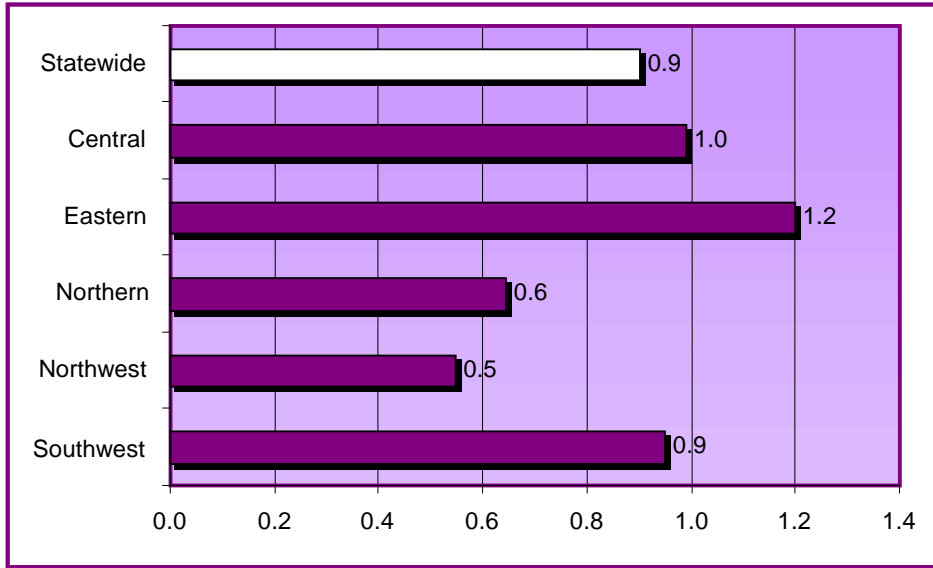
TABLE 18. PRECIPITATING EVENTS IN ADULT INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE (N = 34): 2007*

	No.	%
Termination of Relationship/Break Up	12	35.3
Argument but not Specified by Sources	9	26.5
Argument over Property	4	11.8
New Partner or the Perception of a New Partner	4	11.8
Argument about or Attempted Unwanted Sexual Contact	2	5.9
Argument over Child Paternity	2	5.9
Argument over Child Custody	1	2.9
Argument over IP Feeling "Disrespected"	1	2.9
Argument over Substance/Alcohol use or abuse	1	2.9
Argument over the Addition of a New Child	1	2.9
Self-Defense	1	2.9
Financial Issues	1	2.9
Illness/Mercy Killing	1	2.9
Other	1	2.9

*Precipitating factors were determined in 68% (N = 34) of cases. Some cases had more than one identified precipitating factor. Thus, the total number of precipitating factors will not equal the total number of cases nor sum to 100%.

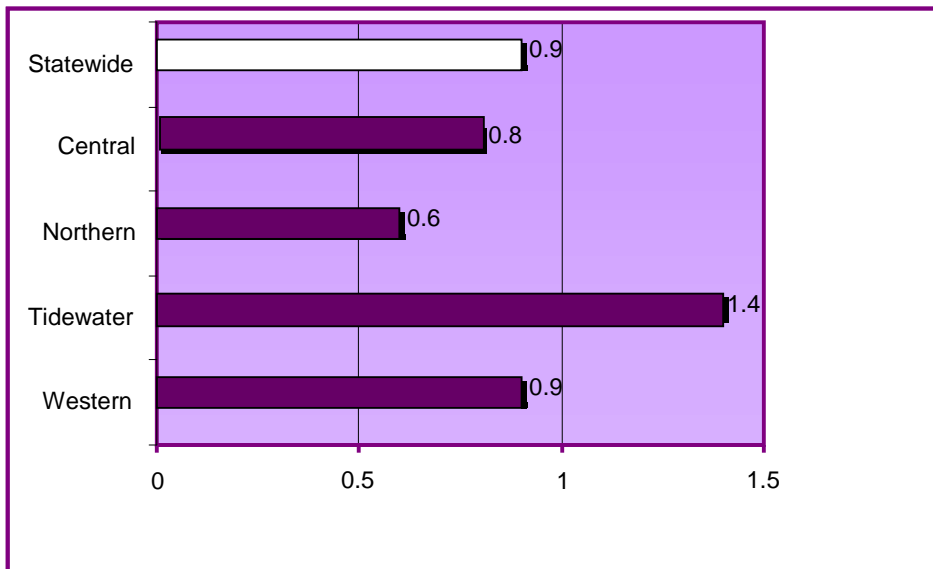
INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 7. Adult Intimate Partner Homicide Rate by Virginia Health Planning Region (N = 51): 2007*



*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

Figure 8. Adult Intimate Partner Homicide Rate by Virginia OCME District (N = 51): 2007



*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

Intimate Partner Associated Homicide

The category intimate partner associated homicide illustrates the broad effect of domestic violence-related homicide on a community. These victims were killed as a result of violence or discord stemming from an intimate partner relationship. Victims could include alleged abusers killed by law enforcement, or persons caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence such as friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, new intimate partners, or bystanders. This category also includes children who were killed in retaliation for a partner leaving a relationship. In 2007, there were **34** intimate partner associated homicide events and **41** intimate partner associated homicide victims. Tables 19 – 23 provide additional details regarding intimate partner associated homicide.

- The average age of victims was 31.88 years. Victims ranged in age from infant to 78 years of age. Half of all victims were 28 years of age or younger.
- The average ages for male and female victims were 30.81 and 35.20, respectively. Female victims ranged from infant (12 months or less) to 78 years; male victims ranged from 9 to 55 years.
- Males were killed at over two and a half times the rate of females (0.8 compared to 0.3).
- Blacks had the highest rate of intimate partner associated homicide (1.4). This rate was seven times the rate of Whites (0.2) and almost one and a half times the rate of Hispanics (1.0).
- Those in the 25–34 age group had the highest intimate partner associated homicide rate (1.2). Those less than one year of age and the 15 – 24 age group had the second highest rates (both 0.9)
- The Central and Western OCME Districts had the highest intimate partner associated homicide rates (both 0.7), followed by the Tidewater OCME District (0.6).
- Regarding Health Planning Region, the Central and Southwest Regions had the highest intimate partner associated homicide rates (both 0.8). Almost half of all intimate partner associated homicides ($n = 20$, 48.0%) occurred in these two Regions.
- When examining race and gender, Black males had the highest intimate partner associated homicide rate (2.7). This rate was over one and a half times the rate of the second highest group, Hispanic men (1.5).
- Males in the 25 – 34 age group had the highest rate of intimate partner associated homicide (2.4). The second highest rate was among males in the 15 – 24 age group (1.4).
- Localities in which three or more homicides occurred were Alleghany County, Norfolk City, Prince William County, and Richmond City. In 2007, these four localities reported 29.2% of all intimate partner associated homicides.
- Almost three out of every four intimate partner associated homicide victims ($n = 30$, 73.2%) were killed by firearms.

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

- The highest percentage of intimate partner associated homicides ($n = 16$, 41.0%) took place between the hours of 12:01 A.M. and 6:00 A.M.¹⁰
- Most homicides ($n = 26$, 63.4%) occurred in a residence or residential setting.
- In two homicide events, victims were killed by law enforcement officers responding to domestic violence calls.
- In fifteen intimate partner associated homicide events (44.1%), there was at least one additional person who was attacked but survived. The total number of survivors was 23.¹¹
- A child was present or otherwise exposed to the homicide in ten events (29.4%). The total number of children who were exposed to the event and lived was 26.¹²
- Precipitating factors are factors that immediately preceded the event. Precipitating factors/events were known in 82.4% of the 34 intimate partner associated homicide events ($n = 28$). Some events ($n = 6$, 21.4%) had multiple precipitating factors. The most commonly reported precipitating factor was a new partner or the perception of a new partner ($n = 10$, 35.7%), followed by the termination of a relationship, argument over property, and disparaging a past or current intimate partner (each $n = 4$, 14.3%).

¹⁰ The time of death was known in 39 cases.

¹¹ There were 34 intimate partner associated events.

¹² *Ibid*

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

TABLE 19. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA (N = 41): 2007

	No.	%	Rate
SEX			
Female	10	24.4	0.3
Male	31	75.6	0.8
RACE/ETHNICITY			
White	12	29.3	0.2
Black	22	53.7	1.4
Hispanic	5	12.2	1.0
Other	2	4.9	0.5
AGE			
<1	1	2.4	0.9
1 – 4	0	0.0	0.0
5 – 14	4	9.8	0.4
15 – 24	10	24.4	0.9
25 – 34	13	31.7	1.2
35 – 44	4	9.8	0.3
45 – 54	2	4.9	0.2
55 – 64	5	12.2	0.6
> 64	2	4.9	0.2
OCME DISTRICT			
Central	15	36.6	0.7
Northern	5	12.2	0.2
Tidewater	10	24.4	0.6
Western	11	26.8	0.7
HEALTH PLANNING REGION			
Central	10	24.4	0.8
Eastern	11	26.8	0.6
Northern	5	12.2	0.2
Northwest	4	9.8	0.3
Southwest	10	24.4	0.8
Out of State	1	2.4	--
TOTAL	41	100.0	0.5

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

TABLE 20. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX (N = 41): 2007*									
	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	6	60.0	0.2	6	19.4	0.2	12	29.3	0.2
Black	2	20.0	0.2	20	64.5	2.7	22	53.7	1.4
Hispanic	1	10.0	0.4	4	12.9	1.5	5	12.2	1.0
Other	1	10.0	0.4	1	3.2	0.5	2	4.9	0.5
TOTAL	10	100.0	0.3	31	100.0	0.8	41	100.0	0.5

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 21. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY AGE AND SEX (N = 41): 2007*									
	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
< 1	1	10.0	1.9	0	0.0	0.0	1	2.4	0.9
1 – 4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5 – 14	3	30.0	0.6	1	3.2	0.2	4	9.8	0.4
15 – 24	2	20.0	0.4	8	25.8	1.4	10	24.4	0.9
25 – 34	0	0.0	0.0	13	41.9	2.4	13	31.7	1.2
35 – 44	0	0.0	0.0	4	12.9	0.7	4	9.8	0.3
45 – 54	0	0.0	0.0	2	6.5	0.4	2	4.9	0.2
55 – 64	2	20.0	0.4	3	9.7	0.7	5	12.2	0.6
> 64	2	20.0	0.4	0	0.0	0.0	2	4.9	0.2
TOTAL	10	100.0	0.3	31	100.0	0.8	41	100.0	0.5

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

TABLE 22. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDES IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES WITH THREE OR MORE VICTIMS: 2007*		
LOCALITY	No.	Rate
Alleghany County	3	18.3
Norfolk City	3	1.3
Prince William County	3	0.8
Richmond City	3	1.5
TOTAL	12	--

*In 2007, 29.2% of all adult intimate partner associated homicides occurred in these four localities. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

TABLE 23. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY FATAL AGENCY AND SEX (N = 41): 2007*

<i>FATAL AGENCY</i>	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	6	60.0	24	77.4	30	73.2
Sharp Instrument	1	10.0	5	16.1	6	14.6
Personal Weapon	0	0.0	1	3.2	1	2.4
Blunt Instrument	1	10.0	0	0.0	1	2.4
Strangulation or Choking	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Motor Vehicle	1	10.0	0	0.0	1	2.4
Drowning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pushing, Slamming, or Throwing Against an Object	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fire or Smoke Inhalation	1	10.0	1	3.2	2	4.9
Smothering or Suffocation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poisoning or Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

*More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide. Therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of intimate partner associated homicides nor sum to 100%.

Understanding Risk: Intimate Partner Risk Factors

Risk factors increase the probability of intimate partner homicide. Understanding the level of risk associated with certain situations and behaviors is important for the development of intervention and prevention strategies. This section summarizes the risks associated with intimate partner homicide events. Information was obtained by examining OCME death records and news articles related to intimate partner homicide. The information presented is valuable but likely provides a conservative estimate of the true magnitude of risk involved in these events. Information regarding the behaviors exhibited by the perpetrator of abuse and the abuse victim was obtained for 88.24% ($n = 45$) of adult intimate partner homicide events. Tables 24 and 25 provide additional information regarding risk factors.

- The most frequently occurring behaviors exhibited by the perpetrator of abuse included the following: being arrested or convicted of non-domestic violence offenses ($n = 17$, 37.8%), exhibiting controlling behaviors ($n = 12$, 26.7%), and exhibiting jealousy ($n = 10$, 22.2%).
- The most frequently occurring behaviors exhibited by the abuse victim included beginning an intimate relationship with a new person ($n = 8$, 17.8%) and expressing a belief that the intimate partner was capable of killing her or him ($n = 4$, 8.9%).
- An additional factor present with abuse victims was having a minor child who was not the biological child of the intimate partner ($n = 5$, 11.1%).
- The number of risk factors per event ranged from 0 to 15 with the average being 4.47. Half of cases had three or more identified risks.
- Almost fifty-eight percent ($n = 26$, 57.8%) of intimate partners terminated their relationship prior to the fatal injury. The decedent or the alleged offender may have initiated the termination.
- A history of physical abuse between the intimate partners was noted in 40.0% of cases ($n = 18$).
- In 15.6% ($n = 7$) of cases, one partner attempted to leave or force the other out of the home.
- Almost one in four cases ($n = 10$, 22.2%) had a history of previous domestic violence calls to the police.
- Six persons (13.3%) were arrested for but not convicted of a domestic violence-related offense against the other partner.
- Four partners (8.9%) had a previous domestic violence conviction against their current partner.
- Twelve persons (26.7%) had a general history of violence. Persons exhibited violent behavior outside of the home and to others in the community.

UNDERSTANDING RISK: IP RISK FACTORS

The following information was obtained for 100% ($N = 51$) of adult intimate partner homicide events.

- Over half of all victims ($n = 26$, 51.0%) discussed the violence or threat of violence with a third party such as a friend, co-worker, police officer, or family member prior to the fatal incident. The two most commonly reported third parties were an adult family member and a law enforcement official.
- Two out of three intimate partner homicide victims ($n = 34$, 66.7%) lived with their partner at some time during their relationship. Of these 34 persons, 61.8% ($n = 21$) lived with the alleged offender *at the time* of the fatal injury.
- Prior to the fatal event, 11 homicide victims (21.6%) had civil court involvement with their intimate partner. This involvement included proceedings related to divorce, child support, child visitation or custody, and protection orders.
- In nine cases (17.6%) one or both intimate partners sought a protective order against the other partner. In five cases (9.8%), a current protective order was in effect at the time of the fatal injury.

UNDERSTANDING RISK: IP RISK FACTORS

TABLE 24. BEHAVIORS PRESENT IN VIRGINIA INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO HOMICIDE (N = 45): 2007*

	No.	%
The abuser...		
Was arrested or convicted of non-domestic violence offenses	17	37.8
Exhibited controlling behavior	12	26.7
Exhibited jealousy	10	22.2
Stalked the abuse victim	8	17.8
Threatened to kill the abuse victim	8	17.8
Abused alcohol	7	15.6
Threatened to harm victim's family member or friend	7	15.6
Used illegal drugs	7	15.6
Choked or strangled the victim	6	13.3
Threatened or attempted to commit suicide	5	11.1
Was unemployed or recently lost a job	5	11.1
Destroyed the intimate partner's property	4	8.9
Experienced financial hardship	4	8.9
Was violent outside of the home relationship	2	4.4
The abuse victim...		
Began an intimate relationship with a new person	8	17.8
Expressed a belief that the intimate partner was capable of killing her/him	4	8.9

*Some cases had more than one risk factor present. These factors were documented as part of the history of the intimate partner relationship. This table lists the number of intimate partner homicide cases indicating the presence of a given risk factor. The table also includes risk factors for intimate partner associated homicides.

TABLE 25. EVENTS PRESENT IN VIRGINIA INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO HOMICIDE (N = 45): 2007*

	No.	%
The relationship had or was ending**	26	57.8
The intimate partner relationship had a history of physical abuse	18	40.0
Within the past year, either partner had moved out of the shared home	11	24.4
911 calls regarding domestic violence had been placed	10	22.2
Protective order obtained by intimate partner (either abuse victim or abuser)***	9	20.0
Either partner was attempting to leave or was forced out of the home by the other partner	7	15.6
Had a child who was not the biological child of the intimate partner	5	11.1

*Some cases had more than one risk factor present. These factors were documented as part of the history of the intimate partner relationship.

** Evidence demonstrated that one or both parties attempted to end the relationship. In a few cases, partners continued to live together after their relationship ended.

***Protective order information was obtained in 50 cases.

Child Homicide By Caregiver

Child homicide by caregiver (CHC) victims were killed by a parent, babysitter, or other person responsible for the child's care or supervision. In 2007, there were 42 homicide victims in Virginia under the age of 18. Of these children, 11 (26.2%) were killed by caregivers. The following information provides a summary of findings.

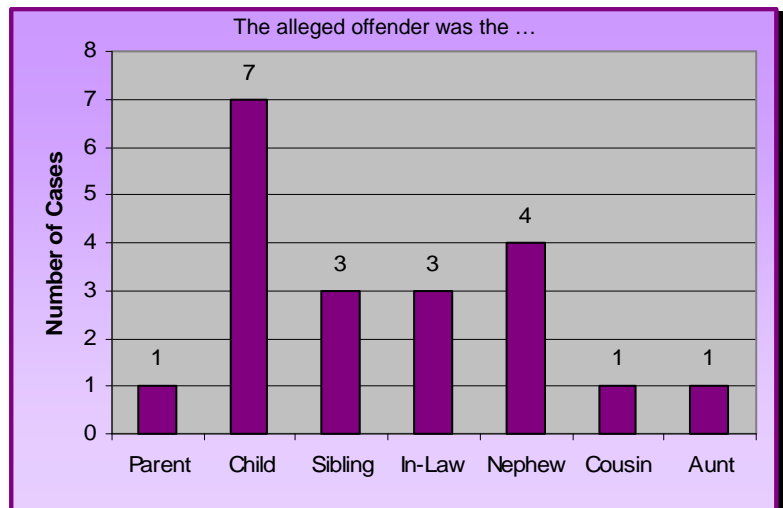
- Ages ranged from infant (under 12 months) to 4 years of age. The most frequently occurring age category (54.5%) was infant.
- Over half of all children killed by caregivers were male ($n = 6$, 54.5%); however, the homicide rate for males and females was the same (both 0.6).
- Children under the age of one had the highest CHC rate (5.7). This rate is almost five times the rate for children 1 – 4 years of age (1.2).
- Hispanic children had the highest rate of homicide (1.2), followed by Black children (0.7) and White children (0.5).
- The highest percentage of CHC took place in the Central OCME District ($n = 4$, 36.4%). However, the OCME District with the highest rate of CHC was the Western District with 0.9 homicides per 100,000 persons.
- Among Health Planning Regions, the highest homicide rate (1.1) occurred in the Northwest Region, followed by the Southwest and Eastern Regions (both 0.7).
- Most victims were killed at a residence ($n = 10$, 90.9%). In 63.7% of cases, it was difficult to ascertain the exact time of the fatal injury.
- Almost half of all victims were killed by a personal weapon such as being shaken, or hit with a fist, hand, or foot ($n = 5$, 45.5%). Three victims (27.3%) were killed by a blunt instrument.
- The alleged offender's race was known in 63.6% ($n = 7$) of cases. In these cases, 71.4% ($n = 5$) of offenders were White and 28.6% ($n = 2$) of offenders were Black.
- Over half of victims were killed by their biological parent ($n = 6$, 54.5%).

Other Family Homicide

Other family (OF) homicide victims were those persons killed by family members who were not included in the other homicide categories in this report. These homicide victims were related to the alleged offender by blood or marriage, and could include relationships such as a grandparent, [step] sibling, [step] parent, in-law, aunt, or uncle. In 2007, there were **19** other family homicide events with **20** homicide victims.

- The average age of other family homicide victims was 48.95 years of age, with victims ranging from 16 to 83 years of age. Half of all victims were 49.50 years of age or older.
- Most victims were male ($n = 18$, 90.0%). The homicide rate for males was 0.5 compared to 0.1 for females.
- Most fatal injuries occurred between 6:01 P.M. and midnight ($n = 7$, 50.0%).¹³
- The majority of fatal injuries ($n = 18$, 90.0%) occurred at a residence.
- Blacks and Whites were evenly distributed among other family homicide victims (both 50.0%); however, Blacks had a higher other family homicide rate (0.6) than Whites (0.2).
- The highest rate of other family homicide occurred among those aged 55 – 64 (0.7), followed by those aged 35 – 44 (0.5).
- Six victims (30.0%) were affiliated with the military. This affiliation may have included being on active duty, a veteran, or a military dependent.
- The Central and Western OCME Districts had the highest other family homicide rate (both 0.4). These two areas represented 75.0% of all other family homicides.
- Among Health Planning Regions, the Southwest Region had the highest other family homicide rate (0.6), followed by the Northwest Region (0.4). These Health Planning Regions represented 55.0% of all other family homicides.

Figure 9: Alleged Offender’s Relationship to Victim for Other Family Homicide in Virginia (N = 20): 2007



¹³ The time of death was known in 14 cases.

OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

- Precipitating factors are factors that immediately preceded the event. The precipitating factors/events were known in 68.4% of other family homicide events ($n = 13$).¹⁴ Common precipitating factors included argument over property ($n = 3$, 23.1%), argument but not specified ($n = 3$, 23.1%), and argument over financial issues ($n = 2$, 15.4%).
- Over half of all fatal injuries were inflicted with a firearm ($n = 13$, 65.0%). The second most common fatal agency was a sharp instrument ($n = 5$, 25.0%). Two victims (10.0%) were killed by multiple fatal agencies.
- The most frequently reported relationship type for the alleged offender was biological or step-child ($n = 7$, 35%), followed by nephew ($n = 4$, 20.0%), sibling, and in-law (both $n = 3$, 15.0%).

¹⁴ There were 19 other family homicide events.

Homicide – Suicide

A homicide-suicide event is a homicide event followed within seven days by the alleged offender's suicide. In 2007, there were **16** homicide-suicide events with a total of **20** homicide victims.

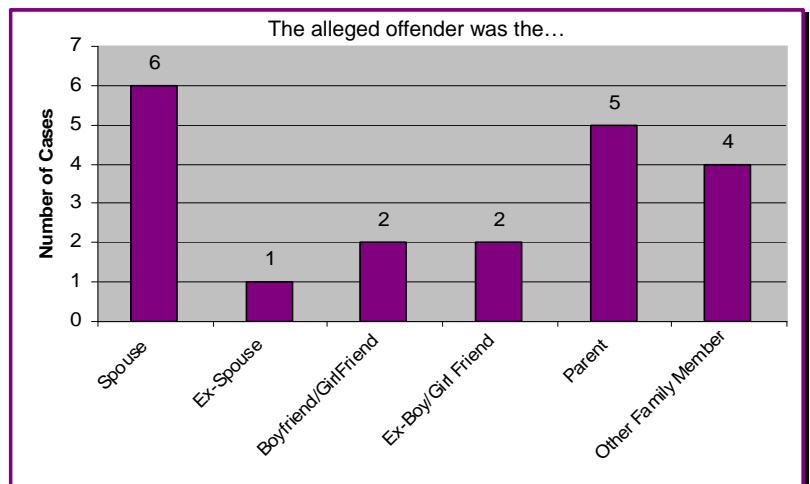
The Victim

- The average age for a homicide-suicide victim was 42.85 with ages ranging from infant (12 months or less) to 87 years of age. Half of victims were 45 years of age or older. Twenty-five percent of victims ($n = 5$) were 17 years of age or younger.
- Infants (those under 12 months of age) had the highest homicide-suicide rate (0.9), followed by those 65 years of age and older (0.4).
- The majority of homicide victims were female ($n = 16$, 80.0%). Females also had a higher rate of homicide-suicide than males (0.4 and 0.1, respectively).
- Whites represented the majority among homicide victims ($n = 12$, 60.0%), followed by Blacks ($n = 5$, 25.0%) and Other ($n = 3$, 15.0%). However, the highest rate of homicide-suicide was among Other (0.7), followed by Black (0.3) and White (0.2).
- At the time of the fatal injury, four victims (20.0%) had a permanent or temporary disability.
- Fifteen percent ($n = 3$) of decedents had a military affiliation. This affiliation may have been as an active duty member, a veteran, or a dependent.

The Alleged Offender¹⁵

- The average age for an alleged offender was 50.31 with ages ranging from 19 to 87 years of age. Half of alleged offenders were 47 years of age or older. The most frequently reported alleged offender age group was 35 – 44 years ($n = 4$, 25.0%).
- One hundred percent of alleged offenders were male.
- Thirty percent ($n = 6$) of

Figure 10: Alleged Offender's Relationship to Victim for Homicide-Suicide in Virginia (N = 20): 2007



¹⁵ There were 16 alleged offenders.

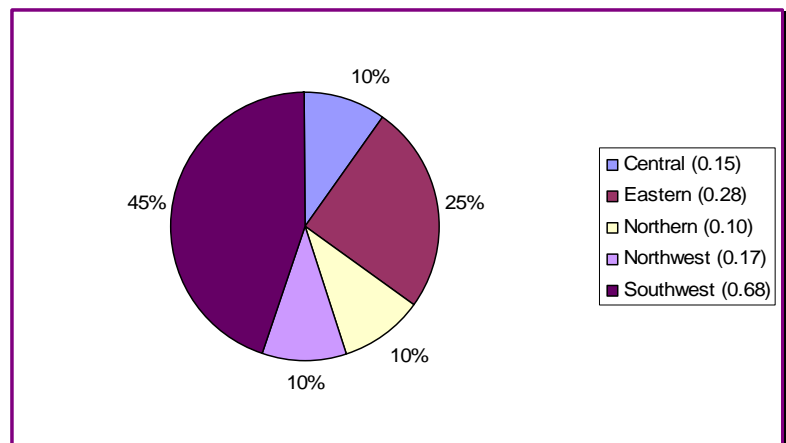
victims were killed by a spouse. Twenty five percent ($n = 5$) of victims were killed by a parent.

- More than half of alleged offenders were White ($n = 10$, 62.5%). The second most frequently reported race was Black ($n = 4$, 25.0%).
- In one out of four cases ($n = 4$, 25.0%), the alleged offender had a positive blood alcohol level. The blood alcohol level ranged from .02 to .08. In two cases the alleged offender had illegal drugs in his or her system.
- Evidence of mental health issues (e.g., bipolar disorder, depression, etc.) was noted among 37.5% ($n = 6$) of alleged offenders.

The Homicide – Suicide Event

- Precipitating factors are factors that immediately preceded the event. Precipitating factors/events were known in 100.0% of homicide-suicide events ($n = 16$). The most commonly reported precipitating factor was the termination or break-up of a relationship ($n = 8$, 50.0%), followed by an argument, financial issues, and other (each $n = 2$, 12.5%).
- Nearly half ($n = 9$, 45.0%) of all homicide–suicide events occurred in the Southwest Health Planning Region. This region also had the highest rate of homicide-suicide (0.68).
- Almost half of homicide–suicide events ($n = 9$, 45.0%) took place in the Western OCME District, followed by one-quarter in the Central OCME District ($n = 5$, 25.0%). The highest homicide-suicide rate occurred in the Western OCME District (0.6), followed by the Tidewater OCME District (0.3).
- The most commonly used fatal agency was a firearm (80%). Fifteen percent of victims ($n = 3$) were killed with more than one fatal agency.

Figure 11: Homicide-Suicide Deaths by Virginia Health Planning Region (N = 20): 2007*



*Rates are in parentheses. Rates are based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates and are per 100,000 persons.

- Most fatal injuries (35.7%) occurred between 12:01 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. with the second most common time period being 6:01 P.M. to midnight (28.6%).¹⁶
- Most victims were fatally injured at a residence ($n = 18$, 90.0%).
- The most commonly reported type of FIP homicide for homicide – suicide was intimate partner ($n = 11$, 55.0%). Other types included intimate partner associated ($n = 5$, 25.0%), child homicide by caregiver ($n = 1$, 5.0%), elder homicide by caregiver ($n = 1$, 5.0%), other family ($n = 1$, 5.0%), and family associated ($n = 1$, 5.0%).
- Survivors were noted in two homicide-suicide events ($n = 3$).
- A total of 16 children were present and exposed to the violence during six homicide-suicide events. This exposure could have included seeing or hearing the event, or finding the decedents after the event.

In addition to the 16 homicide–suicide events, there were three attempted homicide–suicide events with four victims. Attempted homicide-suicide events are those events in which an alleged offender kills at least one other person and then unsuccessfully attempts to kill him or her self within seven days after the homicide victim dies. In these cases, the homicide was completed and the suicide was not. Information was obtained for all homicide victims ($n = 4$) and the homicide-suicide event ($n = 3$).

- The average homicide victim was 51.75 years of age. Victims ranged from 22 – 64 years of age with half of victims being 60.5 years of age or older.
- Most victims ($n = 3$, 75.0%) were female and over half of alleged offenders were male ($n = 2$, 66.7%).
- Three out of the four victims (75%) were killed due to violence or discord in an intimate relationship. Two of these cases were intimate partner homicides, one was an intimate partner associated homicide, and one was an other family homicide.
- Two of the decedents died in the Central OCME District.

¹⁶ The time of fatal injury was known in 14 cases.

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

TABLE 26. SUMMARY OF MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY PERCENT (N = 440): 2007

	Non-FIP Homicide* (n = 314)	FIP Homicide (n = 126)	Adult IP Homicide (n = 51)	IPA Homicide (n = 41)	CHC Homicide (n = 11)	OF Homicide (n = 20)
Average Age of Victim	31.96 years	35.92 years	41.06 years	31.88 years	Less than 1 year of age	48.95 years
Most Common Age Group**	15 – 24 years (39.2%)	35 – 44 years (20.6%)	35 – 44 years (31.4%)	25 – 34 years (31.7%)	Infant (54.5%)	35 – 44 years (30.0%) 55 – 64 years (30.0%)
Most Common Gender	Male (88.9%)	Male (51.6%)	Female (80.8%)	Male (75.6%)	Male (54.5%)	Male (90.0%)
Most Common Race/Ethnicity	Black (65.0%)	Black (46.0%)	Black (45.1%)	Black (53.0%)	White (54.5%)	Black (50.0%) White (50.0%)
Most Common Fatal Agency	Firearm (80.7%)	Firearm (59.5%)	Firearm (58.0%)	Firearm (73.2%)	Personal Weapon (45.5%)	Firearm (65.0%)
Most Common Premise of Fatal Injury	Residence (36.5%)	Residence (81.5%)	Residence (88.0%)	Residence (63.4%)	Residence (90.9%)	Residence (90.0%)
Most Common Time of Fatal Injury	6:01 P.M. – Midnight (30.5%)	6:01 P.M. – Midnight (33.7%)	6:01 P.M. – Midnight (44.8%)	Midnight – 6:00 A.M. (41.0%)	Undetermined in most cases	6:01 P.M. – Midnight (50.0%)
Most Common OCME District***	Tidewater (40.4%)	Central (33.3%)	Tidewater (31.4%)	Central (36.6%)	Central (36.4%)	Central (45.0%)
Most Common Health Planning Region***	Eastern (40.8%)	Eastern (27.8%)	Eastern (30.0%)	Central (26.8%)	Eastern (27.3%) Northwest (27.3%)	Southwest (30.0%)

*Non-FIP Homicide includes all homicides not classified as FIP.

**An infant is defined as a person less than 12 months of age.

***See page 60 for a list of the localities included in the OCME Districts and Health Planning Regions.

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES


TABLE 27. SUMMARY OF MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY RATE (N = 440): 2007*

	All Homicide (n = 440)	FIP Homicide (n = 126)	Adult IP Homicide (n = 51)	IPA Homicide (n = 41)	CHC Homicide (n = 11)	OF Homicide (n = 20)
Most Common Age Group**	15 – 24 years (13.4) Infant (7.5)	Infant (6.6) 25 – 34 years (2.2) 35 – 44 years (2.2)	35 – 44 years (1.4) 25 – 34 years (0.9)	25 – 34 years (1.2) Infant (0.9) 15 – 24 years (0.9)	Infant (5.7)	55 – 64 years (0.7) 35 – 44 years (0.5)
Most Common Gender	Male (9.1) Female (2.4)	Male (1.7) Female (1.6)	Female (1.4) Male (0.4)	Male (0.8) Female (0.3)	Female (0.6) Male (0.6)	Male (0.5) Female (0.1)
Most Common Race/Ethnicity	Black (16.6) Hispanic (6.5)	Black (3.7) Hispanic (2.4)	Black (2.0) Hispanic (1.2)	Black (1.4) Hispanic (1.0)	Hispanic (1.2) Black (0.7)	Black (0.6) White (0.2)
Most Common OCME District***	Tidewater (10.0) Central (6.9)	Central (2.0) Tidewater (2.0) Western (2.0)	Tidewater (1.4) Western (0.9)	Central (0.7) Western (0.7)	Western (0.9) Central (0.8)	Central (0.4) Western (0.4)
State Rate***	5.7	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.3

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

** An infant is defined as a person less than 12 months of age.

***See page 60 for a list of the localities included in the OCME Districts and Health Planning Regions.



***PART TWO:
FIP HOMICIDE
SPECIAL POPULATIONS***

FIP Homicide Special Populations

This section provides a summary of the circumstances surrounding family and intimate partner homicide in special populations for 2007. The populations selected for discussion include pregnant decedents, persons with disabilities, older adults, and decedents in same-sex relationships.

All of the special populations have small numbers of victims. The information provided in this section describes the events while maintaining confidentiality.

Pregnant Victims of FIP Homicide

Pregnant victims ($n = 4$) accounted for 7.0% of all female FIP victims in 2007.

- All of the victims were between the ages of 15 and 24 years of age.
- The most commonly reported fatal agency was a firearm.
- All of the injuries occurred between 6:01 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.
- In half of all cases, the fatal injury was preceded by an argument about child paternity.
- Victims had an average of 5.5 risk factors with the number of risk factors ranging from 1 to 12.
- Each of the following risk factors was present in at least 50.0% of cases: drug use by either party, alleged offender was unemployed or recently lost his job, an arrest or conviction for non-domestic violence offenses, and the alleged offender was violent outside the home.

Disabled Victims of FIP Homicide

Thirteen victims (10.3%) had a temporary or permanent disability at the time of the fatal injury. For this project, the definition of disability was adapted from the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990). According to this act, “a disabled person is a person with a *physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities...*”¹⁷ This includes illnesses or conditions such as HIV, impaired hearing, paralysis, broken bones, severe arthritis, seizure disorder, Alzheimer’s disease, and degenerative back conditions. Pregnancy was included if there were complications that restricted normal activities.

- Ages ranged from 9 – 87 years of age with the average age of 52.46. Half of victims were 55 years of age or older.
- Over half of the decedents (61.5%) were male.
- A firearm was used to inflict the fatal injury in almost half (45.5%) of cases.
- Most homicides ($n = 9$, 69.2%) were related to conflict within an intimate relationship. Intimate partner homicide was the FIP homicide type in 46.2% of cases and intimate partner associated homicide was the FIP type in 23.1% of cases.
- Four decedents (30.8%) were killed during a homicide-suicide event.

¹⁷ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, §2, 104 Stat. 328 (1991).

- Four decedents (30.8%) were affiliated with the military. This affiliation could have included being active duty, a veteran, or a dependent.
- The most frequently reported location of fatal injury was the Southwest Health Planning Region ($n = 4$, 30.8%).

Older Adult Victims of FIP Homicide

Older adult FIP homicide victims ($n = 27$) are those persons 55 years of age and older who died as a result of family or intimate partner violence. Approximately one out of every five FIP homicide victims (21.4%) was an older adult.

- The average age of older adult FIP victims was 65.00 years of age with ages ranging from 55 to 87 years of age. The most frequently reported age group was 55 – 64 years of age ($n = 17$, 63.0%). Half of victims were 62 years of age or older.
- Most victims were male ($n = 14$, 51.9%).
- Over half of the older adult deaths were due to a firearm ($n = 16$, 59.3%).
- In most cases, the fatal injury occurred at a residence ($n = 21$, 77.8%).
- One in three victims received his or her fatal injury in the Southwest Health Planning District ($n = 10$, 37.0%).
- The most frequently reported type of FIP homicide was other family homicide ($n = 10$, 37.0%), followed by intimate partner homicide ($n = 9$, 33.3%) and intimate partner associated homicide ($n = 7$, 25.9%). Only one case was elder homicide by caregiver.
- The most frequently reported race was White ($n = 17$, 63.0%) followed by Black ($n = 8$, 29.6%).
- Approximately one in four deaths (25.9%) occurred during homicide-suicide events and. Three deaths (11.1%) occurred during attempted homicide-suicide events.
- Precipitating events were known for 63.0% ($n = 17$) of cases. In more than one out of four cases, the precipitating factor was the termination of the relationship ($n = 5$, 29.4%). The second most frequently reported precipitating factor was an unspecified argument ($n = 4$, 23.5%).
- The alleged offender was the decedent's current spouse in 29.6% ($n = 8$) of cases. In 22.3% ($n = 6$) of cases, the alleged offender was the decedent's adult child (either biological or step).

Same-Sex Victims of FIP Homicide

There were five victims whose same-sex intimate relationship resulted in FIP homicide during 2007.

- Over half of victims (60.0%) were male.
- In 100% of cases, the fatal injury was inflicted by a firearm at a residence.
- Precipitating factors included the termination of a relationship, new partner or the perception of a new partner, and an argument over property.

**PART THREE:
1999-2007 SUMMARY**

Nine-Year Summary (1999 – 2007)

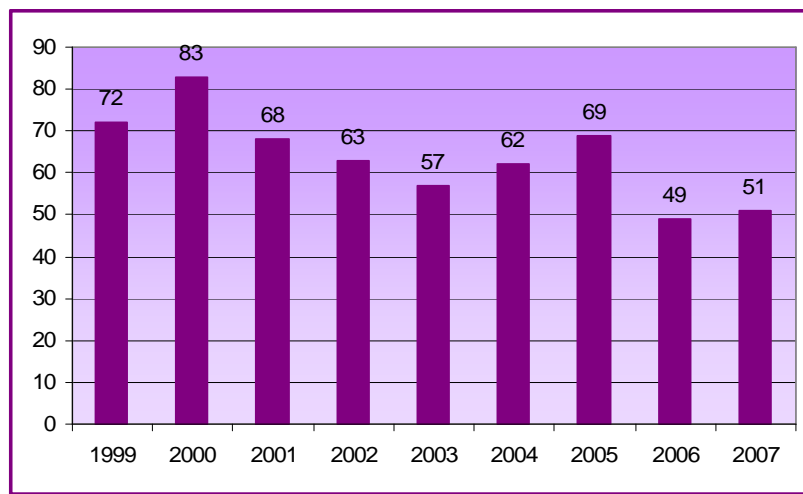
Since 1999, the FIP Homicide Surveillance Project has collected data on FIP homicides in Virginia. This section contains a summary of the characteristics of intimate partner homicide and family and intimate partner homicide-suicide for this time period.

Intimate Partner Homicide

Between the years 1999 and 2007 there were **575** intimate partner homicides.

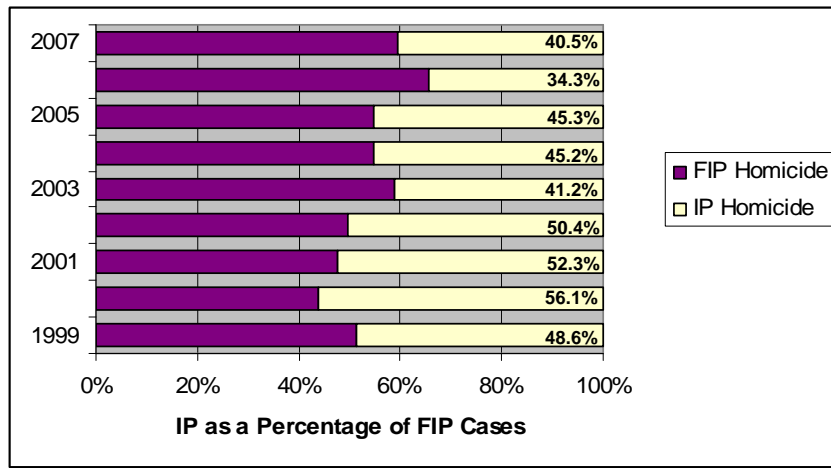
- The greatest number of intimate partner homicides occurred in 2000 ($n = 83$); the fewest occurred in 2006 ($n = 49$).
- During the years 1999 – 2007, intimate partner homicide varied from 34.3% - 56.1% of FIP homicide cases.
- The average age of decedents was 38.94 years. Ages ranged from 13 – 87 years of age. Half of all victims were 38 years of age or younger.
- The most frequently reported age group was 35 – 44 years of age ($n = 179$, 31.1%), followed by 25 – 34 years of age ($n = 126$, 21.9%). There were eight victims who were younger than 18 years of age.

Figure 12. Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia by Year (N = 575): 1999-2007



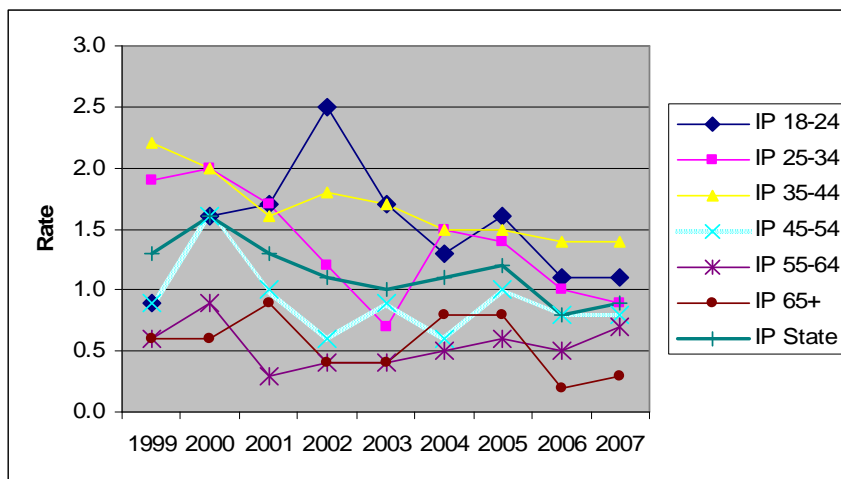
- During the nine-year period, those in the 18 – 24, 35 – 44, and 25 – 34 age groups had the highest rates of intimate partner homicide. A summary of these rates is included in the supplemental file.
- A firearm was used to inflict the fatal injury in more than half of cases ($n = 354$, 61.6%). Additional fatal agencies included sharp instrument ($n = 116$, 20.2%) and strangulation, choking, or hanging ($n = 37$, 6.4%).

Figure 13. Intimate Partner Homicide as a Percentage of Family and Intimate Partner Cases in Virginia (N = 1,232): 1999 – 2007



- The Central OCME had the most IP homicides ($n = 197$, 34.3%), followed by the Western OCME ($n = 157$, 27.4%).
- The Southwest and Central Health Planning Regions had the most intimate partner homicide (24.6% and 24.8%, respectively).
- During most years, the Central, Western, and Tidewater OCME Districts had intimate partner homicide rates that were greater than the state average.
- Three out of four decedents were female ($n = 433$, 75.3%).

Figure 14. Virginia Intimate Partner Homicide Rate by Age Group* (N = 567): 1999 – 2007**

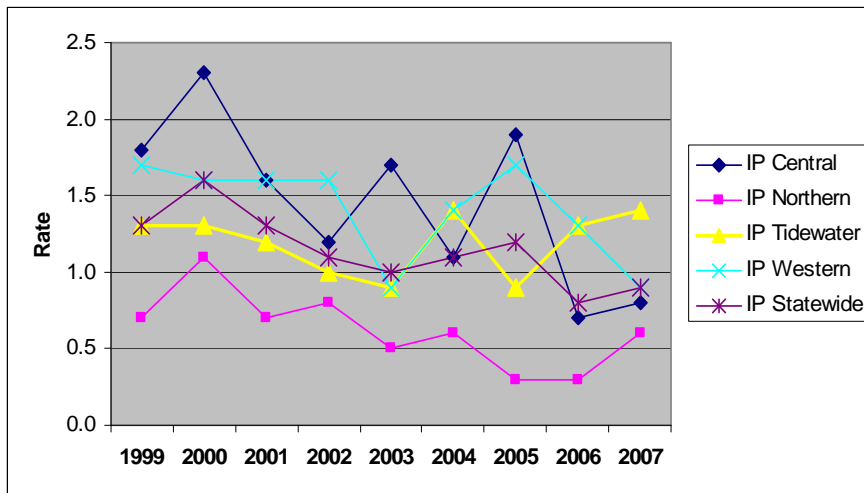


* This figure includes adult victims of intimate partner homicide only.

**Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for each respective year. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

- The most frequently reported race of victim was White ($n = 288$, 50.1%), followed by Black ($n = 246$, 42.8%). Twenty-six (4.5%) victims were of Hispanic origin.
- During each year between 1999 and 2007, Blacks had a higher intimate partner homicide rate than whites.

Figure 15. Virginia Intimate Partner Homicide by OCME District* (N = 567): 1999 – 2007**



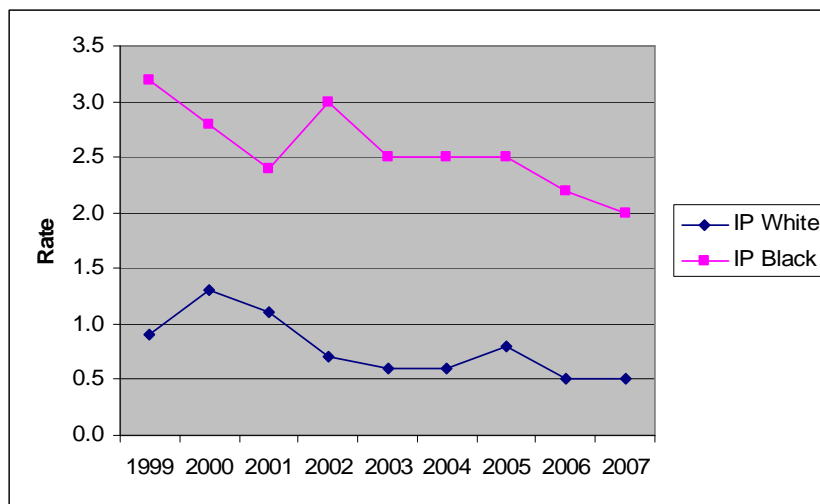
*This figure includes adult victims of intimate partner homicide only.

**Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for each respective year. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

- Most injuries occurred at a residence ($n = 469$, 82.3%).
- Almost one in three events ($n = 184$, 32.0%) had more than one person who was fatally injured during the event.
- Nineteen victims (3.3%) were pregnant at the time of the fatal injury.
- More than one out of every four cases ($n = 158$, 27.5%) was a homicide-suicide event. In 4.5% of IP cases ($n = 26$), an alleged offender attempted to commit suicide in addition to the homicide and was unsuccessful at taking his or her life.
- The most frequently reported relationship of alleged offender to victim was spouse ($n = 233$, 40.5%) followed by current boy/girl friend ($n = 221$, 38.4%).
- Information regarding the history of physical assault was known for 289 (50.3%) cases. Of these cases, 90.7% ($n = 262$) had a history of physical assault.
- Information regarding the history of threats within the relationship was known for 224 (39.0%) cases. Of these cases, 65.5% ($n = 146$) had a history of receiving threats from the abusive partner.
- There were 14 victims (2.4%) who were killed as a result of the violence from a same-sex relationship.
- The alleged offender was male in 76.0% ($n = 437$) of cases.
- Thirteen alleged offenders (2.3%) said that they committed homicide as a “mercy killing” to end the suffering of another person.

- Information regarding the history of protective orders was obtained for 306 (23.0%) cases. Almost one out of every four cases had a current protective order at the time of the fatal injury ($n = 62$, 23.0%).
- Evidence indicating a history of domestic abuse phone calls to the police was available for 176 (30.6%) cases. One hundred and five (18.3%) cases had a record of police calls for domestic violence.
- Risk factors are those circumstances that increase the probability of intimate partner violence. Four hundred and twenty-seven (74.3%) victims had at least one risk factor present.

Figure 16. Virginia Intimate Partner Homicide Rate by Racial/Ethnic Group* (N = 567): 1999 – 2007**



*This figure includes adult victims of intimate partner homicide only.

**Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for each respective year. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide-Suicide

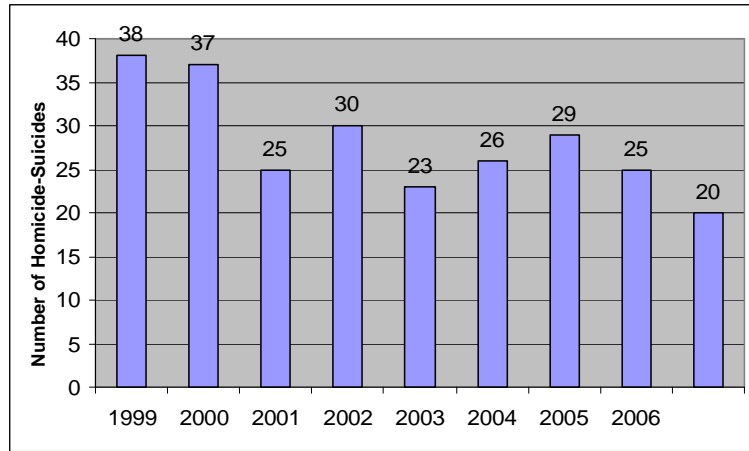
Between 1999 and 2007 there were **253** family and intimate partner homicide-suicide victims.

- The number of homicide-suicide victims ranged from 20 to 38 per year. The fewest homicide-suicides occurred during 2007. The most homicide-suicides occurred during 1999.
- Homicide-suicide as a percentage of family and intimate partner homicide ranged from 15.9% to 26.0% per year.
- The average age of family and intimate partner homicide-suicide victims was 23.95 years with ages ranging from infant to 87 years of age. Half of victims were 36 years of age or younger.
- Most homicide victims were female ($n = 192$, 75.9%) and most alleged offenders were male ($n = 197$, 81.7%). In addition, during the years 1999 – 2007, the homicide-suicide rate for women was consistently greater than the homicide-suicide rate for

men.

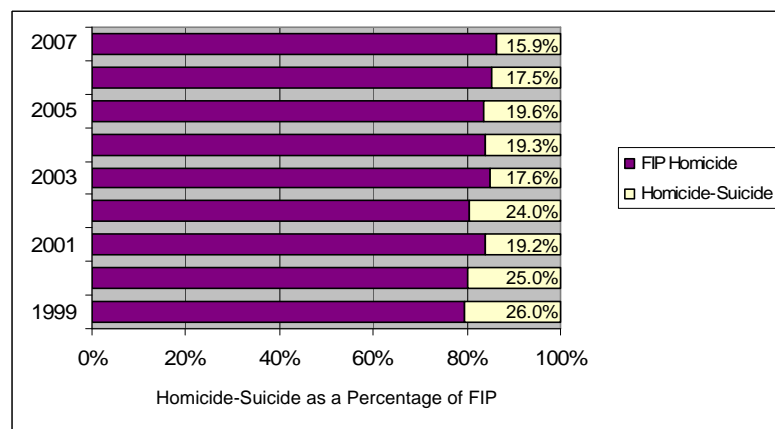
- One out of four fatal injuries occurred in the Southwest Health Planning Region ($n = 61, 25.3\%$). The second most frequently reported place of fatal injury was the Central Health Planning Region ($n = 56, 23.2\%$).¹⁸

Figure 17. Number of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide-Suicides in Virginia by Year (N = 253): 1999-2007



- The most frequently reported race was White ($n = 152, 60.1\%$), followed by Black ($n = 78, 31.6\%$). However, the rate for Blacks for each year between 1999 and 2007 was consistently greater than the rate for Whites, during this time period.
- Between the years 1999 and 2007, firearms caused between 80.0 – 100.0% of homicide-suicide deaths per year.

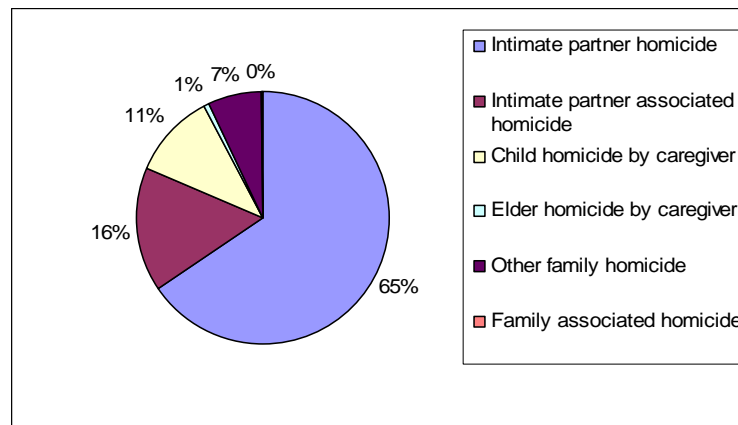
Figure 18: Homicide-Suicide as a Percentage of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide by Year (N = 253): 1999- 2007



¹⁸ Place of injury was known in 241 cases.

- The most frequently reported type of family and intimate partner homicide-suicide was intimate partner homicide ($n = 158, 62.5\%$), followed by intimate partner associated ($n = 38, 15.0\%$) and child homicide by caregiver ($n = 26, 10.3\%$).
- The alleged offender had a positive blood alcohol content in 25.3% ($n = 64$) events.
- A child witness was present in almost one in four cases ($n = 56, 23.2\%$).¹⁹
- Twenty-nine percent of cases had three or more decedents ($n = 70, 27.7\%$).
- In most cases, the decedent was the spouse ($n = 85, 33.6\%$) or the biological child ($n = 40, 15.8\%$).

Figure 19: Type of Homicide-Suicide in Virginia (N = 241): 1999-2007




¹⁹ Whether a child witness was present was known in 241 cases.

TABLE 28. SUMMARY OF MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA (N = 3,988): 1999-2007*

	Homicide (N = 3,988)	FIP (N = 1,232)	IP (N = 575)
Age**	Average Age: 32.67 Age Range: Infant – 97 years of age <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Age Group</u> Infant: 4.0 – 14.5 15 – 24 years: 11.5 – 16.2	Average Age: 33.61 Age Range: Infant – 97 years of age <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Age Group</u> Infant: 4.0 – 14.5 35 – 44 years: 2.2– 3.1	Average Age: 38.94 Age Range: 13 – 87 years of age <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Age Group</u> 35 – 44 years: 1.4 – 2.2 18 – 24 years: 0.9 – 2.5
Gender**	Male (n = 3,026, 75.9%) <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Gender</u> Male: 8.5 – 10.5	Female (n = 632, 51.0%) <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Gender</u> Female: 1.6 – 2.3	Female (n = 433, 75.3%) <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Gender</u> Female: 1.2 – 2.1***
Race**	Black (n = 2,371, 59.5%) <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Race</u> Black : 16.4 – 19.3	White (n = 583, 47.4%) <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Race</u> Black : 3.6 – 4.5	White (n = 288, 50.1%) <u>Rate of Most Frequently Reported Race</u> Black 2.0 – 3.2***
Premise	Residence (n = 1,439, 58.9%)	Residence (n = 974, 82.7%)	Residence (n = 469, 82.3%)
Fatal Agency	Firearm (n = 2,823, 70.8%)	Firearm (n= 691, 56.1%)	Firearm (n = 354, 61.6%)
OCME District**	<u>Rate</u> Central: 6.9 – 10.2 Tidewater: 6.8 – 10.9	<u>Rate</u> Central: 1.6 – 2.8 Tidewater : 1.8 – 2.9 Western: 1.8 – 2.8	<u>Rate***</u> Central: 0.7 – 2.3 Western: 0.9 – 1.7
Geographic Location of Fatal Injury	Eastern (n = 1,296, 32.5%)	Eastern (n = 326, 26.5%)	Southwest (n = 142, 24.7%)
State Rate**	5.7 – 6.6	1.6 – 2.1	0.8 – 1.6***

* Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for each respective year. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

The range of rates for the nine-year period is given. The first number is the lowest rate that occurred during the nine-year period. The second number is the highest rate that occurred.*adults only



PART FOUR: APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

Adult – A person 18 years or older.

Alleged Offender – A person suspected of or charged (by law enforcement) with the commission of a homicide.

Attempted Homicide-Suicide – Event in which an alleged offender kills at least one other person and then *unsuccessfully* attempts to kill him or her self within seven days after the homicide victim dies.

Caregiver – A person responsible for the care and or supervision of another person.

Child – A person under the age of 18.

Child Homicide by Caregiver – Victims under the age of 18 who were killed by a caregiver.

Disability – A person with a disability is defined as “a person with a *physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities...*”²⁰ This includes illnesses or conditions such as HIV, impaired hearing, paralysis, broken bones, severe arthritis, seizure disorder, Alzheimer’s disease, and degenerative back conditions. Pregnancy was included if there were complications that restricted normal activities.

Elder – A person age 55 or older.

Elder Homicide by Caregiver – Victims 55 years of age or older who were killed by a caregiver.

Family Associated Homicide – A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from a familial relationship. Victims could include persons killed by law enforcement during a familial conflict or persons caught in the crossfire, such as, friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, or bystanders.

Fatal Agency – The means of injury which led to the death of a victim.

²⁰ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, §2, 104 Stat. 328 (1991).

Homicide – The intentional killing of a person by another.

Homicide–Suicide Event – A homicide followed within seven days by the alleged offender's suicide.

Intimate Partner Associated Homicide – A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from an intimate partner relationship. Victims could include alleged abusers killed by law enforcement or persons caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence such as friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, new intimate partners, or bystanders.

Intimate Partner Homicide – A homicide in which a victim was killed by one of the following: spouse (married or separated), former spouse, current or former boyfriend, girlfriend or same-sex partner, or dating partner. This group could include homicides in which only one of the parties had pursued a relationship or perceived a relationship with the other, where at least one of the following was historically noted: rejection, threats, harassment, stalking, possessiveness, or issuance of a protective order.

Older Homicide Victim – Victims over the age of 55 years. See also *elder*.

Other Family Homicide – A homicide in which a victim was killed by an individual related to them biologically or by marriage (e.g. grandparent, [step] parent, [step] sibling, cousin, in-laws) and who does not meet the criteria for intimate partner or intimate partner associated homicide, child homicide by caregiver, or elder homicide by caregiver.

Risk Factors – Characteristics present prior to the occurrence of a family or intimate partner homicide which might have placed the victim at increased probability for violence.

Residence – Home, including yard or driveway.

Surveillance – The systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data regarding health events of interest for purposes of intervention and the creation of prevention strategies.

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS										
	OCME DISTRICTS				HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS					
LOCALITIES	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TIDEWATER	WESTERN	CENTRAL	EASTERN	NORTHERN	NORTHWEST	SOUTHWEST	
Accomack County			✓			✓				
Albemarle County	✓							✓		
Alexandria City		✓					✓			
Alleghany County				✓					✓	
Amelia County	✓				✓					
Amherst County				✓					✓	
Appomattox County				✓					✓	
Arlington County		✓					✓			
Augusta County				✓				✓		
Bath County				✓				✓		
Bedford City				✓					✓	
Bedford County				✓					✓	
Bland County				✓					✓	
Botetourt County				✓					✓	
Bristol City				✓					✓	
Brunswick County	✓				✓					
Buchanan County				✓					✓	
Buckingham County	✓				✓					
Buena Vista City				✓				✓		
Campbell County				✓					✓	
Caroline County	✓							✓		
Carroll County				✓					✓	
Charles City County	✓				✓					
Charlotte County	✓				✓					
Charlottesville City	✓							✓		
Chesapeake City			✓			✓				
Chesterfield County	✓				✓					
Clarke County		✓						✓		
Colonial Heights City	✓				✓					
Covington City				✓					✓	
Craig County				✓					✓	
Culpeper County		✓						✓		
Cumberland County	✓				✓					
Danville City				✓					✓	
Dickenson County				✓					✓	
Dinwiddie County	✓				✓					
Emporia City	✓				✓					
Essex County	✓					✓				
Fairfax City		✓					✓			
Fairfax County		✓					✓			
Falls Church City		✓					✓			

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS										
	OCME DISTRICTS					HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS				
LOCALITIES	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TIDEWATER	WESTERN		CENTRAL	EASTERN	NORTHERN	NORTHWEST	SOUTHWEST
Fauquier County		✓							✓	
Floyd County				✓						✓
Fluvanna County	✓								✓	
Franklin City			✓				✓			
Franklin County				✓						✓
Frederick County		✓							✓	
Fredericksburg City	✓								✓	
Galax City				✓						✓
Giles County				✓						✓
Gloucester County	✓						✓			
Goochland County	✓					✓				
Grayson County				✓						✓
Greene County	✓								✓	
Greensville County	✓					✓				
Halifax County	✓					✓				
Hampton City			✓				✓			
Hanover County	✓					✓				
Harrisonburg City				✓					✓	
Henrico County	✓					✓				
Henry County				✓						✓
Highland County				✓					✓	
Hopewell City	✓					✓				
Isle of Wight County			✓				✓			
James City County	✓						✓			
King and Queen County	✓						✓			
King George County	✓								✓	
King William County	✓						✓			
Lancaster County	✓						✓			
Lee County				✓						✓
Lexington City				✓					✓	
Loudoun County		✓						✓		
Louisa County	✓								✓	
Lunenburg County	✓					✓				
Lynchburg City				✓						✓
Madison County		✓							✓	
Manassas City		✓						✓		
Manassas Park City		✓						✓		
Martinsville City				✓						✓
Mathews County	✓						✓			
Mecklenburg County	✓					✓				
Middlesex County	✓						✓			
Montgomery County				✓						✓

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS										
	OCME DISTRICTS					HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS				
LOCALITIES	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TIDEWATER	WESTERN		CENTRAL	EASTERN	NORTHERN	NORTHWEST	SOUTHWEST
Nelson County	✓								✓	
New Kent County	✓					✓				
Newport News City			✓				✓			
Norfolk City			✓				✓			
Northampton County			✓				✓			
Northumberland County	✓						✓			
Norton City				✓						✓
Nottoway County	✓					✓				
Orange County		✓							✓	
Page County		✓							✓	
Patrick County				✓						✓
Petersburg City	✓					✓				
Pittsylvania County				✓						✓
Poquoson City			✓				✓			
Portsmouth City			✓				✓			
Powhatan County	✓					✓				
Prince Edward County	✓					✓				
Prince George County	✓					✓				
Prince William County		✓						✓		
Pulaski County				✓						✓
Radford City				✓						✓
Rappahannock County		✓							✓	
Richmond City	✓					✓				
Richmond County	✓						✓			
Roanoke City				✓						✓
Roanoke County				✓						✓
Rockbridge County				✓					✓	
Rockingham County				✓					✓	
Russell County				✓						✓
Salem City				✓						✓
Scott County				✓						✓
Shenandoah County		✓							✓	
Smyth County				✓						✓
Southampton County			✓				✓			
Spotsylvania County	✓								✓	
Stafford County	✓								✓	
Staunton City				✓					✓	
Suffolk City			✓				✓			
Surry County	✓					✓				
Sussex County	✓					✓				
Tazewell County				✓						✓
Virginia Beach City			✓				✓			

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS

VIRGINIA OCME DISTRICTS AND HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS										
	OCME DISTRICTS					HEALTH PLANNING REGIONS				
LOCALITIES	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TIDEWATER	WESTERN		CENTRAL	EASTERN	NORTHERN	NORTHWEST	SOUTHWEST
Warren County		✓							✓	
Washington County				✓						✓
Waynesboro City				✓					✓	
Westmoreland County	✓						✓			
Williamsburg City	✓						✓			
Winchester City		✓							✓	
Wise County				✓						✓
Wythe County				✓						✓
York County			✓				✓			

For additional copies of this report or information on the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project contact:

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide
Surveillance Coordinator
Virginia Department of Health
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
737 North 5th Street, Suite 301
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 205.3857
Fax: (804) 786.1877

This report is available online at:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/Violence.htm>

