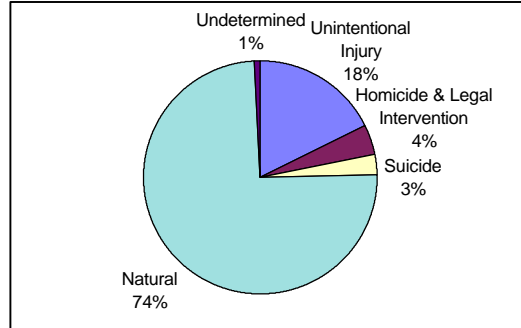


# Part One. Profile of Child Death in Virginia, 1994

## All Deaths by Manner

In 1994, a total of 1,260 children under 18 years of age that were residents of Virginia died. The majority of deaths among children are a result of natural causes accounting for 939 (74%) deaths. Unintentional injury accounts for 223 (18%) of the deaths, homicide and legal intervention for 55 (4%), suicide for 34 (3%) and in nine (<1%) of the deaths, cause or manner are undetermined (Figure 1).

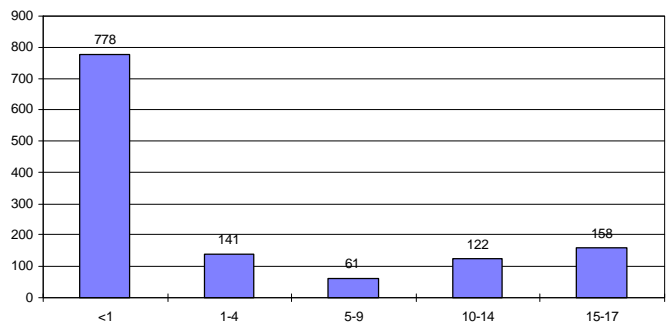
Figure 1. Manner of Child Deaths for Age < 18 Years, Virginia, 1994, Total=1260



## Age

The age distribution of these deaths can be seen in Figure 2. Children less than one year of age account for 778 or 62% of the total. Of these deaths, 389 or 50% were due to conditions originating in the perinatal period. Among the children 1 to 4 years old 141 or 11% of the deaths occurred; among children 5 to 9 years old, 61 or 5% of the deaths occurred; among children 10 to 14 years old, 122 or 10% of the deaths occurred; and among youth 15 to 17 years old, 158 or 13% of the deaths occurred.

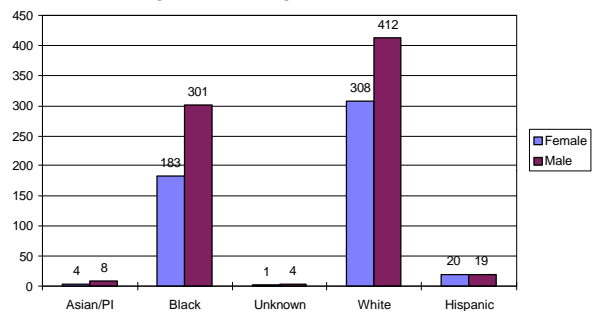
Figure 2. Child Deaths by Age Group, Virginia, 1994, Total=1260



## Race/Ethnicity and Sex

Among the 1,260 children who died, 720 or 57% were White, 484 or 38% were Black, 39 or 3% were Hispanic, 12 or <1% were Asian or Pacific Islanders and seven children did not have race indicated. Boys are over represented in these data accounting for 744 or 59% of the deaths compared to 516 or 41% of the deaths in girls (Figure 3). The distribution by race/ethnicity can be seen in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Child Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Sex for Age < 18 Years, Virginia, 1994, Total=1260



## Deaths due to Natural Causes

### Infants and young children less than 3 years old

Among children less than 3 years old, 791 died from natural causes. The leading natural causes of death in this age group include conditions originating in the perinatal period for 396 or 50%, congenital

anomalies for 167 or 21%, SIDS for 79 or 10%, diseases of the circulatory system for 33 or 4%, and infectious and parasitic diseases for 26 or 3%. Other natural causes account for 90 or 11% of the deaths in this age group (Figure 4).

**Children 3 to 17 years old**

Among children 3 to 17 years old, 148 died from natural causes. The leading natural causes of death in this age group are malignant neoplasms for 41 or 28%, diseases of the nervous system and sense organs for 22 or 15%, diseases of the circulatory system for 20 or 14%, infectious and parasitic diseases for 14 or 9%, and diseases of the respiratory system for 11 or 7%. Other natural causes account for 40 or 27% of deaths in this age group (Figure 5).

**Deaths due to Unintentional Injury**

In 1994, 223 children less than 18 years old died as a result of unintentional injuries. Moreover, in 1994 3,465 children under the age of 18 sustained unintentional injuries that resulted in hospitalization, but not death.<sup>1</sup> Among children less than three years of age, 13 died as a result of motor vehicle accidents, 12 died as a result of fire, eight died as a result of suffocation, six died as a result of drowning, four died as a result of falls and six children died from other causes (Figure 6). Among children aged 3 to 17, motor vehicle accidents accounted for 99 deaths, fires for 21 deaths, drowning for 21 deaths, firearms for 12 deaths, poisoning for 10 deaths, suffocation for four deaths and seven children died as a result of other causes (Figure 7). Each major category of injury related deaths is described in more detail below.

**Motor Vehicle Accidents**

Fifty-eight or 52% of the 112 child deaths due to motor vehicle accidents were adolescents aged 15 to 17. Of the remaining 54 deaths, five or 4% were infants, 13 or 12% were 1 to 4 years old, eight or 7%

Figure 4. Leading Causes of Death Classified as Natural for Children < 3 Years of Age, Virginia, 1994, Total=791

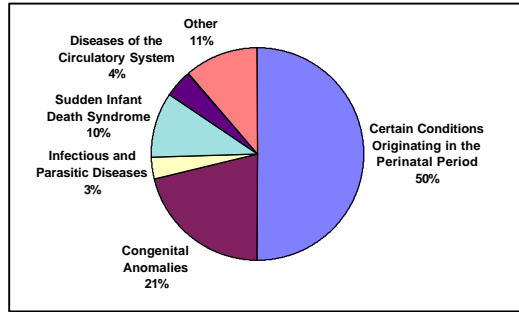


Figure 5. Leading Causes of Death Classified as Natural for Children 3-17 Years of Age, Virginia, 1994, Total=148

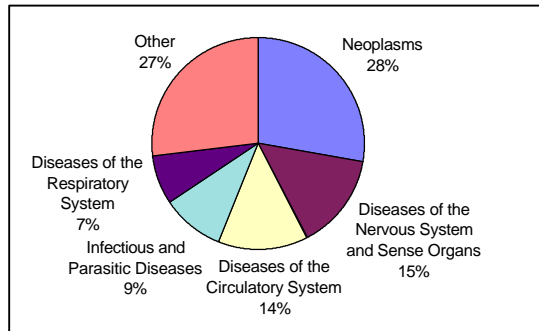


Figure 6. Leading Causes of Unintentional Injury Deaths for Children < 3 Years of Age, Virginia, 1994, Total=49

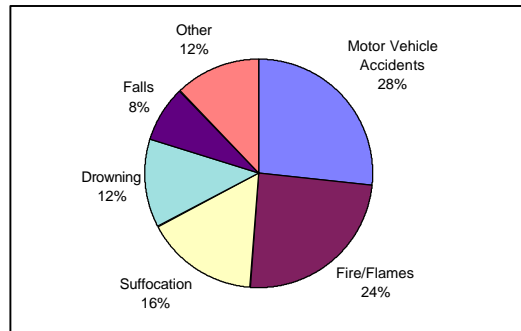
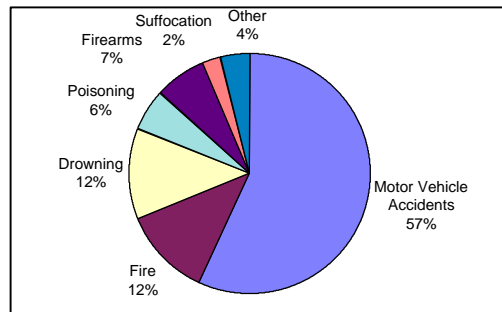


Figure 7. Leading Causes of Unintentional Injury Deaths for Children 3-17 Years of Age, Virginia 1994, Total=174



were 5 to 9 years old and 28 or 25% were 10 to 14 years old (Figure 8). The distribution of deaths by race/ethnicity and sex can be seen in Figure 9. White children account for 83 or 74% of the deaths. Fifty-

nine percent of the deaths occurred among boys and 41% among girls. The distribution of motor vehicle accident deaths by health service area can be seen in Figure 10.

Figure 8. Motor Vehicle Related Child Deaths by Age Group, Virginia, 1994, Total=112

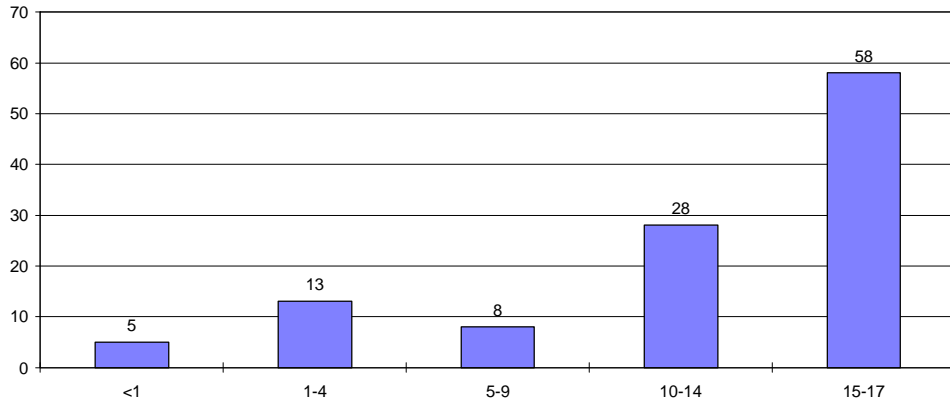


Figure 9. Motor Vehicle Related Child Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and for Age < 18 Years, Virginia 1994, Total=112

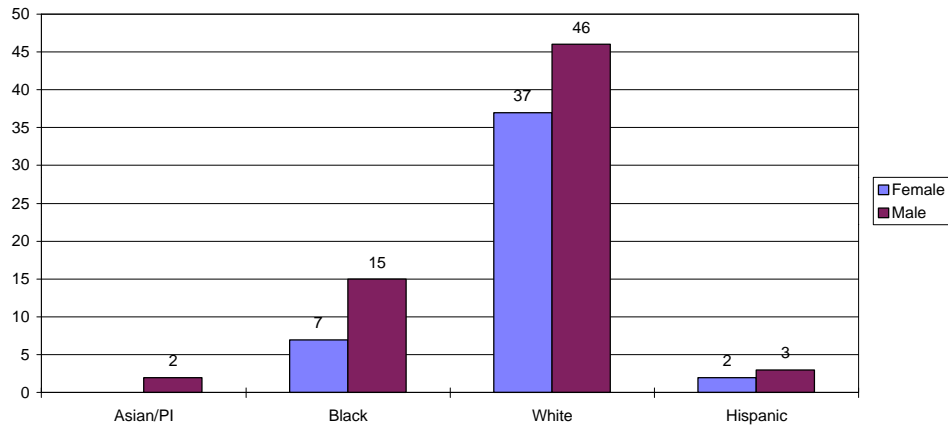


Figure 10. Motor Vehicle Related Child Deaths by Health Region for Age < 18 Years, Virginia, 1994, Total=112

