

Special 10-Year
Anniversary Issue

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide: A Ten-Year Review of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia, *1999-2008*

2010



*Commonwealth of Virginia
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Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
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Special 10-Year
Anniversary Issue

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE:

A Ten-Year Review of Family and Intimate Partner
Homicide in Virginia, 1999 – 2008

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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Citizens of the Commonwealth:

A decade ago, the General Assembly enacted Virginia Code §32.1-283.3 taking a critical step toward our increased understanding of family and intimate partner violence in Virginia. This Code section authorized the development of local family and domestic violence fatality review teams and created a statewide surveillance system to collect data on deaths involving family and/or intimate partners.

This report is a special 10-year anniversary issue and presents ten-years worth of data from the Virginia Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Program. Data trends and some of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's accomplishments in regards to family and/or intimate partner violence are listed below.

Ten years worth of data reveal the following trends:

- A third of all homicides were due to family or intimate partner conflict.
- Males and females were both vulnerable; however, women had a greater probability of being killed by current or former intimate partners whereas males had a greater probability of being killed while in the "crossfire" of an intimate partner relationship.
- Racial disparities continued to exist. Black Virginians were at significantly greater risk than White Virginians.
- Infants were our most vulnerable citizens.
- Most victims were killed with a firearm and while in a residence.

In addition, between 1999 and 2008 the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME):

- Helped to establish 15 Family and Intimate Partner Fatality Review Teams throughout Virginia. These teams have enabled communities to develop coordinated responses to family and domestic violence.
- Developed statewide interdisciplinary workgroups to review data and make recommendations regarding family and domestic violence prevention and intervention.
- Provided comprehensive data to stakeholders working to prevent family and domestic violence.
- Worked with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (the Alliance) and conducted a state-wide prevention conference examining trends in fatality review and surveillance.

In the ten years since enacting the Code, the OCME has become the lead agency for information on Virginia Family and Intimate Partner Homicide. We will continue to provide high-quality data to our communities as we all work to reduce the prevalence of family and intimate partner violence in Virginia.

Leah L. E. Bush, MS, MD
Chief Medical Examiner

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Introduction

The Virginia Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Program is unique. It is the only program that collects and analyzes information on all family and intimate partner homicides occurring in Virginia. OCME staff members review homicide cases and then categorize them based on the relationship between the victim and the alleged offender. This information is then analyzed and findings are published in a report.

This year (2010) signifies a milestone; it is the ten-year anniversary of the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Program. The current report is a culmination of a decade of work and examines the characteristics of victims and the circumstances surrounding family and intimate partner homicide events that occurred between 1999 and 2008.

Information provided in these pages strengthens Virginia's communities by providing public health officials and policy and program planners the tools needed to *understand* and *respond effectively* to these violent 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.

This report contains two sections. The first provides a summary of cases for each of the major family and domestic violence categories identified by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The second section is the appendix; it contains technical notes regarding data analysis, identifies the OCME Offices and Health Planning Regions in Virginia, and provides a glossary of terms. It is suggested that readers read the technical notes section before reviewing data.

This report is part of a series of reports published by the OCME. Previous reports examining family and intimate partner homicide in specific populations, can be found at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/Violence.htm>



DATA TRENDS

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. This report examines intimate partner, intimate partner associated, child homicide by caregiver, and other family homicide victims only. See Table 15 for definitions of each case type.

There were **1,381** family and intimate partner homicide deaths during the study period.

Ten year's worth of data reveal the following:

- Family and intimate partner homicide was common. During the study period, a third of all homicides were due to family or intimate partner conflict or violence.
- Between 1999 and 2008 the number of family and intimate partner homicides fluctuated. The number of FIP homicide deaths in 2008 was three cases greater than the number of FIP homicide deaths in 1999; however, the actual FIP homicide rate *was lower in 2008 than in 1999*.
- Males and females were both vulnerable; however, women had a greater probability of being killed by a current or former intimate partner whereas males had a greater probability of being killed while in the “crossfire” of an intimate partner relationship.
- Racial disparities continued to exist. Black Virginians were at significantly greater risk than White Virginians for each year during the study period.
- Infants were the most vulnerable citizens. They had the highest FIP rate for each year of the study period. This rate was higher than any other age, racial/ethnic, or gender group.
- Most victims were killed with a firearm (55.4%) and while in a residence (79.5%).
- Victims ranged from infant to 97 years of age. However, most victims were killed in the prime of their lives; the mean age of victims was 33.68 ($SD = 20.50$) years.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 1: Number of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Deaths in Virginia, 1999 - 2008

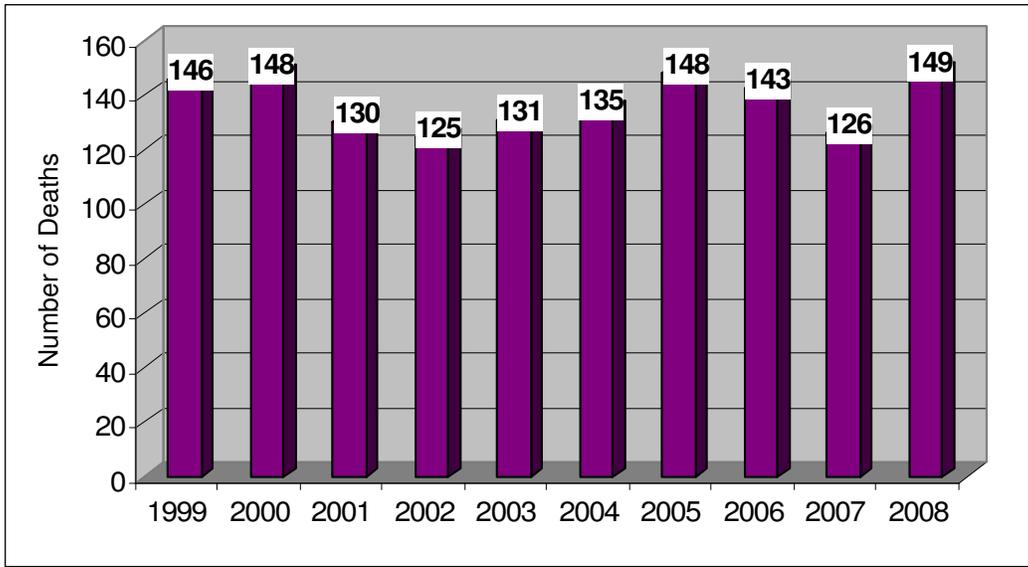
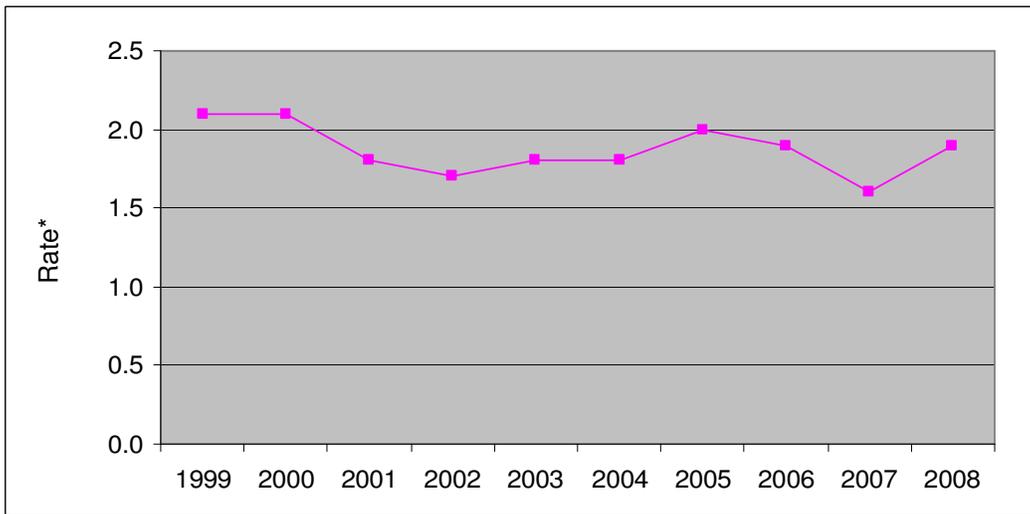


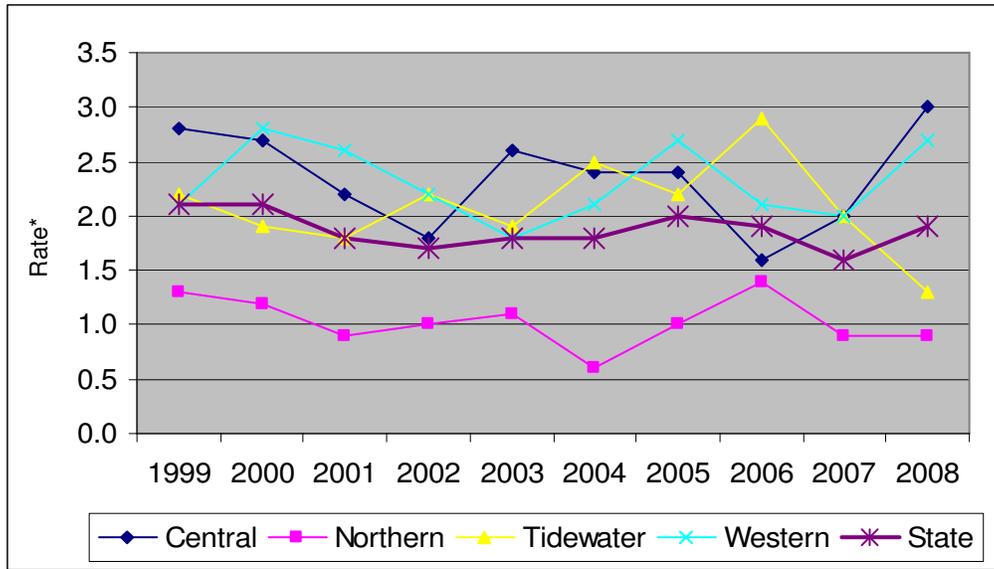
Figure 2: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

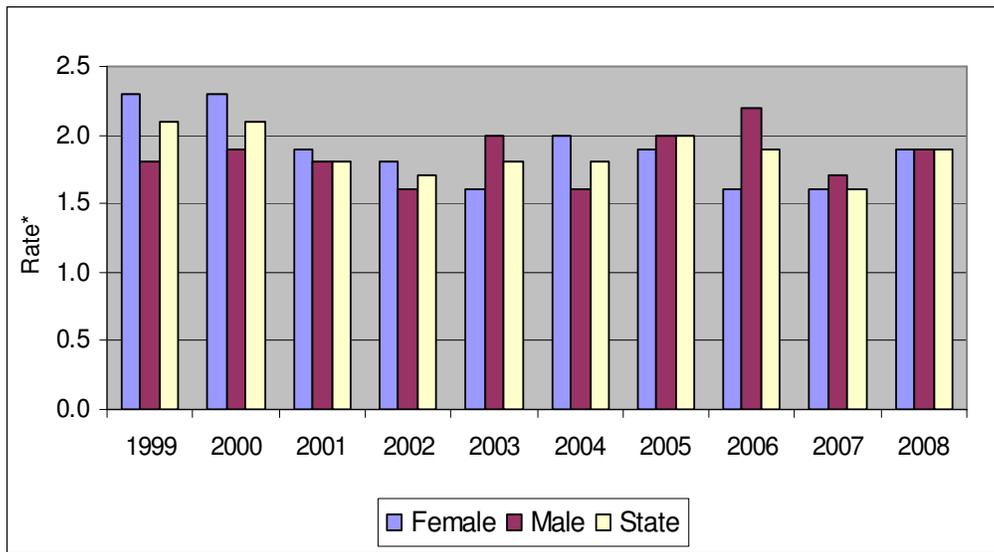
FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 3: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Rate by Virginia OCME District, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

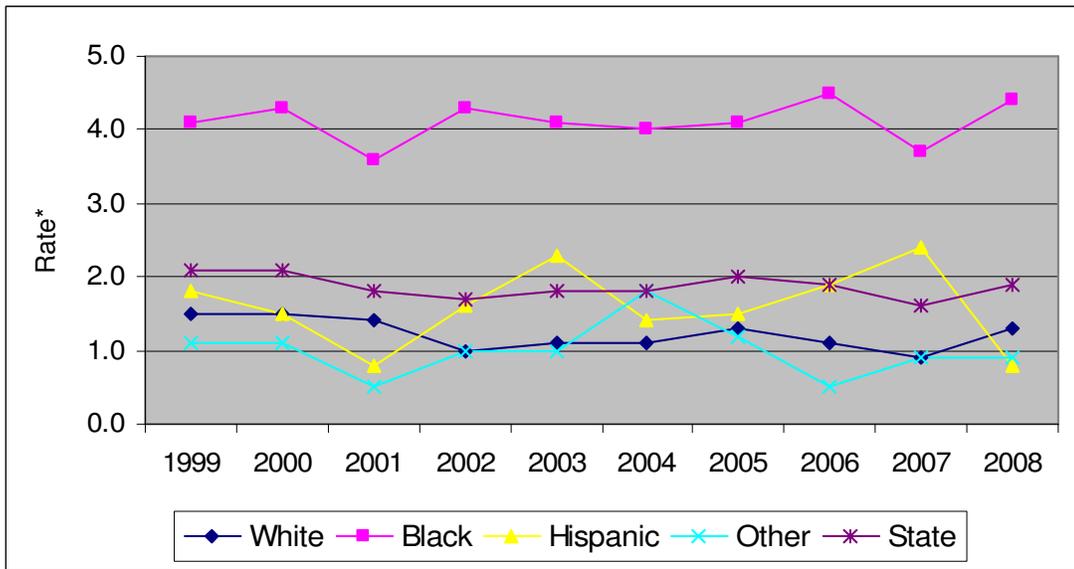
Figure 4: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia by Gender, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

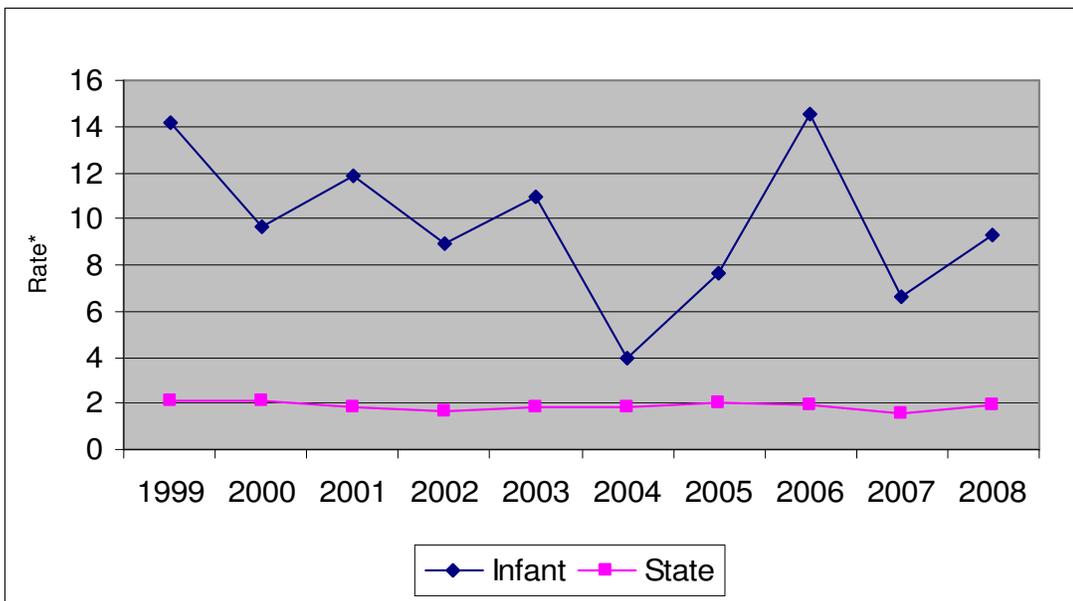
FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 5: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

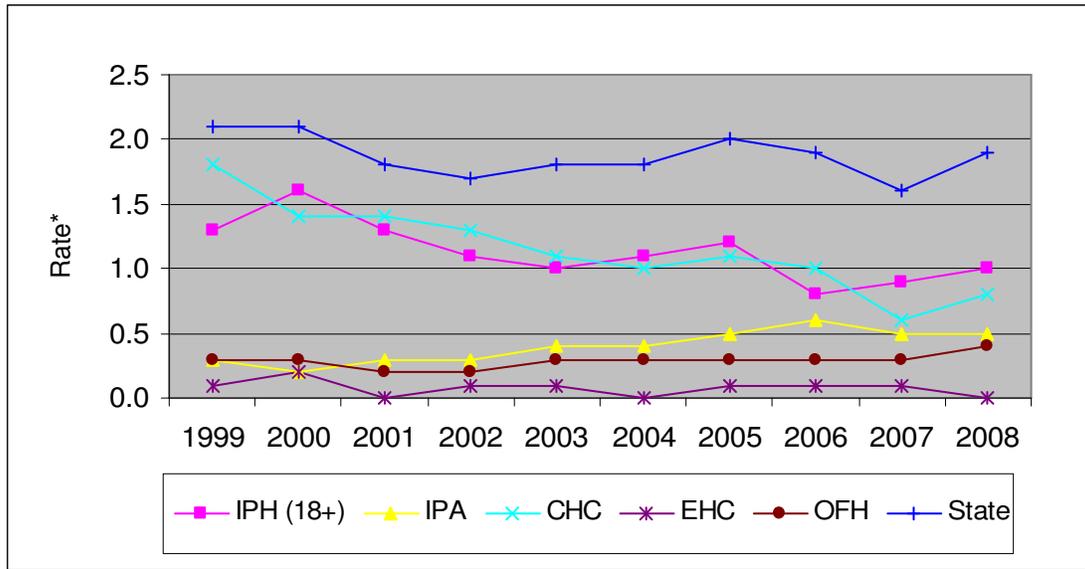
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*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 7: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia by Type, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

The following is a list of abbreviations for the above figure.

- IPH** – Intimate Partner Homicidee (18+)
- IPA** – Intimate Partner Associated Homicide
- CHC** – Child Homicide by Caregiver
- EHC** – Elder Homicide by Caregiver
- OFH** – Other Family Homicide
- State** – Entire State

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 1: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia, 1999 – 2003*

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	84	57.5	2.3	82	55.4	2.3	68	52.3	1.9	66	52.8	1.8	60	45.8	1.6
Male	62	42.5	1.8	66	44.6	1.9	62	47.7	1.8	59	47.2	1.6	71	54.2	2.0
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	77	52.7	1.5	78	52.7	1.5	72	55.4	1.4	52	41.6	1.0	57	43.5	1.1
Black	59	40.4	4.1	61	41.2	4.3	53	40.8	3.6	63	50.4	4.3	61	46.6	4.1
Hispanic	6	4.1	1.8	5	3.4	1.5	3	2.3	0.8	6	4.8	1.6	9	6.9	2.3
Other	4	2.7	1.1	4	2.7	1.1	2	1.5	0.5	4	3.2	1.0	4	3.1	1.0
AGE															
<1	13	8.9	14.2	9	6.1	9.7	12	9.2	11.9	9	7.2	8.9	11	8.4	10.9
1-4	13	8.9	3.6	9	6.1	2.4	9	6.9	2.4	7	5.6	1.8	6	4.6	1.6
5-14	5	3.4	0.5	6	4.1	0.6	5	3.8	0.5	7	5.6	0.7	9	6.9	0.9
15-24	14	9.6	1.5	18	12.2	1.9	17	13.1	1.7	24	19.2	2.4	24	18.3	2.4
25-34	30	20.5	2.9	29	19.6	2.8	28	21.5	2.7	25	20.0	2.4	20	15.3	1.9
35-44	36	24.7	3.0	34	23.0	2.8	28	21.5	2.3	30	24.0	2.5	31	23.7	2.6
45-54	12	8.2	1.2	22	14.9	2.2	16	12.3	1.5	10	8.0	1.0	16	12.2	1.5
55-64	9	6.2	1.4	9	6.1	1.4	4	3.1	0.6	5	4.0	0.7	4	3.1	0.6
>64	14	9.6	1.8	12	8.1	1.5	11	8.5	1.4	8	6.4	1.0	10	7.6	1.2
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	74	50.7	--	88	59.5	--	69	53.1	--	71	56.8	--	76	58.0	--
Sharp Instrument	29	19.9	--	22	14.9	--	18	13.8	--	14	11.2	--	22	16.8	--
Personal Weapon	15	10.3	--	20	13.5	--	18	13.8	--	7	5.6	--	14	10.7	--
Blunt Instrument	9	6.2	--	3	2.0	--	6	4.6	--	12	9.6	--	2	1.5	--
Strangle/Choke	6	4.1	--	4	2.7	--	6	4.6	--	10	8	--	4	3.1	--
Motor Vehicle	1	0.7	--	2	1.4	--	0	0.0	--	0	0	--	1	0.8	--
Push/ Slam/ Throw to Ground/Wall***	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drown	2	1.4	--	0	0.0	--	1	0.8	--	5	4	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	1	0.7	--	1	0.7	--	2	1.5	--	0	0	--	4	3.1	--
Smother/Suffocate	1	0.7	--	4	2.7	--	4	3.1	--	4	3.2	--	2	1.5	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	1	0.7	--	1	0.7	--	2	1.5	--	0	0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	7	4.8	--	3	2.0	--	4	3.1	--	2	1.6	--	6	4.6	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0	--	0	0.0	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	52	35.6	2.8	50	33.8	2.7	41	31.5	2.2	34	27.2	1.8	49	37.4	2.6
Northern	27	18.5	1.3	25	16.9	1.2	20	15.4	0.9	23	18.4	1.0	24	18.3	1.1
Tidewater	34	23.3	2.2	29	19.6	1.9	28	21.5	1.8	34	27.2	2.2	30	22.9	1.9
Western	33	22.6	2.1	44	29.7	2.8	41	31.5	2.6	34	27.2	2.2	28	21.4	1.8
TYPE OF HOMICIDE															
Intimate Partner under 18	1	0.7	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	3	2.3	0.2
Intimate Partner 18 and over	71	48.6	1.3	85	57.4	1.6	68	52.3	1.3	63	50.4	1.1	54	41.2	1.0
Intimate Partner Associated	18	12.3	0.3	15	10.1	0.2	20	15.4	0.3	20	16.0	0.3	32	24.4	0.4
Child by Caregiver	32	21.9	1.8	24	16.2	1.4	25	19.2	1.4	24	19.2	1.3	20	15.3	1.1
Elder by Caregiver	1	0.7	0.1	3	2.0	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.8	0.1	1	0.8	0.1
Other Family	23	15.8	0.3	21	14.2	0.3	17	13.1	0.2	17	13.6	0.2	21	16.0	0.3
Family Associated****	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTAL	146	100	2.1	148	100	2.1	130	100	1.8	125	100	1.7	131	100	1.8

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

****In 2004, "Family Associated" was added as a type of homicide.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 2: Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia, 2004 - 2008

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
SEX															
Female	76	56.3	2.0	72	48.6	1.9	62	43.4	1.6	61	48.4	1.6	77	51.7	1.9
Male	59	43.7	1.6	75	50.7	2.0	81	56.6	2.2	65	51.6	1.7	72	48.3	1.9
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	61	45.2	1.1	73	49.3	1.3	62	43.4	1.1	52	41.3	0.9	75	50.3	1.3
Black	61	45.2	4.0	63	42.6	4.1	70	49.0	4.5	58	46.0	3.7	70	47.0	4.4
Hispanic	6	4.4	1.4	7	4.7	1.5	9	6.3	1.9	12	9.5	2.4	4	2.7	0.8
Other	7	5.2	1.8	5	3.4	1.2	2	1.4	0.5	4	3.2	0.9	4	2.7	0.9
AGE															
<1	4	3.0	4.0	8	5.4	7.6	15	10.5	14.5	7	5.6	6.6	10	6.7	9.3
1-4	12	8.9	3.0	10	6.8	2.5	8	5.6	2.0	5	4.0	1.2	6	4.0	1.4
5-14	7	5.2	0.7	5	3.4	0.5	4	2.8	0.4	5	4.0	0.5	3	2.0	0.3
15-24	23	17.0	2.2	20	13.5	1.9	21	14.7	2.0	21	16.7	1.9	34	22.8	3.1
25-34	24	17.8	2.4	25	16.9	2.5	23	16.1	2.2	23	18.3	2.2	24	16.1	2.3
35-44	29	21.5	2.5	36	24.3	3.1	29	20.3	2.5	26	20.6	2.2	25	16.8	2.2
45-54	13	9.6	1.2	20	13.5	1.8	22	15.4	1.9	12	9.5	1.0	22	14.8	1.9
55-64	9	6.7	1.2	11	7.4	1.3	13	9.1	1.6	17	13.5	2.0	14	9.4	1.6
>64	14	10.4	1.7	13	8.8	1.5	8	5.6	0.9	10	7.9	1.1	11	7.4	1.2
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	79	58.5	--	80	54.4	--	82	57.3	--	75	59.5	--	74	49.7	--
Sharp Instrument	22	16.3	--	30	20.4	--	29	20.3	--	22	17.5	--	36	24.2	--
Personal Weapon	14	10.4	--	18	12.2	--	9	6.3	--	10	7.9	--	15	10.1	--
Blunt Instrument	4	3.0	--	8	5.4	--	7	4.9	--	9	7.1	--	11	7.4	--
Strangle/Choke	6	4.4	--	8	5.4	--	3	2.1	--	5	4.0	--	10	6.7	--
Motor Vehicle	1	0.7	--	1	0.7	--	0	0.0	--	2	1.6	--	1	0.7	--
Push/ Slam/ Throw to Ground/Wall***	3	2.2	--	1	0.7	--	0	0.0	--	1	0.8	--	1	0.7	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	3	2.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	0.8	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	2	1.5	--	0	0.0	--	1	0.7	--	2	1.6	--	2	1.3	--
Smother/Suffocate	1	0.7	--	0	0.0	--	9	6.3	--	2	1.6	--	1	0.7	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	1	0.7	--	0	0.0	--	2	1.4	--	1	0.8	--	0	0.0	--
Other	2	1.5	--	5	3.4	--	3	2.1	--	1	0.8	--	3	2.0	--
Unknown	2	1.5	--	1	0.7	--	2	1.4	--	1	0.8	--	1	0.7	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	48	35.6	2.4	48	32.4	2.4	33	23.1	1.6	42	33.3	2.0	62	41.6	3.0
Northern	15	11.1	0.6	23	15.5	1.0	33	23.1	1.4	21	16.7	0.9	23	15.4	0.9
Tidewater	39	28.9	2.5	34	23.0	2.2	44	30.8	2.9	31	24.6	2.0	21	14.1	1.3
Western	33	24.4	2.1	43	29.1	2.7	33	23.1	2.1	32	25.4	2.0	43	28.9	2.7
TYPE OF HOMICIDE															
Intimate Partner under 18	1	0.7	0.1	2	1.4	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.8	0.1	0	0.0	0.0
Intimate Partner 18 and over	61	45.2	1.1	67	45.3	1.2	49	34.3	0.8	51	40.5	0.9	58	38.9	1.0
Intimate Partner Associated	27	20.0	0.4	35	23.6	0.5	48	33.6	0.6	41	32.5	0.5	41	27.5	0.5
Child by Caregiver	18	13.3	1.0	20	13.5	1.1	18	12.6	1.0	11	8.7	0.6	15	10.1	0.8
Elder by Caregiver	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.7	0.1	2	1.4	0.1	1	0.8	0.1	0	0.0	0.0
Other Family	24	17.8	0.3	22	14.9	0.3	24	16.8	0.3	20	15.9	0.3	29	19.5	0.4
Family Associated****	4	3.0	0.1	1	0.7	<0.1	2	1.4	<0.1	1	0.8	<0.1	6	4.0	0.1
TOTAL	135	100	1.8	148	100	2.0	143	100.0	1.9	126	100.0	1.6	149	100.0	1.9

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

****In 2004, "Family Associated" was added as a type of homicide.

Intimate Partner Homicide

Intimate partner homicide (IPH) victims were victims who were killed by a current or former spouse, current or former boyfriend or girlfriend (includes same-sex), or current or former dating partner. There were **633** intimate partner homicide deaths during the study period.

Ten years of data reveal the following:

- Intimate partner homicide was the most frequently occurring type of FIP homicide for each year of the study. Overall, an intimate partner was responsible for almost one out of every two FIP homicides (45.8%).
- During the study period, the number of intimate partner homicide victims per year varied from a low of 49 in 2006 to a high of 83 in 2000. However, over the ten-year period, the number of intimate partner homicides and the rate of intimate partner homicide showed a net decrease.
- Gender had an impact on a person's risk for intimate partner homicide. For each year of the study, females comprised three out of four of the victims (75.7%). In addition, males were the most frequently reported alleged offenders (77.0%).
- Racial/Ethnic patterns were present. Black Virginians were at significantly greater risk than White Virginians for each year of the study period.
- Location was important. More than one in three IPH deaths (34.8%) occurred in the Central OCME District. The Northern OCME District had the lowest IPH rate for nine of the ten years of the study.
- Most victims were killed with a firearm (60.5%) and while in a residence (82.3%).
- Adult IPH victims ranged from 18 to 87 years of age. There were eight victims under 18 years of age who were killed by their intimate partner. These victims ranged from 13 to 17 years of age.
- The mean age of victim was 38.84 ($SD = 14.76$) years; the mean age of alleged offender was 40.27 ($SD = 14.42$) years.
- Almost one in three events (32.4%) had more than one death associated with the homicide event. The manner of death could have been homicide or suicide. An example of this is a case in which an alleged offender kills his or her intimate partner and the intimate partner's children. Further, more than one in four victims (28.3%) was killed during a homicide-suicide event in which an alleged offender killed the victim and then took his or her own life within seven days.
- Alcohol may have been a contributor to the event. Almost one in three decedents (30.2%) and more than one in ten alleged offenders (12.6%) had a positive blood alcohol level at the time of the fatal event.¹
- At the time of the fatal injury, most victims were in a current relationship with the alleged offender as either the boy/girlfriend (39.0%) or spouse (41.0%).

¹ Data on alcohol use was not available for all alleged offenders; thus the percentage of alcohol use by alleged offenders is probably underreported.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 8: Number of Intimate Partner Homicide Deaths in Virginia, 1999 - 2008

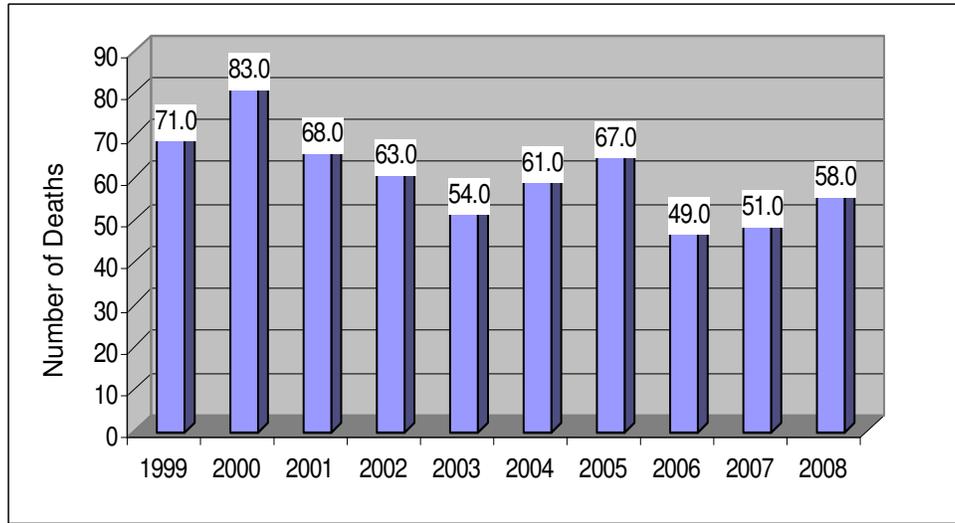
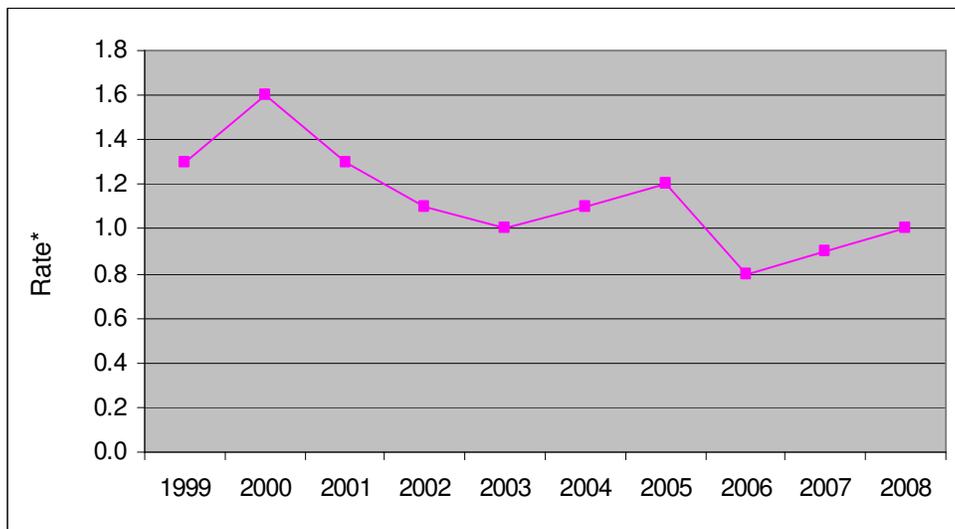


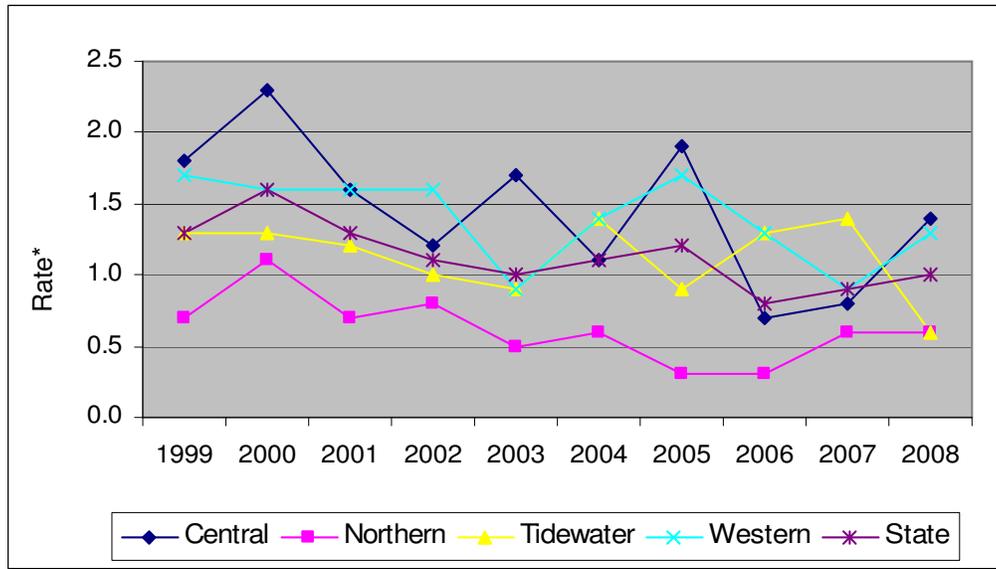
Figure 9: Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

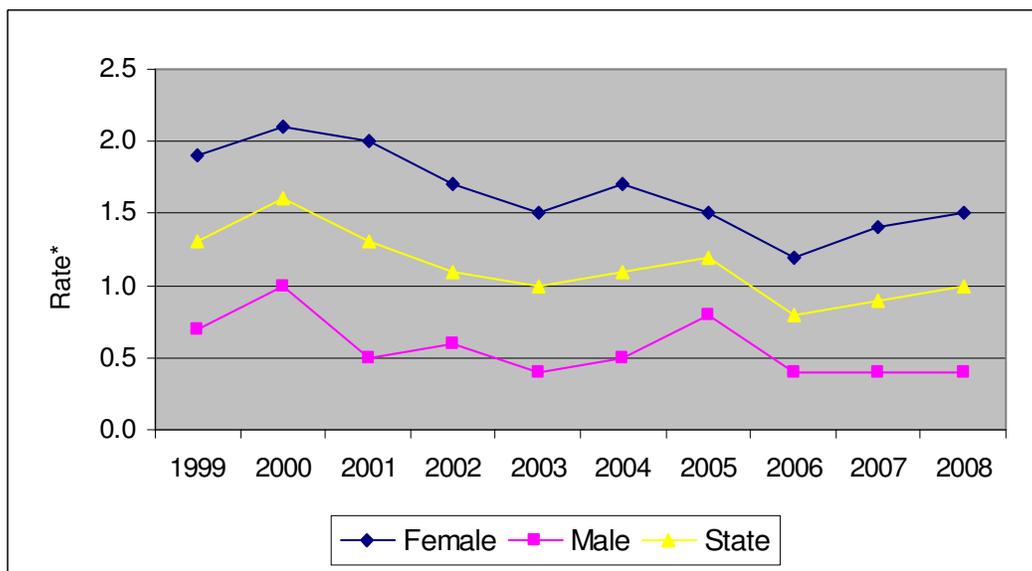
INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 10: Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia by OCME District, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

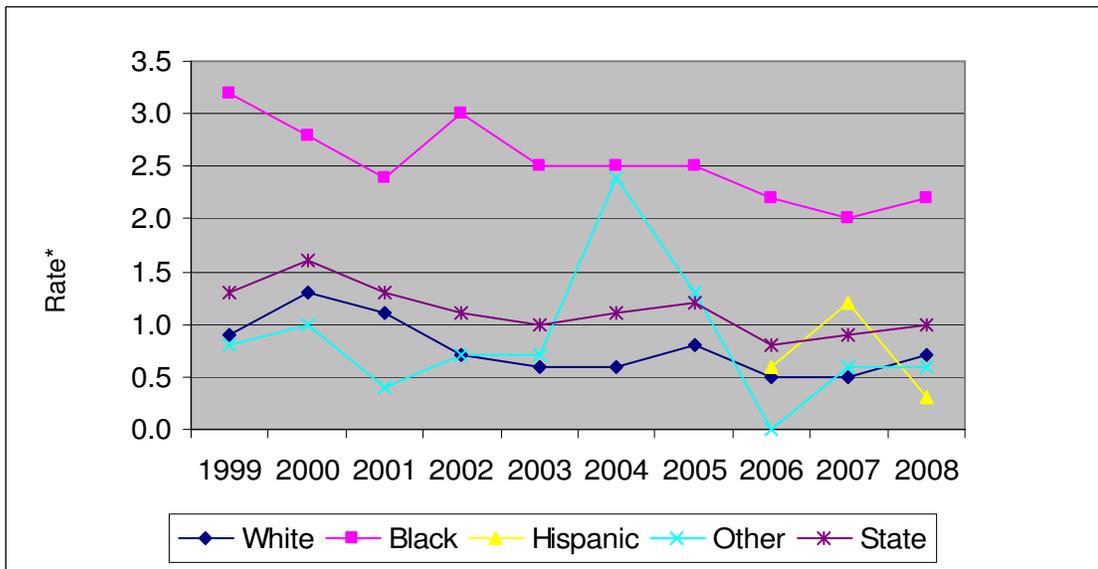
Figure 11: Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia by Gender, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

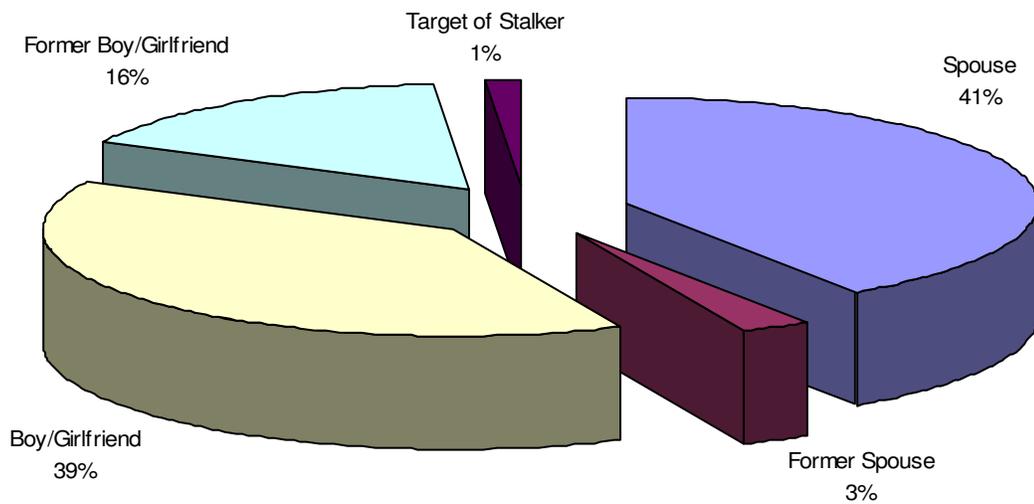
INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 12: Intimate Partner Homicide Rate in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

Figure 1: Relationship of the Alleged Offender to the Victim for Intimate Partner Homicides in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 2: Gender of Intimate Partner Homicide Victims in Virginia, 1999 - 2008

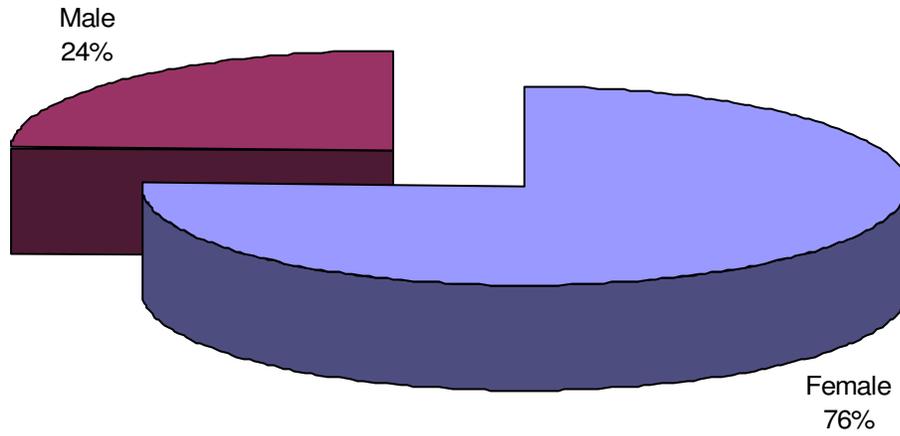
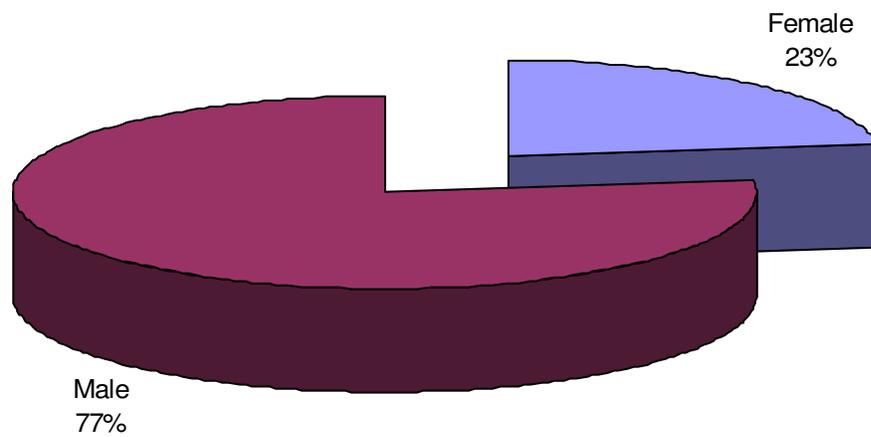


Figure 3: Gender of Intimate Partner Homicide Alleged Offenders in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 3: Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia, 1999 - 2003

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	52	73.2	1.9	58	69.9	2.1	55	80.9	2.0	47	74.6	1.7	42	77.8	1.5
Male	19	26.8	0.7	25	30.1	1.0	13	19.1	0.5	16	25.4	0.6	12	22.2	0.4
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	35	49.3	0.9	50	60.2	1.3	42	61.8	1.1	28	44.4	0.7	24	44.4	0.6
Black	32	45.1	3.2	28	33.7	2.8	24	35.3	2.4	31	49.2	3.0	26	48.1	2.5
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	4	5.6	0.8	5	6.0	1.0	2	2.9	0.4	4	6.3	0.7	4	7.4	0.7
AGE															
18-24	6	8.5	0.9	11	13.3	1.6	12	17.6	1.7	18	28.6	2.5	12	22.2	1.7
25-34	20	28.2	1.9	21	25.3	2.0	18	26.5	1.7	12	19.0	1.2	7	13.0	0.7
35-44	27	38.0	2.2	24	28.9	2.0	19	27.9	1.6	21	33.3	1.8	20	37.0	1.7
45-54	9	12.7	0.9	16	19.3	1.6	10	14.7	1.0	6	9.5	0.6	9	16.7	0.9
55-64	4	5.6	0.6	6	7.2	0.9	2	2.9	0.3	3	4.8	0.4	3	5.6	0.4
>64	5	7.0	0.6	5	6.0	0.6	7	10.3	0.9	3	4.8	0.4	3	5.6	0.4
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	42	59.2	--	50	60.2	--	46	67.6	--	39	61.9	--	34	63.0	--
Sharp Instrument	18	25.4	--	18	21.7	--	6	8.8	--	10	15.9	--	11	20.4	--
Personal Weapon	1	1.4	--	1	1.2	--	1	1.5	--	0	0.0	--	3	5.6	--
Blunt Instrument	3	4.2	--	2	2.4	--	5	7.4	--	5	7.9	--	1	1.9	--
Strangle/Choke	5	7.0	--	4	4.8	--	6	8.8	--	8	12.7	--	2	3.7	--
Motor Vehicle	1	1.4	--	2	2.4	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	1.9	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	1.5	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	--	1	1.2	--	1	1.5	--	0	0.0	--	1	1.9	--
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	--	3	3.6	--	1	1.5	--	1	1.6	--	1	1.9	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	--	1	1.2	--	1	1.5	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	1	1.4	--	1	1.2	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	25	35.2	1.8	32	38.6	2.3	23	33.8	1.6	18	28.6	1.2	25	46.3	1.7
Northern	11	15.5	0.7	17	20.5	1.1	11	16.2	0.7	13	20.6	0.8	8	14.8	0.5
Tidewater	14	19.7	1.3	15	18.1	1.3	14	20.6	1.2	12	19.0	1.0	10	18.5	0.9
Western	21	29.6	1.7	19	22.9	1.6	20	29.4	1.6	20	31.7	1.6	11	20.4	0.9

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 3: Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia, 1999 - 2003

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER															
Spouse	30	42.3	--	31	36.5	--	32	47.1	--	26	41.3	--	21	38.9	--
Ex-Spouse	2	2.8	--	5	5.9	--	1	1.5	--	2	3.2	--	1	1.9	--
Boy/Girlfriend****	29	40.8	--	38	44.7	--	22	32.4	--	21	33.3	--	20	37.0	--
Ex-Boy/Girlfriend****	8	11.3	--	7	8.2	--	11	16.2	--	11	17.5	--	11	20.4	--
Other	2	2.8	--	2	2.4	--	2	2.9	--	3	4.8	--	1	1.9	--
TOTAL	71	100.0	1.3	83	100.0	1.6	68	100.0	1.3	63	100.0	1.1	54	100.0	1.0

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

****This category also includes same-sex partners.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 4: Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia, 2004 - 2008

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	48	78.7	1.7	45	67.2	1.5	37	75.5	1.2	41	80.4	1.4	46	79.3	1.5
Male	13	21.3	0.5	22	32.8	0.8	12	24.5	0.4	10	19.6	0.4	12	23.5	0.4
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	27	44.3	0.6	36	53.7	0.8	22	44.9	0.5	22	43.1	0.5	31	53.4	0.7
Black	27	44.3	2.5	27	40.3	2.5	25	51.0	2.2	23	45.1	2.0	25	43.1	2.2
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	4.1	0.6	4	7.8	1.2	1	1.7	0.3
Other	7	11.5	2.4	4	6.0	1.3	0	0.0	0.0	2	3.9	0.6	2	3.4	0.6
AGE															
18-24	10	16.4	1.3	12	17.9	1.6	8	16.3	1.1	8	15.7	1.1	14	24.1	1.8
25-34	15	24.6	1.5	14	20.9	1.4	10	20.4	1.0	9	17.6	0.9	12	20.7	1.1
35-44	18	29.5	1.5	18	26.9	1.5	16	32.7	1.4	16	31.4	1.4	14	24.1	1.2
45-54	7	11.5	0.6	11	16.4	1.0	9	18.4	0.8	9	17.6	0.8	9	15.5	0.8
55-64	4	6.6	0.5	5	7.5	0.6	4	8.2	0.5	6	11.8	0.7	7	12.1	0.8
>64	7	11.5	0.8	7	10.4	0.8	2	4.1	0.2	3	5.9	0.3	2	3.4	0.2
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	38	62.3	--	40	58.0	--	32	65.3	--	29	56.9	--	29	50.0	--
Sharp Instrument	13	21.3	--	17	24.6	--	11	22.4	--	10	19.6	--	18	31.0	--
Personal Weapon	1	1.6	--	4	5.8	--	1	2.0	--	2	3.9	--	1	1.7	--
Blunt Instrument	1	1.6	--	3	4.3	--	1	2.0	--	3	5.9	--	5	8.6	--
Strangle/Choke	2	3.3	--	5	7.2	--	1	2.0	--	4	7.8	--	6	10.3	--
Motor Vehicle	1	1.6	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	1	1.6	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	2.0	--	0	0.0	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	2	2.9	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	1	1.6	--	0	0.0	--	1	2.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	3.4	--
Smother/Suffocate	1	1.6	--	0	0.0	--	2	4.1	--	2	3.9	--	0	0.0	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	1	1.6	--	1	1.4	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	1.7	--
Unknown	1	1.6	--	1	1.4	--	0	0.0	--	1	2.0	--	0	0.0	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	17	27.9	1.1	29	43.3	1.9	12	24.5	0.7	13	25.5	0.8	23	39.7	1.4
Northern	10	16.4	0.6	6	9.0	0.3	6	12.2	0.3	11	21.6	0.6	11	19.0	0.6
Tidewater	16	26.2	1.4	11	16.4	0.9	15	30.6	1.3	16	31.4	1.4	7	12.1	0.6
Western	18	29.5	1.4	21	31.3	1.7	16	32.7	1.3	11	21.6	0.9	17	29.3	1.3

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 4: Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia, 2004 - 2008

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate												
RELATIONSHIP OF DECEDENT TO ALLEGED OFFENDER															
Spouse	26	42.6	--	28	41.8	--	19	38.8	--	21	41.2	--	20	34.5	--
Ex-Spouse	1	1.6	--	1	1.5	--	2	4.1	--	2	3.9	--	1	1.7	--
Boy/Girlfriend****	21	34.4	--	28	41.8	--	18	36.7	--	19	37.3	--	24	41.4	--
Ex-Boy/Girlfriend****	13	21.3	--	9	13.4	--	8	16.3	--	8	15.7	--	13	22.4	--
Other	0	0.0	--	1	1.5	--	2	4.1	--	1	2.0	--	0	0.0	--
TOTAL	61	100.0	1.1	67	100.0	1.2	49	100.0	0.8	51	100.0	0.9	58	100.0	1.0

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

****This category also includes same-sex partners.

UNDERSTANDING RISK: INTIMATE PARTNER RISK FACTORS

Understanding Risk: Intimate Partner Homicide Risk Factors

Risk factors are those situations or behaviors that increase the probability of IP homicide. Understanding the level of risk associated with certain situations and behaviors is important in 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.

Ten year's worth of data reveal the following:

- Of the 633 cases, three out of four ($N = 475$, 75.0%) had at least one risk factor present.
- Among those with at least one risk factor, the most common was a history of abuse (59.2%), followed by the termination of a relationship (53.1%) and threats of harm (32.6%).

TABLE 5. BEHAVIORS PRESENT IN VIRGINIA INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO HOMICIDE ($N = 475$), 1999 - 2008*

	No.	%
The perpetrator of abuse...		
Threatened to harm victim's family member or friend	155	32.6
Stalked the abuse victim	62	13.1
Destroyed the intimate partner's property	44	9.3
Received medical treatment for injuries received from intimate partner	28	5.9
Harmed intimate partner or family's pet	6	1.3

*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.

TABLE 6. EVENTS PRESENT IN VIRGINIA INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO HOMICIDE ($N = 475$), 1999 - 2008*

	No.	%
Intimate partner relationship had a history of physical abuse	281	59.2
The relationship had ended or was ending**	252	53.1
There was evidence that 911 calls regarding domestic violence had been placed	116	24.4
A protective order was obtained by an intimate partner (either abuse victim or abuser)	63	13.3

*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.

**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.

Intimate Partner Associated Homicide

The category intimate partner associated homicide (IPA) 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 the relationship. There were **300** intimate partner associated homicide deaths during the study period.

Ten year’s worth of data reveal the following:

- During the study period, the number of IPA homicide victims per year varied from a low of 17 deaths in 2000 to a high of 48 deaths in 2006. However, over the ten-year period, the number of IPA homicides and the rate of IPA homicide showed a net increase.
- Gender had an impact on a person’s risk for IPA homicide. During each of the study years, males had a greater risk of becoming an IPA homicide victim than females. Males were also more likely to be alleged offenders in these types of events.
- Location was important when evaluating risk for IPA homicide. Many of the IPA fatalities that occurred between 1999 and 2008 occurred in the Central OCME District (35.0%). This District also had the highest rate for five of the ten years of the study.
- Infants were the most vulnerable group for IPA homicide. The rate for infants was the highest among all age groups for each year of the study.
- Racial/Ethnic group was relevant. Black Virginians were at significantly greater risk than White Virginians for each year during the study period.
- Most victims were killed by a firearm (73.0%) and while in a residence (68.0%).
- Victims ranged from infant to 89 years of age. The average age of victim was 33.51 ($SD = 15.76$) years with half of victims being 31 years of age or less.
- Others were impacted by the event. In one out of five cases, a child was exposed to the fatal event (20.0%). Also, one in ten events occurred in a store or business (10.3%). This location was public and means that others may have witnessed or been involved in the event.

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Figure 16: Number of Intimate Partner Associated Homicide Deaths in Virginia, 1999 - 2008

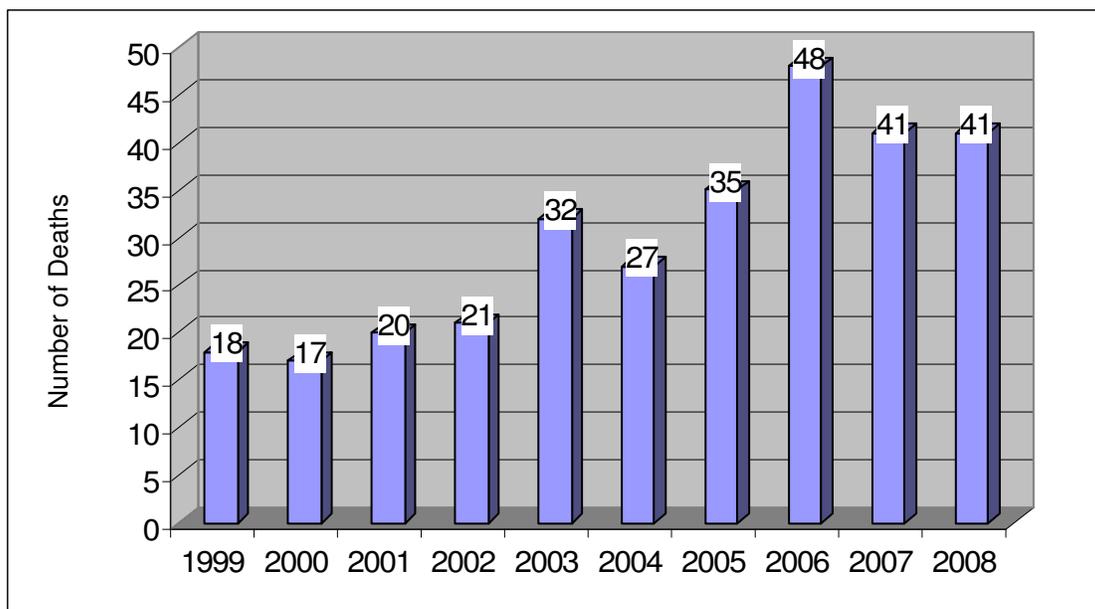
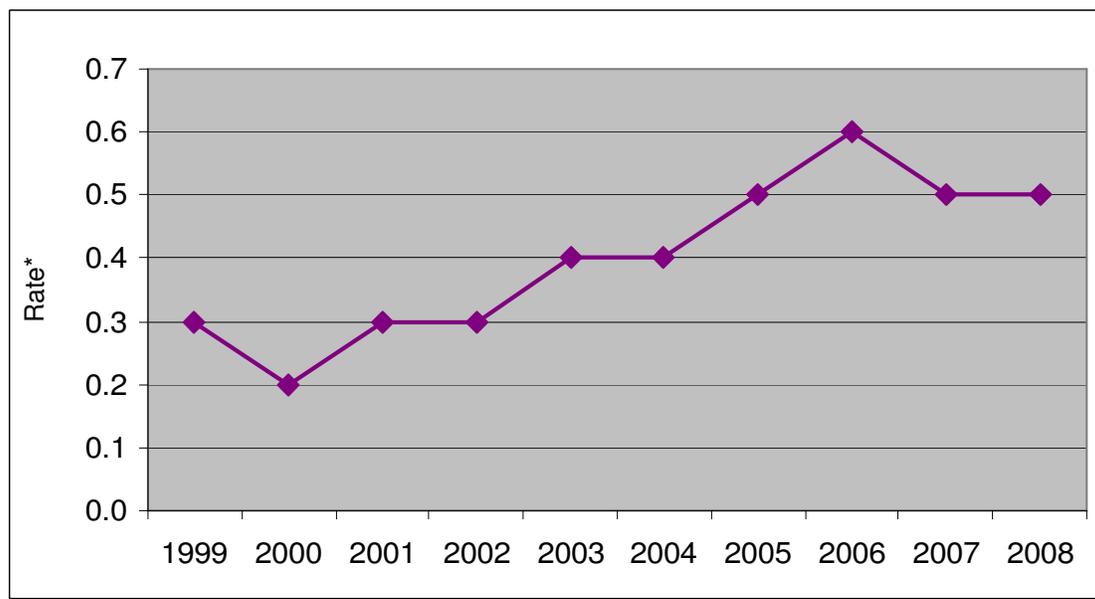


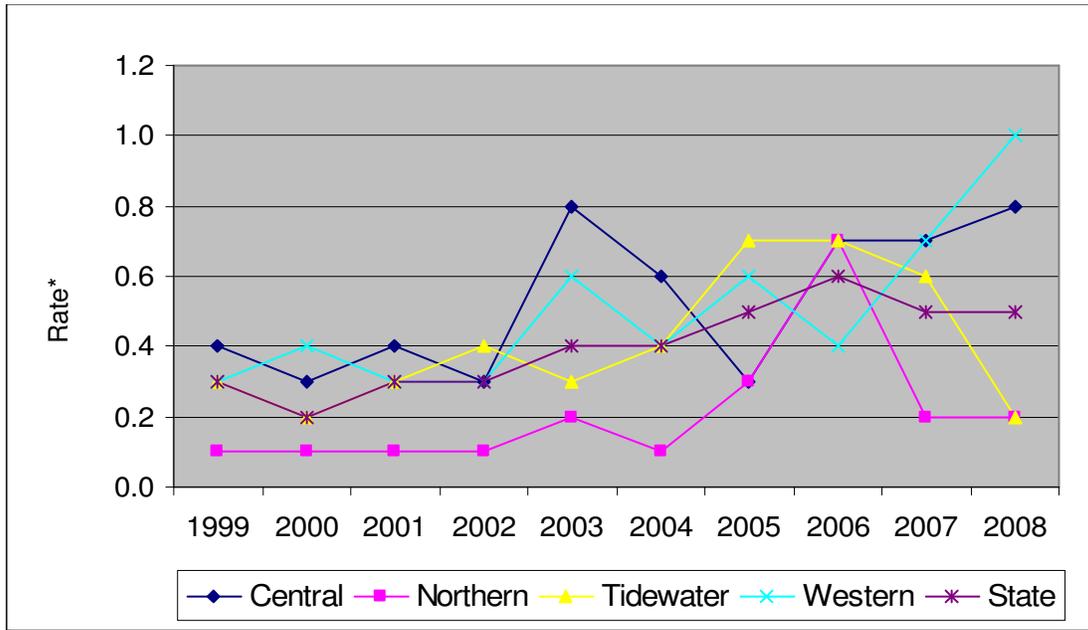
Figure 17: Intimate Partner Associated Homicide Rate in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

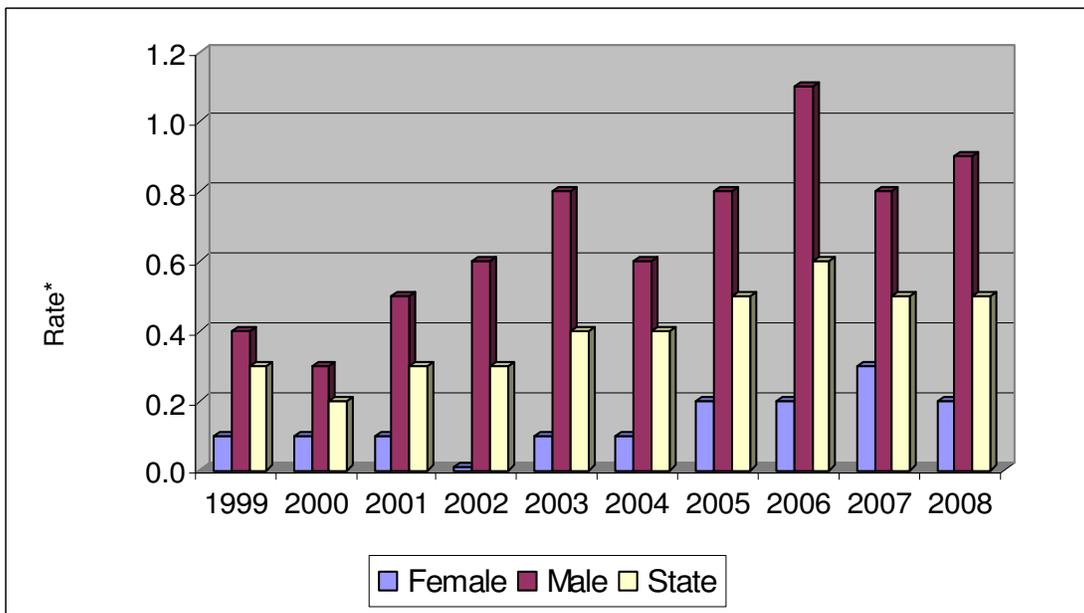
INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Figure 18: Intimate Partner Associated Homicide Rate by Virginia OCME District, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

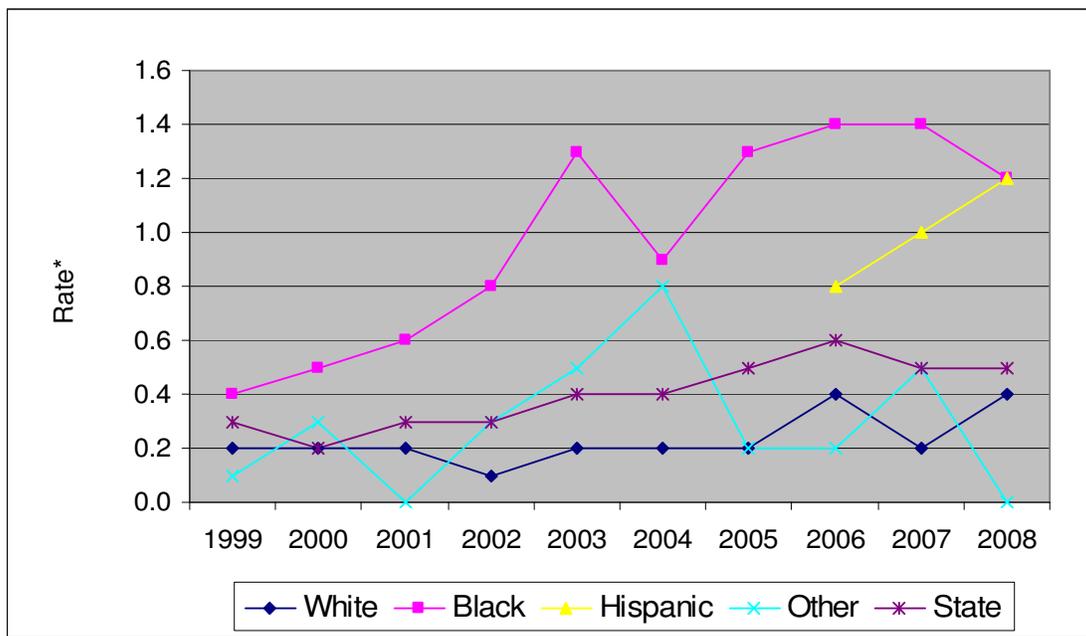
Figure 19: Intimate Partner Associated Homicide Rate in Virginia by Gender, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Figure 4: Intimate Partner Associated Homicide Rate in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Table 7. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA, 1999 - 2003*

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	5	27.8	0.1	5	29.4	0.1	4	20.0	0.1	1	4.8	<.01	4	12.5	0.1
Male	13	72.2	0.4	12	70.6	0.3	16	80.0	0.5	20	95.2	0.6	28	87.5	0.8
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	11	61.1	0.2	8	47.1	0.2	11	55.0	0.2	7	33.3	0.1	9	28.1	0.2
Black	6	33.3	0.4	7	41.2	0.5	9	45.0	0.6	12	57.1	0.8	19	59.4	1.3
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1	5.6	0.1	2	11.8	0.3	0	0.0	0.0	2	9.5	0.3	4	12.5	0.5
AGE															
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-14	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	4	12.5	0.4
15-24	3	16.7	0.3	2	11.8	0.2	2	10.0	0.2	5	23.8	0.5	8	25.0	0.8
25-34	7	38.9	0.7	5	29.4	0.5	6	30.0	0.6	9	42.9	0.9	10	31.3	1.0
35-44	6	33.3	0.5	6	35.3	0.5	7	35.0	0.6	3	14.3	0.3	6	18.8	0.5
45-54	1	5.6	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	4	20.0	0.4	2	9.5	0.2	2	6.3	0.2
55-64	1	5.6	0.2	1	5.9	0.2	1	5.0	0.2	1	4.8	0.1	0	0.0	0.0
>64	0	0.0	0.0	3	17.6	0.4	0	0.0	0.0	1	4.8	0.1	2	6.3	0.2
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	14	77.8	--	15	88.2	--	15	75.0	--	17	81.0	--	21	65.6	--
Sharp Instrument	3	16.7	--	1	5.9	--	5	25.0	--	2	9.5	--	6	18.8	--
Personal Weapon	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Blunt Instrument	1	5.6	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	9.5	--	1	3.1	--
Strangle/Choke	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	3.1	--
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	3	9.4	--
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	0	0.0	--	1	5.9	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Table 7. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA, 1999 - 2003*

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	7	38.9	0.4	5	29.4	0.3	8	40.0	0.4	6	28.6	0.3	15	46.9	0.8
Northern	2	11.1	0.1	2	11.8	0.1	2	10.0	0.1	3	14.3	0.1	4	12.5	0.2
Tidewater	5	27.8	0.3	3	17.6	0.2	5	25.0	0.3	7	33.3	0.4	4	12.5	0.3
Western	4	22.2	0.3	7	41.2	0.4	5	25.0	0.3	5	23.8	0.3	9	28.1	0.6
TOTAL	18	100.0	0.3	17	100.0	0.2	20	100.0	0.3	21	100.0	0.3	32	100.0	0.4

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Table 8. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA, 2004 - 2008*

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	4	14.8	0.1	7	20.0	0.2	8	16.7	0.2	10	24.4	0.3	6	14.6	0.2
Male	23	85.2	0.6	28	80.0	0.8	40	83.3	1.1	31	75.6	0.8	35	85.4	0.9
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	10	37.0	0.2	14	40.0	0.2	21	43.8	0.4	12	29.3	0.2	22	53.7	0.4
Black	14	51.9	0.9	20	57.1	1.3	22	45.8	1.4	22	53.7	1.4	19	46.3	1.2
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	8.3	0.8	5	12.2	1.0	2	4.9	1.2
Other	3	11.1	0.8	1	2.9	0.2	1	2.1	0.2	2	4.9	0.5	0	0.0	0.0
AGE															
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	2.1	1.0	1	2.4	0.9	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	3	11.1	0.8	1	2.9	0.2	3	6.3	0.7	0	0.0	0.0	2	4.9	0.5
5-14	2	7.4	0.2	1	2.9	0.1	2	4.2	0.2	4	9.8	0.4	0	0.0	0.0
15-24	7	25.9	0.7	4	11.4	0.4	11	22.9	1.0	10	24.4	0.9	12	29.3	1.1
25-34	7	25.9	0.7	7	20.0	0.7	11	22.9	1.1	13	31.7	1.2	11	26.8	1.0
35-44	4	14.8	0.3	12	34.3	1.0	8	16.7	0.7	4	9.8	0.3	6	14.6	0.5
45-54	3	11.1	0.3	5	14.3	0.4	9	18.8	0.8	2	4.9	0.2	5	12.2	0.4
55-64	0	0.0	0.0	3	8.6	0.4	3	6.3	0.4	5	12.2	0.6	2	4.9	0.2
>64	1	3.7	0.1	2	5.7	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	2	4.9	0.2	3	7.3	0.3
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	19	70.4	--	27	73.0	--	35	72.9	--	30	73.2	--	28	68.3	--
Sharp Instrument	5	18.5	--	5	13.5	--	7	14.6	--	6	14.6	--	9	22.0	--
Personal Weapon	1	3.7	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	2.4	--	1	2.4	--
Blunt Instrument	1	3.7	--	3	8.1	--	3	6.3	--	1	2.4	--	2	4.9	--
Strangle/Choke	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	2.1	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	--	1	2.7	--	0	0.0	--	1	2.4	--	1	2.4	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	1	3.7	--	1	2.7	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	1	3.7	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	4.9	--	0	0.0	--
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	3	6.3	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Table 8. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA, 2004 - 2008*

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate												
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	11	40.7	0.6	7	20.0	0.3	14	29.2	0.7	15	36.6	0.7	17	41.5	0.8
Northern	2	7.4	0.1	7	20.0	0.3	16	33.3	0.7	5	12.2	0.2	5	12.2	0.2
Tidewater	7	25.9	0.4	11	31.4	0.7	11	22.9	0.7	10	24.4	0.6	3	7.3	0.2
Western	7	25.9	0.4	10	28.6	0.6	7	14.6	0.4	11	26.8	0.7	16	39.0	1.0
TOTAL	27	100.0	0.4	35	100.0	0.5	48	100.0	0.6	41	100.0	0.5	41	100.0	0.5

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

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. There were **206** deaths during the study period.

Ten year's worth of data reveal the following:

- The number and rate of CHC deaths decreased from 32 cases and a rate of 1.8 in 1999 to 15 cases and a rate of 0.8 in 2008.
- For six of the ten years in the study period, the Tidewater OCME District had the highest rate of CHC. Overall, 37.9% of the CHC deaths occurred in the Tidewater OCME District.
- Gender did not appear to influence the risk of CHC but race/ethnic group did appear to impact risk. Males and females had similar risk levels. However, for each year of the study, Black children were at significantly greater risk than White children. Further, almost half of all CHC victims were Black (49.0%).
- Most victims were killed by a biological, step, or adoptive parent (64.5%).
- Victims ranged from infant to 17 years of age with that average being 2.5 ($SD = 3.96$) years. The most frequently reported age group was infant (46.1%) and 72.8% of victims were 2.0 years of age or less.
- Alleged offenders ranged from 13 to 88 years of age with the average being 28.58 ($SD = 11.73$) years. Half of alleged offenders were 25 years of age or less.
- In one out of five cases, another child was present who witnessed the fatal injury (20.9%).
- Over half of all children were fatally injured by a "personal weapon" (53.9%). This may have included the alleged offender using his or her hands to shake or beat the victim.

CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

Figure 21: Number of Child Homicide by Caregiver Deaths in Virginia, 1999 - 2008

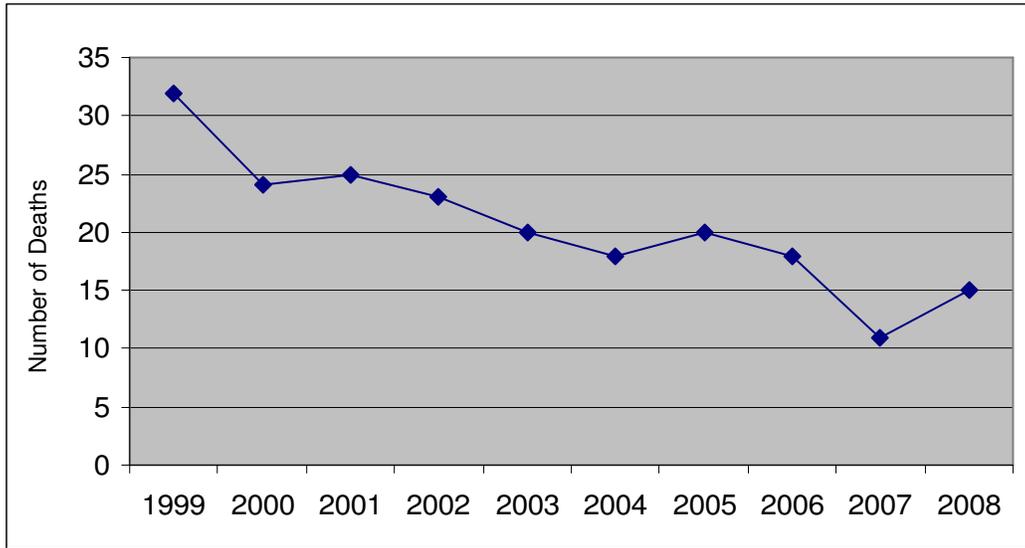
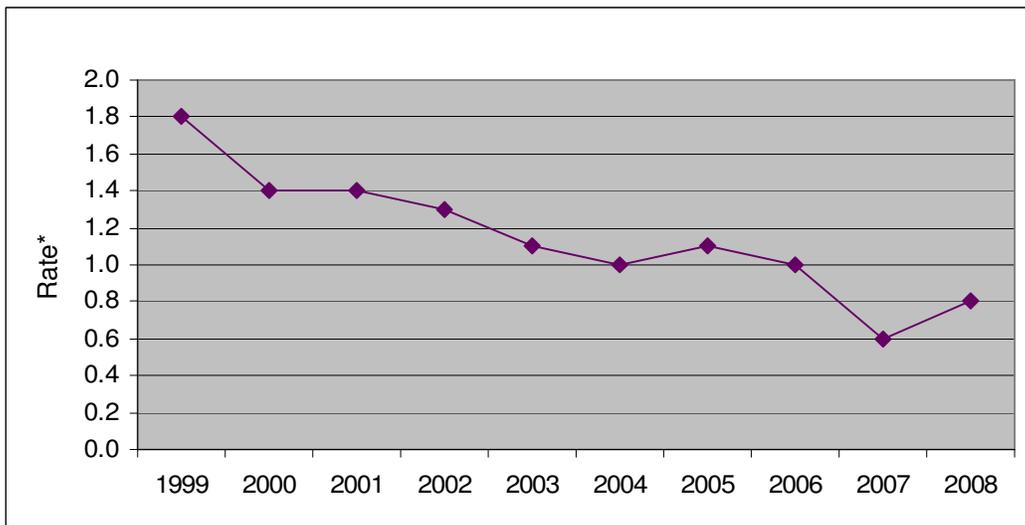


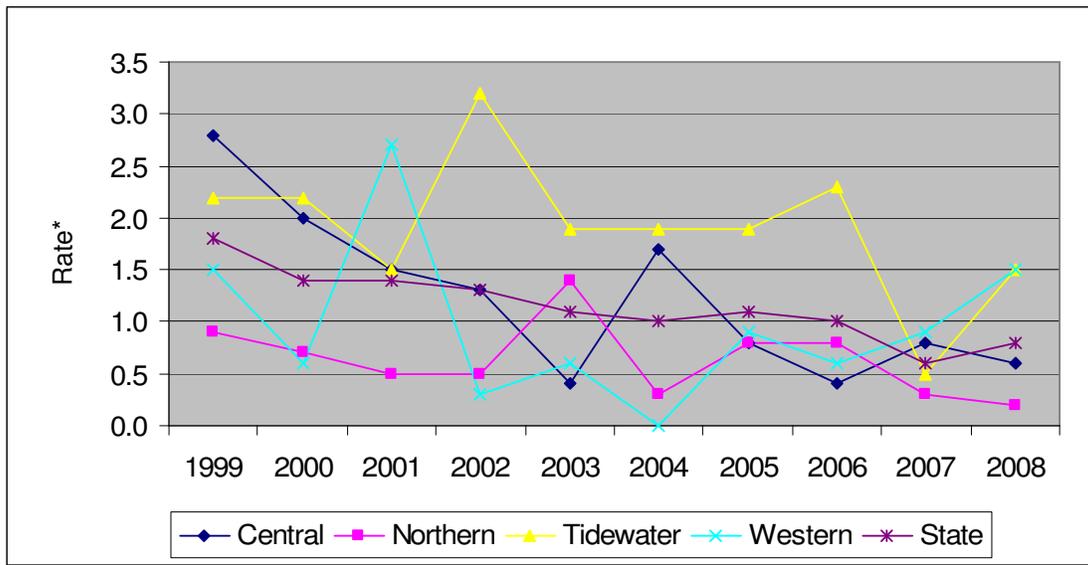
Figure 22: Child Homicide by Caregiver Rate in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

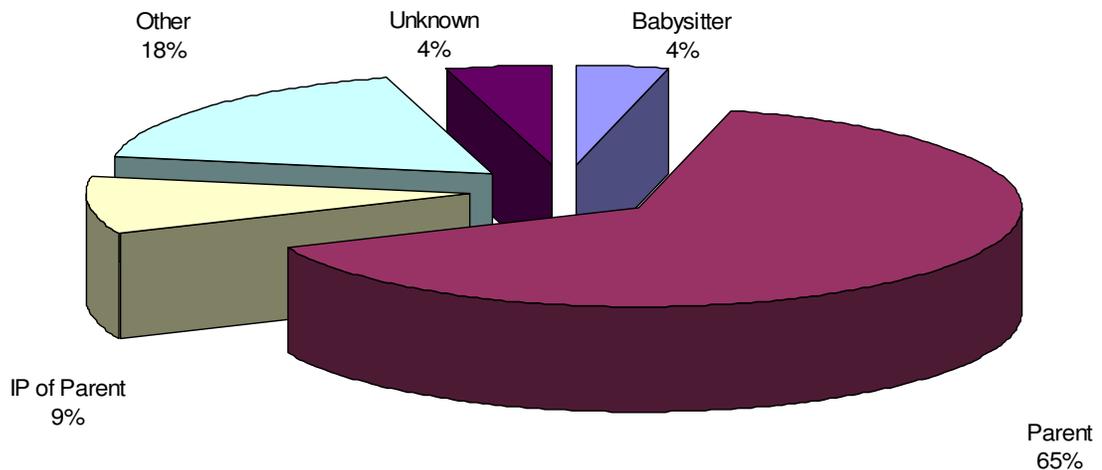
CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

Figure 23: Child Homicide by Caregiver Rate by Virginia OCME District, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

Figure 24: Relationship of Alleged Offender to Victim in Child Homicide by Caregiver Deaths in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

Table 9. CHILD HOMICIDE VICTIMS KILLED BY CAREGIVERS IN VIRGINIA, 1999 - 2003*

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	17	53.1	2.0	12	50.0	1.4	4	16.0	0.5	12	52.2	1.4	6	30.0	0.7
Male	15	46.9	1.7	12	50.0	1.3	21	84.0	2.3	11	47.8	1.2	14	70.0	1.5
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	15	46.9	1.3	9	37.5	0.8	11	44.0	0.9	7	30.4	0.6	10	50.0	0.8
Black	14	43.8	3.3	14	58.3	3.3	12	48.0	2.8	14	60.9	3.2	7	35.0	1.6
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	3	9.4	1.5	1	4.2	0.5	2	8.0	0.9	2	8.7	0.9	3	15.0	1.4
AGE															
<1	13	40.6	14.0	9	37.5	9.7	11	44.0	10.9	9	39.1	8.9	11	55.0	10.9
1-4	13	40.6	3.5	9	37.5	2.4	9	36.0	2.4	7	30.4	1.8	6	30.0	1.6
5-14	4	12.5	0.4	5	20.8	0.5	5	20.0	0.5	7	30.4	0.7	3	15.0	0.3
15-17	2	6.3	0.7	1	4.2	0.4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	4	12.5	--	6	25.0	--	2	8.0	--	6	26.1	--	3	15.0	--
Sharp Instrument	3	9.4	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Personal Weapon	14	43.8	--	16	66.7	--	17	68.0	--	7	30.4	--	11	55.0	--
Blunt Instrument	1	3.1	--	1	4.2	--	0	0.0	--	1	4.3	--	0	0.0	--
Strangle/Choke	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drown	2	6.3	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	5	21.7	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	1	3.1	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	--	1	4.2	--	2	8.0	--	2	8.7	--	1	5.0	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	1	3.1	--	0	0.0	--	1	4.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	6	18.8	--	0	0.0	--	3	12.0	--	0	0.0	--	5	25.0	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	8.7	--	0	0.0	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	13	40.6	2.8	9	37.5	2.0	7	28.0	1.5	6	26.1	1.3	2	10.0	0.4
Northern	5	15.6	0.9	4	16.7	0.7	3	12.0	0.5	3	13.0	0.5	8	40.0	1.4
Tidewater	9	28.1	2.2	9	37.5	2.2	6	24.0	1.5	13	56.5	3.2	8	40.0	1.9
Western	5	15.6	1.5	2	8.3	0.6	9	36.0	2.7	1	4.3	0.3	2	10.0	0.6

CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

Table 9. CHILD HOMICIDE VICTIMS KILLED BY CAREGIVERS IN VIRGINIA, 1999 - 2003*

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER															
Child	18	56.3	--	15	62.5	--	13	52.0	--	21	91.3	--	14	70.0	--
Child of Boy/Girlfriend	6	18.8	--	5	20.8	--	4	16.0	--	0	0.0	--	4	20.0	--
Other	8	25.0	--	4	16.7	--	7	28.0	--	1	4.3	--	2	10.0	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	4.0	--	1	4.3	--	0	0.0	--
TOTAL	32	100.0	1.8	24	100.0	1.4	25	100.0	1.4	23	100.0	1.3	20	100.0	1.1

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

Table 10. CHILD HOMICIDE VICTIMS KILLED BY CAREGIVERS IN VIRGINIA, 2004 - 2008*

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	10	55.6	1.1	9	45.0	1.0	8	44.4	0.9	5	45.5	0.6	11	73.3	1.2
Male	8	44.4	0.9	11	55.0	1.2	10	55.6	1.1	6	54.5	0.6	4	26.7	0.4
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	6	33.3	0.5	7	35.0	0.5	6	33.3	0.5	6	54.5	0.5	7	46.7	0.5
Black	11	61.1	2.5	9	45.0	2.0	9	50.0	2.1	3	27.3	0.7	8	53.3	1.8
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	16.7	2.0	2	18.2	1.2	0	0.0	0.0
Other	1	5.6	1.1	4	20.0	4.2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
AGE															
<1	4	22.2	4.0	8	40.0	7.6	14	77.8	13.6	6	54.5	5.7	10	66.7	9.3
1-4	8	44.4	2.0	9	45.0	2.2	4	22.2	1.0	5	45.5	1.2	4	26.7	1.0
5-14	5	27.8	0.5	3	15.0	0.3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	6.7	0.1
15-17	1	5.6	0.3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	2	11.1	--	1	4.8	--	1	5.6	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Sharp Instrument	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	6.7	--
Personal Weapon	11	61.1	--	14	66.7	--	8	44.4	--	5	45.5	--	10	66.7	--
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	--	1	4.8	--	2	11.1	--	3	27.3	--	0	0.0	--
Strangle/Choke	2	11.1	--	2	9.5	--	0	0.0	--	1	9.1	--	0	0.0	--
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	1	5.6	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	6.7	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	1	4.8	--	0	0.0	--	1	9.1	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	3	16.7	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	11.1	--	1	9.1	--	0	0.0	--
Other	1	5.6	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.6	--	1	9.1	--	3	20.0	--
Unknown	1	5.6	--	2	9.5	--	2	11.1	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	8	44.4	1.7	4	20.0	0.8	2	11.1	0.4	4	36.4	0.8	3	20.0	0.6
Northern	2	11.1	0.3	5	25.0	0.8	5	27.8	0.8	2	18.2	0.3	1	6.7	0.2
Tidewater	8	44.4	1.9	8	40.0	1.9	9	50.0	2.3	2	18.2	0.5	6	40.0	1.5
Western	0	0.0	0.0	3	15.0	0.9	2	11.1	0.6	3	27.3	0.9	5	33.3	1.5

CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

Table 10. CHILD HOMICIDE VICTIMS KILLED BY CAREGIVERS IN VIRGINIA, 2004 - 2008*

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate												
RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER															
Child	8	44.4	--	10	50.0	--	9	50.0	--	6	54.5	--	11	73.3	--
Child of Boy/Girlfriend	7	38.9	--	4	20.0	--	4	22.2	--	2	18.2	--	2	13.3	--
Other	3	16.7	--	5	25.0	--	3	16.7	--	2	18.2	--	1	6.7	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	1	5.0	--	2	11.1	--	1	9.1	--	1	6.7	--
TOTAL	18	100.0	1.0	20	100.0	1.1	18	100.0	1.0	11	100.0	0.6	15	100.0	0.8

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

Other Family Homicide

Other family homicide (OFH) 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. Between the years 1999 and 2008, there were 194 OFH events and **218** OFH victims.

Ten year's worth of data reveal the following:

- The number of OFH victims varied from a low of 17 deaths in 2001 and 2002 to a high of 29 deaths in 2008.
- The state rate for OFH varied from a low of 0.2 in 2001 and 2002 to a high of 0.4 in 2008.
- The number of victims and rate of OFH homicide showed a net increase during the study period.
- A person's gender appeared to increase risk. During eight of the ten years of the study, males had a greater risk of death from OFH than females. Males were also more likely to be alleged offenders in these types of events.
- Almost one in three fatal injuries occurring between 1999 and 2008 occurred in the Western OCME District (31.7%). This District also had the highest OFH rate for four of the ten years of the study.
- A victim's race/ethnicity increased the risk for OFH. Black Virginians were at significantly greater risk than White Virginians for each year during the study period.
- OFH victims were, on average, older than the other types of FIP homicide. Victims ranged from 7 to 86 years of age. The average age of victim was 45.56 ($SD = 20.28$) years with half of victims being 44 years of age or older.
- Most victims were killed by a firearm (58.3%) and while in a residence (85.3%).
- A child was exposed to the event in 13.3% of cases.
- Almost 8.0% of cases were homicide-suicide cases in which an alleged offender killed a victim and then him or herself (7.8%).

OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

Figure 25: Number of Other Family Homicide Deaths in Virginia, 1999 - 2008

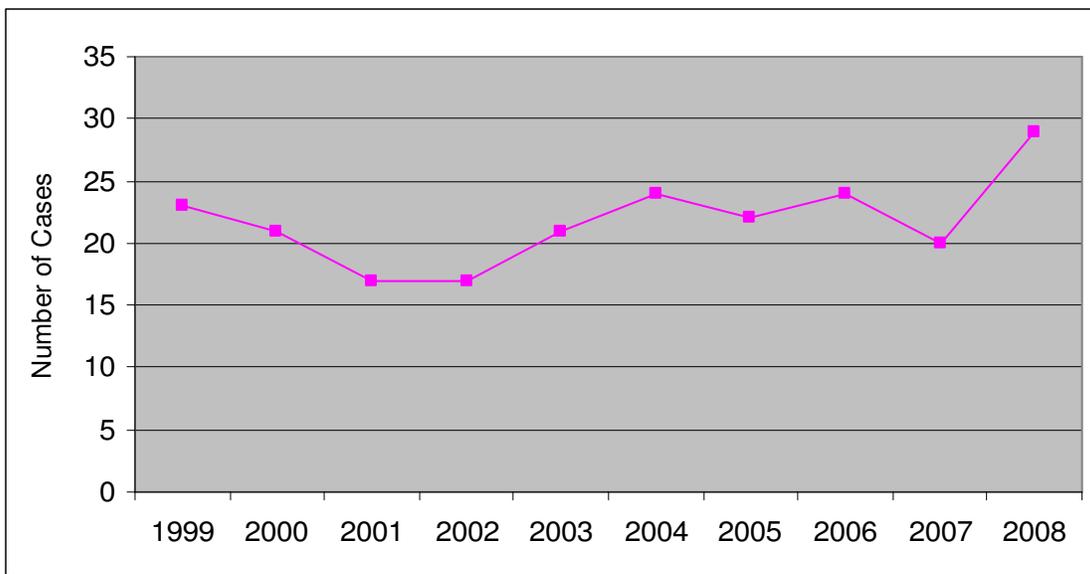
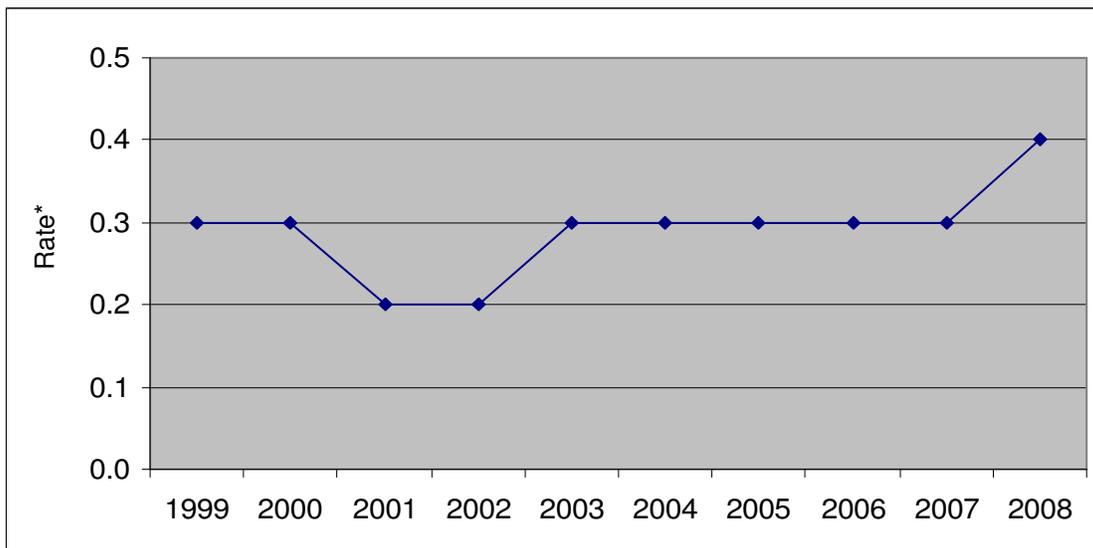


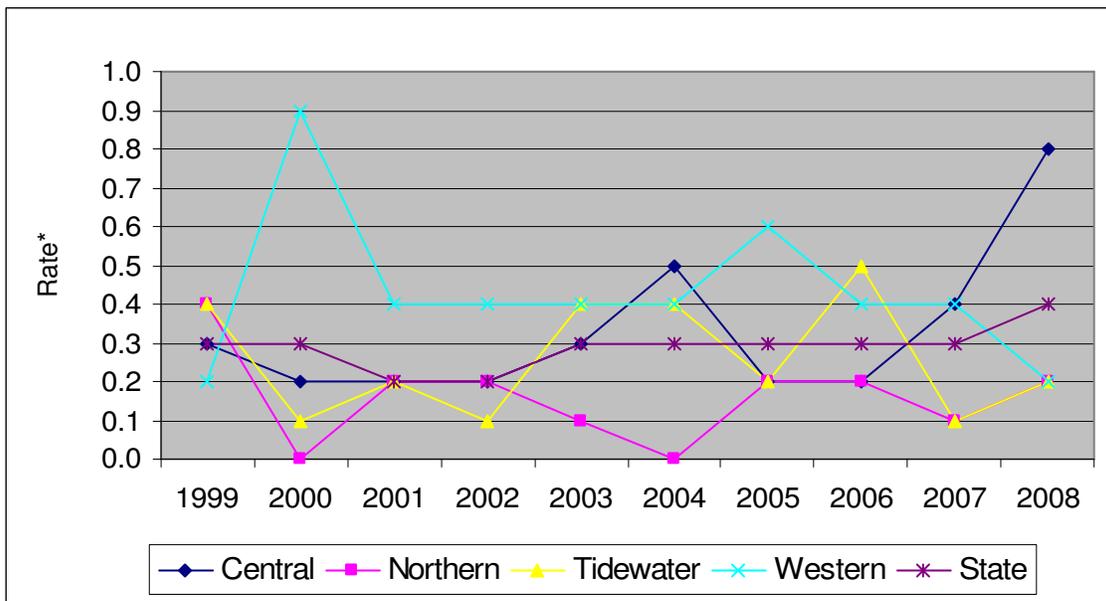
Figure 26: Other Family Homicide Rate in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

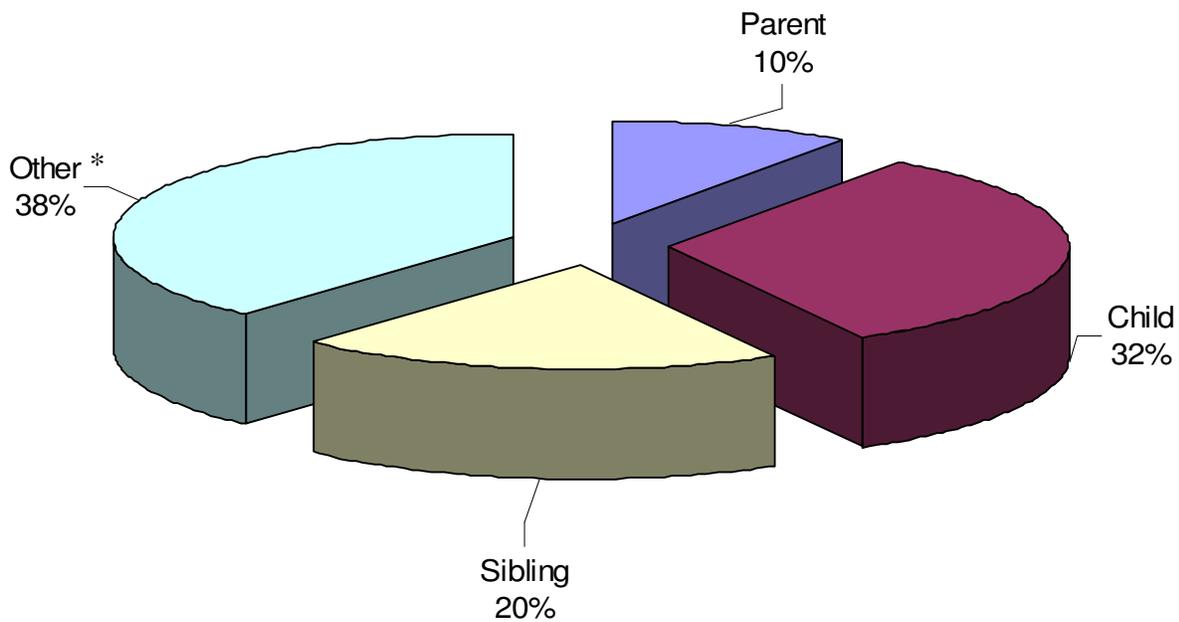
OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

Figure 27: Other Family Homicide Rate by Virginia OCME District, 1999 - 2008



*Rates are based on US Census Bureau population estimates for the respective year. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

Figure 28: Relationship of Alleged Offender to Victim in Other Family Homicide Deaths in Virginia, 1999 - 2008



*The "other" categories includes cases in which the alleged offender was the in-law, cousin, grandparent, uncle/aunt, or niece/nephew.

OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

Table 11. OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA, 1999 - 2003*

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	8	34.8	0.2	5	23.8	0.1	5	29.4	0.1	5	29.4	0.1	5	23.8	0.1
Male	15	65.2	0.4	16	76.2	0.5	12	70.6	0.3	12	70.6	0.3	16	76.2	0.4
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	14	60.9	0.3	9	42.9	0.2	8	47.1	0.2	8	47.1	0.2	14	66.7	0.3
Black	7	30.4	0.5	11	52.4	0.8	8	47.1	0.6	7	41.2	0.5	7	33.3	0.5
Other	2	8.7	0.3	1	4.8	0.1	1	5.9	0.1	2	11.8	0.3	0	0.0	0.0
AGE															
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	5.9	1.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-14	1	4.3	0.1	1	4.8	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	4.8	0.1
15-24	2	8.7	0.2	4	19.0	0.4	3	17.6	0.3	1	5.9	0.1	2	9.5	0.2
25-34	3	13.0	0.3	3	14.3	0.3	4	23.5	0.4	4	23.5	0.4	3	14.3	0.3
35-44	3	13.0	0.2	4	19.0	0.3	2	11.8	0.2	6	35.3	0.5	5	23.8	0.4
45-54	2	8.7	0.2	6	28.6	0.6	2	11.8	0.2	2	11.8	0.2	5	23.8	0.5
55-64	4	17.4	0.6	1	4.8	0.2	1	5.9	0.2	1	5.9	0.1	1	4.8	0.1
>64	8	34.8	1.0	2	9.5	0.3	4	23.5	0.5	3	17.6	0.4	4	19.0	0.5
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	14	60.9	--	16	76.2	--	6	35.3	--	9	52.9	--	16	76.2	--
Sharp Instrument	4	17.4	--	3	14.3	--	7	41.2	--	2	11.8	--	4	19.0	--
Personal Weapon	0	0.0	--	2	9.5	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Blunt Instrument	4	17.4	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.9	--	3	17.6	--	0	0.0	--
Strangle/Choke	1	4.3	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	11.8	--	1	4.8	--
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.9	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.9	--	1	5.9	--	0	0.0	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.9	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	6	26.1	0.3	4	19.0	0.2	3	17.6	0.2	4	23.5	0.2	6	28.6	0.3
Northern	8	34.8	0.4	1	4.8	<0.1	4	23.5	0.2	4	23.5	0.2	3	14.3	0.1
Tidewater	6	26.1	0.4	2	9.5	0.1	3	17.6	0.2	2	11.8	0.1	6	28.6	0.4
Western	3	13.0	0.2	14	66.7	0.9	7	41.2	0.4	7	41.2	0.4	6	28.6	0.4

OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

Table 11. OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA, 1999 - 2003*

RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate												
Adult Child/Stepchild	3	13.0	--	1	4.8	--	2	11.8	--	3	17.6	--	2	9.5	--
Parent/Stepparent	7	30.4	--	5	23.8	--	4	23.5	--	3	17.6	--	4	19.0	--
Grandparent	4	17.4	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.9	--	1	5.9	--	1	4.8	--
Sibling/Stepsibling	2	8.7	--	9	42.9	--	3	17.6	--	4	23.5	--	1	4.8	--
Cousin	2	8.7	--	3	14.3	--	3	17.6	--	2	11.8	--	4	19.0	--
Other Family	5	21.7	--	3	14.3	--	4	23.5	--	4	23.5	--	9	42.9	--
TOTAL	23	100.0	0.3	21	100.0	0.3	17	100.0	0.2	17	100.0	0.2	21	100.0	0.3

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

Table 12. OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA, 2004 - 2008*

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate												
SEX															
Female	12	50.0	0.3	10	45.5	0.3	7	29.2	0.2	2	10.0	0.1	11	37.9	0.3
Male	12	50.0	0.3	12	54.5	0.3	17	77.3	0.5	18	90.0	0.5	18	62.1	0.5
RACE/ETHNICITY															
White	16	66.7	0.3	14	63.6	0.2	10	41.7	0.2	10	50.0	0.2	15	51.7	0.3
Black	7	29.2	0.5	5	22.7	0.3	13	54.2	0.8	10	50.0	0.6	12	41.4	0.8
Other	1	4.2	0.3	3	13.6	0.7	1	4.2	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	2	6.9	0.5
AGE															
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	1	4.2	0.3	0	0.0	0.0	1	4.2	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-14	0	0.0	0.0	1	4.5	0.1	2	8.3	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	2	6.9	0.2
15-24	4	16.7	0.4	2	9.1	0.2	2	8.3	0.2	3	15.0	0.3	5	17.2	0.5
25-34	2	8.3	0.2	4	18.2	0.4	2	8.3	0.2	1	5.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.0
35-44	5	20.8	0.4	6	27.3	0.5	4	16.7	0.3	6	30.0	0.5	5	17.2	0.4
45-54	2	8.3	0.2	4	18.2	0.4	3	12.5	0.3	0	0.0	0.0	7	24.1	0.6
55-64	4	16.7	0.5	3	13.6	0.4	6	25.0	0.7	6	30.0	0.7	5	17.2	0.6
>64	6	25.0	0.7	2	9.1	0.2	4	16.7	0.5	4	20.0	0.4	5	17.2	0.5
FATAL AGENCY**															
Firearm	16	66.7	--	12	54.5	--	12	50.0	--	13	65.0	--	13	44.8	--
Sharp Instrument	3	12.5	--	7	31.8	--	11	45.8	--	5	25.0	--	6	20.7	--
Personal Weapon	1	4.2	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	10.0	--	3	10.3	--
Blunt Instrument	2	8.3	--	1	4.5	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.0	--	3	10.3	--
Strangle/Choke	2	8.3	--	1	4.5	--	1	4.2	--	0	0.0	--	4	13.8	--
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.0	--	0	0.0	--
Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall***	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Drown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	1	4.2	--	0	0.0	--	1	3.4	--
Poison/Carbon Monoxide	1	4.2	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Other	0	0.0	--	1	4.5	--	1	4.2	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Unknown	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
OCME DISTRICT															
Central	9	37.5	0.5	6	27.3	0.3	5	20.8	0.2	9	45.0	0.4	16	55.2	0.8
Northern	1	4.2	<0.1	4	18.2	0.2	5	20.8	0.2	3	15.0	0.1	6	20.7	0.2
Tidewater	7	29.2	0.4	3	13.6	0.2	8	33.3	0.5	2	10.0	0.1	3	10.3	0.2
Western	7	29.2	0.4	9	40.9	0.6	6	25.0	0.4	6	30.0	0.4	4	13.8	0.2

OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

Table 12. OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA, 2004 - 2008*

	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER															
Adult Child/Stepchild	3	12.5	--	5	22.7	--	0	0.0	--	1	5.0	--	3	10.3	--
Parent/Stepparent	7	29.2	--	5	22.7	--	8	33.3	--	7	35.0	--	13	44.8	--
Grandparent	1	4.2	--	1	4.5	--	2	8.3	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Sibling/Stepsibling	5	20.8	--	6	27.3	--	4	16.7	--	3	15.0	--	4	13.8	--
Cousin	2	8.3	--	3	13.6	--	2	8.3	--	1	5.0	--	3	10.3	--
Other Family	6	25.0	--	2	9.1	--	8	33.3	--	8	40.0	--	6	20.7	--
TOTAL	24	100.0	0.3	22	100.0	0.3	24	100.0	0.3	20	100.0	0.3	29	100.0	0.4

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

**More than one fatal agency can be used in a homicide, therefore, fatal agencies will neither sum to the total number of homicides for females or males, nor sum to 100%.

***In 2004, "Push/Slam/Throw to Ground/Wall" was added as a fatal agency.

2008 FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE SUMMARY

TABLE 13. SUMMARY OF MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY PERCENTAGE, 1999 - 2008

	FIP Homicide (N = 1,381)	IP Homicide (N = 633)	IPA Homicide (N = 300)	CHC Homicide (N = 206)	OF Homicide (N = 218)
<i>Average Age of Victim*</i>	33.68 years (SD = 20.50)	38.84 years (SD = 14.76)	33.51 years (SD = 15.76)	2.5 years (SD = 3.96)	45.55 years (SD = 20.28)
<i>Age Range of Victims*</i>	Infant – 97 years**	13 – 87 years	Infant – 89 years	Infant – 17 years	7 – 86 years
<i>Most Common Age Group*</i>	35 – 44 years (22.0%)	35 – 44 years (30.5%)	25 – 34 years (28.7%)	Infant (46.1%)	35 – 44 years (21.1%) 65+ (19.3%)
<i>Most Common Gender</i>	Female (51.3%)	Female (75.7%)	Male (82.0%)	Male (54.4%)	Male (67.9%)
<i>Most Common Race/Ethnicity</i>	White (47.4%)	White (50.2%)	White (41.0%)	Black (49.0%)	White (53.7%)
<i>Most Common Fatal Agency</i>	Firearm (55.4%)	Firearm (60.5%) Sharp Instrument (21.0%)	Firearm (73.0%)	Personal Weapon (53.9%)	Firearm (58.3%)
<i>Most Common Premise of Fatal Injury</i>	Residence (79.5%)	Residence (82.3%)	Residence (69.9%) Business/Store (10.6%)	Residence (82.0%)	Residence (85.3%)
<i>Most Common OCME District***</i>	Central (33.2%)	Central (34.8%)	Central (35.0%)	Tidewater (37.9%)	Western (31.7%) Central (31.2%)
<i>Percentage of Homicide-Suicide Cases</i>	19.6% of cases	28.3% of cases	15.0% of cases	12.6% of cases	7.8% of cases

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

** The upper age range (97 years) was an elder homicide by caregiver victim and not covered by this report.

***See page 57 for a list of the localities included in the OCME Districts.

2008 FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE SUMMARY

TABLE 14. SUMMARY OF MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY RATE, 1999 – 2008*

	FIP Homicide (N = 1,381)	IP Homicide (N = 633)	IPA Homicide (N = 300)	CHC Homicide (N = 209)	OFH Homicide (N = 218)
<i>Age Group**</i>	Infants had the highest FIP rate for all years.	Those 35 – 44 had the highest IPH rate for five of the study years.	Those 25 – 34 had the highest IPA rate for five of the study years.	Infants had the highest CHC rate for all years.	The most common age group varied during the years of the study.
<i>Gender</i>	Females had the highest FIP rate for five years; Males had the highest rate for four years. During the last year, males and females had the same rate of FIP.	Females had the highest IPH rate for all years.	Males had the highest IPA rate for all years.	Females had the highest CHC rate for five of the study years. Males had the highest CHC rate for four of the study years. During 2007, males and females had the same CHC rate.	Males had the highest OFH rate for eight of the study years. Males and females had the same OFH rate for two of the study years.
<i>Race/ Ethnicity</i>	Blacks had the highest FIP rate for all years.	Blacks had the highest IP rate for all years.	Blacks had the highest IPA rate for nine of the study years. During the last year, the rate for Blacks was the same as the rate for Hispanics.	Blacks had the highest CHC rate for eight of the study years.	Blacks had the highest OFH rate for nine of the study years.
<i>OCME District***</i>	Central and Western had the highest FIP rates for three of the study years.	Central had the highest IPH rate for seven of the study years.	Central had the highest IPA rate for five of the study years.	Tidewater had the highest CHC rate for seven of the study years.	Western had the highest OFH rate for four of the study years.
<i>State Rate Range</i>	1.6 – 2.1	0.8 – 1.3	0.2 – 0.6	0.6 – 1.8	0.2 – 0.4

*Rates were calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2008. Rates were calculated per 100,000 persons.

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

***See page 57 for a list of the localities included in the OCME Districts.



**PART TWO:
APPENDIX**

Organization and Methodology

The fatalities included in this report were those deaths classified as “homicide” after a medicolegal death investigation conducted by the OCME.² 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 report, 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 six mutually exclusive categories.³ These categories are listed and defined in Table 15. The remaining cases were categorized as “other homicide” and were not included in the analysis.

² Deaths attributed to judicial execution were excluded.

³ Only four of the family and intimate partner homicide categories are examined in this report. A description of all of the categories is provided so that the reader understands the full range of cases examined by the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project.

TABLE 15. CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE, 2008⁴

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 – 2008. 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

⁴ *Ibid*

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 57 for a list of all localities indicating their OCME District and Health Planning Region.

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*.

GLOSSARY

Adult – A person 18 years of age 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...*”⁵ 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 (e.g., firearm).

⁵ 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 or girlfriend (includes same-sex partner), or current or former 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 – House or apartment, 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:

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This report is available online at:

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

