



# **FAMILY & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE HOMICIDE**

**Virginia 1999-2003**

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Health  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
October 2004

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# FAMILY & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE HOMICIDE

A report describing victims of family and intimate partner related homicide in Virginia in 2003 and over the five-year period 1999-2003.

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## LETTER FROM DR. MARCELLA F. FIERRO

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is pleased to present to you this year's Family and Intimate Partner Violence Homicide Report. Beginning with deaths occurring in 1999, the Office has published an annual report providing information on fatal family violence. This year we also present homicide trends for the period 1999-2003, an exciting accomplishment that helps us and our prevention partners to identify patterns and trends in fatal family and intimate partner violence in Virginia.

These data document that Virginia has a persistent violent death problem and that glaring disparities exist among segments of the population. More specifically:

- Race and ethnic disparities are clear in violent death due to homicide. Black people were killed in far greater numbers and at much higher rates than people of other racial and ethnic groups. When looking at family and intimate partner homicide, the rate of homicide for Black people compared to other racial and ethnic groups was the highest for most types of family and intimate partner homicide.
- Gender shapes characteristics of violent death. While 75% of all homicide victims between 1999 and 2003 were male, 75% of all *intimate partner* homicide victims during the same time period were female.
- Children are especially vulnerable to family and intimate partner homicide. Looking at all categories of family and intimate partner homicide, children under the age of five were killed at the highest rate when compared to other age groups. Among children, infants had the highest homicide rates.
- Not surprisingly, homicide is a problem in our cities, and in the same cities over time. Homicide in general, as well as family and intimate partner homicide, occurred most often in localities with large urban and oftentimes non-white populations. The localities that had the most homicides over the years were the Cities of Richmond, Norfolk and Newport News, and Fairfax County.
- Firearms continue to be the most frequently used weapon in homicidal violence. From 1999 through 2003, firearms were used in 70% of all homicides in Virginia.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner cares deeply about the public health of our Commonwealth. Homicide in Virginia is a public health concern that affects not only individuals, but the overall wellness of communities. Family and intimate partner homicide has an especially destructive effect on families and children. However, we believe that focused efforts can be effective in reducing homicidal violence. Therefore, we encourage each of you to continue your prevention efforts to make Virginia a safer and healthier place to live and work.

Marcella F. Fierro, MD  
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## REPORT INFORMATION

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) initiated surveillance of Family and Intimate Partner Violence Homicide in 1999. The surveillance system is designed to provide accurate, timely and complete information about intimate partner homicide, intimate partner associated homicide, child homicide by caregiver, elder homicide by caregiver and other homicides between family members. Unlike nonfatal injuries, deaths due to intimate partner and family violence can be measured and tracked more completely. The data in this report are prepared for the purpose of prevention and public health planning, and for policy development and change.

The fatalities included in this report are deaths that were determined to be homicides after medicolegal death investigation by the OCME (excluding death by legal execution). Homicides in which the fatal injury occurred in Virginia and the subsequent death occurred out-of-state are also included. The latter cases were identified through newspaper surveillance. Therefore, data presented in this report likely differ from homicide data reported by law enforcement agencies and mortality data published by the Virginia Center for Health Statistics.

The report begins with an overview of victim data for all homicide, all family and intimate partner homicide, and intimate partner homicide in Virginia in 2003, followed by more limited victim data for intimate partner associated homicide, child homicide by caregiver, homicide between family members, and homicide-suicide events. The latter part of the report consists of five-year summary tables, charts and graphs providing victim data for all homicide, all family and intimate partner homicide, intimate partner homicide, intimate partner associated homicide, child homicide by caregiver, other family homicide, and homicide-suicide events in Virginia.

Homicide data for each of the four previous years, 1999 – 2002, have been updated. Homicide rates also differ from previously published rates as a result of updated population estimates available from the U.S. Census Bureau for 2001 and 2002. For detailed information on how rates were calculated, see Technical Notes on page 26.

## DEFINITIONS

**Adult:** Individuals 18-years old and older.

**Caregiver:** Person responsible for the care and supervision of the victim and who inflicted the fatal injury (e.g. family member, baby sitter, in-home nurse).

**Fatal Agency:** The means of injury which led to the death of the victim: firearm, blunt or sharp instrument, personal weapon (hand, foot, or other parts of the body) and other means (e.g. motor vehicle, poison, or drowning).

**Homicide:** The intentional killing of a person by another.

Note: The fatalities included in this report are deaths that were determined to be homicides by the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, as well as homicides in which the fatal injury occurred in Virginia and the subsequent death occurred out-of-state. Therefore, data presented in this report likely differ from homicide data reported by law enforcement agencies and mortality data published by the Virginia Center for Health Statistics.

**Homicide-Suicide Event:** Homicide followed within seven days by the perpetrator's suicide.

For purposes of this report, homicide victims have been placed into one of six groups based on the relationship between the victim and alleged offender. The following groups were developed for analysis purposes and are treated as mutually exclusive in the report's tables and graphs.

- **Intimate Partner** homicide victims were 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 also includes homicides in which one of the parties has pursued a relationship or perceived that they had 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 victims were killed as a result of violence stemming from an intimate partner relationship. Victims can include alleged abusers killed by law enforcement officers or others who intervened; or friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives and bystanders caught in the crossfire of violence between intimate partners.
- **Child Homicide by Caregiver** victims are children under the age of 18 who were killed by a caregiver.
- **Elder Homicide by Caregiver** victims are adults 55-years-old and older who were killed by a caregiver.
- **Other Family** homicide victims were killed by individuals related to them biologically or by marriage (e.g. grandparent, [step] parent, [step] sibling, cousin, in-laws) and do not meet the criteria for one of the four groups above.
- **Other Homicide** victims were killed by individuals not related to them biologically or by marriage; nor were they intimate partner or intimate partner associated homicide victims.



# **PART ONE: 2003 OVERVIEW**

# HOMICIDE

**TABLE 1. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA: 2003**

	No.	%	Rate*
<b>SEX</b>			
Female	98	21.3	2.6
Male	363	78.7	10.1
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>			
White	138	29.9	2.7
Black	280	60.7	19.0
Hispanic	27	5.9	7.0
Other	16	3.5	4.1
<b>AGE</b>			
0 - 4	18	3.9	3.7
5 - 14	16	3.5	1.6
15 - 24	165	35.8	16.2
25 - 34	98	21.3	9.5
35 - 44	85	18.4	7.1
45 - 54	44	9.5	4.2
55 - 64	17	3.7	2.4
> 64	18	3.9	2.2
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>			
Firearm	335	72.6	—
Sharp Instrument	51	11.1	—
Blunt Instrument	17	3.7	—
Personal Weapon	18	3.9	—
Strangulation	11	2.4	—
Fire	9	2.0	—
Other	15	3.3	—
Unknown	5	1.1	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>			
Central	196	42.4	10.2
Northern	51	11.1	2.3
Tidewater	145	31.5	9.3
Western	69	15.0	4.4
<b>TYPE OF HOMICIDE</b>			
Intimate Partner <18	3	0.7	0.2
Intimate Partner >17	54	11.7	1.0
Intimate Partner Associated	32	6.9	0.4
Child by Caregiver	20	4.3	1.1
Elder by Caregiver	1	0.2	0.1
Other Family	21	4.6	0.3
Other Homicide	330	71.6	4.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.3</b>

\* Rates were calculated using 2002 Census estimates. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates for July 1, 2002. Rates for this report are calculated per 100,000 persons in each specified population (e.g. female, male, White, Black). According to the Census Bureau, Virginia's total population in 2002 was 7,293,848.

**TABLE 2. HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES\* WITH 10 OR MORE VICTIMS: 2003**

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES	LOCALITY
>49	Richmond City
40 - 49	Norfolk
30 - 39	Virginia Beach
20 - 29	Henrico County Newport News
15 - 19	Portsmouth Roanoke City
10 - 14	Chesterfield County Fairfax County Hampton Prince William County

In 2003, 65.7% of all homicides in Virginia occurred in these eleven localities; and 21.7% of all homicides occurred in the City of Richmond.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.



## In 2003, there were 461 homicides in Virginia. Looking at homicide overall:

- Roughly four of every five victims were male.
- A firearm was used in 72.6% of homicides.
- Blacks were killed at seven times the rate of Whites and almost three times the rate of Hispanics (19.0 per 100,000 compared to 2.7 for Whites and 7.0 for Hispanics). Hispanics were killed at two-and-a-half times the rate of Whites.
- 15 – 24-year-olds had the highest homicide rate at 16.2 per 100,000, followed by 25 – 34-year-olds at a rate of 9.5.
- The OCME Central District, which includes the city of Richmond, had the highest homicide rate (10.2 per 100,000). The Northern District, which includes suburbs of Washington, DC, had the lowest rate (2.3 per 100,000).
- 28.4% of all homicides were family or intimate partner related. This includes intimate partner homicide (57), intimate partner associated homicide (32), child and elder homicide by caregiver (20 and 1, respectively), and other family homicide (21).
- Of the 410 adult homicide victims, 54 or 13.2% were killed by intimate partners.
- 50.0% (42 of 84) of all adult female homicide victims and 3.7% (12 of 326) of all adult male homicide victims were killed by intimate partners.

### TABLE 3. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX: 2003

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	41	41.8	97	26.7	138	29.9
Black	46	46.9	234	64.5	280	60.7
Hispanic	8	8.2	19	5.2	27	5.9
Other	3	3.1	13	3.6	16	3.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>100</b>

### TABLE 4. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY AGE AND SEX: 2003

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0 - 4	6	6.1	12	3.3	18	3.9
5 - 14	4	4.1	12	3.3	16	3.5
15 - 24	21	21.4	144	39.6	165	35.8
25 - 34	14	14.3	84	23.1	98	21.3
35 - 44	26	26.6	59	16.3	85	18.4
45 - 54	11	11.2	33	9.1	44	9.5
55 - 64	7	7.1	10	2.8	17	3.7
> 64	9	9.2	9	2.5	18	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>100</b>

### TABLE 5. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY FATAL AGENCY AND SEX: 2003

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	55	56.2	280	77.1	335	72.6
Sharp Instrument	20	20.4	31	8.5	51	11.0
Blunt Instrument	2	2.0	15	4.1	17	3.7
Personal Weapon	5	5.1	13	3.6	18	3.9
Strangulation	7	7.1	4	1.1	11	2.4
Fire	3	3.1	6	1.7	9	2.0
Other	5	5.1	10	2.8	15	3.3
Unknown	1	1.0	4	1.1	5	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>100</b>

# FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

**TABLE 6. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA: 2003**

	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>			
Female	60	45.8	1.6
Male	71	54.2	2.0
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>			
White	57	43.5	1.1
Black	61	46.5	4.1
Hispanic	9	6.9	2.3
Other	4	3.1	1.0
<b>AGE</b>			
0 - 4	17	13.0	3.5
5 - 14	9	6.9	0.9
15 - 24	24	18.3	2.4
25 - 34	20	15.3	1.9
35 - 44	31	23.6	2.6
45 - 54	16	12.2	1.5
55 - 64	4	3.1	0.6
> 64	10	7.6	1.2
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>			
Firearm	76	57.9	—
Sharp Instrument	22	16.8	—
Personal Weapon	14	10.7	—
Strangulation	4	3.1	—
Fire	4	3.1	—
Other	11	8.4	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>			
Central	49	37.4	2.6
Northern	24	18.3	1.1
Tidewater	30	22.9	1.9
Western	28	21.4	1.8
<b>TYPE OF HOMICIDE</b>			
Intimate Partner <18	3	2.3	0.2
Intimate Partner >17	54	41.2	1.0
Intimate Partner Associated	32	24.4	0.4
Child by Caregiver	20	15.3	1.1
Elder by Caregiver	1	0.8	0.1
Other Family	21	16.0	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

**TABLE 7. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES\* WITH 5 OR MORE VICTIMS: 2003**

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES	LOCALITY
>10	Norfolk
8 - 10	Fairfax County Henrico County Richmond City
5 - 7	Newport News Prince William County Roanoke City Virginia Beach

In 2003, 47.3% of all family and intimate partner homicides in Virginia occurred in these eight localities; and 9.2% of all family and intimate partner homicides occurred in the City of Norfolk.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.

# FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

In 2003, there were 131 victims of family and intimate partner homicide in Virginia:

- Blacks were killed at nearly four times the rate of Whites and almost twice the rate of Hispanics (4.1 per 100,000 compared to 1.1 for Whites and 2.3 for Hispanics). Hispanics were killed at roughly twice the rate of Whites.
- Children under the age of five had the highest homicide rate (3.5 per 100,000) of all age groups.
- A firearm was used in 57.9% of the homicides.
- 43.5% of the victims were killed by intimate partners.
- In 2003, 67 children saw or heard a family or intimate partner related homicide occur or found the homicide victim. This includes intimate partner homicide, intimate partner associated homicide, child and elder homicide by caretaker, and other family homicide.

**TABLE 8. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX: 2003**

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	25	41.7	32	45.1	57	43.5
Black	27	45.0	34	47.9	61	46.6
Other	8	13.3	5	7.0	13	9.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 9. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY AGE AND SEX: 2003**

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0 - 4	6	10.0	11	15.5	17	13.0
5 - 14	4	6.7	5	7.0	9	6.9
15 - 24	12	20.0	12	16.9	24	18.3
25 - 34	8	13.3	12	16.9	20	15.3
35 - 44	14	23.3	17	24.0	31	23.6
45 - 54	7	11.7	9	12.7	16	12.2
55 - 64	4	6.7	0	0.0	4	3.1
> 64	5	8.3	5	7.0	10	7.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 10. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY FATAL AGENCY AND SEX: 2003**

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	35	58.3	41	57.8	76	57.9
Sharp Instrument	11	18.3	11	15.5	22	16.8
Blunt Instrument	1	1.7	1	1.4	2	1.5
Personal Weapon	5	8.3	9	12.7	14	10.7
Strangulation	3	5.0	1	1.4	4	3.1
Fire	1	1.7	3	4.2	4	3.1
Other	4	6.7	5	7.0	9	6.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>

# INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

## Turning attention to the 57 intimate partner homicides in Virginia in 2003:

- Nearly four of every five victims were women.
- Three of the victims were children under the age of 18.
- Of all adult intimate partner homicide victims, Blacks were killed at over four times the rate of Whites (2.5 per 100,000 compared to 0.6 for Whites).
- 21 (36.8%) victims were killed by their boy/girlfriend and 21 (36.8%) were killed by their spouse.
- 13 (22.8%) victims were killed in homicide-suicide events. All of these victims were female.
- Over half (54.4%) of intimate partner homicide victims lived with the perpetrator at the time of the homicide. An additional seven had lived with the perpetrator prior to the homicide.
- A firearm was used in 63.2% of the homicides.

**TABLE 11. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY RACE /ETHNICITY AND SEX: 2003**

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	19	42.2	5	41.7	24	42.1
Black	21	46.7	6	50.0	27	47.4
Other	5	11.1	1	8.3	6	10.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

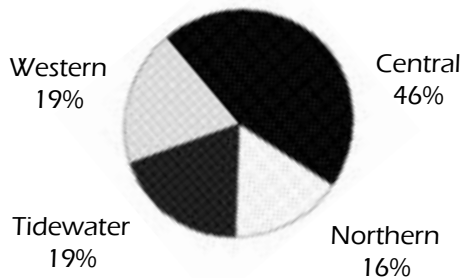
**TABLE 12. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY AGE AND SEX: 2003**

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
5 -14	1	2.2	0	0.0	1	1.8
15 - 24	12	26.7	2	16.7	14	24.5
25 - 34	7	15.6	0	0.0	7	12.3
35 - 44	14	31.1	6	50.0	20	35.0
45 - 54	6	13.3	3	25.0	9	15.8
55 - 64	3	6.7	0	0.0	3	5.3
> 64	2	4.4	1	8.3	3	5.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

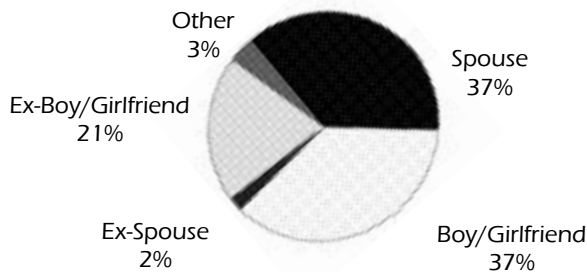
**TABLE 13. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA BY FATAL AGENCY AND SEX: 2003**

	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	30	66.7	6	50.0	36	63.1
Sharp Instrument	9	20.0	3	25.0	12	21.1
Blunt Instrument	1	2.2	0	0.0	1	1.8
Strangulation	2	4.4	0	0.0	2	3.5
Other	3	6.7	3	25.0	6	10.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 1. Intimate Partner Homicide Victims in Virginia by OCME District: 2003, N=57**



**Figure 2. Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia by Victim's Relationship to Alleged Offender: 2003, N=57**



The following information is gathered during the course of a death investigation. It is likely that the information available at the time of death is incomplete. For some homicides, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has not received records from other agencies that may have more complete information. Therefore, readers should interpret this information cautiously as it is very likely underreported.

- Eight (14.0%) homicide victims had perpetrated physical violence toward the alleged offender.
- Seven (12.3%) homicide victims had obtained protective orders against the alleged offenders during their relationship. All of the victims were women.
- Eight (14.0%) alleged offenders of intimate partner homicide had previously been arrested for crimes against the victim.
- Seven (12.3%) intimate partner homicide victims were immigrants to the U.S.
- Alcohol was a factor in 24 (42%) of the intimate partner homicide events. Illegal drug use was a factor in five (9%) of the events.

**TABLE 14. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES\* WITH 3 OR MORE\*\* VICTIMS: 2003**

LOCALITY
Chesterfield County
Newport News
Norfolk
Richmond City
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County

In 2003, 36.8% of all intimate partner homicides in Virginia occurred in these six localities.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.

\*\*The number of intimate partner homicides in these localities ranged from three to five.

- The following risk factors typically associated with lethal intimate partner violence were present in 46 homicides (some homicides had more than one risk factor present). For the most part, these factors were documented as part of the history of the intimate partner relationship, rather than as a component of the homicide event.

- Reports of previous violence: 25
- Relationship ended or ending: 22 (1 divorce, 5 separations, 11 break-ups, 5 cases in which the victim intended to end the relationship)
- Threats to kill/harm: 18
- 911 calls: 7
- Stalking: 6
- Threats of suicide: 4
- Property destruction : 3
- Hostage taking: 2

## CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

In 2003, there were **51** homicide victims in Virginia under the age of 18. Of these children, 20 (39.2%) were killed by caregivers in 18 incidents (one incident involved three children). Focusing on children killed by caregivers, we find that:

- Boys were killed at over twice the rate of girls (1.5 per 100,000 compared to 0.7 for girls).
- All of the children in the "Other" race/ethnic category were Hispanic. Hispanic children were killed at a rate three-and-a-half times that of White children and over one-and-a-half times that of Black children (2.8 per 100,000 compared to 0.8 for White children and 1.6 for Black children).
- Eleven (55.0%) children were less than a year old.
- The majority (70.0%) were killed by a biological parent.
- The means of injury in over half (55.0%) of child homicides by caregiver was a personal weapon such as a hand (used to punch, smack or shake) or a foot (used to kick or stomp).
- Localities in which three or more children were killed by caregivers were Fairfax County, Norfolk and Prince William County.

## INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

In 2003, **32** people were killed as a result of intimate partner associated homicide. Among these homicide victims were abusers killed by law enforcement officers responding to domestic violence calls or others trying to protect the abuse victims; and family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and bystanders caught in the crossfire of a violent intimate partner relationship.

- Males were killed at eight times the rate of females (0.8 per 100,000 compared to 0.1 per 100,000 for females).
- Blacks were killed at six-and-a-half times the rate of Whites (1.3 per 100,000 compared to .2 per 100,000 for Whites).
- 25 – 34-year-olds had the highest homicide rate at 1.0 per 100,000, followed by 15 – 24-year-olds at 0.8.
- A firearm was used in 65.6% of intimate partner associated homicides.
- The OCME Central District (which includes the City of Richmond) had the highest intimate partner associated homicide rate (0.8 per 100,000). The Northern District (which includes suburbs of Washington, DC) had the lowest rate (0.2 per 100,000).
- Localities in which three or more intimate partner associated homicides occurred were Henrico County, Roanoke City and Richmond City.

## OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

Other family homicide victims are those killed by family members who were not included in the other homicide categories in this report (i.e. intimate partner, intimate partner associated, child or elder homicide by caregiver). In 2003, there were **21** other family homicide victims.

- Three of every four victims were male.
- Blacks were killed at over one-and-a-half times the rate of Whites (0.5 per 100,000 compared to 0.3 per 100,000 for Whites).
- Almost half (47.6%) of other family homicide victims were between the ages of 35 and 54.
- A firearm was used in 76.2% of other family homicides.
- The OCME Tidewater and Western Districts had the highest rate of other family homicide, each reporting 0.4 per 100,000.

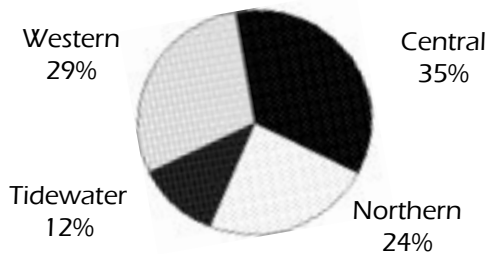
A Homicide-Suicide Event is homicide followed within seven days by the perpetrator's suicide. In 2003, there were **17** homicide-suicide events in which the homicides occurred in Virginia (two of the subsequent suicides occurred out-of-state). These 17 homicide-suicide events accounted for 23 homicide victims in Virginia. Looking at these 17 events:

- Nearly two-thirds (64.3%) of the homicide events occurred in the OCME Central and Western Districts.
- Over half (56.5%) of the homicide victims were intimate partners.
- Most (56.5%) of the homicide victims were female and all of the perpetrators were male.
- Five (21.7%) of the homicide victims were under the age of 18.
- A firearm was used in 91.3% of the homicides and in 80.0% of the suicides.

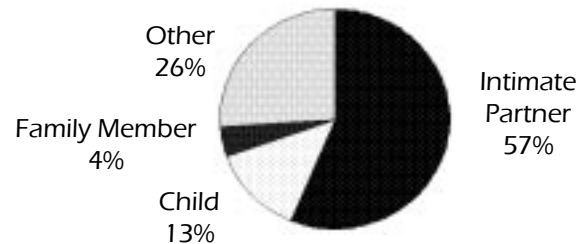
In addition to the **17** completed homicide-suicide events above, there were eight *attempted* homicide-suicide events (where either the victim or the perpetrator survived the event).

- In all of these cases, the homicide was completed and the suicide was not.
- Seven (87.5%) of these cases involved intimate partners.
- All intimate partner homicide victims killed during attempted homicide-suicide events were women.

**Figure 3. Homicide-Suicide Events in Virginia by OCME District: 2003, N=17**



**Figure 4. Homicide-Suicide Events in Virginia by Homicide Victim's Relationship to the Perpetrator: 2003, N=23**



**TABLE 15. HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS OF HOMICIDE-SUICIDE IN VIRGINIA : 2003**

	Homicide Victim		Perpetrator	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	13	56.5	0	0.0
Male	10	43.5	17	100.0
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>				
White	13	56.5	11	64.7
Black	8	34.8	4	23.5
Other	2	8.7	2	11.8
<b>AGE</b>				
0 - 4	0	0.0	0	0.0
5 - 14	4	17.4	0	0.0
15 - 24	4	17.4	2	11.8
25 - 34	2	8.7	4	23.5
35 - 44	7	30.4	4	23.5
45 - 54	2	8.7	4	23.5
55 - 64	2	8.7	1	5.9
> 64	2	8.7	2	11.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>







**PART TWO:  
1999-2003  
FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW**

# HOMICIDE

## TABLE 16. HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA: 1999-2003

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>															
Female	117	26.9	3.2	126	27.7	3.5	113	26.5	3.1	102	24.0	2.7	98	21.3	2.6
Male	318	73.1	9.2	329	72.3	9.5	314	73.5	8.9	323	76.0	9.0	363	78.7	10.1
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>															
White	160	36.8	3.2	165	36.3	3.3	158	37.0	3.1	142	33.4	2.8	138	29.9	2.7
Black	254	58.4	17.8	257	56.5	18.0	241	56.5	16.6	262	61.7	17.7	280	60.7	19.0
Hispanic	14	3.2	4.1	21	4.6	6.2	16	3.7	4.4	14	3.3	3.6	27	5.9	7.0
Other	7	1.6	2.0	12	2.6	3.4	11	2.6	2.9	7	1.6	1.8	16	3.5	4.1
Unknown	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—	1	0.2	—	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—
<b>AGE</b>															
0 - 4	26	6.0	5.6	18	4.0	3.9	23	5.4	4.8	20	4.7	4.1	18	3.9	3.7
5 - 14	6	1.4	0.6	13	2.9	1.3	8	1.9	0.8	9	2.1	0.9	16	3.5	1.6
15 - 24	119	27.5	12.3	115	25.2	11.9	132	30.9	13.3	121	28.4	11.9	165	35.8	16.2
25 - 34	102	23.4	9.8	114	25.0	11.0	111	26.0	10.8	115	27.1	11.1	98	21.3	9.5
35 - 44	92	21.1	7.7	92	20.2	7.7	76	17.8	6.3	81	19.1	6.8	85	18.4	7.1
45 - 54	45	10.3	4.5	50	11.0	5.0	33	7.7	3.2	39	9.2	3.7	44	9.5	4.2
55 - 64	17	3.9	2.7	23	5.1	3.6	16	3.7	2.4	15	3.5	2.2	17	3.7	2.4
> 64	28	6.4	3.5	30	6.6	3.8	28	6.6	3.5	25	5.9	3.1	18	3.9	2.2
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>															
Firearm	289	66.5	—	309	67.9	—	292	68.3	—	309	72.7	—	335	72.6	—
Sharp Instrument	58	13.3	—	61	13.4	—	46	10.8	—	30	7.1	—	51	11.1	—
Blunt Instrument	23	5.3	—	23	5.1	—	24	5.6	—	28	6.6	—	17	3.7	—
Personal Weapon	27	6.2	—	26	5.7	—	32	7.5	—	17	4.0	—	18	3.9	—
Strangulation	11	2.5	—	16	3.5	—	11	2.6	—	23	5.4	—	11	2.4	—
Other	22	5.1	—	15	3.3	—	20	4.7	—	17	4.0	—	24	5.2	—
Unknown	5	1.1	—	5	1.1	—	2	0.5	—	1	0.2	—	5	1.1	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>															
Central	169	38.8	9.1	172	37.7	9.3	158	37.0	8.4	175	41.2	9.1	196	42.4	10.2
Northern	59	13.6	2.8	49	10.8	2.3	54	12.6	2.4	49	11.5	2.2	51	11.1	2.3
Tidewater	139	32.0	9.1	135	29.7	8.9	136	31.9	8.8	106	24.9	6.8	145	31.5	9.3
Western	68	15.6	4.3	99	21.8	6.3	79	18.5	5.0	95	22.4	6.1	69	15.0	4.4
<b>TYPE OF HOMICIDE</b>															
Intimate Partner <18	1	0.2	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	3	0.7	0.2
Intimate Partner >17	71	16.3	1.3	85	18.7	1.6	67	15.7	1.2	63	14.8	1.1	54	11.7	1.0
Intimate Partner Associated	18	4.1	0.3	15	3.3	0.2	20	4.7	0.3	20	4.7	0.3	32	6.9	0.4
Child by Caregiver	32	7.4	1.8	24	5.3	1.4	25	5.9	1.4	24	5.6	1.3	20	4.3	1.1
Elder by Caregiver	1	0.2	0.1	3	0.7	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.2	0.1	1	0.2	0.1
Other Family	23	5.3	0.3	21	4.6	0.3	17	4.0	0.2	17	4.0	0.2	21	4.6	0.3
Other Homicide	289	66.5	4.1	307	67.4	4.3	298	69.7	4.1	300	70.7	4.1	330	71.6	4.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.3</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

### Data over the five-year period reveal:

- The homicide rate for females decreased each year between 2000 and 2003.
- The five-year average homicide rate for males is over three times that for females (9.3 per 100,000 compared to 3.0 for females).
- The homicide rate for Whites decreased each year between 2000 and 2003.
- The five-year average homicide rate for Blacks is roughly six times that of Whites and three-and-a-half times that of Hispanics (17.8 per 100,000 compared to 3.0 for Whites and 5.1 for Hispanics). The five-year average homicide rate for Hispanics is over one-and-a-half times that of Whites.
- 15 – 24-year-olds consistently had the highest homicide rate (range: 11.9 to 16.2 per 100,000) of all age groups, followed by 25 – 34-year-olds (range: 9.5 to 11.1 per 100,000).
- A firearm was used in 69.6% of all homicides.
- Either the OCME Central or Tidewater District had the highest homicide rate for each of the five years (Central range: 8.4 to 10.2 per 100,000; Tidewater range: 6.8 to 9.3 per 100,000).
- Roughly one in three, or 30.8%, of all homicides were related to family or intimate partner violence. This includes intimate partner homicide (344), intimate partner associated homicide (105), child homicide by caregiver (125), elder homicide by caregiver (6), and other family homicide (99).

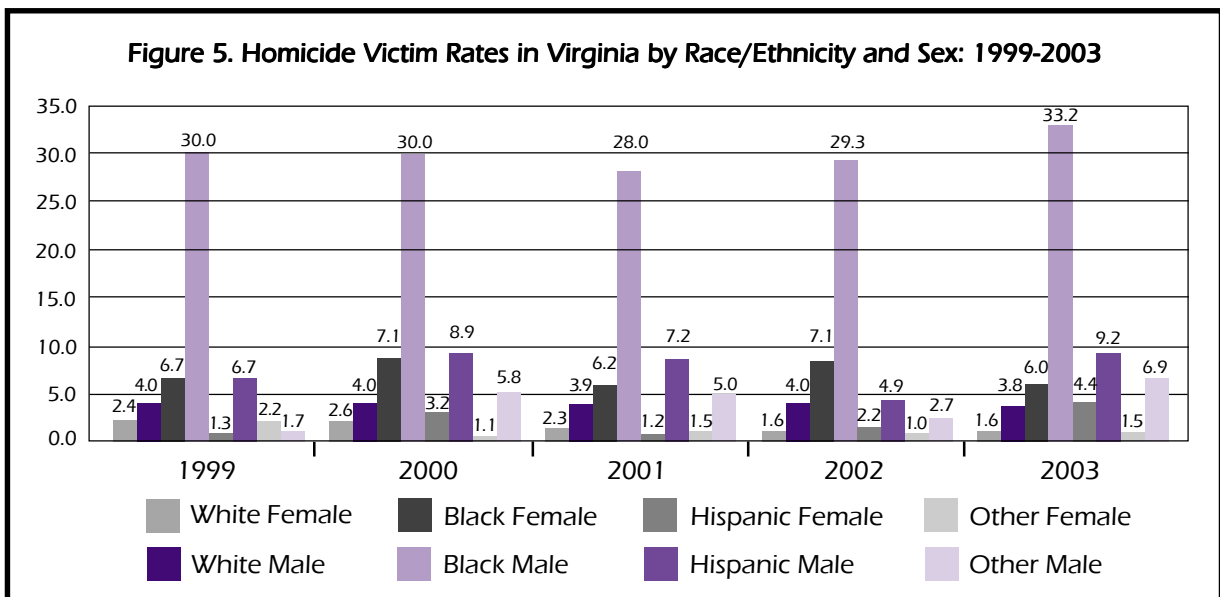
**TABLE 17.  
HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY  
LOCALITIES\* WITH 40 OR  
MORE VICTIMS: 1999-2003**

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES	LOCALITY
>399	Richmond City
300 - 399	n/a
200 - 299	Norfolk
100 - 199	Newport News
80 - 99	Fairfax County Portsmouth
60 - 79	Henrico County Roanoke City Virginia Beach
40 - 59	Chesapeake Chesterfield County Hampton Petersburg Prince William County

During the five-year period, 62.2% of all homicides in Virginia occurred in these thirteen localities; and 19.3% of all homicides occurred in the City of Richmond.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.

**Figure 5. Homicide Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999-2003**



# FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

## TABLE 18. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA: 1999-2003

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>															
Female	84	57.5	2.3	82	55.4	2.3	67	51.9	1.8	66	52.8	1.8	60	45.8	1.6
Male	62	42.5	1.8	66	44.6	1.9	62	48.1	1.8	59	47.2	1.6	71	54.2	2.0
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>															
White	77	52.8	1.5	78	52.7	1.5	71	55.0	1.4	52	41.6	1.0	57	43.5	1.1
Black	59	40.4	4.1	61	41.2	4.3	53	41.1	3.6	63	50.4	4.3	61	46.5	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	1.6	0.5	4	3.2	1.0	4	3.1	1.0
<b>AGE</b>															
0 - 4	26	17.8	5.6	18	12.2	3.9	21	16.3	4.4	17	13.6	3.5	17	13.0	3.5
5 - 14	5	3.4	0.5	6	4.1	0.6	5	3.9	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	13.2	1.7	24	19.2	2.4	24	18.3	2.4
25 - 34	30	20.5	2.9	29	19.5	2.8	27	20.9	2.6	24	19.2	2.3	20	15.3	1.9
35 - 44	36	24.7	3.0	34	22.9	2.8	28	21.7	2.3	30	24.0	2.5	31	23.6	2.6
45 - 54	12	8.2	1.2	22	14.9	2.2	16	12.4	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
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>															
Firearm	74	50.6	—	88	59.5	—	68	52.7	—	70	56.0	—	76	58.0	—
Sharp Instrument	29	19.9	—	22	14.9	—	18	14.0	—	14	11.2	—	22	16.8	—
Blunt Instrument	9	6.2	—	3	2.0	—	6	4.6	—	12	9.6	—	2	1.5	—
Personal Weapon	15	10.3	—	20	13.5	—	18	14.0	—	7	5.6	—	14	10.7	—
Strangulation	6	4.1	—	4	2.7	—	6	4.6	—	10	8.0	—	4	3.1	—
Other	12	8.2	—	11	7.4	—	13	10.1	—	12	9.6	—	13	9.9	—
Unknown	1	0.7	—	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>															
Central	52	35.6	2.8	50	33.8	2.7	41	31.8	2.2	34	27.2	1.8	49	37.4	2.6
Northern	27	18.5	1.3	25	16.9	1.2	20	15.5	0.9	23	18.4	1.0	24	18.3	1.1
Tidewater	34	23.3	2.2	29	19.6	1.9	28	21.7	1.8	34	27.2	2.2	30	22.9	1.9
Western	33	22.6	2.1	44	29.7	2.8	40	31.0	2.6	34	27.2	2.2	28	21.4	1.8
<b>RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER</b>															
Intimate Partner <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 >17	71	48.6	1.3	85	57.5	1.6	67	51.9	1.2	63	50.4	1.1	54	41.2	1.0
Intimate Partner Associated	18	12.3	0.3	15	10.1	0.2	20	15.5	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	19.4	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	13.2	0.2	17	13.6	0.2	21	16.0	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

### Data over the five-year period reveal:

- The family and intimate partner homicide rate for females steadily decreased.
- The five-year average family and intimate partner homicide rate for Blacks is over three times that of Whites and two-and-a-half times that of Hispanics (4.1 per 100,000 compared to 1.3 for Whites and 1.6 for Hispanics).
- Children under the age of five consistently had the highest family and intimate partner homicide rate of all age groups (range: 3.5 to 5.6 per 100,000).
- A firearm was used in 55.4% of all family and intimate partner homicides.
- Of all family or intimate partner related homicide categories, child homicide by caregiver had the highest homicide rate for four of the five years (range: 1.1 to 1.8 per 100,000). At the same time, the rate of child homicide by caregiver decreased over the five-year period.
- The intimate partner homicide rate for those older than 17 years of age decreased each year between 2000 and 2003.

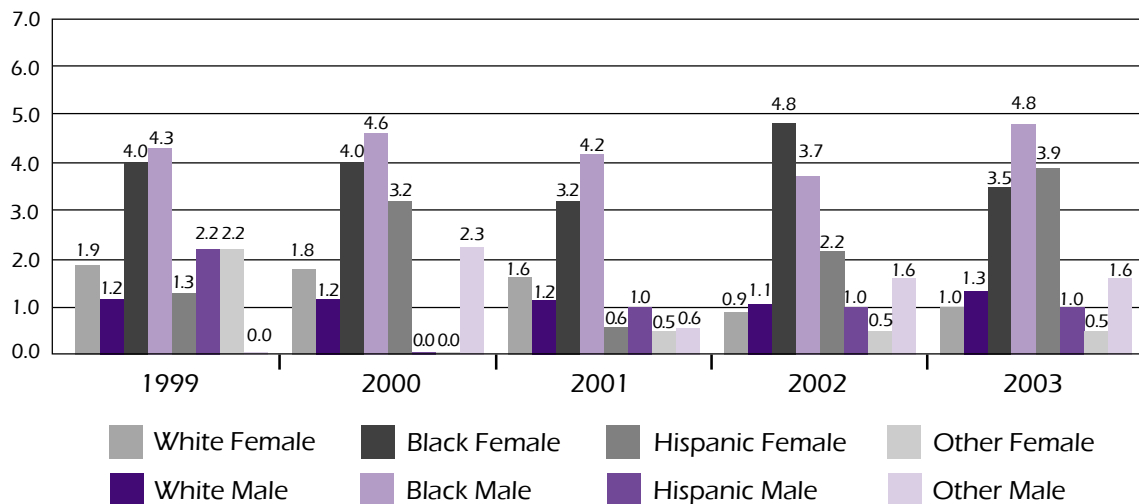
**TABLE 19. FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES\* WITH 10 OR MORE VICTIMS: 1999-2003**

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES	LOCALITY
>49	Richmond City
40 - 49	Fairfax County Norfolk
30 - 39	Henrico County
20 - 29	Chesterfield County Newport News Prince William County Roanoke City Virginia Beach
10 - 19	Albemarle County Arlington County Chesapeake Danville Hampton Henry County Lynchburg Portsmouth Washington County

During the five-year period, 58.8% of all family and intimate partner homicides in Virginia occurred in these 18 localities; and 7.4% of all family and intimate partner homicides occurred in the City of Richmond.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.

**Figure 6. Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999-2003**



# INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

TABLE 20. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS > 17 YEARS OLD\* IN VIRGINIA: 1999-2003

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>															
Female	52	73.2	1.9	60	70.6	2.2	54	80.6	1.9	47	74.6	1.7	42	77.8	1.5
Male	19	26.8	0.7	25	29.4	1.0	13	19.4	0.5	16	25.4	0.6	12	22.2	0.4
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>															
White	35	49.3	0.9	51	60.0	1.3	41	61.2	1.0	28	44.4	0.7	24	44.4	0.6
Black	32	45.1	3.2	29	34.1	2.9	24	35.8	2.4	31	49.3	3.0	26	48.2	2.5
Other	4	5.6	0.8	5	5.9	1.0	2	3.0	0.4	4	6.3	0.7	4	7.4	0.7
<b>AGE</b>															
18 - 24	6	8.5	0.9	11	12.9	1.6	12	17.9	1.7	18	28.6	2.5	12	22.2	1.7
25 - 34	20	28.2	1.9	23	27.1	2.2	17	25.4	1.6	12	19.0	1.2	7	13.0	0.7
35 - 44	27	38.0	2.2	24	28.2	2.0	19	28.4	1.6	21	33.3	1.8	20	36.9	1.7
45 - 54	9	12.7	0.9	16	18.8	1.6	10	14.9	1.0	6	9.5	0.6	9	16.7	0.9
55 - 64	4	5.6	0.6	6	7.1	0.9	2	3.0	0.3	3	4.8	0.4	3	5.6	0.4
> 64	5	7.0	0.6	5	5.9	0.6	7	10.4	0.9	3	4.8	0.4	3	5.6	0.4
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>															
Firearm	42	59.2	—	51	59.9	—	45	67.2	—	39	61.9	—	34	62.9	—
Sharp Instrument	18	25.4	—	18	21.2	—	6	9.0	—	10	15.9	—	11	20.4	—
Blunt Instrument	3	4.2	—	2	2.4	—	5	7.4	—	5	7.9	—	1	1.9	—
Strangulation	5	7.0	—	4	4.7	—	6	9.0	—	8	12.7	—	2	3.7	—
Other	2	2.8	—	10	11.8	—	5	7.4	—	1	1.6	—	6	11.1	—
Unknown	1	1.4	—	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>															
Central	25	35.2	1.8	33	38.9	2.4	23	34.3	1.6	18	28.6	1.2	25	46.3	1.7
Northern	11	15.5	0.7	17	20.0	1.1	11	16.4	0.7	13	20.6	0.8	8	14.8	0.5
Tidewater	14	19.7	1.3	15	17.6	1.3	14	20.9	1.2	12	19.0	1.0	10	18.5	0.9
Western	21	29.6	1.7	20	23.5	1.6	19	28.4	1.5	20	31.8	1.6	11	20.4	0.9
<b>RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER</b>															
Spouse	30	42.3	—	31	36.5	—	32	47.8	—	26	41.2	—	21	38.8	—
Ex-Spouse	2	2.8	—	5	5.9	—	1	1.5	—	2	3.2	—	1	1.9	—
Boy/Girlfriend**	29	40.8	—	40	47.0	—	22	32.8	—	21	33.3	—	20	37.0	—
Ex-Boy/Girlfriend**	8	11.3	—	7	8.2	—	11	16.4	—	11	17.5	—	11	20.4	—
Other	2	2.8	—	2	2.4	—	1	1.5	—	3	4.8	—	1	1.9	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

\* This table focuses on intimate partner homicide victims over 17 years of age so that homicide rates are comparable over time. There were four intimate partner homicide victims under the age of 18 during the five-year period.

\*\* Same-sex relationships are included. In 1999, there were three same-sex relationships among Boy/Girlfriends. In 2000, there were two same-sex relationships among Boy/Girlfriends and two among Ex-Boy/Girlfriends. There were no known same-sex intimate partner homicides in 2001, 2002, and 2003.

## Data over the five-year period reveal:

- The intimate partner homicide rate for women decreased each year between 2000 and 2003.
- The five-year average intimate partner homicide rate for women is three times that for men (1.8 per 100,000 compared to 0.6 for men)
- The intimate partner homicide rate for Whites decreased each year between 2000 and 2003.
- The five-year average intimate partner homicide rate for Blacks is more than three times that of Whites (2.8 per 100,000 compared to 0.9 for Whites).
- Younger adults have higher five-year average intimate partner homicide rates than older adults (1.7 per 100,000 for 18 – 24-year-olds, 1.5 for 25 – 34-year-olds, 1.9 for 35 – 44-year-olds compared to 1.0 for 45 – 54-year-olds, 0.5 for 55 – 64-year-olds and 0.6 for those over 64).
- A firearm was used in 62.1% of all intimate partner homicides.
- The OCME Northern District consistently had the lowest intimate partner homicide rate (range: 0.5 to 1.1 per 100,000). The Central District had the highest intimate partner homicide rate for four of the five years (range: 1.2 to 2.4 per 100,000).
- 41.2% of all intimate partner homicide victims were killed by spouses. 38.8% were killed by boyfriends or girlfriends.
- In addition to the 340 adults killed by intimate partners between 1999 and 2003, there were four intimate partner homicide victims under the age of 18. All four of these victims were female and the youngest was 13 years old.

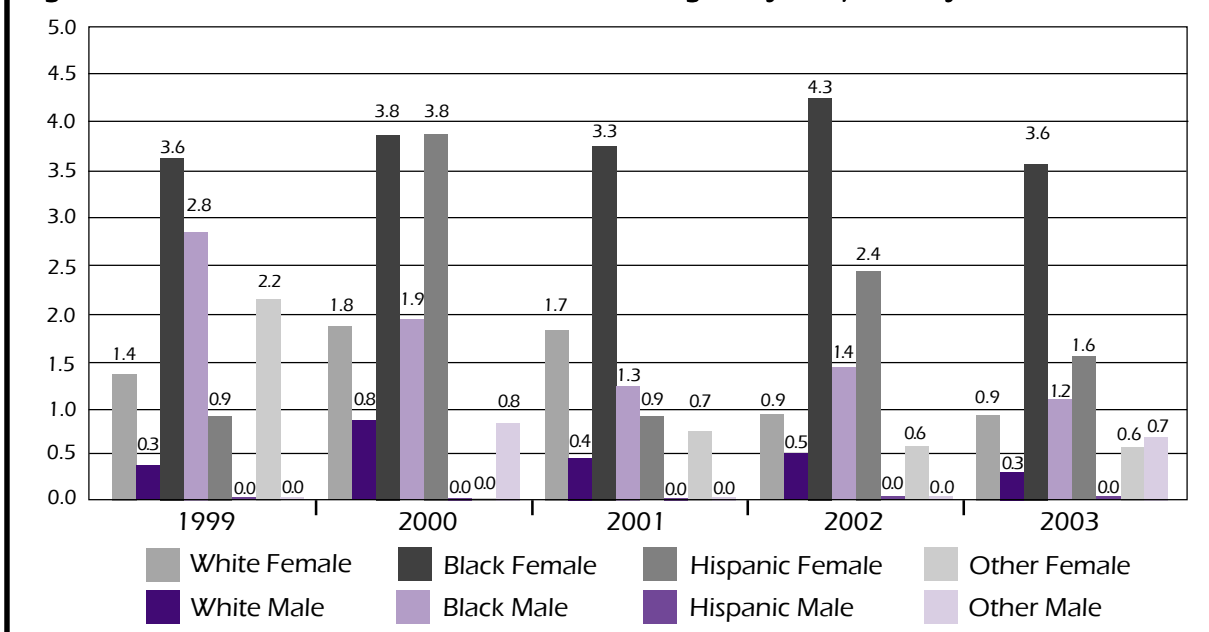
**TABLE 21. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES\* WITH 5 OR MORE VICTIMS: 1999-2003**

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES	LOCALITY
>24	Richmond City
20 - 24	Norfolk
15 - 19	Fairfax County
10 - 14	Chesterfield County Henrico County Newport News Prince William County Roanoke City Virginia Beach
5 - 9	Alexandria Albemarle County Arlington County Chesapeake Danville Frederick Hampton Henry County Lynchburg Stafford County

During the five-year period, 59.6% of all intimate partner homicides in Virginia occurred in these 19 localities; and 7.6% of all intimate partner homicides occurred in the City of Richmond.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.

**Figure 7. Intimate Partner Homicide Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999-2003**



# CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER

## TABLE 22. CHILD HOMICIDE VICTIMS KILLED BY CAREGIVERS\* IN VIRGINIA: 1999-2003

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>															
Female	17	53.1	2.0	12	50.0	1.4	4	16.0	0.5	12	50.0	1.4	6	30.0	0.7
Male	15	46.9	1.7	12	50.0	1.3	21	84.0	2.3	12	50.0	1.3	14	70.0	1.5
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>															
White	15	46.8	1.3	9	37.5	0.8	11	44.0	0.9	8	33.3	0.7	10	50.0	0.8
Black	14	43.8	3.3	14	58.3	3.3	12	48.0	2.8	14	58.4	3.2	7	35.0	1.6
Other	3	9.4	1.5	1	4.2	0.5	2	8.0	0.9	2	8.3	0.9	3	15.0	1.4
<b>AGE</b>															
< 1	13	40.6	14.0	9	37.5	9.7	11	44.0	10.9	10	41.6	9.9	11	55.0	10.9
1 - 4	13	40.6	3.5	9	37.5	2.4	9	36.0	2.4	7	29.2	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	29.2	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
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>															
Firearm	4	12.4	—	6	25.0	—	2	8.0	—	6	25.0	—	3	15.0	—
Personal Weapon	14	43.8	—	16	66.7	—	17	68.0	—	7	29.2	—	11	55.0	—
Other	14	43.8	—	2	8.3	—	6	24.0	—	11	45.8	—	6	30.0	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>															
Central	13	40.7	2.8	9	37.5	2.0	8	28.0	1.5	7	29.2	1.5	2	10.0	0.4
Northern	5	15.6	0.9	4	16.7	0.7	3	12.0	0.5	3	12.5	0.5	8	40.0	1.4
Tidewater	9	28.1	2.2	9	37.5	2.2	6	24.0	1.5	13	54.1	3.2	8	40.0	1.9
Western	5	15.6	1.5	2	8.3	0.6	9	36.0	2.7	1	4.2	0.3	2	10.0	0.6
<b>RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER</b>															
Child	18	56.2	—	15	62.5	—	13	52.0	—	22	91.6	—	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	4.2	—	2	10.0	—
Unknown	0	0.0	—	0	0.0	—	1	4.0	—	1	4.2	—	0	0.0	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.1</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

\* The victims are children under the age of 18 who were killed by a caregiver. The data do not include children under 18 killed by someone other than a caregiver or an adult killed by a parent.



## Data over the five-year period reveal:

- The five-year average child homicide by caregiver rate for Blacks is over three times that of Whites (2.8 per 100,000 compared to 0.9 for Whites).
- Children under the age of one consistently had the highest homicide rate of all age groups for each of the five years (range: 9.7 to 14.0 per 100,000), followed by 1 – 4-year-olds (range: 1.6 to 3.5 per 100,000 ).
- Children under the age of one were killed at a rate nearly five times that of 1 – 4-year-olds (five-year average rate of 11.1 per 100,000 compared to 2.3 for 1 – 4-year-olds).
- The child homicide by caregiver rates for 1 – 4-year-olds steadily decreased.
- The means of injury for 52.0% of all children killed by caregivers was a personal weapon such as a hand (used to punch, smack or shake) or foot (used to kick or stomp).
- 65.6% of all children killed by caregivers were killed by a biological parent.
- For each year there was at least one child homicide by caregiver event in which there were multiple victims. In 1999 there were two such events; in 2000 there were two events; in 2001 there was one event; in 2002 there were three events; and in 2003 there was one event.

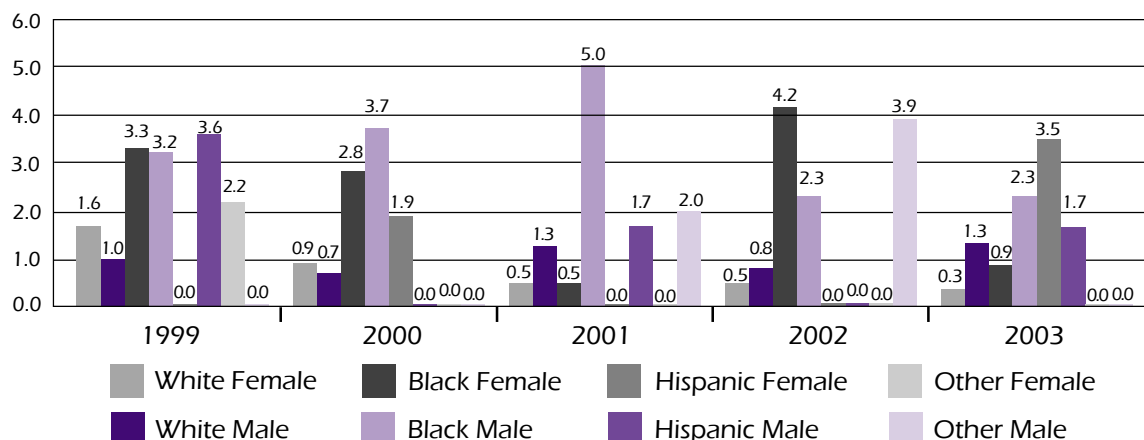
**TABLE 23.**  
**CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER**  
**IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES\* WITH**  
**5 OR MORE VICTIMS: 2003**

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES	LOCALITY
15 - 19	Norfolk
10 - 14	Virginia Beach
5 - 9	Chesterfield County Fairfax County Henrico County Newport News Prince William County Richmond City

During the five-year period, 55.2% of all child homicides by caregiver in Virginia occurred in these eight localities; and 12.8% of all child homicides by caregiver occurred in the City of Norfolk.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.

**Figure 8. Child Homicide by Caregiver Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999-2003**



# INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

**TABLE 24. INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA: 1999-2003**

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>															
Female	5	27.8	0.1	3	20.0	0.1	4	20.0	0.1	1	5.0	0.0	4	12.5	0.1
Male	13	72.2	0.4	12	80.0	0.3	16	80.0	0.5	19	95.0	0.5	28	87.5	0.8
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>															
White	11	61.1	0.2	7	46.7	0.1	11	55.0	0.2	7	35.0	0.1	9	28.1	0.2
Black	6	33.3	0.4	6	40.0	0.4	9	45.0	0.6	11	55.0	0.7	19	59.4	1.3
Other	1	5.6	0.1	2	13.3	0.3	0	0.0	0.0	2	10.0	0.3	4	12.5	0.5
<b>AGE</b>															
0 - 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	13.3	0.2	2	10.0	0.2	5	25.0	0.5	8	24.9	0.8
25 - 34	7	38.8	0.7	3	20.0	0.3	6	30.0	0.6	8	40.0	0.8	10	31.2	1.0
35 - 44	6	33.3	0.5	6	40.0	0.5	7	35.0	0.6	3	15.0	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	10.0	0.2	2	6.3	0.2
55 - 64	1	5.6	0.2	1	6.7	0.2	1	5.0	0.2	1	5.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.0
> 64	0	0.0	0.0	3	20.0	0.4	0	0.0	0.0	1	5.0	0.1	2	6.3	0.2
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>															
Firearm	14	77.8	—	14	93.3	—	15	75.0	—	16	80.0	—	21	65.6	—
Other	4	22.2	—	1	6.7	—	5	25.0	—	4	20.0	—	11	34.4	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>															
Central	7	38.9	0.4	4	26.7	0.2	8	40.0	0.4	5	25.0	0.3	15	46.9	0.8
Northern	2	11.1	0.1	2	13.3	0.1	2	10.0	0.1	3	15.0	0.1	4	12.5	0.2
Tidewater	5	27.8	0.3	3	20.0	0.2	5	25.0	0.3	7	35.0	0.4	4	12.5	0.3
Western	4	22.2	0.3	6	40.0	0.4	5	25.0	0.3	5	25.0	0.3	9	28.1	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.4</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

### Data over the five-year period reveal:

- The five-year average homicide rate for males is five times that of females (0.5 per 100,000 compared to 0.1).
- The intimate partner associated homicide rate for Blacks increased each year between 2000 and 2003.
- The five-year average intimate partner associated homicide rate for Blacks is three-and-a-half times that of Whites (0.7 per 100,000 compared to 0.2).
- 25 – 34-year-olds had the highest intimate partner associated homicide rate of all age groups for four of the five years (they shared the highest rate with 35 – 44-year-olds in one of these years).
- A firearm was used in 76.2% of all intimate partner associated homicides.
- The OCME Northern District consistently had the lowest intimate partner associated homicide rate (range: 0.1 to 0.2 per 100,000).

# OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE

## TABLE 25. OTHER FAMILY HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA: 1999-2003

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>															
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
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>															
White	14	60.9	0.3	9	42.9	0.2	8	47.1	0.2	8	47.0	0.2	14	66.7	0.3
Black	7	30.4	0.5	11	52.3	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	5.8	0.1	2	11.8	0.3	0	0.0	0.0
<b>AGE</b>															
0 - 4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	5.9	0.2	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	34.9	1.0	2	9.5	0.3	4	23.5	0.5	3	17.6	0.4	4	19.0	0.5
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>															
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	—
Other	5	21.7	—	2	9.5	—	4	23.5	—	6	35.3	—	1	4.8	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>															
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	0.0	4	23.5	0.2	4	23.5	0.2	3	14.2	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	41.3	0.4	7	41.2	0.4	6	28.6	0.4
<b>RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO ALLEGED OFFENDER</b>															
Adult Child / Stepchild	3	13.0	—	1	4.8	—	2	11.9	—	3	17.6	—	2	9.5	—
Parent / Stepparent	7	30.5	—	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	42.8	—	3	17.6	—	4	23.5	—	1	4.8	—
Cousin	2	8.7	—	3	14.3	—	3	17.6	—	2	11.9	—	4	19.0	—
Other Family	5	21.7	—	3	14.3	—	4	23.5	—	4	23.5	—	9	42.9	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

### Data over the five-year period reveal:

- The five-year average other family homicide rate for males is four times that of females (0.4 per 100,000 compared to 0.1 for females).
- The five-year average other family homicide rate for Blacks is three times that of Whites (0.6 per 100,000 compared to 0.2 for Whites).
- A firearm was used in 61.6% of all other family homicides.

# HOMICIDE-SUICIDE

**TABLE 26. HOMICIDE VICTIMS KILLED IN HOMICIDE - SUICIDE EVENTS IN VIRGINIA: 1999-2003**

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
<b>SEX</b>															
Female	33	86.8	0.9	28	75.7	0.8	22	88.0	0.6	20	64.5	0.5	13	56.5	0.4
Male	5	13.2	0.1	9	24.3	0.3	3	12.0	0.1	11	35.5	0.3	10	43.5	0.3
<b>RACE / ETHNICITY</b>															
White	24	63.1	0.5	23	62.2	0.5	18	72.0	0.4	14	45.2	0.3	13	56.5	0.3
Black	12	31.6	0.8	12	32.4	0.8	5	20.0	0.3	12	38.7	0.8	8	34.8	0.5
Other	2	5.3	0.3	2	5.4	0.3	2	8.0	0.3	5	16.1	0.6	2	8.7	0.3
<b>AGE</b>															
0 - 4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	5	16.1	1.0	0	0.0	0.0
5 - 14	2	5.3	0.2	5	13.5	0.5	2	8.0	0.2	5	16.1	0.5	4	17.4	0.4
15 - 24	6	15.8	0.6	1	2.7	0.1	4	16.0	0.4	6	19.3	0.6	4	17.4	0.4
25 - 34	10	26.3	1.0	9	24.4	0.9	6	24.0	0.6	2	6.5	0.2	2	8.7	0.2
35 - 44	12	31.5	1.0	8	21.6	0.7	7	28.0	0.6	5	16.1	0.4	7	30.4	0.6
45 - 54	2	5.3	0.2	5	13.5	0.5	4	16.0	0.4	2	6.5	0.2	2	8.7	0.2
55 - 64	2	5.3	0.3	4	10.8	0.6	0	0.0	0.0	3	9.7	0.4	2	8.7	0.3
> 64	4	10.5	0.5	5	13.5	0.6	2	8.0	0.2	3	9.7	0.4	2	8.7	0.2
<b>FATAL AGENCY</b>															
Firearm	38	100.0	—	34	91.9	—	24	96.0	—	24	77.4	—	21	91.3	—
Other	0	0.0	—	3	8.1	—	1	4.0	—	7	22.6	—	2	8.7	—
<b>OCME DISTRICT</b>															
Central	17	44.8	0.9	11	29.7	0.6	11	44.0	0.6	7	22.6	0.4	9	39.2	0.5
Northern	7	18.4	0.3	10	27.1	0.5	5	20.0	0.2	6	19.4	0.3	7	30.4	0.3
Tidewater	7	18.4	0.5	5	13.5	0.3	4	16.0	0.3	7	22.6	0.4	2	8.7	0.1
Western	7	18.4	0.4	11	29.7	0.7	5	20.0	0.3	11	35.4	0.7	5	21.7	0.3
<b>RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO PERPETRATOR</b>															
Spouse	17	44.6	—	11	29.8	—	16	64.0	—	6	19.4	—	5	21.8	—
Ex-Spouse	0	0.0	—	2	5.4	—	0	0.0	—	1	3.2	—	0	0.0	—
Boy/Girlfriend	3	7.9	—	10	27.0	—	2	8.0	—	2	6.5	—	3	13.0	—
Ex-Boy/Girlfriend	6	15.8	—	3	8.1	—	2	8.0	—	5	16.1	—	4	17.4	—
Child	5	13.2	—	4	10.8	—	2	8.0	—	11	35.4	—	3	13.0	—
Other Family	2	5.3	—	4	10.8	—	0	0.0	—	2	6.5	—	1	4.3	—
Other	5	13.2	—	3	8.1	—	3	12.0	—	4	12.9	—	7	30.5	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

## Data over the five-year period reveal:

- The five-year average homicide rate for females killed in homicide-suicide events is three times that of males (0.6 per 100,000 compared to 0.2 for males).
- The homicide rate for females killed in homicide-suicide events decreased each year.
- The five-year average homicide rate for Blacks killed in homicide-suicide events is one-and-a-half times that of Whites (0.6 per 100,000 compared to 0.4 for Whites).
- 91.6% of all homicide victims in homicide-suicide events were killed with a firearm.
- 63.6% of all homicide victims killed in homicide-suicide events were killed by intimate partners.
- For each year there were at least two homicide-suicide events in which there were multiple victims. In 1999 there were four such events; in 2000 there were three events; in 2001 there were two events; in 2002 there were five events; and in 2003 there were four events.

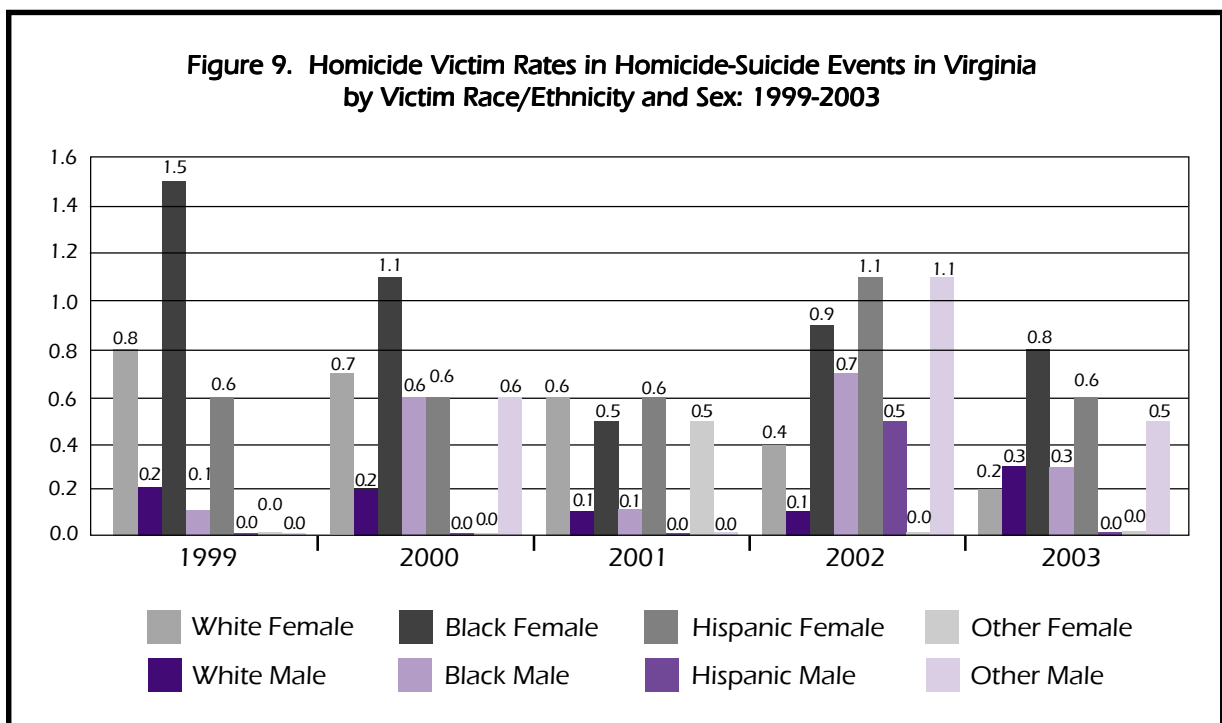
**TABLE 27.**  
**HOMICIDE -SUICIDE EVENTS**  
**IN VIRGINIA BY LOCALITIES\***  
**WITH 5 OR MORE\*\* VICTIMS:**  
**1999-2003**

LOCALITY
Chesterfield County
Fairfax County
Henrico County
Norfolk
Prince William County
Richmond City
Roanoke City

During the five-year period, 36.4% of all homicides that occurred as part of a homicide-suicide event in Virginia occurred in these seven localities.

\*For prevention and planning purposes, the locality of the injury, not death, is provided.

\*\*The number of homicide-suicide events in these localities ranged from five to ten.



# HOMICIDE VICTIM RATES

**TABLE 28. HOMICIDE VICTIM RATES IN VIRGINIA BY OCME DISTRICT AND TYPES: 1999-2003**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>ALL HOMICIDE VICTIMS</b>					
Central	9.1	9.3	8.4	9.1	10.2
Northern	2.8	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.3
Tidewater	9.1	8.9	8.8	6.8	9.3
Western	4.3	6.3	5.0	6.1	4.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS</b>					
Central	2.8	2.7	2.2	1.8	2.6
Northern	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.1
Tidewater	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.9
Western	2.1	2.8	2.6	2.2	1.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE VICTIMS &gt; 17-YEARS OLD</b>					
Central	1.8	2.4	1.6	1.2	1.7
Northern	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.5
Tidewater	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9
Western	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	0.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>CHILD HOMICIDE BY CAREGIVER VICTIMS</b>					
Central	2.8	2.0	1.5	1.5	0.4
Northern	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	1.4
Tidewater	2.2	2.2	1.5	3.2	1.9
Western	1.5	0.6	2.7	0.3	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>

Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons.

Throughout this report, information about homicide is presented using three statistics: (1) the number of cases that fit a category; (2) the percentage of cases that fit a category; and (3) the homicide rate for selected categories. Rates provide a standard unit of measurement for homicide and permit precise comparisons between groups. Rates for this report are calculated per 100,000 persons in the population. Homicide rates for 1999 and 2000 were calculated using 2000 Census figures (US Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing). Rates for 2001 were calculated using 2001 population estimates (US Census Bureau, Population Estimates for July 1, 2001). Rates for 2002 and 2003 were calculated using 2002 population estimates (US Census Bureau, Population Estimates for July 1, 2002).

Example: In Table 1, the homicide rate for females was calculated using Virginia's female population in 2003. In 2003, 98 homicide victims were female; the latest Census data available (2002 estimates) estimated Virginia's female population at 3,713,099. The female homicide rate per 100,000 is calculated by dividing 98 by 3,713,099, and then multiplying that figure by 100,000. The resulting rate is 2.63, or 2.6. Said another way, 2.6 of every 100,000 females in Virginia were homicide victims in 2003.

Listed below are tables and figures with rates, as well as the populations used to determine the rates.

## TABLES

**Table 1.** Homicide Victims in Virginia: 2003

**Table 6.** Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Victims in Virginia: 2003

**Table 16.** Homicide Victims in Virginia: 1999 – 2003

**Table 18.** Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Victims in Virginia: 1999 – 2003

**Table 20.** Intimate Partner Homicide Victims >17 Years Old in Virginia: 1999 – 2003

**Table 22.** Child Homicide Victims Killed by Caregivers in Virginia: 1999 – 2003

**Table 24.** Intimate Partner Associated Homicide Victims in Virginia: 1999 – 2003

**Table 25.** Other Family Homicide Victims in Virginia: 1999 – 2003

**Table 26.** Homicide Victims Killed in Homicide-Suicide Events in Virginia: 1999 – 2003

## POPULATIONS IN TABLES

### Sex

- Female and Male – female and male populations in VA

### Race/Ethnicity

- White and Black – White and Black populations in VA, excluding persons of Hispanic origin
- Hispanic – Hispanic population of VA, of any race
- Other (Race/Ethnicity) – population of VA not identified as White, Black or Hispanic (as described above)

### Age

- Population of each subgroup in VA

### Fatal Agency

- Population base cannot be determined with available information

### OCME District

- Central, Northern, Tidewater, Western – population of each medical examiner district in VA

## Types of Homicide/Relationship of Victim to Alleged Offender (Tables 1, 6, 16 and 18)

- Intimate Partner <18 – population of individuals 17 years of age and younger in VA
- Intimate Partner >17 – population of individuals 18 years of age and older in VA
- Intimate Partner Associated – total population of VA
- Child by Caregiver – population of individuals 17 years of age and younger in VA
- Elder by Caregiver – population of individuals aged 55 and older in VA
- Other Family – total population of VA
- Other Homicide – total population of VA
- Total (all victims) – total population of VA

## Relationship of Victim to Alleged Offender/Perpetrator (Tables 20, 22, 25 and 26)

- Population base for most relationships cannot be determined with available information.

## FIGURES

**Figure 5.** Homicide Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999 – 2003

**Figure 6.** Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999 – 2003

**Figure 7.** Intimate Partner Homicide Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999 – 2003

**Figure 8.** Child Homicide by Caregiver Victim Rates in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999 – 2003

**Figure 9.** Homicide Victim Rates in Homicide-Suicide Events in Virginia by Race/Ethnicity and Sex: 1999 – 2003

## POPULATIONS IN FIGURES

- White Female and Male – White female and male populations in VA, excluding persons of Hispanic origin
- Black Female and Male – Black female and male populations in VA, excluding person of Hispanic origin
- Hispanic Female and Male – Hispanic female and male populations of VA, of any race
- Other Female and Male – female and male populations of VA not identified as White, Black or Hispanic (as described above)

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

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/medexam/violence.asp>

Or by calling:

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