# Family and Intimate Partner Homicide 2012

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

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Suggested Citation: Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. (2013). *Family and intimate partner homicide: A descriptive analysis of the characteristics and circumstances surrounding family and intimate partner homicide in Virginia, 2012*. Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Health. Retrieved [insert date of retrieval here] from www.vdh.state.va.us/medExam/fipvhs-reports-publications.htm

Virginia Department of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner | October, 2013

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In 1999, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Virginia Code §32.1-283.3 directing the Chief Medical Examiner to provide ongoing surveillance of fatal family violence occurrences and promulgate an annual report based on accumulated data. The resulting Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project is a public health effort for understanding the scope of fatal domestic violence in Virginia. It provides a standardized monitoring method for reviewing all domestic related homicides in the state.

The project is coordinated at the Virginia Department of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). Cases are identified by newspaper surveillance and through OCME records. Cases in the project are deaths deemed by the OCME as a homicide after a medico-legal death investigation. Since deaths are identified by newspaper surveillance and OCME records, numbers may be different from other data reported by law enforcement agencies and the Virginia Division of Health Statistics. Information about each homicide is drawn from records attained and compiled by the OCME during death investigation, as well as court records and internet news searches.

## Technical Notes

Cases are included in this project if the decedent was injured and/or died in Virginia. To provide a sense of where fatal domestic violence occurs in Virginia, two types of regional breakdowns are provided. *Health Planning Regions* (HPR) describe where the fatal injury occurred, revealing areas of the Commonwealth where prevention efforts are most needed. *OCME Districts* portray where the death investigation took place, which may be different from the district where injury occurred.

Population data are from the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Health Statistics. Ethnicity is reported separately from Race in this report, as Hispanic persons can identify as a member of any race and are a separate ethnic group.

***Table 1: Virginia Population by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex: 2012***

| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| White | 2,985,063 | 74.2 | 2,938,527 | 70.6 | 5,923,590 | 72.4 |
| Black | 875,358 | 21.8 | 804,349 | 19.3 | 1,679,707 | 20.5 |
| Other | 303,921 | 7.6 | 278,649 | 6.7 | 582,570 | 7.1 |
| **Total** | **4,164,342** | **100.0** | **4,021,525** | **100.0** | **8,185,867** | **100.0** |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 330,483 | 8.2 | 357,013 | 8.6 | 687,496 | 8.4 |

Where appropriate, tables include numbers, percentages, and rates. Rates allow comparisons to be made over time and across different populations. Rates are calculated for every 100,000 persons in the population, and are specific to age, race, and/or sex unless otherwise specified. *Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted and used with caution.*

## Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Classification

The Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance project uses the following six Case Type categories to differentiate types of fatal domestic violence.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Intimate Partner (IP) Homicide** | A homicide in which a victim was killed by one of the following: spouse (married or separated), former spouse, current or former boyfriend, girlfriend or same–sex partner, or dating partner. This group could include homicides in which only one of the parties had pursued a relationship or perceived a relationship with the other, as in some stalking cases. |
| **Intimate Partner Associated (IPA) 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. |
| **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–law) and which does not meet the criteria for one of the four categories 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. |

## All Virginia Homicides

This report focuses on Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) homicide in Virginia in 2012. To understand the context of FIP homicides, some characteristics of all 2012 homicides are provided below.

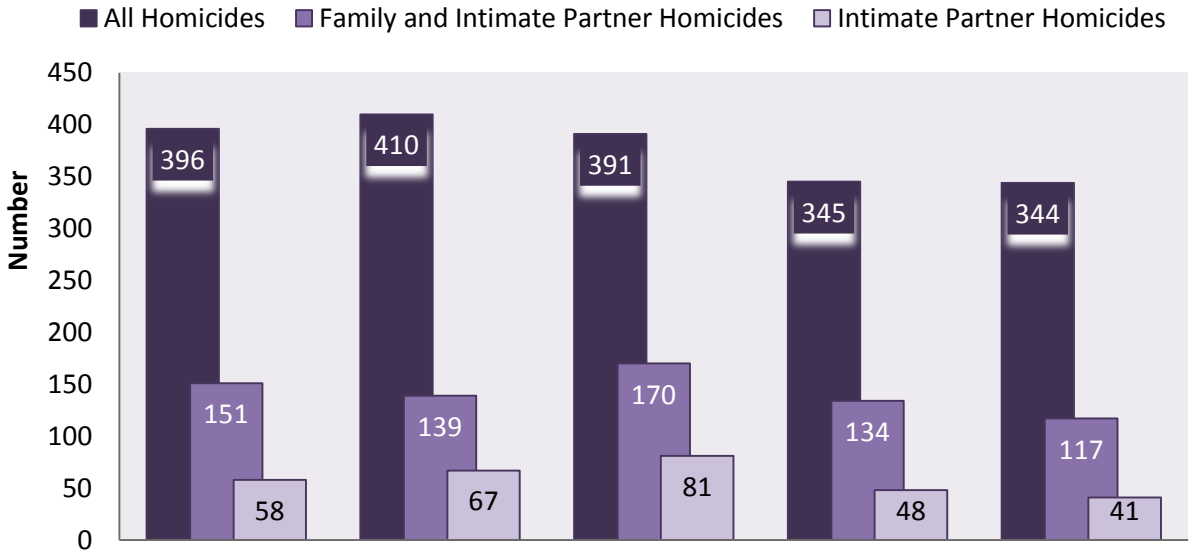
In 2012, there were 344 homicides in Virginia with a rate of 4.2. This reflects a 0.3% decrease between 2011 and 2012.[1]

Additional data on 292 murder and non-negligent manslaughter offenses are available from the 2012 report on Virginia's Uniform Crime Statistics:[2]

- 292 reported offenses resulted in 316 homicides in 2012.[3]
- 76.9% of homicide victims were male, with 63.0% Black and 34.2% being White.
- The largest demographic group of homicide victims in 2012 were Black males ages 20-24 (11.1%).
- 201 offenses (69%) involved some type of firearm.

### Family and Intimate Partner homicide comprised 34.0% of all Virginia homicides in 2012.

***Figure 1: Number of Homicides, Family and Intimate Partner Homicides, and Intimate Partner Homicides in Virginia between 2008 and 2012***




[1] Preliminary data from the Virginia Medical Examiners Data System (VMEDS). Retrieved September 26, 2013.
[2] Virginia Department of State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Section. (2013). "Crime in Virginia: 2012". Retrieved October 7, 2013 from www.vsp.state.va.us/downloads/Crime_in_Virginia_2012.pdf
[3] The number of homicides reported by the OCME typically varies from Uniform Crime Statistics, due to differences in reporting criteria.

## Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide

By collecting demographic information about victims of domestic violence, the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project identifies which groups are at risk and the common risk factors that shape lethal domestic relationships. With this data, we can identify the magnitude of the most dangerous domestic violence in Virginia. Cases are included if they are found to have occurred as a result of abuse between family members or intimate partners.

- In 2012, there were 104 Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide events totaling 117 homicide victims with a crude rate of 1.4. This represents a 12.7% decrease in FIP Homicide victims from 2011 to 2012.
- Females were more likely to be killed by a current or former intimate partner (77.5%) than males (22.5%).
- 88% of alleged offenders were known to be male.
- Females were more likely to be killed during a homicide-suicide event (70.8%) than males.
- FIP Homicide victims were most likely to be killed with a firearm (48.7%) and in a residence (94.9%).
- Victims of Intimate Partner Associated Homicide were more likely to be males (72.4%); in contrast, victims of Intimate Partner Homicide were more likely to be female (78.0%).

## Demographic Characteristics of FIP Homicide Victims

- The highest rate of FIP Homicide (3.2) continues to be seen among Black Virginians.
- Looking at race, ethnicity, and sex, Black males had the highest rate of 3.5, followed by Black females with a rate of 2.9.
- Sixty FIP Homicide victims were female with a rate of 1.5, and 57 FIP Homicide victims were male with a rate of 1.4.
- There were 62 White Virginians with a rate of 1.0, and 53 Black Virginians killed by FIP Homicide with a rate of 3.2.

***Table 2: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=117): 2012***

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** |
| White | 34 | 56.7 | 1.1 | 28 | 49.1 | 1.0 | 62 | 53.0 | 1.0 |
| Black | 25 | 41.7 | 2.9 | 28 | 49.1 | 3.5 | 53 | 45.3 | 3.2 |
| Other | 1 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 1 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 2 | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.0** | **1.5** | **57** | **100.0** | **1.4** | **117** | **100.0** | **1.4** |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 4 | 6.7 | 1.2 | 5 | 8.8 | 1.4 | 9 | 7.7 | 1.3 |

- The mean age of female FIP Homicide victims was 34 years old, and the mean age of male victims was 37 years old.
- Female infants had the highest FIP Homicide rate at 8.1, followed by male infants with a rate of 7.8. Among adults, males and females aged 45 to 54 years old had the highest rate at 2.0.

***Figure 2: Number of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=117): 2012***

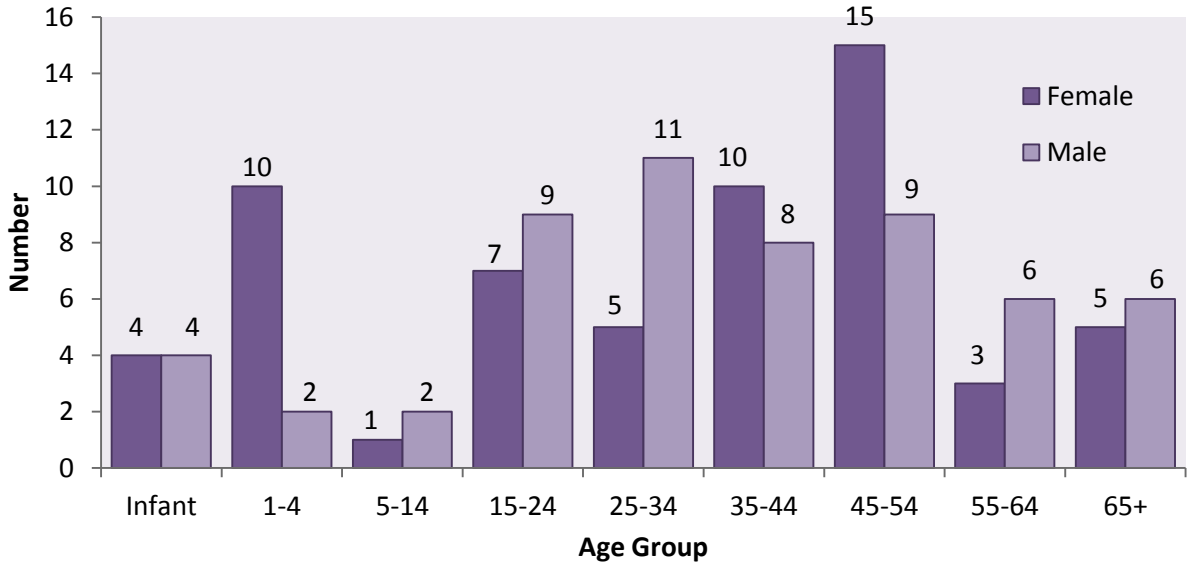
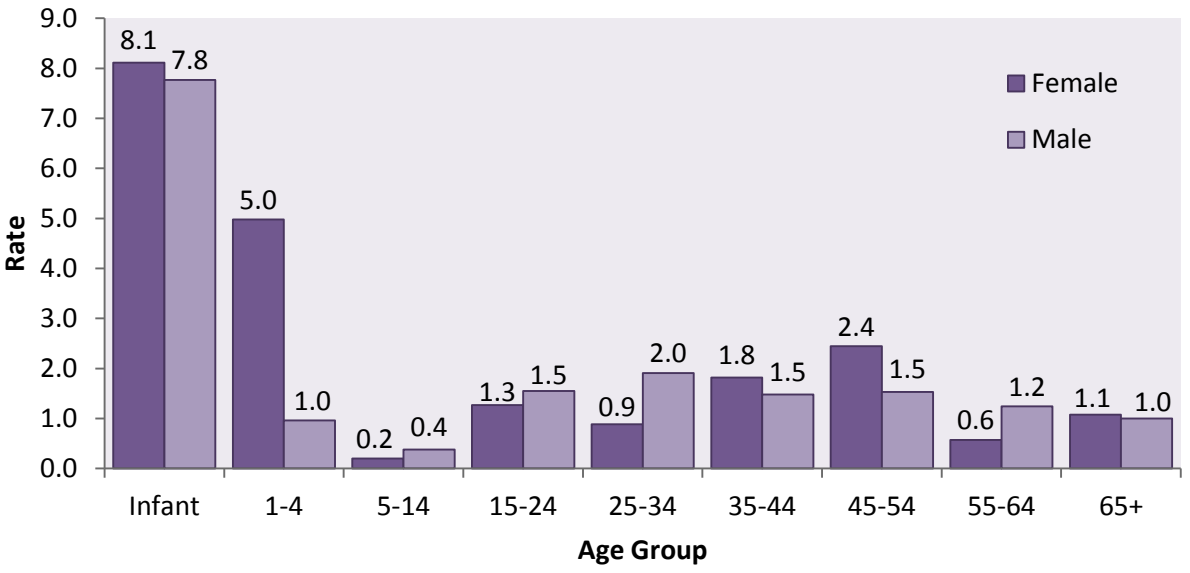



***Figure 3: Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=117): 2012***



## Localities Where FIP Homicides Occurred

***Figure 4: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District Where Death was Investigated in Virginia (N=117): 2012***

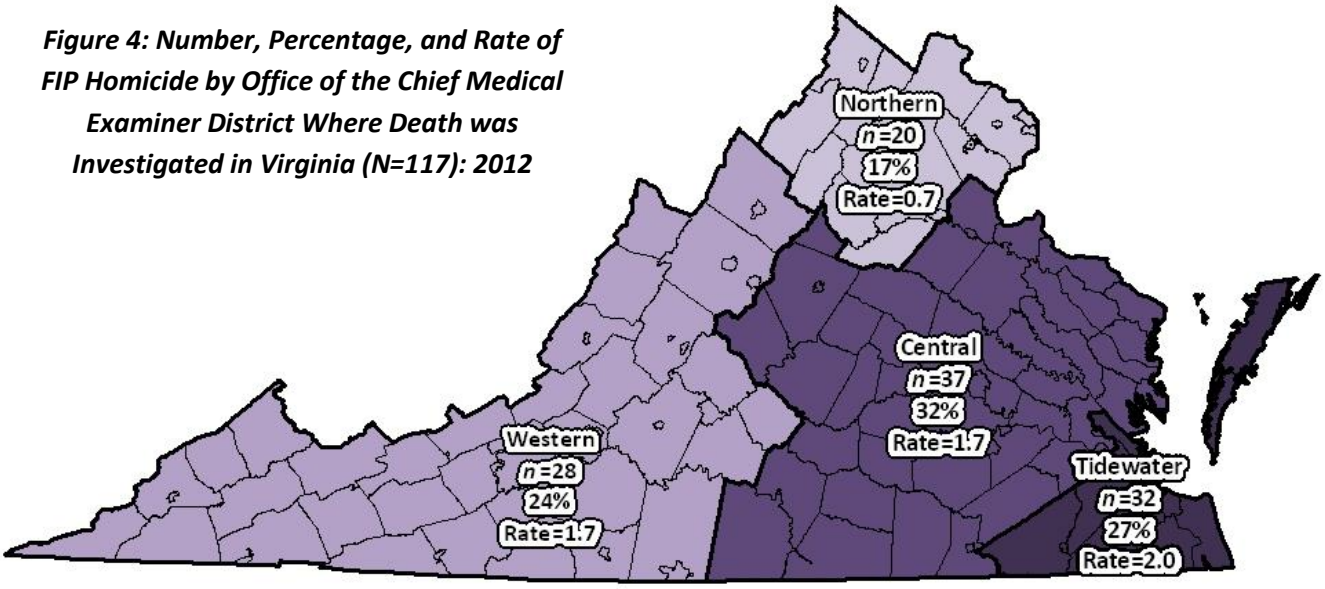
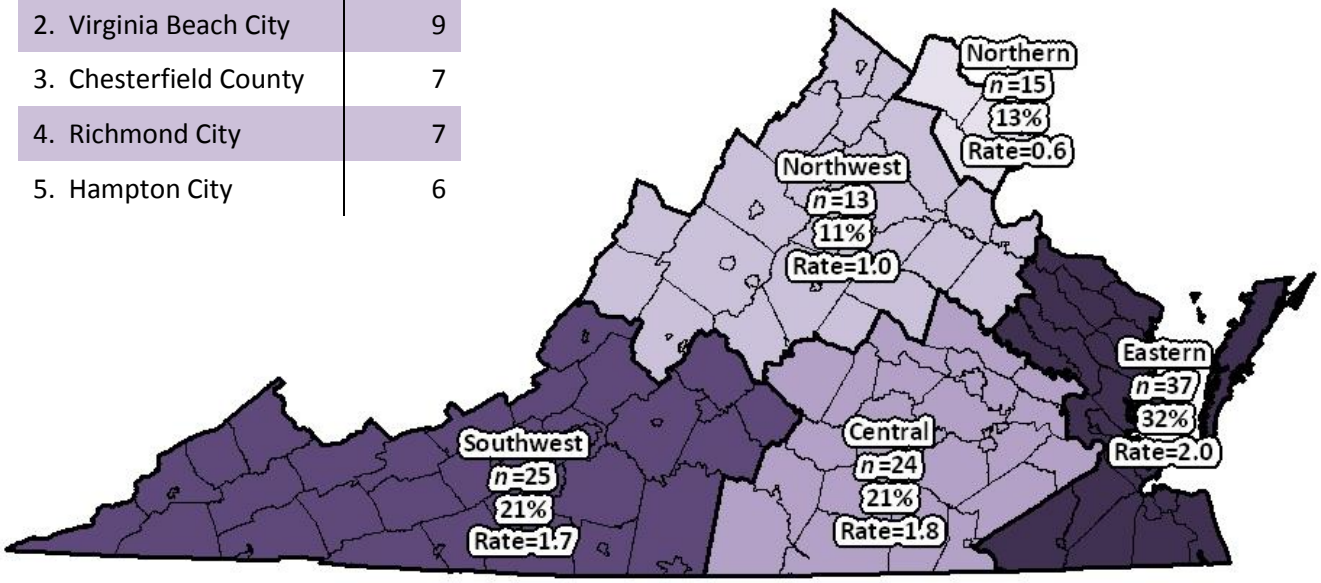



***Table 3: Virginia Localities with the Highest Number of FIP Homicides by Location of Fatal Injury: 2012***

| Locality | No. |
|---|---|
| 1. Fairfax County | 11 |
| 2. Virginia Beach City | 9 |
| 3. Chesterfield County | 7 |
| 4. Richmond City | 7 |
| 5. Hampton City | 6 |

***Figure 5: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide by Health Planning Region Where Fatal Injury Occurred in Virginia (N=117): 2012****




**3 FIP Homicide victims were injured out of state*

## Fatal Agency of FIP Homicides

- Nearly half (48.7%) of all FIP Homicides were committed with a firearm, followed by a sharp instrument (23.1%) and a personal weapon (20.5%).
- While nearly two thirds of male victims were killed with a firearm (64.9%), female victims were killed with a wider variety of fatal agents—notably sharp instruments or personal weapons.

***Table 4: Number and Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=117): 2012****

| | Female (*n*=60) | | Male (*n*=57) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fatal Agency** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| Firearm | 20 | 33.3 | 37 | 64.9 | 57 | 48.7 |
| Sharp Instrument | 16 | 26.7 | 11 | 19.3 | 27 | 23.1 |
| Personal Weapon** | 17 | 28.3 | 7 | 12.3 | 24 | 20.5 |
| Strangulation | 5 | 8.3 | 1 | 1.8 | 6 | 5.1 |
| Blunt Instrument | 3 | 5.0 | 1 | 1.8 | 4 | 3.4 |
| Smother/Suffocation | 2 | 3.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.7 |
| Drowning | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 1.8 | 2 | 1.7 |
| Motor Vehicle | 1 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.9 |
| Carbon Monoxide | 1 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.9 |
| Smoke Inhalation | 1 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.9 |
| Unknown | 1 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.9 |

**Seven females and two males were killed with 2 or more fatal agents*

***Fatal agency characterized as a part of the body; for example, hands or feet used to beat a victim.*

## Other Victims of FIP Homicide

The burden of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide often extends beyond lives lost. The true impact may be influenced by the types of violence involved, and persons who may have witnessed or survived the fatal event.

- 56 children were exposed to a FIP Homicide, including 14 who directly witnessed the fatal injury. Over half (58.9%) of these children were under the age of 10.
- 42 people who were also targets of violence during an FIP Homicide survived the event, including 10 children.
- One quarter (25.0%) of all events involved multiple victims, ending the lives of at least 2 people; 19 (73.1%) of these multiple fatalities were homicide-suicide events.
  - Two homicide-suicide events were considered “family annihilations” in that the alleged offender killed every member of the family household before committing suicide.
- 2012 FIPS cases included 7 multiple homicides (7.1%), including 1 triple homicide.
- 3 (2.6%) FIP Homicide victims were also sexually assaulted during the fatal event.

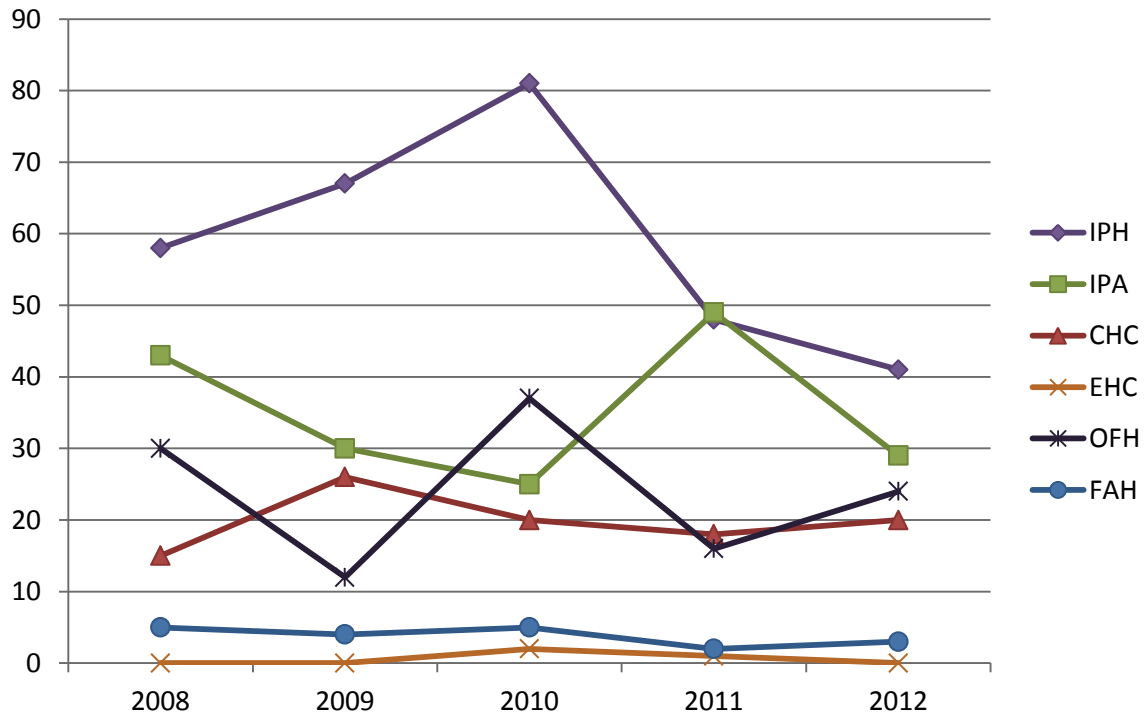
## Type of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide

***Table 5: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type and Sex in Virginia (N=117): 2012***

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Type** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** |
| IPH | 32 | 53.3 | 0.8 | 9 | 15.8 | 0.2 | 41 | 35.0 | 0.5 |
| IPA | 8 | 13.3 | 0.2 | 21 | 36.8 | 0.5 | 29 | 24.8 | 0.4 |
| CHC | 11 | 18.3 | 0.3 | 9 | 15.8 | 0.2 | 20 | 17.1 | 0.2 |
| EHC | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| OFH | 8 | 13.3 | 0.2 | 16 | 28.1 | 0.4 | 24 | 20.5 | 0.3 |
| FAH | 1 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 3 | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.0** | **1.5** | **57** | **100.0** | **1.4** | **117** | **100.0** | **1.4** |

Intimate Partner Homicide decreased for the second year in a row in 2012; and, for the first time in 2012 since the beginning of surveillance in 1999, both Intimate Partner and Associated Homicides decreased from the previous year.

***Figure 6: Number of FIP Homicides by Case Type in Virginia: 2008-2012***



## Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH)

Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH) is classified as a homicide in which a victim is killed by a current or former spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, or dating partner. This could also include individuals who have children in common, whether or not they have ever lived together, or whether the relationship was ever reciprocated (e.g., one person perceived a relationship with the other, as with some stalking offenders).

- In Virginia in 2012 there were 41 Intimate Partner Homicide victims, with a rate of 0.5.
- IP Homicide decreased 14.6% from 2011 to 2012, reaching its lowest point since surveillance began in 1999.

## Demographic Characteristics of Intimate Partner Homicide Victims

- Just over three quarters of victims were female (78%), with Black females having the highest number (17) and rate at 1.9.
- In contrast to previous years where the majority of IPH victims were White, Blacks made up just over half of all victims (51%).
- IPH victims' ages ranged from 21-79, with a mean age of 43.
- Females ages 45-54 were at the highest risk of IPH at a rate of 2.0, resulting in a two-fold increase in the risk among this demographic group from 2011.
- In 2012, the highest risk of IPH was found in the Eastern Health Planning Region, with 32% of fatal injuries and a rate of 0.7.

***Table 6: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IP Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=41): 2012***

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** |
| White | 15 | 46.9 | 0.5 | 5 | 55.6 | 0.2 | 20 | 48.8 | 0.3 |
| Black | 17 | 53.1 | 1.9 | 4 | 44.4 | 0.5 | 21 | 51.2 | 1.3 |
| Other | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Total** | **32** | **100.0** | **0.8** | **9** | **100.0** | **0.2** | **41** | **100.0** | **0.5** |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 3 | 9.4 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3 | 7.3 | 0.4 |

***Figure 7: Number of IP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=41): 2012***

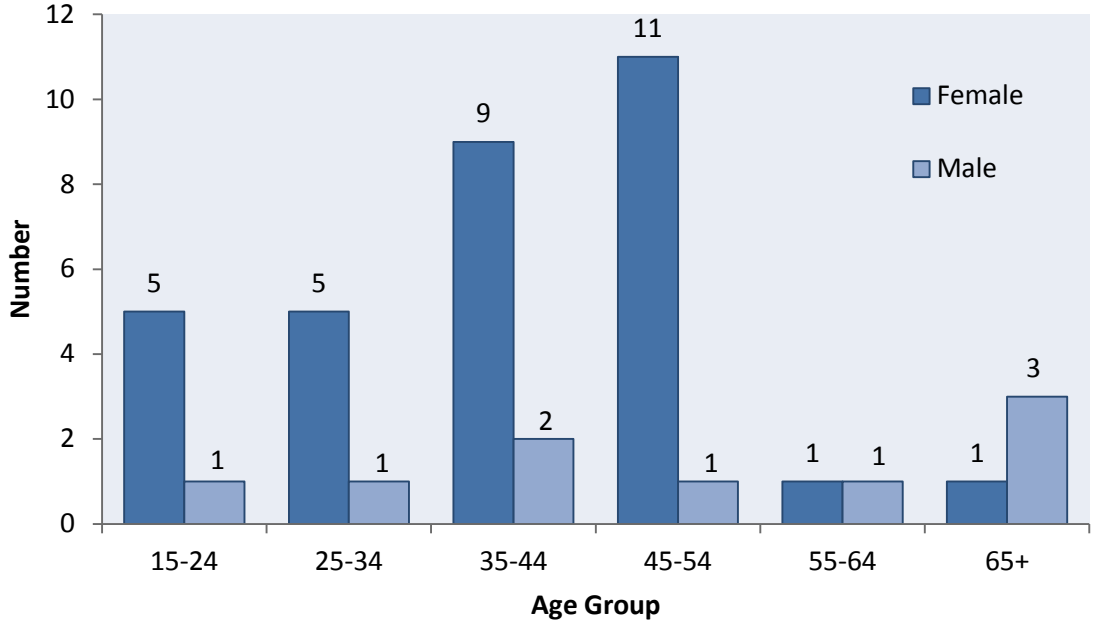
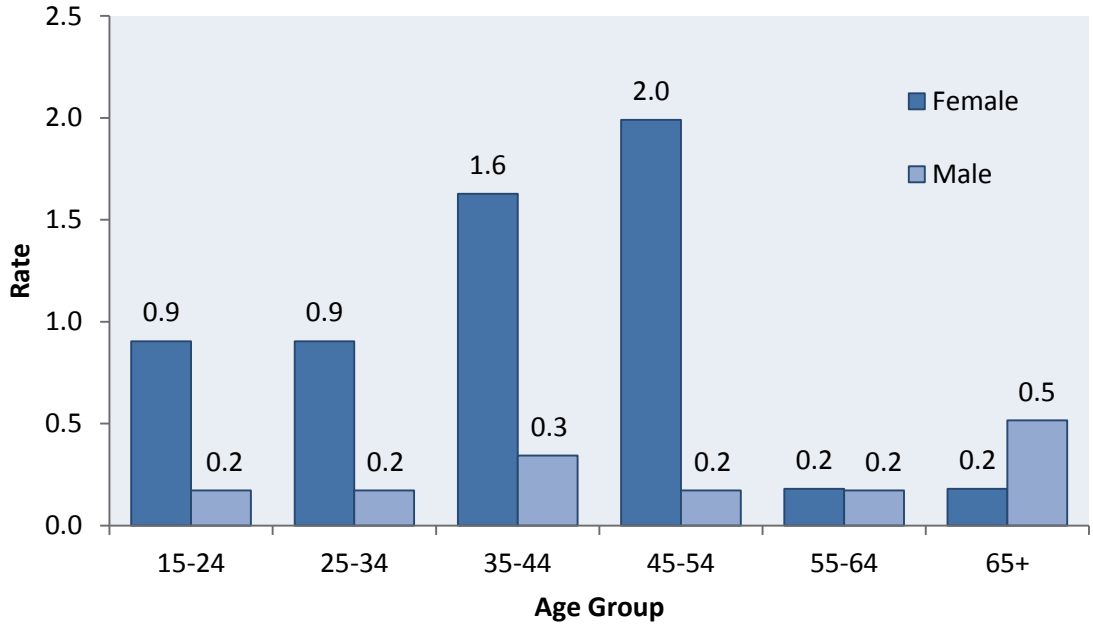



***Figure 8: Rate of IP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=41): 2012***



## Localities Where IP Homicides Occurred

***Figure 9: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IP Homicide by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District Where Death was Investigated in Virginia (N=41): 2012***

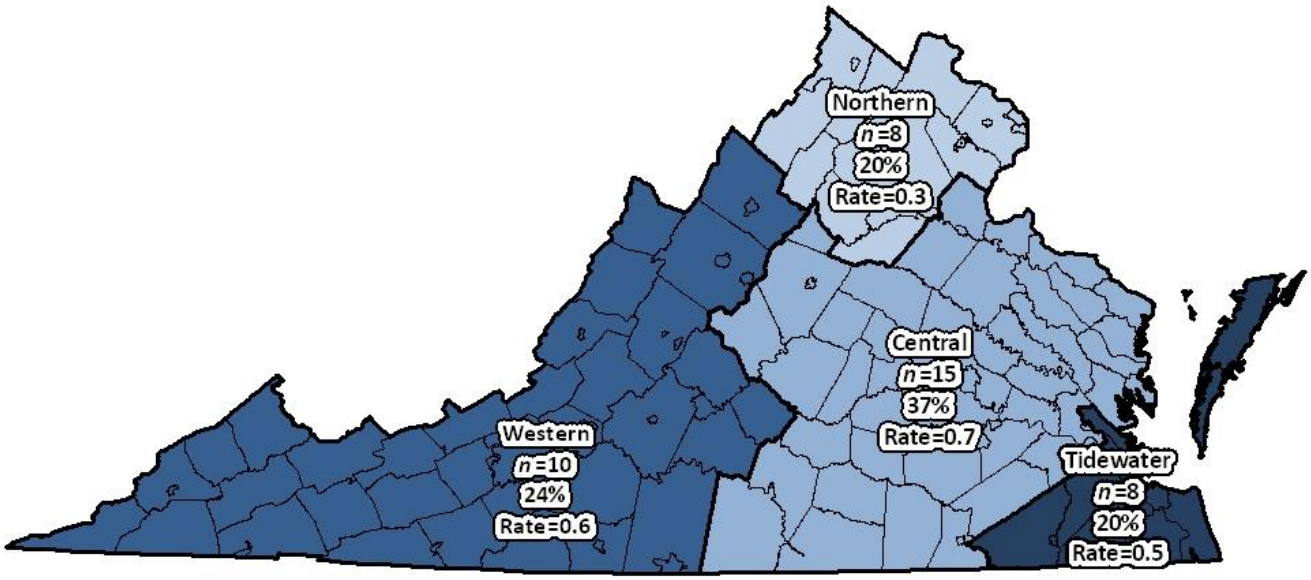
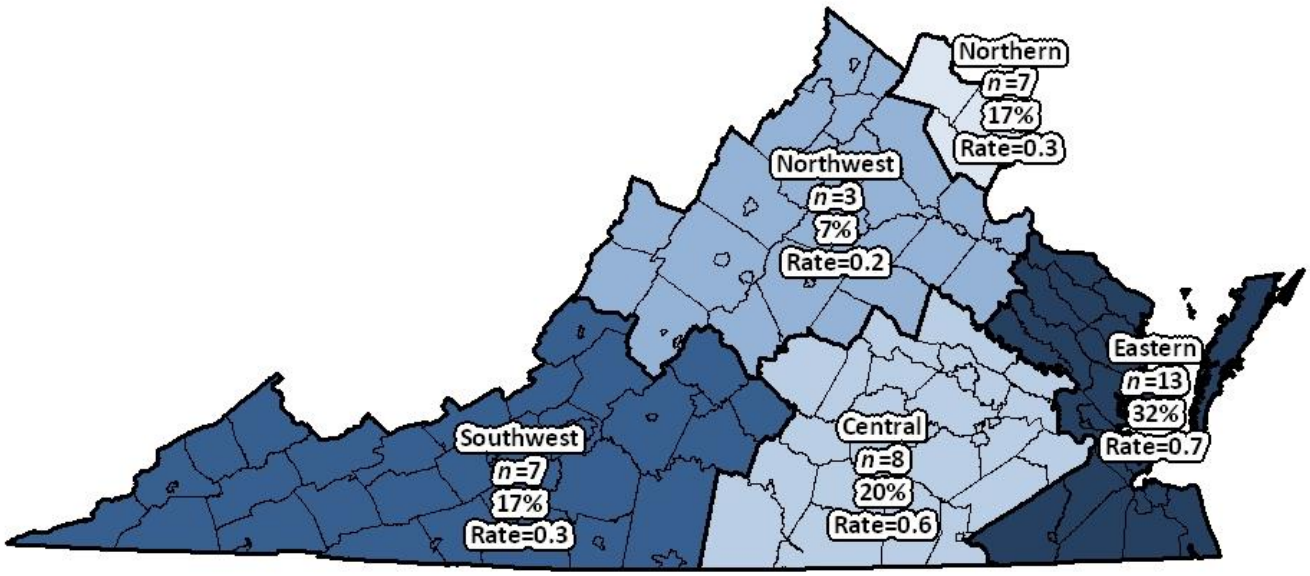



***Figure 10: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IP Homicide by Health Planning Region Where Fatal Injury Occurred in Virginia (N=41): 2012****




**3 IP Homicide victims were injured out of state*

## Fatal Agency of IP Homicides

- Nearly half (46.3%) of all IP Homicides were committed with a firearm.
- Female IPH victims were equally likely to be killed with either a firearm or a sharp instrument (40.6% each).

***Table 7: Number and Percentage of IP Homicide Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=41): 2012****

| | Female (n=32) | | Male (n=9) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fatal Agency** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| Firearm | 13 | 40.6 | 6 | 66.7 | 19 | 46.3 |
| Sharp Instrument | 13 | 40.6 | 3 | 33.3 | 16 | 39.0 |
| Personal Weapon | 4 | 12.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 9.8 |
| Strangulation | 4 | 12.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 9.8 |
| Drowning | 1 | 3.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 2.4 |
| Blunt Instrument | 1 | 3.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 2.4 |
| Motor Vehicle | 1 | 3.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 2.4 |
| Unknown | 1 | 3.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 2.4 |

**6 female decedents were killed with more than one fatal agency*

## Relationship of IP Homicide Victim to Alleged Offender

- The majority of IPH victims were killed by a current intimate partner (71%), including a spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend.
- One homicide involved two people who were friends, but had never previously been in an intimate relationship

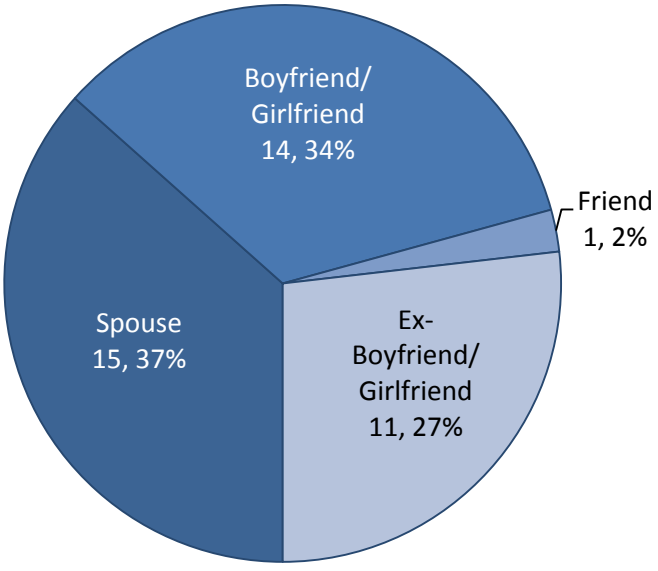



***Figure 11: Number and Percentage of IP Homicide Victims by Type of Relationship between Victim and Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=41): 2012***

## Other Victims of Intimate Partner Homicide

Another way in which FIP Homicide may impact families and communities is through children who are left without one or both parents through death or incarceration.

- In nearly a third (31.7%) of IPH cases, the intimate partners had children in common, totaling 25 children.
    - 20 of these children (80.0%) lived with one or both of the intimate partners at the time of the homicide.
- In 1 out of 4 (24.4%) cases, the intimate partners also had children from other relationships, totaling 20 children; 7 of these children were known to be living with one or both intimate partners at the time of the homicide.
- 13 people who were additional targets of violence during an IP Homicide survived the event, including 4 children.

## Intimate Partner Associated (IPA) Homicide

Intimate Partner Associated (IPA) Homicide is classified as 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.

- In 2012 there were 24 IPA Homicide events, resulting in 29 fatalities. Two IPA Homicide victims were killed as part of an IP Homicide event where the alleged offender killed their intimate partner and one or more other victims.
- IPA Homicide events included 2 homicide-suicides, and 1 double homicide.
- IPA Homicide decreased 40.8% from 2011 to 2012.
- The region with the highest risk for IPA Homicide was the Central Health Planning Region with a rate of 0.7.

## Demographic Characteristics of Intimate Partner Homicide Victims

- Black males had the highest IPA Homicide risk, with a rate of 1.6.
- IPA Homicide victims' ages ranged from 1-76 years; mean age of victims was 32 years, with nearly one third (62.1%) of victims being ages 15-44.
- Females ages 1-4 had the highest IPA Homicide risk with a rate of 1.5.

***Table 8: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (29): 2012***

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** |
| White | 3 | 37.5 | 0.1 | 7 | 33.3 | 0.2 | 10 | 34.5 | 0.2 |
| Black | 5 | 62.5 | 0.6 | 13 | 61.9 | 1.6 | 18 | 62.1 | 1.1 |
| Other | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1 | 4.8 | 0.4 | 1 | 3.4 | 0.2 |
| **Total** | **8** | **100.0** | **0.2** | **21** | **100.0** | **0.5** | **29** | **100.0** | **0.4** |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1 | 4.8 | 0.3 | 1 | 3.4 | 0.1 |

***Figure 12: Number of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2012***

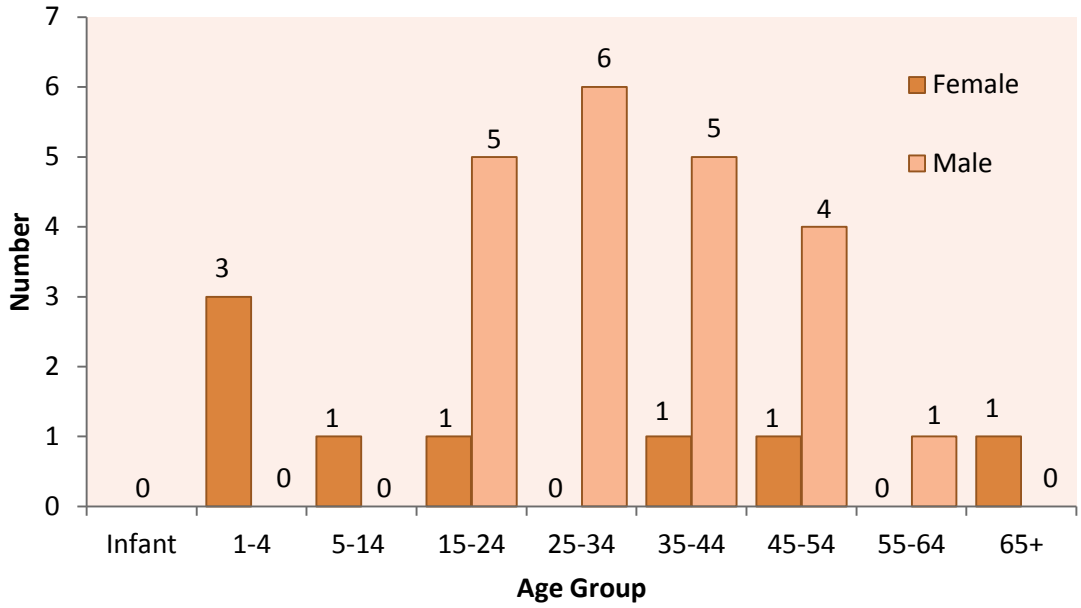
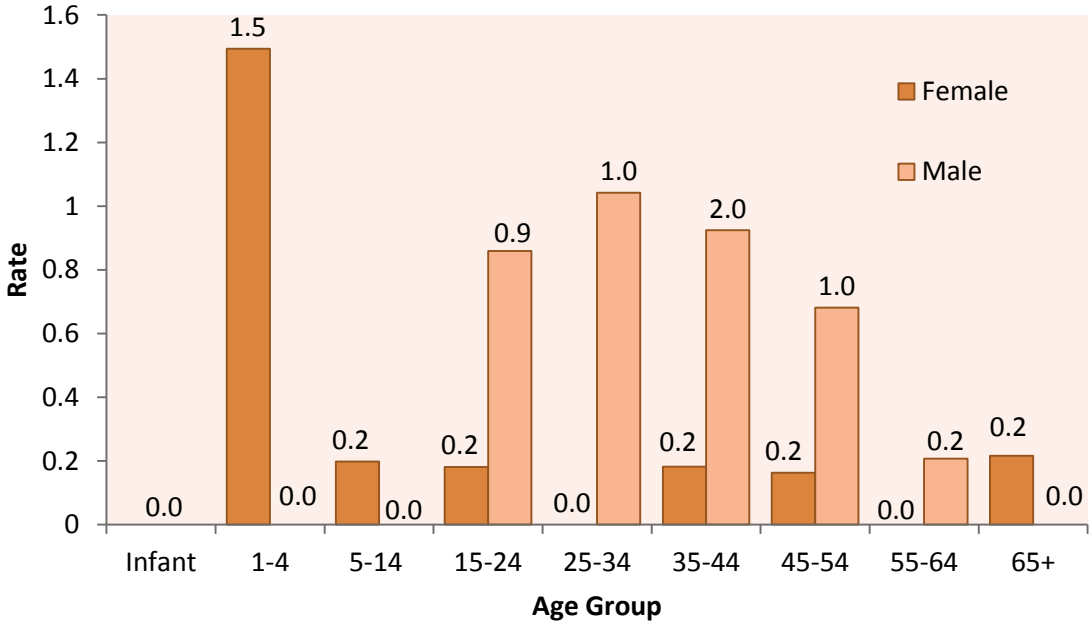



***Figure 13: Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2012***



## Localities Where IPA Homicides Occurred

***Figure 14: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District Where Death was Investigated in Virginia (N=29): 2012***

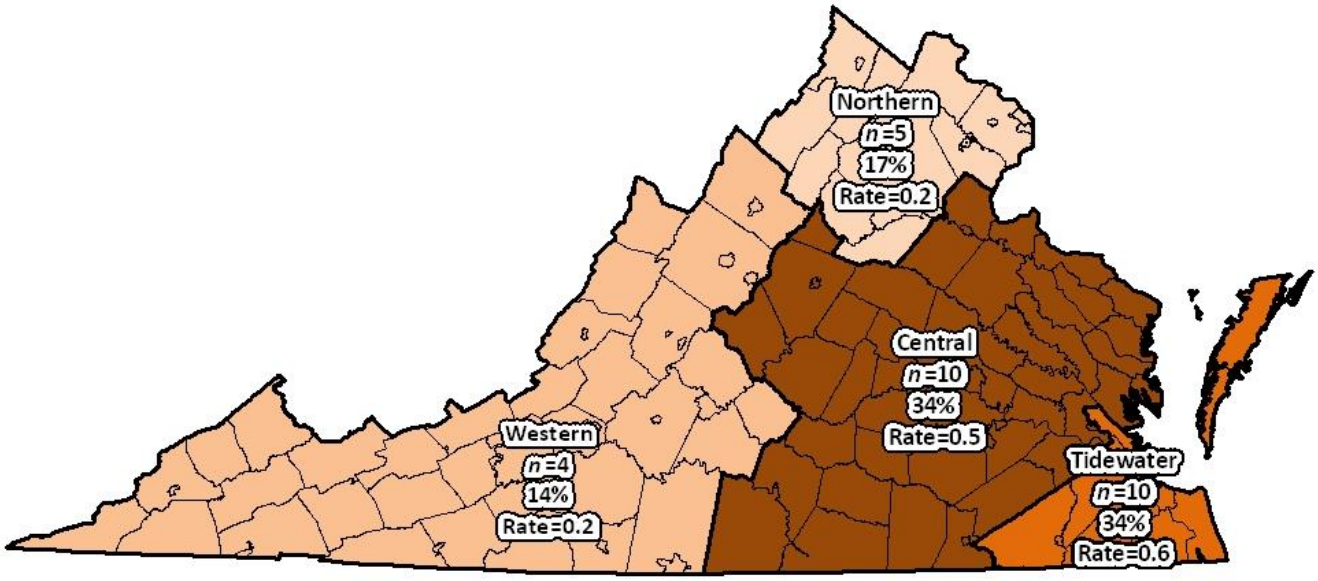
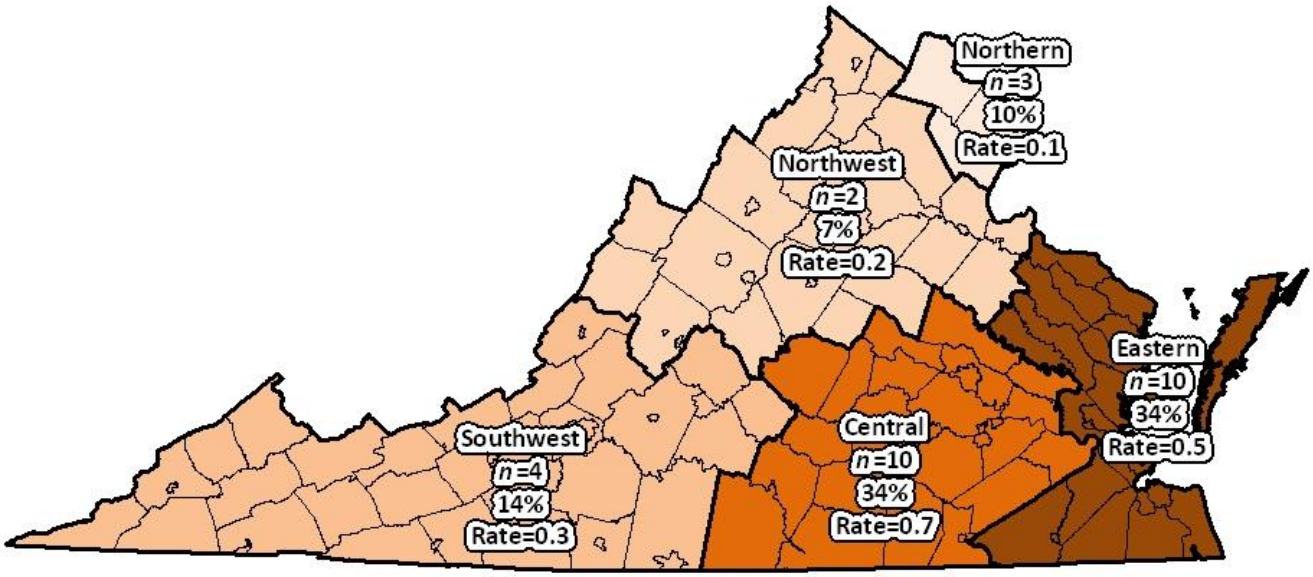



***Figure 15: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide by Health Planning Region Where Fatal Injury Occurred in Virginia (N=29): 2012***



## Fatal Agency of IPA Homicides

- Firearms were the most common fatal agent used in IPA Homicides at 65.5%.
- Males were more likely (76.2%) than females (37.5%) to be killed with a firearm.

***Table 9: Number and Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2012****

| | Female (n=8) | | Male (n=21) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fatal Agency** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No** | **%** |
| Firearm | 3 | 37.5 | 16 | 76.2 | 19 | 65.5 |
| Sharp Instrument | 2 | 25.0 | 4 | 19.0 | 6 | 20.7 |
| Personal Weapon | 2 | 25.0 | 1 | 4.8 | 3 | 10.3 |
| Strangulation | 1 | 12.5 | 1 | 4.8 | 2 | 6.9 |
| Fire/Smoke Inhalation | 1 | 12.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.4 |
| Poison/Carbon Monoxide | 1 | 12.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.4 |

**2 females and 1 male were killed using more than one fatal agent.*

## Relationship of IPA Homicide Victim to Alleged Offender

The relationship between the victim and alleged offender in IPA Homicide cases is often difficult to describe. Two IPA Homicide victims were the alleged aggressor in a domestic dispute and were subsequently killed by a law enforcement officer. The remaining victims were related to the alleged offender either directly or through their current or former intimate partner:

- 13 (45%) victims were a family member, friend, or acquaintance of the alleged offender.
- 8 (27%) victims were the intimate partner of the alleged offender's friend, family member, or intimate partner.
- 6 (21%) victims were the friend or family member of the alleged offender's intimate partner.

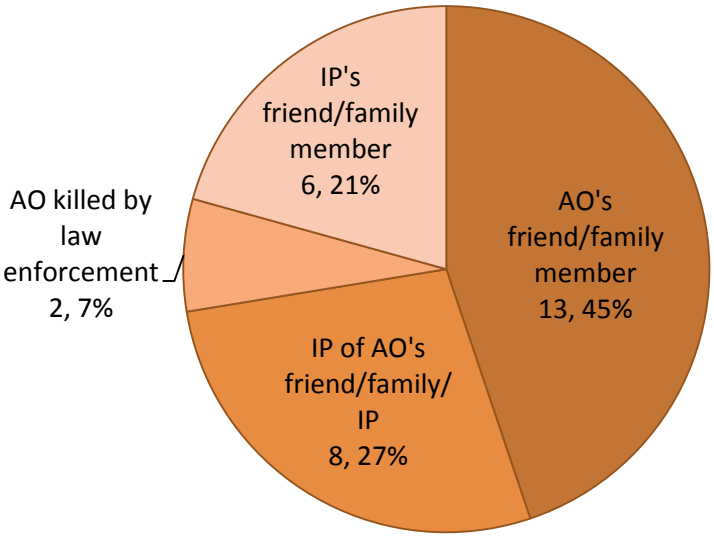



***Figure 16: Number and Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Type of Relationship between Victim and Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=29): 2012***

## Other Victims of Intimate Partner Associated Homicide

- 12 IPA Homicide events had 23 survivors, including 2 children.
- In nearly half (45.8%) of cases, the intimate partners had children in common and/or from other relationships, totaling 23 children.
- Of these children, 3 were known to be living with one or both of the intimate partners at the time of the event.

## Precipitating Characteristics of Intimate Partner and Associated Homicides

Precipitating Characteristics are the circumstances occurring immediately before or during the homicide event that are considered the motive or trigger of the fatal violence. The information provided is valuable but likely provides a conservative estimate of the true magnitude of the characteristics involved in these events.

In 2012, there were 70 Intimate Partner and Intimate Partner Associated Homicide victims, comprising 65 separate events. Ten Intimate Partner Homicides had no clear precipitating characteristics identified by surveillance and were removed from analysis.

- The most common factor precipitating IP and IPA Homicide cases was the break-up or termination of the intimate partner relationship (25%). This included the actual break-up event, or an argument about the end of the relationship.
- While some factors were fairly prevalent across both IP and IPA Homicides (e.g., the presence or perception of a new intimate partner and the use or abuse of drugs or alcohol), other factors were more unique to case type:
  - Financial issues were unique to IP Homicides, with 22.6% of cases involving a dispute or conflict about money.
  - 20.7% of IPA Homicides were precipitated by an argument resulting from a disparaging remark or gesture towards an intimate partner.

***Table 10: Number and Percentage of IP and IPA Homicide Victims by Precipitating Characteristics (N=60): 2012***

| | IP (n=31) | | IPA (n=29) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Precipitating Characteristics** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| Termination of relationship/break up | 10 | 32.3 | 5 | 17.2 | 15 | 25.0 |
| Argument not otherwise specified | 10 | 32.3 | 3 | 10.3 | 13 | 21.7 |
| New partner/perception of new partner | 6 | 19.4 | 4 | 13.8 | 10 | 16.7 |
| Substance/alcohol use/abuse | 4 | 12.9 | 5 | 17.2 | 9 | 15.0 |
| Financial issues | 7 | 22.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 7 | 11.7 |
| Child custody | 1 | 3.2 | 5 | 17.2 | 6 | 10.0 |
| Argument due to someone disparaging past/current IP | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 20.7 | 6 | 10.0 |
| Self defense | 2 | 6.5 | 3 | 10.3 | 5 | 8.3 |
| 3rd party intervention | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 13.8 | 4 | 6.7 |
| Two persons fighting over the same IP | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 13.8 | 4 | 6.7 |
| Bystander | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 13.8 | 4 | 6.7 |
| Argument due to existing mental health issue | 1 | 3.2 | 2 | 6.9 | 3 | 5.0 |

***Table 10 (Continued)***

| | IP (n=31) | | IPA (n=29) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Precipitating Characteristics** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| Other | 1 | 3.2 | 1 | 3.4 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Refusal to follow Law Enforcement Officer's requests | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 6.9 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Robbery or attempted robbery | 1 | 3.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.7 |
| Attempted sexual contact or argument stemming from | 1 | 3.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.7 |
| Disciplining a child | 1 | 3.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.7 |
| Argument over property | 1 | 3.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.7 |

## Intimate Partner Relationship Risk Factors in IP and IPA Homicides

Risk Factors are characteristics that were present in the intimate partner relationship prior to the occurrence of the homicide and may have placed the homicide victim at an increased probability for lethal violence. The information provided is valuable but likely provides a conservative estimate of the true magnitude of the risk factors involved in these relationships.

Of the 65 Intimate Partner and Associated Homicide events in 2012, 55 had identifiable risk factors prior to the homicide.

- In 61.8% of all IP Homicide cases, there was a history of physical assault.
- In nearly half (47.6%) of all IPA Homicide cases, the abuser involved had a history of arrests for non-domestic violence-related criminal offenses (most frequently Assault and Battery, Drug Possession, and Larceny).

***Table 11: Number and Percentage of IP and IPA Homicide Events by Most Common Relationship Risk Factors (N=55): 2012***

| | IP (n=34) | | IPA (n=21) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Top Ten Risk Factors** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| 3rd party knew about past abuse or threats | 29 | 85.3 | 3 | 14.3 | 32 | 58.2 |
| History of physical assault | 21 | 61.8 | 3 | 14.3 | 24 | 43.6 |
| Relationship had ended or was ending | 16 | 47.1 | 7 | 33.3 | 23 | 41.8 |
| Abuser arrested for non-DV offenses | 13 | 38.2 | 10 | 47.6 | 23 | 41.8 |
| One or both partners had mental health issues | 15 | 44.1 | 7 | 33.3 | 22 | 40.0 |
| Abuse victim had a non-biological child of abuser | 16 | 47.1 | 4 | 19.0 | 20 | 36.4 |
| Abuser abused alcohol | 13 | 38.2 | 7 | 33.3 | 20 | 36.4 |
| Abuser used drugs illegally | 9 | 26.5 | 8 | 38.1 | 17 | 30.9 |
| Past 911 calls/police response to DV | 14 | 41.2 | 1 | 4.8 | 15 | 27.3 |

In over half (58.2%) of IP and IPA Homicide cases someone outside of the relationship knew about past abuse or threats, presenting an important opportunity for early intervention into potentially fatal domestic violence.

The *Lethality Screen for First Responders*[4] is used in many communities to identify a victim's level of potential risk of fatal violence. A positive response to one or more of the first three items on the tool indicates a victim at the highest level of risk. In 2012, a third (32.7%) of Intimate Partner and Associated Homicide events involved an intimate partner relationship where at least one of these high-risk factors was present in the relationship prior to the homicide:

- Item #1: In 5 cases (9.1%), the abuser threatened or assaulted the victim with a weapon.
- Item #2: In 7 cases (12.7%), the abuser threatened to kill the abuse victim.
- Item #3: In 6 cases (10.9%), the abuse victim believed the abuser was capable of killing them.

[4] Lethality Assessment Program Maryland Model for First Responders, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (2005). Retrieved October 11, 2013 from http://mnadv.org/lethality.

## Child Homicide by Caregiver (CHC)

Child Homicide by Caregiver (CHC) is classified as a homicide in which the victim as under the age of 18 and killed by a caregiver, such as a parent, relative, babysitter, or daycare worker.

- A total of 26 people under the age of 18 were killed due to FIP Violence in 2012. Of these, 20 were victims of Child Homicide by Caregiver in 19 separate events at a rate of 1.1. This included 2 children who were killed as part of a family annihilation.
- CHC increased 11% between 2011 and 2012.
- The highest number of victims (9) were injured in the Eastern Health Planning Region, with a rate of 2.2

## Demographic Characteristics of CHC Victims

- In 2012 there were 11 female and 9 male CHC victims. The majority of victims were White (60%), with the highest risk among Black children with a rate of 1.6.
- Hispanic males had the highest risk of dying with a rate of 2.7, followed by Black males (1.8). Black females and females who identified as a race other than White or Black died at an equal rate of 1.4.
- The mean age of CHC victims was 3 years.
- The greatest numbers of victims were females ages 1-4 (7). Male and female infants died at the highest rates, with rates of 7.7 and 8.1 respectively.

***Table 12: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2012***

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** |
| White | 7 | 63.6 | 1.1 | 5 | 55.6 | 0.8 | 12 | 60.0 | 0.9 |
| Black | 3 | 27.3 | 1.4 | 4 | 44.4 | 1.8 | 7 | 35.0 | 1.6 |
| Other | 1 | 9.1 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.0 | 0.7 |
| **Total** | **11** | **100.0** | **1.2** | **9** | **100.0** | **1.0** | **20** | **100.0** | **1.1** |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 1 | 9.1 | 0.9 | 3 | 33.3 | 2.7 | 4 | 20.0 | 1.8 |

***Figure 17: Number of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2012***

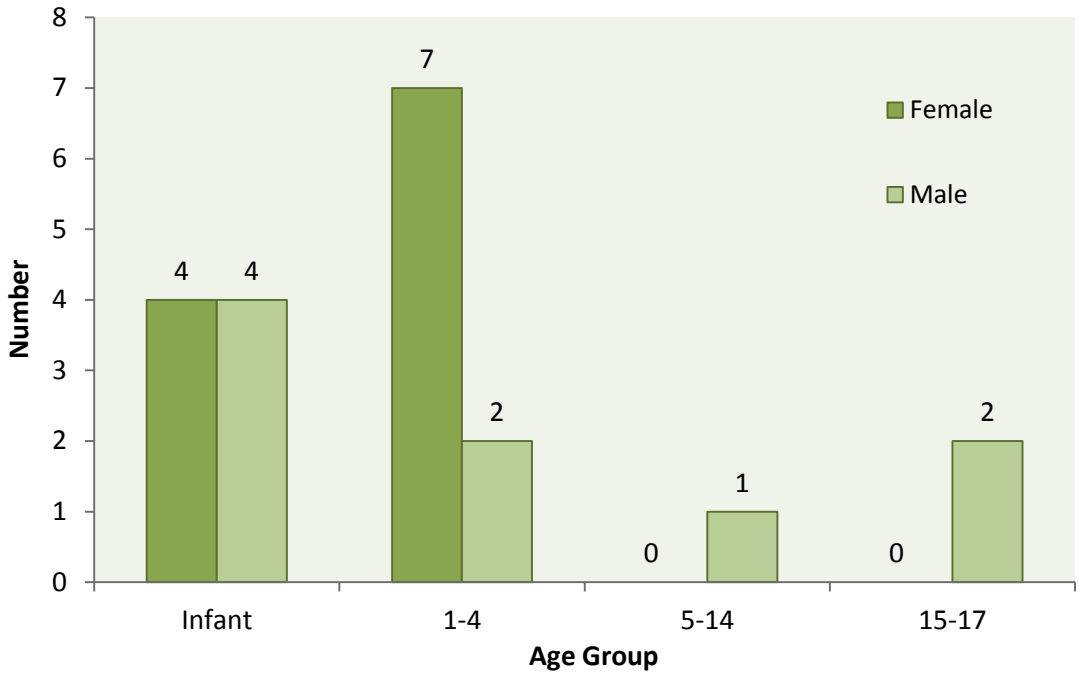
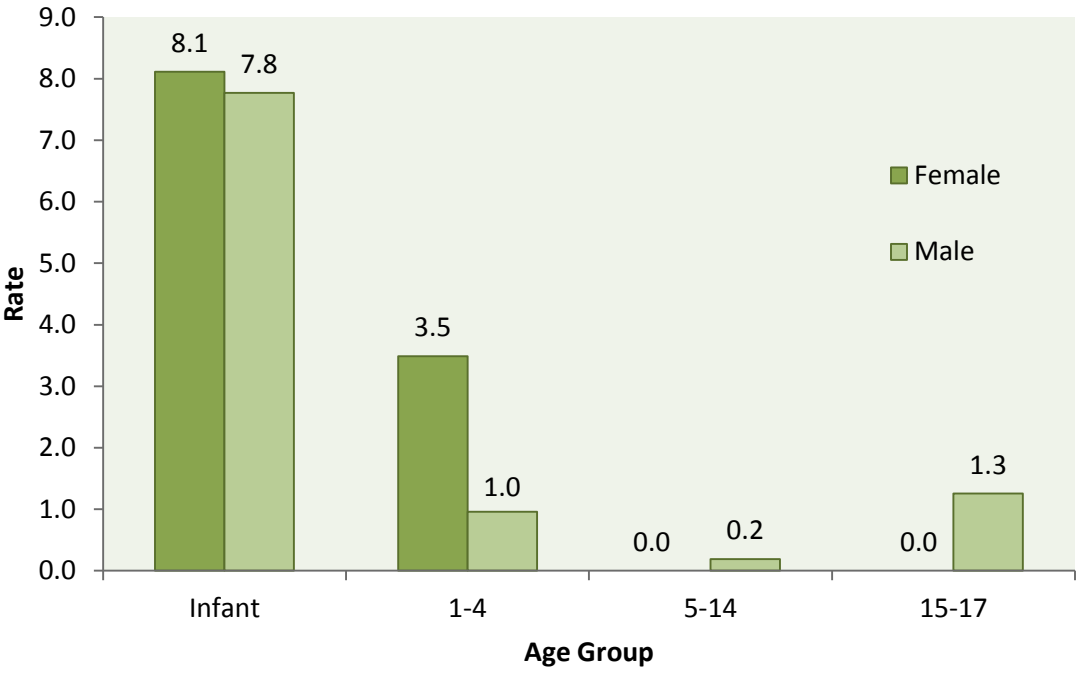



***Figure 18: Rate of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2012***



## Localities Where Child Homicides by Caregiver Occurred

***Figure 19: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District Where Death was Investigated in Virginia (N=20): 2012***

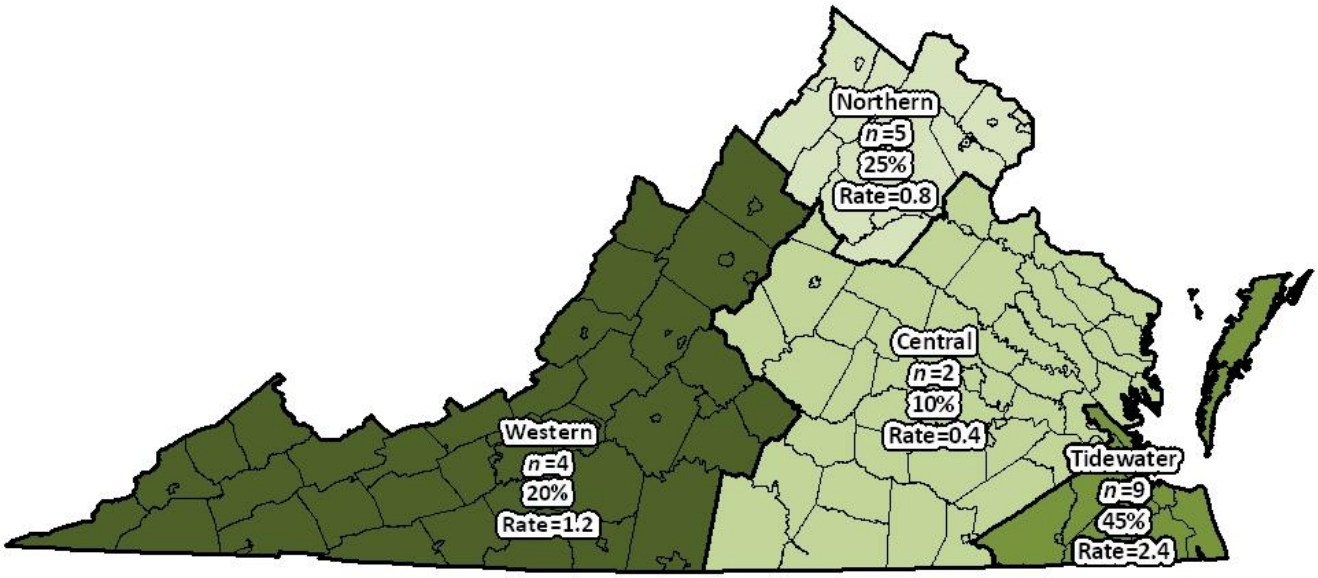
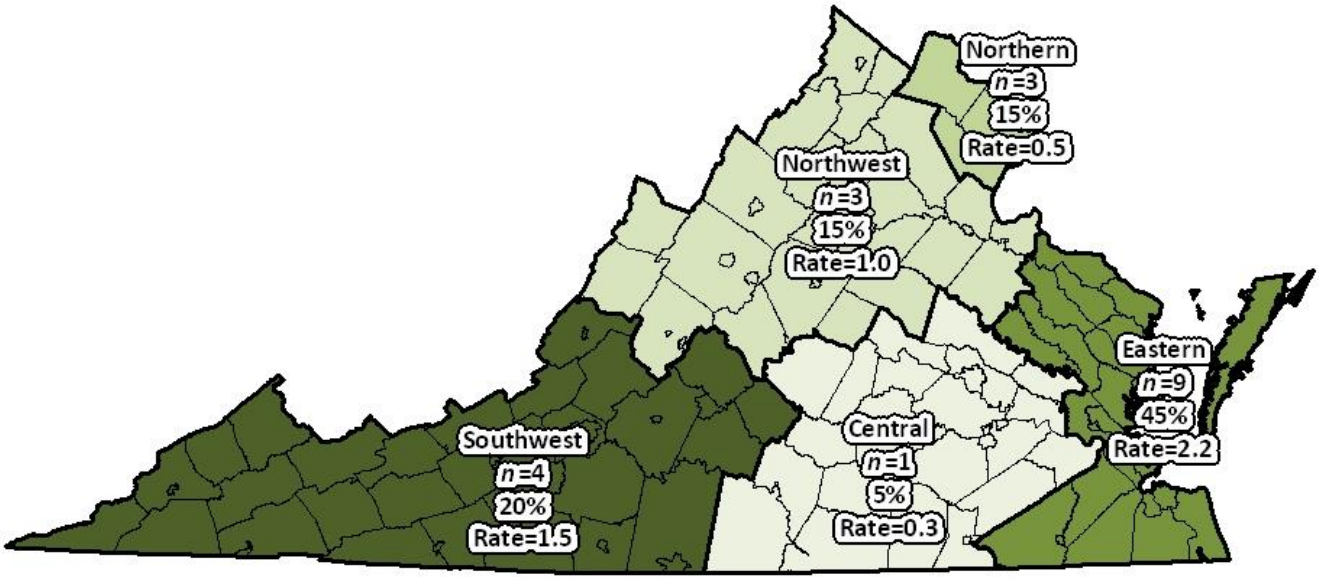



***Figure 20: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC by Health Planning Region Where Fatal Injury Occurred in Virginia (N=20): 2012***



## Fatal Agency of Child Homicides by Caregiver

- The most common fatal agency in CHC was a personal weapon (80%). Only male victims were killed using a firearm (33.3%).

***Table 13: Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=20): 2012****

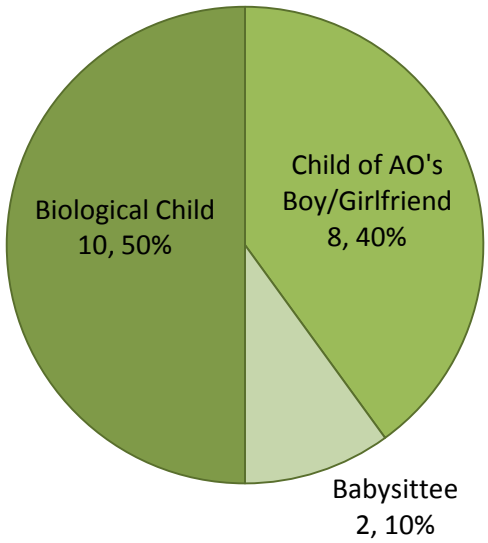
| | Female (N=11) | | Male (N=9) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fatal Agency** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| Personal Weapon | 11 | 100.0 | 5 | 55.6 | 16 | 80.0 |
| Firearm | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 33.3 | 3 | 15.0 |
| Drown | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 11.1 | 1 | 5.0 |
| Smother/Suffocate | 1 | 9.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.0 |

**One female was killed by more than one fatal agent.*

## Relationship of CHC Victim to Alleged Offenders

- Half (50.0%) of all CHC victims were killed by a biological parent. Nine of these children (90%) were killed by their father.
- Eight (40%) children were killed by the boyfriend of their biological parent.

***Figure 21: Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Type of Relationship between Victim and Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=20): 2012***



## Other Family Homicide (OFH) and Family Associated Homicide (FAH)

Other Family Homicide (OFH) is classified as a homicide in which a victim was killed by an individual related to them biologically or by marriage, and which does not meet the criteria for the previous domestic violence categories. Family Associated Homicide (FAH) is a homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from a familial relationship.

- In 2012 there were 19 Family and 2 Family Associated Homicide events, resulting in 27 fatalities with a rate of 0.3.
- Family and Family Associated Homicide increased 50% from 2011 to 2012.
- Four OFH events were homicide-suicides, and four were double homicides where the alleged offender killed both parents or a parent and their intimate partner.
- Approximately 9 out of 10 (90.5%) Family and Family Associated Homicides were committed by a male offender.

## Demographic Characteristics of OFH and FAH Victims

- The majority of Family and Family Associated Homicide victims were white (74.1%) and male (66.7%). Black males had the highest rate of 0.9.
- Family and Family Associated Homicide victims' ages ranged 14-89 years, with a mean age of 52; 70.4% of victims were age 45 or older.
- The highest rate was among males age 55-64 (0.8), followed by males age 25-34 (0.7).
- The highest number (10) and rate (0.7) of these homicides occurred in the Southwest Health Planning Region.

***Table 14: Number, Percentage, and Rate of OFH and FAH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=27): 2012***

| | Female | | | Male | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** |
| White | 9 | 100.0 | 0.3 | 11 | 61.1 | 0.4 | 20 | 74.1 | 0.3 |
| Black | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7 | 38.9 | 0.9 | 7 | 25.9 | 0.4 |
| Other | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Total** | **9** | **100.0** | **0.2** | **18** | **100.0** | **0.4** | **27** | **100.0** | **0.3** |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.6 | 0.3 | 1 | 3.7 | 0.1 |

***Figure 22: Number of OFH and FAH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=27): 2012***

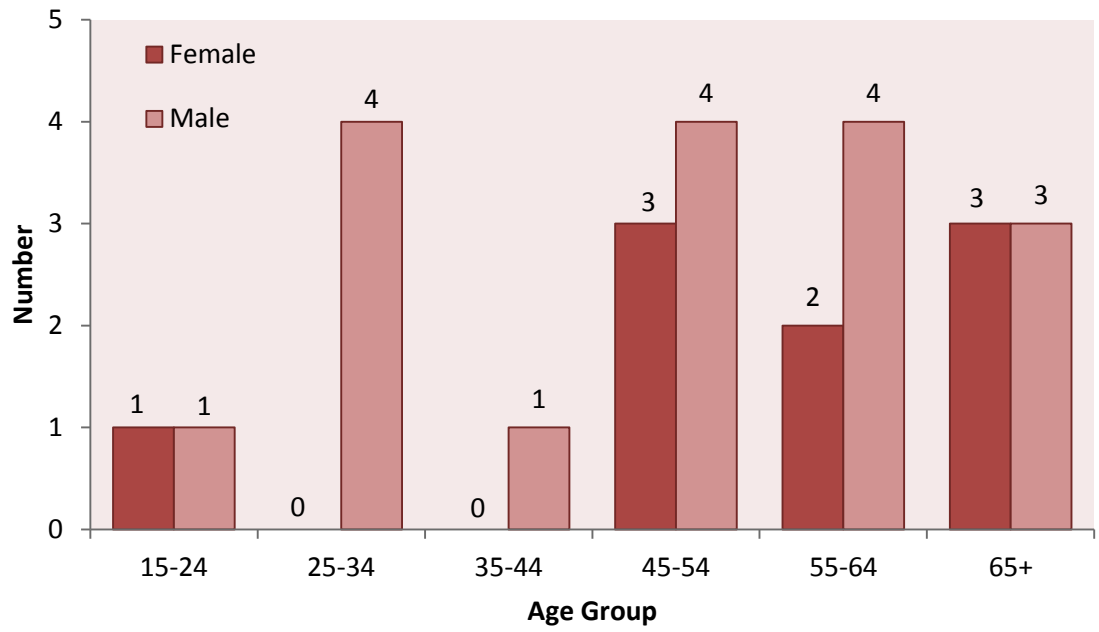
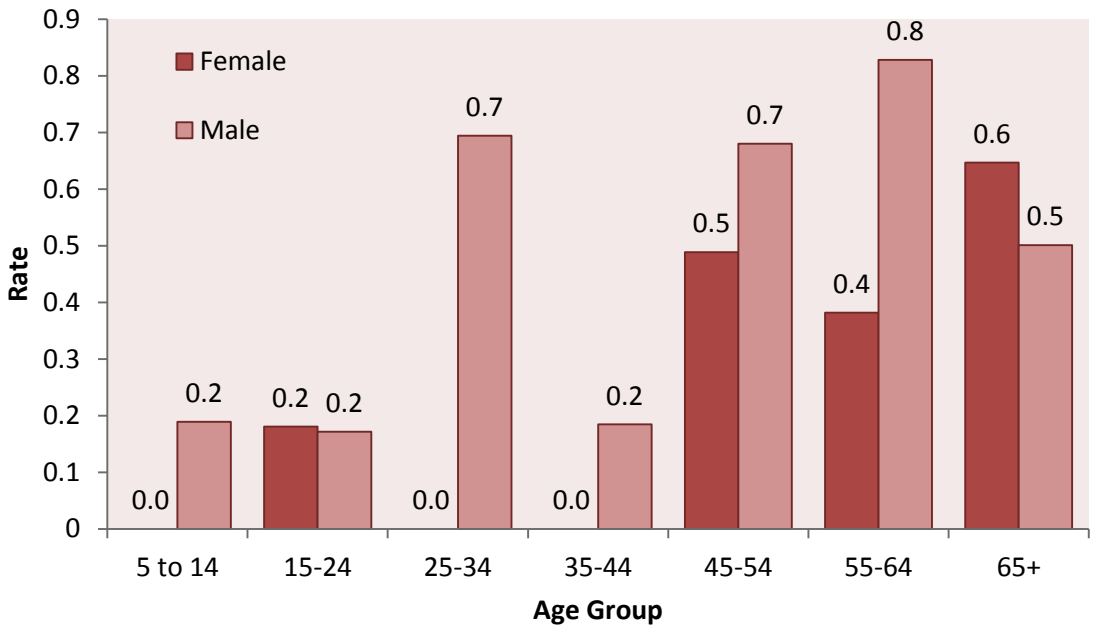



***Figure 23: Rate of OFH and FAH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=27): 2012***



## Localities Where Family and Family Associated Homicides Occurred

***Figure 24: Number, Percentage, and Rate of OFH and FAH by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District Where Death was Investigated in Virginia (N=27): 2012***

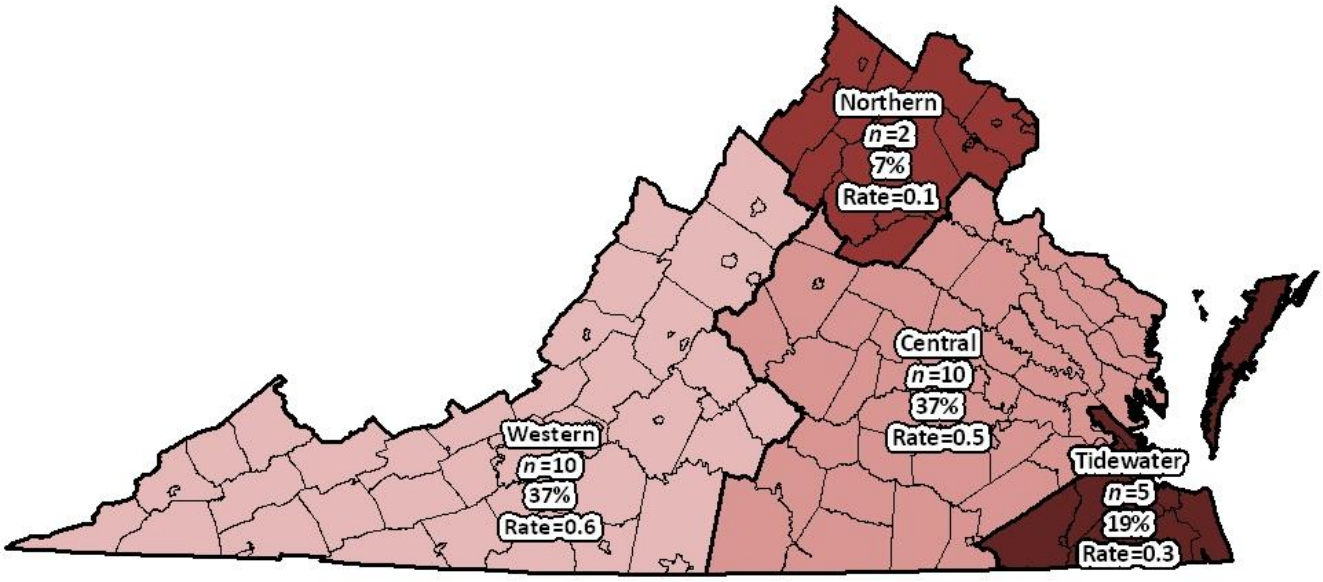
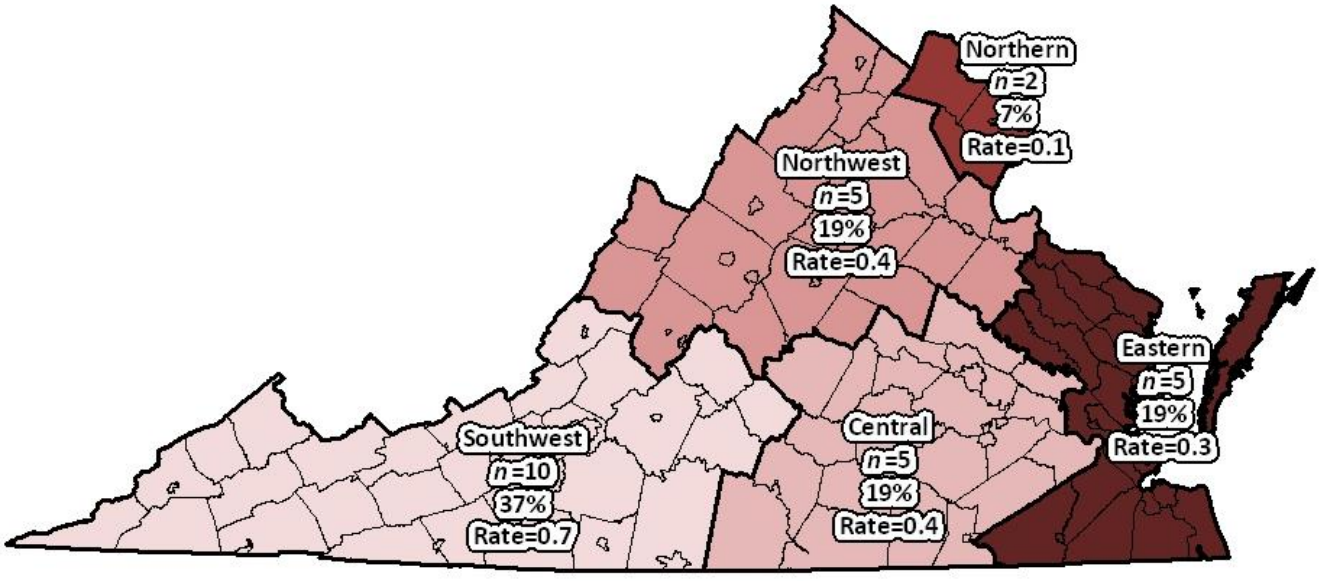



***Figure 25: Number, Percentage, and Rate of OFH and FAH by Health Planning Region Where Fatal Injury Occurred in Virginia (N=27): 2012***



## Fatal Agency of Other Family and Family Associated Homicides

- A firearm was the most commonly used fatal agency (59.3%).
- Males were more likely to be killed with a firearm (66.7%) than females (44.4%).

***Table 15: Number and Percentage of OFH and FAH Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=27): 2012***

| | Female (*n*=9) | | Male (*n*=18) | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fatal Agency** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** | **No.** | **%** |
| Firearm | 4 | 44.4 | 12 | 66.7 | 16 | 59.3 |
| Sharp Instrument | 1 | 11.1 | 4 | 22.2 | 5 | 18.5 |
| Personal Weapon | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.6 | 1 | 3.7 |
| Strangulation | 1 | 11.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.7 |
| Blunt Instrument | 2 | 22.2 | 1 | 5.6 | 3 | 11.1 |
| Smother/Suffocate | 1 | 11.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.7 |

## Relationship of OFH and FAH Victim to Alleged Offender

- More than half (55.6%) of Family and Family Associated Homicide victims were a parent, step-parent, or parent in-law killed by their child.

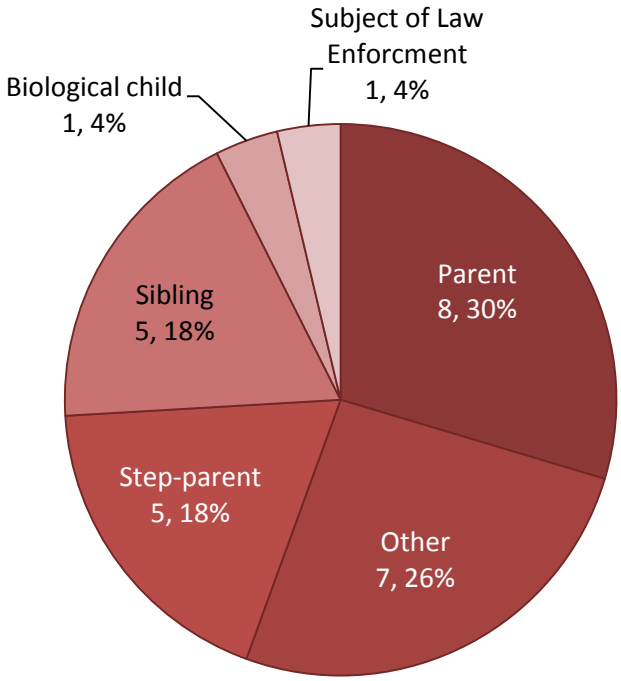



***Figure 26: Number and Percentage of OFH and FAH Victims by Type of Relationship between Victim and Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=27): 2012***

## Precipitating Characteristics of OFH and FAH Homicides

- 23 OFH and FAH cases had known precipitating factors; 4 cases had no known precipitating factors and were removed from analysis.
- The most common factor known to precipitate a Family or Family Associated Homicide was Financial Issues (26.1%).
- A verbal dispute (where either the topic was not known or did not fit any other category) immediately preceded nearly half (43.5%) of Family and Family Associated Homicide events.

***Table 16: Number and Percentage of OFH and FAH Victims by Precipitating Characteristics (N=23): 2012***

| Precipitating Characteristics | No. | % |
|---|---|---|
| Financial Issues | 6 | 26.1 |
| Argument NOS | 6 | 26.1 |
| Other | 5 | 21.7 |
| Robbery/Attempted Robbery | 4 | 17.4 |
| Unknown | 4 | 17.4 |
| Substance/Alcohol use/abuse | 3 | 13.0 |
| Argument over property | 2 | 8.7 |
| Mental Health | 2 | 8.7 |
| Attempted sexual contact | 1 | 4.3 |
| Refusal to follow LEO requests | 1 | 4.3 |

# Appendices

***Table 17: Five Year Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia Summary: 2008-2012***

| | 2008 | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** | **No.** | **%** | **Rate** |
| Female | 78 | 51.7 | 2 | 76 | 54.7 | 1.9 |
| Male | 73 | 48.3 | 1.9 | 63 | 45.3 | 1.6 |
| **Race** | | | | | | |
| White | 75 | 49.7 | 1.3 | 73 | 52.5 | 1.3 |
| Black | 72 | 47.7 | 4.4 | 60 | 43.2 | 3.7 |
| Other | 4 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 6 | 4.3 | 1.3 |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 4 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 4 | 2.9 | 0.7 |
| **Age** | | | | | | |
| <1 | 10 | 6.6 | 9.3 | 14 | 10.1 | 13.1 |
| 1-4 | 6 | 4 | 1.4 | 8 | 5.8 | 1.9 |
| 5-14 | 3 | 2 | 0.3 | 5 | 3.6 | 0.5 |
| 15-24 | 35 | 23.2 | 3.2 | 26 | 18.7 | 2.3 |
| 25-34 | 25 | 16.6 | 2.3 | 24 | 17.3 | 2.2 |
| 35-44 | 25 | 16.6 | 2.2 | 22 | 15.8 | 2 |
| 45-54 | 22 | 14.6 | 1.9 | 18 | 12.9 | 1.6 |
| 55-64 | 14 | 9.3 | 1.6 | 13 | 9.4 | 1.4 |
| 65+ | 11 | 7.9 | 1.2 | 9 | 6.5 | 0.9 |
| **Fatal Agency** | | | | | | |
| Firearm | 75 | 49.7 | -- | 38 | 44.7 | -- |
| Sharp Instrument | 36 | 23.8 | -- | 14 | 16.5 | -- |
| Blunt Instrument | 11 | 7.3 | -- | 6 | 7.1 | -- |
| Personal Weapon | 16 | 10.6 | -- | 11 | 13 | -- |
| Strangle/Choke | 10 | 6.6 | -- | 10 | 11.8 | -- |
| Motor Vehicle | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Drown | 0 | 0 | -- | 1 | 1.2 | -- |
| Fire/Smoke Inhalation | 2 | 1.3 | -- | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Smother/Suffocate | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 2 | 2.4 | -- |
| Poison | 0 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Other | 4 | 2.6 | -- | 2 | 2.4 | -- |
| Unknown | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 1 | 0.7 | -- |
| **OCME District** | | | | | | |
| Central | 64 | 42.4 | 2 | 42 | 30 | 2 |
| Northern | 23 | 15.2 | 0.9 | 28 | 20 | 1.1 |
| Tidewater | 21 | 13.9 | 1.3 | 34 | 25 | 2.1 |
| Western | 43 | 28.5 | 2.7 | 34 | 25 | 2.1 |
| **Type of Homicide** | | | | | | |
| Intimate Partner | 58 | 38.4 | 0.7 | 67 | 48.2 | 0.9 |
| Intimate Partner Associated | 43 | 28.5 | 0.6 | 30 | 21.6 | 0.4 |
| Child by Caregiver | 15 | 9.9 | 0.8 | 26 | 18.7 | 0.3 |
| Elder by Caregiver | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Family | 30 | 19.9 | 0.4 | 12 | 8.6 | 0.2 |
| Family Associated | 5 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 4 | 2.9 | 0.1 |
| **Total** | **151** | **100** | **1.9** | **139** | **100** | **1.8** |

***Table 17: Five Year Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia Summary: 2008-2012 (Continued)***

| | 2010 | | | 2011 | | | 2012 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate | No. | % | Rate |
| Female | 92 | 54.1 | 2.3 | 66 | 49.3 | 1.6 | 60 | 51.3 | 1.5 |
| Male | 78 | 45.9 | 2 | 68 | 50.7 | 1.7 | 57 | 48.7 | 1.4 |
| **Race** | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 103 | 60.6 | 1.8 | 77 | 57.5 | 1.3 | 62 | 53.0 | 1.0 |
| Black | 59 | 34.7 | 3.6 | 52 | 38.8 | 3.1 | 53 | 45.3 | 3.2 |
| Other | 8 | 4.7 | 0.9 | 5 | 3.7 | 0.9 | 2 | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| **Ethnicity** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 5 | 2.9 | 0.8 | 12 | 9 | 1.8 | 9 | 7.7 | 1.3 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | | |
| <1 | 12 | 7.1 | 12 | 11 | 8.2 | 10.8 | 8 | 6.8 | 7.9 |
| 1-4 | 7 | 4.1 | 1.7 | 7 | 5.2 | 1.7 | 12 | 10.3 | 2.9 |
| 5-14 | 2 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 6 | 4.5 | 0.6 | 3 | 2.6 | 0.3 |
| 15-24 | 31 | 18.2 | 2.8 | 20 | 14.9 | 1.8 | 16 | 13.7 | 1.4 |
| 25-34 | 29 | 17.1 | 2.7 | 21 | 15.7 | 1.9 | 16 | 13.7 | 1.4 |
| 35-44 | 37 | 21.2 | 3.3 | 26 | 19.4 | 2.4 | 18 | 15.4 | 1.6 |
| 45-54 | 26 | 15.3 | 2.1 | 19 | 14.2 | 1.6 | 24 | 20.5 | 2.0 |
| 55-64 | 15 | 8.8 | 1.6 | 12 | 9 | 1.2 | 9 | 7.7 | 0.9 |
| 65+ | 11 | 6.5 | 1.1 | 12 | 9 | 1.2 | 11 | 9.4 | 1.0 |
| **Fatal Agency** | | | | | | | | | |
| Firearm | 97 | 57.1 | -- | 77 | 57.5 | -- | 57 | 48.7 | -- |
| Sharp Instrument | 26 | 15.3 | -- | 24 | 17.9 | -- | 27 | 23.1 | -- |
| Blunt Instrument | 15 | 8.8 | -- | 4 | 3 | -- | 4 | 3.4 | -- |
| Personal Weapon | 21 | 12.4 | -- | 18 | 13.4 | -- | 24 | 20.5 | -- |
| Strangle/Choke | 8 | 4.7 | -- | 9 | 6.7 | -- | 6 | 5.1 | -- |
| Motor Vehicle | 2 | 1.2 | -- | 0 | 0 | -- | 1 | 0.9 | -- |
| Drown | 0 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | -- | 2 | 1.7 | -- |
| Fire/Smoke Inhalation | 0 | 0 | -- | 2 | 1.5 | -- | 1 | 0.9 | -- |
| Smother/Suffocate | 3 | 1.8 | -- | 2 | 1.5 | -- | 2 | 1.7 | -- |
| Poison | 1 | 5.9 | -- | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 1 | 0.9 | -- |
| Other | 7 | 4.1 | -- | 1 | 0.7 | -- | 0 | 0.0 | -- |
| Unknown | 1 | 5.9 | -- | 2 | 1.5 | -- | 1 | 0.9 | -- |
| **OCME District** | | | | | | | | | |
| Central | 52 | 30.6 | 2.4 | 35 | 26.1 | 1.61 | 37 | 31.6 | 1.7 |
| Northern | 25 | 14.7 | 1 | 21 | 15.7 | 0.78 | 20 | 17.1 | 0.7 |
| Tidewater | 42 | 24.7 | 2.6 | 43 | 32.1 | 2.7 | 32 | 27.4 | 2.0 |
| Western | 50 | 29.4 | 3 | 35 | 26.1 | 2.13 | 28 | 23.9 | 1.7 |
| **Type of Homicide** | | | | | | | | | |
| Intimate Partner | 81 | 47.6 | 1 | 48 | 35.8 | 0.6 | 41 | 35.0 | 0.5 |
| Intimate Partner Associated | 25 | 14.7 | 0.3 | 49 | 36.6 | 0.6 | 29 | 24.8 | 0.4 |
| Child by Caregiver | 20 | 11.8 | 0.2 | 18 | 13.4 | 0.2 | 20 | 17.1 | 0.2 |
| Elder by Caregiver | 2 | 1.2 | <0.1 | 1 | 0.7 | <0.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Family | 37 | 21.8 | 0.5 | 16 | 11.9 | 0.2 | 24 | 20.5 | 0.3 |
| Family Associated | 5 | 2.9 | <0.1 | 2 | 1.5 | <0.1 | 3 | 2.6 | <0.1 |
| **Total** | **170** | **100** | **2.1** | **134** | **100** | **1.7** | **117** | **100** | **1.4** |

## Definitions of Key Terms

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

**Caregiver**- A person responsible for the care and/or supervision of another person.

**Child-** A person under the age of 18.

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

**Exposure-** Refers to child exposure to FIP homicide, and includes visually witnessing the event, hearing the event, finding the injured or dead decedent, on the premises of the event, was a surviving victim, or some combination of these.

**Fatal Agency**- The instrument or method causing the injury which led to the death of a victim (e.g., firearm, poison, strangling).

**Homicide Victim**- A person killed by the intentional acts of another.

**Homicide Event**- Information describing the characteristics and circumstances of homicides is provided in two ways, by individual *case* and *event*. For instance, if two persons are killed in a car accident, there are two victims and one event. This process of coding allows individual demographic information to be collected while providing an unduplicated count of the circumstances surrounding the event.

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

**Legal Intervention**- An injury caused by the actions of a law enforcement officer while intervening during a domestic violence event.

**Personal Weapon-** A type of fatal agency characterized as a part of the body; for example, hands or feet used to beat a victim. This is often classified as the fatal agency in cases of child abuse.

**Precipitating Characteristic**- A circumstance identified during the death investigation that occurred immediately before or during the homicide event and could be considered a trigger of the violent act.

**Primary vs. Secondary Decedent**- A primary decedent is considered the one decedent who was the target during the homicide event. A secondary decedent is a person who was present during the event but was not the main target. These victims are often considered bystanders, to the event, including friends, children, strangers, etc., and are killed in the crossfire of domestic violence.

**Risk Factors-** Characteristics present prior to the occurrence of a homicide which might have placed the victim at an increased probability for lethal violence.

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

## Medical Examiner (OCME) Districts

Central: ***Counties*** of Albemarle, Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fluvanna, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Nelson, New Kent, Northumberland, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Richmond, and Westmoreland. ***Cities*** of Charlottesville, Colonial Heights, Emporia, Fredericksburg, Hopewell, Petersburg, Richmond, South Boston, and Williamsburg.

Northern: ***Counties*** of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas, Manassas Park, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, and Warren. ***Cities*** of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, and Winchester.

Tidewater: ***Counties*** of Accomack, Isle of Wight, Northampton, Southampton, and York. ***Cities*** of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

Western: ***Counties*** of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe. ***Cities*** of Bedford, Bristol, Buena Vista, Covington, Danville, Galax, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Norton, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

## Health Planning Regions (HPR)

Central: ***Counties*** of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, New Kent, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Surry, Sussex. ***Cities*** of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond.

Northern: ***Counties*** of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William. ***Cities*** of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

Eastern: ***Counties*** of Accomack, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Richmond, Southampton, Westmoreland, and York. ***Cities*** of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.

Northwest: ***Counties*** of Albemarle, Augusta, Bath, Caroline, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Greene, Highland, King George, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Page, Rappahannock, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren. ***Cities*** of Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester.

Southwest: ***Counties*** of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Bland Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe. ***Cities*** of Bedford, Bristol, Covington, Danville, Galax, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Norton, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem.

For additional information on the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project contact:

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