



Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
August, 2014

2013

# Family and Intimate Partner Homicide

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

**Prepared by:**

Emma Duer, MPH

Program Coordinator

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Review & Surveillance

**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
*Protecting You and Your Environment*

[www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov)

Suggested Citation: Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. (2014). *Family and intimate partner homicide: A descriptive analysis of the characteristics and circumstances surrounding family and intimate partner homicide in Virginia, 2013*. Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Health. Retrieved [insert date of retrieval here] from [www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/fipvhs-reports-publications.htm](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/fipvhs-reports-publications.htm)



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

Emma Duer, MPH  
Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Coordinator  
Virginia Department of Health  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
737 North 5th Street, Suite 301  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[Emma.Duer@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Emma.Duer@vdh.virginia.gov)  
Telephone: (804) 205-3858  
Fax: (804) 786-1877

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Technical Notes .....	1
Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Classification .....	2
<b>Family and Intimate Partner Homicide</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Overview .....	3
Five Year Trends .....	5
<b>Intimate Partner Homicide</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Intimate Partner Associated Homicide</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Intimate Partner Related Homicide</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Risk Factors .....	11
Precipitating Characteristics .....	12
<b>Child Homicide by Caregiver</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Family Related Homicide</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Risk Factors .....	17
Precipitating Characteristics .....	18
<b>The Impact of Fatal FIP Violence: Additional Findings</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Multiple Deaths .....	19
Children .....	19
Survivors .....	19
<b>Appendices</b> .....	<b>20</b>
A: Figures and Tables .....	20
B: Summary Tables .....	33
C: Glossary .....	37
D: Virginia Localities by Region .....	40

## INTRODUCTION

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 to 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 method for monitoring and 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 U.S. Census Bureau Annual Estimates for 2013 (Table 1). 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. 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. Where no table or figure is referenced, data is sourced from additional unpublished analyses. Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted and used with caution.

*Table 1: Number and Percentage of Virginia Resident Population by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex: 2013<sup>1</sup>*

Race	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	2,945,051	70.2	2,906,745	71.6	5,851,796	70.8
Black	847,066	20.2	777,786	19.1	1,624,852	19.7
Other	406,086	9.7	377,671	9.3	783,757	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,198,203</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,062,202</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,260,405</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	341,830	8.1	370,960	9.1	712,790	8.6

<sup>1</sup> Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic Origin for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013; Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (Release Date: June 2014)

**FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER (FIP) HOMICIDE CLASSIFICATION**

The Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide Surveillance project uses the following six Case Types to differentiate categories 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) or former spouse; current or former boyfriend, girlfriend or same-sex partner; or current or former dating partner. This group could include homicides in which only one of the parties had pursued a relationship or perceived a relationship with the other, 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.
Adult Homicide by Caregiver (AHC)	A homicide in which a victim was an adult 18 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.

**ADDITIONAL LABELS USED IN THIS REPORT**

**Intimate Partner Related (IPF) Homicide:** A homicide involving an intimate partner relationship, including Intimate Partner Homicide and Intimate Partner Associated Homicide.

**Family Related Homicide (FRH):** A homicide involving a family relationship, including Other Family Homicide and Family Associated Homicide.

## FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER (FIP) HOMICIDE IN VIRGINIA

### OVERVIEW

To understand the context of Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide, consider the following statistics regarding the 340 total homicides that occurred in Virginia in 2013:<sup>2</sup>

- The homicide rate in Virginia in 2013 was 4.1, a 1% decrease from 2012.
- The majority of victims were male (78%) and identified as black (59%).
- 37% of victims were males aged 20-34.
- 71% of homicide victims were killed with a firearm, including half of all females (51%) and three-quarters of males (78%).

In 2013 there were 115 Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide events in Virginia, resulting in 122 deaths. These deaths occurred at a rate of 1.5, representing a 4% increase from 2012 (1.4). In 2013 there was one Adult Homicide by Caretaker.

#### 2013 FIP Homicide Victims Were:

- 51% white
- 51% female
- Aged 0-77, with a median age of 33 years
- 33% injured in the Eastern HPR
- 57% killed with a firearm

DESPITE THE MAJORITY OF FIP HOMICIDE VICTIMS BEING WHITE AND FEMALE, THE HIGHEST DEATH RATE WAS AMONG BLACKS (2.9), WITH BLACK MALES DYING AT A HIGHER RATE THAN ANY OTHER GROUP (3.1; TABLE 12).<sup>3</sup>

### 2012-2013 COMPARISONS:

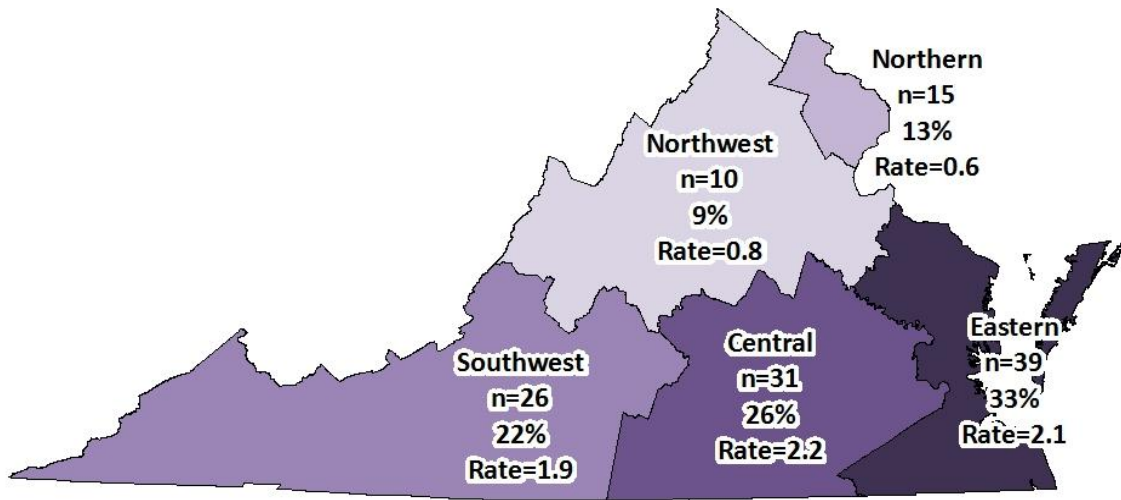
- THE OVERALL RATE FOR BLACKS DECREASED FROM 3.2 TO 2.9, BUT THE RATE FOR OTHER RACES (EXCLUDING WHITE AND BLACK) DOUBLED FROM 0.3 TO 0.8 (TABLE 12).
- THE RATE FOR VICTIMS IDENTIFIED AS HISPANIC DROPPED BY 64% FOR MALES (1.4 TO 0.5) BUT NEARLY DOUBLED FOR FEMALES (1.2 TO 2.2; TABLE 12).
- THE NUMBER OF FIREARM DEATHS INCREASED BY 21% (FROM 57 TO 69 IN 2013; TABLE 9).

The burden of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia continues to be consistent from year to year, with blacks and infants dying at the highest rates overall. Among infants, for example, all but one (92%) infant homicide in Virginia in 2013 was by a caretaker.<sup>2</sup> The uneven impact of FIP Homicide on our most vulnerable populations remains troubling as efforts to prevent and intervene in fatal domestic violence continue across the Commonwealth. Yearly comparisons should be monitored for trends in the circumstances and characteristics of fatal family and intimate partner violence, such as the increase in the use of firearms evidenced by this year's data.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary data from the Virginia Medical Examiners Data System (VMEDS). Retrieved July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Tables numbered 9 and higher appear in Appendix A beginning on page 20.

Figure 1: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Health Planning Region of Injury in Virginia (N=122): 2013



**2012-2013 REGIONAL (HPR) COMPARISONS:**

- FIP Homicide increased in the Central HPR with 6 more deaths than the previous year, and a rate increase of 22% (1.8 compared to 2.2; Figure 1).
- Richmond City took the place of Fairfax County as the locality with the highest number of FIP Homicide victims with 8% of all FIP Homicides occurring in this locality (Table 2).

Table 2: Number, Percentage and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Five Most Common Localities of Injury in Virginia (N=122): 2013

#	Locality	No.	%	Rate
1	Richmond City	10	8.2	4.7
2	Chesapeake City	7	5.7	3.0
	Fairfax County	7	5.7	0.6
	Henrico County	7	5.7	2.2
	Norfolk City	7	5.7	2.8
3	Chesterfield County	6	4.9	1.8
	Virginia Beach City	6	4.9	1.3
4	Newport News City	5	4.1	2.7
5	Carroll County	4	3.3	13.6
	Hampton City	4	3.3	2.9
	Loudoun County	4	3.3	1.1

FIVE YEAR TRENDS

The overall rate of FIP Homicide has remained stable since 2012. While Intimate Partner Homicide occurred most frequently, age-specific rate calculation revealed that Child Homicide by Caretaker (CHC) occurred at the highest rate (1.1); CHC also appears to be trending upward, with a 10% rate increase since 2011 (Figure 3; Table 25).

**36% OF ALL HOMICIDES IN 2013 IN VIRGINIA WERE ATTRIBUTED TO FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (TABLE 10). WHILE THE OVERALL NUMBER OF HOMICIDES HAS DECREASED SINCE 2009, THE PROPORTION OF DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO FIPV REMAINS STABLE AT ONE IN THREE OR HIGHER (FIGURE 2).**

Figure 2: Number of All Homicide, FIP Homicide, and IPH Victims in Virginia: 2009-2013

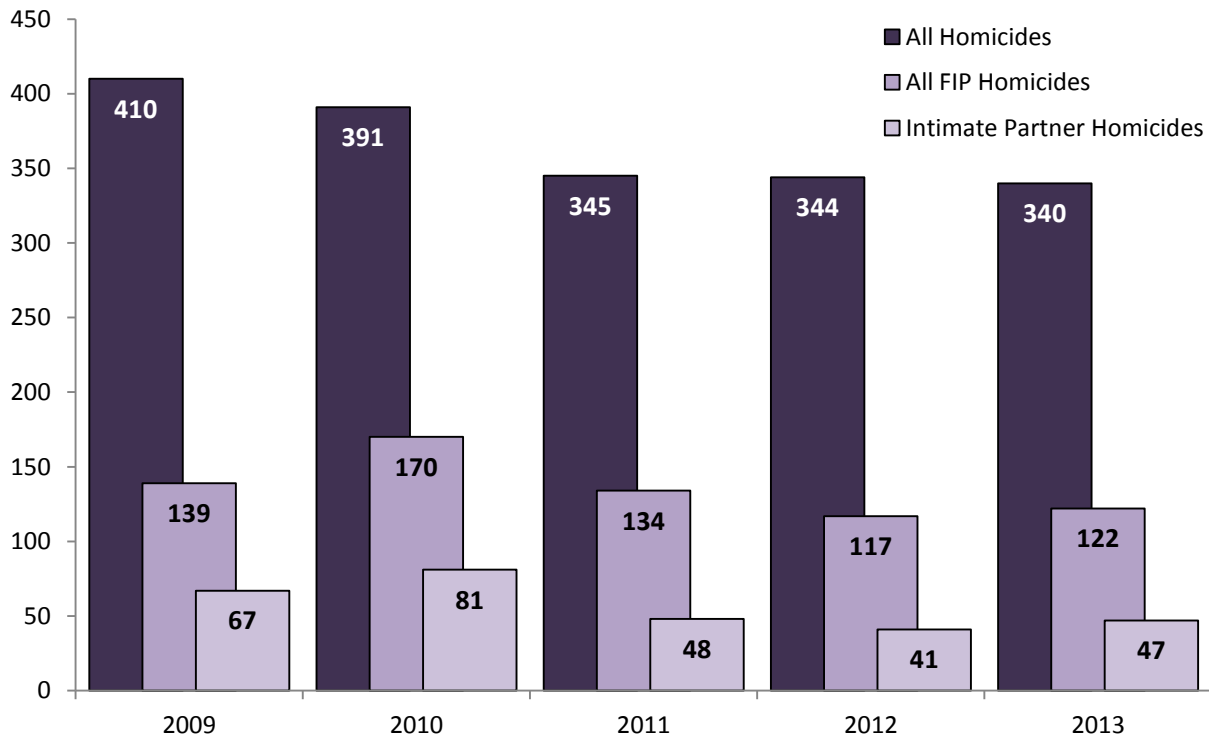
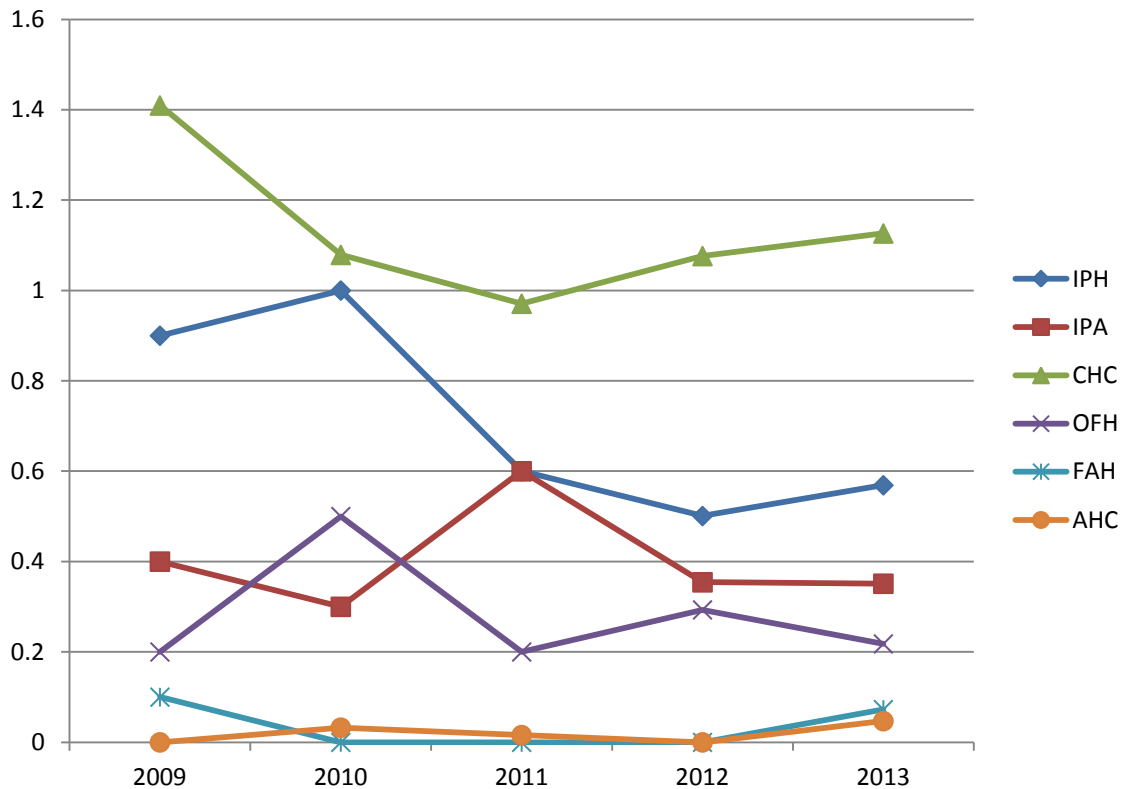




Figure 3: Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type in Virginia: 2009-2013



For additional data on Family and Intimate Partner Homicide, see the following figures and tables:

<i>Label</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 12	Number of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013	20
Figure 13	Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013	20
Figure 14	Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=122): 2013	21
Table 9	Number and Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Sex and Fatal Agency in Virginia (N=122): 2013	21
Table 10	Number of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type, Number of All Homicide Victims and Percentage FIP Homicides in Virginia: 2009-2013	21
Table 11	Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013	22
Table 12	Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013	22
Table 23	Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type and Most Common Characteristics in Virginia (N=122): 2013	33
Table 24	Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type and Most Common Characteristics in Virginia (N=122):2013	34
Table 25	Five Year Summary of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia: 2009-2013	35

## INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE (IPH)

In 2013 there were 47 Intimate Partner Homicides (IPH), resulting in 47 deaths. The rate of death from IPH was 0.6, slightly higher than in 2012 (0.5).

### 2013 IPH Victims Were:

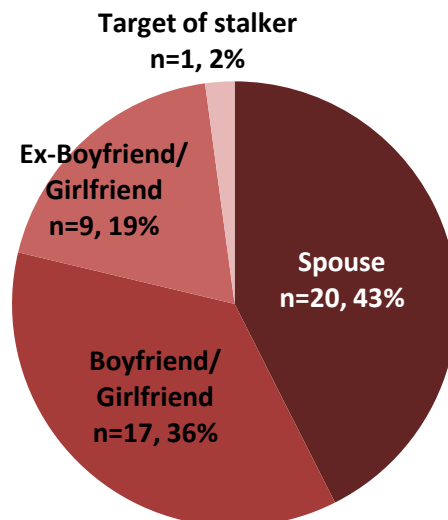
- 55% white
- 85% female
- Aged 18-67, with a median age of 40
- 30% injured in the Southwest HPR
- 64% killed with a firearm

ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF IPH VICTIMS WERE WHITE, BLACKS CONTINUE TO DIE AT TWICE THE RATE (0.9 COMPARED TO 0.4), WITH BLACK FEMALES HAVING THE HIGHEST RATE AT 1.7 (TABLE 15).

### 2012-2013 COMPARISONS:

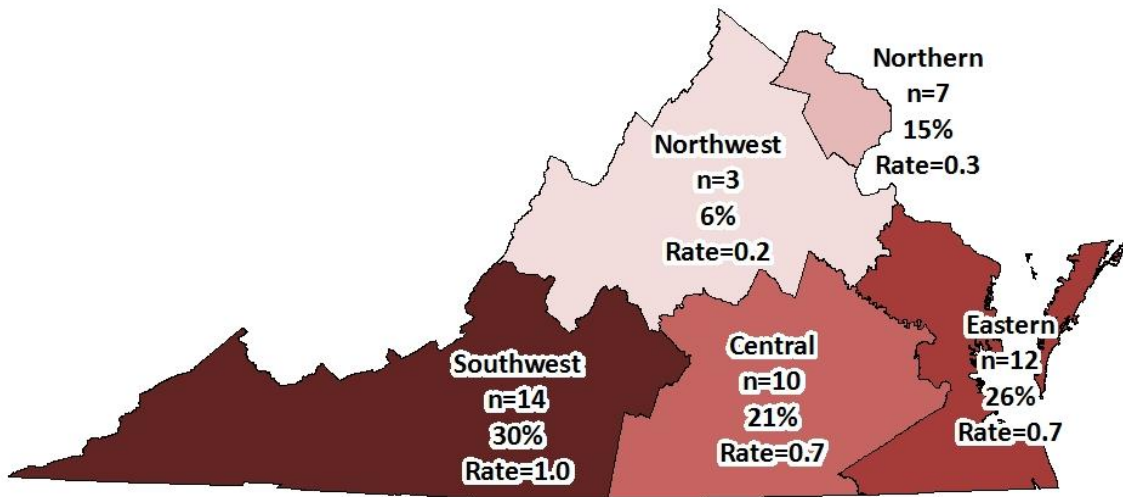
- The overall rate of death from IPH for blacks decreased 31% from 2012 (1.3 to 0.9; Table 15).
- The IPH rate for white females increased by 40% (0.5 to 0.7), resulting in an overall increase in the rate for whites (0.3 to 0.4; Table 15).
- The average age of IPH victims decreased from 43 to 40 in 2013 (Table 23).
- Females aged 15-24 died at a higher rate in 2013, at 1.4 (up from 0.9; Figure 16).
- The rate at which Hispanics died from IPH doubled to 0.8 in 2013, with Hispanic women accounting for the majority of the rate increase (rising to 1.7 from 0.9; Table 15).
- The number of firearm deaths increased by 58% (19 to 30; Table 13).
- IPH victims in 2013 were more often killed by a current intimate partner (79% killed by a current spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend, compared to 71% in 2012; Figure 4).<sup>4</sup>

Figure 4: Number and Percentage of IPH Victims by Relationship to Alleged Offender (N=47): 2013



<sup>4</sup> Figures numbered 12 and higher are located in Appendix A beginning on page 20.

Figure 5: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPH Victims by Health Planning Region of Injury in Virginia (N=47): 2013



**2012-2013 REGIONAL (HPR) COMPARISONS (FIGURE 5):**

- The number and percentage of deaths from IPH in the Southwest HPR doubled from 2012 to 2013, resulting in a three-fold increase (0.3 to 1.0) in the rate of death from IPH in that region.
- Rates in other HPRs across the state remained relatively stable from the previous year.

For additional data on Intimate Partner Homicide, see the following figures and tables:

Label	Title	Page
Figure 15	Number of IPH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013	23
Figure 16	Rate of IPH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013	23
Figure 17	Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPH Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=47): 2013	24
Table 13	Number and Percentage of IPH Victims by Fatal Agent and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013	24
Table 14	Number and Percentage of IPH Victims by Sex and Relationship to Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=47): 2013	24
Table 15	Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013	25

## INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED (IPA) HOMICIDE

In 2013 there were 26 Intimate Partner Associated (IPA) Homicide events in Virginia, resulting in 29 deaths.

### 2013 IPA Homicide Victims Were:

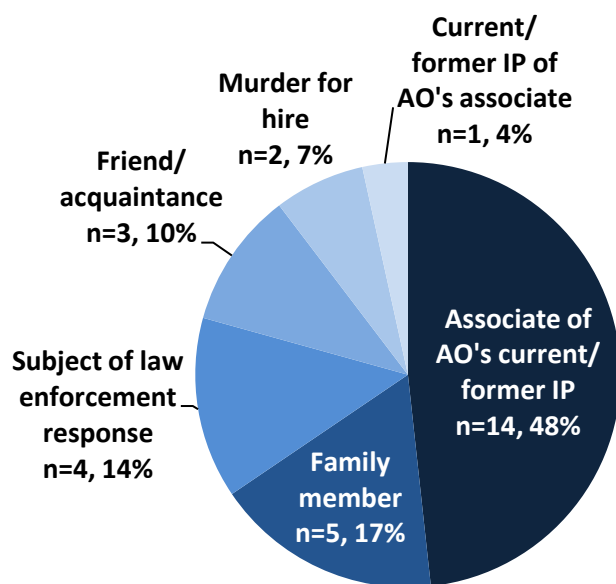
- 48% black
- 79% male
- Aged 0-65, with a median age of 32
- 41% injured in the Central HPR
- 76% killed with a firearm

COMPARED TO VICTIMS KILLED BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER, THOSE KILLED IN THE CROSS-FIRE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE WERE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE MALE AT A RATE OF 0.6 (TABLE 18).

### 2012-2013 COMPARISONS:

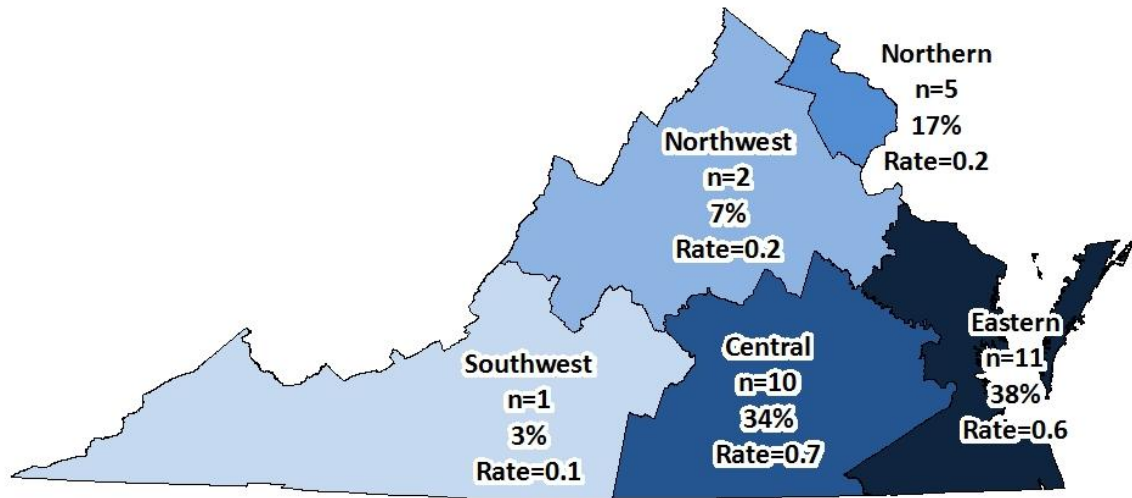
- The IPA Homicide rate for males aged 15-24 doubled from 0.9 to 2.0 in 2013, while the overall rate for blacks decreased from 1.1 to 0.8 (Figure 19).
- The number of firearm deaths increased by 15.8% (19 to 22; Table 16).
- The type of victims primarily targeted by IPA Homicide shifted from the alleged offender’s friends and family members (45% in 2012), to the friends and family members of the alleged offender’s intimate partner (48% in 2013; (Figure 6).
- In 2013, there were two cases of murder for hire (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Number and Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Relationship to Alleged Offender (AO) (N=29): 2013



In Intimate Partner Associated Homicide, victims are not part of the intimate partner relationship but often associated with one or both partners as a friend, family member, or intimate partner. Intimate Partner Associates comprise the majority of victims of IPA (86%), with strangers, bystanders, and law enforcement accounting for the remainder of IPA Homicide victims in 2013 (Figure 6).

Figure 7: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Health Planning Region of Injury in Virginia (N=29):



**2012-2013 REGIONAL (HPR) COMPARISONS (FIGURE 7):**

- The rate of death from IPA homicide decreased in the Southwest HPR, from 0.3 to 0.1 in 2013.
- IPA Homicide increased in the Northern HPR, with 17% of deaths occurring there (up from 10%), resulting in a doubling of the rate (0.2 from 0.1).

For additional data on Intimate Partner Associated Homicide, see the following figures and tables:

Label	Title	Page
Figure 18	Number of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013	26
Figure 19	Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013	26
Figure 20	Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=29): 2013	27
Table 16	Number and Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013	27
Table 17	Number and Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Sex and Relationship to Alleged Offender (AO) in Virginia (N=29): 2013	27
Table 18	Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013	28

## INTIMATE PARTNER RELATED (IPR) HOMICIDE

### RISK FACTORS

Of the 76 Intimate Partner and Intimate Partner Associated Homicides—together labeled as Intimate Partner Related (IPR) Homicide—65 (86%) had one or more identifiable risk factors prior to the homicide in 2013. The most common risk factors present in IPR Homicide remain stable from previous years. The end of an intimate partner relationship, regardless of when it occurred in relation to the homicide, is the most prevalent factor in homicides involving intimate partner issues (40% of IPR cases), followed by the abuser’s arrest or conviction for non-domestic violence related criminal offenses (32%). Nearly a quarter of IPR cases involved an abuser who abused drugs or alcohol (22 and 24% respectively; Table 3).

*Table 3: Number and Percentage of IPR Homicide Victims by Five Most Common Risk Factors and Case Type (N=76): 2013<sup>5</sup>*

#	Risk Factor	IPH (n=47)		IPA (n=29)		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Relationship had ended or was ending	20	42.6	10	34.5	30	39.5
2	Abuser was arrested or convicted of non-domestic violence offenses	15	31.9	9	31.0	24	31.6
3	Abuser abused alcohol	12	25.5	6	20.7	18	23.7
4	Abuser used illicit drugs	13	27.7	4	13.8	17	22.4
5	Abuser had controlling behaviors	8	17.0	8	27.6	16	21.1

### LETHALITY ASSESSMENT

The *Lethality Screen for First Responders*<sup>6</sup> is used in many communities to identify a victim’s level of potential risk for 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 2013, a quarter (26%) of Intimate Partner Related events involved a relationship where at least one of these high-risk factors was identified during surveillance prior to homicide:

- Item #1: In 3 cases (4%), the abuser threatened or assaulted the victim with a weapon.
- Item #2: In 12 cases (16%), the abuser threatened to kill the abuse victim.
- Item #3: In 5 cases (7%), the abuse victim believed the abuser was capable of killing them.

- **IN 25 CASES (33%), A THIRD PARTY KNEW ABOUT PAST OR THREATENED ABUSE.**
- **IN 16 CASES (21%), THERE WAS A HISTORY OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT.**
- **IN 14 CASES (18%), ONE OR BOTH PARTNERS HAD A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE.**

<sup>5</sup> Three IPH and eight IPA victims had no identifiable risk factor.

<sup>6</sup> Lethality Assessment Program Maryland Model for First Responders, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (2005). Retrieved October 11, 2013 from <http://mnadv.org/lethality>.

**PRECIPITATING CHARACTERISTICS**

In 2013, 64 (84%) IPR Homicides had one or more precipitating characteristics identified by surveillance. The most common triggers for fatal violence remain stable across past years, including the ending of the relationship (34%) and the presence or perceived presence of a new intimate partner relationship (26%; Table 4).

- 2012-2013 COMPARISONS (TABLE 6):**
- The number of IPR homicides where the fatal violence was precipitated by a mental health issue doubled from 5% to 11% in 2013.
  - IPR homicides in 2013 were more frequently precipitated by a third party attempting to intervene in an abusive situation (11%, up from 7% in 2012).
  - In 2012, one in nine (12%) IPR homicides was precipitated by financial issues; in 2013, this factor was not among the top five precipitators at 7%.

*Table 4: Number and Percentage of IPR Homicide Victims by Five Most Common Precipitating Factors and Case Type (N=76): 2013<sup>7</sup>*

#	Precipitating Factor	IPH (n=47)		IPA (n=29)		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Termination of relationship/break up	17	48.6	9	31.0	26	34.2
2	New partner or the perception of a new partner	12	34.3	8	27.6	20	26.3
3	Argument but not specified by sources	11	31.4	1	3.4	12	15.8
4	Substance/alcohol use/abuse	4	11.4	6	20.7	10	13.2
5	Argument due to existing mental health issue	3	8.6	5	17.2	8	10.5
	Death due to third party intervention	0	0.0	8	27.6	8	10.5

**CIVIL COURT PROCEEDINGS AND PROTECTIVE ORDERS**

In 10 (21%) IPH events, the intimate partners had a history of civil court involvement, including child custody, visitation, support; divorce; and protective orders.

Four (9%) IPH victims had ever had a protective order (P.O.), and two (4%) had one in place at the time of the homicide.

<sup>7</sup> Twelve IPH Events had no identifiable precipitating factor.

## CHILD HOMICIDE BY CARETAKER (CHC)

In 2013, there were 20 Child Homicide by Caretaker (CHC) events, resulting in 21 deaths.

### 2013 CHC Victims Were:

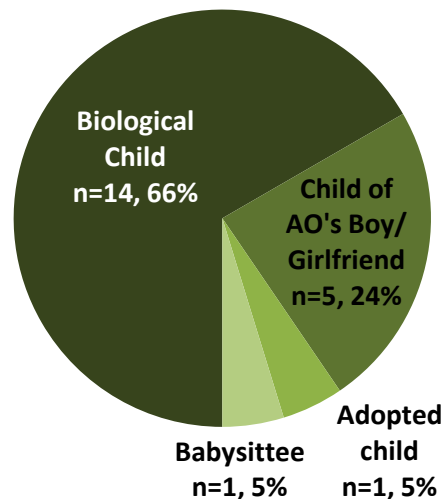
- 57% black
- 62% male
- Ages 0-14, with a mean age of 2
- 52% injured in the Central HPR
- 57% killed with a personal weapon

INFANTS (AGED LESS THAN ONE YEAR) WERE AT THE GREATEST RISK OF HOMICIDE BY A CARETAKER AT A RATE OF 11.7—ROUGHLY 7 TIMES GREATER THAN THE NEXT HIGHEST RISK GROUP OF AGES 1-4 (1.7), AND 23 TIMES THAT OF ALL OTHER CHILDREN AGED 1-17 (0.5; FIGURE 22).

### 2012-2013 COMPARISONS:

- The average age of CHC victims decreased from 3 to 2 years (Table 23), together with a 48.1% increase in the rate of death in infants aged 0-1 (11.7, up from 7.9 in 2012; Figure 21).
- Four infants died within seven days of birth during the early neonatal period.<sup>8</sup> This was the highest number of deaths in the first week of life ever recorded in a single year since the beginning of FIP homicide surveillance in 1999, representing a third of deaths in the last 10 years (11 since 2004).
- While the overall rate of FIP Homicide decreased for blacks in 2013, the rate of CHC amongst blacks increased by 63% to 2.6 from 1.6 in 2012 (Table 20).
- No firearms were used as a fatal agent in 2013, compared to 3 in 2012 (Table 19).
- A majority of CHC victims were the biological child of the alleged offender (66%) compared to just half in 2012 (Figure 8).

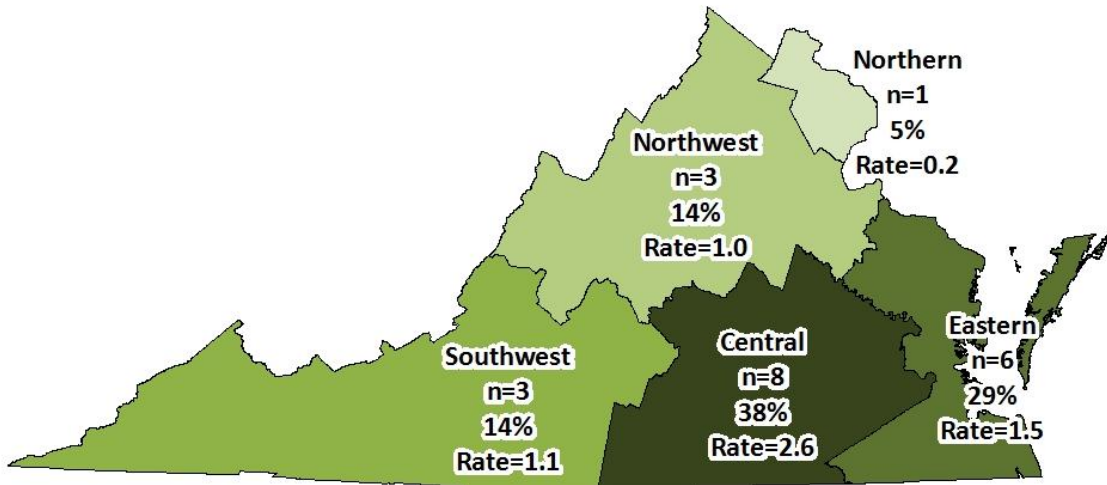
Figure 8: Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Relationship to Alleged Offender (AO) in Virginia (N=21): 2013



<sup>8</sup> The neonatal period is defined by the World Health Organization as the first 28 days of life: [http://www.who.int/gho/child\\_health/mortality/neonatal\\_text/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/child_health/mortality/neonatal_text/en/)



Figure 9: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC Victims by Health Planning Region of Injury in Virginia (N=21): 2013



**2012-2013 REGIONAL (HPR) COMPARISONS (FIGURE 9):**

- The Central Region saw a spike in CHC, with a nine-fold increase in the rate for that region (2.6, up from 0.3 in 2012). In 2013, the Central Region recorded the highest number (8) of annual CHC victims in that region since 1999 (12), representing 31% of CHC deaths there in past 10 years (26).
- The Northern and Eastern Regions both saw a decrease in the rate of CHC deaths from 2012 (from 0.5 in Northern and 2.2 in Eastern).

**IN 57% OF CHC DEATHS, THERE WAS A PRIOR HISTORY OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE; 24% OF CHC VICTIMS WERE LIVING IN A HOUSEHOLD WHERE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE WAS ALSO OCCURRING (TABLE 5).**

Table 5: Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Risk Factor in Virginia (N=21): 2013

Risk Factor	No.	%
History of threats	19	90.5
History of physical violence	12	57.1
Alleged offender had been arrested or convicted of a criminal offense	10	47.6
CPS had previously been alerted to the household	6	28.6
Living in a home with family abuse	6	28.6
Living in a home with intimate partner violence	5	23.8

For additional data on Child Homicide by Caretaker, see the following figures and tables:

<b>Label</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
<i>Figure 21</i>	<i>Number of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Figure 22</i>	<i>Rate of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Figure 23</i>	<i>Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=21): 2013</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Table 19</i>	<i>Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Fatal Agent and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Table 20</i>	<i>Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013</i>	<i>22</i>

## FAMILY RELATED HOMICIDE (FRH)

In 2013 there were 21 Other Family and Family Associated Homicides—together labeled Family Related Homicides (FRH)—resulting in 24 deaths.

### 2013 FRH Victims Were:

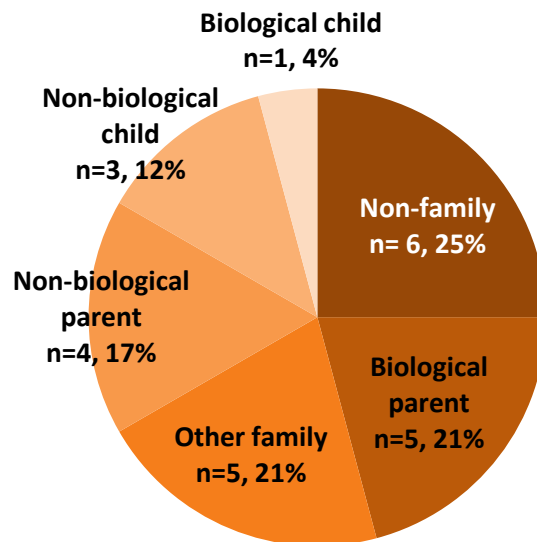
- 67% white
- 71% male
- Aged 21-74, with a mean age of 47
- 38% injured in the Eastern HPR
- 71% killed with a firearm

WHILE THE MAJORITY OF FAMILY RELATED HOMICIDE VICTIMS WERE WHITE, BLACKS DIED AT A HIGHER RATE THAN OTHER GROUPS (0.4), WITH BLACK MALES HAVING THE HIGHEST RATE OF 0.7 (TABLE 22).

### 2012-2013 COMPARISONS:

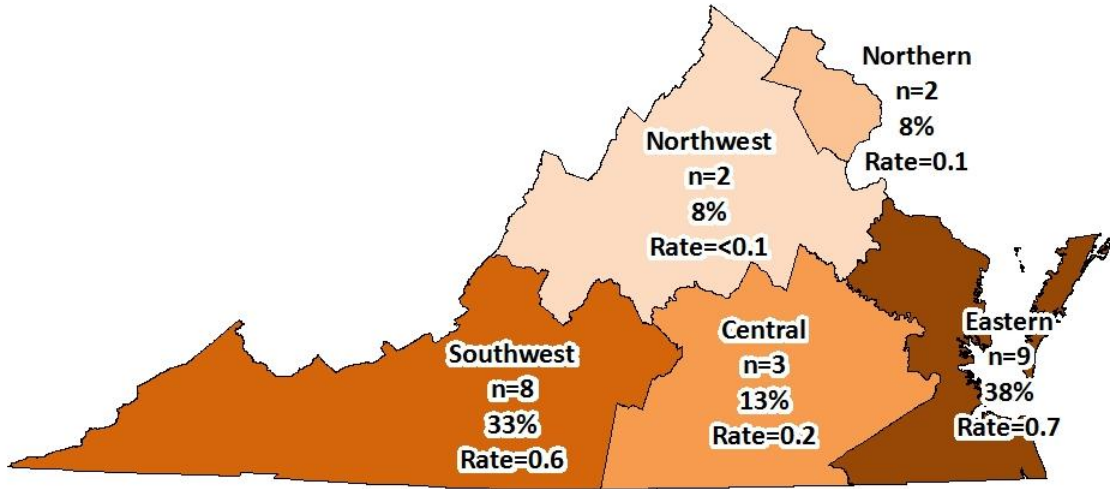
- The average age of FRH victims decreased from 52 in 2012 to 47 (Table 23).
- The number of firearm deaths increased by 6% (16 to 17), as did deaths by sharp instrument by 20% (5 to 6; Table 21).
- Four FRH victims (16%) were killed by a parent (biological or step), compared to just one in 2012 (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Number and Percentage of FRH Victims by Sex and Relationship to Alleged Offender (N=24): 2013



**DESPITE THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF CHILD HOMICIDES, MORE PEOPLE DIE IN VIRGINIA EACH YEAR FROM FAMILY RELATED HOMICIDE (10-YEAR AVERAGE OF 26 DEATHS PER YEAR, COMPARED TO 19 DEATHS FROM CHC).**

Figure 11: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FRH Victims by Health Planning Region of Injury in Virginia (N=24): 2013



**2012-2013 REGIONAL (HPR) COMPARISONS (FIGURE 11):**

- The number of FRH deaths in the Northwest HPR dropped by more than half, with a reduced rate of <0.1 (down from 0.4 in 2012). The rate of FRH deaths in the Central HPR also decreased by half (0.2 from 0.4).
- FRH deaths were up in the Eastern HPR, with 4 additional fatalities increasing the rate to 0.7 from 0.3.

**RISK FACTORS**

The most common risk factors present in Family Related Homicide (FRH) included an abuser with a criminal conviction record (38%), a history of threats between the involved parties (21%), and the decedent living in a home where family abuse was occurring (21%; Table 6).

- THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH FRH CASES INVOLVED AN ALLEGED OFFENDER WITH A PRIOR CRIMINAL HISTORY DECREASED IN 2013 BY 29 PERCENTAGE POINTS (FROM 67% IN 2012; TABLE 6).

Table 6: Number and Percentage of FRH Victims by Case Type and Risk Factors in Virginia (N=24): 2013

Risk Factor	OFH (n=18)		FAH (n=6)		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Alleged offender was arrested or convicted of a criminal offense	5	27.8	4	66.7	9	37.5
History of threats	5	27.8	0	0.0	5	20.8
Lived in a home with family abuse	5	27.8	0	0.0	5	20.8
History of physical violence	4	22.2	0	0.0	4	16.7
Lived in a home with intimate partner violence	2	11.1	0	0.0	2	8.3

**PRECIPITATING CHARACTERISTICS**

The most common precipitating characteristic for fatal violence in FRH was an unspecified argument, where the topic or subject of the conflict was unknown to investigators (25%; Table 7).

- 2012-2013 COMPARISONS (TABLE 7):**
- The frequency with which FRH cases involved an argument where one party forced the other out of a shared home increased in 2013 (17%, up from 10% in 2012).
  - The number (4) and percentage (17%) of FRH deaths that were precipitated by a mental health issue doubled in 2013 (from 2 [9%] in 2012).

*Table 7: Number and Percentage of FRH Victims by 5 Most Common Precipitating Characteristics (N=24): 2013*

#	Precipitating Characteristics	No.	%
1	Unspecified argument	6	25.0
2	Mental health issue	4	16.7
	Argument about being forced out of home	4	16.7
3	Substance or alcohol use/abuse	3	12.5
4	Property dispute	2	8.3
	Robbery or attempted Robbery	2	8.3
	Abuser felt "disrespected"	2	8.3
	Self defense	2	8.3
5	Third party intervening	1	4.2
	Refusal to follow law enforcement officer's request	1	4.2
	Conflict between abuser and non-biological child	1	4.2

For additional data on Family Related Homicide, see the following figures and tables:

Label	Title	Page
Figure 24	<i>Number of FRH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013</i>	31
Figure 25	<i>Rate of FRH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013</i>	31
Figure 26	<i>Number, Percentage, and Rate of FRH Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=24): 2013</i>	32
Table 21	<i>Number and Percentage of FRH Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013</i>	32
Table 22	<i>Number, Percentage, and Rate of FRH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013</i>	32

## THE IMPACT OF FATAL FIP VIOLENCE: ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

### MULTIPLE DEATHS

Twenty-three (20%) of FIP Homicide events were followed within one week by the alleged offender’s suicide. IPH was the most common context for homicide-suicide (15%), representing more than a third (36%) of IPH fatalities (Table 8). In an additional 2 cases, the alleged offender attempted but did not complete suicide.

Six (5%) fatal events resulted in multiple homicides (with as many as 3 victims); 2 of these cases were also homicide-suicides.

### CHILDREN

One in four (25%) FIP Homicide events exposed children to fatal violence, totaling 55 children in 2013 (Table 8). Twelve of these children directly witnessed the homicide. Four children were injured during the fatal event. The majority (41%) of events in which children were exposed were Intimate Partner Homicides.

In Intimate Partner Related Homicides, 43% of intimate partner relationships involved children in common under the age of 18; in 21% of IPR Homicides, one or both partners had a child under the age of 18 outside the relationship.

### SURVIVORS

Twenty-six (23%) FIP Homicides had one or more survivors, totaling 35 surviving victims. The majority of these were IPA (11%), with half of all IPA events leaving surviving victims (50%). For OFH and FAH, a combined 60% of Family Related Homicide (FRH) events left surviving victims (Table 8).

*Table 8: Number and Percentage of FIP Homicide Events by Case Type and Special Topic Characteristic in Virginia (N=115): 2013*

Characteristic	IPH (n=47)		IPA (n=26)		CHC (n=20)		OFH (n=15)		FAH (n=6)		All FIPS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Multiple Deaths (Including Suicide)	18	38.3	1	3.8	1	5.0	6	40.0	0	0.0	26	22.6
Homicide-Suicide	16	34.0	1	3.8	0	0.0	4	26.7	1	16.7	22	19.1
Children Exposed	12	25.5	6	23.1	6	30.0	5	33.3	0	0.0	30	26.1
Event Had Survivor(s)	6	12.8	13	50.0	1	5.0	4	26.7	2	33.3	26	22.6

## APPENDIX A: FIGURES AND TABLES

### FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER (FIP) HOMICIDE

Figure 12: Number of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013

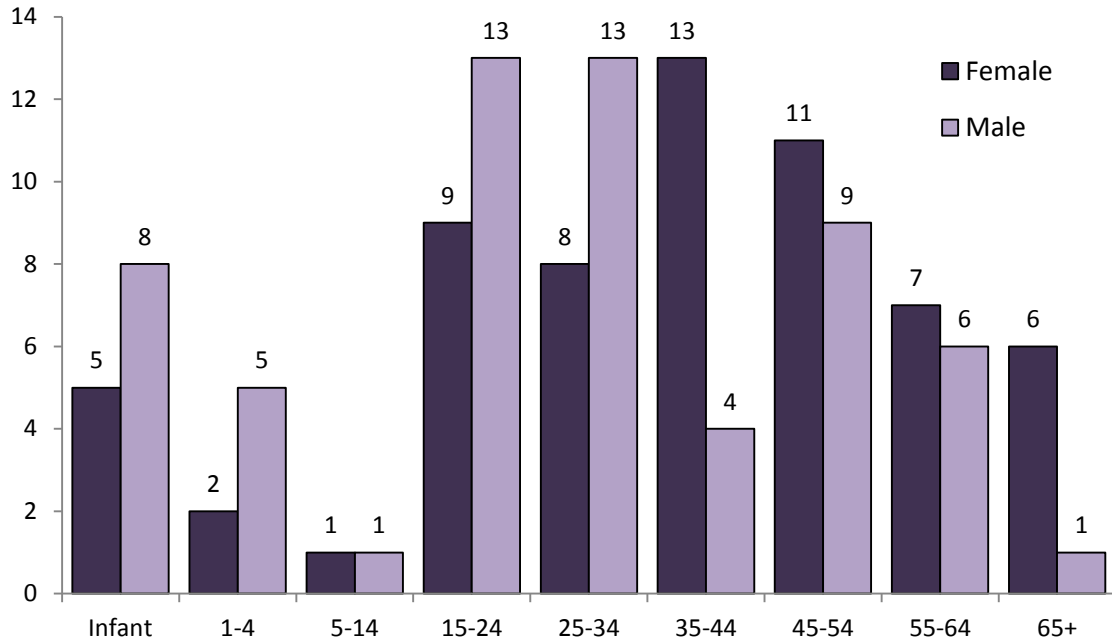


Figure 13: Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013

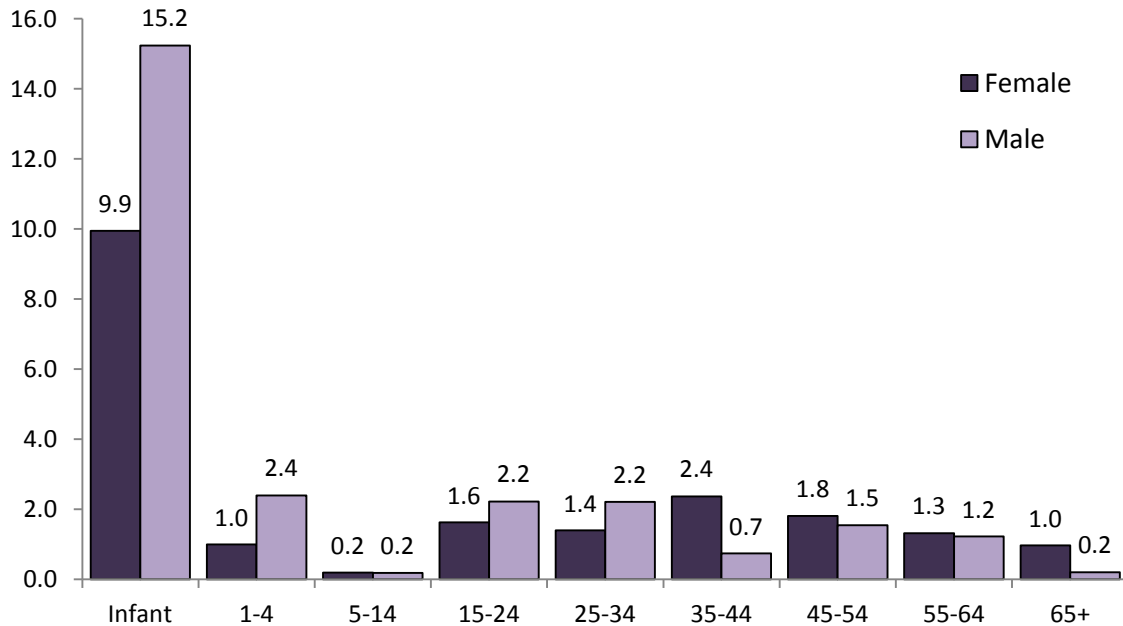


Figure 14: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=122): 2013

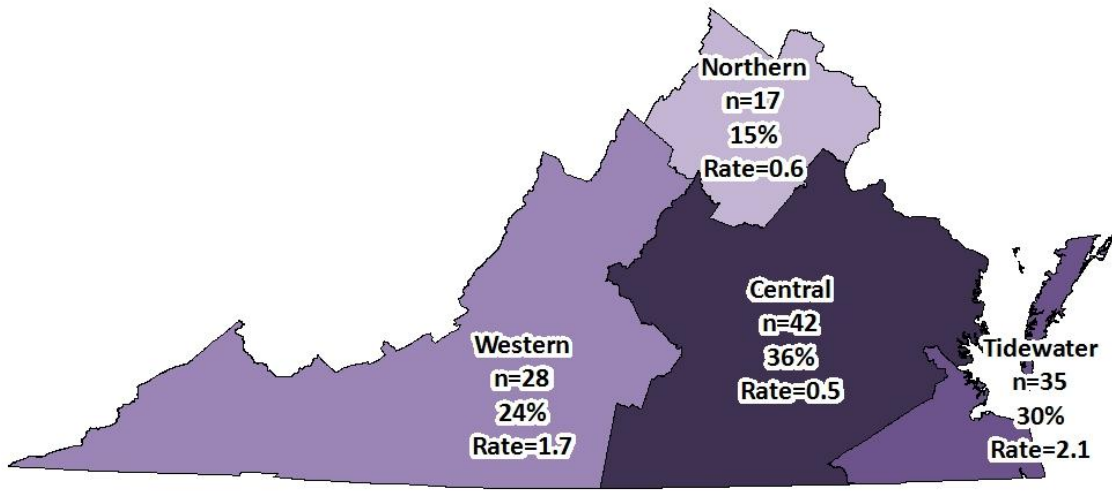


Table 9: Number and Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Sex and Fatal Agency in Virginia (N=122): 2013<sup>9</sup>

#	Fatal Agency	Female (n=62)		Male (n=60)		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Firearm	32	51.6	37	61.7	69	56.6
2	Sharp instrument	14	22.6	7	11.7	21	17.2
3	Personal weapon	6	9.7	10	16.7	16	13.1
4	Strangle/choke/hang	5	8.1	1	1.7	6	4.9
5	Blunt instrument	5	8.1	0	0.0	5	4.1
	Neglect	3	4.8	2	3.3	5	4.1

Table 10: Number of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type, Number of All Homicide Victims, and Percentage FIP Homicides in Virginia: 2009-2013

Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Intimate Partner Homicides	67	81	48	41	47
Intimate Partner Associated Homicides	30	25	49	29	29
Child by Caretaker Homicide	26	20	18	20	21
Other Family Homicide	12	37	16	2	18
Family Associated Homicide	4	5	2	3	6
Elder Homicide by Caregiver	0	2	1	0	1
<b>All FIP Homicides</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>All Homicides</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>Percent FIP Homicide</b>	33.9	43.5	38.8	34.0	35.9

<sup>9</sup> Ten decedents were killed with two or more fatal agencies.



Table 11: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013

Type	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Intimate Partner Homicide	40	64.5	1.0	7	11.7	0.2	47	38.5	0.6
Intimate Partner Associated Homicide	6	9.7	0.1	23	38.3	0.6	29	23.8	0.4
Child by Caretaker Homicide	8	12.9	0.9	13	21.7	1.4	21	17.2	1.1
Other Family Homicide	6	9.7	0.1	12	20.0	0.3	18	14.8	0.2
Family Associated Homicide	1	1.6	0.0	5	8.3	0.1	6	4.9	0.1
Elder Homicide by Caregiver	1	1.6	<0.1	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.8	<0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>

Table 12: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=122): 2013

Race	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	32	51.6	1.1	30	50.0	1.0	62	50.8	1.0
Black	24	38.7	2.6	26	43.3	3.1	50	41.0	2.9
Other	2	3.2	0.5	4	6.7	1.2	6	4.9	0.8
Unknown	4	6.5	--	0	0.0	--	4	3.3	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic	8	12.9	2.2	2	3.3	0.5	9	7.4	1.2

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Figure 15: Number of IPH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013

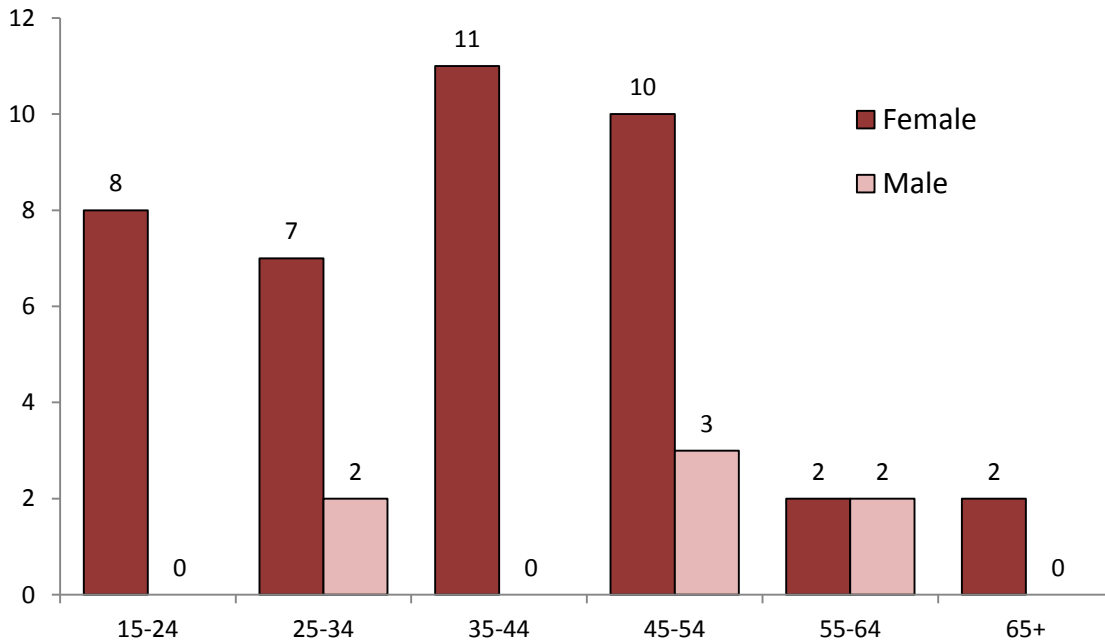


Figure 16: Rate of IPH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013

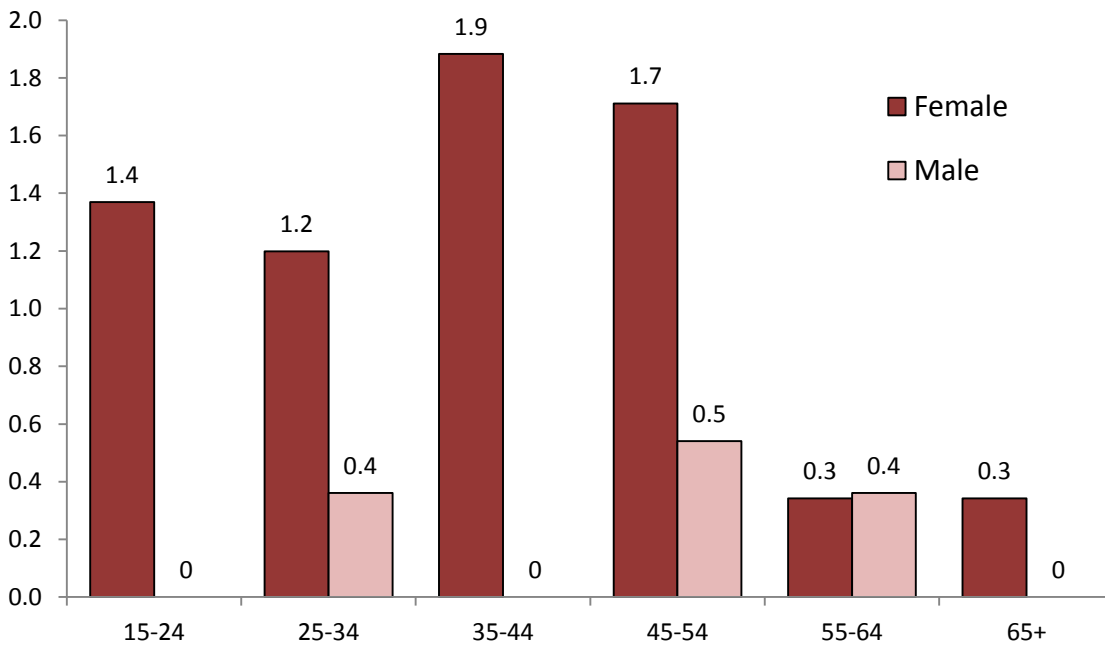


Figure 17: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPH Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=47): 2013

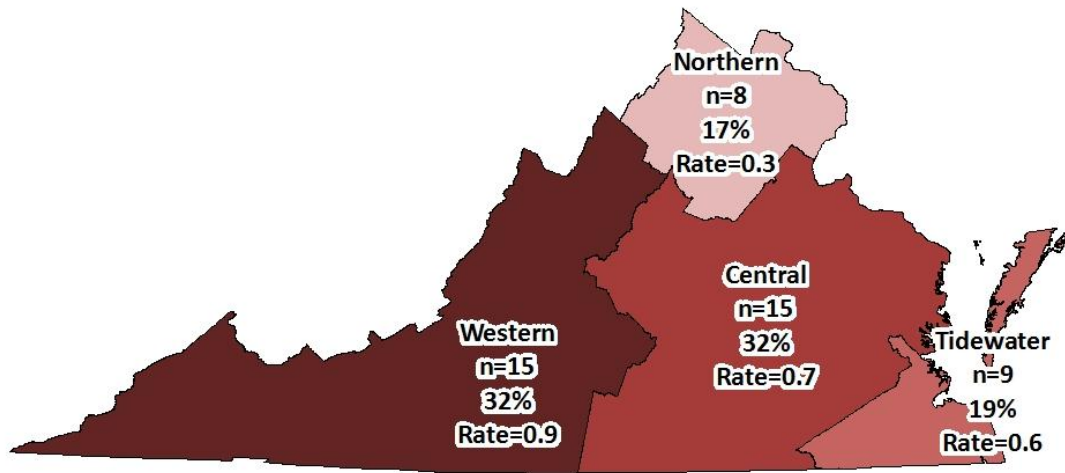


Table 13: Number and Percentage of IPH Victims by Fatal Agent and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013<sup>10</sup>

#	Fatal Agent	Female (n=40)		Male (n=7)		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Firearm	25	62.5	5	71.4	30	63.8
2	Sharp instrument	8	20.0	2	28.6	10	21.3
3	Strangle/choke/hang	5	12.5	0	0.0	5	10.6
4	Blunt instrument	2	5.0	0	0.0	2	4.3
5	Motor vehicle	1	2.5	0	0.0	1	2.1
	Personal weapon	1	2.5	0	0.0	1	2.1
	Push/slam/throw	1	2.5	0	0.0	1	2.1
	Other	1	2.5	0	0.0	1	2.1

Table 14: Number and Percentage of IPH Victims by Sex and Relationship to Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=47): 2013

Relationship	Females (n=40)		Males (n=7)		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Spouse	17	42.5	3	42.9	20	42.6
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	14	35.0	3	42.9	17	36.2
Ex-Boyfriend/Girlfriend	8	20.0	1	14.3	9	19.1
Target of stalker	1	2.5	0	0.0	1	2.1

<sup>10</sup> Four females were victim to multiple fatal agents

*Table 15: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=47): 2013*

Race	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	21	52.5	0.7	5	71.4	0.2	26	55.3	0.4
Black	15	37.5	1.7	1	14.3	0.1	16	34.0	0.9
Other	0	0.0	0.0	1	14.3	0.3	1	2.1	0.1
Unknown	4	10.0	1.2	0	0.0	0.0	4	8.5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic	6	15.0	1.7	0	0.0	0.0	6	12.8	0.8

INTIMATE PARTNER ASSOCIATED HOMICIDE

Figure 18: Number of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013

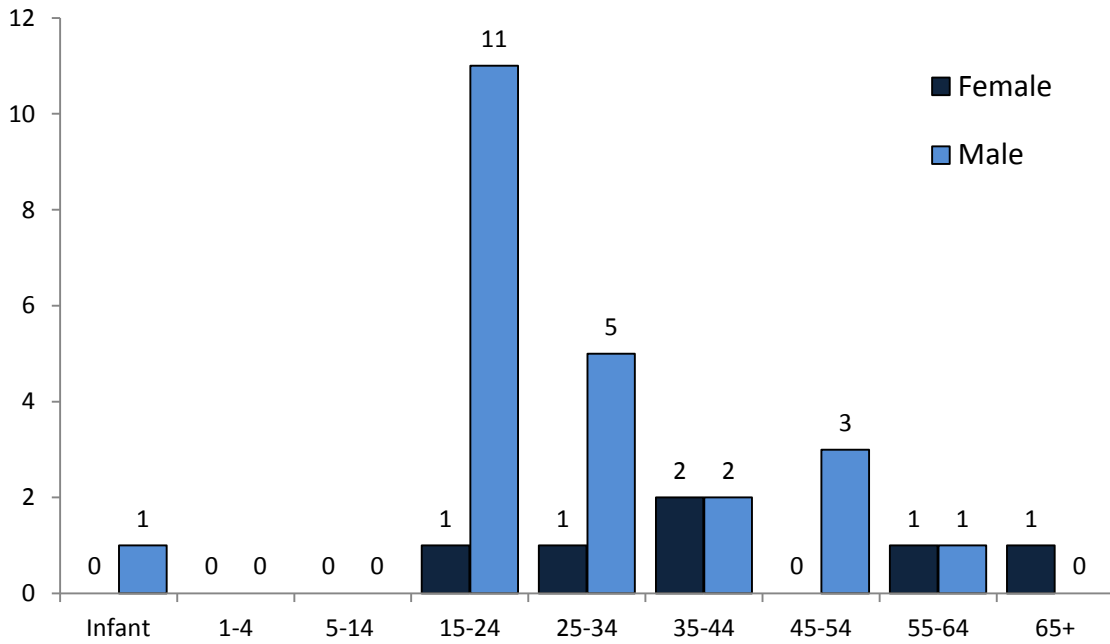


Figure 19: Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013

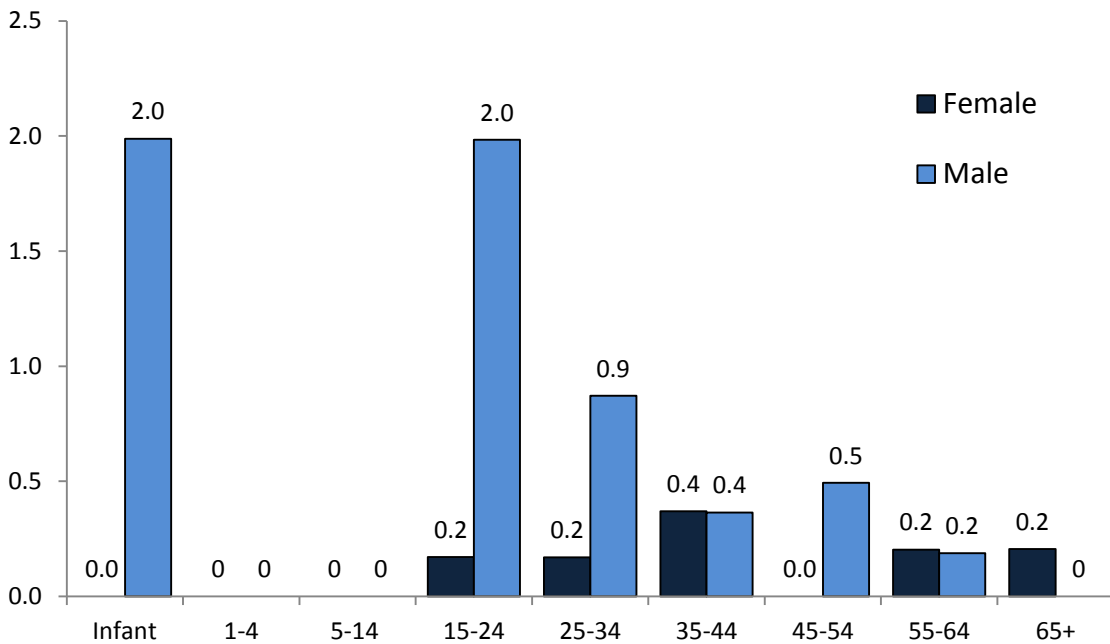


Figure 20: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=29): 2013

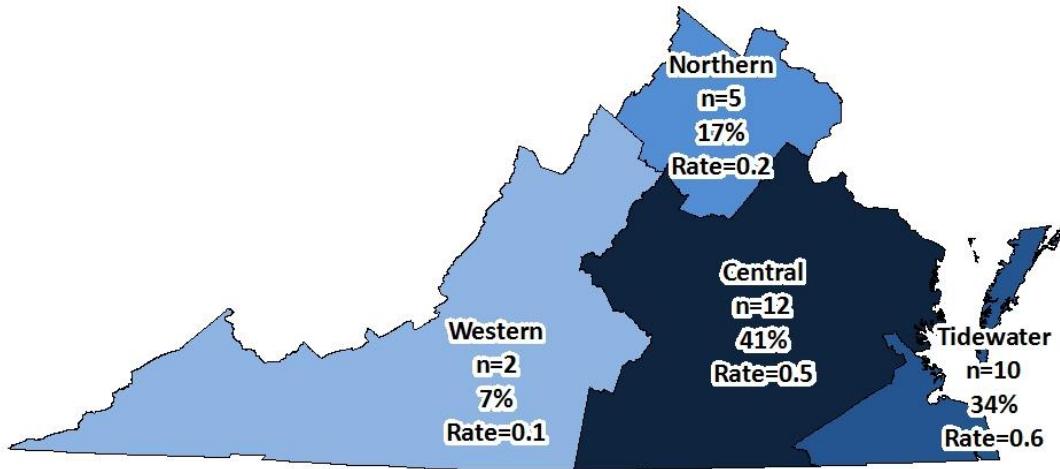


Table 16: Number and Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013

#	Fatal Agency	Female (n=6)		Male (n=23)		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No	%
1	Firearm	3	50.0	19	82.6	22	75.9
2	Sharp instrument	3	50.0	1	4.3	4	13.8
3	Personal weapon	0	0.0	2	8.7	2	6.9
4	Strangle/choke/hang	0	0.0	1	4.3	1	3.4
	Smother/suffocate	0	0.0	1	4.3	1	3.4
	Push/slam/throw	0	0.0	1	4.3	1	3.4
	Blunt instrument	1	16.7	0	0.0	1	3.4
	Neglect	0	0.0	1	4.3	1	3.4

Table 17: Number and Percentage of IPA Homicide Victims by Sex and Relationship to Alleged Offender (AO) in Virginia (N=29): 2013

Relationship	Females (n=6)		Males (n=23)		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Associate <sup>11</sup> of alleged offender's current/former intimate partner	2	33.3	12	52.2	14	48.3
Family member	1	16.7	4	17.4	5	17.2
Subject of law enforcement response	1	16.7	3	13.0	4	13.8
Friend/acquaintance	0	0.0	3	13.0	3	10.3
Murder for hire	2	33.3	0	0.0	2	6.9
Current/former intimate partner of alleged offender's associate	0	0.0	1	4.3	1	3.4

<sup>11</sup> Associates include friends, family members, and current or former intimate partners.

Table 18: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=29): 2013

Race	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	3	50.0	0.1	9	39.1	0.3	12	41.4	0.2
Black	1	16.7	0.1	13	56.5	1.6	14	48.3	0.8
Other	2	33.3	0.5	1	4.3	0.3	3	10.3	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	1	4.3	0.3	1	3.4	0.1

CHILD HOMICIDE BY CARETAKER

Figure 21: Number of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013

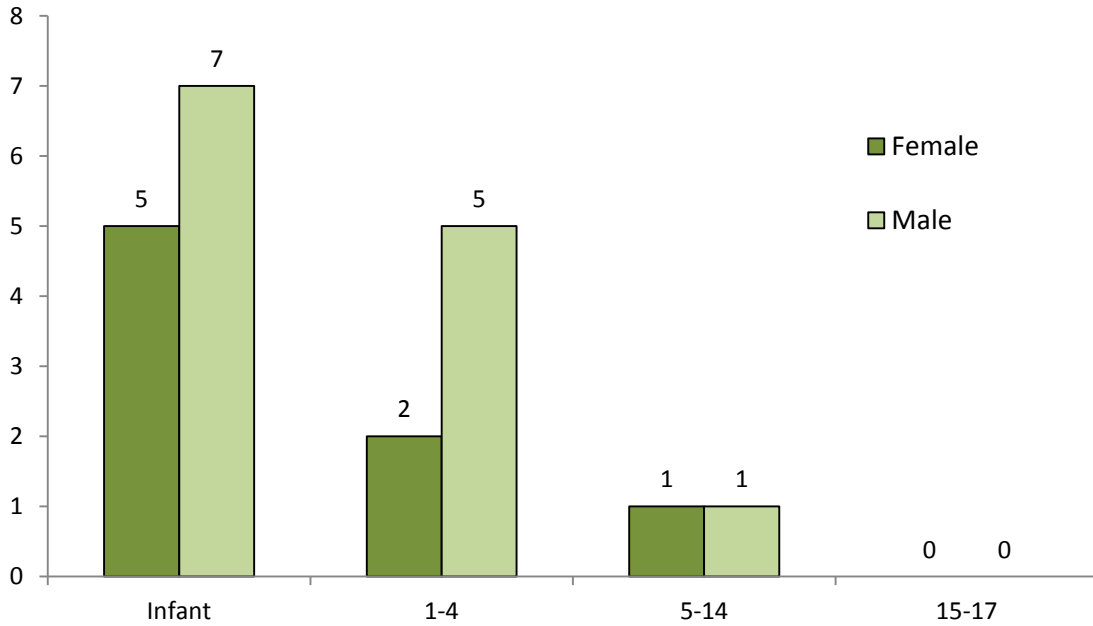


Figure 22: Rate of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013

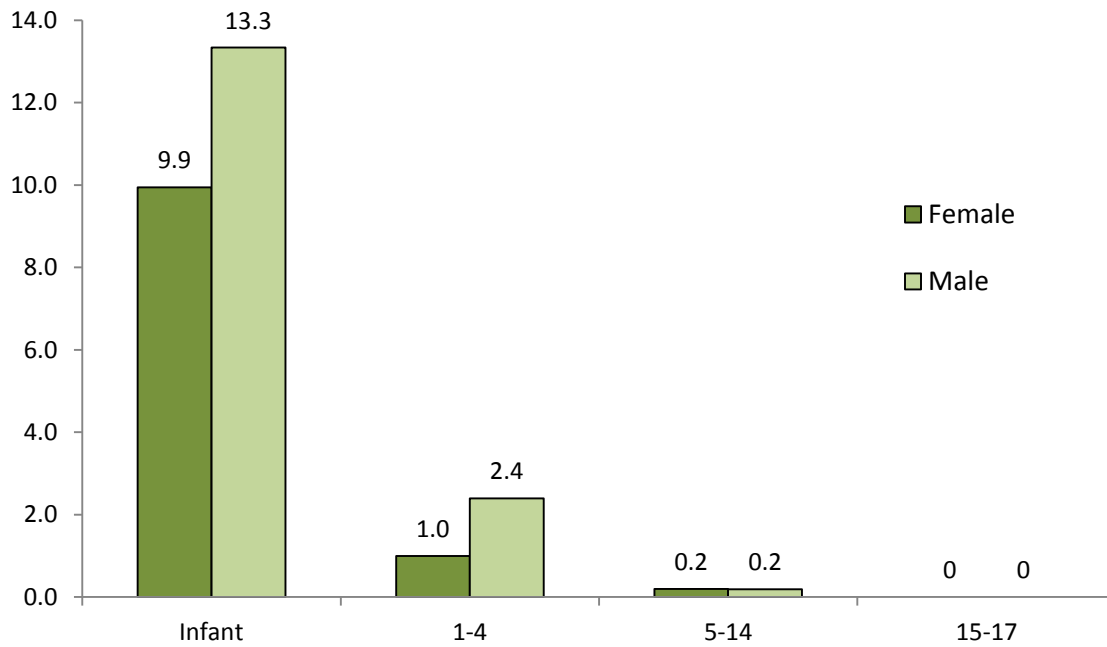




Figure 23: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=21): 2013

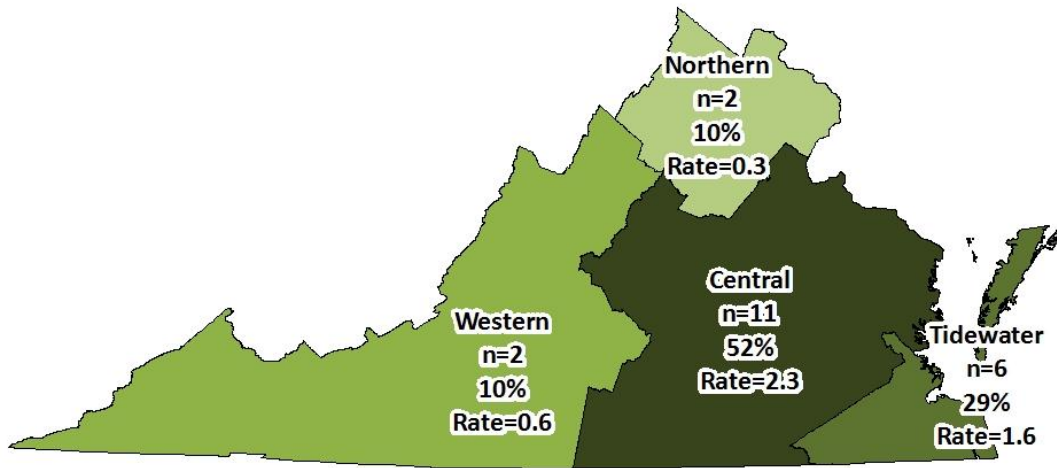


Table 19: Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Fatal Agent and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013<sup>12</sup>

Fatal Agent	Female (n=8)		Male (n=13)		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Personal weapon	4	50.0	8	61.5	12	57.1
Push/slam/throw	1	12.5	1	7.7	2	9.5
Neglect	1	12.5	1	7.7	2	9.5
Heat exposure	1	12.5	1	7.7	2	9.5
Blunt instrument	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	4.8
Drown	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	4.8
Smother/suffocate	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	4.8
Poison/carbon monoxide	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	4.8
Fire/smoke inhalation	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	4.8
Firearm	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

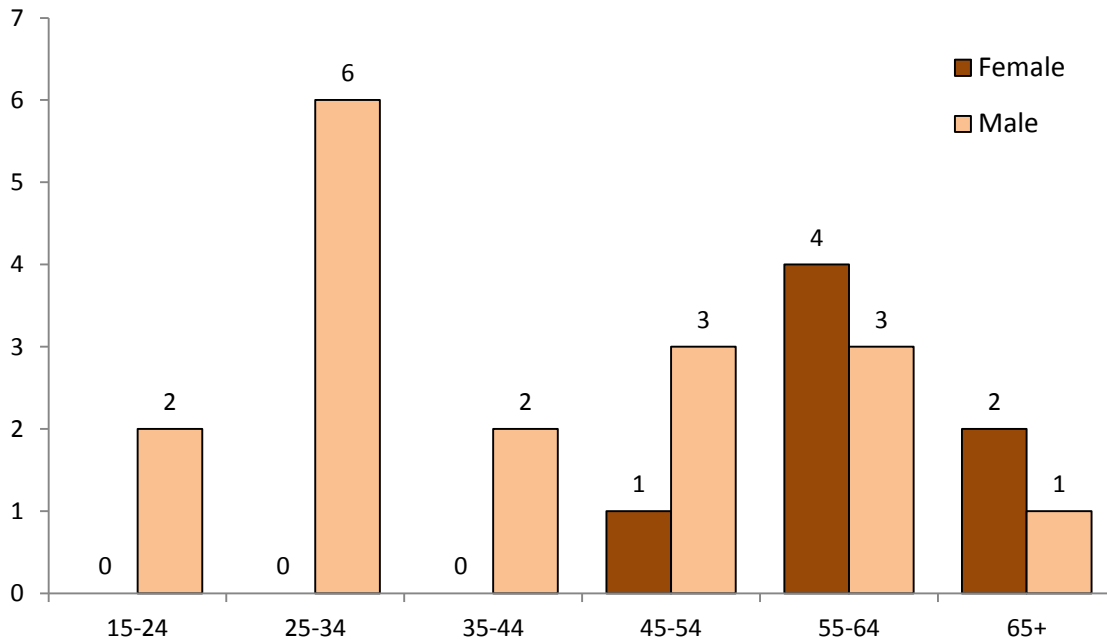
Table 20: Number and Percentage of CHC Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=21): 2013

Race	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	2	25.0	0.3	6	46.2	0.9	8	38.1	0.6
Black	6	75.0	2.6	6	46.2	2.5	12	57.1	2.6
Other	0	0.0	0.0	1	7.7	1.0	1	4.8	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic	2	25.0	1.7	0	0.0	0.0	2	9.5	0.8

<sup>12</sup> One female was victim to multiple fatal agents.

**FAMILY RELATED HOMICIDES (FRH)**

*Figure 24: Number of FRH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013*



*Figure 25: Rate of FRH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013*

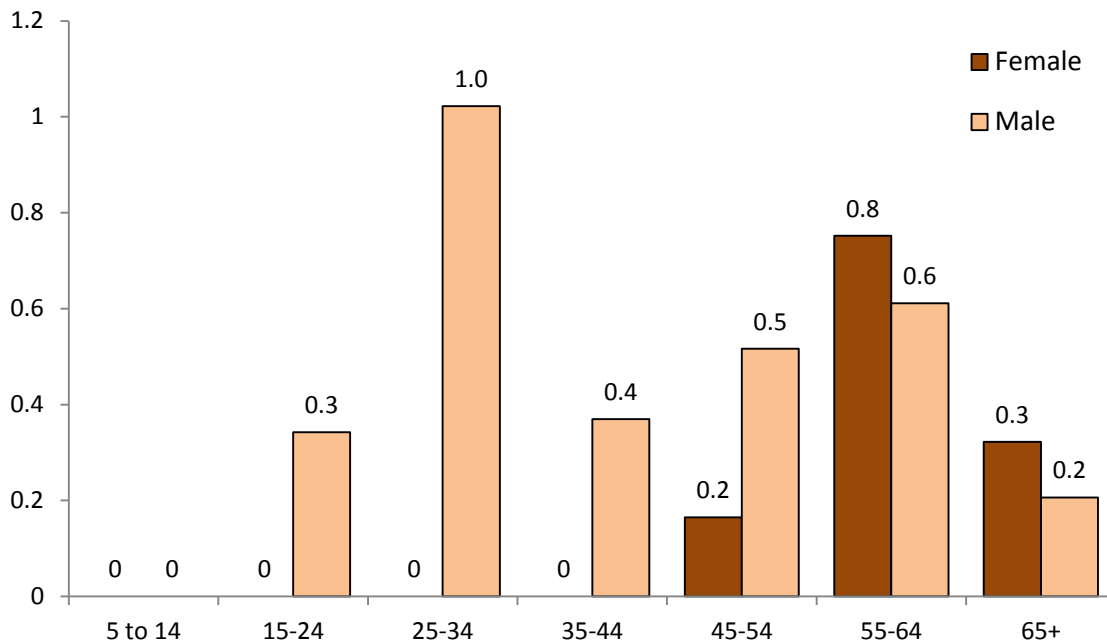


Figure 26: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FRH Victims by OCME District in Virginia (N=24): 2013

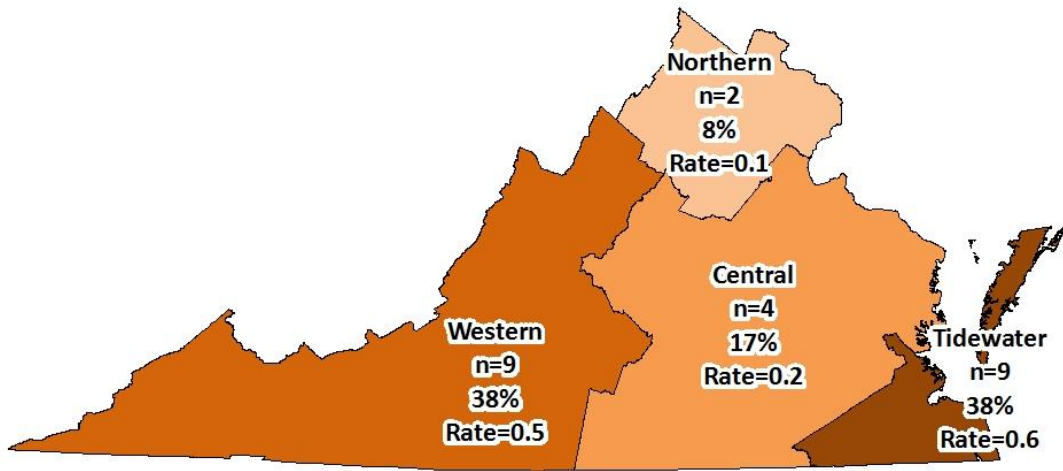


Table 21: Number and Percentage of FRH Victims by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013

Fatal Agency	Female (n=7)		Male (n=17)		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	4	57.1	13	76.5	17	70.8
Sharp instrument	2	28.6	4	23.5	6	25.0
Blunt instrument	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	4.2

Table 22: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FRH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=24): 2013

Race	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	6	85.7	0.2	10	58.8	0.3	16	66.7	0.3
Black	1	14.3	0.1	6	35.3	0.7	7	29.2	0.4
Other	0	0.0	0.0	1	5.9	0.3	1	4.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	1	5.9	0.3	1	4.2	0.1

## APPENDIX B: SUMMARY TABLES

Table 23: Percentage of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type and Most Common Characteristics in Virginia (N=122): 2013

Characteristic	IPH (n=47)	IPA (n=29)	CHC (n=21)	FRH (n=24)	All FIP
Average Age	40	32	2	47	33
Age Range	18-67	0-65	0-14	21-74	0-77
Age Group	Males 45-54 (42.9)	15-24 (47.8)	Infant (53.8)	25-34 (35.3)	15-24/25-34 (26.7 each)
	Females 35-44 (27.5)	25-34 (33.3)	Infant (62.5)	55-64 (57.1)	35-44 (21.0)
Gender	Female (85.1)	Male (79.3)	Male (61.9)	Male (70.8)	Female (50.8)
Race/Ethnicity	White (55.3)	Black (48.3)	Black (57.1)	White (66.7)	White (50.8)
Fatal Agent	Firearm (63.8)	Firearm (75.9)	Personal Weapon (61.5)	Firearm (70.8)	Firearm (56.6)
Health Planning Region	Southwest (29.8)	Eastern (37.9)	Central (38.1)	Eastern (37.5)	Eastern (33.3)
Percent of Total	38.5	23.8	17.2	19.7	100.0

Table 24: Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Case Type and Most Common Characteristics in Virginia (N=122): 2013

Characteristic		IPH (n=47)	IPA (n=29)	CHC (n=21)	FRH (n=24)	All FIP
Age Group	Male	35-44 (1.9)	Infant/15-24 (2.0 each)	Infant (13.3)	35-34 (1.0)	Infant (15.2)
	Females	45-54 (1.7)	35-44 (0.4)	Infant (9.9)	55-64 (0.8)	Infant (9.9)
Gender		Female (1.0)	Male (0.6)	Male (1.4)	Male (0.4)	Female (1.5)
Race/Ethnicity		Black (0.9)	Black (1.6)	Black (2.6)	Black (0.4)	Black (2.9)
Fatal Agent		Firearm (0.4)	Firearm (0.3)	Personal Weapon (0.6)	Firearm (0.2)	Firearm (0.8)
Health Planning Region		Southwest (1.0)	Central (0.7)	Central (2.6)	Eastern (0.7)	Central (2.2)
Overall Rate		0.6	0.4	1.1	0.3	1.5

Table 25: Five Year Summary of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia: 2009-2013

Sex	2009			2010			2011		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Female	76	54.7	1.9	92	54.1	2.3	66	49.3	1.6
Male	63	45.3	1.6	78	45.9	2.0	68	50.7	1.7
<b>Race</b>									
White	73	52.5	1.3	103	60.6	1.8	77	57.5	1.3
Black	60	43.2	3.7	59	34.7	3.6	52	38.8	3.1
Other	6	4.3	1.3	8	4.7	0.9	5	3.7	0.9
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic	4	2.9	0.7	5	2.9	0.8	12	9.0	1.8
<b>Age</b>									
<1	14	10.1	13.1	12	7.1	12.0	11	8.2	10.8
1-4	8	5.8	1.9	7	4.1	1.7	7	5.2	1.7
5-14	5	3.6	0.5	2	1.2	0.2	6	4.5	0.6
15-24	26	18.7	2.3	31	18.2	2.8	20	14.9	1.8
25-34	24	17.3	2.2	29	17.1	2.7	21	15.7	1.9
35-44	22	15.8	2.0	37	21.2	3.3	26	19.4	2.4
45-54	18	12.9	1.6	26	15.3	2.1	19	14.2	1.6
55-64	13	9.4	1.4	15	8.8	1.6	12	9.0	1.2
65+	9	6.5	0.9	11	6.5	1.1	12	9.0	1.2
<b>Fatal Agency</b>									
Firearm	38	44.7	--	97	57.1	--	77	57.5	--
Sharp Instrument	14	16.5	--	26	15.3	--	24	17.9	--
Blunt Instrument	6	7.1	--	15	8.8	--	4	3.0	--
Personal Weapon	11	13.0	--	21	12.4	--	18	13.4	--
Strangle/Choke	10	11.8	--	8	4.7	--	9	6.7	--
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	--	2	1.2	--	0	0.0	--
Drown	1	1.2	--	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	--	0	0.0	--	2	1.5	--
Smother/Suffocate	2	2.4	--	3	1.8	--	2	1.5	--
Poison	0	0.0	--	1	5.9	--	1	0.7	--
Other	2	2.4	--	7	4.1	--	1	0.7	--
Unknown	1	0.7	--	1	5.9	--	2	1.5	--
<b>OCME District</b>									
Central	42	30.0	2.0	52	30.6	2.4	35	26.1	1.6
Northern	28	20.0	1.1	25	14.7	1.0	21	15.7	0.8
Tidewater	34	25.0	2.1	42	24.7	2.6	43	32.1	2.7
Western	34	25.0	2.1	50	29.4	3.0	35	26.1	2.1
<b>Case Type</b>									
Intimate Partner	67	48.2	0.9	81	47.6	1.0	48	35.8	0.6
Intimate Partner Associated	30	21.6	0.4	25	14.7	0.3	49	36.6	0.6
Child by Caregiver	26	18.7	1.4	20	11.8	1.1	18	13.4	1.0
Adult by Caregiver	0	0.0	0.0	2	1.2	<0.1	1	0.7	<0.1
Other Family	12	8.6	0.2	37	21.8	0.5	16	11.9	0.2
Family Associated	4	2.9	0.1	5	2.9	<0.1	2	1.5	<0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Table 25 (Continued): Five Year Summary of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide in Virginia: 2009-2013

Sex	2012			2013		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Female	60	51.3	1.5	62	50.8	1.5
Male	57	48.7	1.4	60	49.2	1.4
<b>Race</b>						
White	62	53.0	1.0	62	50.8	1.0
Black	53	45.3	3.2	50	41.0	2.9
Other	2	1.7	0.3	10	8.2	1.4
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	9	7.7	1.3	10	8.2	1.3
<b>Age</b>						
<1	8	6.8	7.9	13	10.7	12.6
1-4	12	10.3	2.9	7	5.7	1.7
5-14	3	2.6	0.3	2	1.6	0.2
15-24	16	13.7	1.4	22	18.0	1.9
25-34	16	13.7	1.4	21	17.2	1.8
35-44	18	15.4	1.6	17	13.9	1.6
45-54	24	20.5	2.0	20	16.4	1.7
55-64	9	7.7	0.9	13	10.7	1.3
65+	11	9.4	1.0	7	5.7	0.6
<b>Fatal Agency</b>						
Firearm	57	48.7	--	69	56.6	--
Sharp Instrument	27	23.1	--	21	17.2	--
Blunt Instrument	4	3.4	--	5	4.1	--
Personal Weapon	24	20.5	--	16	13.1	--
Strangle/Choke	6	5.1	--	6	4.9	--
Motor Vehicle	1	0.9	--	1	0.8	--
Drown	2	1.7	--	1	0.8	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	1	0.9	--	1	0.8	--
Smother/Suffocate	2	1.7	--	2	1.6	--
Poison	1	0.9	--	2	1.6	--
Other	0	0.0	--	13	10.7	--
Unknown	1	0.9	--	0	0.0	--
<b>OCME District</b>						
Central	37	31.6	1.7	42	31.4	1.9
Northern	20	17.1	0.7	17	13.9	0.6
Tidewater	32	27.4	2.0	35	28.7	2.2
Western	28	23.9	1.7	28	23.0	1.7
<b>Type of Homicide</b>						
Intimate Partner	41	35.0	0.5	47	38.5	0.6
Intimate Partner Associated	29	24.8	0.4	29	23.8	0.4
Child by Caregiver	20	17.1	1.1	21	17.2	1.1
Adult by Caregiver	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.8	<0.1
Other Family	24	20.5	0.3	18	14.8	0.2
Family Associated	3	2.6	<0.1	6	4.9	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>

## APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY

**Abuser:** Person who was the primary aggressor of abuse towards an intimate partner or family member. The perpetrator is often times the alleged offender, but this is not always the case, such as in a case where a domestic violence victim's new boyfriend murders the victim's abuser or perpetrator. In this case, the new boyfriend is the alleged offender but not the domestic violence perpetrator.

**Adult Homicide by Caretaker (AHC):** A homicide in which a victim was a dependent adult 18 years or older who was killed by a caretaker. A dependent adult could include someone who is elderly or disabled, and requires part- or full-time care from another person.

**Alleged offender:** A person who law enforcement suspects or charges with the commission of a homicide.

**Caretaker:** A person responsible for the care and/or supervision of another person. This is not limited to a biological parent, but can include a babysitter or person of no biological relation who is in charge of or responsible for the care of another person. In Virginia a parent of a minor is always considered a caretaker, unless their parental rights have previously been terminated.

**Child Homicide by Caretaker (CHC):** A homicide in which a victim was a child under the age of 18 killed by a caretaker.

**Child/children:** A person under the age of 18.

**Family Associated Homicide (FAH):** A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from a familial relationship.

**Family Homicide, Other (OFH):** A homicide in which a victim was killed by an individual related to them biologically or by marriage with the exception of spouses (e.g. grandparent, [step] parent, [step] sibling, cousin, in-law).

**Family member:** Includes parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren (in-laws, adopted, biological, foster, half-siblings, etc.), or another person related by blood or marriage excluding spouses

**Family Related Homicide (FRH):** A homicide involving a family relationship, including Other Family Homicide and Family Associated Homicide (not including homicides involving intimate partners or caretakers).

**Fatal agent:** The instrument or method causing the death of a victim (e.g., firearm, poison, strangling).

**Fatal assault/event:** A homicide(s) with shared circumstances. 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 victim cases and one event.

**Financial issues:** Difficulty making income and/or paying debts or expenses (e.g., living at or below the poverty level, unemployment, excessive debt, and inability or difficulty paying rent/utilities).



**Homicide:** “Occurs when death results from an injury or poisoning or from a volitional act committed by another person to cause fear, harm, or death. Intent to cause death is a common element but is not required for classification as homicide.”<sup>13</sup>

**Homicide-Suicide:** A homicide which is followed within one week by the suicide of the alleged offender.

**Intimate partner (IP):** May include a current or former spouse; any individual who has a child in common with the person; or, any individual who cohabits or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabited with the person.

**Intimate Partner Associate:** A person killed in an Intimate Partner Associated Homicide who is the friend, family member, or past/current intimate partner of one or both of the involved intimate partners.

**Intimate Partner Associated (IPA) Homicide:** A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of abuse and/or violence stemming from an intimate partner relationship (e.g., persons caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence: such as friends, co-workers, neighbors, new intimate partners, or bystanders).

**Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH):** A homicide in which a victim was killed by one of the following: current or former spouse; current or former boyfriend; girlfriend; same-sex partner; or dating partner.

**Intimate Partner Related (IPF) Homicide:** A homicide involving an intimate partner relationship, including Intimate Partner Homicide and Intimate Partner Associated Homicide.

**Lethality Factors:** Events or characteristics that when present in an intimate partner relationship indicate an elevated risk for lethal domestic violence.

**Mental health issues:** Mental health issues include all disorders and syndromes identified in the DSM-IV (e.g., depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, eating disorders, personality disorders, and dementia).

**Neglect:** Behaviors causing injury or harm, characterized by inadequate supervision or failure to provide essential care (e.g., food, medicine, health care).

**Precipitating factor:** A circumstance that occurred immediately before or during the fatal event and might be considered a trigger or motive for the violence.

**Protective order:** A legal order issued by a court to protect one person from abuse or threatening behavior by another.

**Risk factor:** Characteristics present prior to the occurrence of a homicide which might have placed the victim at an increased probability for abuse.

**Stalking:** When a person becomes fearful of their safety because someone is repeatedly pursuing, harassing, and/or following them, which is unwanted and serving no legitimate purpose.

---

<sup>13</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Medical Examiners' and Coroners' Handbook on Death Registration and Fetal Death Report*.

**Substance abuse:** The recurrent pattern of the use of drugs, alcohol, or other substances for purposes other than intended and/or impairs the user's life.

**Suicide:** A death that "results from an injury or poisoning as a result of an intentional, self-inflicted act committed to do self-harm or cause the death of one's self."<sup>13</sup>

## APPENDIX D: VIRGINIA LOCALITIES BY REGION

### 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, King William, 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,<sup>14</sup> Bristol, Covington, Danville, Galax, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Norton, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem.

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF 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,<sup>14</sup> Bristol, Buena Vista, Covington, Danville, Galax, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Norton, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

<sup>14</sup> The City of Bedford became part of Bedford County on July 1, 2013.