

Family and Intimate Partner Homicide 2011

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

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Introduction

The 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. By collecting demographic information about victims of domestic violence, the 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.

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

To provide a sense of where domestic violence deaths occur 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. Cases in which the decedent was fatally injured in Virginia but died in another state are also included in the project. *OCME Districts* portray where the death investigation took place, which may be different from the district where injury occurred.

Rates are calculated for every 100,000 persons in the population. Therefore, if a homicide rate is 2.0, then for every 100,000 people in that population group, there were 2 people that were killed. Population data are from the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Health Statistics.

Table 1: Virginia Population by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex: 2011						
	Female		Male		Total	
Race	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	2,961,777	36.6	2,912,061	36.0	5,873,838	72.5
Black	867,987	10.7	796,331	9.8	1,664,318	20.6
Other	290,675	3.6	267,773	3.3	558,448	6.9
Total	4,120,439	50.9	3,976,165	49.1	8,096,604	100
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	316,704	3.9	344,026	4.2	660,730	8.2

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.

Small numbers of cases and rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted and used with caution.

The Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance project uses the following six categories to differentiate types of 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, where at least one of the following was historically noted: rejection, threats, harassment, stalking, possessiveness, or issuance of a protective order.
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-laws) and who does not meet the criteria for one of the four groups above.
Family Associated Homicide (FAH)	A homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from a familial relationship. Victims could include persons killed by law enforcement during a familial conflict or persons caught in the crossfire, such as friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, or bystanders.

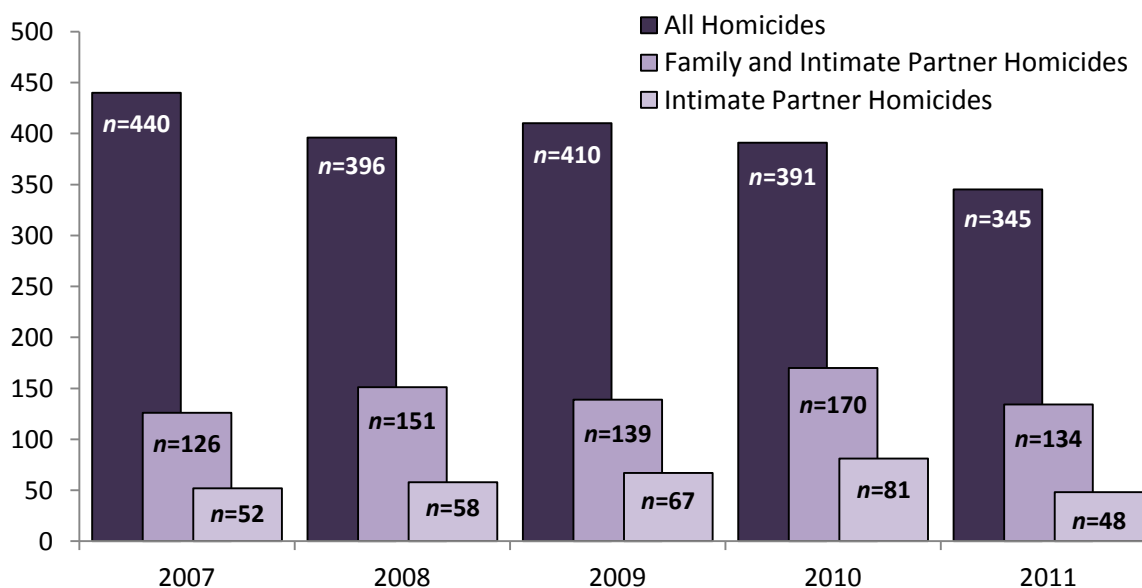
All Virginia Homicide

This report focuses on Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) homicide in Virginia in 2011. To understand the context of FIP homicides, characteristics of all 2011 homicides are provided.¹

- In 2011, there were 345 homicides in Virginia with a rate of 4.3. This reflects an 11.8% decrease between 2010 and 2011.
- Most homicide victims were male (74.5%) with a rate of 6.5. Females had a rate of 2.1.
- Black Virginians made up 55.9% of homicide victims with a rate of 11.6, over 5 times the rate of White Virginians, with a rate 2.1.
- Seventy percent of all homicide victims were killed with a firearm.
- The age group with the highest number of homicide victims was 25-34 year olds ($n=79$). Homicide victim's ages ranged from less than a day old to 98 years old.

Family and Intimate Partner homicide comprised 38.8% of all Virginia homicides in 2011.

Figure 1: Number of Homicides, Family and Intimate Partner Homicides, and Intimate Partner Homicides in Virginia between 2007 and 2011



¹ Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Virginia Department of Health (2012) Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's Annual Report, 2011. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/medExam/documents/2013/pdf/Annual%20Report%202011.pdf>

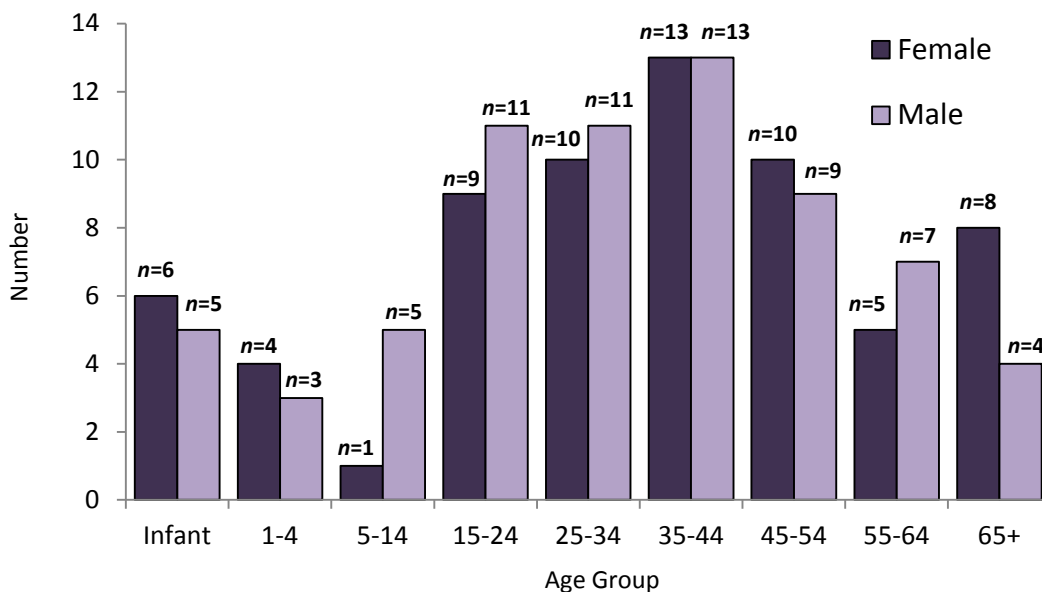
Family and Intimate Partner (FIP) Homicide

FIP homicide includes the following 6 categories comprising what is often considered “domestic violence”: Intimate Partner Homicide, Intimate Partner Associated Homicide, Child Homicide by Caregiver, Elder Homicide by Caregiver, Other Family Homicide, and Family Associated Homicide (see page 6 for specific definitions). In this project, FIP homicide is broken down into these categories based on the relationship between the alleged offender and the victim to explore the circumstances and characteristics of these events.

- In 2011, there were 120 Family and Intimate Partner homicide events totaling 134 homicide victims with a rate of 1.7. This represents a 21.2% decrease in FIP homicide victims from 2010 to 2011.
- Sixty-eight FIP homicide victims were male with a rate of 1.7, and 66 FIP homicide victims were female with a rate of 1.6.
- There were 52 Black Virginians killed by FIP homicide with a rate of 3.1, and 77 White Virginians with a rate of 1.3.
- The most common age of a FIP victim was between 35 and 44 years old, and victim ages ranged from infant to 98 years old. Infants were the most vulnerable age group with a rate of 10.8.
- FIP homicide victims were most likely to be killed with a firearm (57.5%) and in a residence (83.6%).
- For the first time in the 13 years of study by the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project, the category of Intimate Partner Associated homicide had more homicide victims than any other FIP category ($n=49$). This was closely followed by Intimate Partner homicide with 48 victims. Males ($n=39$) were more likely than females ($n=10$) to be victims of Intimate Partner Associated homicide. Conversely, females ($n=40$) were more likely than males ($n=8$) to be victims of Intimate Partner homicide.

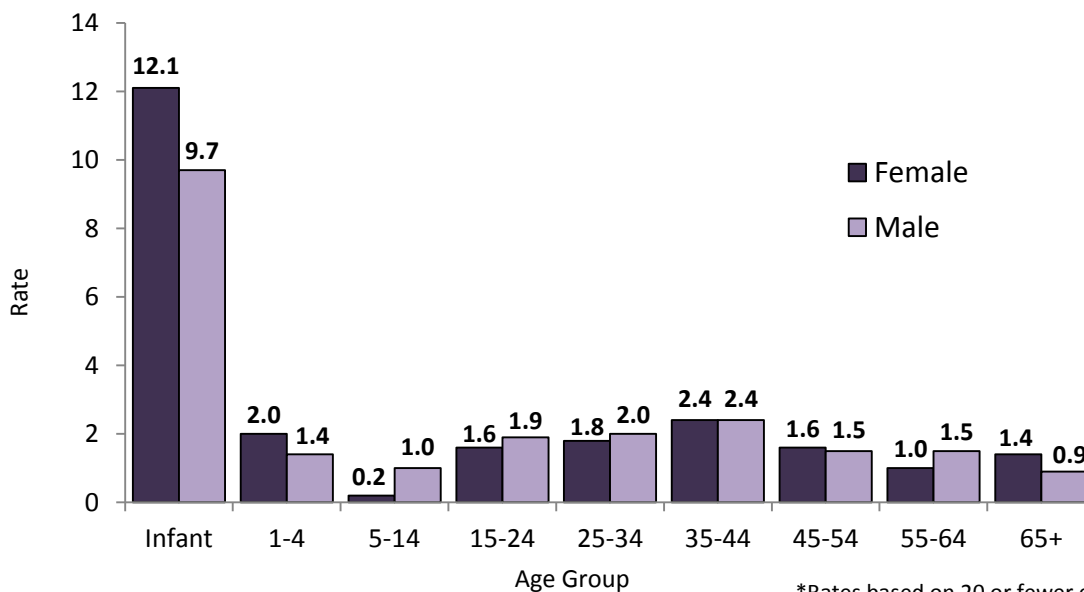
FIP Homicide Victim Age

Figure 2: Number of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=134): 2011



- Female infants had the highest FIP homicide rate at 12.1, followed by male infants with a rate of 9.7. Among adults, males and females aged 35 to 44 years old had the highest rate at 2.4.
- The mean age of female FIP homicide victims was 37 years old, and the mean age of male victims was 34 years old.

Figure 3: Rate of FIP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=134): 2011 *



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

Figure 4: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=134): 2011

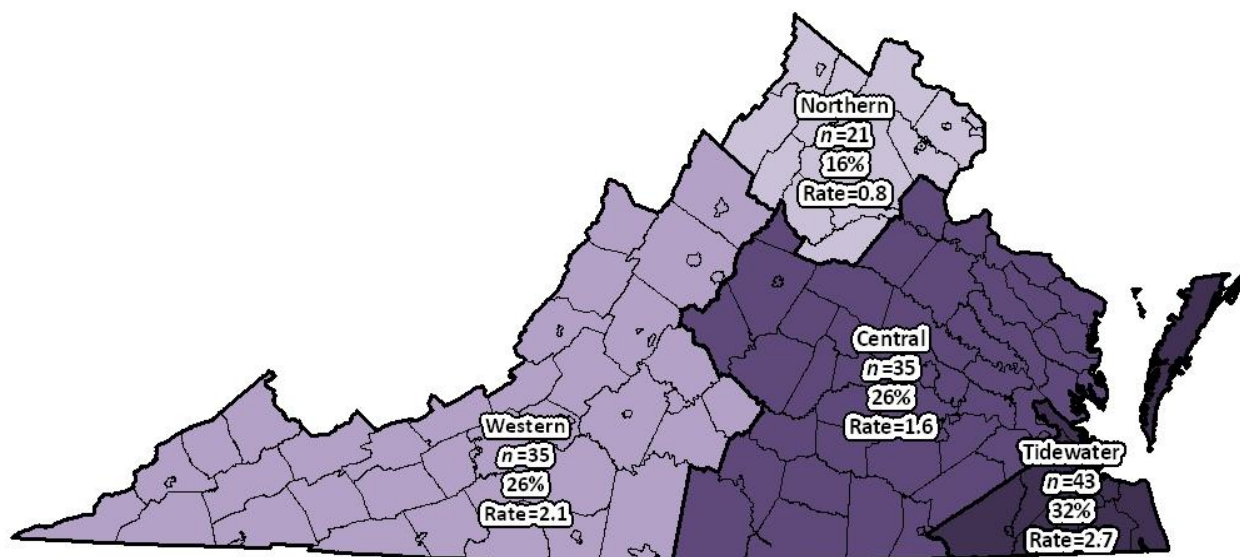
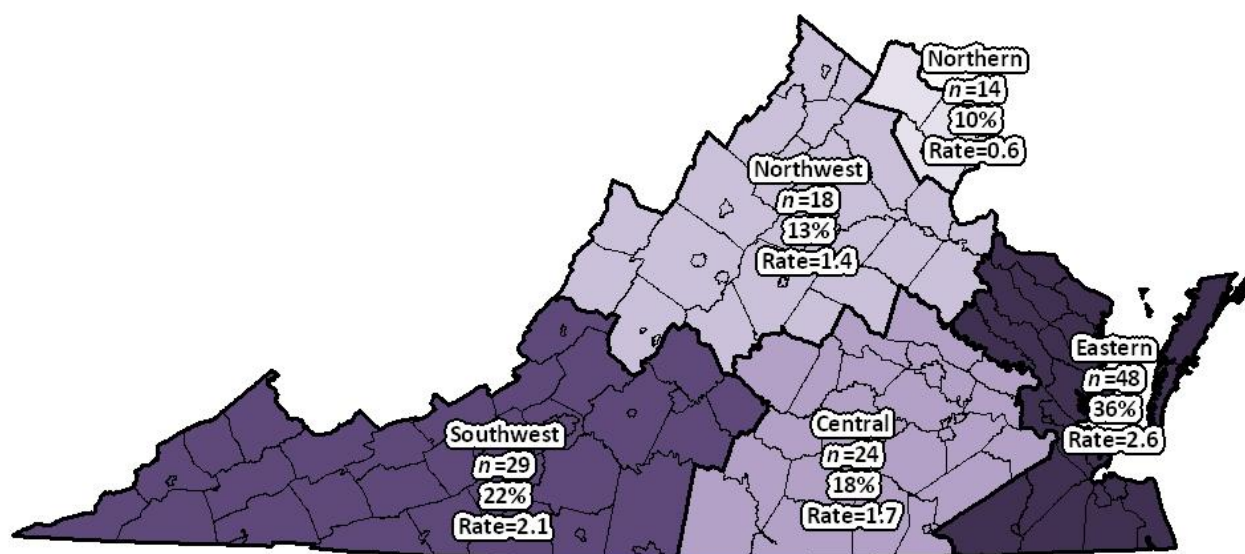


Table 2: Virginia Localities with the Highest Number of Family and Intimate Partner Homicides

Locality	No.	Locality	No.
1. Virginia Beach City	9	4. Richmond City	7
2. Newport News City	8	5. Fairfax County	6
3. Norfolk City	7	6. Chesterfield County	6

Figure 5: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicide by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=134): 2011



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

FIP Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity*Table 3: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicides by Victim Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=134): 2011**

	Female			Male			Total		
Race	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	44	66.7	1.5	33	48.5	1.1	77	57.5	1.3
Black	19	28.9	2.2	33	48.5	4.1	52	38.8	3.1
Other	3	4.5	1.0	2	3.0	0.7	5	3.7	0.9
Total	66	100	1.6	68	100	1.7	134	100	1.7
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	7	10.6	2.2	5	7.4	1.5	12	9	1.8

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

- Black Virginians continue to have the highest rate of FIP homicide (3.1).
- Looking at race, ethnicity, and sex, Black males had the highest rate of 4.1, followed by Black and Hispanic females with a rate of 2.2.

Fatal Agency

- The most common fatal agency used in FIP homicides was a firearm (57.5%), followed by a sharp instrument (17.9%).
- Five females and one male were killed with 2 or more fatal agencies.

Table 4: Number and Percentage of FIP Homicides by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=134): 2011

	Female		Male		Total	
Fatal Agency	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	36	54.5	40	58.8	77	57.5
Sharp Instrument	10	15.2	15	22.1	24	17.9
Personal Weapon	10	15.2	8	11.8	18	13.4
Strangle	5	7.6	4	5.9	9	6.7
Blunt Instrument	3	4.5	1	1.5	4	3.0
Smother/Suffocate	2	3.0	0	0.0	2	1.5
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	2	3.0	0	0.0	2	1.5
Poison	1	1.5	0	0.0	1	0.7
Other	1	1.5	0	0.0	1	0.7
Unknown	1	1.5	1	1.5	2	1.5

Other Victims

- Out of 120 separate FIP homicide events, 21 people were attacked and survived the event.
- Thirty-Five homicide events (29%) involved a child or children exposed in some way to the violence, including seeing or hearing the fatal injury, finding the homicide victim(s), or being a survivor themselves. This totals to at least 59 children exposed.
- Twenty-two events (18%) were considered to be a homicide-suicide event, meaning the alleged offender committed suicide within one week of committing the homicide. In three events, the alleged offender unsuccessfully attempted suicide.
- Seven FIP homicide events involved 2 or more homicide victims.

Type of Family and Intimate Partner Homicide

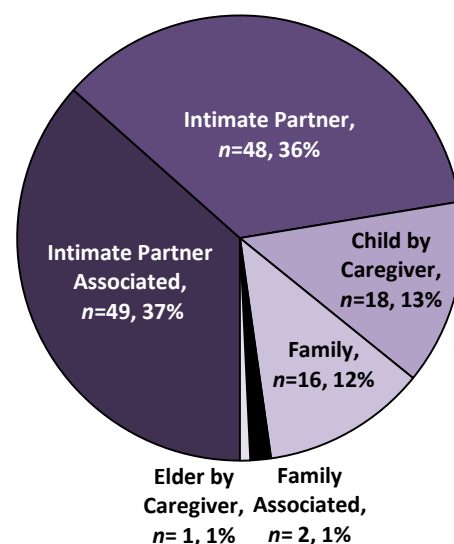
Table 5: Number, Percentage, and Rate of FIP Homicides by Type and Sex in Virginia (N=134): 2011 *

Type	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
IPH	40	60.6	1.0	8	11.8	0.2	48	35.8	0.6
IPA	10	15.2	0.2	39	57.4	1.0	49	36.6	0.6
CHC	10	15.2	0.2	8	11.8	0.2	18	13.4	0.2
EHC	1	1.5	<0.1	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.7	<0.1
OFH	4	6.1	0.1	12	17.6	0.3	16	11.9	0.2
FAH	1	1.5	<0.1	1	1.5	<0.1	2	1.5	<0.1
Total	66	49.3	1.6	68	50.7	1.7	134	100	1.7

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 6: Percentage of FIP Homicides by Type in Virginia (N=134): 2011

- For the first time in the 13 years the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance project has collected data, the number of Intimate Partner Associated homicides was higher than any other type of FIP homicide.
- Females were more likely to be killed by a current or former intimate partner (n=40) than males (n=8).
- Males were more likely to be killed in the crossfire or during an intervention into intimate partner violence (n=39) than females (n=10).

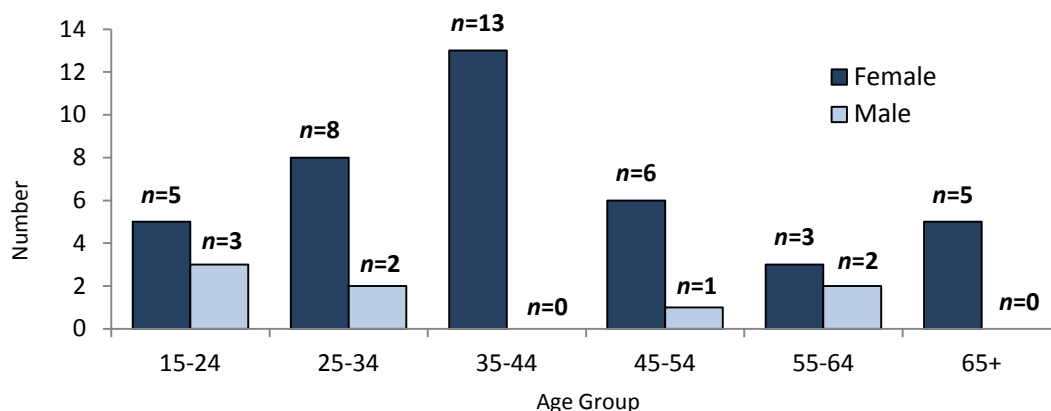


Intimate Partner (IP) Homicide is classified as a homicide in which a victim was killed by a spouse (married or separated); former spouse; current or former boyfriend/girlfriend or same sex partner; or where one partner perceived a relationship with the other and there was a history of rejection, threats, harassment, stalking, possessiveness, or issuance of a protective order.

- In Virginia in 2011, there were 48 Intimate Partner homicide victims with a rate of 0.6.
- The majority of the victims were female ($n=40$, 83%) and White ($n=29$, 60%). Blacks had the highest rate of IP homicide at 1.0.
- IP homicide decreased 41% from 2010 to 2011.
- All female victims were killed by their male intimate partner, and 87.5% of male victims were killed by their female intimate partner.

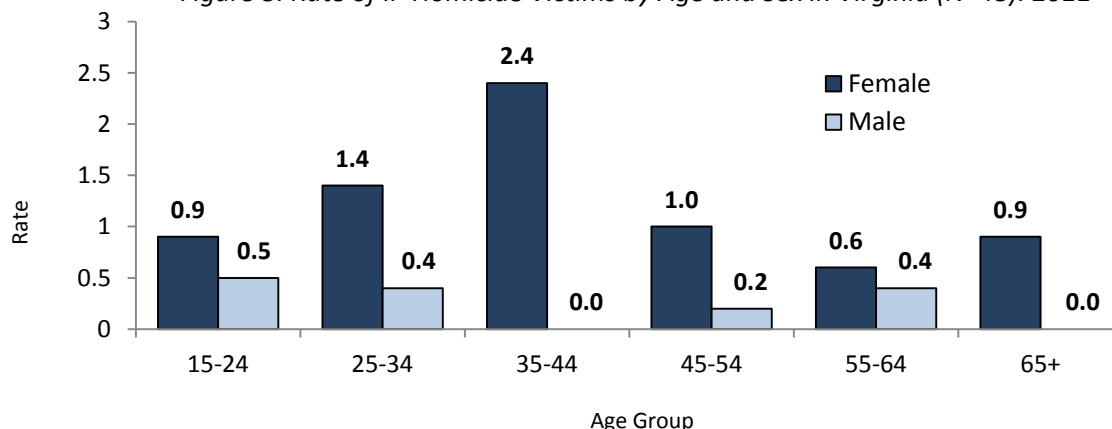
IP Homicide Victim Age

Figure 7: Number of IP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=48): 2011



- Females aged 35-44 years old had the highest risk of IP homicide with a rate of 2.4.
- The mean age of IP homicide victims was 41 years old, and victim's ages ranged from 18 to 94 years old.

Figure 8: Rate of IP Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=48): 2011*



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

Figure 9: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IP Homicide by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=48): 2011

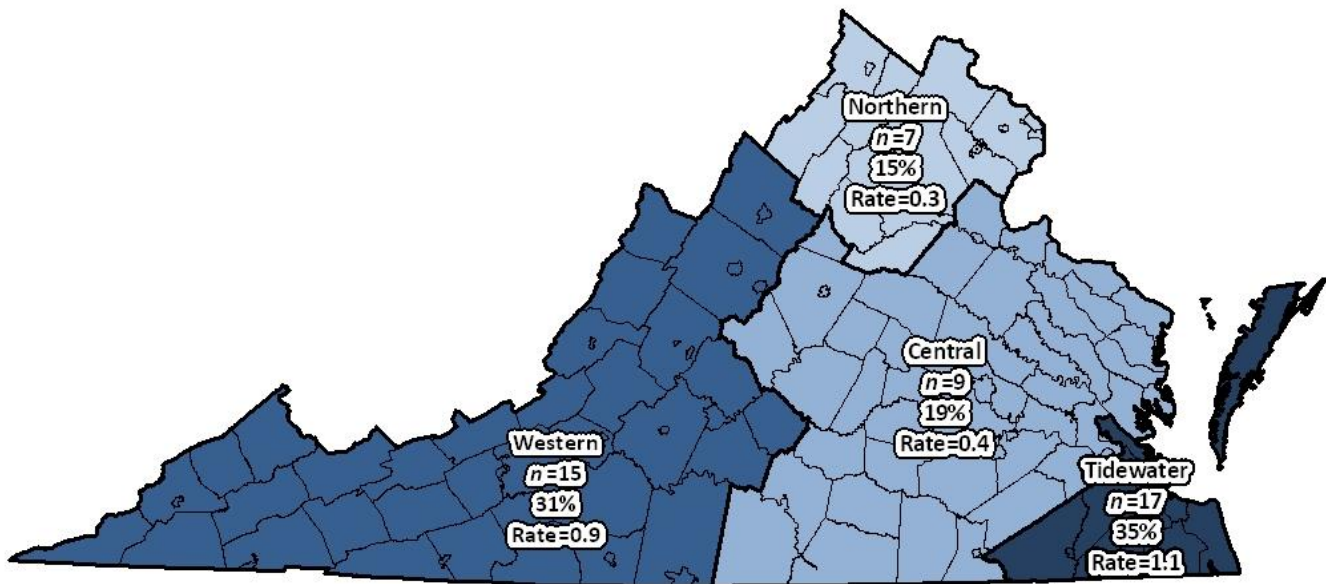
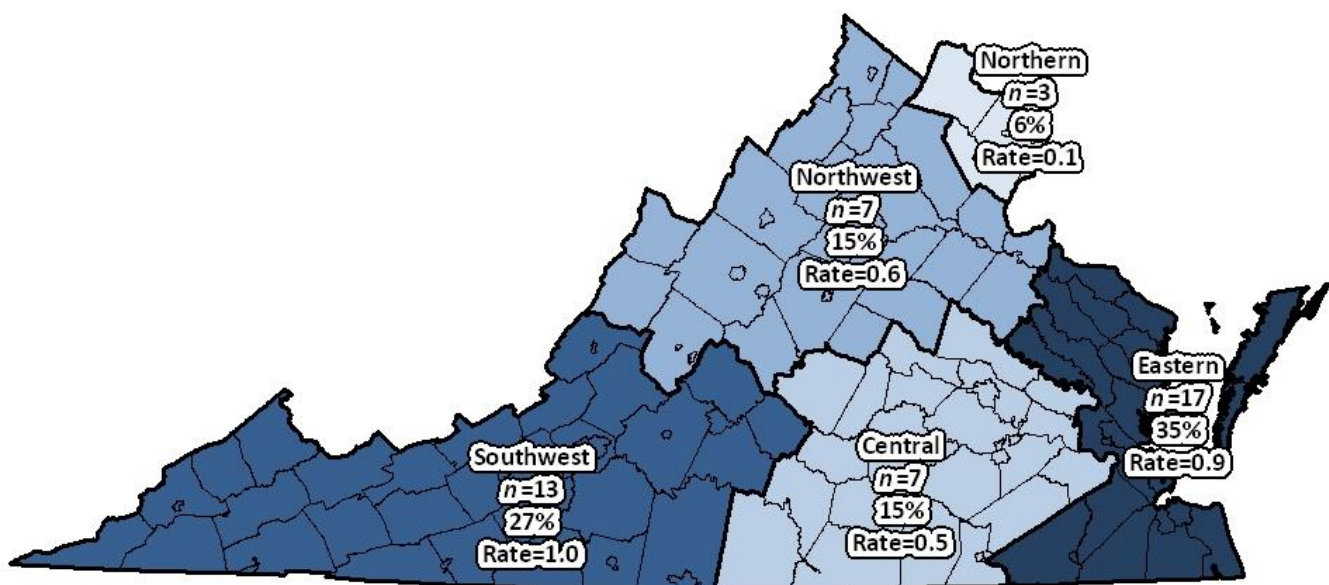


Figure 10: Number, Percentage, and Rate IP Homicide by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=48): 2011



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

IP Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity

- Black Virginians had the highest risk for IP homicide with a rate of 1.0, which is twice the rate for White Virginians (0.5).
- Black females had the highest rate by race and sex (1.3), followed by White females (0.9), and Black males (0.8).

*Table 6: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IP Homicide by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=48): 2011**

	Female			Male			Total		
Race	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	27	67.5	0.9	2	25.0	0.1	29	60.4	0.5
Black	11	27.5	1.3	6	75.0	0.8	17	35.4	1.0
Other	2	5.0	0.7	0	0.0	0.0	2	4.2	0.4
Total	40	100	1.0	8	100	0.2	48	100	0.6
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	2	5.0	0.6	0	0.0	0.0	2	4.2	0.3

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Fatal Agency

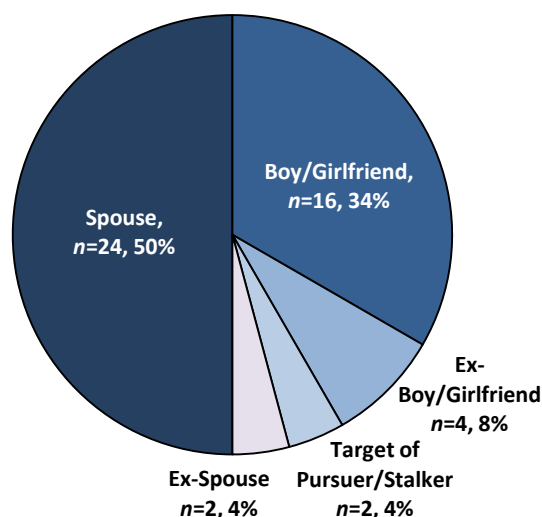
- The most common fatal agency was a firearm, used in 70.8% of all IP homicides.
- All male IP homicide victims were killed by a firearm or a sharp instrument.
- Two female IP homicide victims were killed with 2 or more fatal agencies.

Table 7: Number and Percentage of IP Homicide by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=48): 2011

	Female		Male		Total	
Fatal Agency	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	29	72.5	5	62.5	34	70.8
Sharp Instrument	5	12.5	3	37.5	8	16.7
Personal Weapon	3	7.5	0	0.0	3	6.3
Strangle	2	5.0	0	0.0	2	4.2
Blunt Instrument	2	5.0	0	0.0	2	4.2
Smother/Suffocate	1	2.5	0	0.0	1	2.1
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poison	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Homicide Victim to Alleged Offender Relationship

Figure 11: Type of Relationship between IP Homicide Victim and Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=48): 2011



- IP homicides were most often committed between current intimate partners (84%), including legally married partners and boy/girlfriends.
- Six IP homicides were committed between former intimate partners (12%).
- Two homicides involved people who had never been in a relationship, however one person perceived or desired a relationship and the other did not reciprocate.

Other Victims

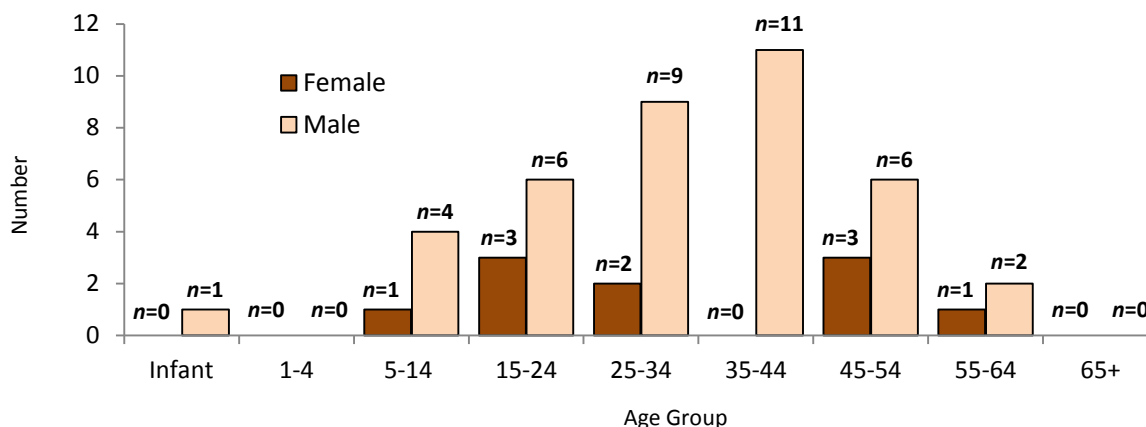
- Twenty-one of the 48 (43.8%) IP homicide events were a homicide-suicide event.
- In 6 events (12.5%), there were 2 or more homicide victims.
- Fifteen events (31.3%) had a child or children exposed to the violence, with at least 27 children exposed.
- In addition to the 48 intimate partner homicide victims, at least 8 people were attacked and survived the event.

Intimate Partner Associate (IPA) Homicide is an intricate category of domestic violence, described as a homicide in which a victim was killed as a result of violence stemming from an intimate partner relationship. This includes abusers killed by law enforcement and people caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence, such as old/new intimate partners, neighbors, co-workers, friends, relatives, or bystanders. These homicide victims are considered to be victims of intimate partner violence, despite not being fatally injured by their intimate partner.

- In 2011, IPA homicides surpassed any other kind of FIP homicide. There were 49 IPA homicides in Virginia with a rate of 0.6.
- IPA homicide increased 96% between 2010 and 2011.
- Males, with a rate of 1.0, were much more likely to die from IPA homicide than females, with a rate of 0.2.
- All male victims of IPA homicide were killed by either, another male, or an unknown law enforcement officer. Seventy percent of female victims were also killed by a male.

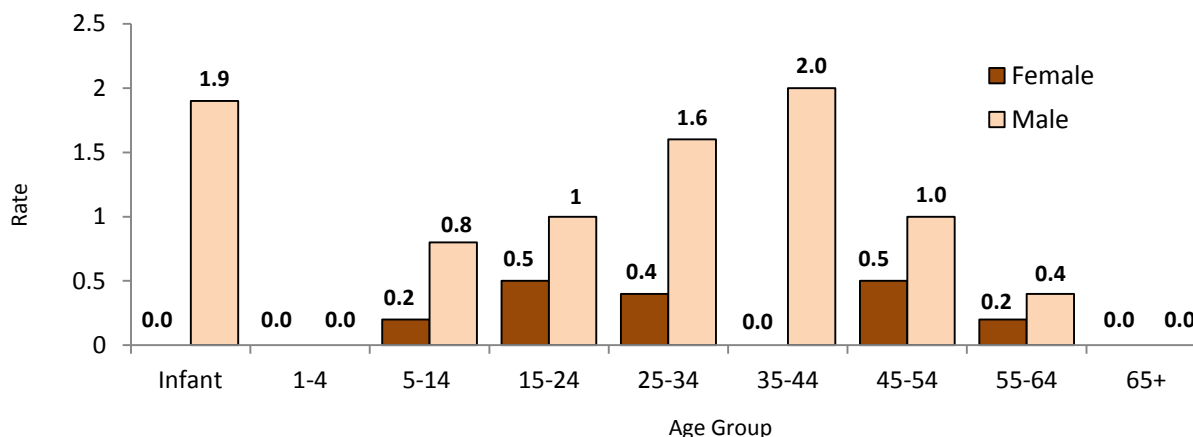
IPA Homicide Victim Age

Figure 12: Number of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=49): 2011



- Males aged 35 to 44 years old had the highest rate (2.0), of IPA homicide.
- The mean age of IPA homicide victims was 32 years old.

Figure 13: Rate of IPA Homicide Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=49): 2011*



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

Figure 14: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicides by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=49): 2011

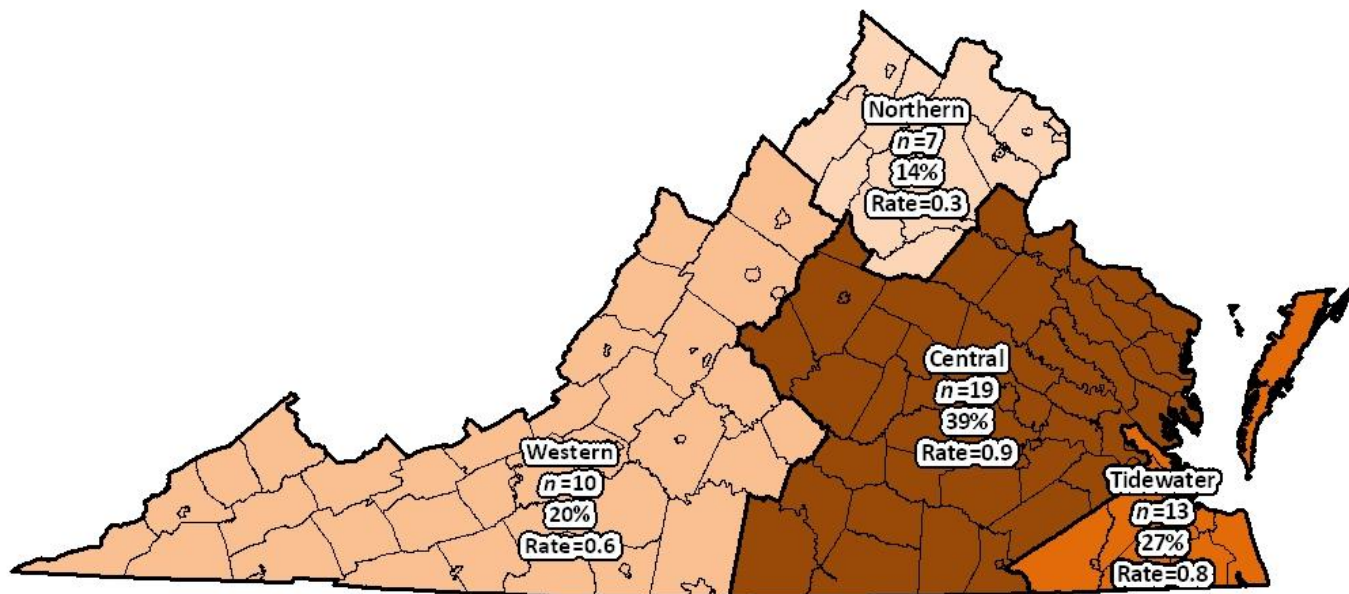
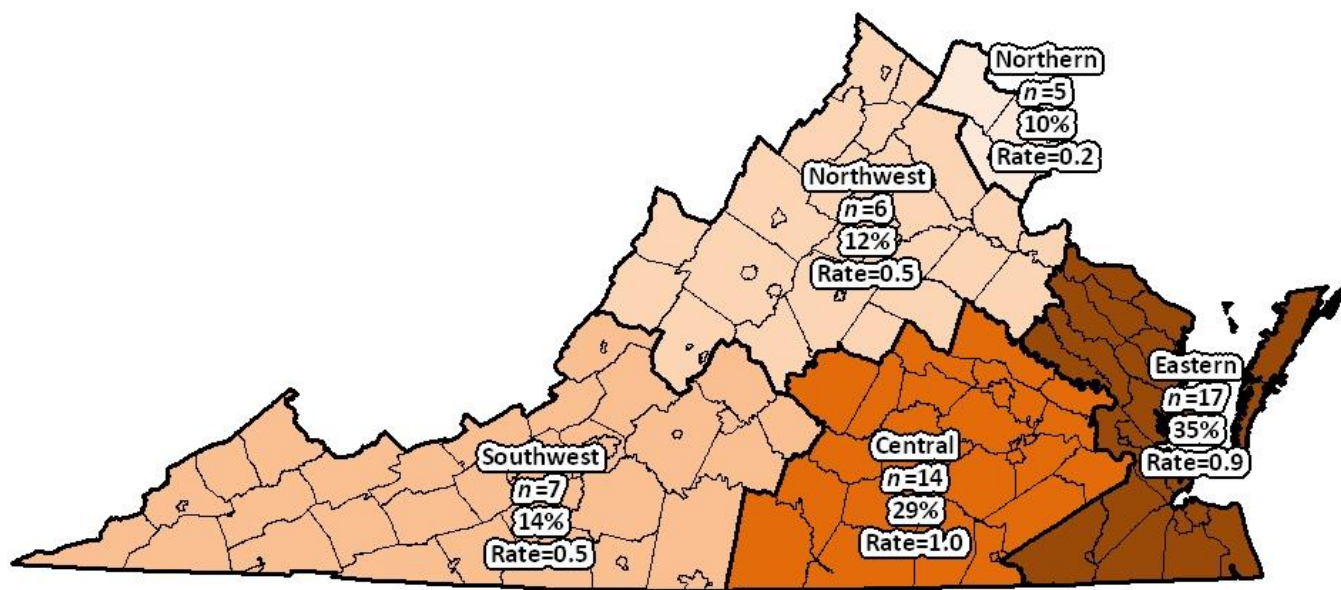


Figure 15: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicides by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=49): 2011



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

IPA Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity

*Table 8: Number, Percentage, and Rate of IPA Homicides by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (49): 2011**

	Female			Male			Total		
Race	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	5	50.0	0.2	21	53.8	0.7	26	53.1	0.4
Black	4	40.0	0.5	17	43.6	2.1	21	42.9	1.3
Other	1	10.0	0.3	1	2.6	0.4	2	4.1	0.4
Total	10	100	0.2	39	100	1.0	49	100	0.6
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	2	20.0	0.6	5	12.8	1.5	7	14.3	1.1

- Twenty-six White Virginians and 21 Black Virginians died as a result of IPA homicide.
- Black males had the highest rate of IPA homicide (2.1), followed by Hispanic males (1.5).
- Of females, Hispanic females had the highest rate (0.6), followed by Black females (0.5).

Fatal Agency

- The most common fatal agency in IPA homicide was a firearm (69.4%), followed by a sharp instrument (22.4%).
- The other fatal agencies include death from fire/smoke inhalation, personal weapons, and strangulation.
- One female and no males were killed by 2 or more fatal agencies.

Table 9: Number and Percentage of IPA Homicides by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=49):2011

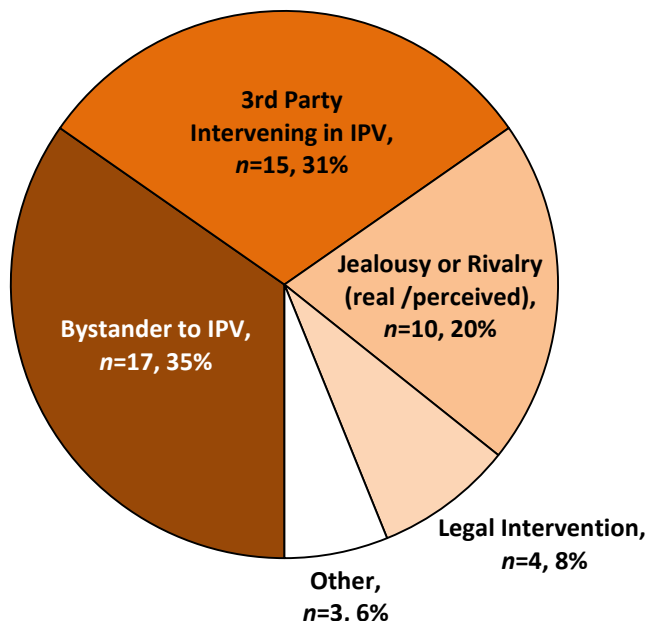
	Female		Male		Total	
Fatal Agency	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	5	50.0	29	74.4	34	69.4
Sharp Instrument	4	40.0	7	17.9	11	22.4
Personal Weapon	0	0.0	1	2.6	1	2.0
Strangle	0	0.0	2	5.1	2	4.1
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	2	20.0	0	0.0	2	4.1
Poison	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Other Victims

- Thirteen IPA homicide victims were a secondary victim to an Intimate Partner homicide. In these events, the alleged offender killed their intimate partner and one or more other victims. The remaining 36 IPA homicide victims were the primary victim of the event.
- Of the 36 IPA homicide events, 1 event was a homicide-suicide.
- In 25% of IPA homicide events, there were at least 11 people who were attacked and survived.
- A third of IPA homicide events had a child or children present during the homicide, with at least 22 children exposed to IPA violence.

Type of IPA Homicide

Figure 16: Percentage of IPA Homicides by Type in Virginia (N=49): 2011

Types of IPA Homicide Explained***Bystander to IPV***

Victims of IPA homicide who were present during an intimate partner conflict, but played little to no part in the violence are considered bystanders. Victims most often included children of the intimate partners who were having conflict; however this also included other family, friends, or other uninvolved intimate partners. Bystanders to IPV were most often a secondary victim to an Intimate Partner Homicide.

3rd Party Intervention/Legal Intervention

In some cases a third party will intervene in intimate partner violence, and someone is fatally injured in the process. Both the intervener and the primary aggressor of IPV could be killed. People who intervened in these situations include law enforcement (legal intervention), family members, current intimate partners, friends, or other completely unrelated to the victim.

Jealousy or Rivalry

Many cases of intimate partner abuse involve extreme jealousy. Even when intimate partners have separated the abuser still believes s/he has control of the victim. In cases of jealousy or rivalry, the abuser perceives that the intimate partner is in a new relationship and kills the new partner.

Precipitating Characteristics are the circumstances occurring immediately before or during the homicide event that could be considered a trigger of the violence. The information provided here is valuable but likely provides a conservative estimate of the true magnitude of the characteristics involved in these events. In 2011, there were 97 Intimate Partner and Intimate Partner Associated homicide victims, comprising 84 separate events. Eight Intimate Partner homicide events had no clear precipitating characteristics identified by surveillance, and were removed for analysis.

- The most common precipitating characteristic was substance use, occurring in 43% of Intimate Partner homicides, and in 56% of Intimate Partner Associated homicides. This was followed by a new partner or the perception of a new partner, and the end or ending of a relationship.
- Substance use and a new partner or the perception of a new partner contributed more often in Intimate Partner Associated homicides. Miscellaneous arguments, child custody issues, and physical or mental illness contributed more often in Intimate Partner Associated homicides.

Table 10: Number and Percentage of Precipitating Characteristics of IP and IPA Homicide Events (N=76): 2011

Precipitating Characteristics	IP (n=40)		IPA (n=36)		Total (N=76)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Substance Use	17	42.5	20	55.5	37	48.7
New Partner or Perception of New Partner	10	25.0	12	33.3	22	28.9
End or Ending of Relationship	9	22.5	10	27.8	19	25.0
Miscellaneous or Unknown Argument	10	25.0	6	16.7	16	21.1
Problems Regarding Money or Property	5	12.5	5	13.9	10	13.2
Child Custody Issues	4	10.0	2	5.6	6	7.9
Physical or Mental Illness	5	12.5	0	0.0	5	6.6
Law Enforcement Intervention	0	0.0	4	11.1	4	5.3

Risk Factors are the characteristics that were often present in an intimate partner relationship prior to the occurrence of a homicide and may have placed the victim at an increased probability for lethal violence. For Intimate Partner Associated homicide, risk factors listed here apply to the intimate partner relationship that was the catalyst 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.

- The most common risk factor for Intimate Partner homicide was that the relationship had ended or was ending. The most common risk factors for Intimate Partner Associated homicide were abuser abused alcohol, and abuser arrested for non-domestic violence related offenses.
- Intimate Partner Violence occurring in the relationship was known to a 3rd party prior to the homicide in 33.3% of IP and IPA homicide events.

Table 11: Number and Percentage of the Most Common Relationship Risk Factors for IP and IPA Homicide Events (N=84): 2011

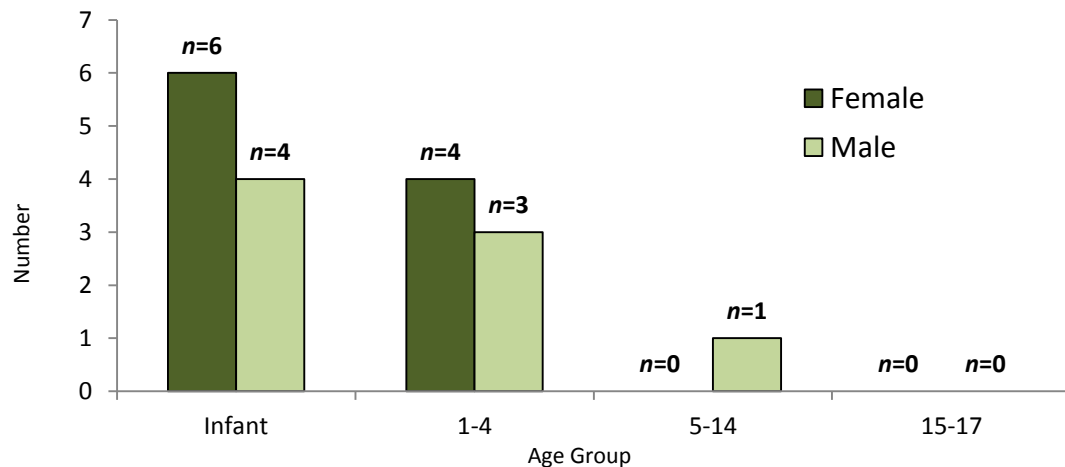
Risk Factors	IP (n=48)		IPA (n=36)		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Relationship had Ended or was Ending	19	39.6	16	44.4	35	41.7
Abuser Abused Alcohol	14	29.2	17	47.2	31	36.9
Abuser Arrested for Non-DV Related Offenses	13	27.1	17	47.2	30	35.7
History of Physical Assault	18	37.5	10	27.8	28	33.3
DV Discussed with 3rd Party	19	39.6	9	25.0	28	33.3
Abuser Believed Victim Began a New Relationship	11	22.9	16	44.4	27	32.1
Abuser Used Drugs Illegally	10	20.8	16	44.4	26	31.0
Past 911 Calls/Police Response to DV	14	29.2	4	11.1	18	21.4
Abuse Victim had a Non-Biological Child of Abuser	14	29.2	2	5.6	16	19.0
Abuser was Violent Outside Relationship	7	14.6	8	22.2	15	17.9
Civil Court Proceedings between Intimate Partners	12	25.0	3	8.3	15	17.9
One or Both Partners had Mental Health Issues	9	18.8	2	5.6	11	13.1

Child Homicide by Caregiver (CHC) is classified as a homicide in which the victim was under the age of 18 and killed by their caregiver, such as parents, relatives, babysitters, and daycare workers.

- A total of 25 people under the age of 18 were killed due to FIP Violence, 18 of whom were killed by a caregiver and were classified as CHC.
- CHC decreased 10% between 2010 and 2011.
- There were 10 female victims with a rate of 1.1 and 8 male victims with a rate of 0.8. Rates were calculated for all people under 18 years old in a population.

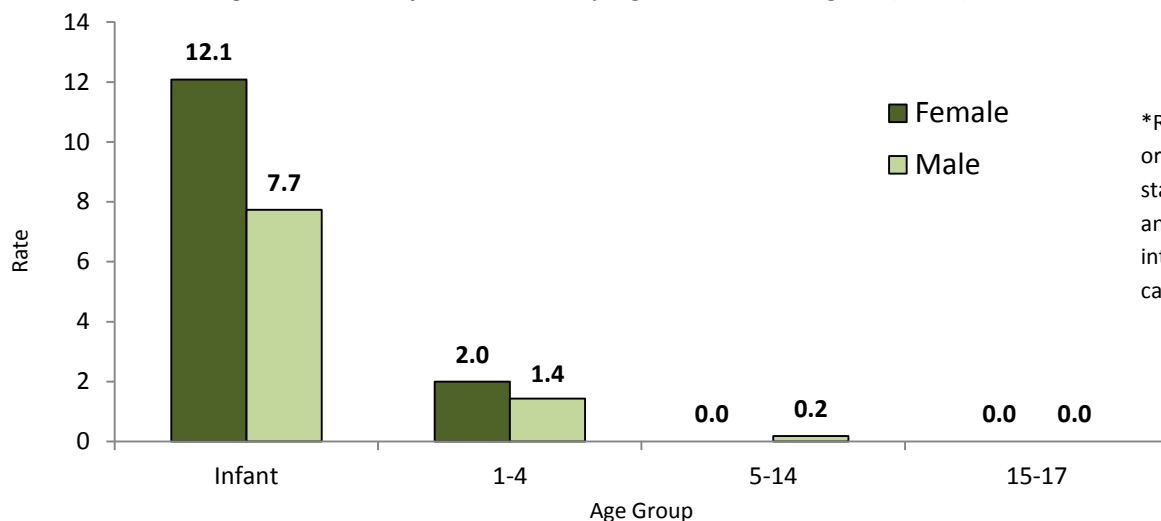
CHC Victim Age

Figure 17: Number of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011



- Infant females had the highest number of deaths (n=6) and the highest rate at 12.1.
- Infant males followed with 4 deaths and a rate of 7.7.

Figure 18: Rate of CHC Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011*



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

Figure 19: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=18): 2011

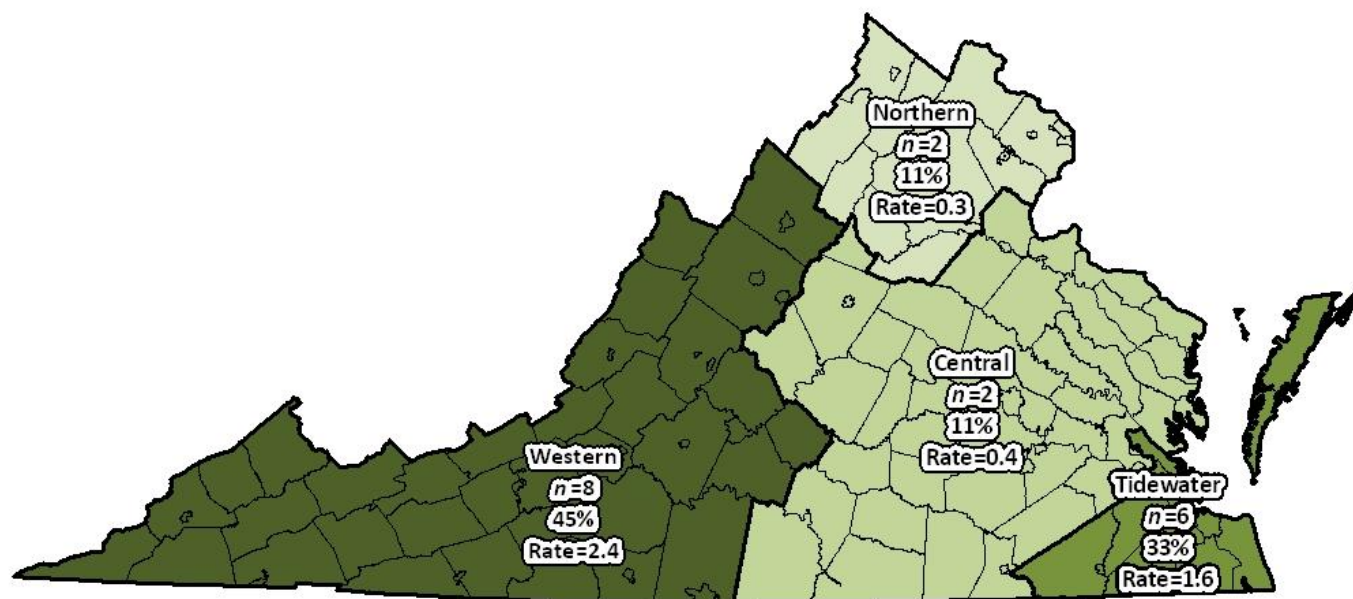
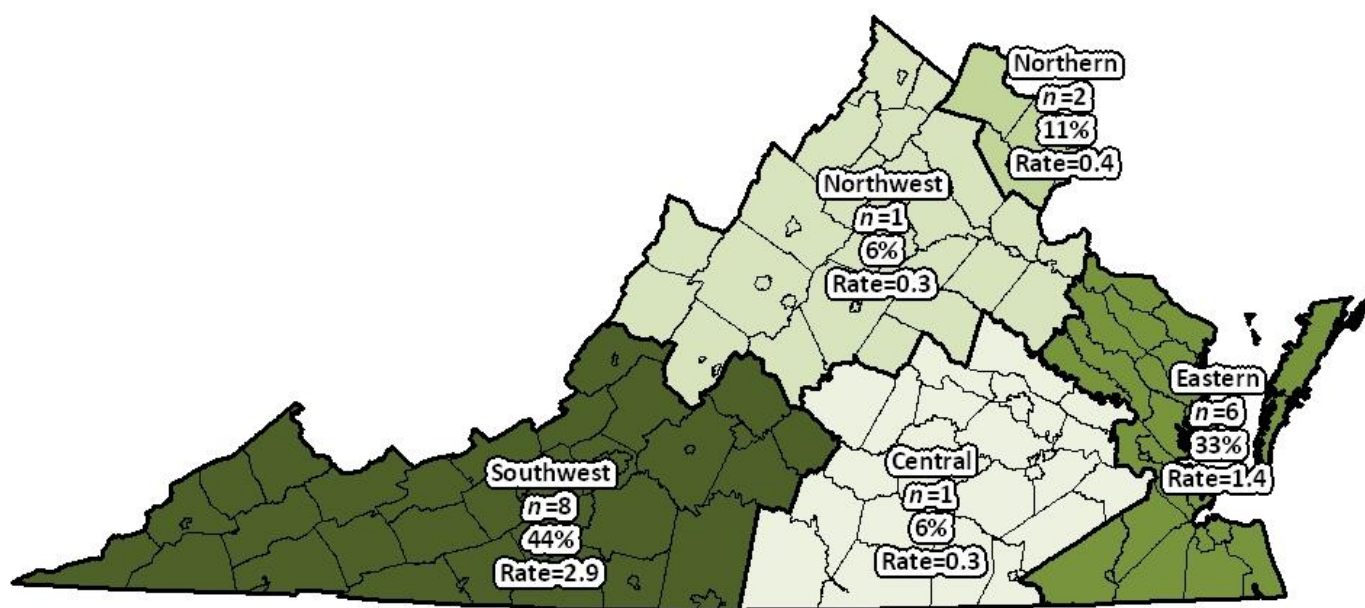


Figure 20: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=18): 2011



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

CHC Homicide Victim Race and Ethnicity

*Table 12: Number, Percentage, and Rate of CHC Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011**

Race	Female			Male			Total		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	9	90.0	1.5	5	62.5	0.8	14	77.7	1.1
Black	1	10.0	0.5	3	37.5	1.3	4	22.2	0.9
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Total	10	100	1.1	8	100	0.8	18	100	1.0
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	3	30.0	2.9	0	0.0	0.0	3	16.7	1.4

- Hispanic female CHC victims had the highest rate at 2.9, followed by White females with a rate of 1.5
- Black males had a rate of 1.3, compared to White males with a rate of 0.8.
- Black females had a rate of 0.5, compared to White females with a rate of 1.5.

Fatal Agency

- The most common fatal agency in CHC was a personal weapon (77.8%), meaning the alleged offender used his/her hands or feet to beat, kick, throw, or shake the victim.
- One female victim was killed with 2 or more fatal agencies.

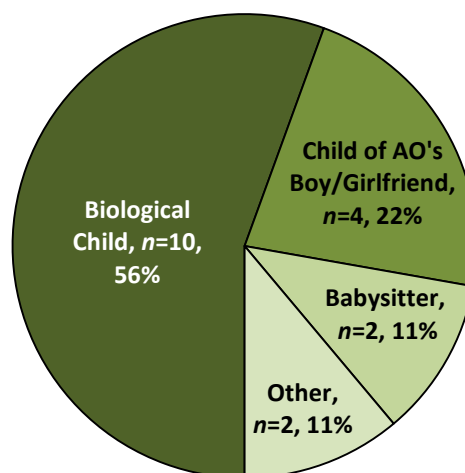
Table 13: Number and Percentage of CHC by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011

Fatal Agency	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sharp Instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Personal Weapon	7	70.0	7	87.5	14	77.8
Strangle	1	10.0	0	0.0	1	5.6
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smother/Suffocate	1	10.0	0	0.0	1	5.6
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poison	1	10.0	0	0.0	1	5.6
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	1	10.0	1	12.5	2	11.1

Homicide Victim to Alleged Offender Relationship

- Ten children (56%) were killed by a biological parent. Half of these children were killed by their mother and half were killed by their father.
- Four children were killed by a parent's intimate partner, specifically their biological mother's boyfriend.

Figure 21: Type of Relationship between CHC Victim and Alleged Offender in Virginia (N=18): 2011

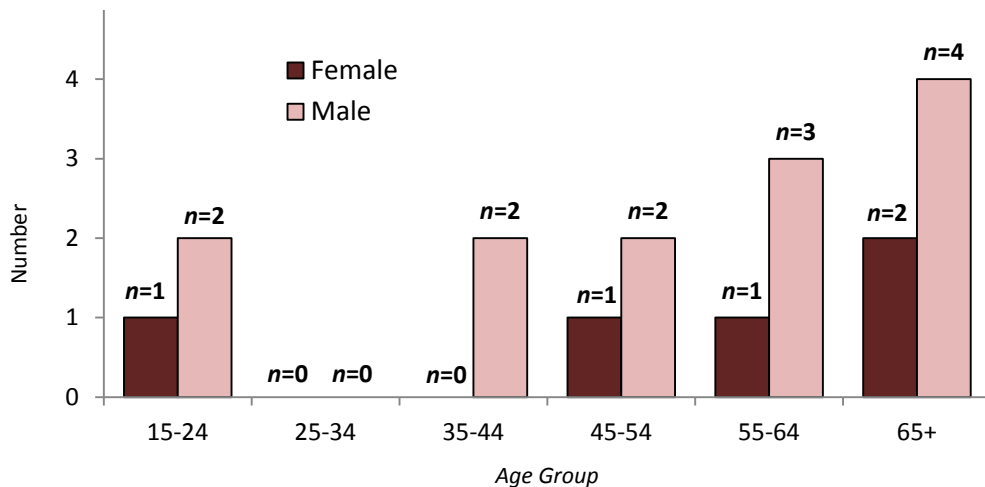


Family Homicide (OFH) is classified as a homicide in which a victim was killed by an individual related to them biologically or by marriage, and which does not meet the criteria for the other domestic violence categories. Family Associated Homicide (FAH) is a homicide in which a victim was killed as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

- Sixteen victims were killed as a result of OFH, and 2 victims were killed as a result of FAH (N=18). This represents a 57% decrease in OFH and FAH from 2010 and a rate of 0.2.
- Five victims of OFH and FAH were female with a rate of 0.1, and 13 victims were male with a rate of 0.3
- All male victims were killed by another male, and 60% of female victims were also killed by a male.
- Victims of OFH were most often killed by an immediate family member (63%), including parents, adult children, and siblings.
- The most common precipitating characteristics were substance use and a miscellaneous argument, both occurring a third of all OFH and FAH.

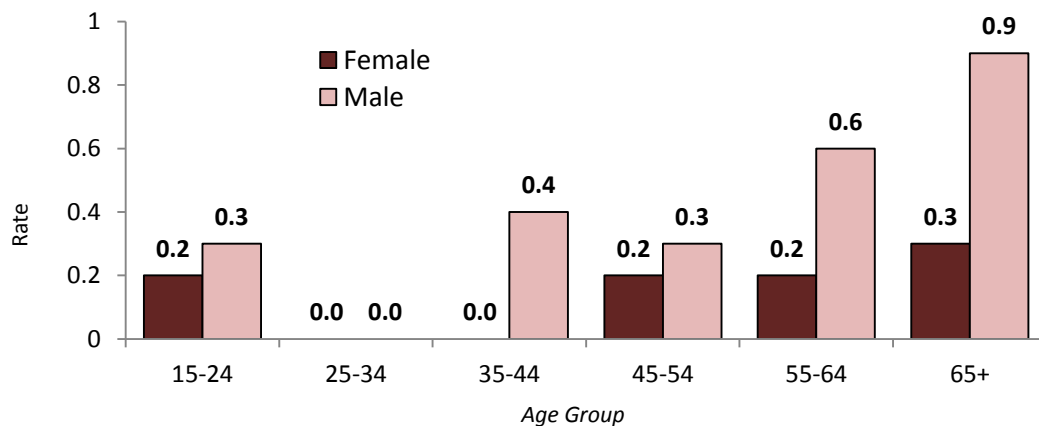
OFH and FAH Victim Age

Figure 22: Number of OFH and FAH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011



- Victims of OFH and FAH were generally older than victims of other FIP homicide with an average age of 56.
- Males aged 65 and older had the highest rate of OFH and FAH at 0.9, followed by males aged 55 to 64 with a rate of 0.6.

Figure 23: Rate of OFH and FAH Victims by Age and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011 *



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

Locality

Figure 24: Number, Percentage, and Rate of OFH and FAH by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner District in Virginia (N=18): 2011

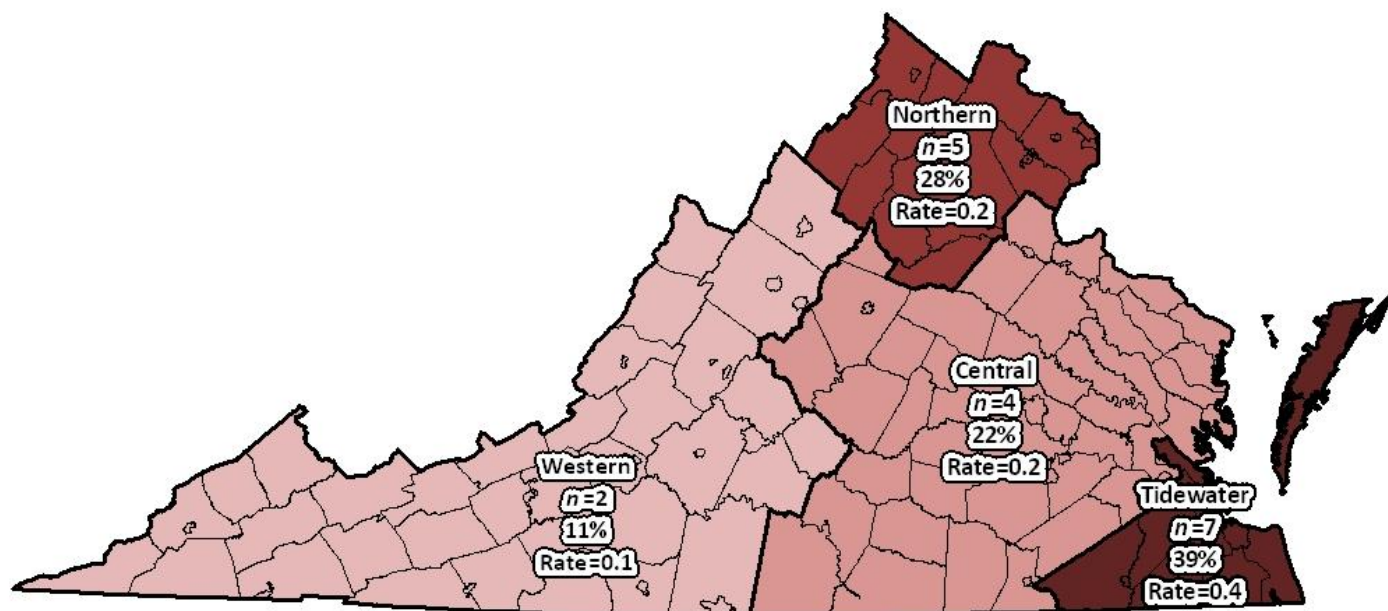
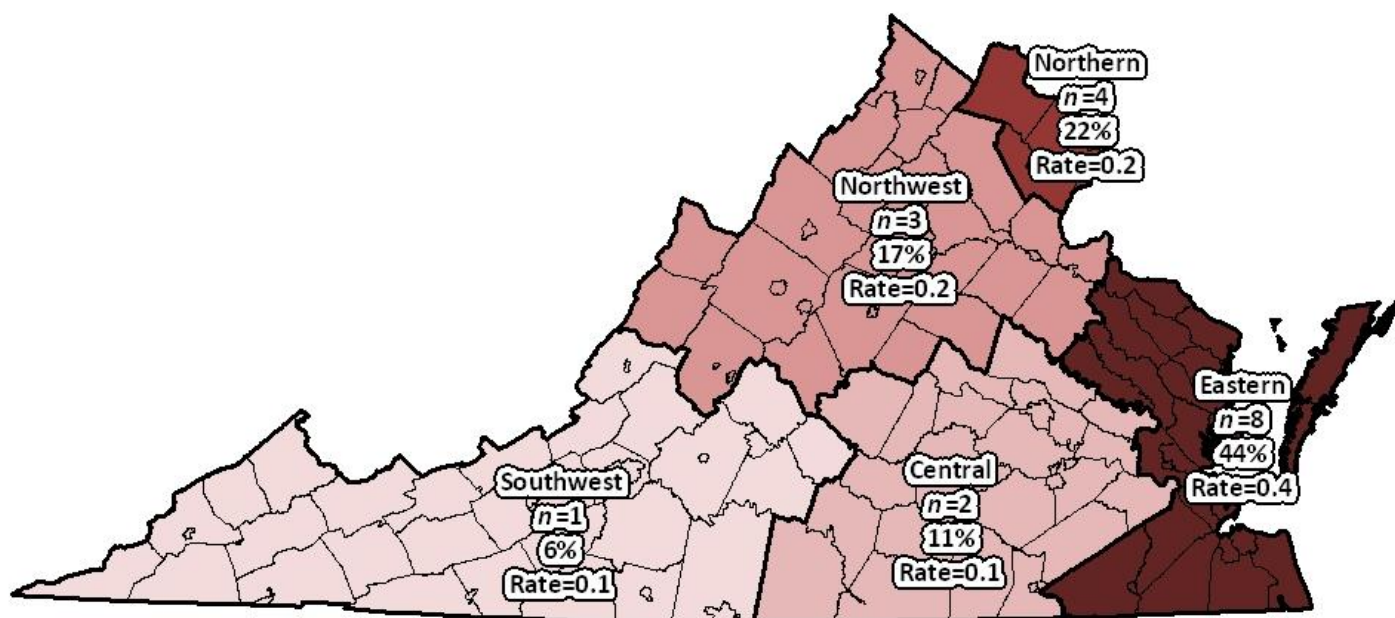


Figure 25: Number, Percentage, and Rate of OFH and FAH by Health Planning Region in Virginia (N=18): 2011



*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

OFH and FAH Victim Race and Ethnicity*Table 14: Number, Percentage, and Rate of OFH and FAH Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011**

	Female			Male			Total		
Race	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
White	2	40.0	0.1	5	38.5	0.2	7	38.9	0.1
Black	3	60.0	0.3	7	53.8	0.9	10	55.6	0.6
Other	0	0.0	0.0	1	7.7	0.4	1	5.6	0.2
Total	5	100	0.1	13	100	0.3	18	100	0.2
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0

- Black Males had the highest rate at 0.9, followed by Other males at 0.4 and Black females at 0.3.
- Overall, Black Virginians were much more likely than White Virginians to be killed from this type of Violence.
- No Hispanics were killed from OFH or FAH in 2011.

Fatal Agency

- The most frequent fatal agency was a firearm, used in killing 44.4% of homicide victims. This was followed by a sharp instrument (33.3%), strangulation (22.2%), and a blunt instrument (11.1%).
- One female and one male were killed with 2 or more fatal agencies.

Table 15: Number and Percentage of OFH and FAH by Fatal Agency and Sex in Virginia (N=18): 2011

	Female		Male		Total	
Fatal Agency	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Firearm	2	40.0	6	46.2	8	44.4
Sharp Instrument	1	20.0	5	38.5	6	33.3
Personal Weapon	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Strangle	2	40.0	2	15.4	4	22.2
Blunt Instrument	1	20.0	1	7.7	2	11.1
Smother/Suffocate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poison	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Appendices

Table 16: Five Year Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Summary: 2007-2011*						
	2007			2008		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Sex						
Female	61	48.4	1.6	78	51.7	2.0
Male	65	51.6	1.7	73	48.3	1.9
Race						
White	64	50.8	1.1	75	49.7	1.3
Black	58	46.0	3.7	72	47.7	4.4
Other	4	3.2	0.9	4	2.6	0.9
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	12	9.5	2.4	4	2.6	0.8
Age						
<1	7	5.6	6.6	10	6.6	9.3
1-4	5	4.0	1.2	6	4.0	1.4
5-14	5	4.0	0.5	3	2.0	0.3
15-24	21	16.7	1.9	35	23.2	3.2
25-34	23	18.3	2.2	25	16.6	2.3
35-44	26	20.6	2.2	25	16.6	2.2
45-54	12	9.5	1.0	22	14.6	1.9
55-64	17	13.5	2.0	14	9.3	1.6
65+	10	7.9	1.1	11	7.9	1.2
Fatal Agency						
Firearm	75	59.5	--	75	49.7	--
Sharp Instrument	22	17.5	--	36	23.8	--
Blunt Instrument	9	7.1	--	11	7.3	--
Personal Weapon	11	8.7	--	16	10.6	--
Strangle/Choke	5	4.0	--	10	6.6	--
Motor Vehicle	2	1.6	--	1	0.7	--
Drown	1	0.8	--	0	0.0	--
Fire/Smoke Inhalation	2	1.6	--	2	1.3	--
Smother/Suffocate	2	1.6	--	1	0.7	--
Poison	1	0.8	--	0	0.0	--
Other	1	0.8	--	4	2.6	--
Unknown	1	0.8	--	1	0.7	--
OCME District						
Central	42	33.3	2.0	64	42.4	2.0
Northern	21	16.7	0.9	23	15.2	0.9
Tidewater	31	24.6	2.0	21	13.9	1.3
Western	32	25.4	2.0	43	28.5	2.7
Type of Homicide						
Intimate Partner	52	41.3	0.7	58	38.4	0.7
Intimate Partner Associated	41	32.5	0.5	43	28.5	0.6
Child by Caregiver	11	8.7	0.6	15	9.9	0.8
Elder by Caregiver	1	0.8	0.1	0	0.0	0.0
Family	20	15.9	0.3	30	19.9	0.4
Family Associated	1	0.8	<0.1	5	3.3	0.1
Total	126	100	1.6	151	100	1.9

	2009			2010			2011		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Sex									
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
Race									
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
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	4	2.9	0.7	5	2.9	0.8	12	9.0	1.8
Age									
<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
Fatal Agency									
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	--
OCME District									
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
Type of Homicide									
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	0.3	20	11.8	0.2	18	13.4	0.2
Elder by Caregiver	0	0.0	0.0	2	1.2	<0.1	1	0.7	<0.1
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
Total	139	100	1.8	170	100	2.1	134	100	1.7

*Rates based on 20 or fewer cases are statistically unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

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- 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
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