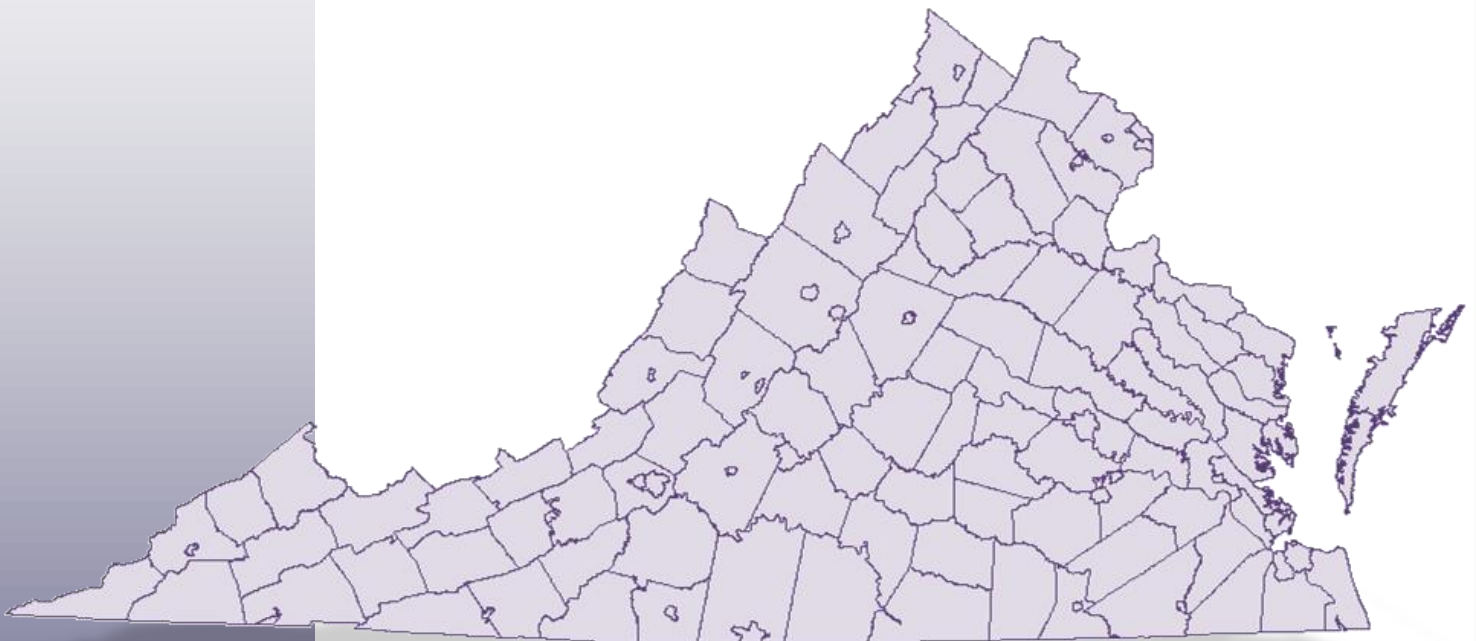


# **Violent Death Among Asians in Virginia, 2003-2014**



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



***A report from the Virginia Violent Death Reporting System***

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Health  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

**May, 2017**

# Violent Death Among Asians in Virginia, 2003-2014

*A Report from the Virginia Violent Death Reporting System (VVDRS)*

May, 2017

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This report was created to provide information that can be used to prevent violent death in the future. Please notify Alexandra Jansson (see contact information above) if you distribute or use any portion of this report for training, education, policy decisions, or other uses.

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## INTRODUCTION

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Violent death from homicide or suicide is a relatively rare event among Asian Virginians. Yet, these deaths suggest unique risk factors for lethal injury. This short paper explores two types of violent death among Asians in Virginia – suicide and homicide - highlighting sub-populations at risk as well as characteristics of fatal events and of stressors in decedents' lives before death. Throughout the report, comparative information about all other Virginia decedents is provided to assist in bringing patterns in Asian violent deaths into focus.

This report will reveal unique trends among Asian Virginians who die by suicide and homicide. The majority of Asian decedents were born outside the United States (U.S.) and had attended or completed college. While most deaths occurred in Northern Virginia communities where a majority of Virginia's Asian population lives, the highest risk of death was in Southwestern Virginia. Decedents used hanging, strangulation, or suffocation more frequently to complete their suicides. Suicides were related to problems with financial and job stressors. Asian Virginian homicide victims were frequently killed at work in service industry jobs and during a robbery.

## DATA SOURCES

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All data in this report come from the Virginia Violent Death Reporting System (VVDRS). The VVDRS is part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's [National Violent Death Reporting System \(NVDRS\)](#). The NVDRS documents violent deaths within a state's borders, including homicides, suicides, deaths of undetermined intent, legal interventions, deaths due to terrorism, and accidental firearm deaths.<sup>1</sup> It compiles information from death investigation sources, and links decedents to circumstances to explain a host of risk and circumstantial factors such as the role of substance abuse and mental health in the death and why a suicide occurred. The VVDRS is the operation and reporting system of the NVDRS within Virginia, and uses the same methodology, definitions, coding schema, and database as the NVDRS.

The VVDRS compiles death investigation information from several agencies, primarily the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, local law enforcement entities, the Virginia Divisions of Health Statistics and Vital Records, and the Virginia Department of Forensic Science. Each relevant death record is reviewed by a Coordinator who ensures that all information required by the NVDRS are in the record, requests reports that are not already in the file, and abstracts and manually enters the relevant information into the database. Continuous quality assurance activities maintain data accuracy and consistency among Coordinators. Deaths entered into the VVDRS are reconciled with deaths reported by the Virginia Division of Health Statistics and the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for comprehensive case identification.

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<sup>1</sup> Persons who died in Virginia but were residents of another state are captured by the VVDRS. However, these deaths are excluded from this report to allow the calculation of risk rates using population numbers for Virginia.

## **PORTRAIT OF VIRGINIA'S ASIAN POPULATION**

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At the time of the 2010 Census, Virginia's Asian residents numbered 440,000, accounting for 5.5% of the total population in the state. The majority of Asians lived in three of Virginia's metropolitan areas: Northern Virginia (71%), Hampton Roads (13%), and Richmond (9%). Asian populations were also clustered in Virginia localities with colleges and universities. The majority of Asians in Virginia were U.S. citizens: 28% were native born Virginians; 40% were born outside the U.S. and became citizens after migrating here; and 32% were born in other countries and were not U.S. citizens. The top five countries of birth for Virginia's foreign-born Asian population included India, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, and China.<sup>2</sup>

## **SUICIDE AMONG ASIAN VIRGINIANS**

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### ***Demographic Characteristics (Table 1)***

- Suicide is much less common among Asian Virginians (5.8)<sup>3</sup> when compared with all other Virginians (12.4). This is also true over the life course, except for Asians who are older than 85 years.
- Among all Virginia suicide decedents, Asians and others, populations at risk were overwhelmingly male, middle-aged, and not married.
- Asian suicide decedents had more years of education than other Virginians. Approximately 60% of Asian decedents and 38% of other Virginians completed some college or more.
- Asian suicide decedents were more frequently married (40%) and less commonly divorced (12%) when compared with other suicide decedents in Virginia.
- Notably, more than eight of ten (82%) Asian suicide decedents were born outside of the U.S. In stark contrast, five percent of all other suicide decedents were foreign born.

### ***Regional Variations (Table 2)***

- Looking at numbers of deaths, the vast majority of Asian suicides, 211 of 310, or 68%, occurred in the Northern Health Planning Region (HPR).
- Differences in suicide by region look quite different when examining rates of death. The Southwest HPR had the highest suicide death rate for both Asian and all other Virginians (7.1 and 16.4, respectively). Asian Virginians living in Southwest Virginia were 1.2 times as likely to complete a suicide compared to those living in Northern Virginia.

### ***Mechanisms of Injury and Characteristics of the Fatal Event (Table 3, Table 4, and Table 5)***

- Three quarters of suicide decedents died at their home.

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<sup>2</sup> University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. "U.Va. Assesses 2010 Census Data on Virginia's Asian Population." Accessed on September 12, 2016 at: [http://www.coopercenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/TipSheet\\_CensusBrief\\_Asians\\_03\\_02\\_2011web.pdf](http://www.coopercenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/TipSheet_CensusBrief_Asians_03_02_2011web.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> All rates are calculated per 100,000 persons in the population.



- The three most common mechanisms of fatal injury among all Virginian suicide decedents were asphyxia,<sup>4</sup> firearms, and poisoning. These three mechanisms accounted for 86% of Asian Virginian suicides and 95% of all other Virginian suicides.
- Asian decedents used asphyxia twice as often as all other Virginians. Other Virginians used firearms more frequently than Asians.
- Among Asian suicide decedents, males (32%) used firearms more than females (14%) while females (20%) used poison more than males (11%).
- Place of birth also affected these trends. Among U.S. born Asians, firearms were the most frequent mechanism of injury. Among foreign born Asians, asphyxia was used more often.

### ***Circumstances of Death (Table 6 and Table 7)***

- Risk factors for suicides among Virginians fell into three sets of stressors that evidence<sup>5</sup> suggests increase an individual's likelihood of suicide: interpersonal problems, economic security stressors, and mental health issues.
- Among Asians and other Virginians, about one-third of suicides were associated with problems between intimate partners, such as a break-up or divorce, argument, or other conflicts such as jealousy or infidelity.
- Financial and job stressors also contributed more frequently to Asian suicides than among other decedents. Asian males experienced financial issues twice as often as Asian females.
- Nearly one-half of Asian suicide decedents had a mental health diagnosis at the time of their death. Depression was the most common diagnosis (40%) followed by anxiety (10%) and bipolar disorder (7%). Of those with a mental health condition, most had received treatment within two months of the suicide. Despite treatment, more Asian decedents were also described as acutely depressed (43%) prior to the suicide when compared with other Virginians (39%). This was more pronounced among foreign born Asian decedents who experienced an acute depressed mood (45%) more often than U.S. born Asian decedents (30%).
- Substance and alcohol misuse were reportedly less common among Asian Virginians when compared with other Virginia suicide decedents. Toxicological studies performed after death revealed that few Asian suicide decedents used drugs or alcohol at the time of their death compared to other Virginians.

## **HOMICIDE AMONG ASIAN VIRGINIANS**

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### ***Demographic Characteristics (Table 8)***

- Asian Virginians had a much lower homicide rate (1.9) than all other Virginians (5.1).

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<sup>4</sup> The Virginia Violent Death Reporting System captures three specific types of asphyxia deaths: hanging, suffocation, and strangulation.

<sup>5</sup> American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. "Risk Factors and Warning Signs." Accessed on February 9, 2017 at <https://afsp.org/about-suicide/risk-factors-and-warning-signs/>

- While most homicide victims were predominantly male, females were a higher proportion of Asian homicide victims than among other Virginians. The rate of homicide among Asian males (2.3) was one and a half times that of Asian females (1.5). Among other Virginians, male risk for homicide (7.9) was 3.4 times that of the female risk (2.3).
- Asian homicide victims were about four and one-half years older than all other homicide victims in Virginia. The highest homicide rate for both groups was for those between the ages of 20 and 24 (3.5 and 13.9, respectively).
- Over half (53%) of Asian homicide victims had completed some college or more; in contrast, 80% of other Virginian homicide victims completed high school or less.
- The majority of Asian homicide victims (53%) were married at the time of their death, compared to 20% of all other Virginian victims. In fact, nearly two-thirds (63%) of all other Virginian homicide victims had never been married by the time of their death. Divorce was also less common among Asian Virginian victims (6%) compared to their counterparts (12%).
- In Virginia, six of every seven (86%) Asian homicide victims were born outside of the U.S. compared with 5% foreign born among all other homicide victims.

#### ***Regional Variations (Table 9)***

- Most Asian homicide victims died in the Northern HPR (43%). Among all other Virginians, homicides were more common in the Eastern (36%) and Central HPRs (30%).
- The highest risk for homicide among Asians was in the Southwest HPR (5.6). Asian victims in the Southwest HPR were 4.7 times as likely to be victims of a homicide as those living in the Northern HPR.

#### ***Mechanisms of Injury and Characteristics of the Fatal Event (Table 10, Table 11, and Table 12)***

- Nine of ten Asian Virginia homicide victims were assaulted with firearms (52%) or sharp instruments (28%), or were asphyxiated (11%). Among other Virginians, 98% of homicide victims were assaulted with firearms (72%), sharp instruments (13%), or blunt instruments (14%).
- Among Asians homicide decedents, 39% were assaulted at their residence and 33% were killed at work. These decedents were employed in service oriented positions such as convenience store workers, taxi drivers, and food delivery staff. In contrast, one-quarter of all other Virginia homicide victims were fatally assaulted at their own residence and were rarely injured at work (3%).
- Virtually all of Asian homicide victims fatally assaulted at work, 32 of 33, were born outside of the United States.
- Most homicide victims knew the person who killed them, but this varied depending on the location of injury. Asian victims killed at work were often assaulted by a stranger (57%) while other Virginians assaulted at work knew the perpetrator in over one-half (55%) of cases. Among victims fatally assaulted at home, both Asians (82%) and all other Virginians (94%) knew the perpetrator most of the time because they were either an intimate partner or a family member.

### ***Circumstances of Death (Table 13 and Table 14)***

- Circumstances surrounding the deaths of homicide victims fell into two types of events: interpersonal problems or crime and criminal characteristics. Furthermore, interpersonal problems motivated at-home homicides and crime led to at-work homicides.
- Nearly one-third of Asian homicides were precipitated by violence between intimate partners and 31% were linked to another argument.
- Other homicides were related to crime and criminal activities. Approximately two of five, or 42%, of Asian homicides were preceded by another crime, most often a robbery (32%) which was in progress (40%) at the time of the fatal assault. These homicides often occurred at work. Among other Virginians, over one-quarter (29%) of homicides were preceded by a crime, most commonly a robbery (15%) which was in progress (28%). These homicides of other Virginians often occurred at the victim's home.
- Toxicological studies after death revealed that Asian homicide victims rarely used drugs or alcohol prior to their death compared to all other Virginian homicide victims. For nearly every substance tested, Asian decedents' results were negative when compared with other Virginians.

## **CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION**

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Risk of violent death among Asian populations in Virginia is low compared with other Virginians. There were several trends unique to Asian decedents discussed in this report. Most were born outside of the U.S. and their deaths were often related to conflict with family or intimate partners. Mental health and financial concerns were leading contributors to Asian Virginian suicide deaths. Asian homicides often occurred at work during the commission of a crime. From these trends, two unique characteristics of Asian suicide and homicide point to opportunities for prevention and improved interventions.

The first has to do with Virginia's foreign born Asian populations, who were most likely to complete a suicide or die by homicide when compared with U.S. born Asians. Furthermore, problems with mental health, domestic violence, and employment are common among middle aged Asians who complete a suicide. This suggests potential gaps in service capacity for those who migrate to the U.S. While assistance for immigrants in Virginia supports legal services such as status change and visa applications, additional services may be needed to assist migrants with issues related to adjustments to a new country and culture, employment opportunities, culturally sensitive mental health care, and violence reduction in personal relationships. Exploring, recognizing and understanding these stressors and cultural influences could assist in the development of equitable services and reductions in the number of violent deaths among Virginia's Asian residents.

Second, a large proportion of Virginia's Asian homicide victims were fatally injured at work, suggesting that homicide prevention strategies for these victims should focus on workplace safety. Many of these deaths occur among persons working in service-oriented occupations and

occur in conjunction with robberies. One approach, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), focuses on crime prevention at work by designing or modifying surroundings to discourage criminal activity. This international program spawned the Workplace Violence Prevention Program (WVPP), which targets gas station convenience stores and late-night retail, precisely the kinds of workplaces where many of these Asian Virginians are killed. In conjunction with the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#) (NIOSH), this program provides low-cost strategies to improve the safety of employees and the workplace before a crime occurs.

## Appendix: Data Tables

**Table 1: Suicide Decedents: Demographic Characteristics Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians			All Other Virginians <sup>1</sup>		
	N= 310			N= 11,010		
	Number	Percent	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent	Rate
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	213	68.7	8.3	8,539	77.6	19.5
Female	97	31.3	3.5	2,471	22.4	5.5
<b>Age</b>						
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	2	0.6	0.6	66	0.6	1.1
15-19	14	4.5	4.3	483	4.4	7.9
20-24	30	9.7	8.2	817	7.4	12.7
25-34	68	21.9	6.9	1,653	15.0	13.8
35-44	71	22.9	7.3	2,007	18.2	15.9
45-54	53	17.1	7.3	2,418	22.0	18.4
55-64	35	11.3	7.2	1,705	15.5	16.5
65-74	20	6.5	7.6	937	8.5	15.2
75-84	8	2.6	7.4	652	5.9	18.3
85+	9	2.9	32.1	272	2.5	19.3
<b>Race</b>						
Asian	305	98.4	5.7	0	0.0	0.0
White	0	0.0	0.0	9,824	89.2	14.2
Black	0	0.0	0.0	1,123	10.2	5.8
Native American	0	0.0	0.0	14	0.1	3.1
Other	0	0.0	-	6	0.1	-
Two or More Races	5	1.6	-	29	0.3	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	14	0.1	-
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic <sup>3</sup>	8	2.6	-	280	2.5	4.1
<b>Education</b>						
0 - 8 Grade Completed	18	5.8	-	721	6.5	-
9 - 12 Grade Completed	106	34.2	-	5,939	53.9	-
13 - 16 Years Completed	127	41.0	-	3,352	30.4	-
17+ Years Completed	54	17.4	-	851	7.7	-
Unknown	5	1.6	-	147	1.3	-
<b>Marital Status</b>						
Married	124	40.0	-	3,570	32.4	-
Not Married/Separated	186	60.0	-	7,407	67.3	-
<i>Never Married</i>	108	34.8	-	3,426	31.1	-
<i>Divorced</i>	36	11.6	-	2,215	20.1	-
<i>Married, but Separated</i>	28	9.0	-	1,060	9.6	-
<i>Widowed</i>	14	4.5	-	704	6.4	-
<i>Single, Not Otherwise Specified</i>	0	0.0	-	2	0.0	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	33	0.3	-
<b>Birthplace</b>						
Born Outside the United States	255	82.3	-	590	5.4	-
Born in the United States	53	17.1	-	10,323	93.8	-
Unknown	2	0.6	-	97	0.9	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>11,010</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.4</b>

<sup>1</sup>All other Virginians captures the population of Virginia minus the Asian population in Virginia.

<sup>2</sup>Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons. The symbol - is used when there is no base population from which to calculate a rate.

<sup>3</sup>Hispanic persons can be members of any race.

**Table 2: Suicide Decedents: Region of Residence Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians			All Other Virginians		
	N= 310			N= 11,010		
	Number	Percent	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent	Rate
<b>Health Planning Region</b>						
1. Northwest	13	4.2	4.4	1,961	17.8	13.8
2. Northern	211	68.1	5.8	1,976	17.9	8.8
3. Southwest	14	4.5	7.1	2,594	23.6	16.4
4. Central	25	8.1	5.3	1,985	18.0	12.7
5. Eastern	46	14.8	5.8	2,473	22.5	11.8
Unknown or Out of State	1	0.3	-	21	0.2	-
<b>Medical Examiner District</b>						
Northern	214	69.0	5.8	2,710	24.6	10.1
Tidewater	42	13.5	5.6	2,058	18.7	11.2
Central	39	12.6	5.5	3,151	28.6	12.8
Western	14	4.5	5.8	3,070	27.9	16.1
Unknown or Out of State	1	0.3	-	21	0.2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>11,010</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.4</b>

<sup>1</sup>Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons. The symbol - is used when there is no base population from which to calculate a rate.

**Table 3: Suicide Decedents: Injury Characteristics Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 310		N= 11,010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Mechanism of Injury<sup>1</sup></b>				
Hanging, Suffocation, or Strangulation	141	45.5	2,239	20.3
Firearm	82	26.5	6,283	57.1
Poison	44	14.2	1,880	17.1
Fall	15	4.8	208	1.9
Sharp Instrument	12	3.9	186	1.7
Drowning	10	3.2	151	1.4
Fire or Burns	5	1.6	45	0.4
Other Transport Vehicle	4	1.3	48	0.4
Motor Vehicle	2	0.6	79	0.7
Other	0	0.0	31	0.3
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Premise of Injury</b>				
House	229	73.9	8,304	75.4
Vehicle	25	8.1	759	6.9
Natural Area	14	4.5	584	5.3
Park	7	2.3	104	0.9
Hotel or Motel	6	1.9	261	2.4
Street or Sidewalk	4	1.3	126	1.1
Jail	2	0.6	189	1.7
Other	23	7.4	671	6.1
Unknown	0	0.0	12	0.1
<b>Where Injured</b>				
At Home	228	73.5	8,189	74.4
At Work	4	1.3	112	1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,010</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup>More than one mechanism of injury may be used in a fatal incident. Totals will therefore exceed the number of victims, and percentages will total more than 100%.

**Table 4: Suicide Decedents: Mechanism of Injury Among U.S. Born Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 53		N= 10,323	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Mechanism of Injury<sup>1</sup></b>				
Firearm	25	47.2	5,993	58.1
Hanging, Suffocation, or Strangulation	12	22.6	2,033	19.7
Poison	6	11.3	1,755	17.0
Fall	4	7.5	176	1.7
Motor Vehicle	2	3.8	72	0.7
Sharp Instrument	2	3.8	167	1.6
Drowning	1	1.9	142	1.4
Other Transport Vehicle	1	1.9	44	0.4
Fire or Burn	0	0.0	42	0.4
Blunt	0	0.0	2	0.0
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	2	0.0
Non-powder Gun	0	0.0	2	0.0
Other	0	0.0	23	0.2
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0

<sup>1</sup>More than one mechanism of injury may be used in a fatal incident. Totals will therefore exceed the number of victims, and percentages will exceed 100%.

**Table 5: Suicide Decedents: Mechanism of Injury Among Foreign Born Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 255		N= 590	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Mechanism of Injury<sup>1</sup></b>				
Hanging, Suffocation, or Strangulation	127	49.8	182	30.8
Firearm	57	22.4	248	42.0
Poison	38	14.9	105	17.8
Fall	11	4.3	27	4.6
Sharp Instrument	10	3.9	16	2.7
Drowning	9	3.5	6	1.0
Fire or Burn	5	2.0	3	0.5
Other Transport Vehicle	3	1.2	4	0.7
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	6	1.0
Other	0	0.0	1	0.2
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0

<sup>1</sup>More than one mechanism of injury may be used in a fatal incident. Totals will therefore exceed the number of victims, and percentages will exceed 100%.



**Table 6: Suicide Decedents: Decedent and Incident Characteristics Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 295		N= 10,705	
	Number	Percent <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent
<b>Relationship Problems</b>				
Intimate Partner Problem <sup>2</sup>	106	35.9	3,616	33.8
Family Relationship Problem	32	10.8	750	7.0
Argument	22	7.5	617	5.8
Perpetrator of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	22	7.5	681	6.4
Other Relationship Problem <sup>3</sup>	9	3.1	441	4.1
Death of Family Member or Friend	7	2.4	644	6.0
Suicide of Family Member or Friend	4	1.4	146	1.4
Victim of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	1	0.3	73	0.7
<b>Life Stressor Characteristics</b>				
Job Problem	60	20.3	1,401	13.1
Financial Problem	48	16.3	1,367	12.8
Physical Health Problem	36	12.2	2,084	19.5
Recent Criminal Legal Problem	23	7.8	1,295	12.1
School Problem	8	2.7	139	1.3
Recent Civil Legal Problem <sup>4</sup>	5	1.7	244	2.3
<b>Event Characteristics</b>				
Current Depressed Mood	126	42.7	4,144	38.7
Disclosed Intent to Commit Suicide <sup>5</sup>	114	38.6	4,106	38.4
Crisis Within Two Weeks of Suicide <sup>6</sup>	103	34.9	4,226	39.5
Decedent Left a Suicide Note	102	34.6	3,810	35.6
History of Suicide Attempt(s)	56	19.0	2,277	21.3
<b>Mental Health and Substance Abuse</b>				
Mental Health Diagnosis <sup>7</sup>	147	49.8	6,014	56.2
<i>Depression</i>	118	40.0	4,652	43.5
<i>Anxiety</i>	28	9.5	1,223	11.4
<i>Bipolar</i>	21	7.1	912	8.5
<i>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</i>	4	1.4	191	1.8
Treated for Mental Health	123	41.7	5,063	47.3
<i>Treated, within Two Months</i>	104	35.3	4,344	40.6
<i>Treated, not within Two Months of Death</i>	19	6.4	719	6.7
Substance Abuse	15	5.1	1,725	16.1
Alcohol Problem	25	8.5	1,608	15.0

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are based on the number of decedents with known characteristic(s). More than one characteristic may apply to a decedent. Totals will not equal the number of decedents and percentages will total more than 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Captures suicide decedents related to intimate partner conflict. This conflict can include, but is not limited to, violence between intimate partners.

<sup>3</sup> Examples include neighbors, friends, and current or former co-workers.

<sup>4</sup> Examples include divorce and child custody.

<sup>5</sup> Refers to suicide decedents who talked about wanting to self-harm with time to intervene prior to the suicide.

<sup>6</sup> This crisis can be related to any characteristic. It could include a recent job loss, argument with a friend or family member, or a change in mental health medication.

<sup>7</sup> Refers to a mental health diagnosis at the time of death.

**Table 7: Suicide Decedents: Presence of Alcohol and Drugs at Time of Death Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

Substance	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 310		N= 11,010	
	Number Tested <sup>1</sup>	Percent Positive	Number Tested	Percent Positive
Alcohol	282	24.5	9,556	34.1
<i>BAC &lt; 0.08</i> <sup>2</sup>	282	9.9	9,556	10.3
<i>BAC ≥ 0.08</i>	282	14.5	9,556	23.4
Cocaine	141	1.4	4,004	6.2
Opiates	140	10.7	4,079	25.4
Amphetamines	120	39.2	3,015	2.4
Antidepressants	47	48.9	1,652	62.6
Benzodiazepines	31	32.3	924	69.3
Barbiturates	28	0.0	748	10.7
Antipsychotics	25	24.0	514	39.7
Marijuana	12	8.3	663	16.7
Muscle Relaxants	11	18.2	523	27.7
Carbon Monoxide	6	50.0	106	80.2
Anticonvulsants	1	100.0	109	97.2

<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the number of persons tested. Not every person is tested for every substance.

<sup>2</sup>BAC refers to Blood Alcohol Concentration. BAC is reported only when the tested sample fluid is blood.

**Table 8: Homicide Victims: Demographic Characteristics Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians			All Other Virginians <sup>1</sup>		
	N= 100			N= 4,499		
	Number	Percent	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent	Rate
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	58	58.0	2.3	3,451	76.7	7.9
Female	42	42.0	1.5	1,049	23.3	2.3
<b>Age</b>						
<1	0	0.0	0.0	111	2.5	9.6
1-4	3	3.0	0.9	95	2.1	2.1
5-9	2	2.0	0.5	28	0.6	0.5
10-14	1	1.0	0.3	49	1.1	0.8
15-19	5	5.0	1.5	455	10.1	7.5
20-24	13	13.0	3.5	893	19.8	13.9
25-34	13	13.0	1.3	1,070	23.8	8.9
35-44	28	28.0	2.9	736	16.4	5.8
45-54	17	17.0	2.4	553	12.3	4.2
55-64	14	14.0	2.9	283	6.3	2.7
65-74	3	3.0	1.1	111	2.5	1.8
75-84	1	1.0	0.9	87	1.9	2.4
85+	0	0.0	0.0	25	0.6	1.8
Unknown	0	0.0	-	3	0.1	-
<b>Race</b>						
Asian	99	99.0	1.8	0	0.0	0.0
Black	0	0.0	0.0	2,735	60.8	14.2
White	0	0.0	0.0	1,681	37.4	2.4
Native American	0	0.0	0.0	4	0.1	0.9
Other	0	0.0	-	7	0.2	-
Two or More Races	1	1.0	-	40	0.9	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	32	0.7	-
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic <sup>3</sup>	2	2.0	-	281	6.2	4.1
<b>Education</b>						
0 - 8 Grade Completed	12	12.0	-	578	12.8	-
9 - 12 Grade Completed	35	35.0	-	3,023	67.2	-
13 - 16 Years Completed	42	42.0	-	723	16.1	-
17+ Years Completed	11	11.0	-	85	1.9	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	90	2.0	-
<b>Marital Status</b>						
Married	53	53.0	-	897	19.9	-
Not Married/Separated	47	47.0	-	3,581	79.6	-
<i>Never Married</i>	35	35.0	-	2,813	62.5	-
<i>Divorced</i>	6	6.0	-	522	11.6	-
<i>Married, but Separated</i>	4	4.0	-	138	3.1	-
<i>Widowed</i>	2	2.0	-	105	2.3	-
<i>Single, Not Otherwise Specified</i>	0	0.0	-	3	0.1	-
Unknown	0	0.0	-	21	0.5	-
<b>Birthplace</b>						
Born Outside the United States	86	86.0	-	232	5.2	-
Born in the United States	14	14.0	-	4,267	94.8	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup>All other Virginians captures the population of Virginia minus the Asian population in Virginia.

<sup>2</sup>Rates are per 100,000 persons. The symbol - is used when there is no base population from which to calculate a rate.

<sup>3</sup>Hispanic persons can be members of any race.

**Table 9: Homicide Victims: Region of Injury Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians			All Other Virginians		
	N= 100			N= 4,499		
	Number	Percent	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent	Rate
<b>Health Planning Region</b>						
1. Northwest	6	6.0	2.0	370	8.2	2.6
2. Northern	43	43.0	1.2	381	8.5	1.7
3. Southwest	11	11.0	5.6	741	16.5	4.7
4. Central	20	20.0	4.3	1,349	30.0	8.7
5. Eastern	17	17.0	2.2	1,612	35.8	7.7
Unknown or Out of State	3	3.0	-	46	1.0	-
<b>Medical Examiner District</b>						
Northern	44	44.0	1.2	489	10.9	1.8
Central	24	24.0	3.4	1,600	35.6	6.5
Tidewater	17	17.0	2.3	1,542	34.3	8.4
Western	12	12.0	5.0	822	18.3	4.3
Unknown or Out of State	3	3.0	-	46	1.0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

<sup>1</sup>Rates are calculated per 100,000 persons. The symbol - is used when there is no base population from which to calculate a rate.

**Table 10: Homicide Victims: Injury Characteristics Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 100		N= 4,499	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Mechanism of Injury<sup>1</sup></b>				
Firearm	52	52.0	3,228	71.7
Sharp Instrument	28	28.0	589	13.1
Hanging, Suffocation, or Strangulation	11	11.0	175	3.9
Blunt Instrument	9	9.0	606	13.5
Personal Weapons	3	3.0	147	3.3
Fire or Burns	2	2.0	31	0.7
Shaking	0	0.0	64	1.4
Other	0	0.0	76	1.7
Unknown	0	0.0	40	0.9
<b>Premise of Injury</b>				
House	46	46.0	2,437	54.2
Commercial Establishment	20	20.0	89	2.0
Parking Lot	9	9.0	295	6.6
Street or sidewalk	7	7.0	793	17.6
Vehicle	4	4.0	419	9.3
Hotel or Motel	3	3.0	50	1.1
Natural Area	0	0.0	97	2.2
Other	9	9.0	258	5.7
Unknown	2	2.0	61	1.4
<b>Where Injured</b>				
At Home	39	39.0	1,140	25.3
At Work	33	33.0	148	3.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup>More than one mechanism of injury may be used in a fatal incident. Totals will exceed the number of victims, and percentages will total more than 100%.

**Table 11: Homicide Victims: Victim-Perpetrator Relationship Among U.S. Born Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 14		N= 4,142	
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Victim's Relationship to Perpetrator(s)</b>				
Known to Victim	10	71.4	2,001	48.3
Intimate Partner, current or former	4	28.6	883	21.3
Family	3	21.4	375	9.1
Friends, Acquaintances, Other Persons Known	3	21.4	743	17.9
Stranger	0	0.0	109	2.6
Suspect was Law Enforcement	0	0.0	168	4.1
Unknown Relationship <sup>2</sup>	4	28.6	1,868	45.1

<sup>1</sup>A homicide may have more than one perpetrator. Each perpetrator may have multiple relationships to the victim (e.g. cousin and roommate). Totals will exceed the number of victims and percentages will therefore exceed 100%.

<sup>2</sup>A relationship may be unknown either because no relationship is known or because there was no perpetrator information.

**Table 12: Homicide Victims: Victim-Perpetrator Relationship Among Foreign Born Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 86		N= 307	
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Victim's Relationship to Perpetrator(s)</b>				
Known to Victim	49	57.0	138	45.0
Current or Former Intimate Partner	22	25.6	64	20.8
Friends, Acquaintances, or Other Known Person	19	22.1	57	18.6
Family Member	8	9.3	17	5.5
Stranger	11	12.8	24	7.8
Suspect was Law Enforcement	1	1.2	11	3.6
Unknown Relationship <sup>2</sup>	25	29.1	134	43.6

<sup>1</sup>A homicide may have more than one perpetrator. Each perpetrator may have multiple relationships to the victim (e.g. cousin and roommate). Totals will exceed the number of victims and percentages will therefore exceed 100%.

<sup>2</sup>A relationship may be unknown either because no relationship is known or because there was no perpetrator information.

**Table 13: Homicide Victims: Decedent and Incident Characteristics Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 81		N= 3,468	
	Number	Percent <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent
<b>Interpersonal Problems</b>				
Intimate Partner Violence <sup>2</sup>	26	32.1	941	27.1
Argument	25	30.9	1,386	40.0
Physical Fight Between Two Persons	3	3.7	117	3.4
Perpetrator of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	1	1.2	116	3.3
Victim of Interpersonal Violence within Past Month	0	0.0	71	2.0
Other Relationship Problem <sup>3</sup>	0	0.0	65	1.9
Family Relationship Problem	0	0.0	60	1.7
<b>Crime Related Characteristics</b>				
Precipitated by Another Crime	34	42.0	1030	29.7
<i>Robbery</i>	26	32.1	519	15.0
<i>Assault or Homicide</i>	6	7.4	359	10.4
<i>Burglary</i>	3	3.7	132	3.8
<i>Drug Trade</i>	0	0.0	70	2.0
<i>Rape</i>	0	0.0	32	0.9
Crime In Progress At Time of Homicide	32	39.5	973	28.1
<b>Mental Health and Substance Abuse</b>				
Mental Health Diagnosis <sup>4</sup>	2	2.5	134	3.9
<i>Depression</i>	0	0.0	56	1.6
<i>Anxiety</i>	0	0.0	37	1.1
<i>Bipolar</i>	0	0.0	17	0.5
<i>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</i>	0	0.0	2	0.1
Treated for Mental Health	2	2.5	119	3.4
<i>Treated, within Two Months of Death</i>	1	1.2	95	2.7
<i>Treated, Not within Two Months of Death</i>	1	1.2	24	0.7
Substance Abuse	4	4.9	638	18.4
Alcohol Problem	1	1.2	78	2.2

<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the number of decedents with known characteristic(s). More than one characteristic may apply to a decedent. Totals will not equal the number of decedents, and percentages will exceed 100%.

<sup>2</sup>Refers to homicides related to violence between intimate partners.

<sup>3</sup>Examples include neighbors, friends, or current or former co-workers.

<sup>4</sup>Refers to a diagnosed mental health condition at the time of death.

**Table 14: Homicide Victims: Presence of Alcohol and Drugs at Time of Death  
Among Asian Virginians and All Other Virginians, 2003-2014**

Substance	Asian Virginians		All Other Virginians	
	N= 100		N= 4,499	
	Number Tested <sup>1</sup>	Percent Positive	Number Tested	Percent Positive
Alcohol	95	17.9	4,304	37.4
<i>BAC &lt; 0.08</i> <sup>2</sup>	95	9.5	4,304	14.6
<i>BAC ≥ 0.08</i>	95	6.3	4,304	22.6
Cocaine	86	4.7	4,075	13.7
Opiates	86	1.2	4,060	6.2
Amphetamines	61	3.3	2,610	1.3
Marijuana	12	8.3	479	22.1
Benzodiazepines	10	10.0	389	10.3
Barbiturates	10	0.0	380	1.8
Muscle Relaxants	9	0.0	356	0.8
Antidepressants	5	0.0	261	11.9
Antipsychotics	1	0.0	69	1.4
Carbon Monoxide	0	0.0	27	70.4
Anticonvulsants	0	0.0	13	53.8

<sup>1</sup>Percentages are based on the number of persons tested. Not every person is tested for every substance.

<sup>2</sup>BAC refers to Blood Alcohol Concentration. BAC is reported only when the tested sample fluid is blood.