The Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) is a state-wide surveillance system that collects information on violent deaths (homicides, suicides, undetermined intent, legal intervention, and unintentional firearm deaths). GA-VDRS provides evidence-based information to assist programs, policies, and strategies to prevent violent deaths in Georgia.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as abuse or aggression that occurs in a close relationship. IPV is a significant public health problem in the United States. Nationally, an estimated 1 in every 6 (16%) homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner. This document focuses on homicides involving IPV in Georgia from 2013 to 2017.

From 2013 to 2017, 11% of homicides in Georgia (416/3680) were related to intimate partner violence.

- Two out of every 3 (66%) IPV-related homicide victims were females.
- One in 3 (33%) Non-Hispanic black female victims died of IPV compared to 1 in 4 (27%) Non-Hispanic white female victims.
- Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) Non-Hispanic black male victims died of IPV compared to nearly 1 in 10 (9%) Non-Hispanic white male victims.

Overall, victims 25 to 29 years of age and 35 to 39 years of age had the highest percentage of IPV-related homicides (13%).

- Three out of 4 (75%) victims of IPV-related homicide were 50 years of age and younger.
- More than 2 out of every 3 (70%) IPV-related homicides were committed by a current girlfriend, boyfriend, or a spouse.

Among all female victims, females 35 to 39 years of age had the highest percentage of IPV-related homicides (15%), while males 30 to 34 years of age had the highest percentage of IPV-related homicides (18%) (data not shown).

Over 6 out of every 10 (64%) IPV-related homicides among males involved a firearm, while 7 out of 10 (70%) IPV-related homicides among females involved a firearm.

- Male IPV-related homicide victims were 2 times more likely to die by a sharp instrument (27%) compared to female victims (12%).
- Eight out of every 10 (81%) IPV-related homicides occurred in the home (data not shown).

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN GEORGIA

GA-VDRS collects information about circumstances associated with violent death cases, provided by coroner reports, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. Circumstantial data provide valuable context about violent deaths in Georgia and what conditions may have preceded the incident, such as relationship problems, criminal involvement, mental health conditions, substance use, etc. This document focuses on circumstances surrounding homicides involving intimate partner violence (IPV), from 2013 to 2017.

Narratives of Fatal Intimate Partner Violence in Georgia

- Stabbed over 100 times following a verbal and physical altercation with live-in partner
- Died from multiple blunt injuries by domestic partner after alteration over what movie to watch
- Stalked by ex-partner and killed by firearm after argument over new relationship

IPV-related Homicides by Circumstance* and Sex, Georgia, 2013-2017

- Altercation: 37% Male, 60% Female
- Criminal Involvement: 7% Male, 36% Female
- Relationship Problem: 11% Male, 16% Female
- Mental Health Problem: 4% Male
- Addiction/Substance Abuse: 4% Male
- History of Abuse: 3% Male

* Circumstances were available for 87% of IPV-related homicides. Circumstances are not mutually exclusive. Circumstances with <0.2% of the population were suppressed.

- The most reported IPV-related circumstance among both male and female victims was alteration (37% and 60%, respectively), indicating the victim was in a physical or verbal altercation prior to the homicide.
  - More than 2 out of 3 (68%) IPV-related victims that reported an altercation were involved in an argument or conflict.
- Over 1 out of every 3 (36%) IPV-related homicides in females reported criminal involvement, indicating that criminal behaviors (i.e., drug involvement, gang-related, hate crime, prostitution, stalking) played a role in the homicide.
- One out of every 6 (16%) IPV-related homicides in females, and over 1 in every 10 IPV-related homicides in males (11%) reported relationship problems.
  - Among these males, jealousy was cited in 1 out of every 2 (52%) IPV-related homicides.
  - Among these females, jealousy was cited in 2 out of every 5 (42%) IPV-related homicides.

For more information on GA-VDRS, please visit: www.dph.georgia.gov/GVDRS.