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# Patterns of Homicide at the Global Level: Which Indicators for Crime Prevention?

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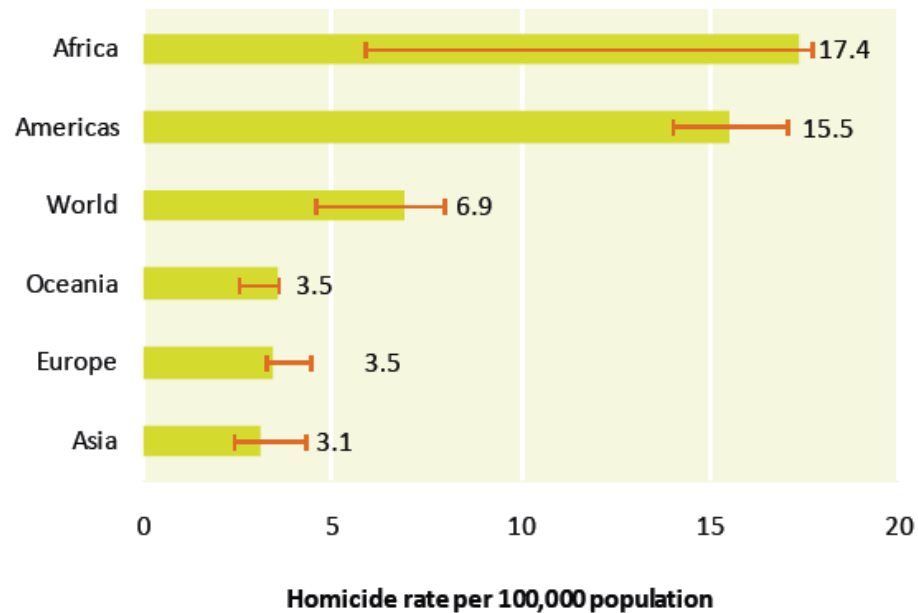
# The global picture

Africa and the Americas have the highest level of homicide

# Global and regional levels of homicide (2010)

468,000 homicides  
at global level in  
2010 (or latest  
available year)

**Fig. 1.3: Homicide rates by region (2010 or latest available year)**

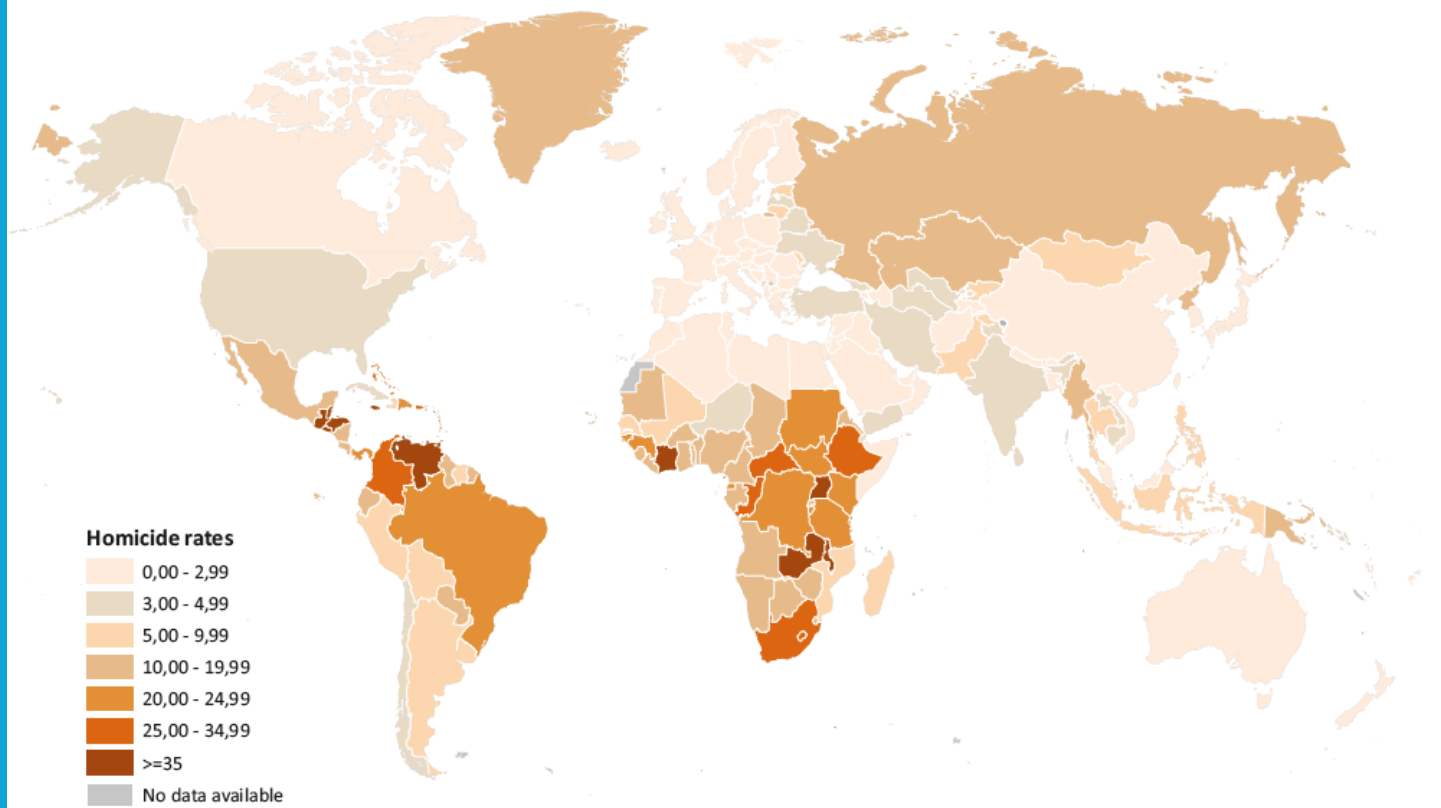


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011). Bars represent population weighted average homicide rate, with high and low estimates.



# Homicide rate by country (2010)

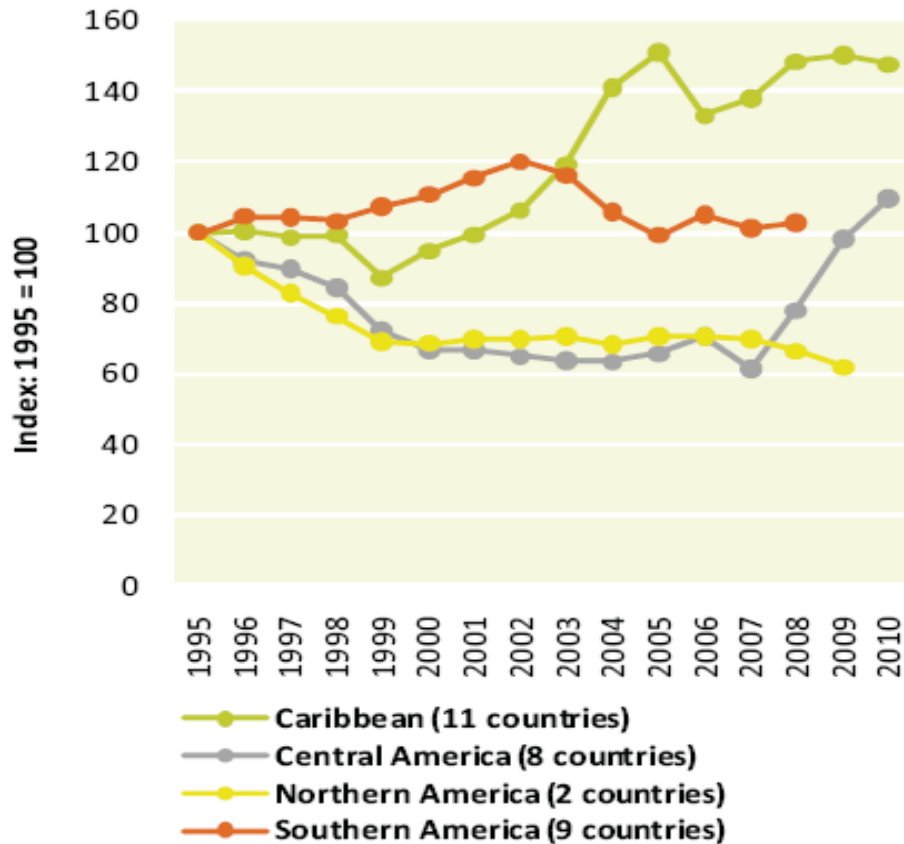
**Map 1.1:** Homicide rates by country (2010 or latest available year)



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

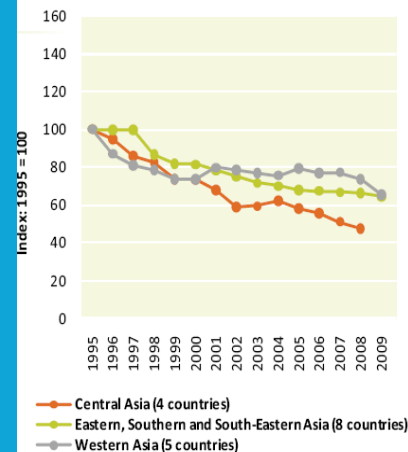
**Fig. 1.11: Subregional trends in homicide rates, the Americas (1995-2010)**



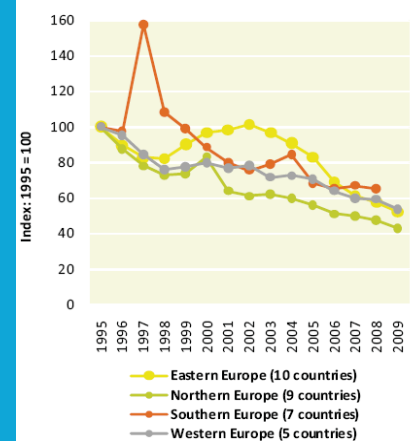
Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011). Lines represent percentage change in population weighted homicide rate based on a starting point of 100 for 1995.

Sharp increase in Central America and Caribbean, decline in Asia and Europe

**Fig. 1.12: Subregional trends in homicide rates, Asia (1995-2009)**



**Fig. 1.13: Subregional trends in homicide rates, Europe (1995-2009)**





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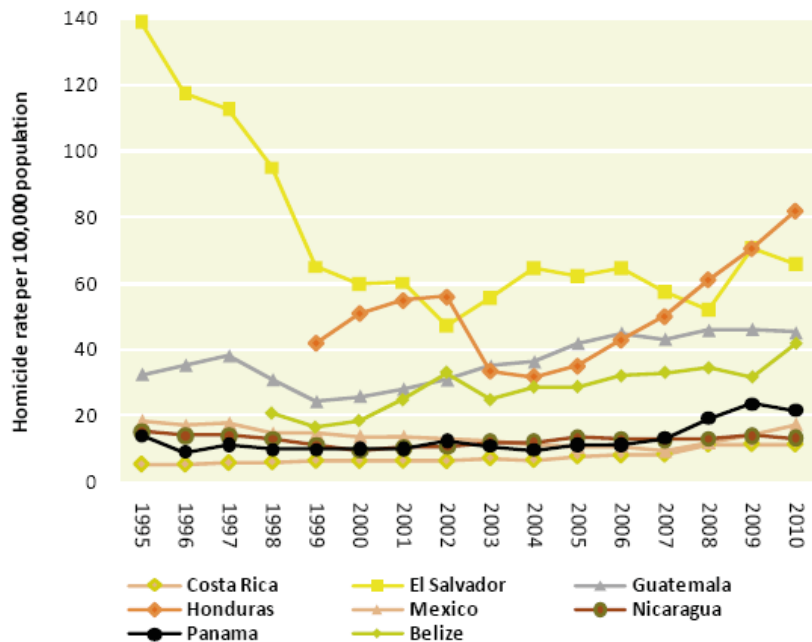
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# Increasing trends in parts of the Americas

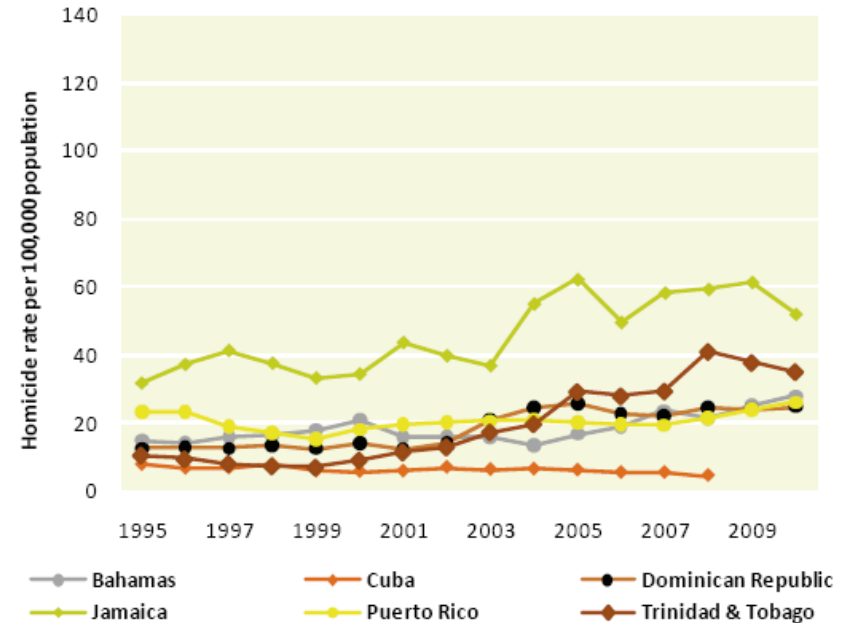
# Homicide rates on the rise in most countries of Central America and the Caribbean

**Fig. 3.11: Homicide rates by country, Central America (1995-2010)**



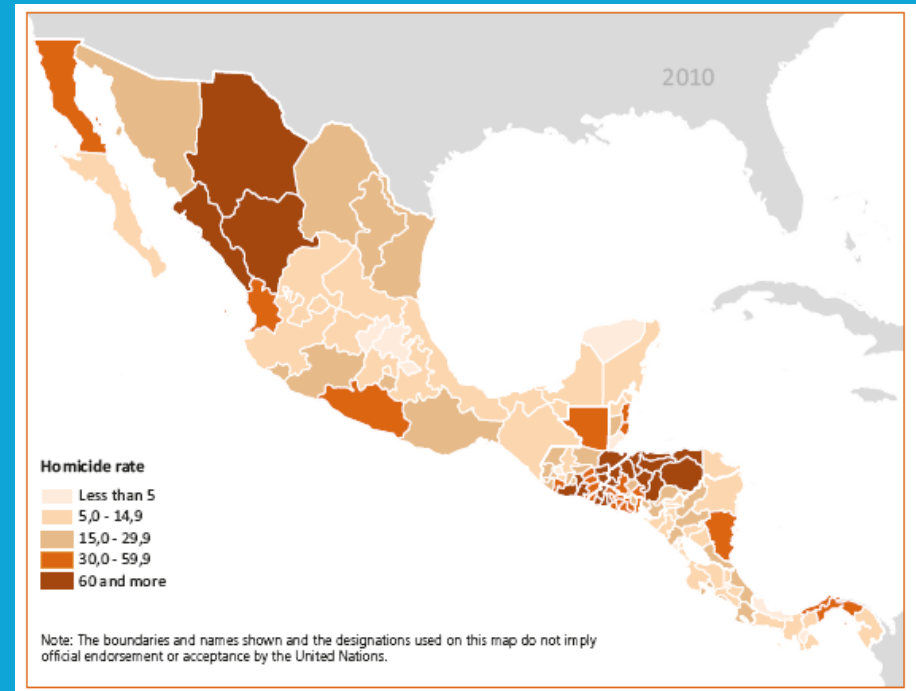
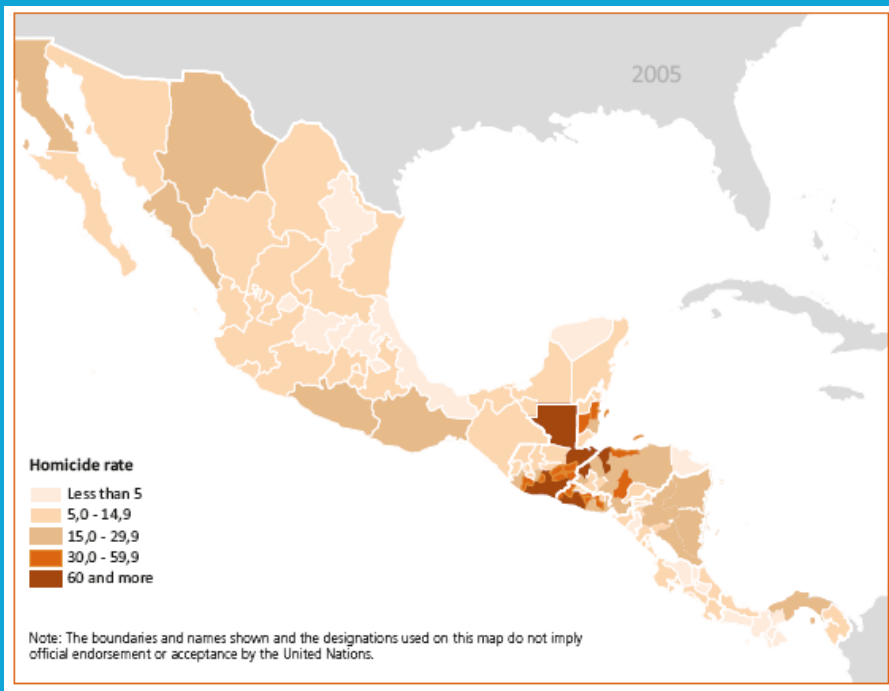
Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

**Fig. 3.12: Homicide rates by country, the Caribbean (1995-2010)**



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

# Strong increases in specific areas (2005 and 2010)



Source: National police, statistical offices and criminal justice institutions.





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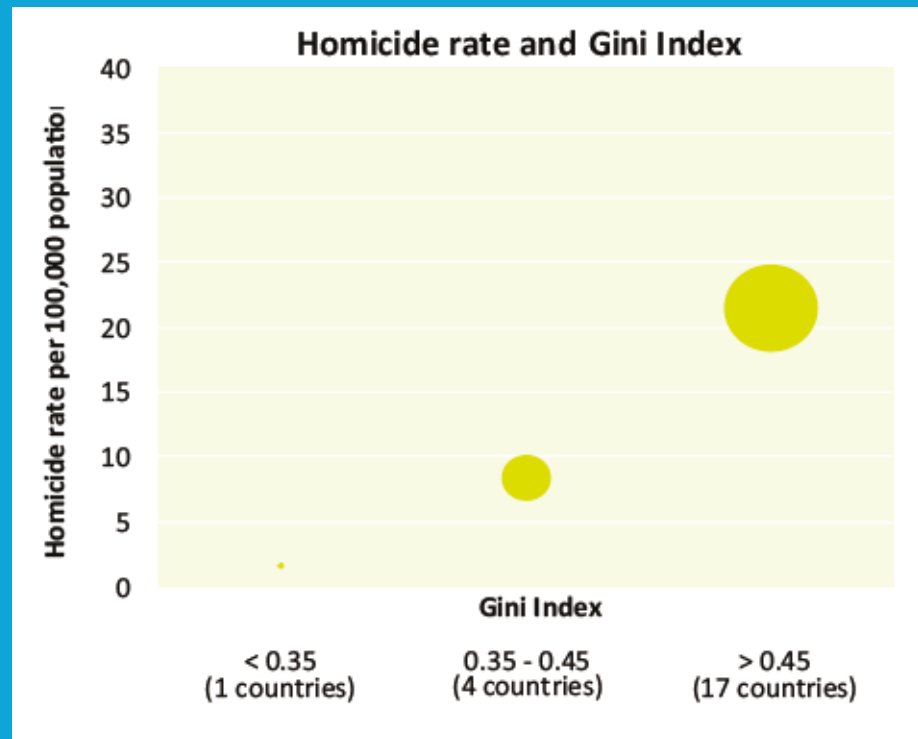
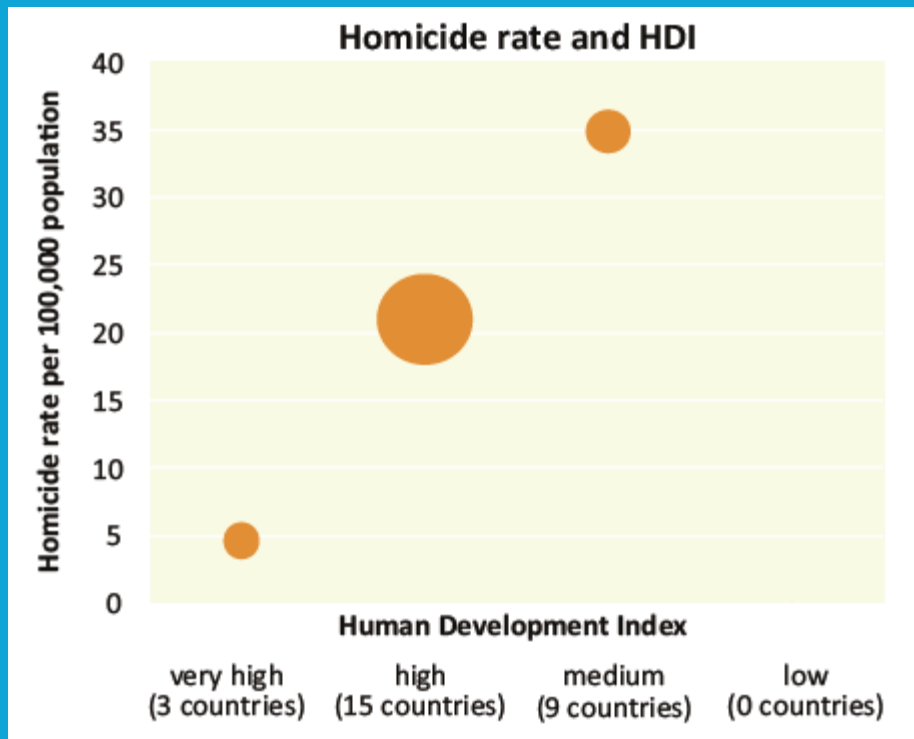
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# The drivers behind

Clear link between violent crime and human development, income inequality, and economic performance

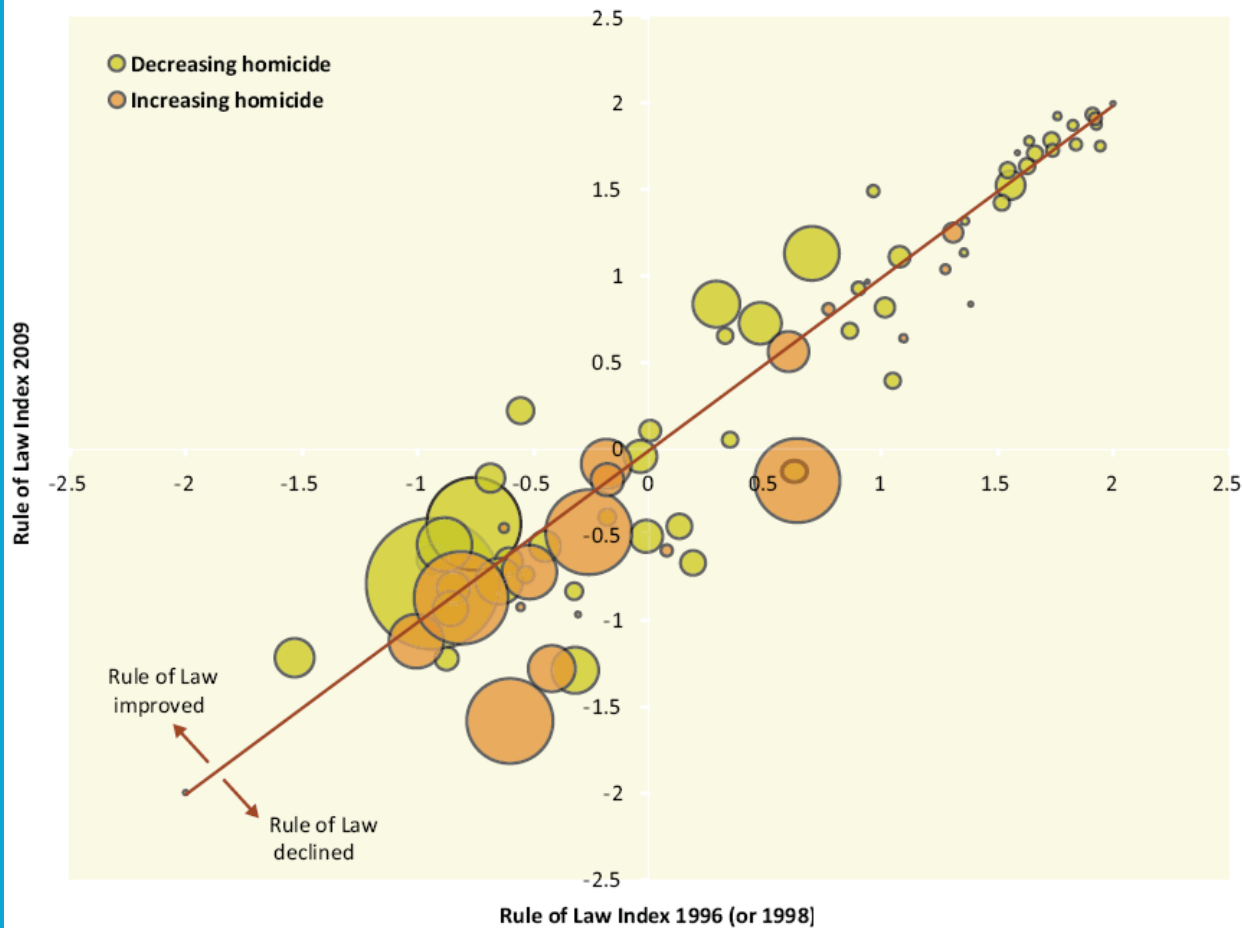


# Homicide levels and development, Americas (1995-2010)



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011), UNDP Human Development Index and World Bank Data Gini Index. Bubble size is proportional to the percentage of homicides in countries with HDI or Gini value.

**Fig. 2.6: Position of countries according to changes in Rule of Law Index and homicide rate, mid-1990s to 2009**



Source: World Bank Data Rule of Law Index (1996 and 2009) and UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011). Colour of dots represent trend in homicides (decreasing or increasing homicides from 1995 to 2009). Bubble size is proportional to the change in homicide rate (from 1995 to 2009).

Countries that strengthened their rule of law experienced a decline in homicide rate



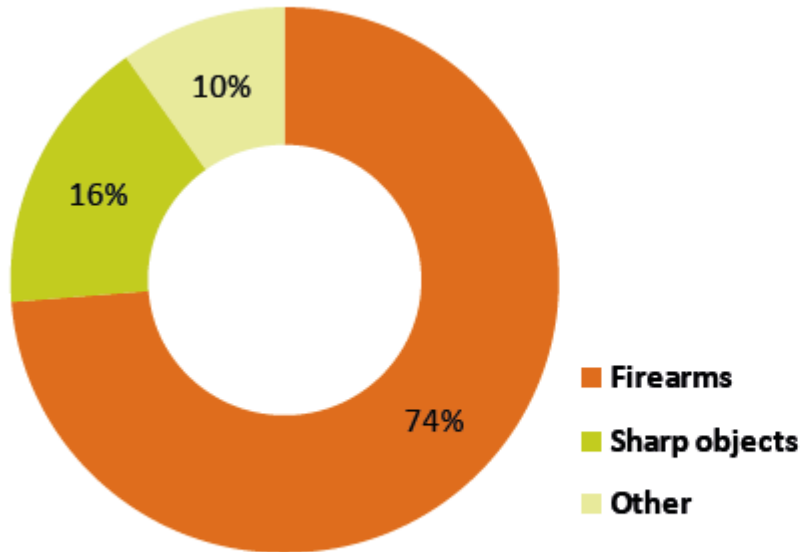
# Homicide, firearms, drug trafficking and organized crime

Firearms drive the homicide increase in Central America and Caribbean. The proportion of homicides related to organized crime is highest in the Americas. This does not mean that there is no organized crime in other regions. It suggests that organized crime in the Americas is in a destabilizing phase

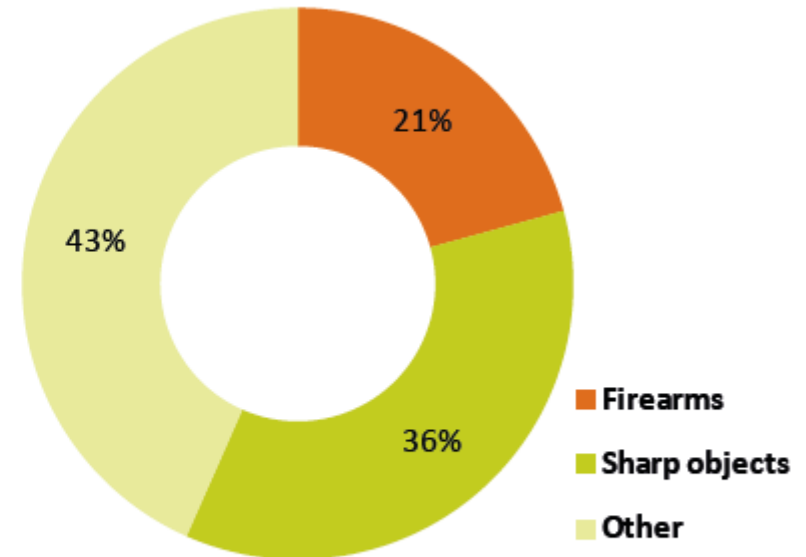


# Homicide mechanism, Americas and Europe (2008)

Homicide mechanism - Americas (30 countries)



Homicide mechanism - Europe (32 countries)

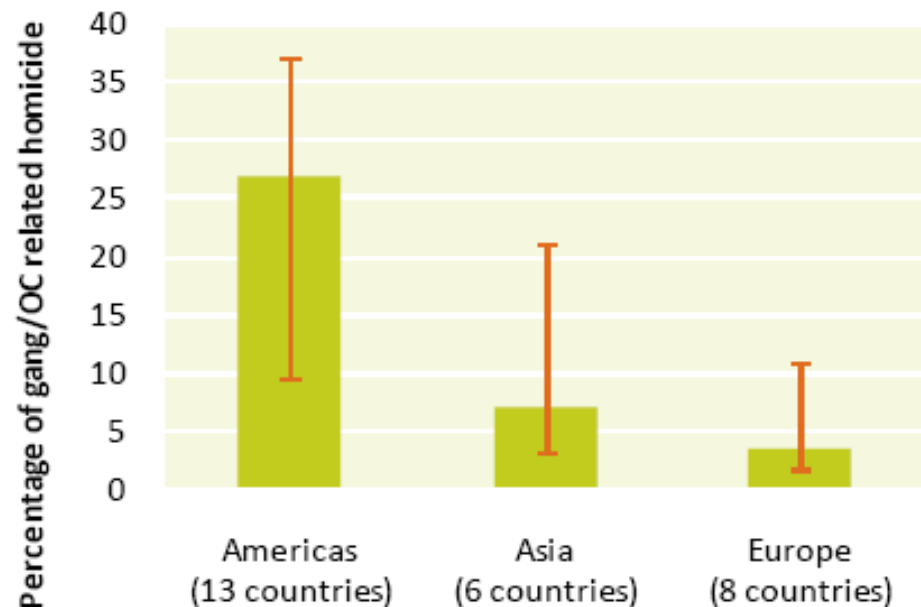


Source: Global Burden of Injuries, *Injury Mortality Data Collection* (2011).

# Homicide rates and gang/OC related homicides (2010)

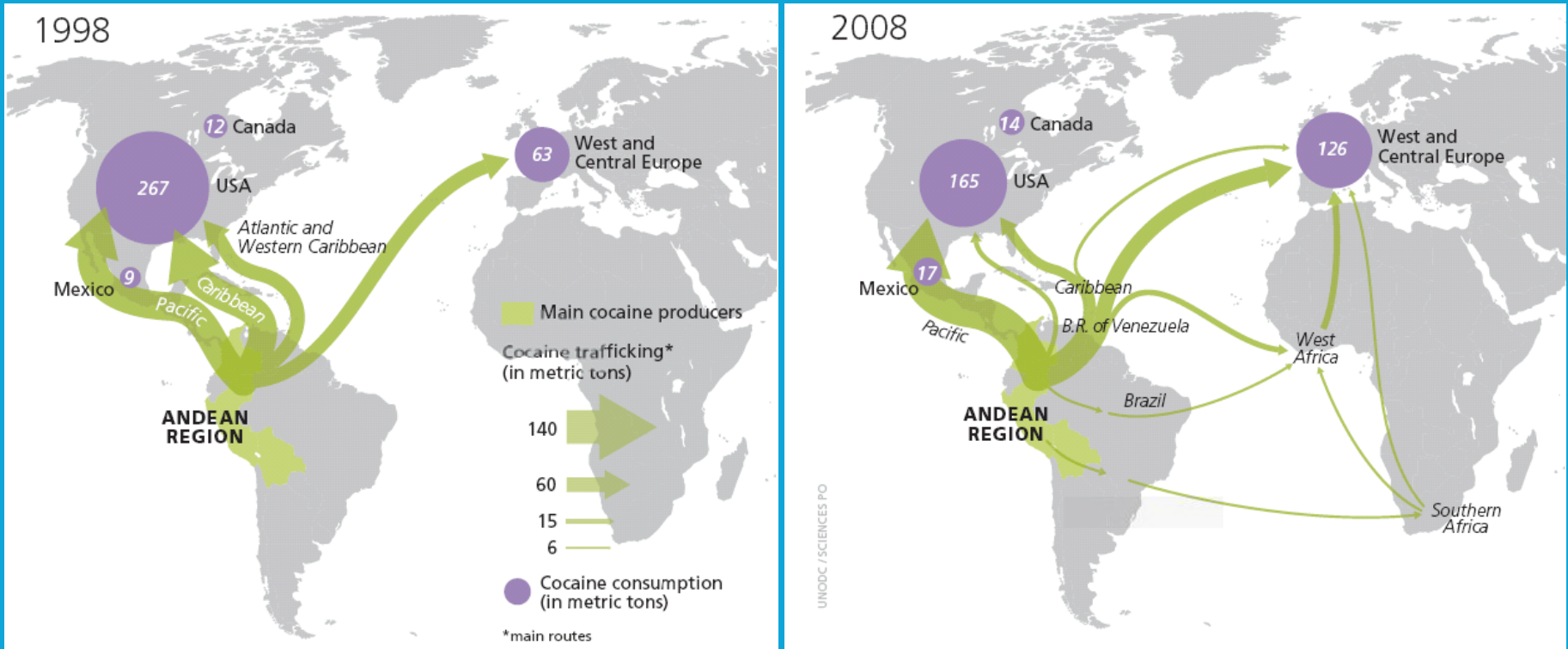
Violent crime due to gang/organized crime highest in the Americas

**Fig. 3.9: Proportion of gang/organized crime-related homicides by region (2010 or latest available year)**



Source: UNODC elaboration of national police data. Bars represent median, 1st and 3rd quartiles of percentage of gang/organized crime-related homicides.

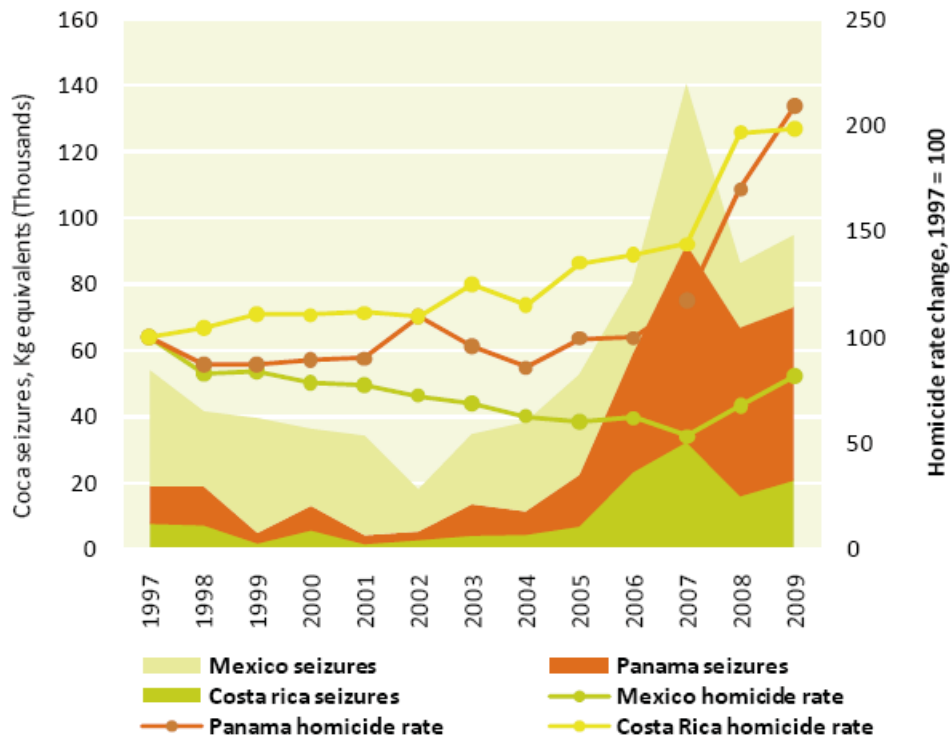
# Change in cocaine trafficking routes



Less cocaine to North America, but more through Central America and less through Caribbean

# Cocaine seizures and homicide rates, selected countries in Central America (1997-2009)

**Fig. 3.13: Cocaine seizures and trends of homicide rates, selected countries in Central America (1997-2009)**



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011) and ARQ. Area is proportional to cocaine seizures in kg equivalents. Lines represent percentage change in homicide rate based on a starting point of 100 for 1997.

**Increased trafficking** of cocaine through Central America triggered a raise on violent crime (Panama and Costa Rica)

In Mexico **decreased trafficking** after 2007 triggered the increase in violent crime due to competition among drug traffickers and fights to control the territory





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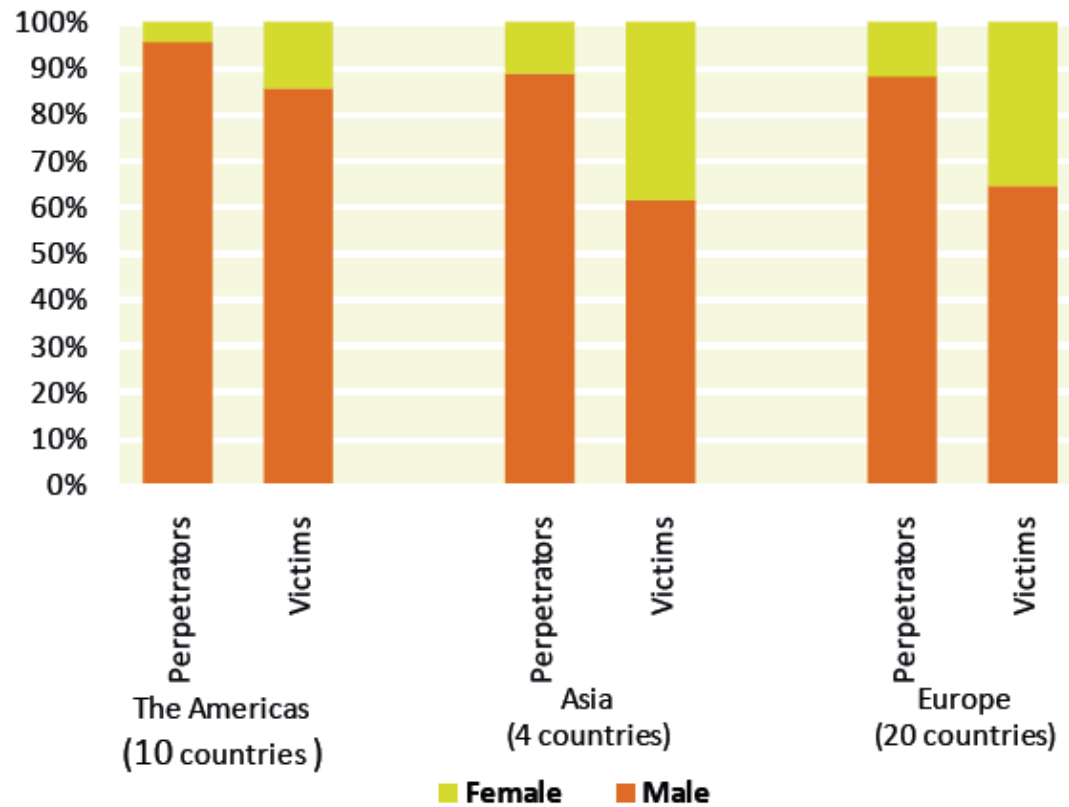
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# Homicide and demographics: who is at risk?

Men are those most often involved in homicide, accounting for some 80% of homicide victims and perpetrators. Men between 15-44 are the most at risk

**Fig. 5.13: Distribution of victims and perpetrators of homicide by sex and region (2009 or latest year available)**

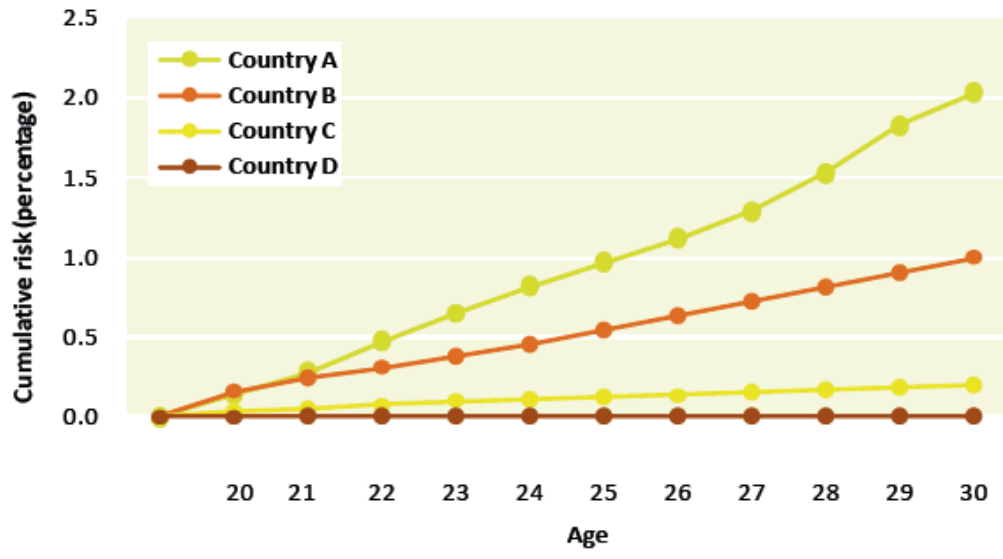


Source: UNODC elaboration of UN-CTS.

Victims and perpetrators by region

Homicide is often a male affair

**Fig. 5.10:** Cumulative homicide risk for males aged 20 in 1996, selected countries (1996-2006)



Country A: high level of homicides, high percentage by firearm

Country B: high level of homicide

Country C: low level of homicide

Country D: very low level of homicide

Risk of dying between  
the age of 20 and 30



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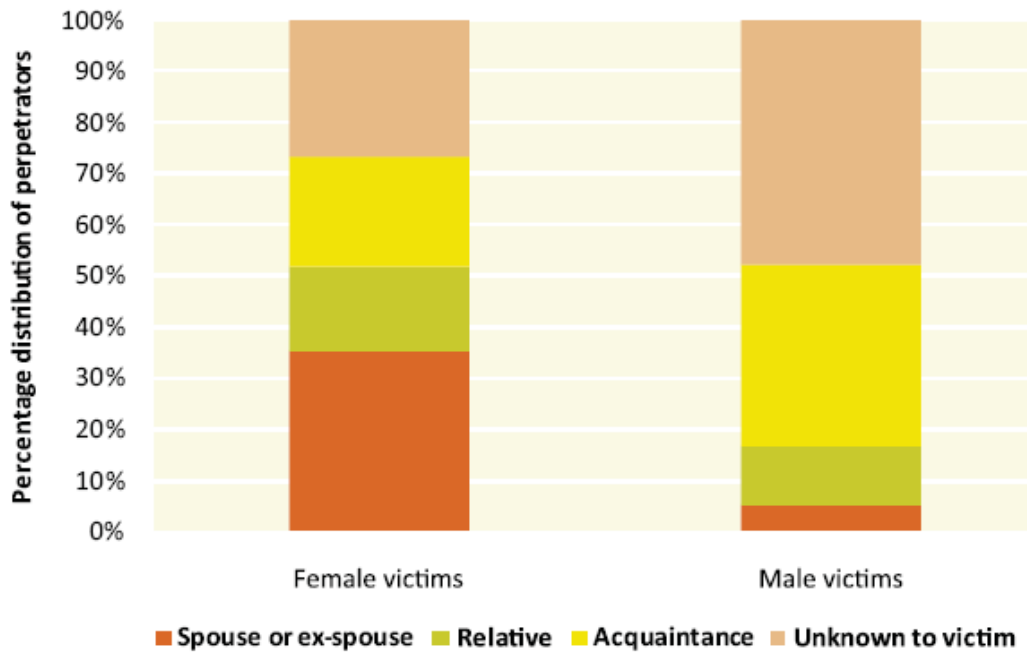
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# Women and Intimate Partner/Family-related Homicide

Women are less frequently victim of homicide, they are often killed by family members

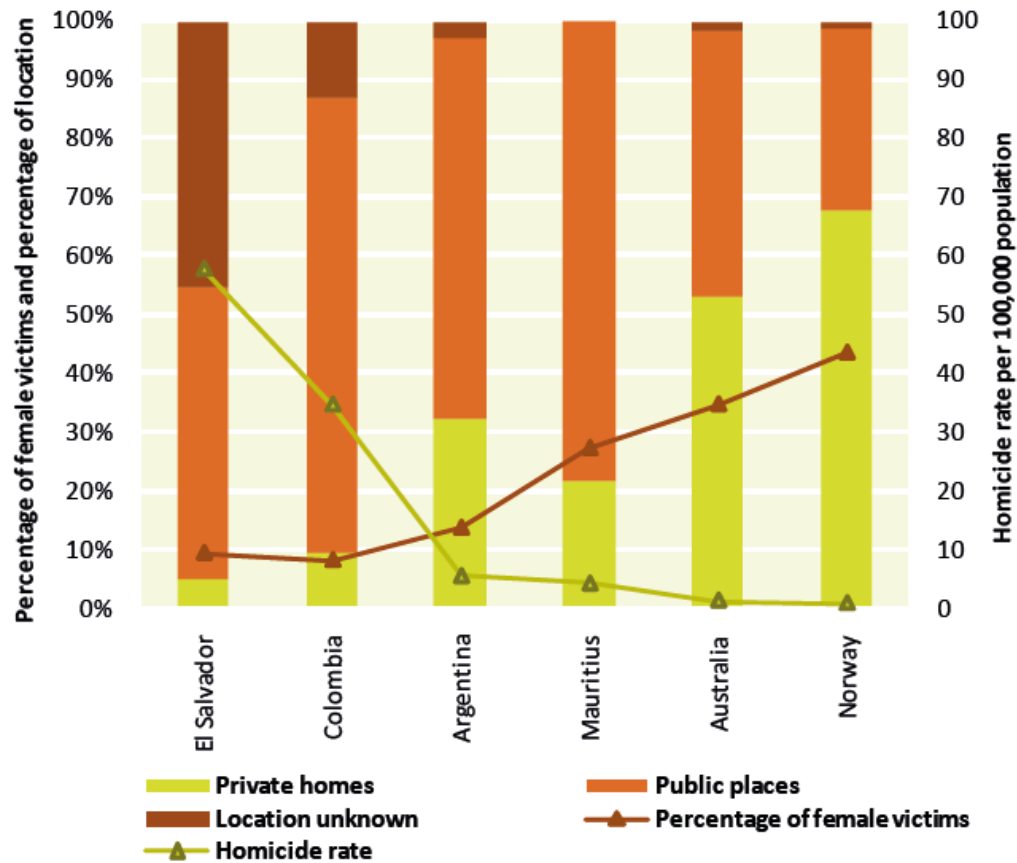
**Fig. 4.1:** Percentage distribution of homicide perpetrators by sex of victim, selected European countries (2008 or latest available year)



Source: UNECE Statistical Division Database.

Women are less frequently victim of homicide, but they are often killed by family members

**Fig. 4.4:** Percentage distribution of homicide locations and homicide rates, selected countries (2009 or latest available year)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national official sources.

Home is where women are most at risk of been killed, while men are more at risk in the street



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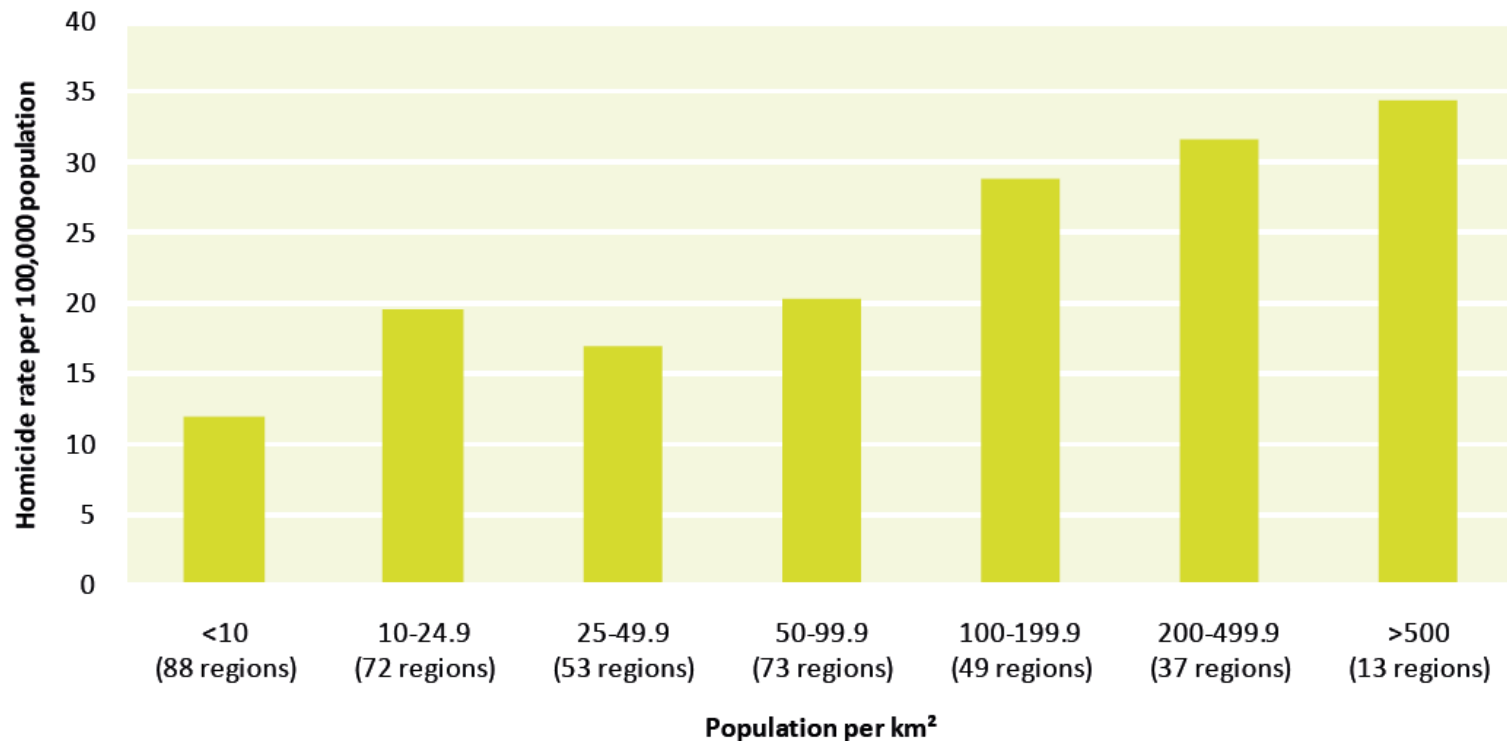
# The urban dimension

There are large differences within countries. Urban areas have higher homicide rates, but they can also better target prevention policies



# Homicide rates tend to concentrate in urban areas

**Fig. 6.1:** Homicide rates by population density of subnational regions, the Americas (2010 or latest available year)

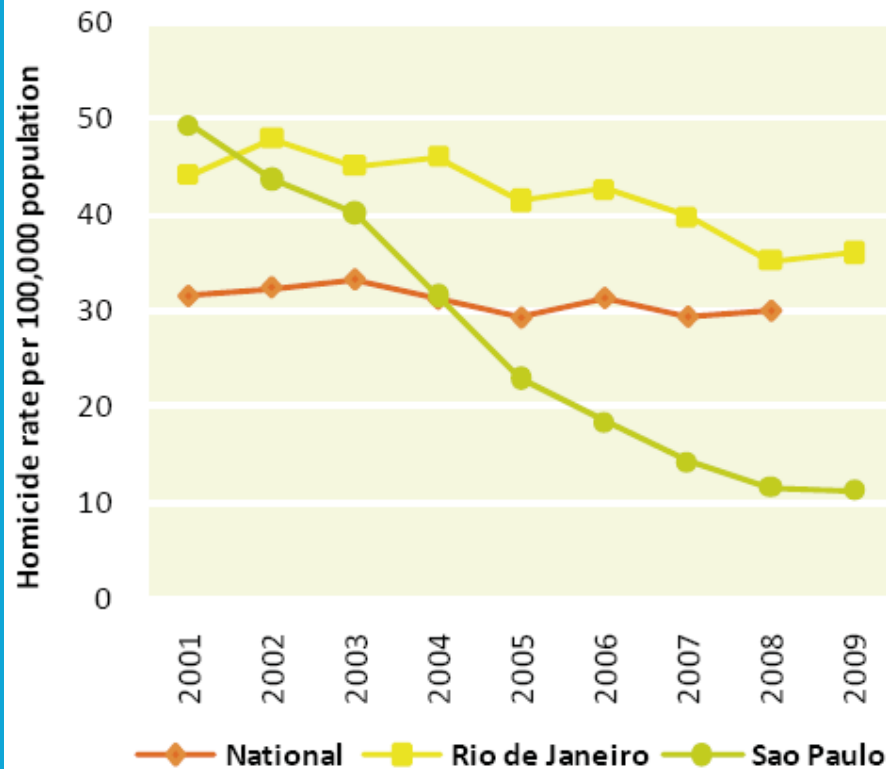


Source: UNODC elaboration of national official sources.





**Fig. 6.4: Homicide rates in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo municipalities (2001-2009)**



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011), Secretaria de Segurança Pública de São Paulo and Instituto de Segurança Pública de Rio de Janeiro.

## The successful story of Sao Paulo



# In summary

- 468,000 homicides in 2010 at global level (36% in Africa, 31% in the Americas, )
- Increase in Central America and the Caribbean
- Several drivers:
  - Economic development, inequality and rule of law
  - Firearms
  - Drug trafficking and organised crime/gangs
  - Domestic violence
  - Urban dimension



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*Better data, deeper analysis,  
improved policies, less homicide*

**Thank you for  
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