

GLOBAL STUDY ON HOMICIDE

2011

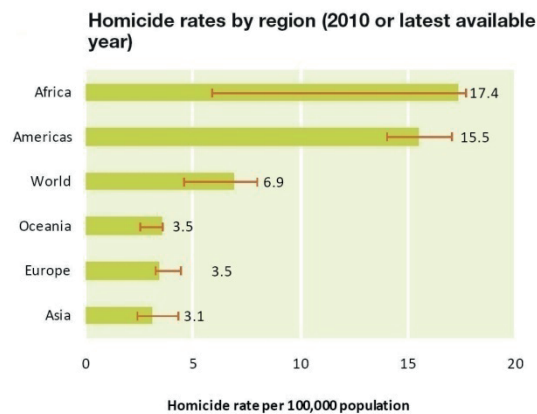
TRENDS / CONTEXTS / DATA



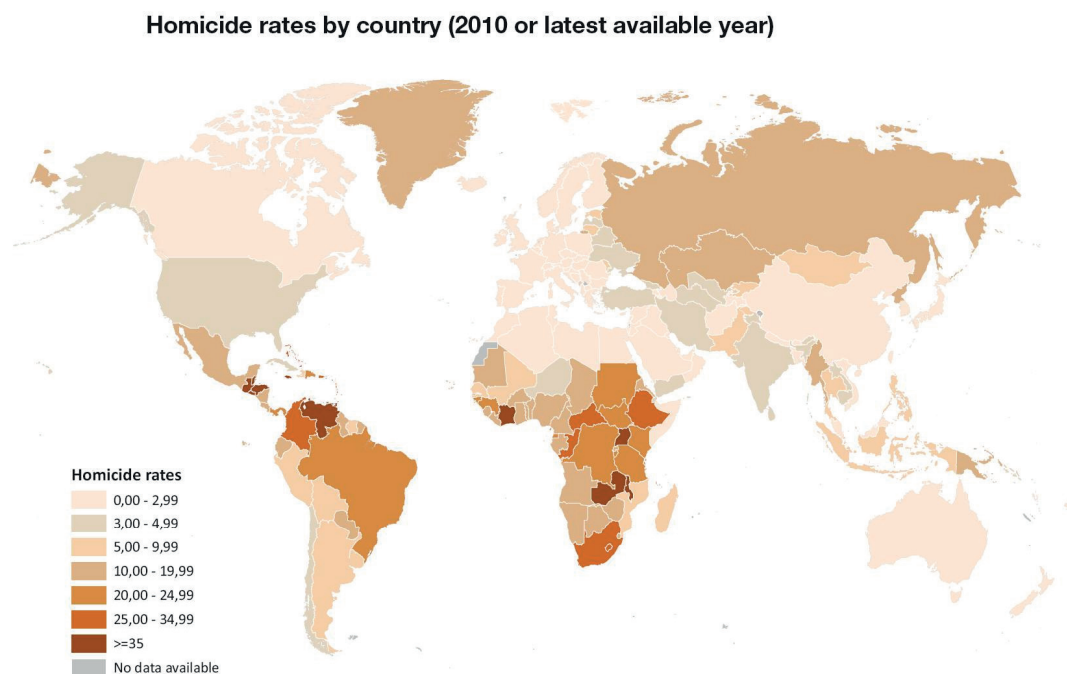
Key Findings

THE GLOBAL PICTURE

Globally, the total number of intentional homicides estimated by UNODC was 468,000 in 2010, which equals 6.9 homicides per 100,000 population. More than a third (36 per cent) of those are estimated to have occurred in Africa, 31 per cent in the Americas, 27 per cent in Asia, 5 per cent in Europe and 1 per cent in Oceania.

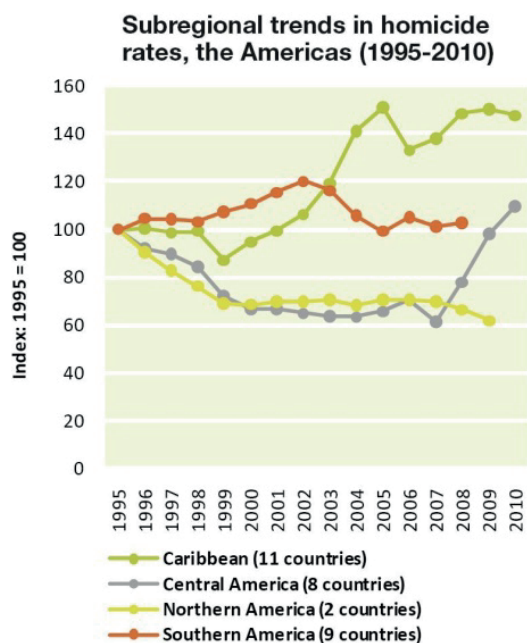


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011). Bars represent population weighted average homicide rate, with high and low estimates.

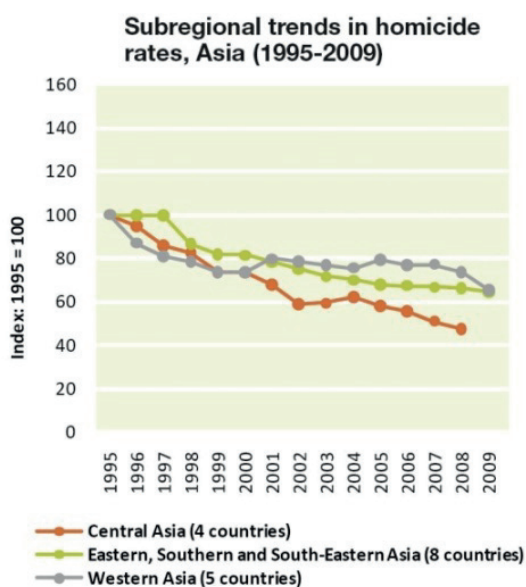


Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

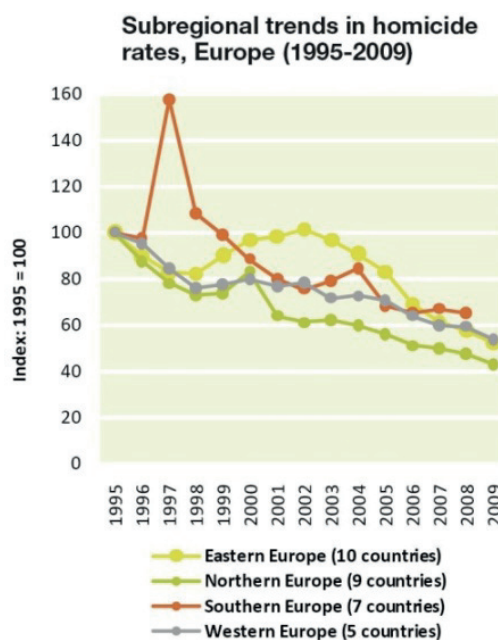


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011). Lines represent percentage change in population weighted homicide rate based on a starting point of 100 for 1995.



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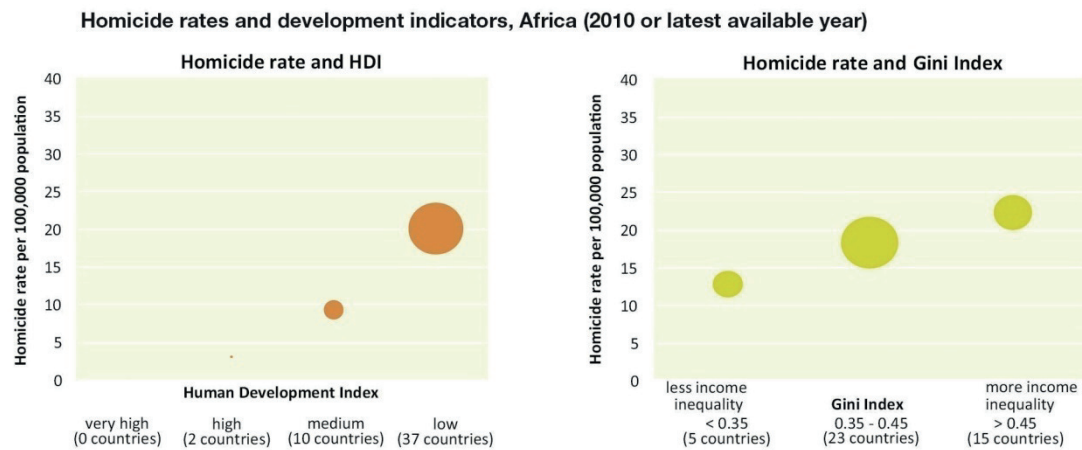
The 2011 *Global Study on Homicide* shows a sharp increase in homicide rates in Central America and the Caribbean. In South America homicide rates have decreased in the last 15 years.



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

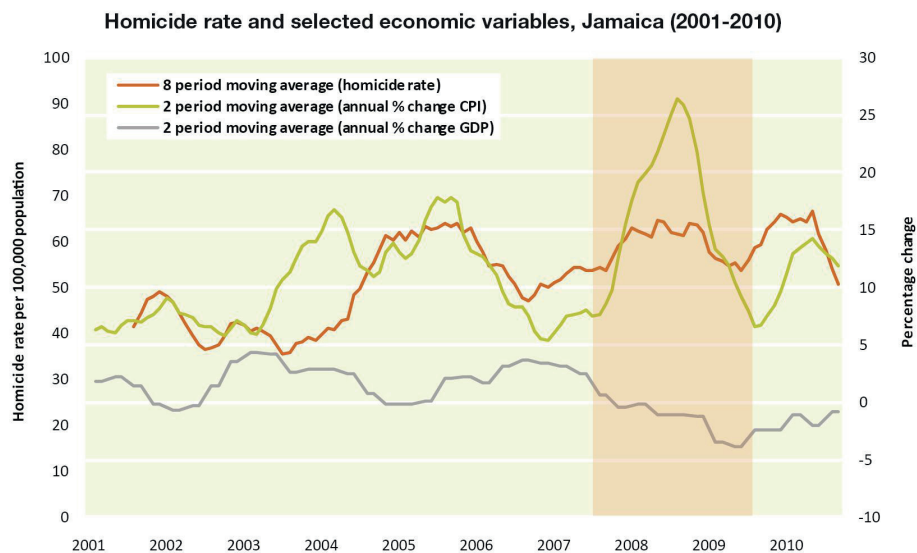
HOMICIDE AND DEVELOPMENT

The 2011 *Global Study on Homicide* shows a clear link between homicide and development. Higher levels of homicide are associated with low human development; this, in turn, fosters crime.



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.

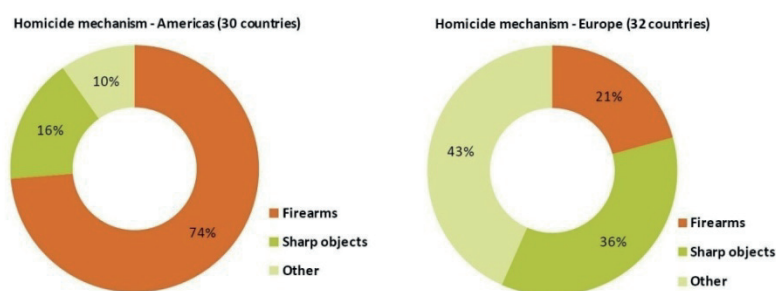
Besides considering long-term trends in socioeconomic variables and their relationship with homicide, the 2011 *Global Study on Homicide* looks at the effect of short-term economic changes on crime and homicide. Homicide levels can be affected by sudden pronounced changes in the economy. In a sample of countries, changes in economic conditions corresponding to the financial crisis of 2008/2009 were associated with increases in homicide levels. Increasing prices and a decline in GDP mark the economic crisis, for example in Jamaica, where an increase in levels of homicide can be noted in the same period.



Source: Jamaica Police Constabulary and IMF IFS data base.

FIREARMS, TRAFFICKING AND ORGANIZED CRIME

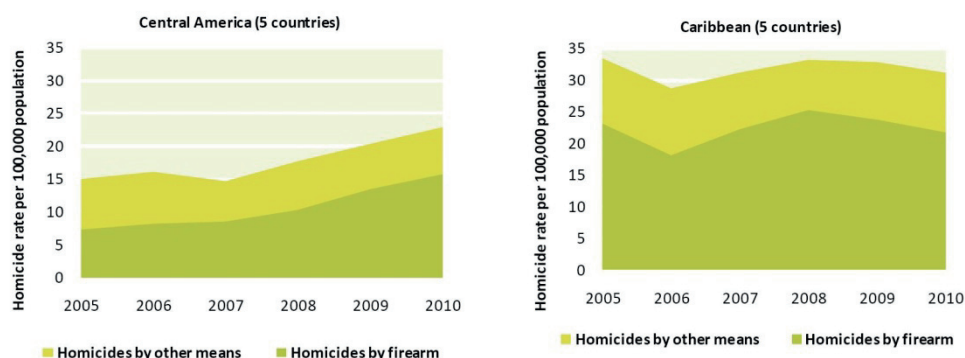
Homicide mechanism, the Americas and Europe (2008 or latest available year)



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

As the majority of violent killings involve the use of some form of weapon, statistics on intentional homicide can provide proxy information on overall levels of violent crime. 42 per cent of global homicides are actually committed by firearm.

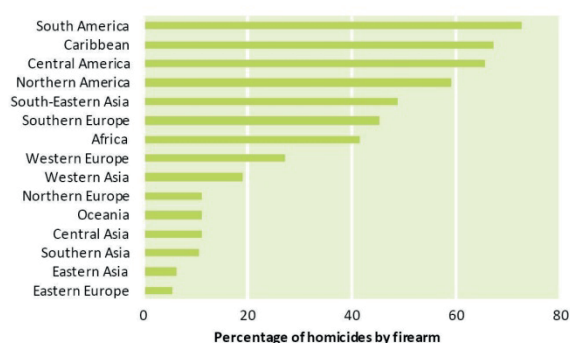
Firearm and non-firearm homicide rates, the Americas (latest available time period)



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

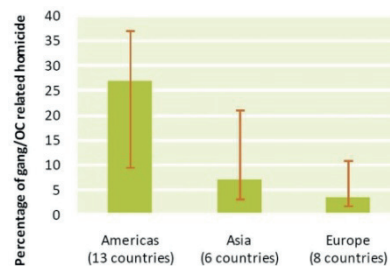
The role played by firearms in homicide is fundamental and, while the specific relationship between firearm availability and homicide is complex, it appears that a vicious circle connects firearm availability and higher homicide levels. Firearms undoubtedly drive homicide increases in certain regions and where they do members of organized criminal groups are often those who pull the trigger.

Percentage of homicides by firearm in subregions (2010 or latest available year)



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics.

Proportion of gang/organized crime-related homicides by region (2010 or latest available year)

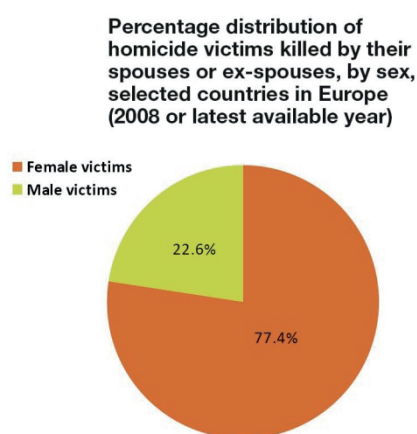


Source: UNODC elaboration of national police data. Bars represent median, 1st and 3rd quartiles of percentage of gang/organized crime-related homicides.

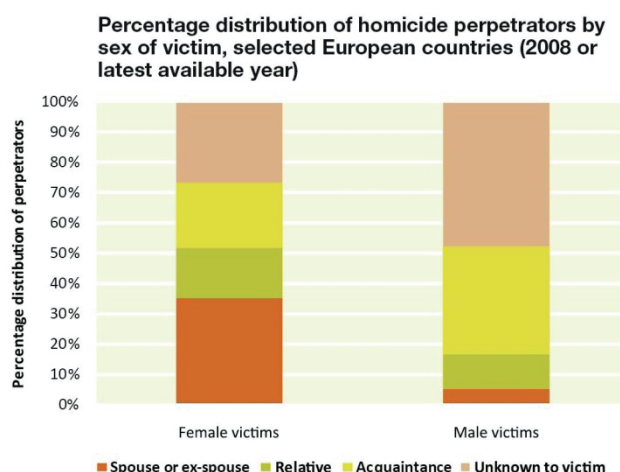
In many countries with high homicide rates the share of firearm homicides is also greater and is often associated with the illicit activities of organized criminal groups, which are often linked to drug trafficking, the root cause of the surge in homicides in Central America in recent years. Overall, violent crime related to gangs or organized crime is highest in the Americas.

WOMEN AND INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY-RELATED HOMICIDE

Women around the globe, to a greater or lesser extent, remain vulnerable to both lethal and non-lethal violence. Violence against women can occur at home, in the street or in the workplace, and be perpetrated both by persons known and unknown to the victim. Its most common manifestation globally, however, is in the form of intimate partner/family-related violence. Victims of this form of violence are most likely to be women at the hands of their current or former male partners. In a large number of countries, intimate partner/family-related violence is a major cause of female homicides. Homicide trends affecting women are driven by this type of violence, rather than by firearm and organized crime/gang-related violence.



Source: UNECE Statistical Division Database.

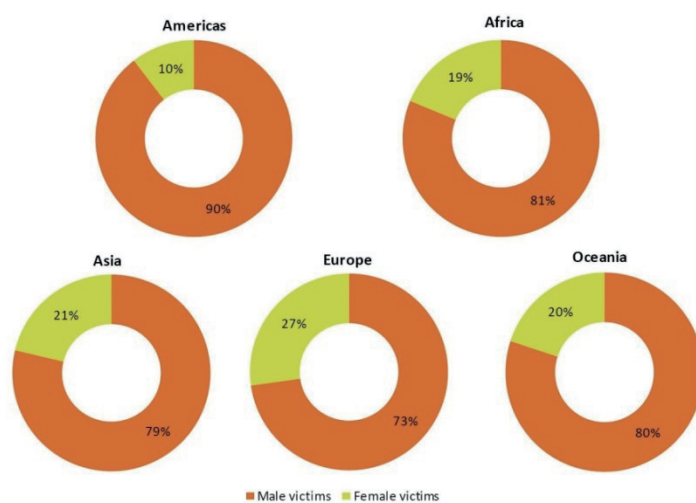


Source: UNECE Statistical Division Database.

For example, in 2008 more than a third (35 per cent) of female homicide victims in Europe were murdered by spouses or ex-spouses and 17 per cent by relatives, while women account for more than three quarters (77 per cent) of all the victims of intimate partner/family-related homicide in the region.

HOMICIDE AND DEMOGRAPHICS: WHO IS AT RISK?

Percentage distribution of homicide victims by sex and region (2008)

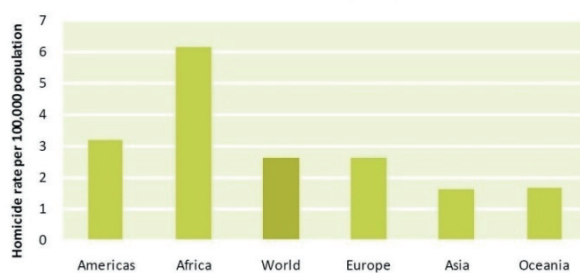


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

Men are those most often involved in homicide in general, accounting for some 80 per cent of homicide victims on a global level. The age and sex composition of homicide victims varies considerably between regions. The share of female homicide victims ranges from 10 per cent in the Americas to 27 per cent in Europe.

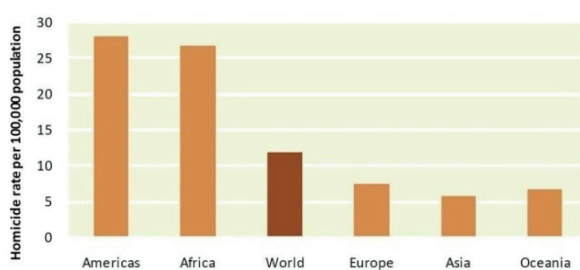
Almost twice that in the Americas, the highest homicide rate among females globally is in Africa (6.2 per 100,000), where homicide rates are not driven by organized crime to the same extent, but street crime, non-specific lethal violence and intimate partner/family-related homicide all play an important role.

Female homicide rates by region (2008)



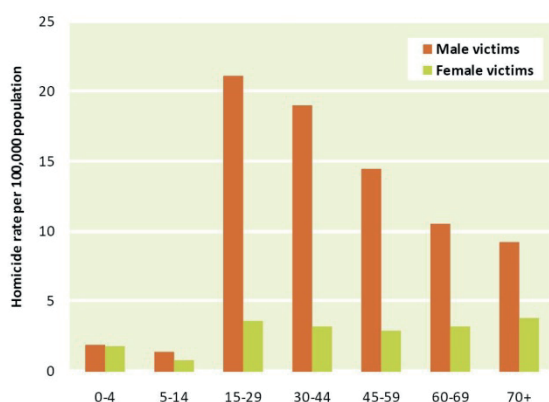
Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

Male homicide rates by region (2008)



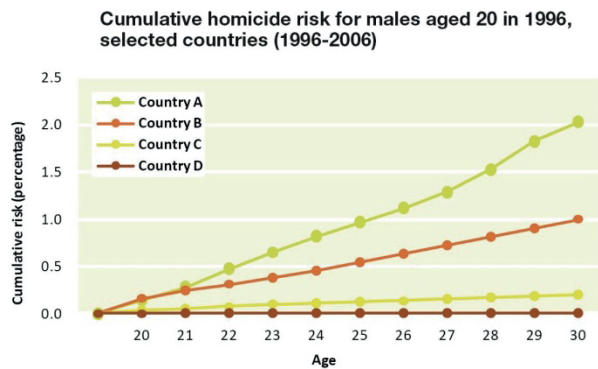
Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011).

Global homicide rate by sex and age group (2008)



Source: WHO, Causes of Death 2008 dataset (2011).

Young males in particular are those most at risk due to their more likely participation in violence prone activities such as street crime, gang membership, drug consumption, possession of weapons, street fighting, etc.

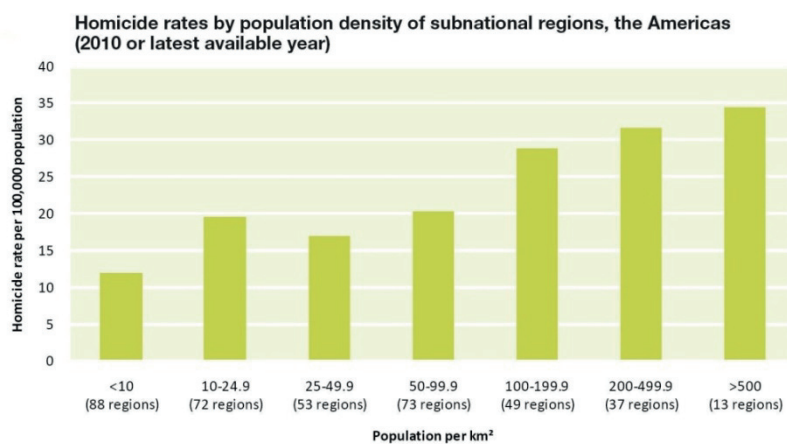


Source: UNODC elaboration of Global Burden of Injuries, *Injury Mortality Data Collection* (2011). Line represents percentage risk for a male aged 20 in 1996 of becoming a victim of homicide before each subsequent year until age 30 (2006).

In countries characterized by high levels of homicide related to organized crime, the risk of a 20-year-old man being murdered before the age of 31 can be as high as 2 per cent, meaning that 1 in 50 males in those countries is murdered by that age. The risk in countries with a low homicide rate is 400 times lower.

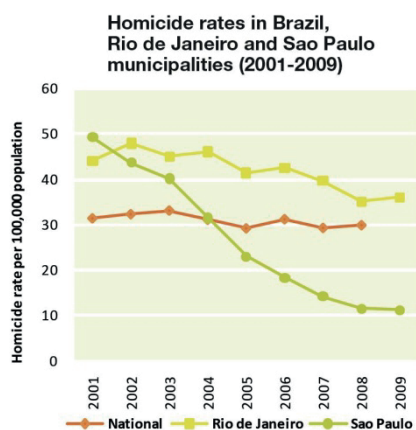
THE LOCAL PICTURE

Homicide levels can vary greatly within a country and certain areas, for example those near national borders or in the vicinity of drug production or trafficking hubs are often affected by higher homicide rates, as is the case in some Central American countries. Big cities and densely populated areas represent another possible risk area for violent crime.



Source: UNODC elaboration of national official sources.

While urban environments can offer protective elements such as better policing and faster access to medical facilities, in many countries, homicide rates in very populous cities are higher than in the rest of the country. This can be a consequence of a number of factors, both of a social (inequality, segregation, poverty) and criminological nature (more targets, drug markets, anonymity).



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

In the case of Brazil, the recent experience of Sao Paulo, the country's most populous city, demonstrates the possibilities for violent crime prevention and reduction in the urban context. Tighter controls on firearms, in conjunction with disarmament campaigns were implemented in Brazil to reduce crime levels and homicides in particular. At national level, such measures probably contributed to the slight decrease in homicide rates after 2004, but the impact was noticeably stronger in Sao Paulo. The strikingly different trends in homicide rates in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro show that such crime prevention policies can make a real difference at local level.