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GLOBAL  
STUDY ON  
**HOMICIDE**

2013

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# Global Study on Homicide 2013

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# Global Study on Homicide 2013

## Goals:

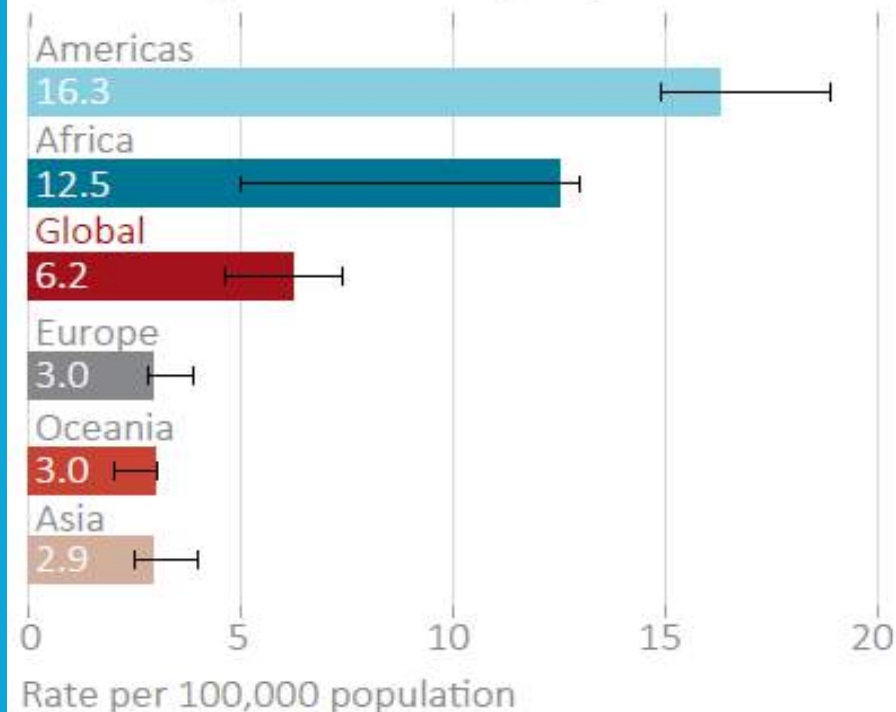
- To provide the international community with up to date, complete and comparable statistical information on intentional homicide
- To analyse trends/patterns and enablers in order to assist countries in identifying areas for action and prevention



## Global and regional levels of homicide (2012)

- 437,000 homicides at global level in 2012
- Global rate: 6.2 per 100,000 population

**Fig. 1.2: Homicide rates, by region (2012 or latest year)**

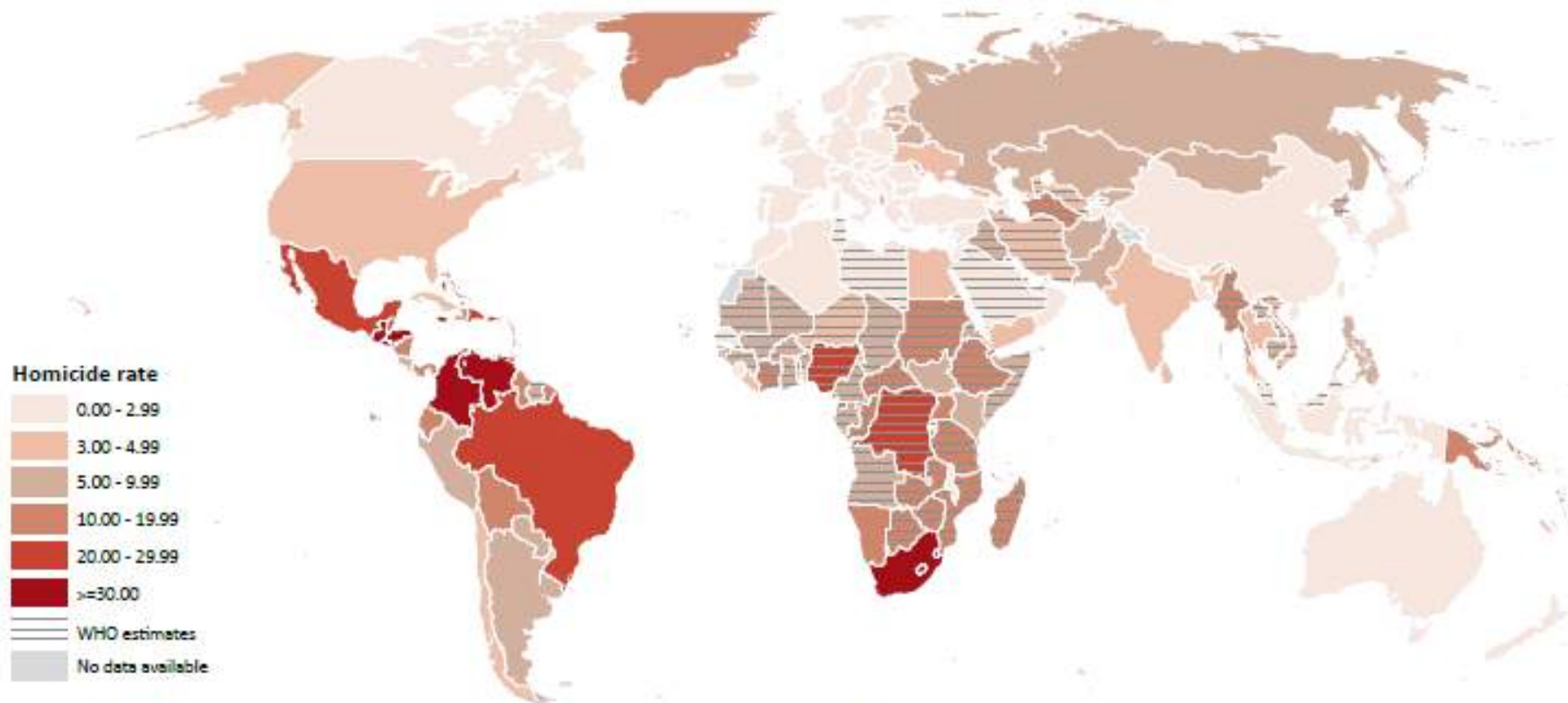


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013). The bars represent population-weighted homicide rates based on the source selected at the country level, with low and high estimates derived from homicide rates based on additional sources existing at the country level.



## Homicide rate by country or territory (2012)

**Map 1.1: Homicide rates, by country or territory (2012 or latest year)**



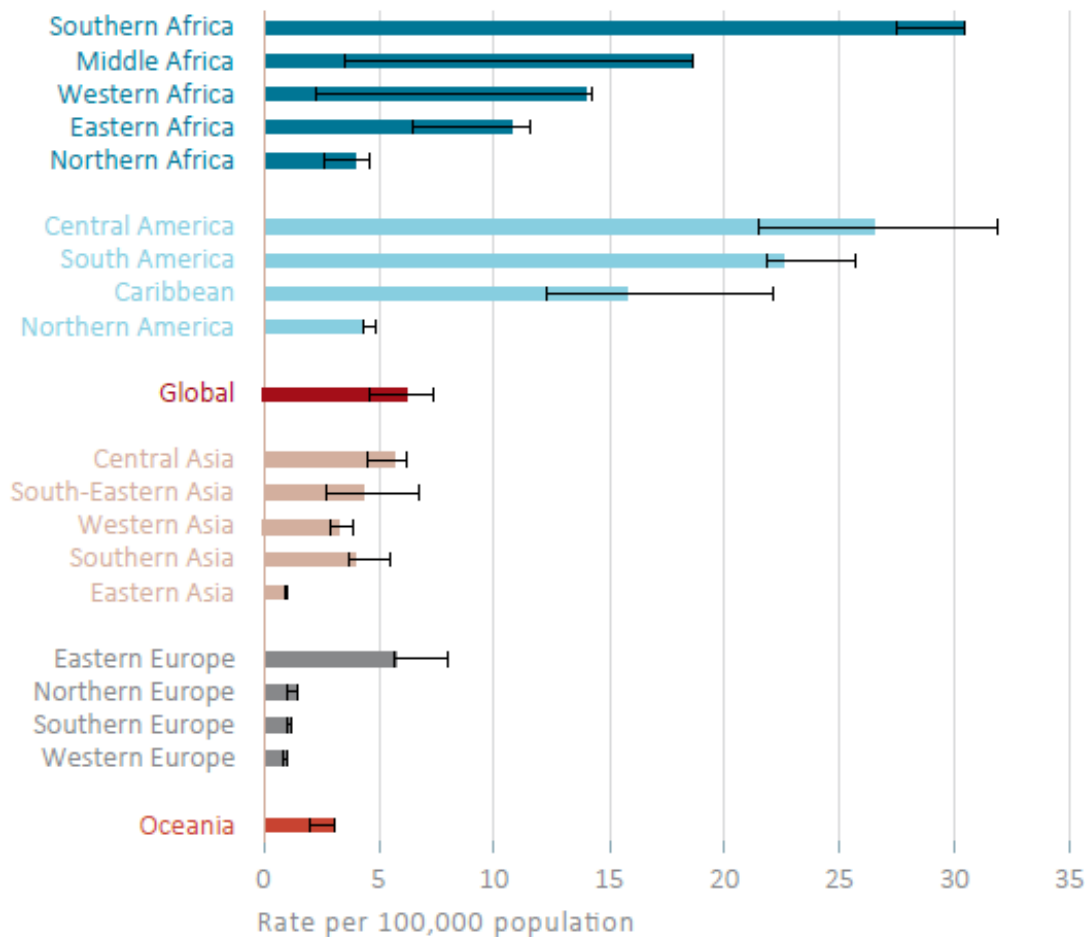
Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).



## Sub-regional homicide rates (2012)

**Fig. 1.3: Homicide rates, by sub-region (2012 or latest year)**

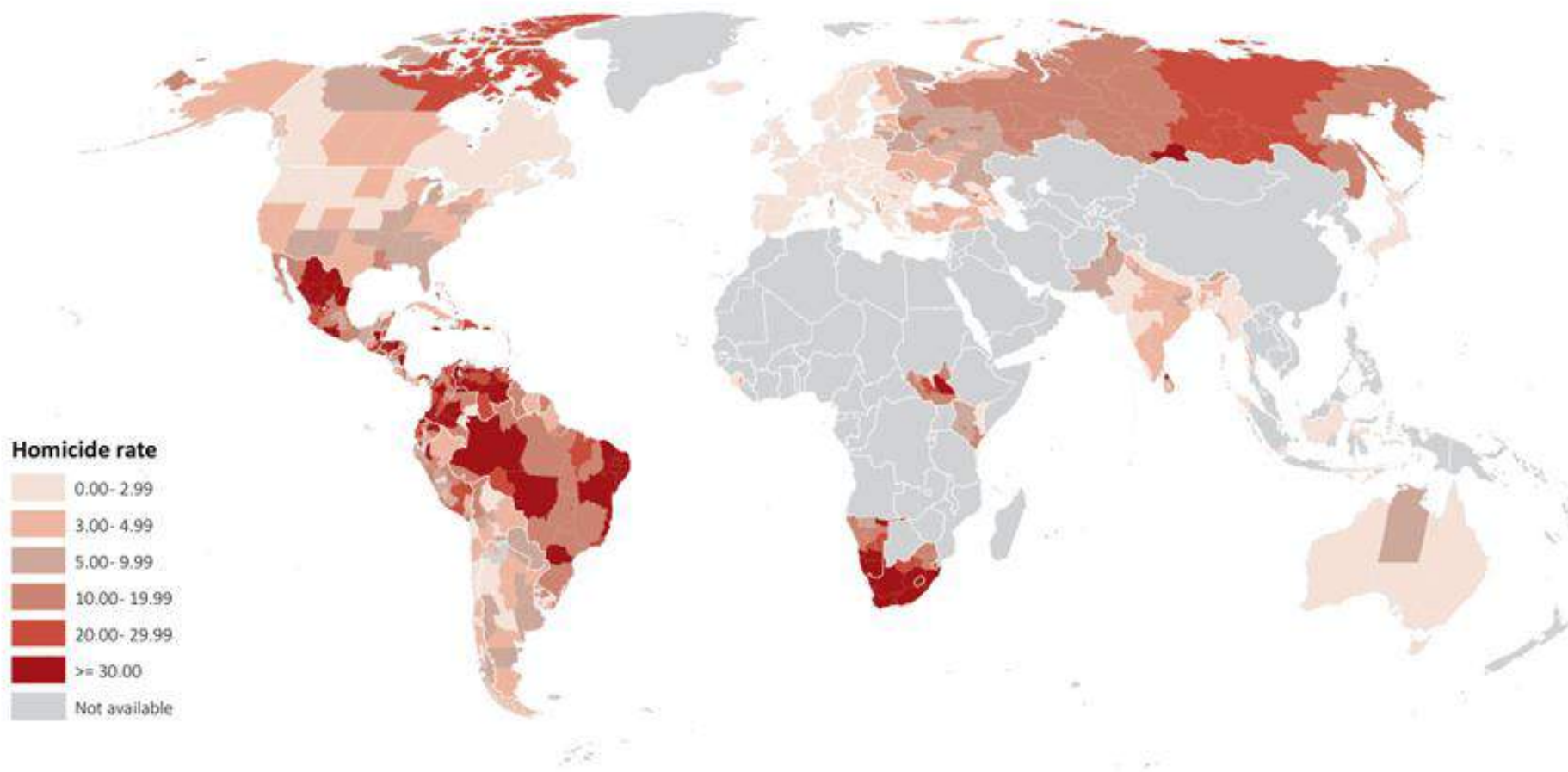


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013). The bars represent population-weighted homicide rates based on the source selected at the country level, with low and high estimates derived from homicide rates based on additional sources existing at the country level.

- Southern Africa & Central America rate >25
- South America, Middle Africa, Caribbean rate 16-23



## Homicide rates at the sub-national level (2012)



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).





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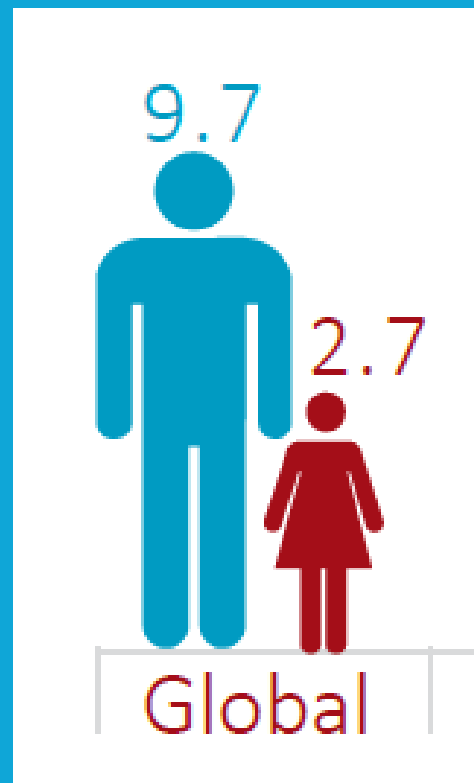


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# Who is at risk?

- The gender bias:
  - 79% of homicide victims are male
  - 95% of homicide perpetrators are male

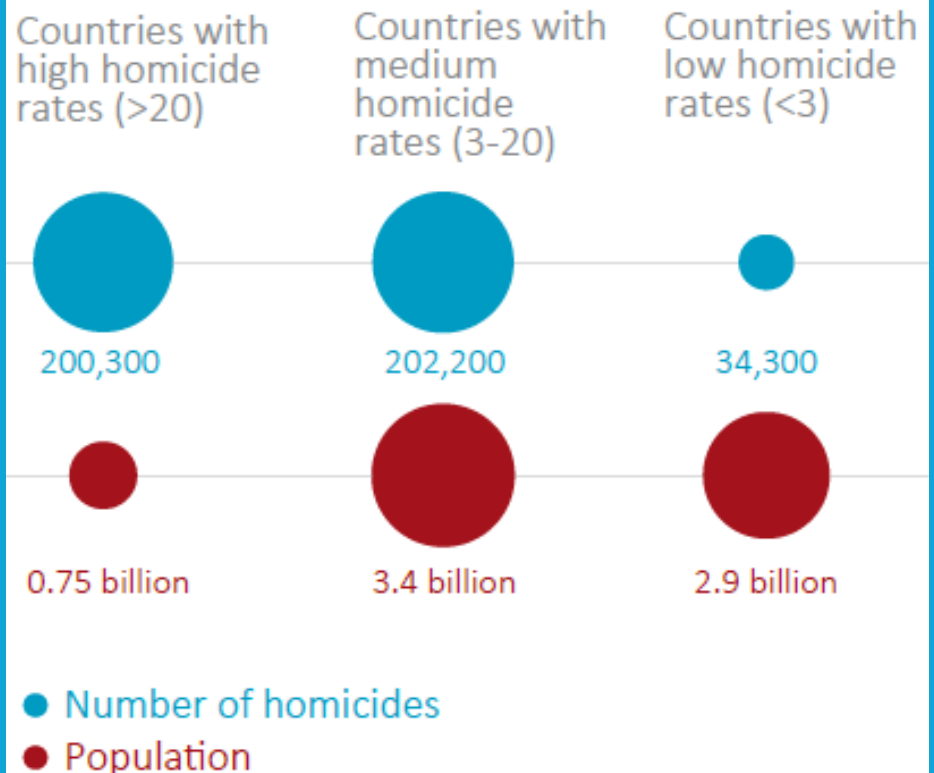




## Homicide victims and population (2012)

- Countries with 11% of global population account for 46% of all homicides
  - All in Africa or the Americas
- Personal security: a problem for 1 in 10 people

### Homicide victims and population, by countries' level of homicide per 100,000 population (2012 or latest year)



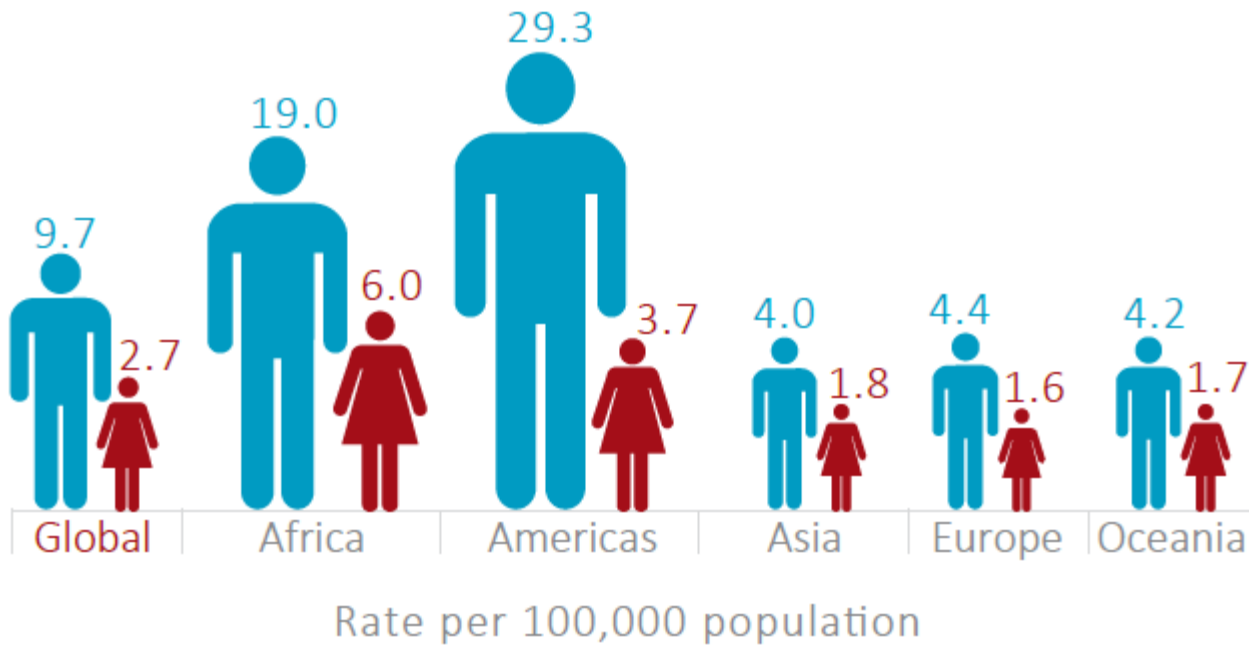
Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).





## Homicide rates, by region and by sex (2012)

**Fig. 1.7: Homicide rates, by region and by sex (2012 or latest year)**

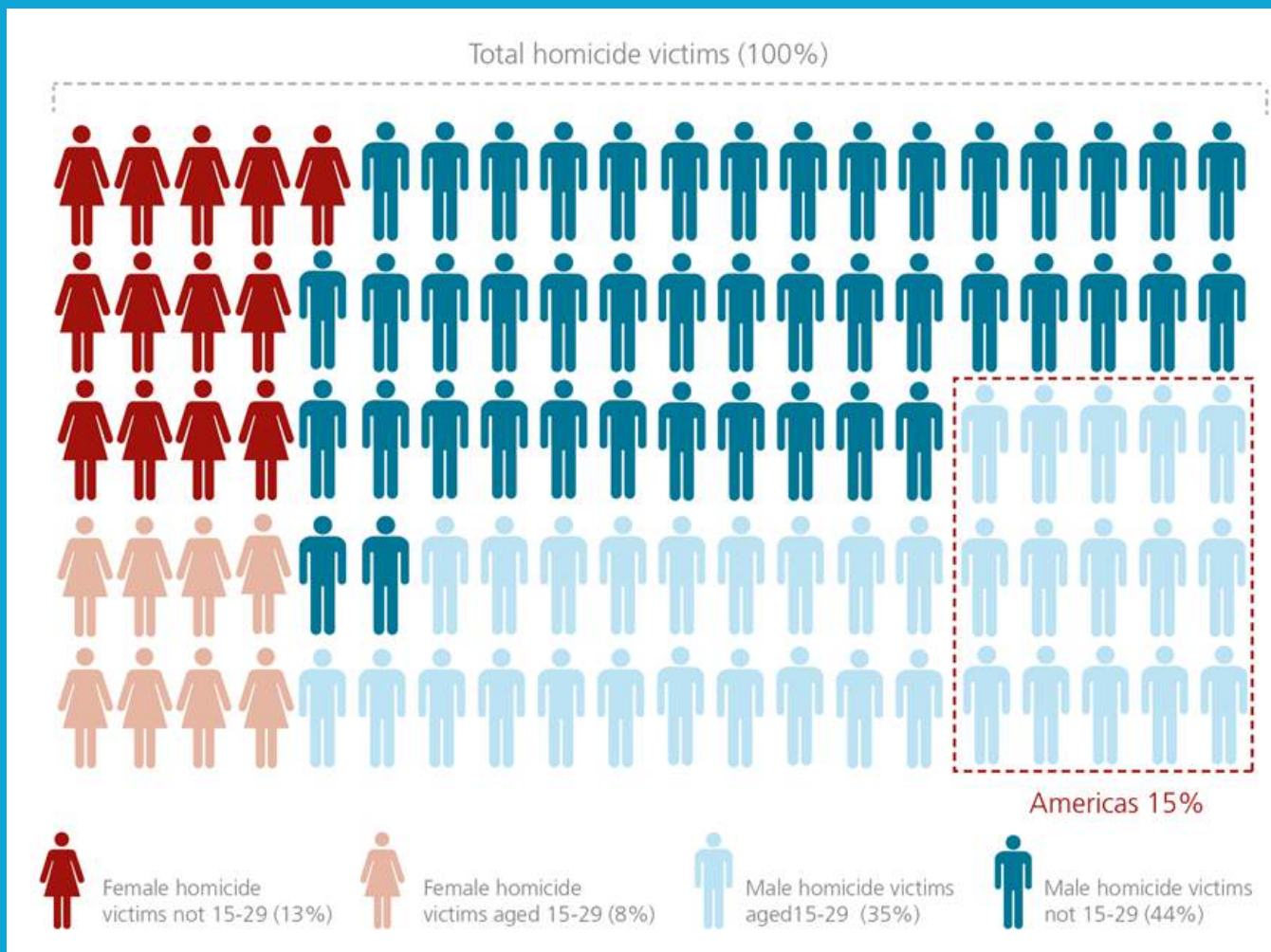


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).

- Male rates higher than female rates in every region
- Globally, male rate 4x female rate



## Percentage distribution of homicide victims, by sex and selected age groups (2012)

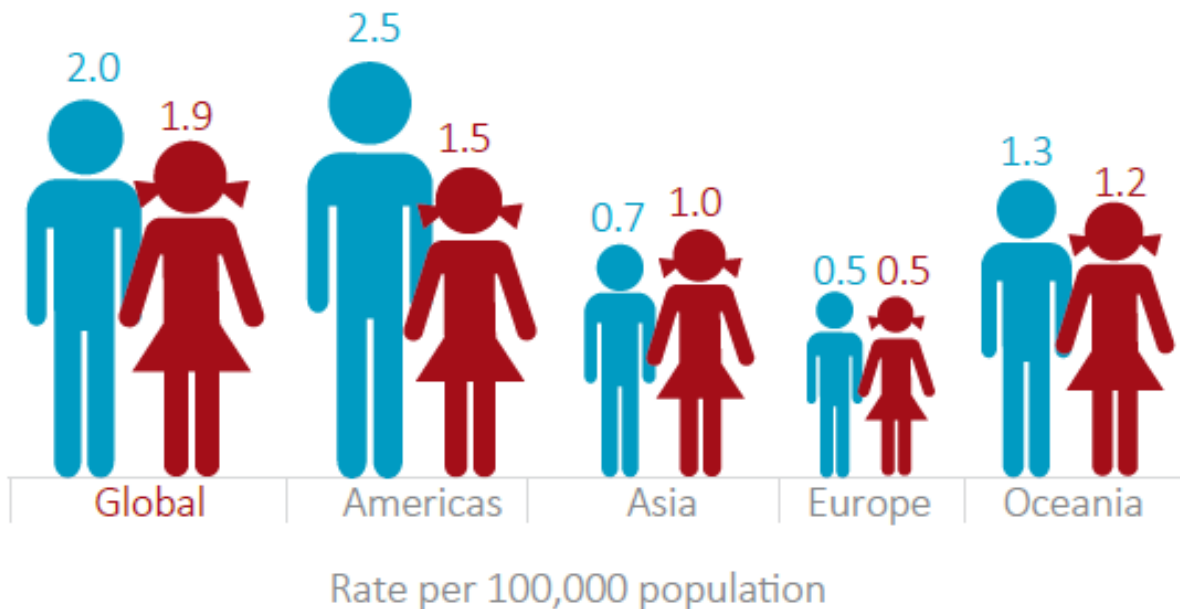


- 43% of all homicide victims are aged 15-29
- More than 1 in 7 victims is a young male in the Americas



## Homicides rates of children aged 0-14, by region (2012)

**Fig. 1.13:** Homicide rates of males and females aged 0-14, by region (2012 or latest year)



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).

- 36,000 children (aged 0-14) were victims of homicide in 2012
- Over half of all homicide victims are less than 30 years old, particularly in the Americas



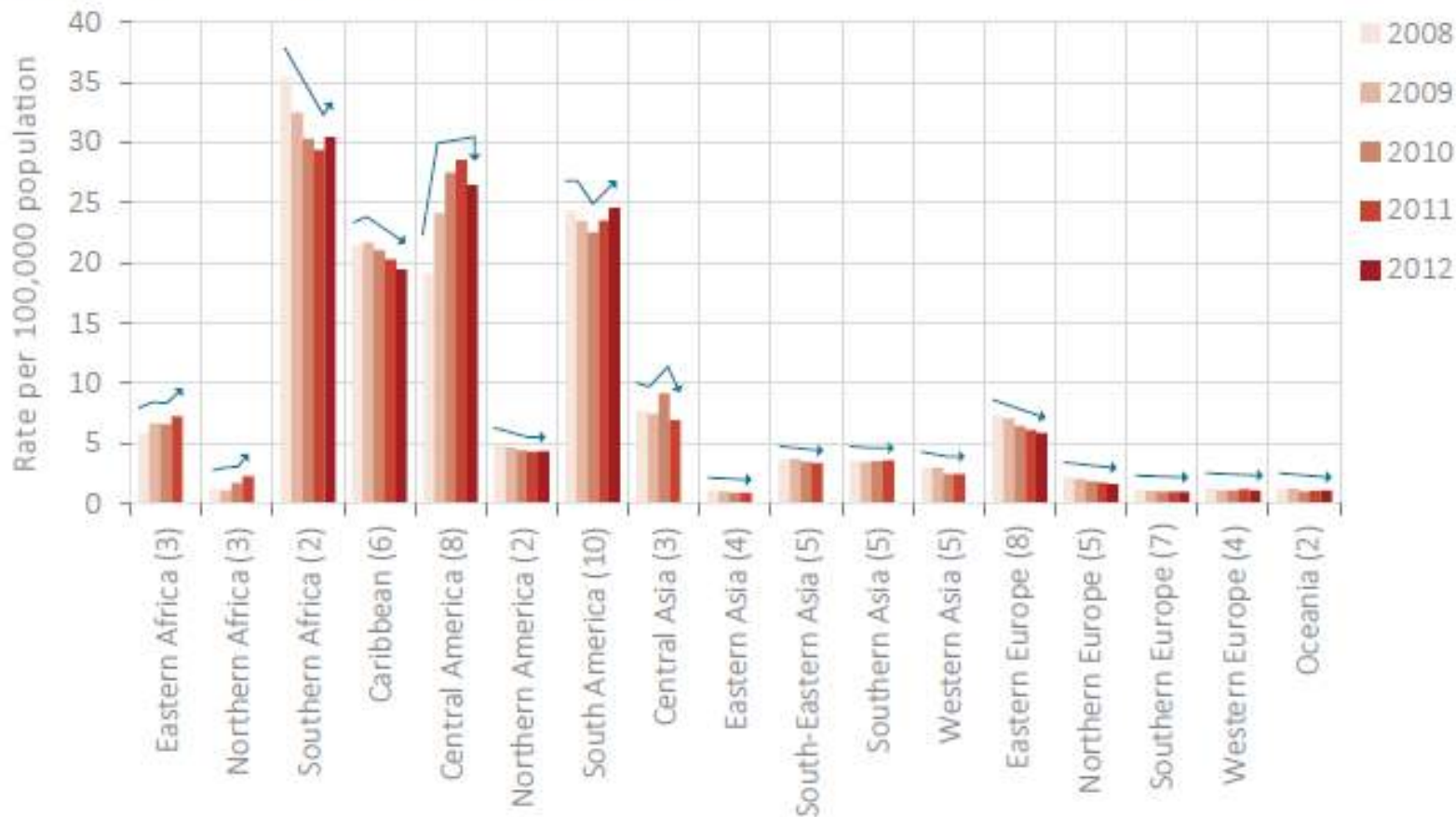
# Homicide trends

- Stability in much of Asia, Europe and Oceania
- Increases in Eastern and Northern Africa
- Slight overall increase in the Americas, but with diverse trends sub-regionally



# Homicide trends, by sub-region (2008-2012)

**Fig. 1.14: Homicide rates, by sub-region (2008-2012)**

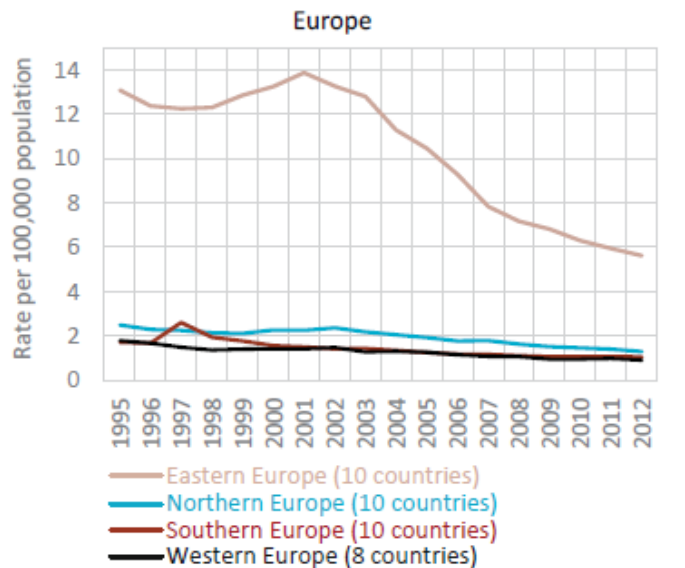


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).

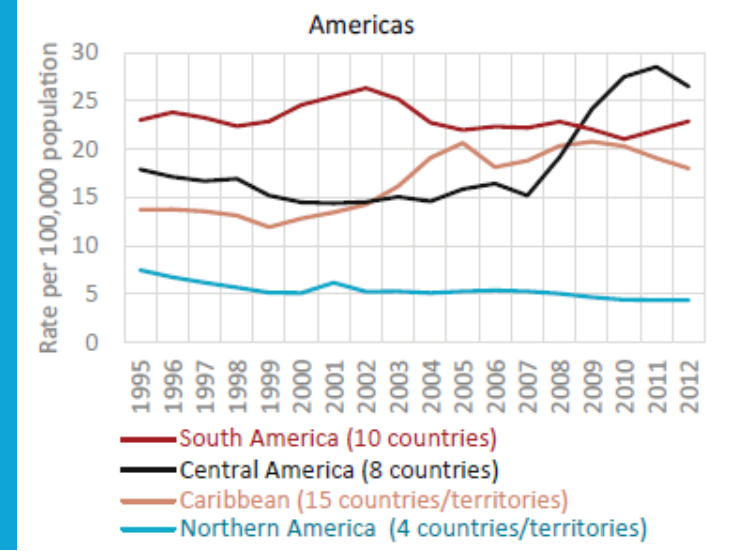
Note: Number of countries is denoted in brackets. Homicide trends are not available for any country in Central or Western Africa.



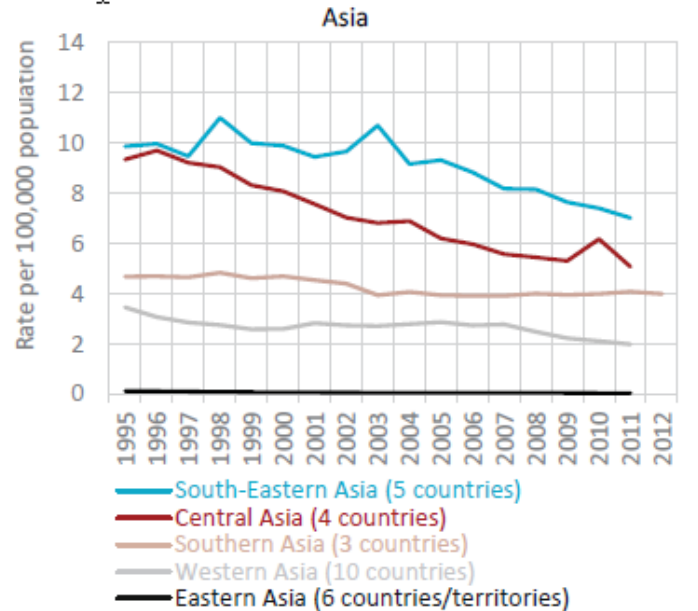
# Homicide trends (1995-2012)



Low and stable



Overall increase  
since 1995



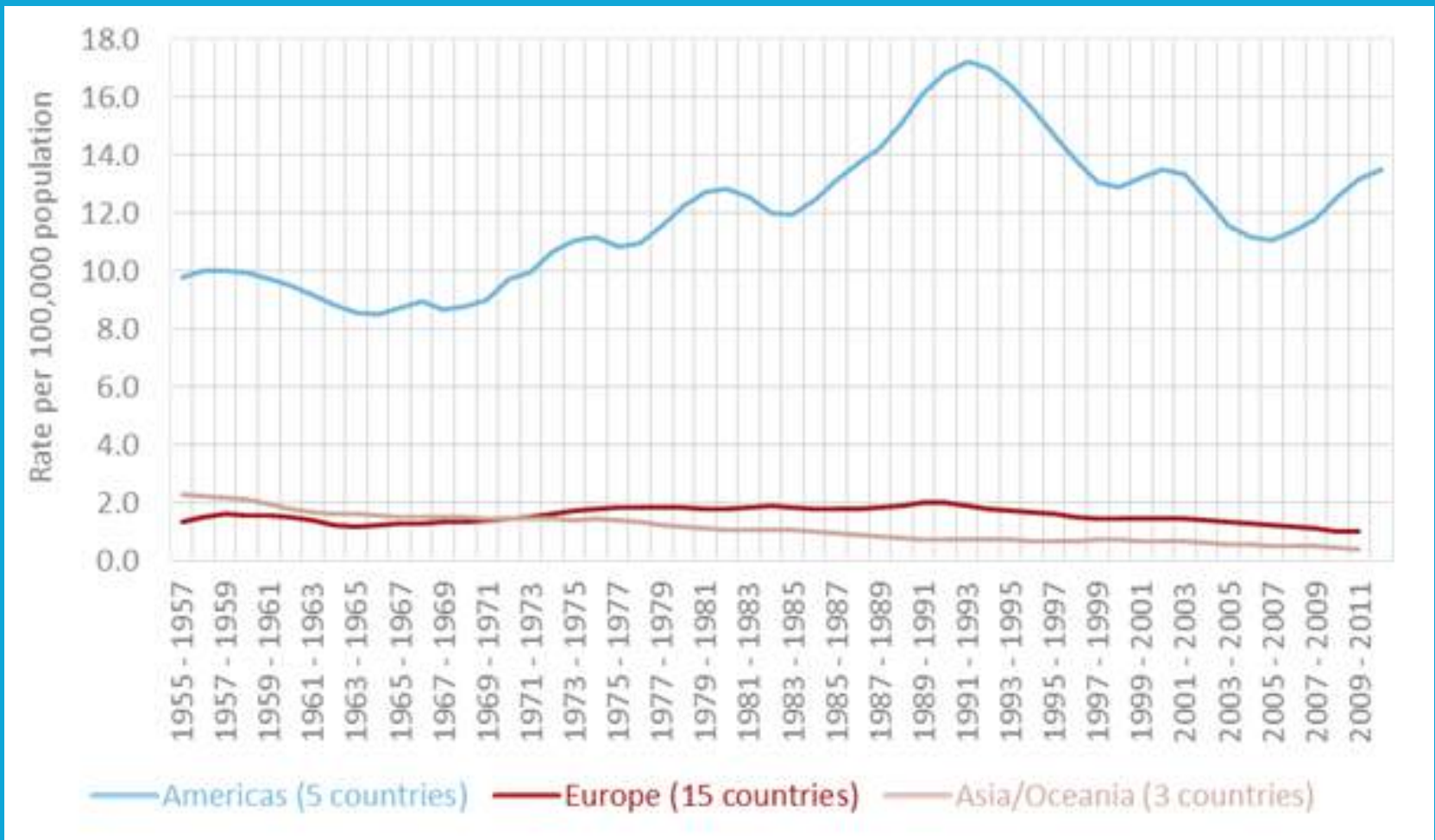
Steady decreases





## Long term trends in homicide

- Americas 5-8 times higher than Asia and Europe since 1955





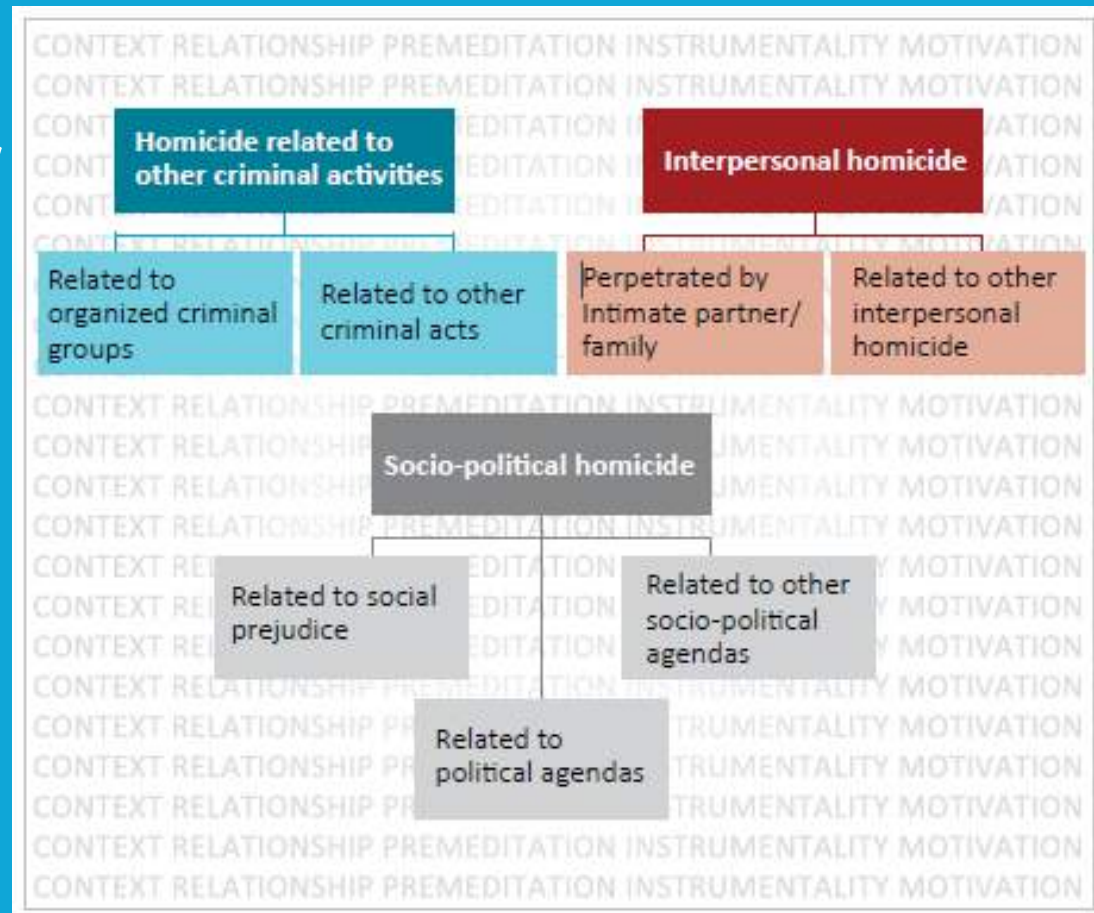
# The many faces of homicide

- There is a need to qualify homicide in order to better understand it, and to reduce it
- Complex under-taking:
  - Typologies often overlap
  - Multiple drivers
- Some typologies particularly relevant for crime prevention policies



## Typologies of homicide

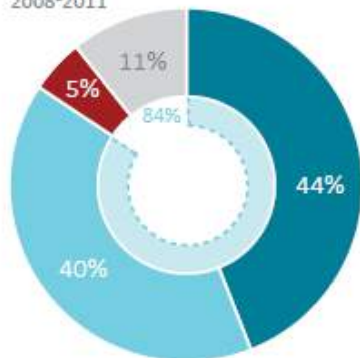
- Homicide related to other criminal activities
- Interpersonal homicide
- Socio-political homicide



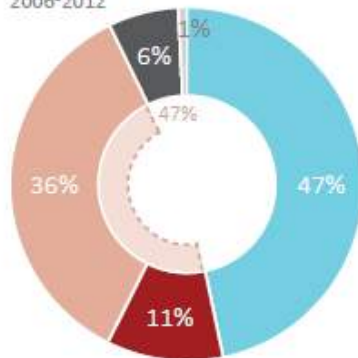


# Homicide typologies in selected countries (2001-2012)

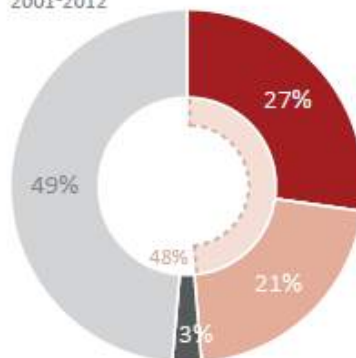
Jamaica  
2008-2011



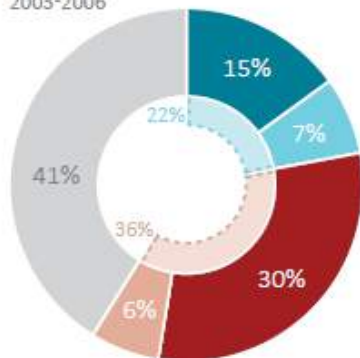
Costa Rica  
2006-2012



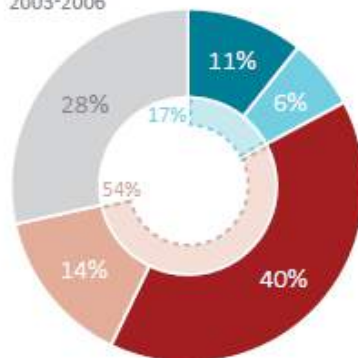
India  
2001-2012



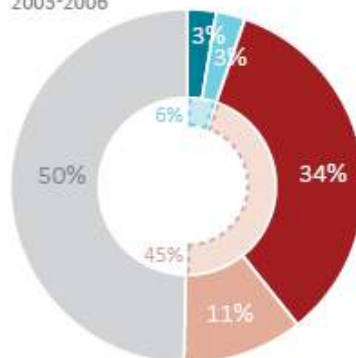
Netherlands  
2003-2006



Sweden  
2003-2006



Finland  
2003-2006



Organized crime/gang-related  
Robbery or other criminal acts  
Related to other criminal activities

Intimate partner/family-related  
Other interpersonal  
Interpersonal  
Socio-political  
Unknown

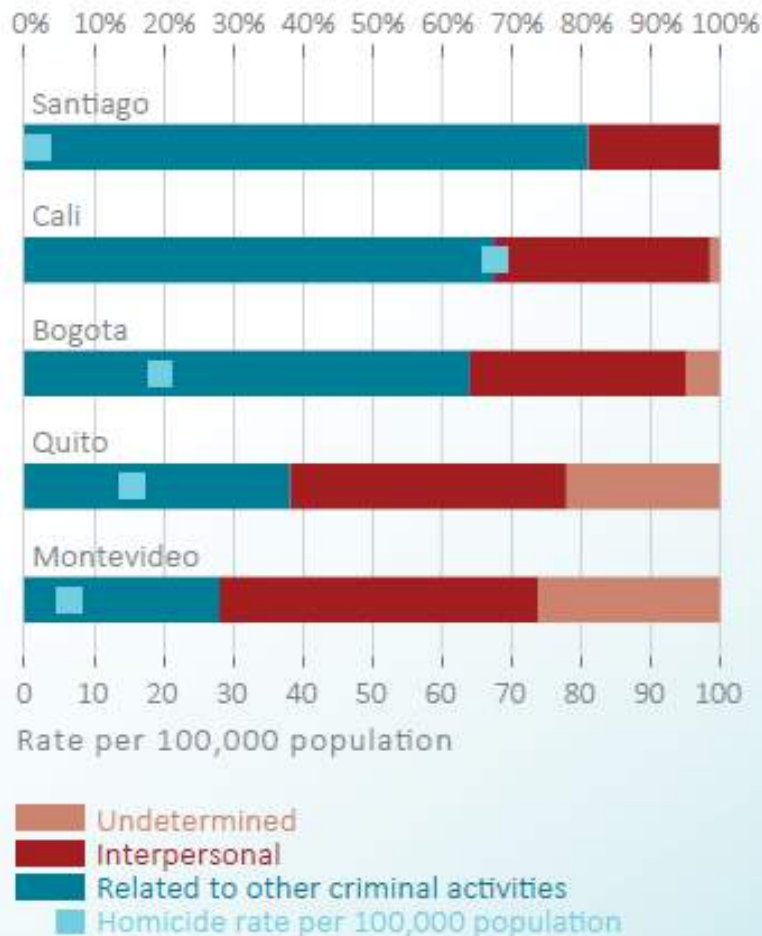
- Variety of different regional and national experiences
- Crime-related in Americas
- Interpersonal-related in Europe

→ No “one size fits all” approach



# Homicide typologies in selected cities (2008-2011)

**Fig. 2.1.9: Average share of homicides, by typology; and homicide rates, by selected cities, South America (2008-2011)**



Source: Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2013).

- Homicides not all linked to crime in Americas
- City data shows variety of experiences in South America

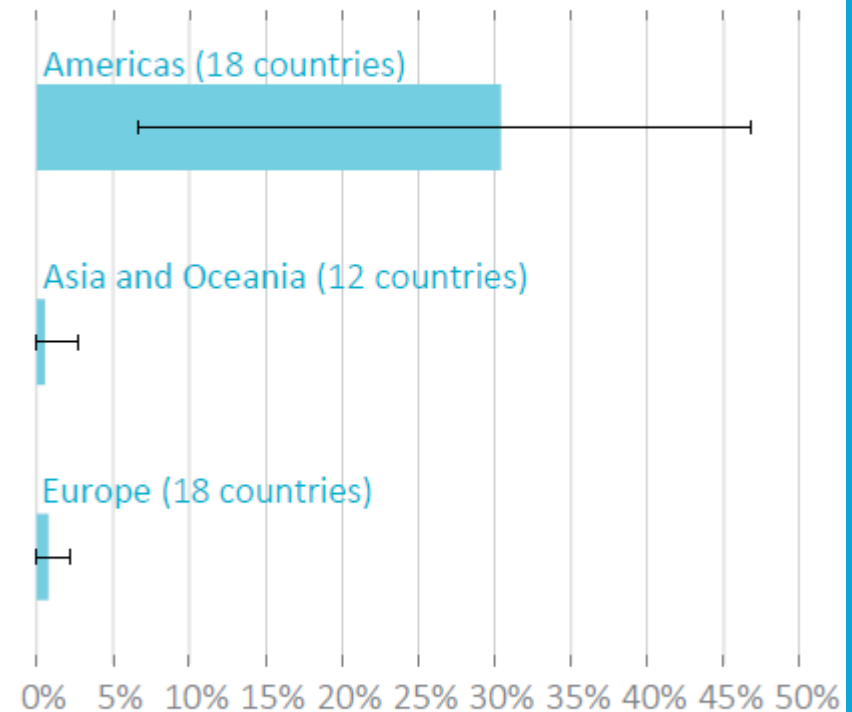




## Homicide typologies: Regional patterns

- **Homicide linked to criminal groups:** 30% of homicides in the Americas
- OC/gang-related homicides can produce sudden changes (i.e. decline in homicides in El Salvador after 2012 gang truce; rapid increase in Central America 2007-2011)

**Fig. 2.1.1: Percentage of organized crime/ gang-related homicides out of total homicides, by region (2011 or latest year)**



Note: The bars refer to the median percentage of homicides involving gangs or organized criminal groups, with the low and high estimates derived from the first and third percentage quartiles within each region.



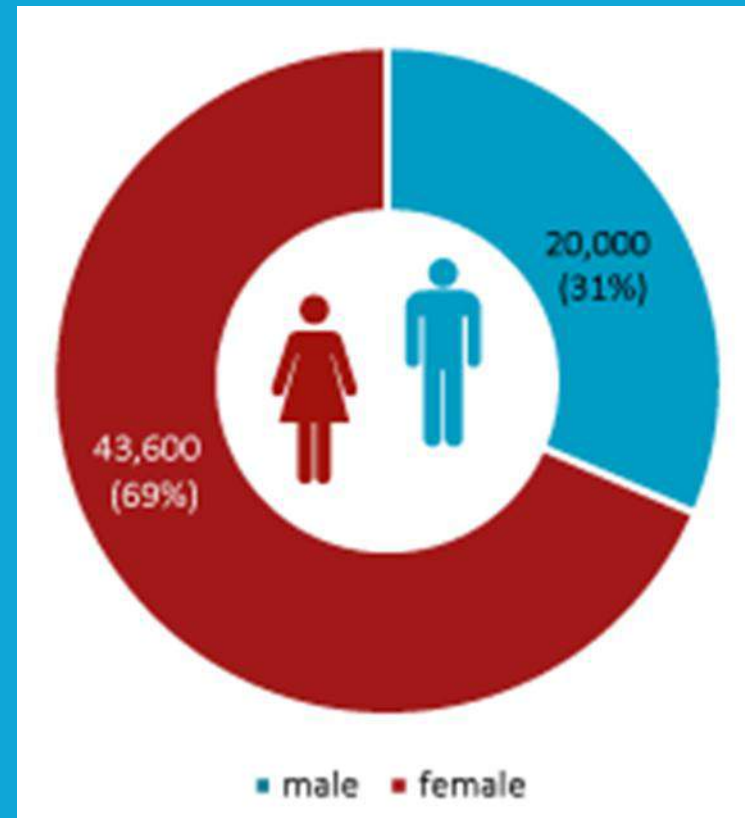


## Homicide typologies: Regional patterns (cont'd)

### • Intimate partner/family-related homicide: 14% of all homicides (2012)

- Greater intensity in Americas (higher rate), larger share of all homicides in Asia, Europe, Oceania
- 2/3 of all victims are female
- 47% of all female victims of homicide are killed by these perpetrators
- Those most at risk: women aged 30+
- Very stable form of homicide

Male and female victims of IPFM (2012 or latest year)





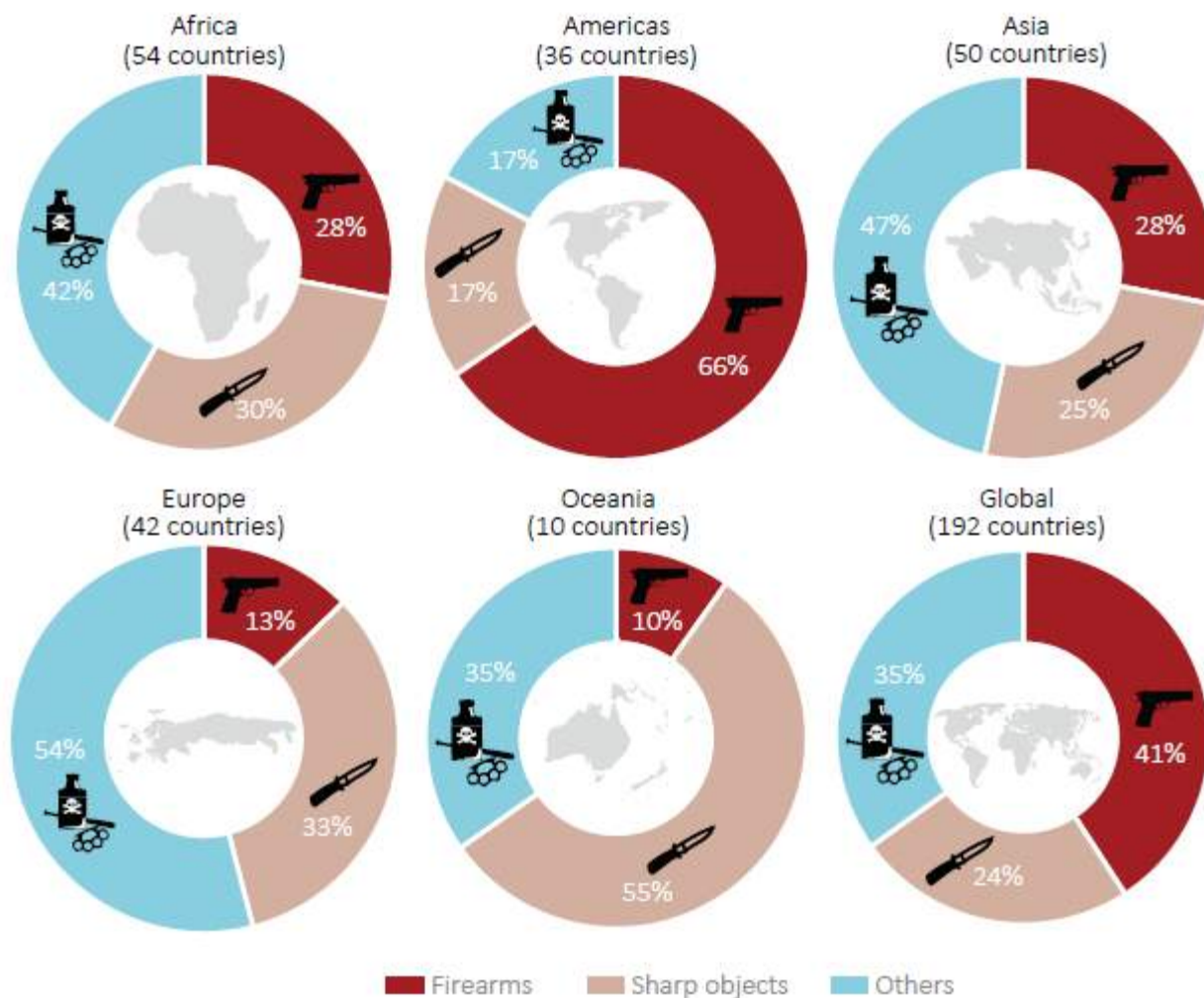
# Mechanisms and Enablers

- Cross-cutting factors that play a role in homicide
  - Mechanisms of killing:
    - Not all homicides involve weapons, but many do
    - Some types of homicide are associated with different instruments of killing
  - Enablers:
    - The role of psychoactive substances
      - Alcohol
      - Illicit drugs
- Understanding of the influence of such elements in homicide can help target policies to reduce violence



## Homicide mechanisms, by region (2012)

Fig. 3.1: Homicide mechanism, by region (2012 or latest year)



- Firearms account for 2/3 of all homicides in the Americas
- Sharp objects used in more than 50% of all homicides in Oceania



## Percentage distribution of homicide mechanisms, by sub-region (2012)

- Firearms account for a larger share in the Americas

**Map 3.1:** Percentage distribution of homicide mechanisms, by sub-region (2012 or latest 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.

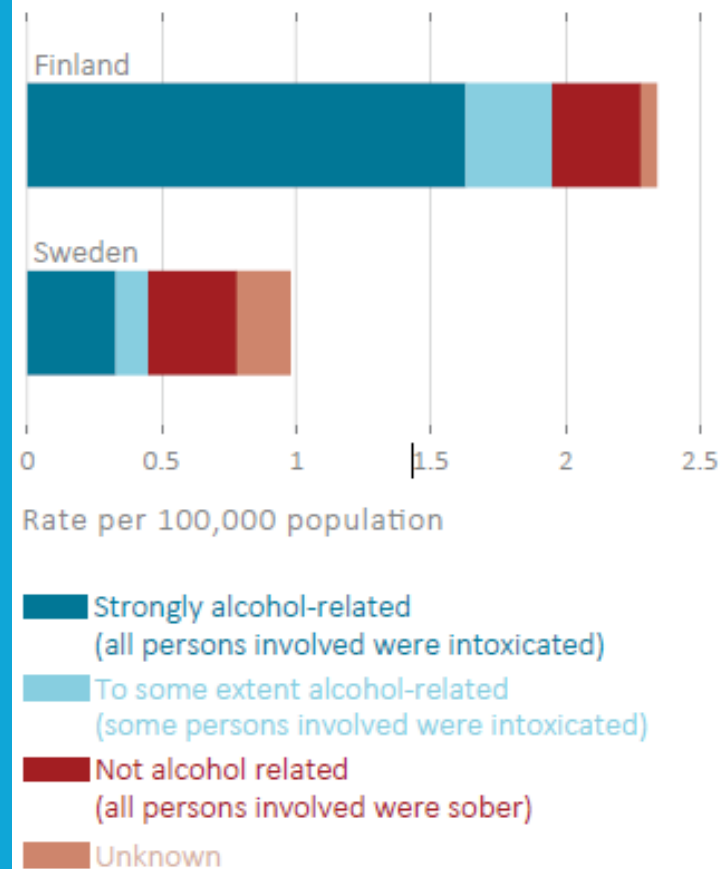
Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).



## Psychoactive substances: alcohol

- Cross-cutting facilitator for all types of violence
- Alcohol: homicide rates influenced by both *volume* and *patterns* of consumption
  - Major risk factor for IPFM homicide
  - Policy strategies: limiting availability/dry laws proven effective

**Fig. 3.9:** Annual victimization rates of alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related homicides, Finland and Sweden (2003-2006)



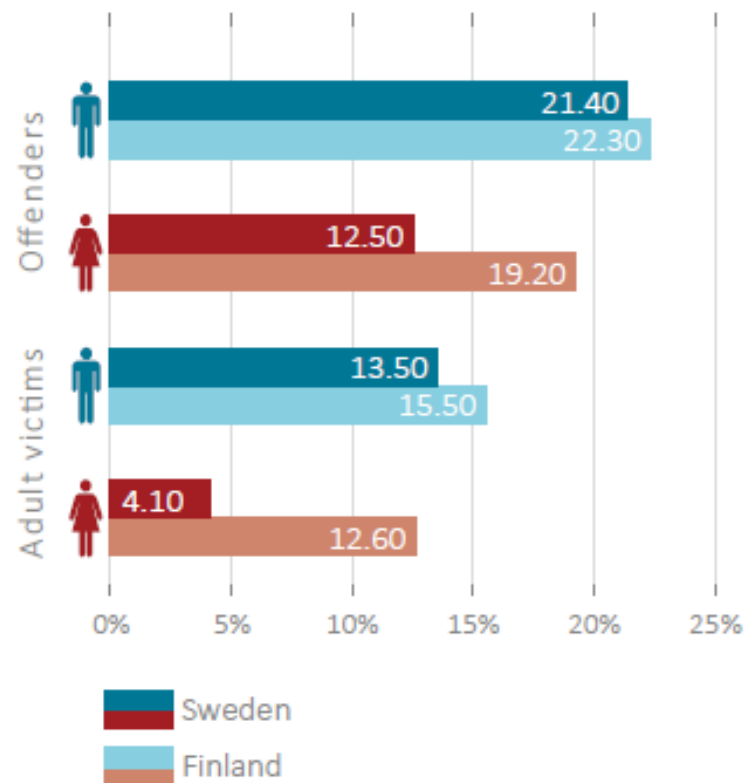
Source: European Homicide Monitor.



# Psychoactive substances: Illicit drugs

- Pharmacological effect
  - Some drugs more related to violence (cocaine, amphetamines)
- Homicide linked to (changes in) drug markets (production, trafficking, distribution)

**Fig. 3.11: Percentage of adult homicide victims and offenders under the influence of drugs at time of crime (2003-2006)**



Source: European Homicide Monitor.





# Homicide, violence and conflict

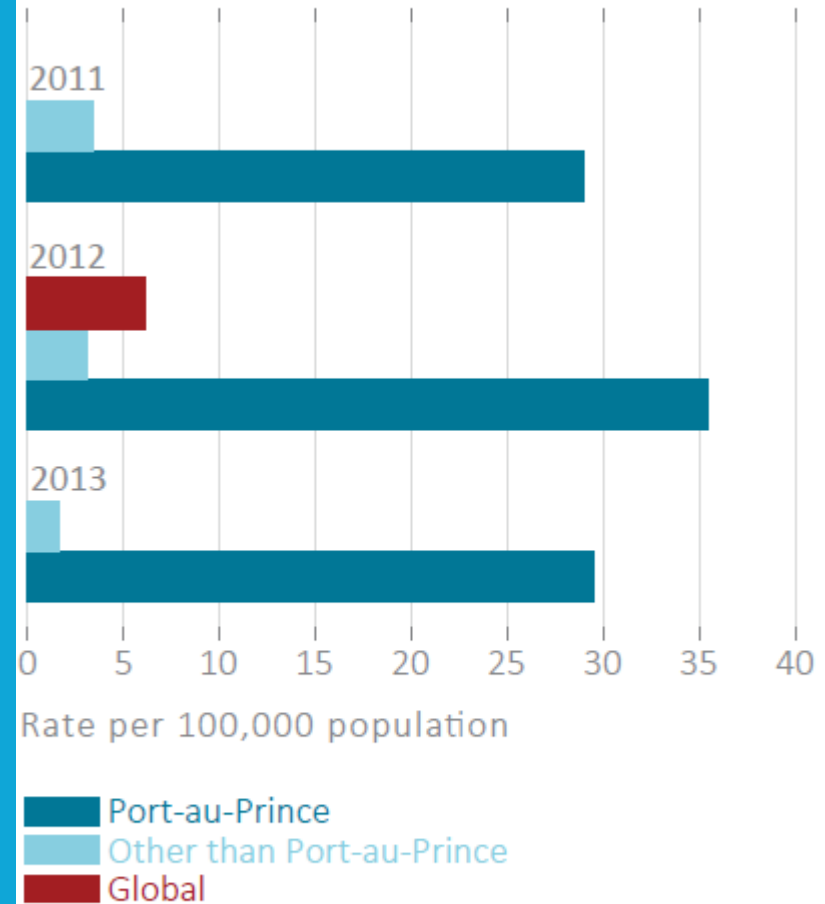
- Difficult to disentangle conflict-related deaths from homicide (indistinguishable, overlapping)
- Crime a significant factor in violent deaths in post-conflict countries (high homicide rates)
- Weak rule of law: opportunities for crime and violence to take root (including OC)  
ex. West Africa drug trafficking routes
- In some cases, crime-related violence can surpass violence in times of conflict



## Example: Haiti

- Vulnerability to instability
- Homicide rate doubled (5.1 in 2007 to 10.2 in 2012) in recent years
- Homicide is a largely urban phenomenon – associated with gang activity
  - 87% of homicides in capital committed by firearm

**Fig. 4.6:** Homicide rates, Port-au-Prince and rest of Haiti (2011-2013)



Note: Data for 2013 are based on January-June 2013.

Source: UNDPKO-MINUSTAH and UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).

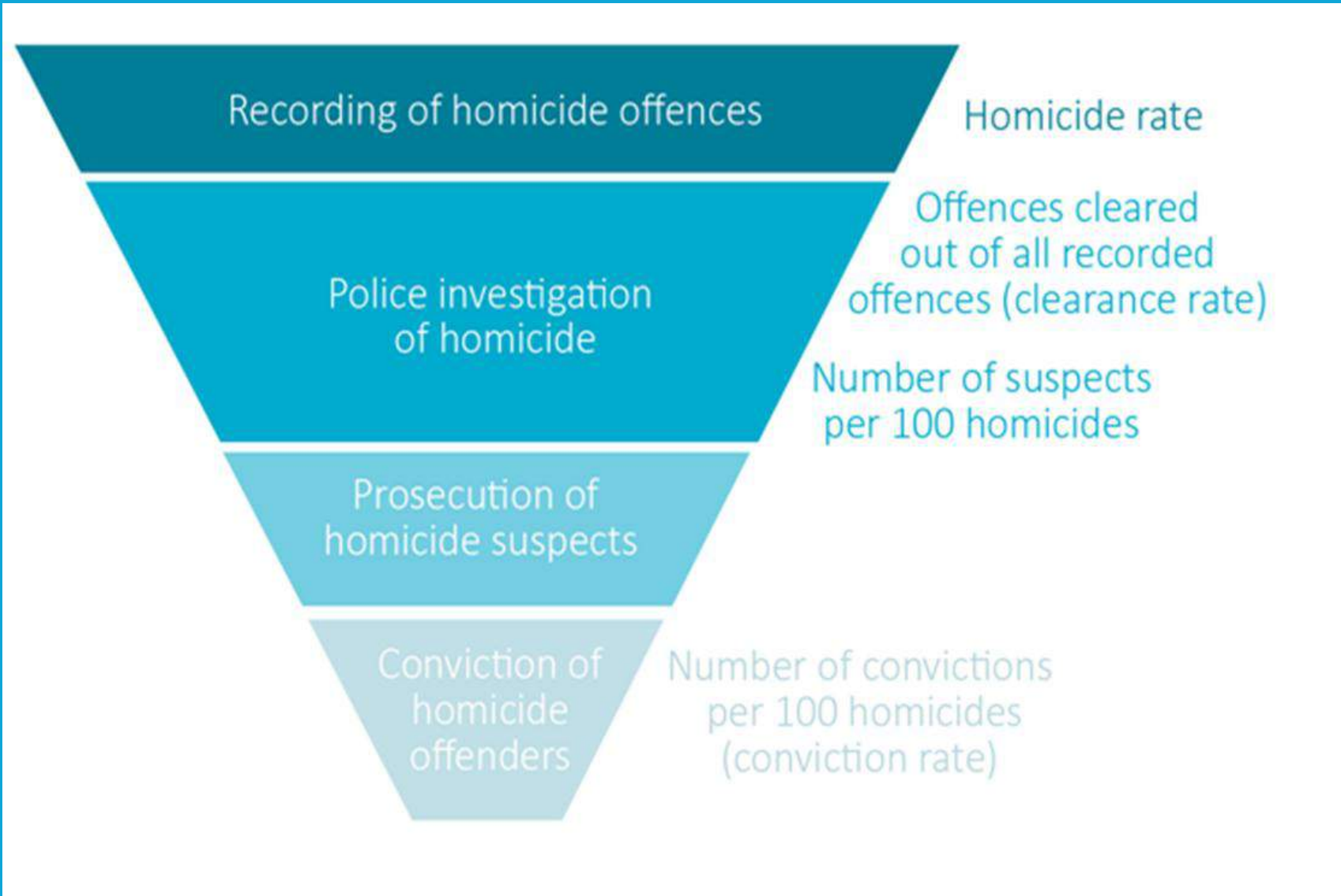


# Criminal Justice Response

- It is important to monitor the State response to homicide: core responsibility of the State
  - Right to justice for victims
  - Reduce impunity
    - Impunity can be a trigger for further violence
  - Uphold the rule of law

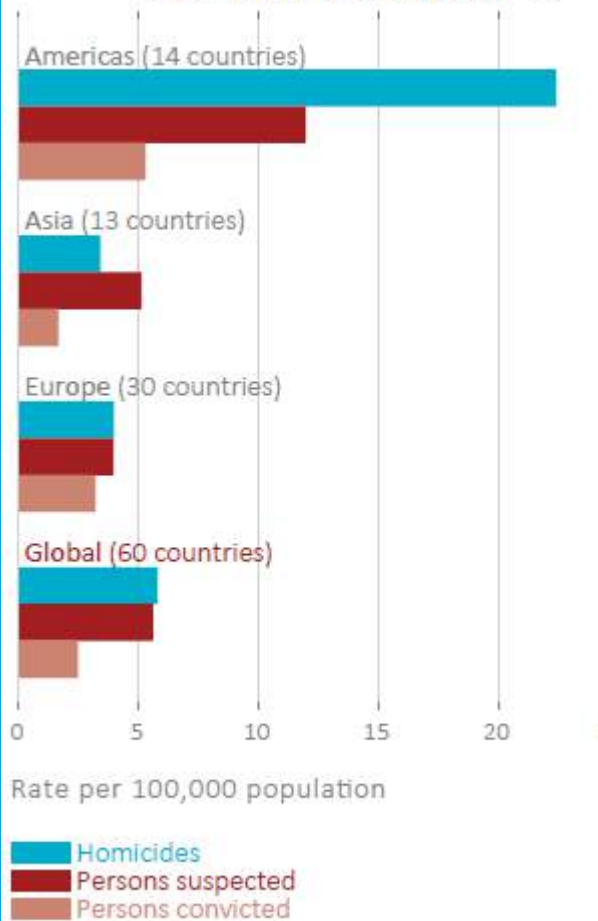


### Statistical indicators relating to four phases in the criminal justice process



# Homicides, suspects and convictions, by region (2011)

**Fig. 5.4: Homicides, persons suspected and persons convicted of homicide per 100,000 population, by region (2011 or latest year)**



Note: Data on three countries in Africa and Oceania are included in the global total but not shown separately.

Source: UN-CTS.

## Clearance

- Global: 60% of homicides cleared
- 85% in Europe, 80% in Asia, 50% in Americas

## Convictions

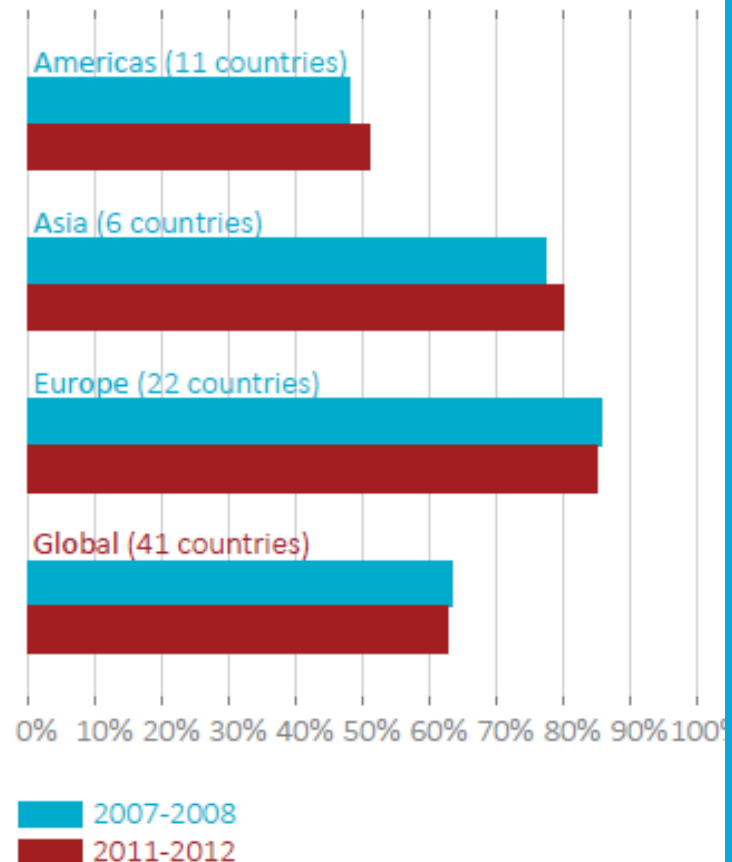
- Global: 43 convictions per 100 homicides
  - 81 in Europe, 48 in Asia, 24 in Americas
- impunity in the Americas



## Homicide clearance rate

- Global: 60% of homicides cleared
- 85% in Europe, 80% in Asia, 50% in Americas
- Tend to be lower when homicide rates are higher

**Fig. 5.2: Homicide clearance rate, by region (2007-2008 and 2011-2012)**



Note: Regional figures represent weighted averages; data on two countries in Africa and Oceania are included in the global total but not shown separately. The homicide clearance rate is the percentage of homicides cleared by the police, divided by all homicides recorded by the police in the same year.

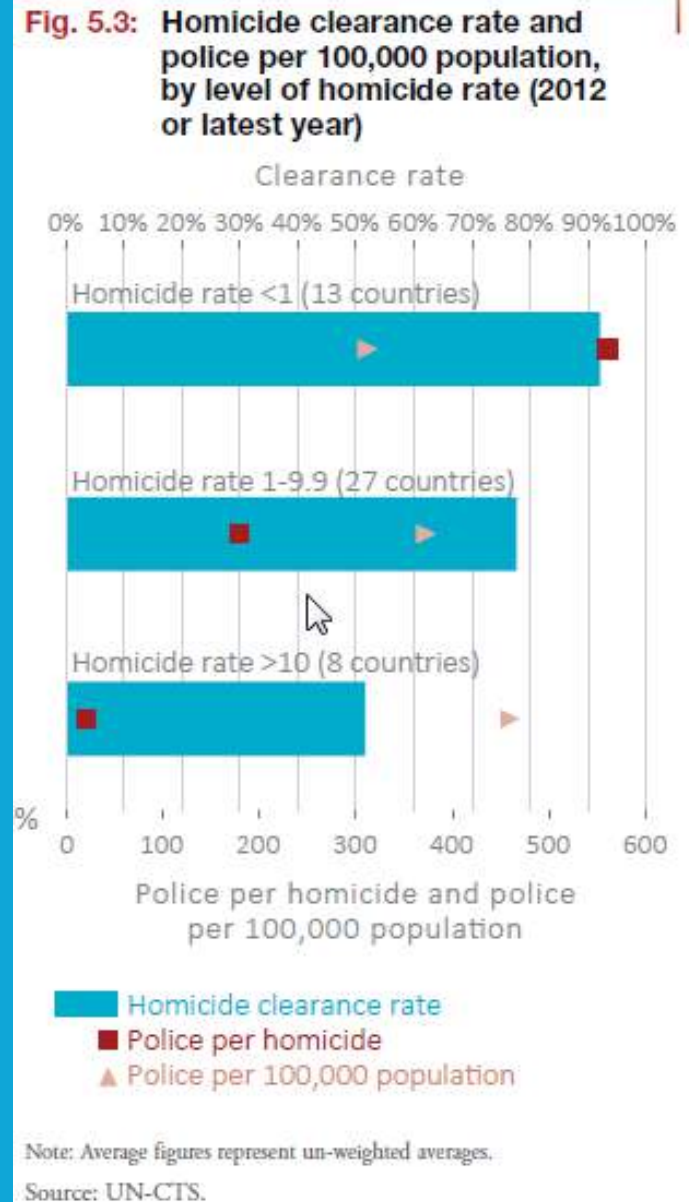
Source: UN-CTS.





## Homicide clearance rate cont'd

- Size of police force has no direct impact on clearance rates
- Police-to-homicide ratio
  - High homicide rate countries: 20 police per homicide case
  - Low homicide rate countries: 500 police per homicide case



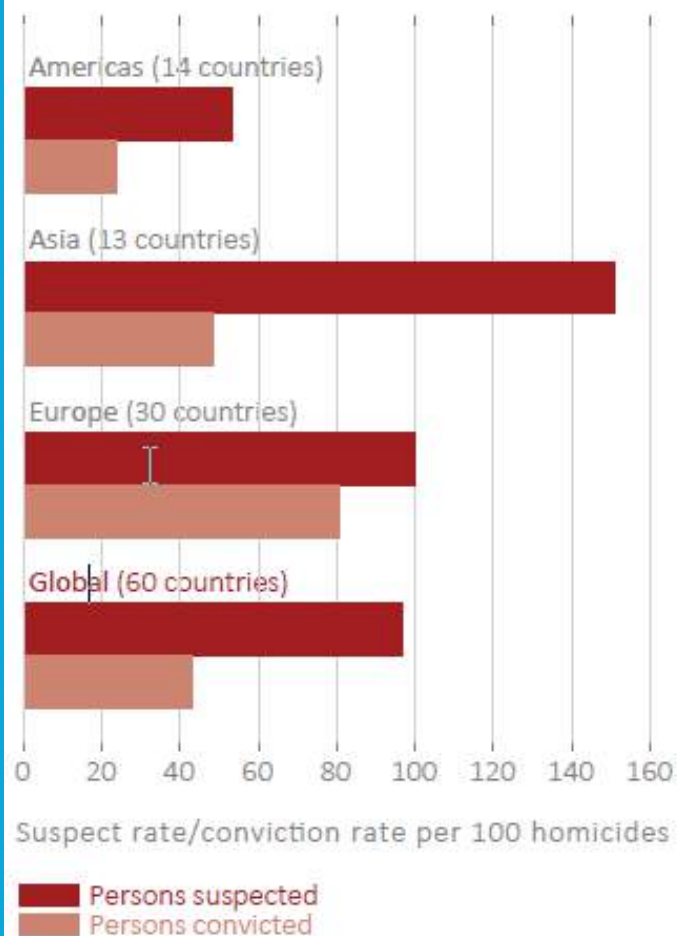


## Homicide suspects and convictions

- Global: for every 100 homicide victims, 97 persons are suspected/arrested; 43 are convicted
- For every 100 homicides:

	Suspects	Convictions
Americas	53	24
Asia	151	48
Europe	100	81

**Fig. 5.5: Persons suspected and persons convicted per 100 homicides, by region (2011 or latest year)**



Note: Data on three countries in Africa and Oceania are included in the global total but not shown separately.

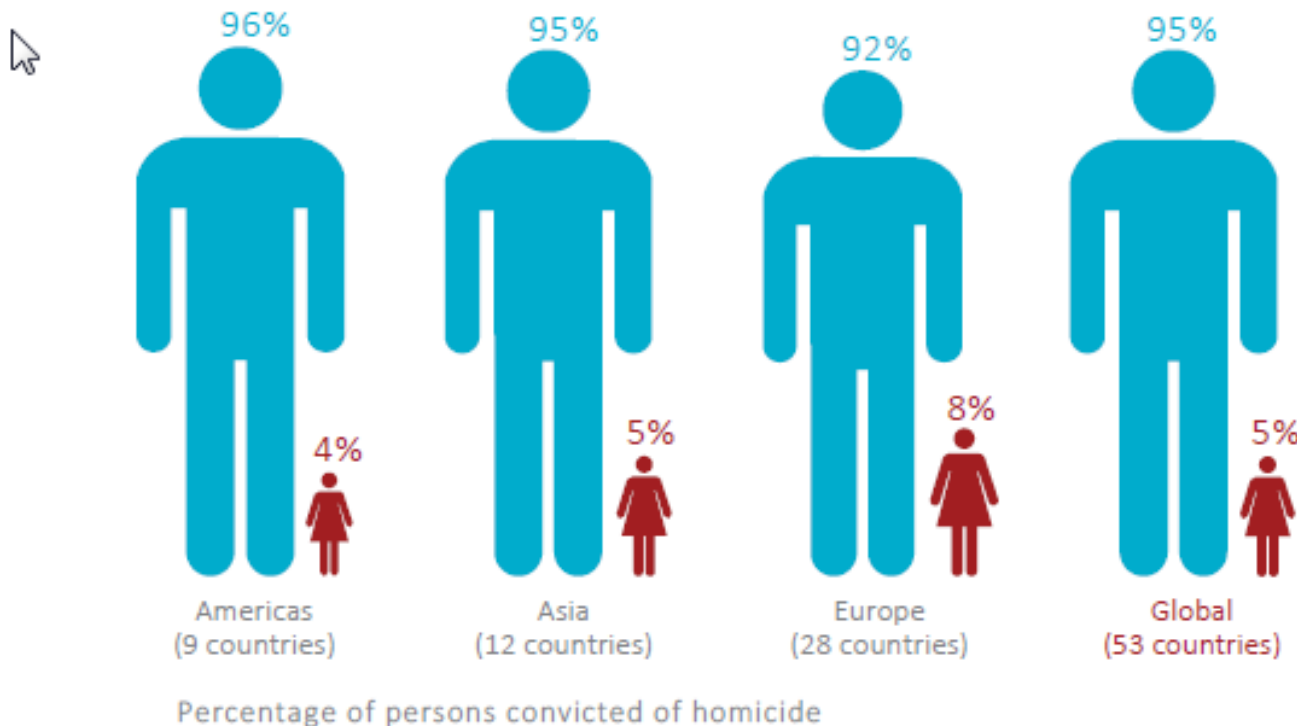
Source: UN-CTS.



## Percentage of convictions, by sex (2011)

- 95% of homicide convictions are male (global)

**Fig. 5.6:** Percentage distribution of persons convicted of homicide, by sex and by region (2012 or latest year)



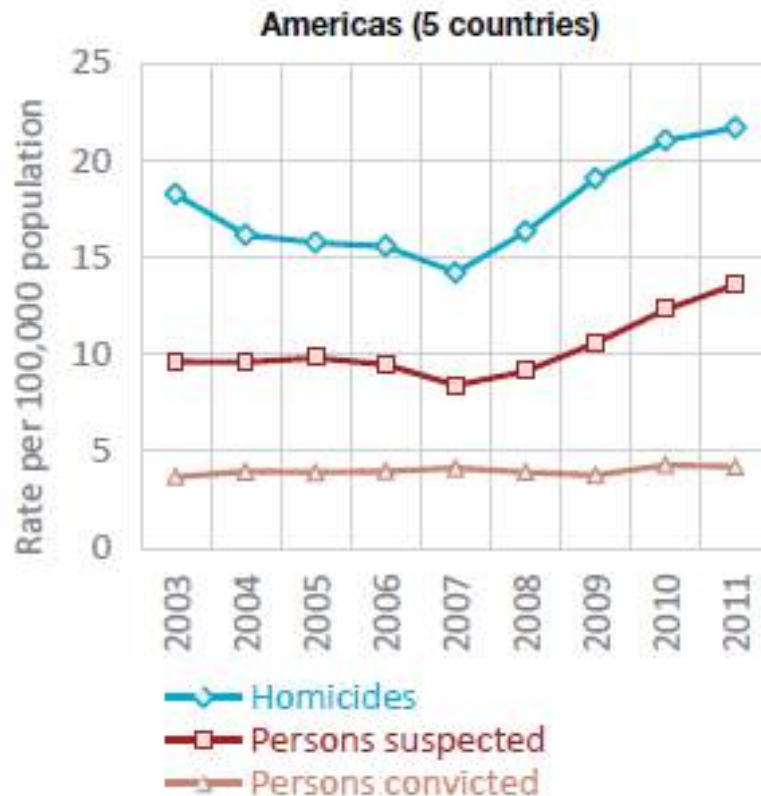
Note: Data on four countries in Africa and Oceania are included in the global total but not shown separately.

Source: UN-CTS.



## Trends in the criminal justice response (2003-2011)

**Fig. 5.7:** Homicides, persons suspected of homicide and persons convicted of homicide per 100,000 population, by region (2003-2011)



### Americas:

- Widening gap between number of homicides and number of convictions

### Asia:

- Little change 2003-2011

### Europe:

- Homicide and suspect rates declined by half; conviction rate declined by 30%
- Narrowing gap

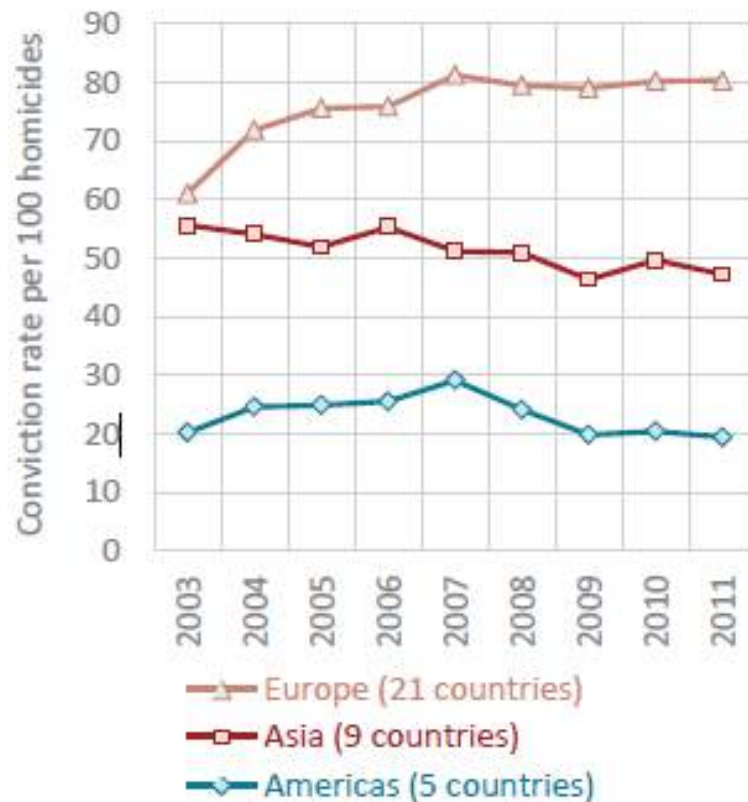


# Trends in the criminal justice response (2003-2011) cont'd

## Conviction rates:

- Decreasing trend: CJS performance is deteriorating  
→ Americas
- Increasing trend: CJS effective  
→ Europe
- Impunity is growing in Americas

**Fig. 5.8: Homicide conviction rate, by region (2003-2011)**



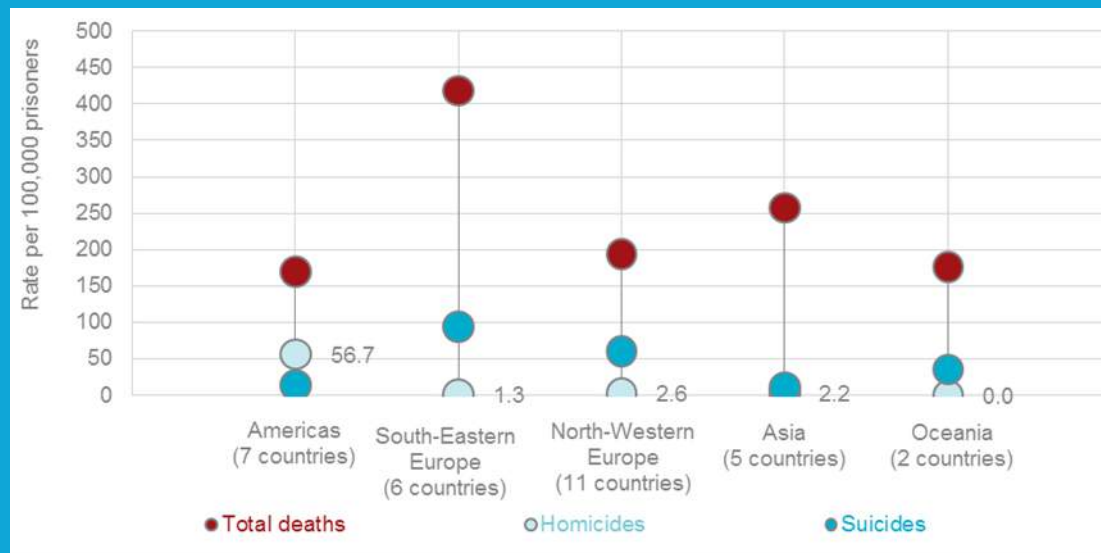
Note: The conviction rate is the number of persons convicted of homicide divided by the number of homicides in the same year, per 100 homicides.

Source: UN-CTS.



## Prisoners sentenced for homicide

- Share of homicide offenders in prison is similar across all regions (7-10% in Europe and Americas, 4% Asia)
- Homicide in prison:
  - Americas: 56.7 per 100,000 prisoners
    - 3 times higher than homicide rate in general population
  - Europe: 2.6 per 100,000 prisoners







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

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