



Applied Quantitative Methods Network

Change in Homicide over Time – Implications for policy and law

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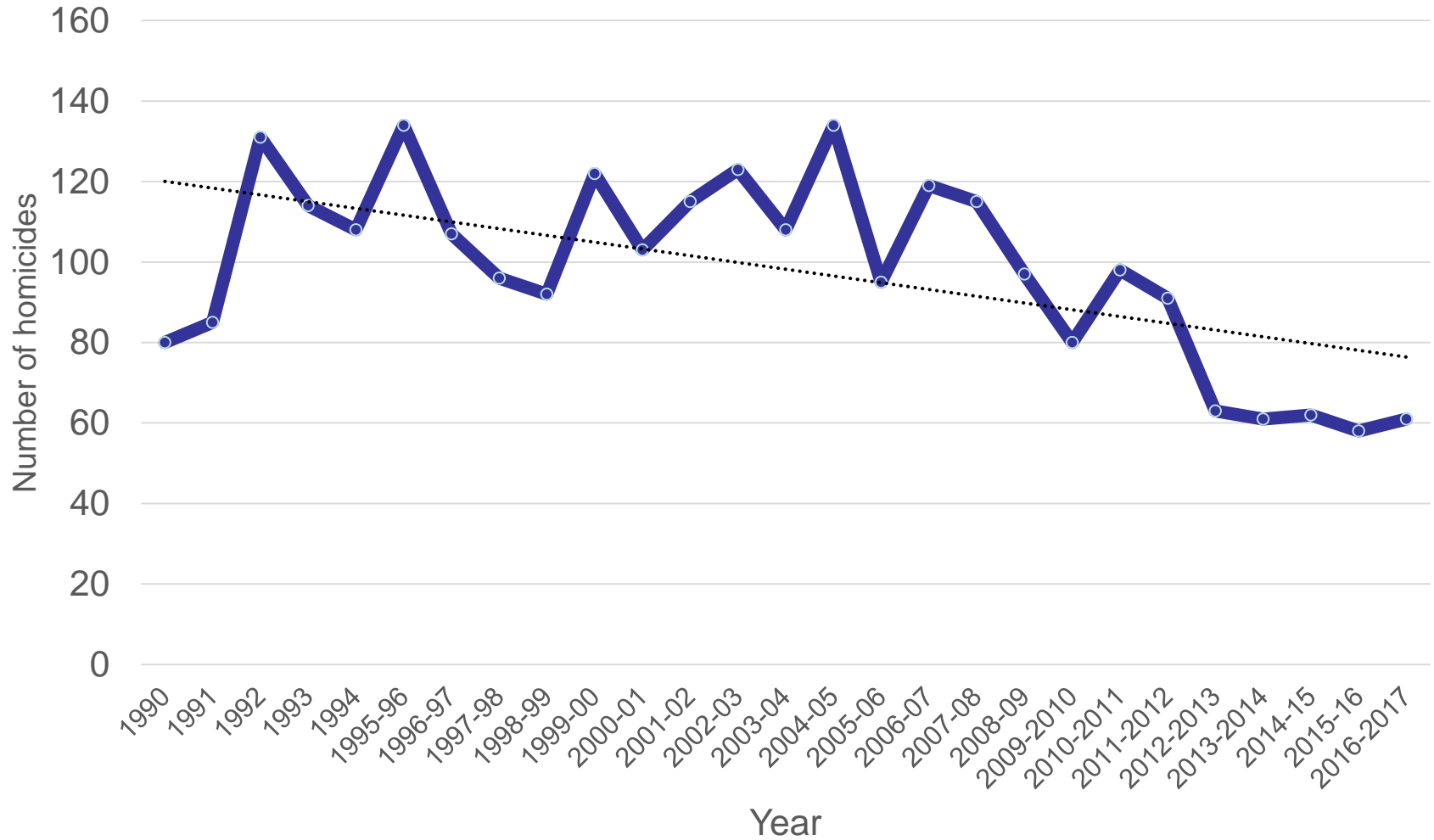
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Outline

- Incidence of homicide in Scotland over time
- Different types of homicide and their change over time
- Implications for policy and law

Number of Homicides per year



- Argument for disaggregation – Homicide is not unidimensional
- Hidden trends in data over time
 - Have all types of homicide decreased?
 - Different types
 - Different patterns
 - Different prevention strategies

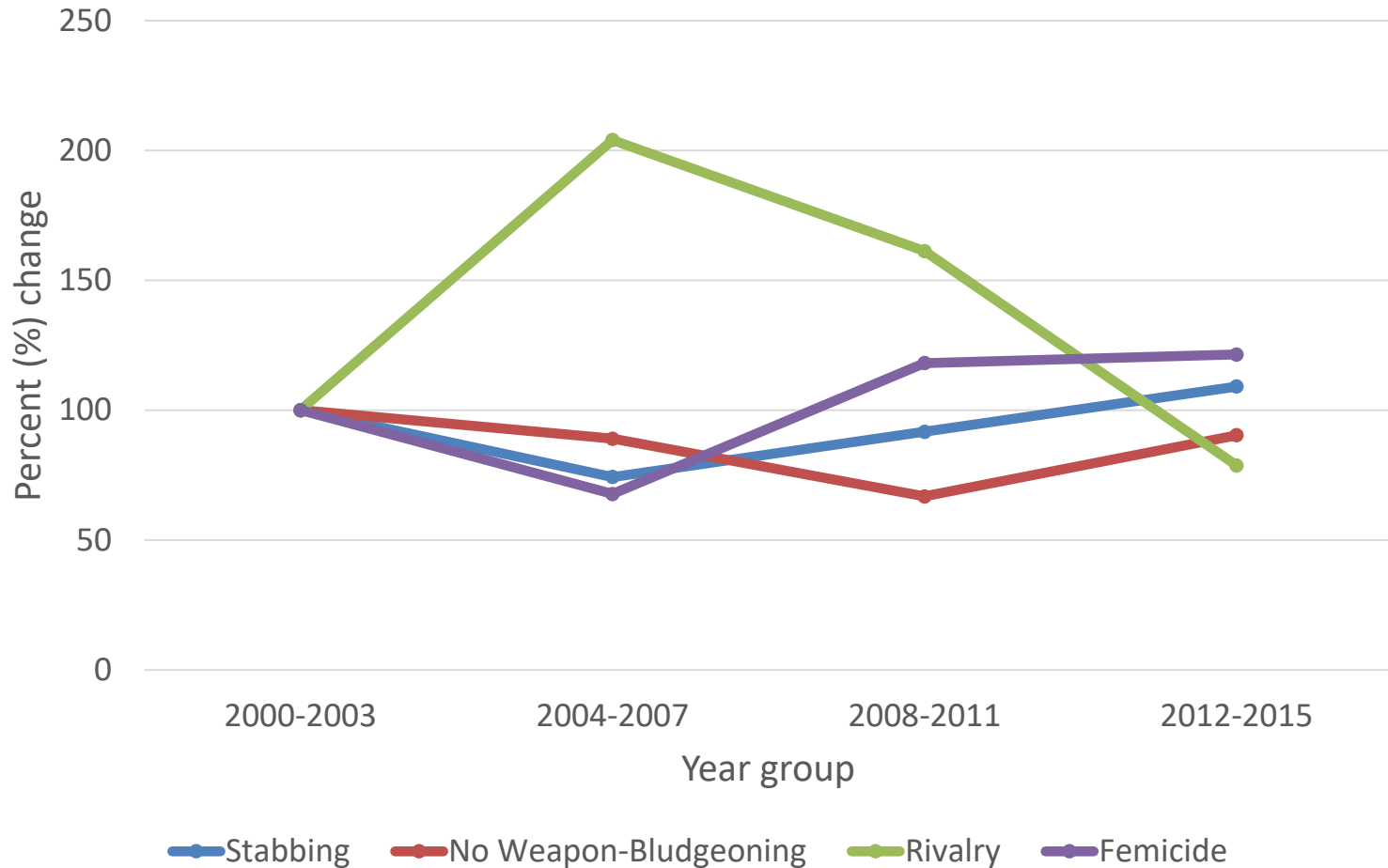
Data

- Homicide data: the Scottish Homicide Database (SHD)
 - From 2000 to 2015
- Total of n=1344 cases
 - 1978 offenders
- Only cases identified as ‘murders’ by Police Scotland
- Variables related to the victim, offender and the incident

Homicide Typology

- **Stabbing (31.9%)**
 - Sharp instrument; male offender and victim; known or acquaintances; motivated by fight/argument; Inside/private; improvised; alcohol/drugs
- **No-Weapon Bludgeoning (27.3%)**
 - No weapon/ blunt instrument; male offender and victim; known or acquaintances (family members); motivated by fight/argument; Inside/private; improvised; alcohol/drugs
- **Rivalry (24.8%)**
 - Rivals; feud or faction rivalry; public place; young male offenders and victims; alcohol/drugs; sharp weapon/ firearms; weapon brought to scene
- **Femicide (16.0%)**
 - Domestic homicide; Male offender, female victim; intimate partners; inside/private; motivated by fight/argument/domestic dispute; sharp instrument

Percent change in homicide types over time (index: 2000-2003=100)



Relative change in homicide types over time (2000 – 2015)

- Stabbing: Stable over time
- No Weapon-Bludgeoning: Stable over time
- Rivalry: Relative decrease of 21.3%
- Femicide: Relative increase of 21.0%
- The decrease appears to be driven by the Rivalry type
- Femicide has not decreased nearly as much

Conclusion

- There are different types of homicide, demonstrating different trends over time
- Although there has been an absolute decrease in all types of homicide, some types has increased in relative terms
- While lethal public violence involving sharp instruments has decreased dramatically over time, lethal domestic violence has not decreased by nearly as much

- While not conclusive, certain policy interventions seems to have had affect on public lethal violence
 - VRU
 - Homicide as a public health problem
- Need stronger policy focus on domestic homicide
 - As well as homicide occurring indoors
- Homicide is very mundane
 - Rarely planned
 - Impulsive
 - Alcohol or drugs
 - Escalating fights between acquaintances
- Implications of provocation, self-defence and culpability

Thank you!

- Questions?

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