

Lecture 6A: Violent Crime: Robbery, Rape, Assault and Homicide

Correlates of Violence

Part I. Robbery

Part II. Rape

Part III. Homicide

Violence in the U.S.

“Violence is the primal problem of American history, the dark reverse of its coin of freedom and abundance.”

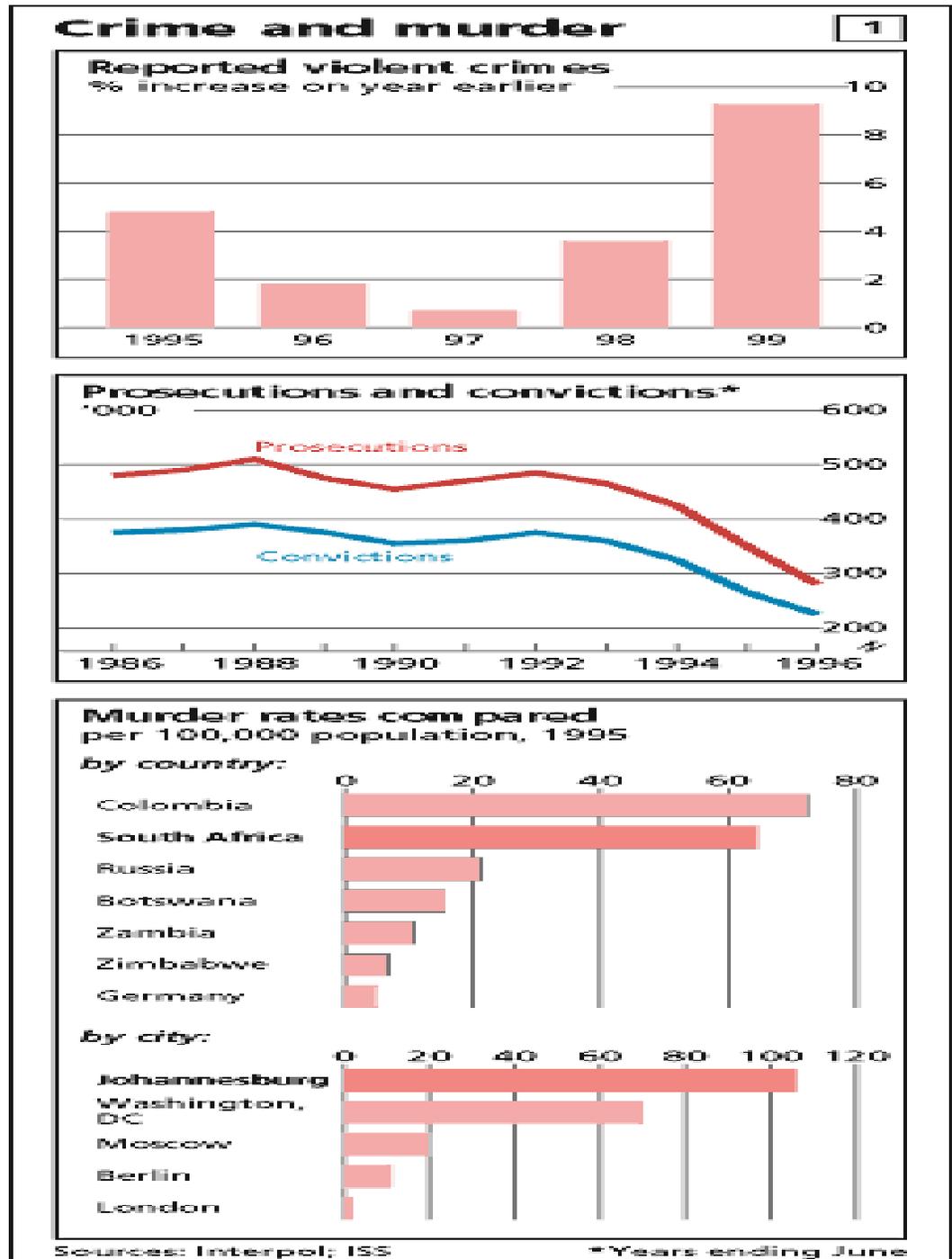
Majority of Americans are scared of violent crime and favor “getting tough” on crime as a result.

Country	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Burglary
United States	6.3	34.4	165.2	862
Japan	1.1	1.5	2.7	187.9
Denmark	3.9	7.9	49.2	1925.2
Switzerland	2.6	5.4	36.2	1172.5
Russia	18	6.1	109.6	519.7
Columbia	56.3	1.4	66.9	57.9

Crime Rate in Selected Countries, 1998: Interpol Data (**Incidents per 100,000**)

Rates of Violence in South Africa are some of the highest in the world.

Why is crime so high in South Africa?



Correlates of Violence

- 1.) Personal Traits
- 2.) Ineffective Families
- 3.) Evolutionary Factors/Human Instinct
- 4.) Cultural Values
- 5.) Substance Abuse
- 6.) Firearm Availability

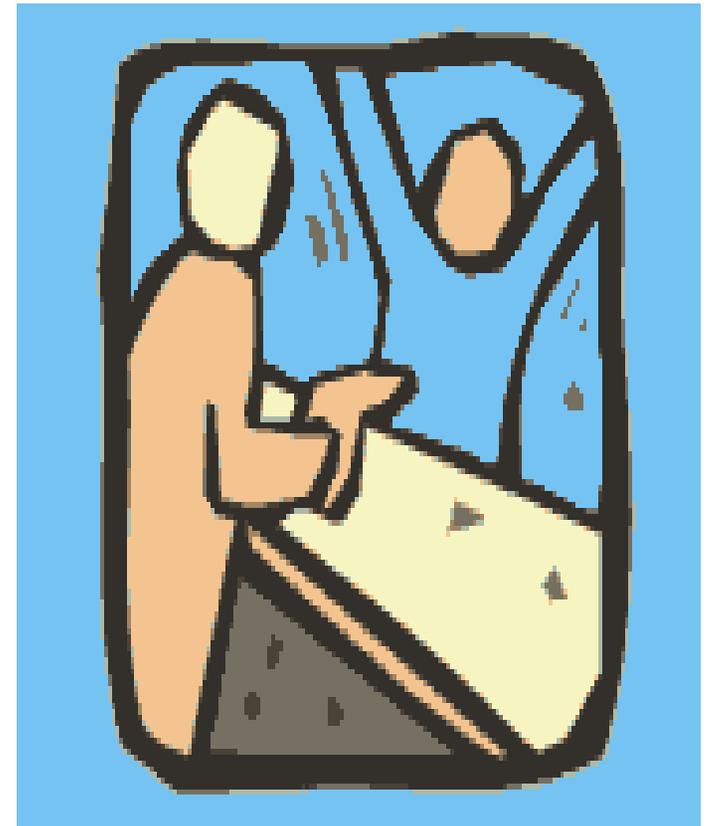
WE WILL RETURN TO THESE IDEAS IN THE THEORY SECTION OF THE COURSE.

Part I. Robbery

Legal Definition of Robbery

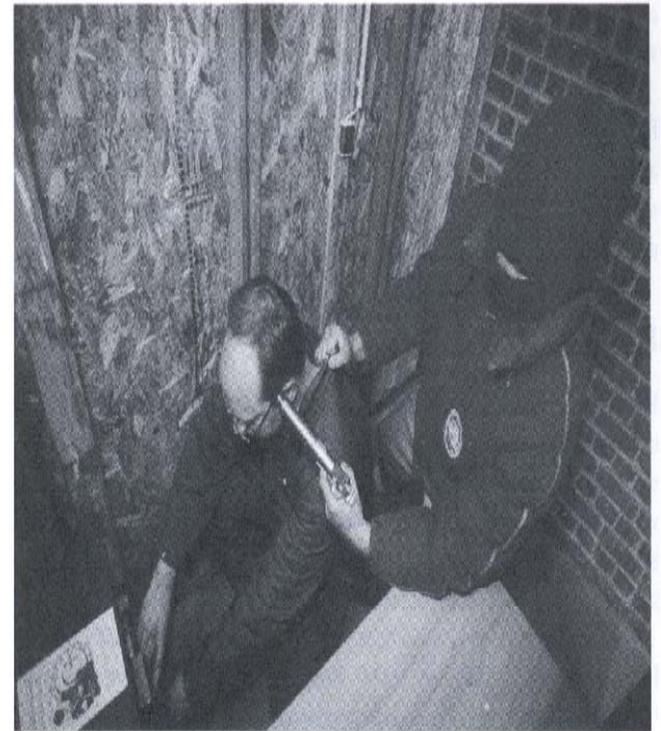
“The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person by force of threat or force of violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear”

Punishment determined by the amount of force used



Robbery

- UCR, 1996 540,000
NCVS, 1996 1.1 million
- Mainly a street crime (alleys, parks, streets)
- 2/3 of victims lost property, 1/3 injured, 1/4 lost property and injured.
- **Less likely for victim to be injured if robber has a gun.**

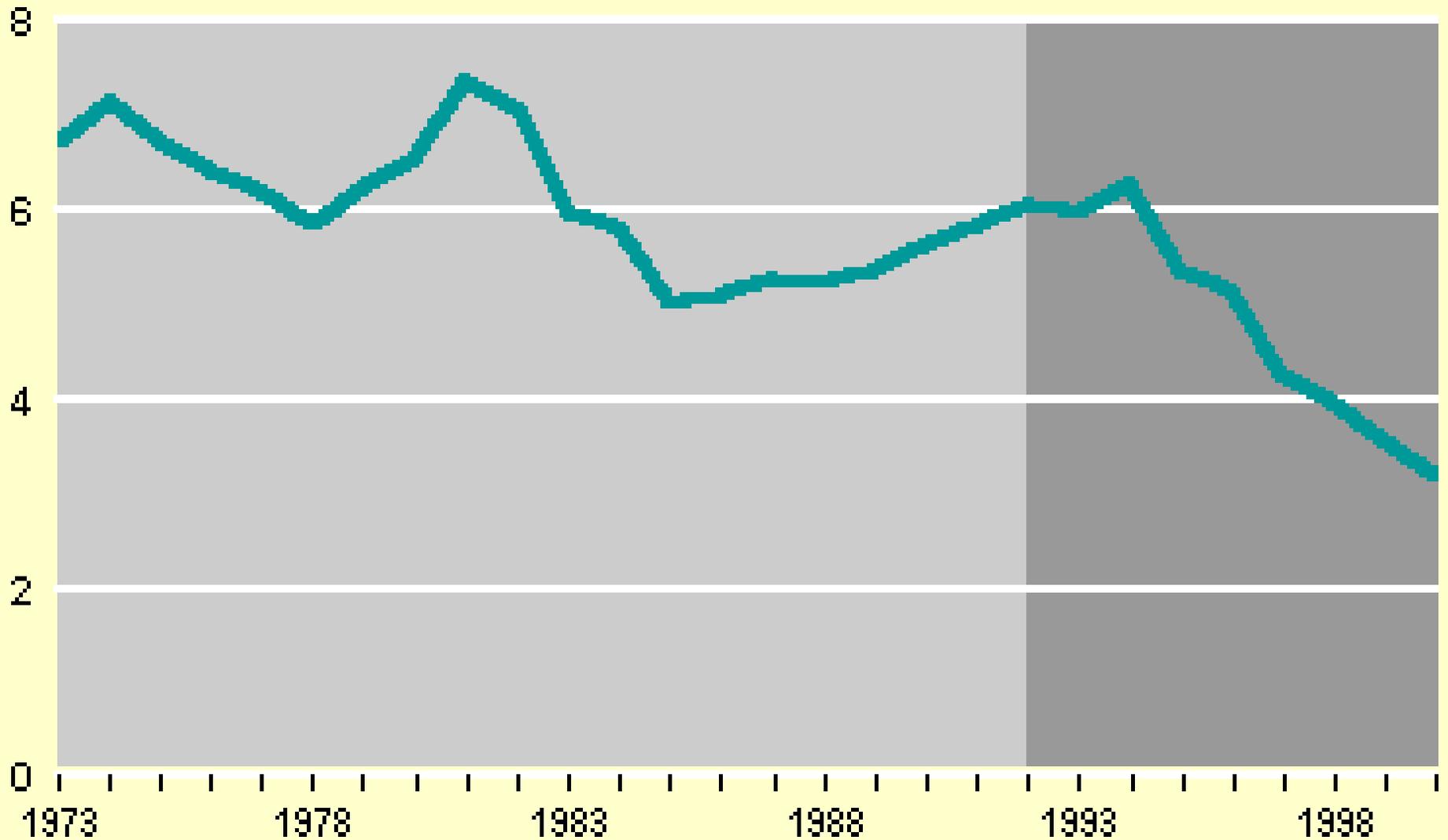


Robbery

- Robbery rates are consistently the highest in the Northeastern states.
- Rates are highest in summer when people are out, as well as December when people carry money to buy holiday gifts.
- Average loss to street victim \$900, average loss to gas station \$500. “Mom and Pop” stores often not robbed, as %90 of store owners will to protect themselves.

Robbery rates

Adjusted victimization rate
per 1,000 persons age 12 and over



Part II. Rape: Legal Definitions

- Rape: the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.
- Excludes:
 - 1.) oral and anal sex in many states
 - 2.) coerced homosexual intercourse or female coercion of male.
 - 3.) Coerced sexual intercourse induced by non-violent threat (e.g., social, economic, vocational harm).

History of Rape

- Rape is a human behavior known in all societies across the world, through time.
- The state (trilateral controls) outlawed rape as early as the 15th century, but laws usually biased in favor of male offenders.
- In non-state societies rape is deterred by *unilateral* controls (e.g., husbands use violence) and *bilateral* controls (e.g., kin groups protect female members).

Rape and the Military

- Recent case where male military instructors raped and abused their female trainees. Female prisoners experience high incidents of rape.
- Rape common in military conquests of enemies (e.g., Crusades, Vietnam, Yugoslavia).

Incidence of Rape

- UCR, 1996: 95,000 rapes
NCVS, 1996: estimated 260,000 rapes
Victim surveys: 20% of adult women, 15% college-aged women, and 12% adolescent girls experienced sexual abuse.
- More common in urban than rural areas. Rape is also a warm weather crime—most rapes committed during July and August.
- Police clear half of reported rapes. Of those arrested, 40% are under 25 years of age, 55% are white and 42% are black.

Types of Rape

- Stranger-to-stranger rape and acquaintance rapes.
- Difficult to estimate, but likely over 50% or rape cases involve acquaintances.

Types of Rape: Date Rape

Involves people in courting relationship.

A.) No single type of date rape

B.) Not unique to U.S.

C.) Campus rape is common (15-20% of women victims of rape or attempted rape).

D.) Less than 1 in 10 cases reported.

Following is an example scenario from both a woman and a man's point of view.

“He Said...”

I first met her at a party. She looked really hot, wearing a very short skirt with a tight T-shirt that showed off her great body. We started talking right away. I knew that she liked me by the way she was speaking. She seemed pretty relaxed so I asked her back to my place for a drink... when she said “yes,” I *knew* that I was going to get lucky!

“...He said”

When we got to my place, we sat on the bed kissing. At first, everything was great. Then when I started to lay her down on the bed, she started twisting and saying she didn't want to. Most girls don't like to appear too easy so I knew she was just going through the motions. When she stopped struggling I knew she would have to throw in some tears before we did it.

“...He said”

She was still very upset afterwards and I just don't understand it! If she didn't want to have sex, why did she come back to my room with me? You could tell by the way she dressed and acted that she was no virgin, so why she had to put up such a big struggle, I don't know...

“She said...”

I first met him at a party. He was really good looking and had a great smile. I wanted to meet him but wasn't sure how. I didn't want to appear too forward. Then he came over and introduced himself. We talked and found we had a lot in common. I really liked him. When he asked me over to his place for a drink I thought it would be OK. He was such a good listener, and I wanted him to ask me out again.

“...She said”

When we got to his room, the only place to sit was his bed. I didn't want him to get the wrong idea but what else could I do? We talked for a while, and then he made his move. I was so startled. He started by kissing. I really liked him so the kissing was nice. But then he pushed me down on the bed. I tried to get up and I told him to stop. He was so much bigger and stronger. I got scared and I started to cry. I froze and he raped me.

“...She said”

It took only a couple of minutes and it was terrible, he was so rough. When it was over, he kept asking me what was wrong like he didn't know. He had just forced himself on me and he thought that was OK. He drove me home and said he wanted to see me again. I'm afraid to see him. I never thought it would happen to me...

Types of Rape: Marital Rape

- Marital exception: legally married husband could not be charged with raping his wife.
- Marital rape occurs frequently, and related to general pattern of spousal abuse.
- Most states now recognize marital rape as a crime.

The Causes of Rape

- 1.) Evolutionary/biological factors
- 2.) Male socialization
- 3.) Psychological disorders
- 4.) Social Learning
- 5.) Sexual motivation

Rape and the Law

- In the past, rape laws (and enforcement) biased:
 - A.) police required evidence of female struggle
 - B.) laws made it difficult for women to win cases.
- Recent changes: Police and courts may be becoming more sensitive to date rapes and marital rapes.

Proving Rape

Difficult for victims to prove rape:

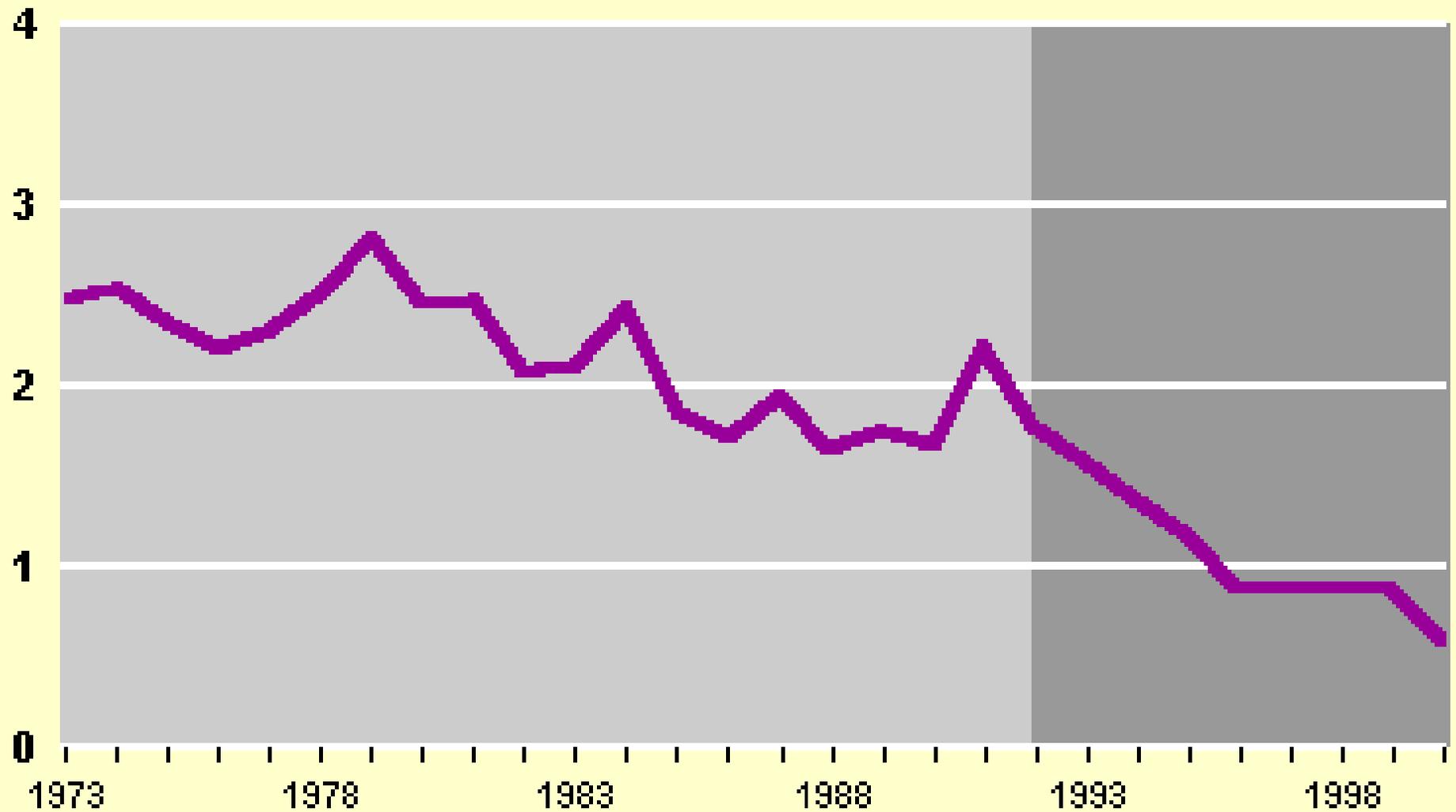
- 1.) Male psychiatrists biased.
- 2.) Celebrity cases of innocent rapists.
- 3.) Sexism results in burden of proof shifted to the victim.
- 4.) Legal issue of consent.

Reform of Rape Laws

- **Shield laws:** women protected from being questioned about their sexual history unless judged to have direct bearing on the case.
- **Third-party corroboration:** Common law of rape required independent evidence of rape from police, physicians, or other witnesses.
- Gender neutral sexual assault laws (e.g., homosexual rape)

Rape rates

Adjusted victimization rate
per 1,000 persons age 12 and over



Homicide

Part I. Legal Definitions of Homicide
and Assault

Part II. Nature of Homicide/Assault

Part III. Cultural and Structural
Debate

Part I. Legal Definitions of Homicide and Assault

“the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought”

In most states prosecutors must prove that the accused intentionally and with malice desired the death of the victim.

Degrees of Murder

- First degree: Person kills another with *premeditation* and *deliberation*.
- Second-degree: actor must have malice aforethought but not premeditation and deliberation.
- Voluntary manslaughter: homicide with intent but *not* malice (e.g., heat of passion, sudden quarrels).
- Involuntary manslaughter: person's acts are negligent and without regard for potential harm to others (e.g., motor vehicle deaths, pet killings).

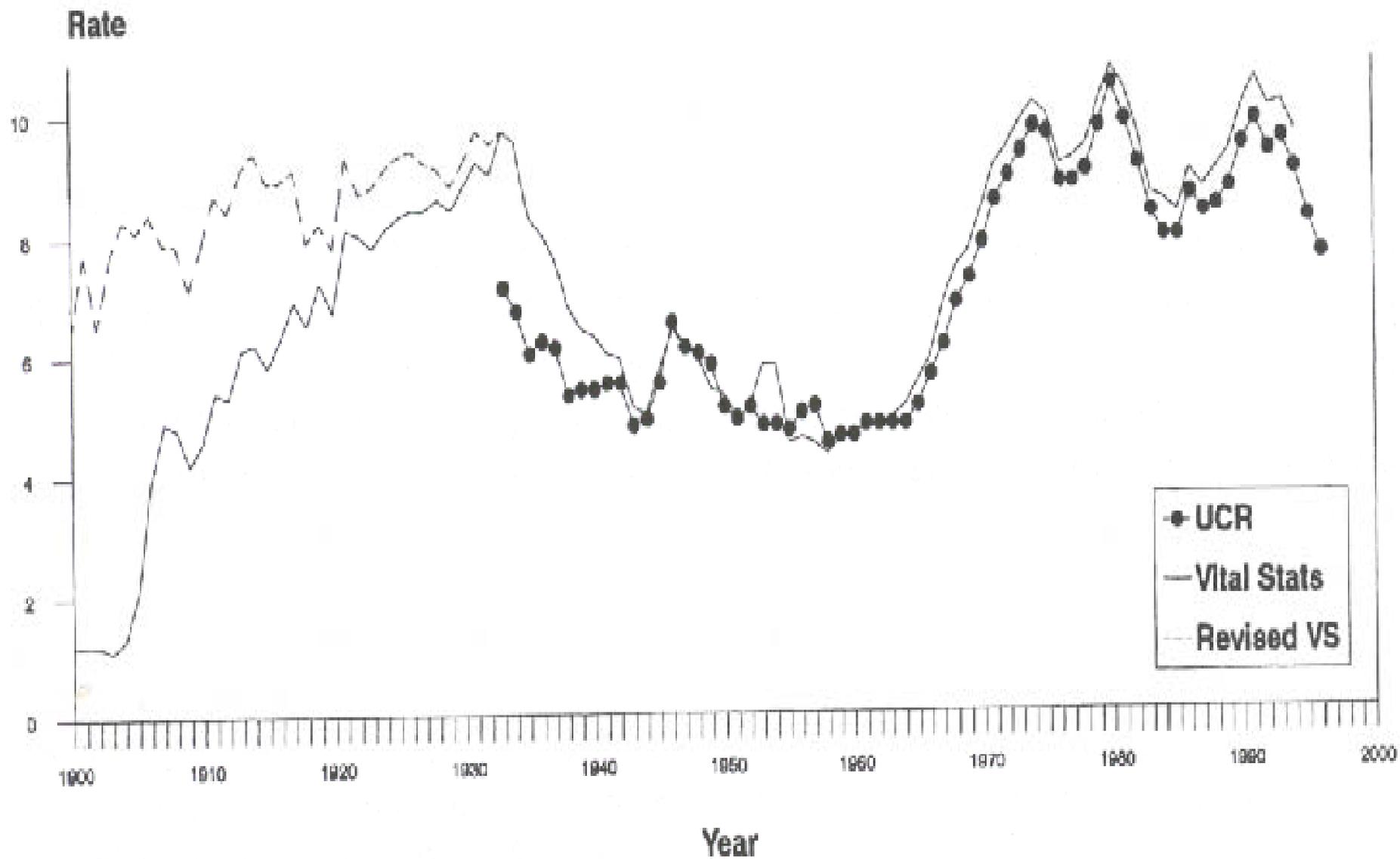
Assault and Battery

- Battery: offensive touching such as slapping, hitting, or punching victim.
- Assault: requires no actual touching but involves either attempted battery or intentionally frightening victim with word or deed.

Part II. Nature of Homicide and Assault

Murder Statistics

- Murder rate peaked in 1980 (10.2 murders per 100,000; a total of 23,000).
- About half of all murder victims are African Americans.
- Murder tends to be an intra-racial crime; 90% of victims slain by individual from their own racial group.
- Offenders typically under 35 years old, and male (90%).

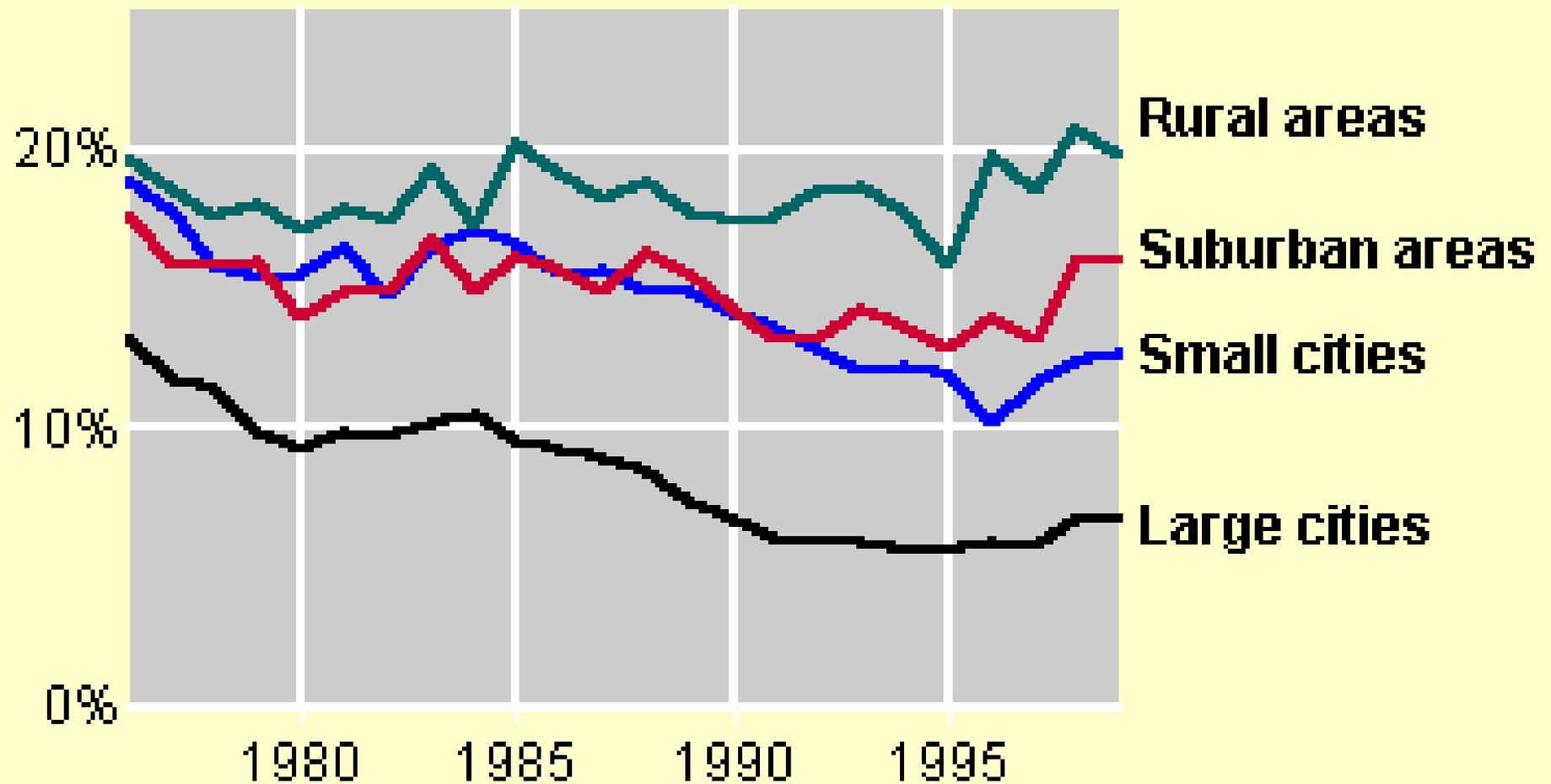


Offender/Victim Relationship

- Historically, most murder victims knew or were acquainted with their attackers. Today less than half of all victims are related or acquainted.
- Trend reflect urbanization and increase in felony related (instrumental) murders.

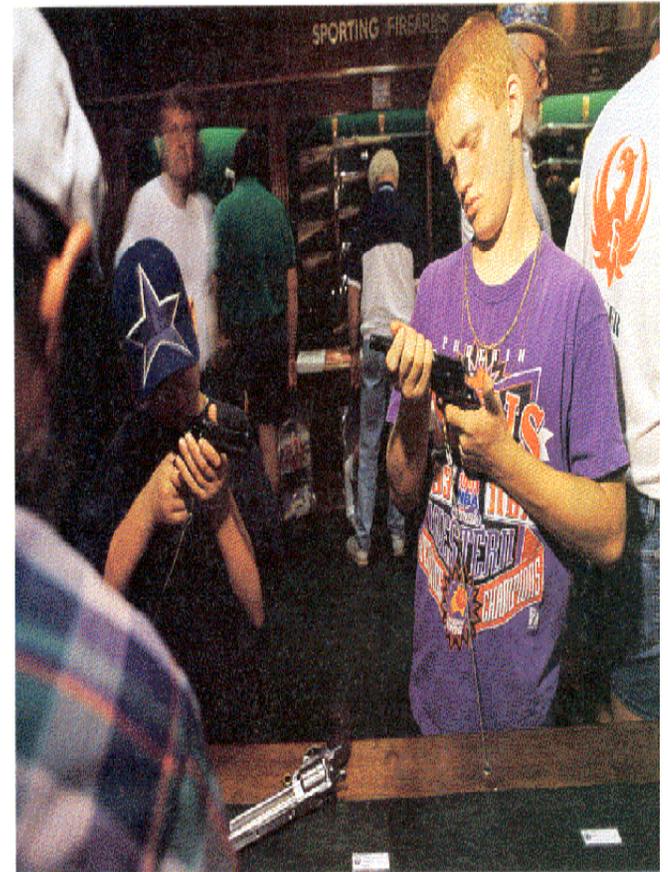
Percent of all homicides involving intimates by urban, suburban, and rural area, 1976-99

Percent of all homicides



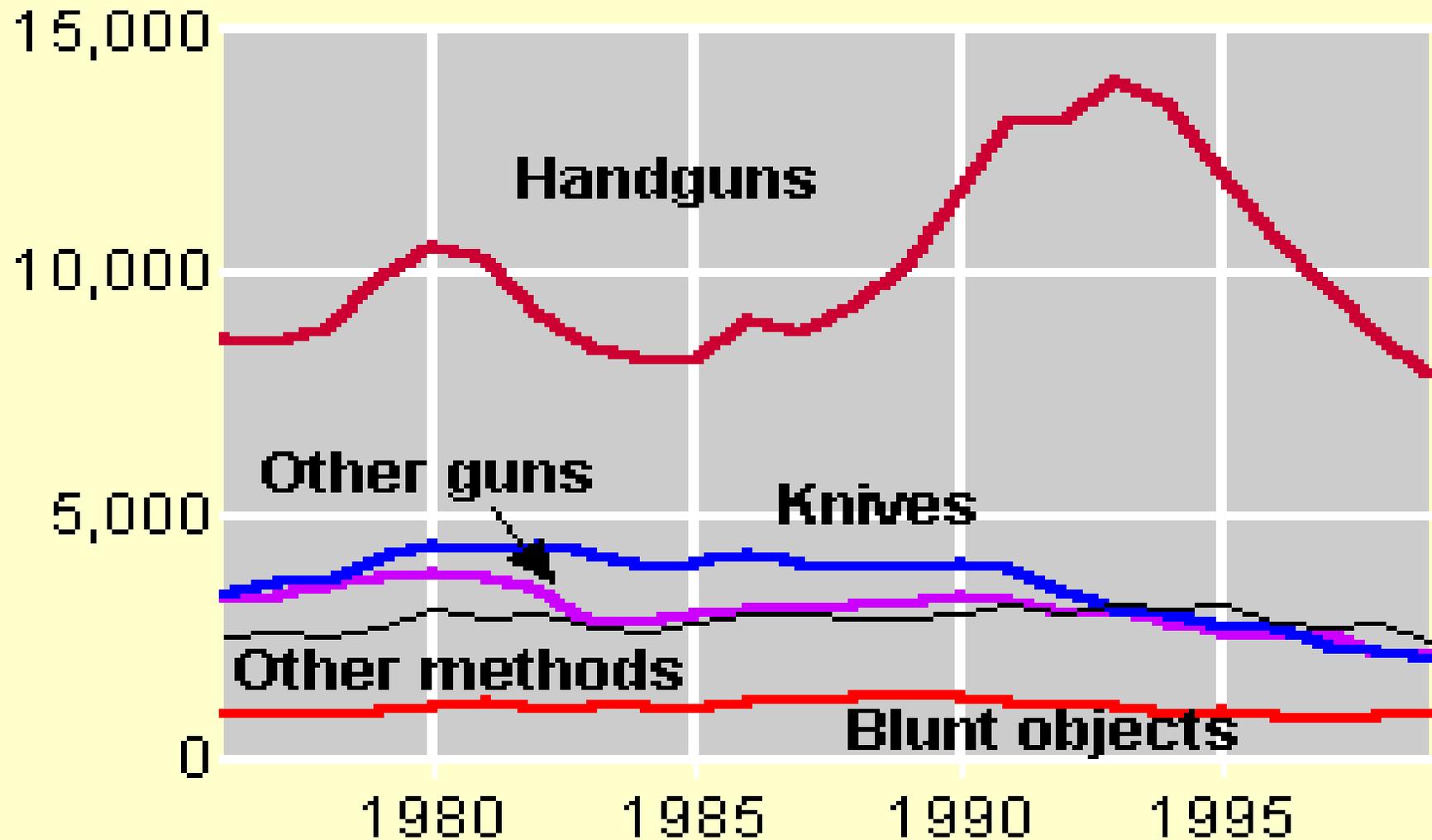
Guns and Homicide

- 70% of murders involve firearms; the majority being handguns.
- Guns can transform simple assaults into homicides due to the lethality of firearms.



Homicide by weapon type, 1976-99

Number of victims



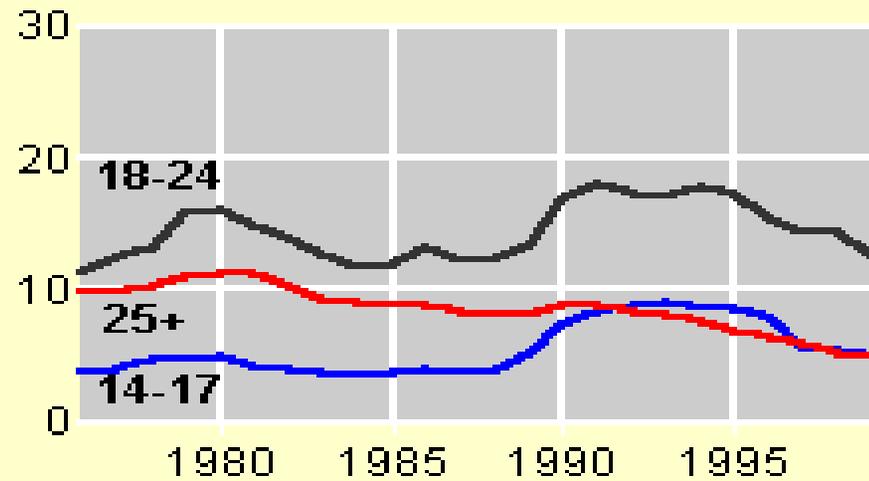
Gender

- Females are much more likely to be killed by a husband or boyfriend than males are to be killed by a wife or girlfriend.
- Pattern reflects attempts of males to control females (e.g., prevent break-ups).

Homicide victimization by age, gender, and race, 1976-99

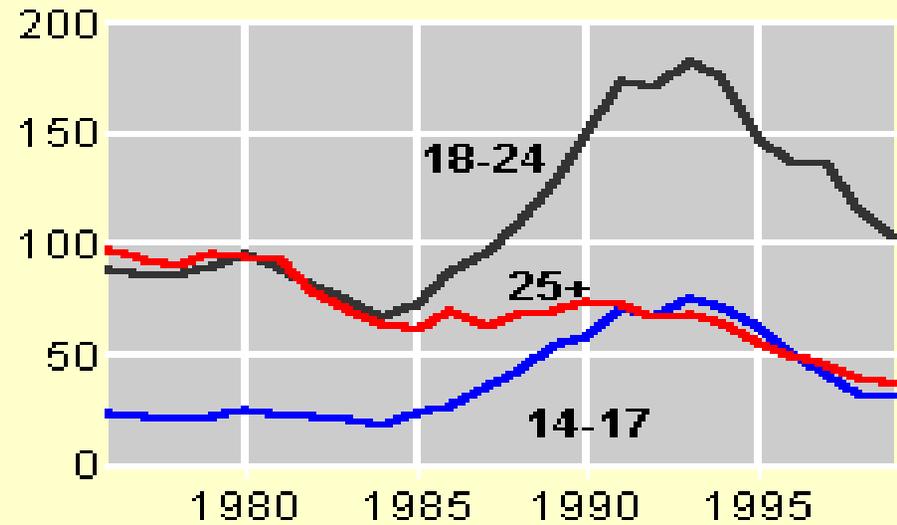
White males

Rate per 100,000 population



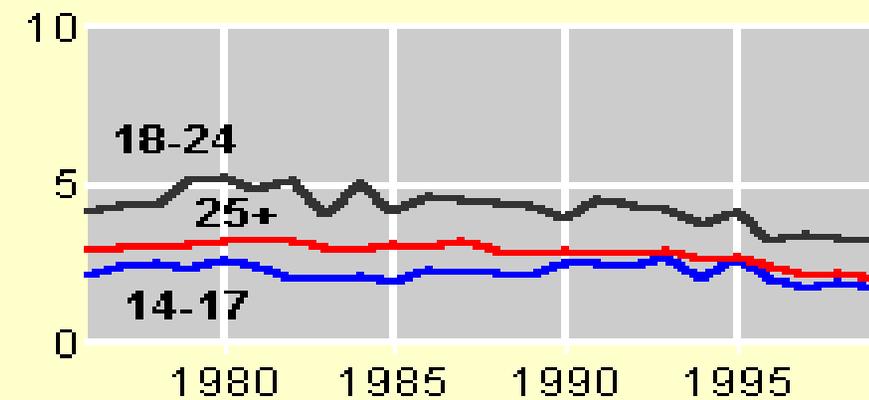
Black males

Rate per 100,000 population



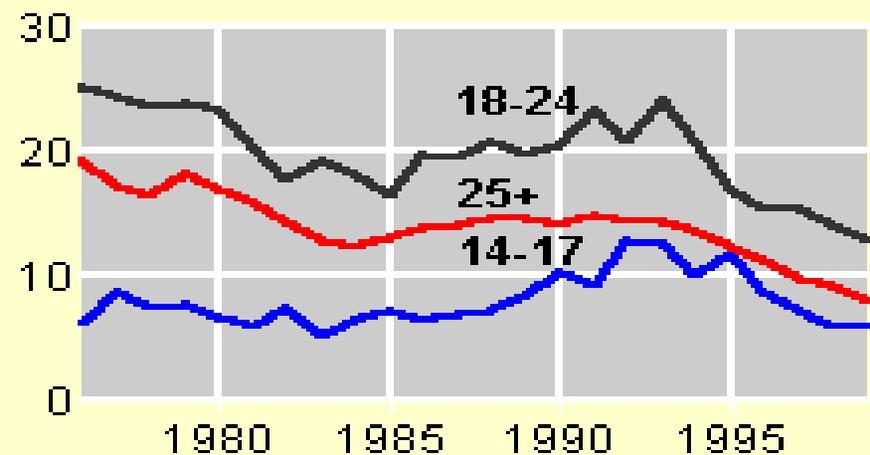
White females

Rate per 100,000 population



Black females

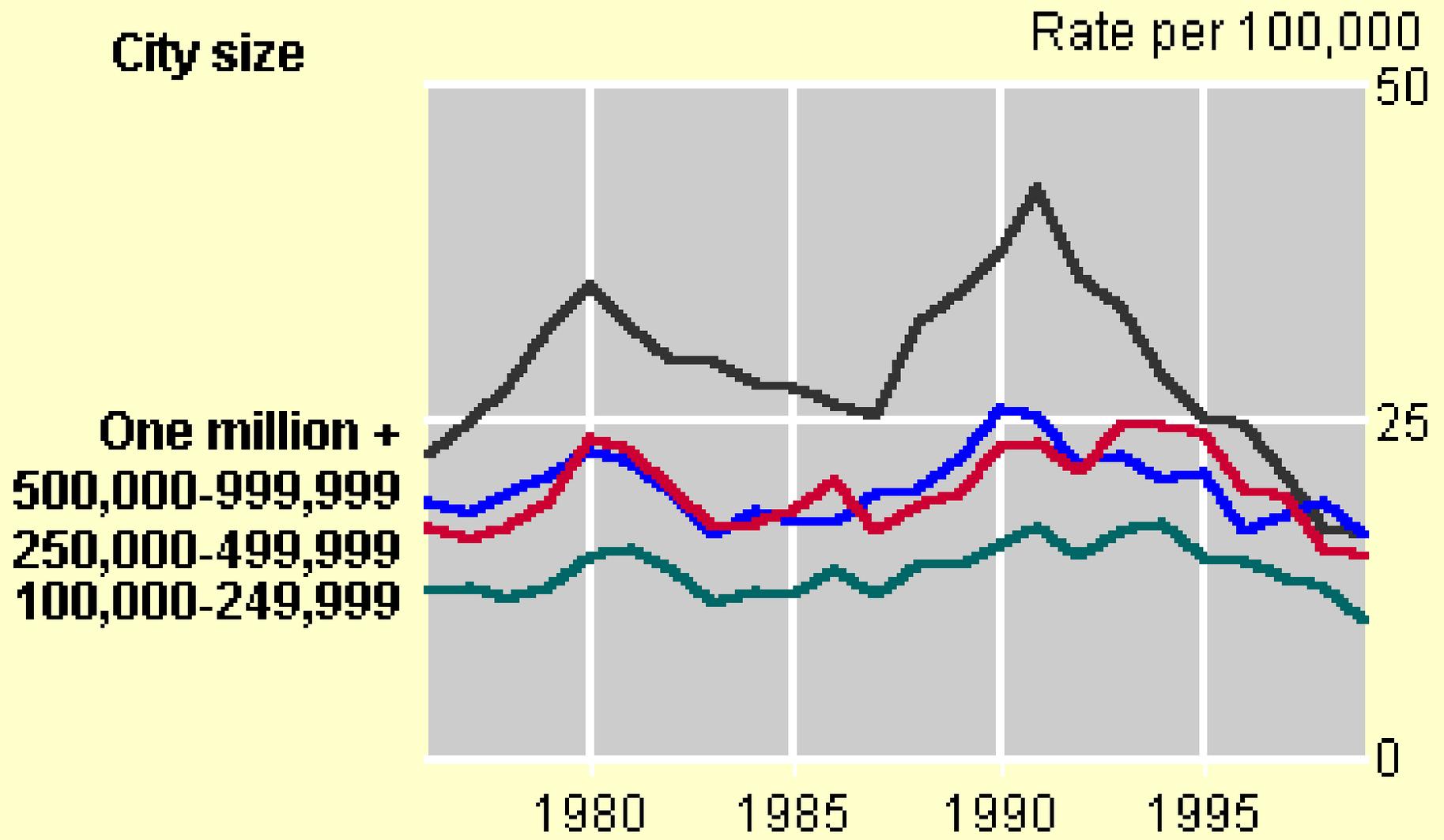
Rate per 100,000 population



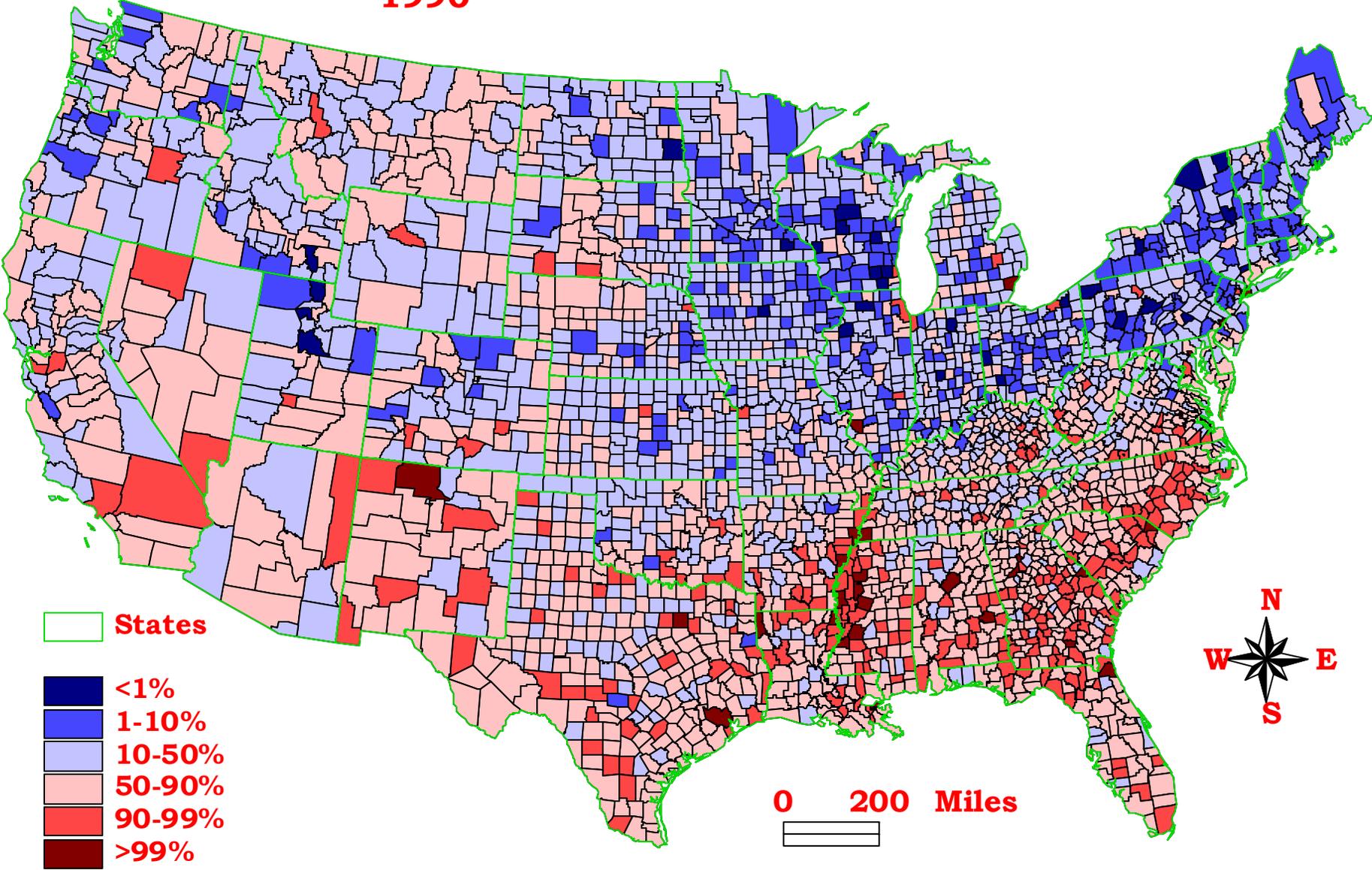
Spatial Patterns

- Murder rates are highest in large cities, in the South and West, and during summer months and holiday seasons.
- Nearly 25% of all murders in U.S. occur in eight cities: New Orleans, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Detroit, and Washington, D.C

Homicide offending rates for cities over 100,000 population, 1976-99



**Percentile Map
Homicide Rate (EBS)
1990**



Two Kinds of Homicide

- **Instrumental (felony-related)**

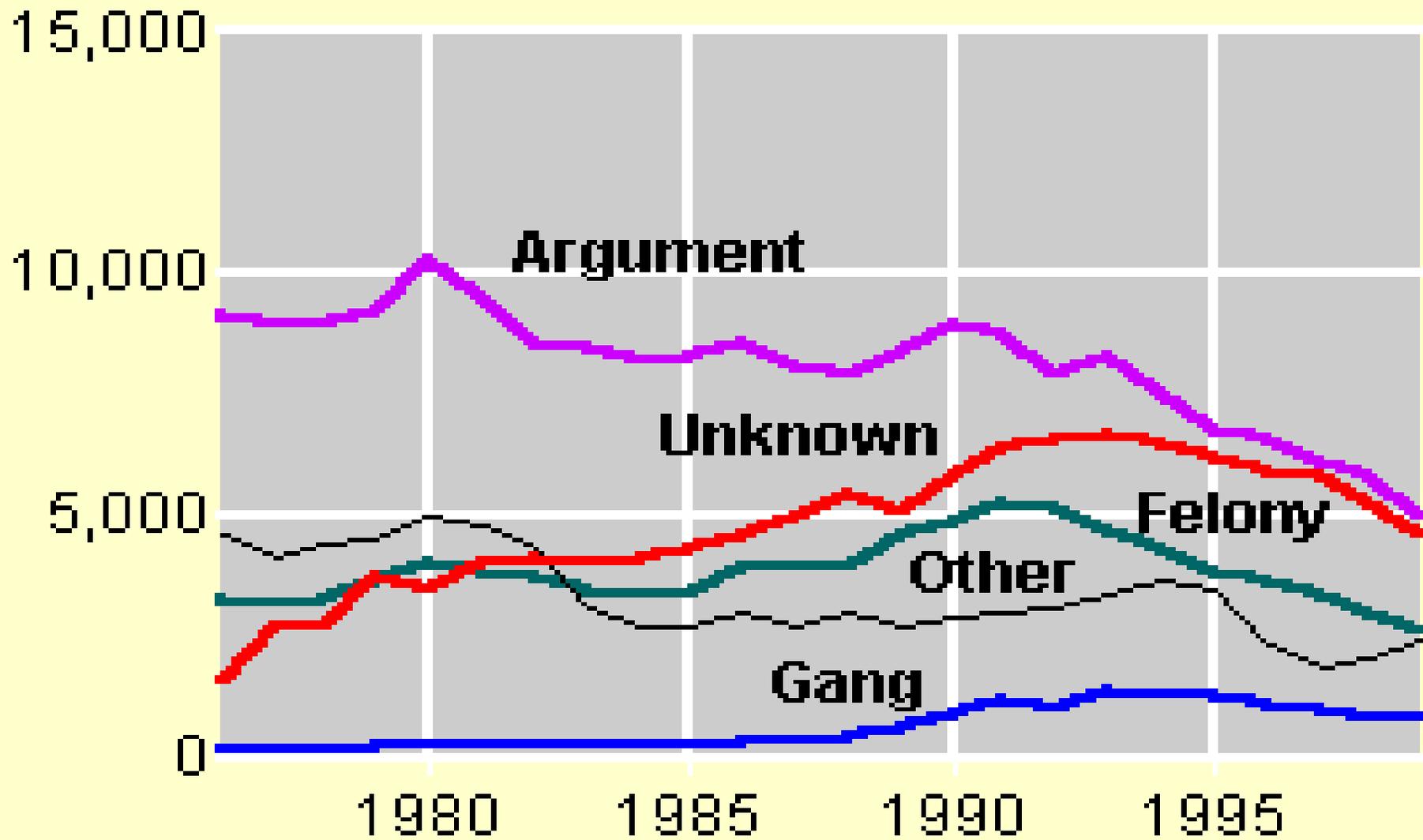
Directed towards strangers and motivated by desire of offender to increase their economic position (e.g., homicide during robbery)

- **Expressive (argument-related)**

- Occurs between strangers and acquaintances to vent anger, remedy disputes, or coerce with force.
- More than half (about 70%) of all homicides are expressive.

Homicide by circumstance, 1976-99

Number of victims



Assault

- Patterns for assault are very similar to homicide—the main difference is that the victim is more likely to survive.
- Homicide researchers also study assault cases to understand patterns of interpersonal violence.

Serial Murder

- **Serial Murder:** When a person kills 3 or more people over time, with a “cooling off” period between kills. The time span involved is typically weeks to years.
- **Spree Murder:** when a person kills a number of persons over a short span of time, typically hours to days.
- **Mass murder:** when a person kills a number of persons all at the same time. The offenders kills a group of people in one location & then stops his/her activities.



Basic Profile

- Caucasian male
- Aged 18-32
- History of child abuse, bed wetting, animal abuse, and arson
- Many, many exceptions to this profile!!!

Personality factors

- often Psychopaths
- often loners, shy, withdrawn people.
- are often fascinated by blood, gore, murder/horror films, etc.
- are meticulous planners
- victims are often objects to them
- no distress or tension about killing
- may enjoy the media attention they get

Development of Serial Killers

- begin killing in their 20s, 30s or 40s – not before.
- They are typically able to avoid arrest for a time.
- Their backgrounds don't show consistent patterns.
- usually are good workers
- They all seem to have a compulsion to kill, repeatedly

Summary: Serial Murder

- Estimated 20 active serial murders in a given year, accounting for 240 killings, or 1% of yearly total.
- **Sociopaths** who demonstrate bizarre behavior such as torturing animals, enjoy killing, and immune to their victims' suffering.
- Insane? Serial murders are likely more cruel than insane, and act rationally with an understanding of right from wrong. For example, most serial murders go to great lengths to avoid detection by law enforcement.



Jeffrey Dahmer

Summary: Serial Murder

- Serial Homicide most common in U.S. (about 85% of serial murders occur in U.S.)

Killers across the Americas

- ▶ **Pedro Alonso Lopez**
+300 in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia
- ▶ **Henry Lucas**
+200 USA
- ▶ **De Jesus Gonzales sisters**
+90 Mexico



<http://members.tripod.com/ahrens/serial/>

Part III. Cultural/Structural Debate

Structural Hypothesis

Homicide is ultimately caused by resource deprivation and inequality.

Individuals who lack employment become frustrated, and in combination with availability of guns, violence is a common outcome. Inequality exacerbates the problem because poorer individuals compare themselves with the wealthy.

Cultural Hypothesis

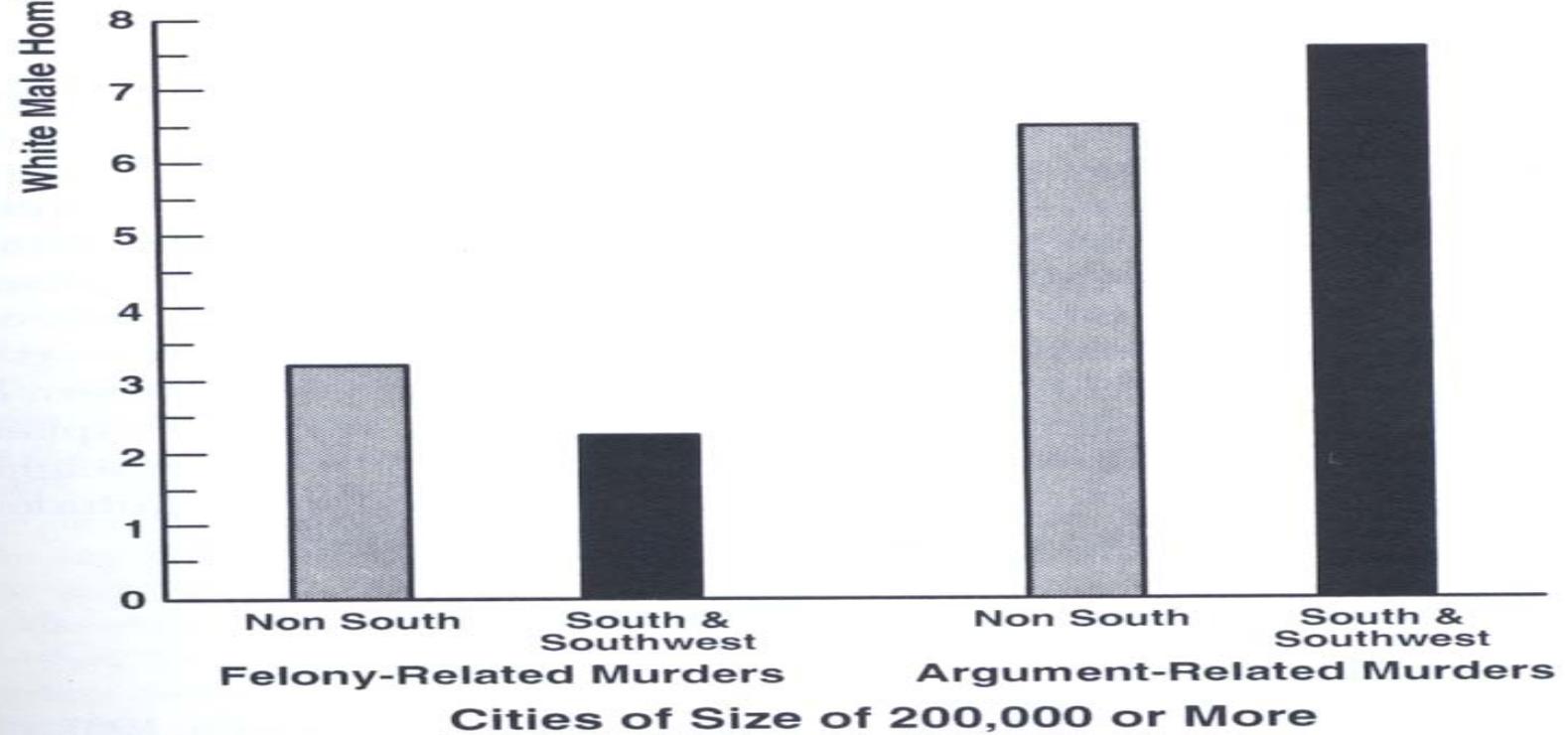
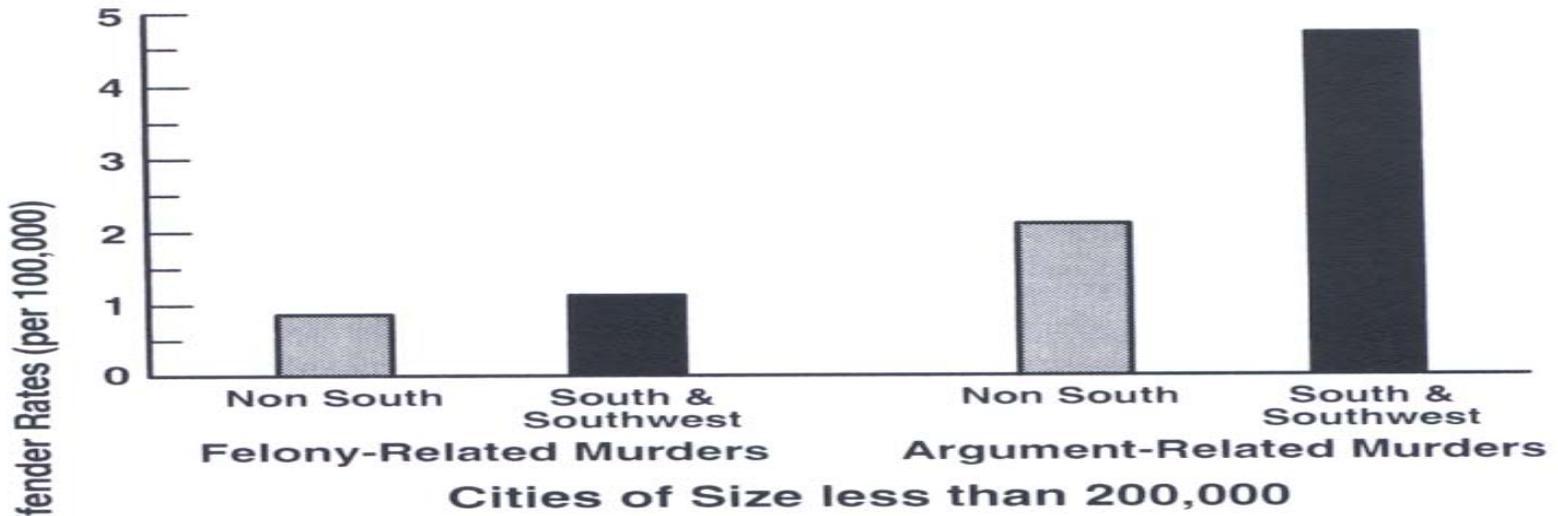
- Although associated with poverty in some situations, homicide is related to the types of social controllers in population (e.g, unilateral, bilateral, or trilateral).
- When *trilateral* social controls are weak, *unilateral* and *bilateral* controls are stronger. As a result, violence is used to remedy arguments and disputes.

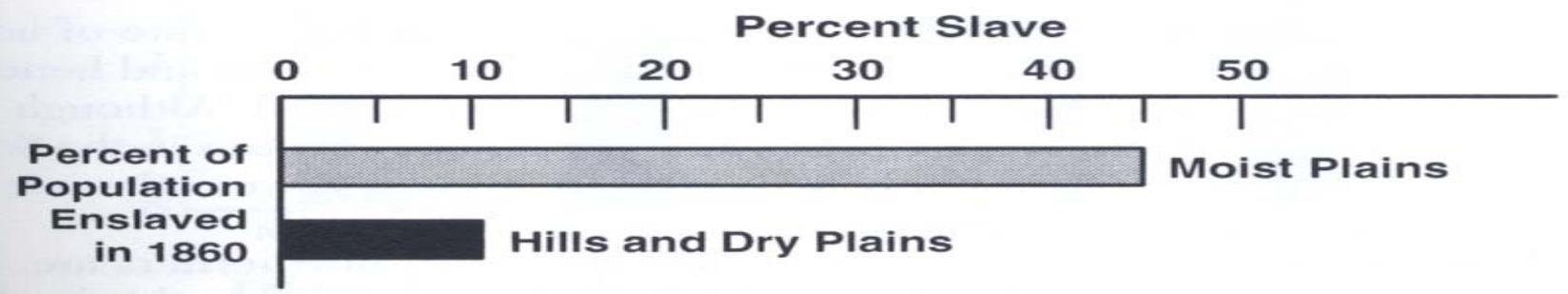
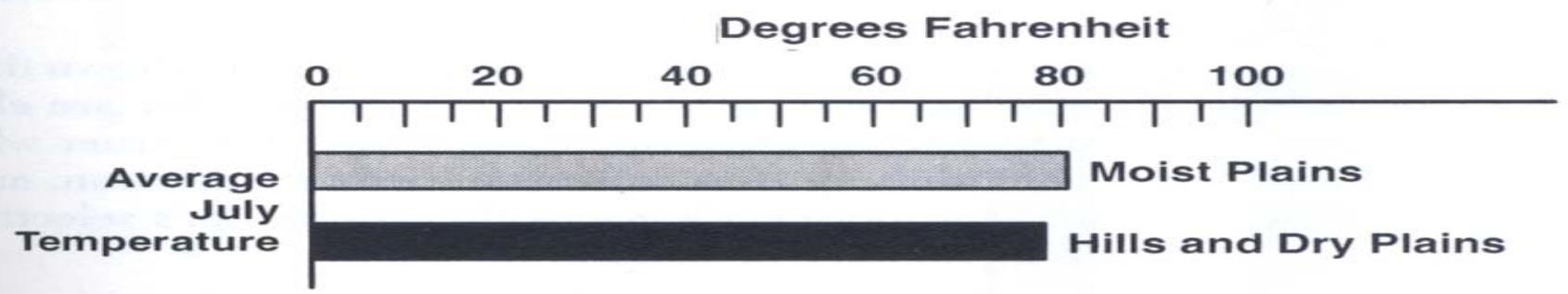
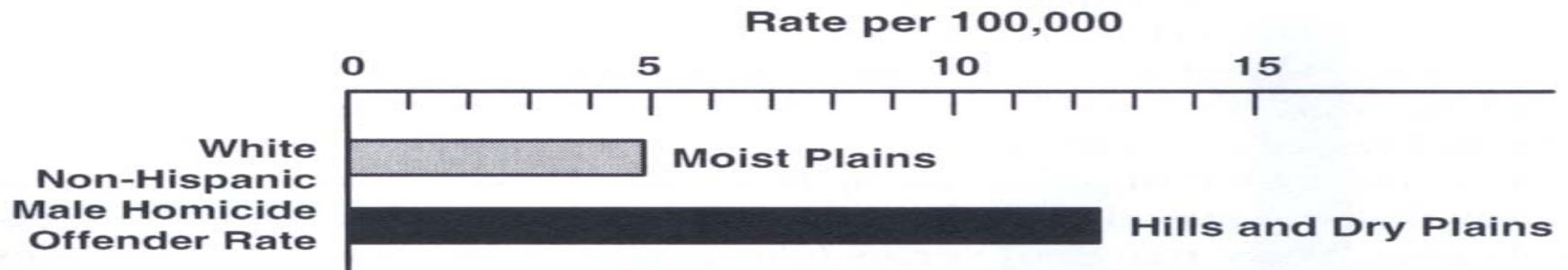
Multivariate Statistical Analysis: Homicide 1960

Independent Variables	City	SMSA	State
Pop. size	**		
Pop density			
% Black	**	**	
% 15-29			
% Divorced	**	**	
% Kids w/ both parent			
Income			
poverty			
Southern Region	**	**	**

The Case of Southern Violence

- Structural hypothesis: high levels of poverty and inequality + guns = high homicide rates.
- Cultural hypothesis: Historians have documented that Scott-Irish cattle herders settled in the South. Trilateral social controls (the state) were much weaker in the south. Because social institutions are comprised of cultural rules, unilateral and bilateral controls remain important in the South today. In sum, HONOR more important in the South as compared to the North.





... violence is a legitimate means of protecti

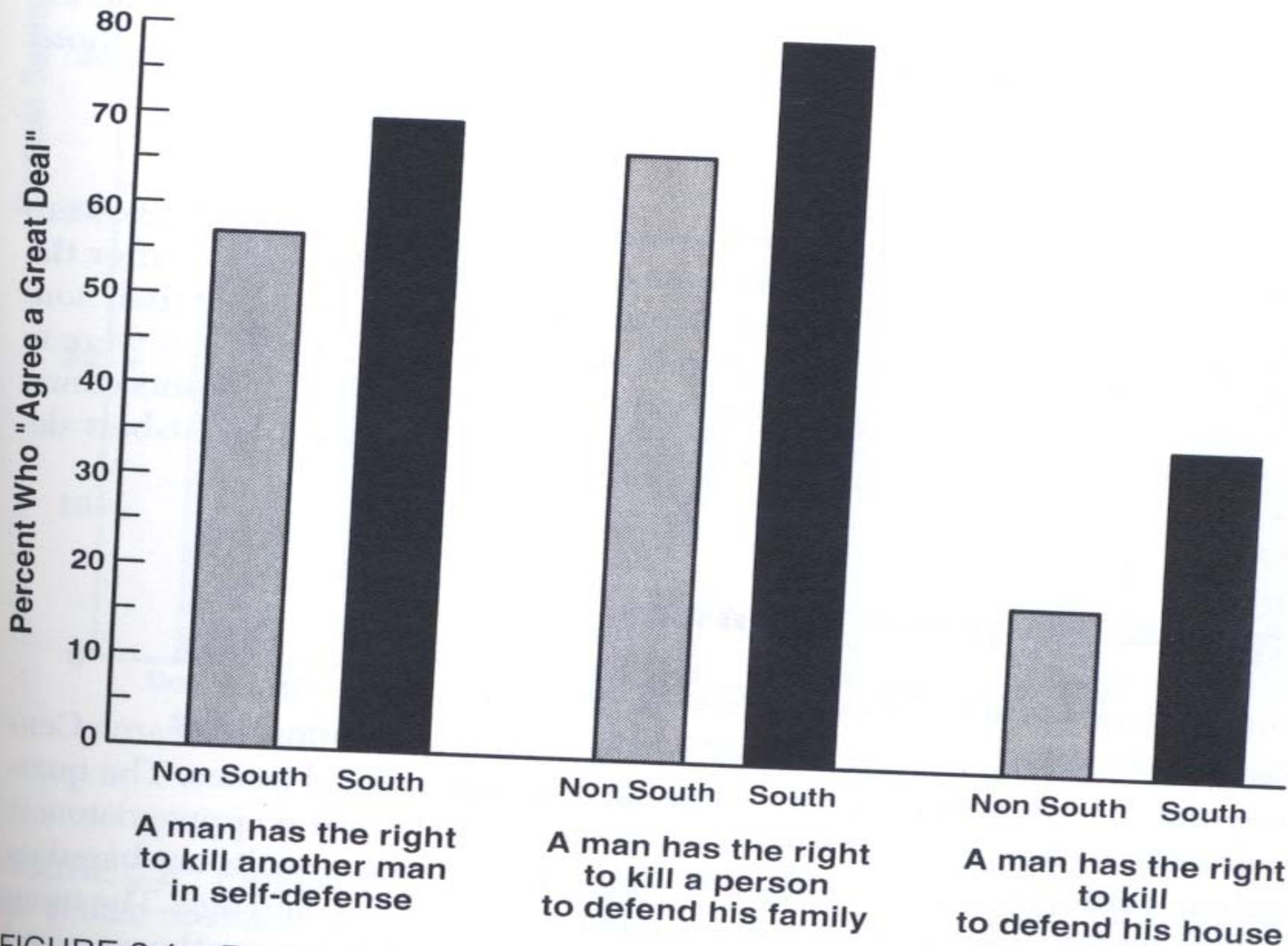


FIGURE 3.1 Percent of southern and non-southern



FIGURE 3.4 Percent of southerners and midwesterners saying they would be angry with a friend for at least a month following a fist fight and following an insult. Source: Cohen and Nisbett, 1994.

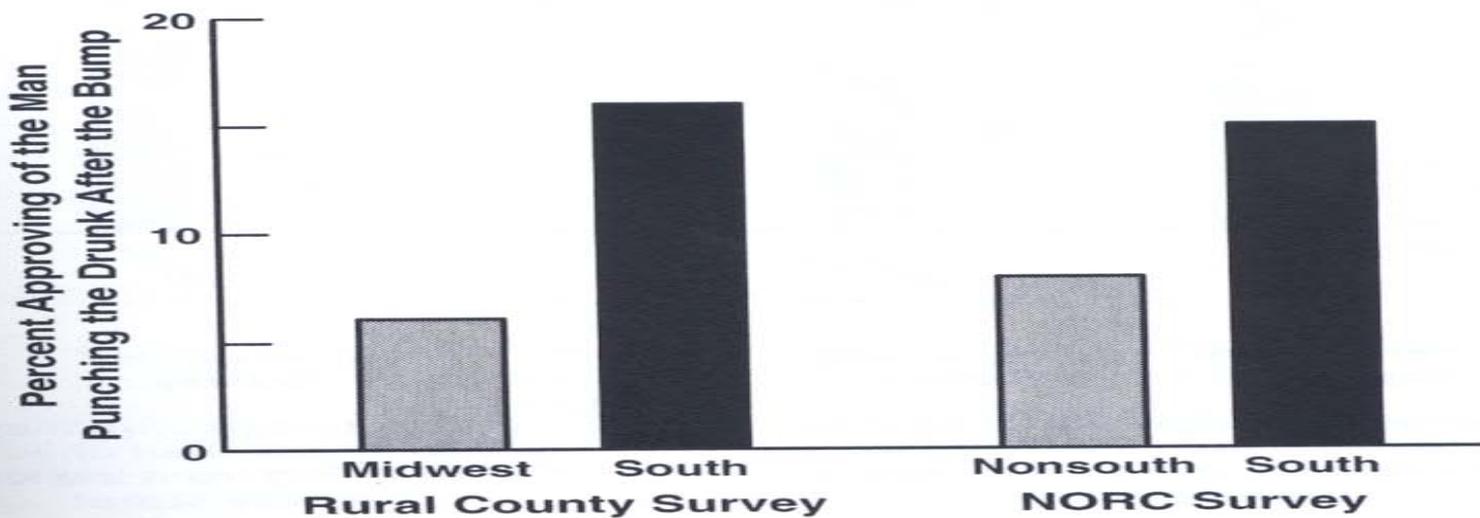


FIGURE 3.5 Percent of southerners and midwesterners who approved punching "a drunk who bumps into a man and his wife." Sources: Cohen and Nisbett, 1994; Davis and Smith, 1990.

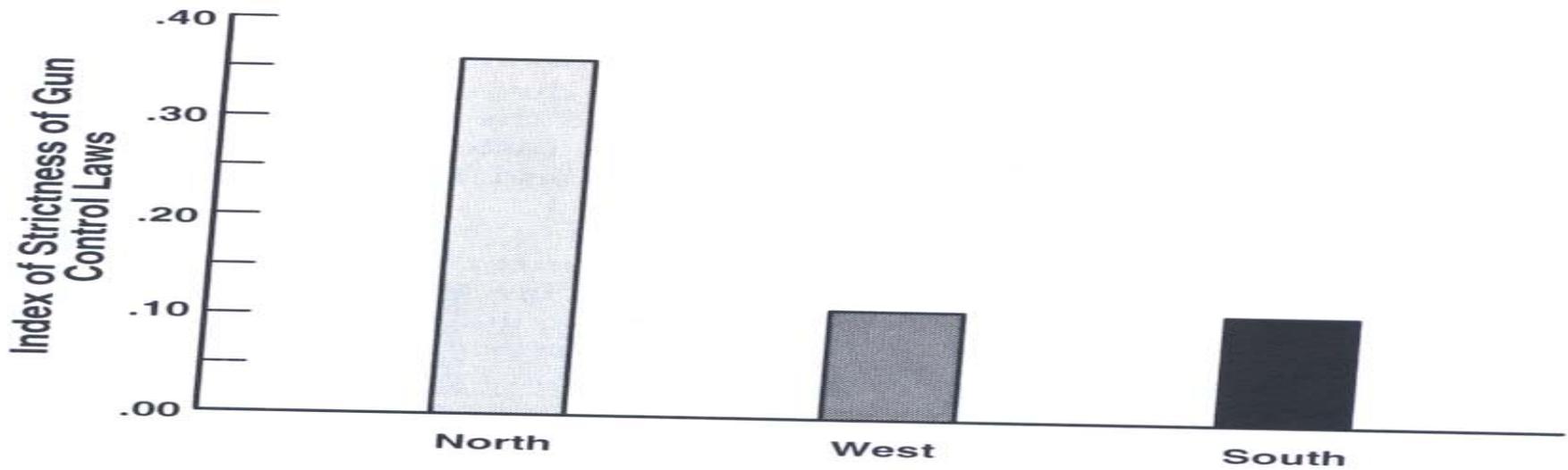


FIGURE 5.1 Strictness of gun control laws in the North, West, and South in 1992. Source: National Rifle Association, 1992.

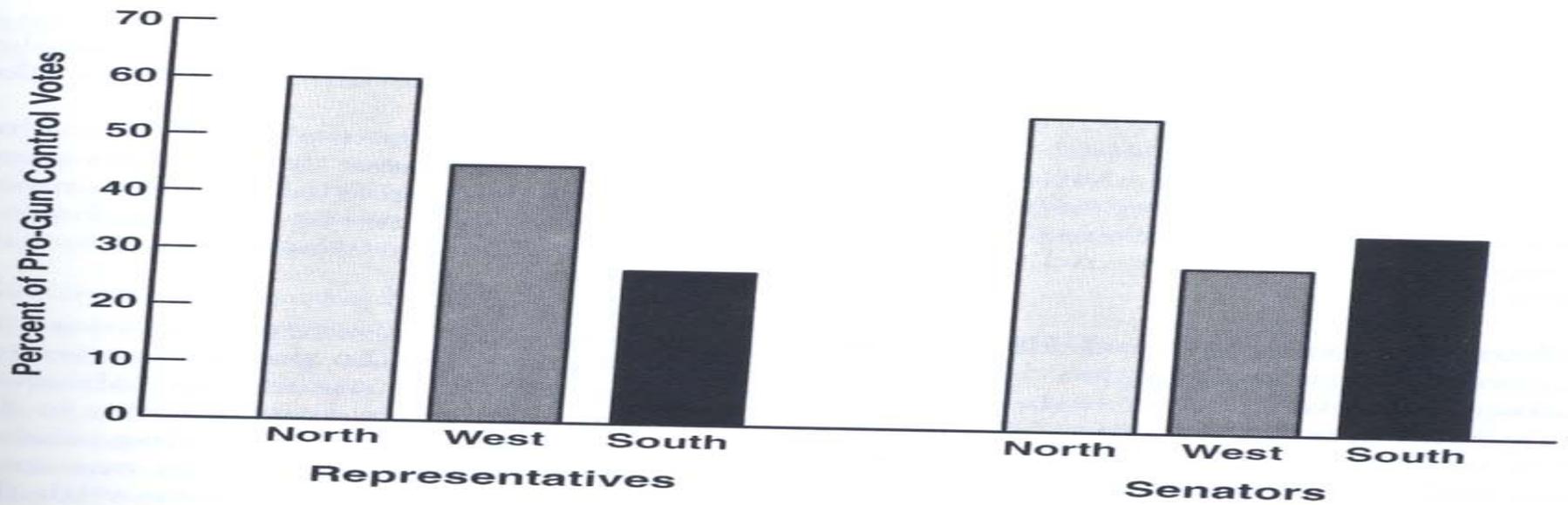


FIGURE 5.2 Percent of pro-gun control votes in the House of Representatives and the Senate from 1985 to 1991, by region. Source: Handgun Control Incorporated.

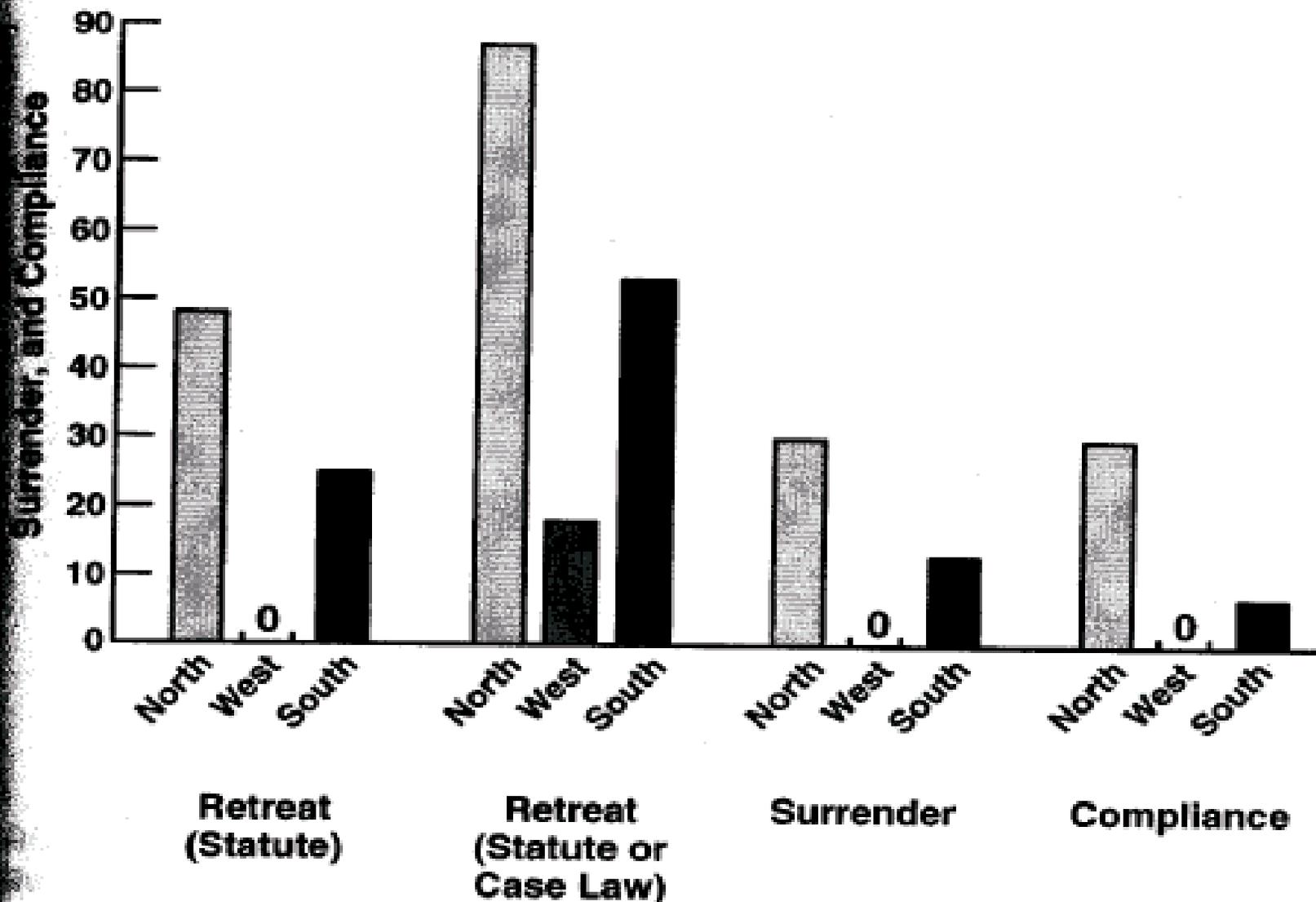


FIGURE 5.3 Percent of states in each region requiring retreat, surrender, and compliance to demands rather than killing an assailant. Source: Cohen, 1995.

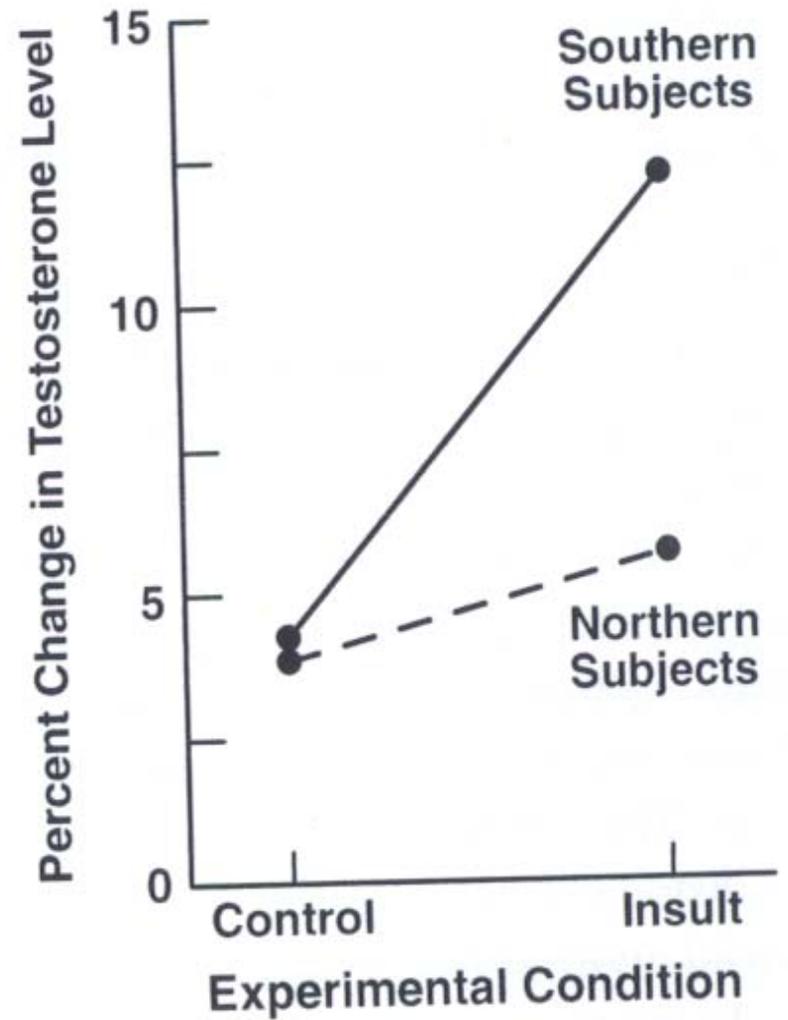
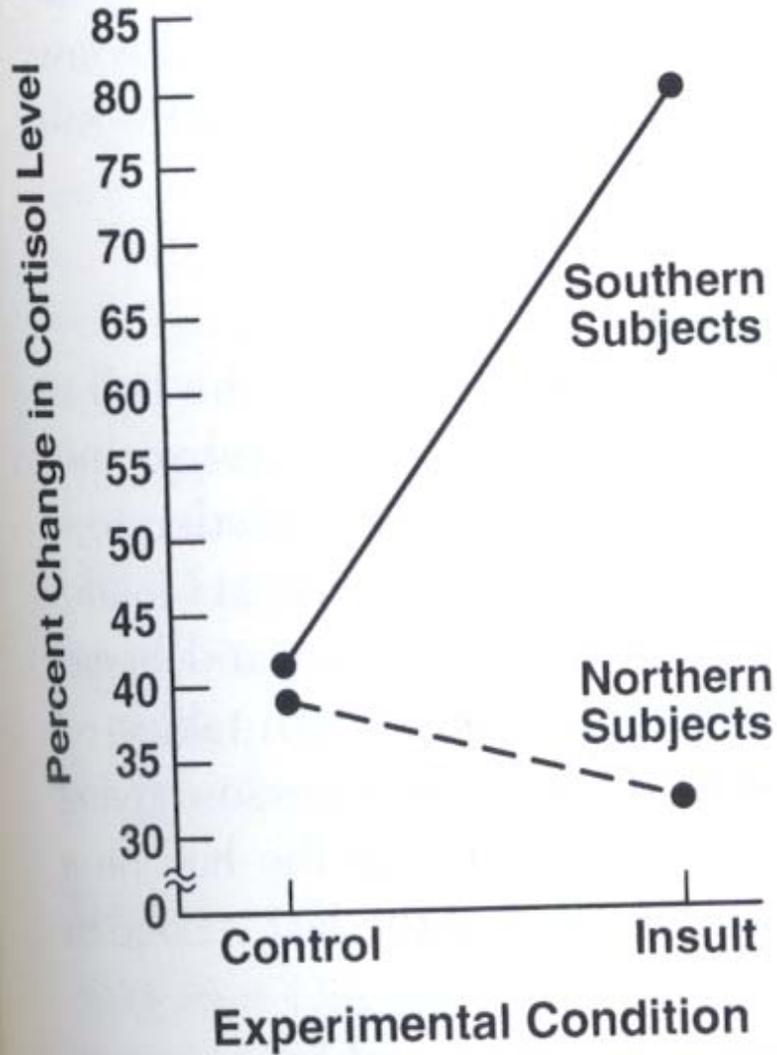


FIGURE 4.2 Change in cortisol levels and change in testosterone levels for insulted and noninsulted southerners and northerners

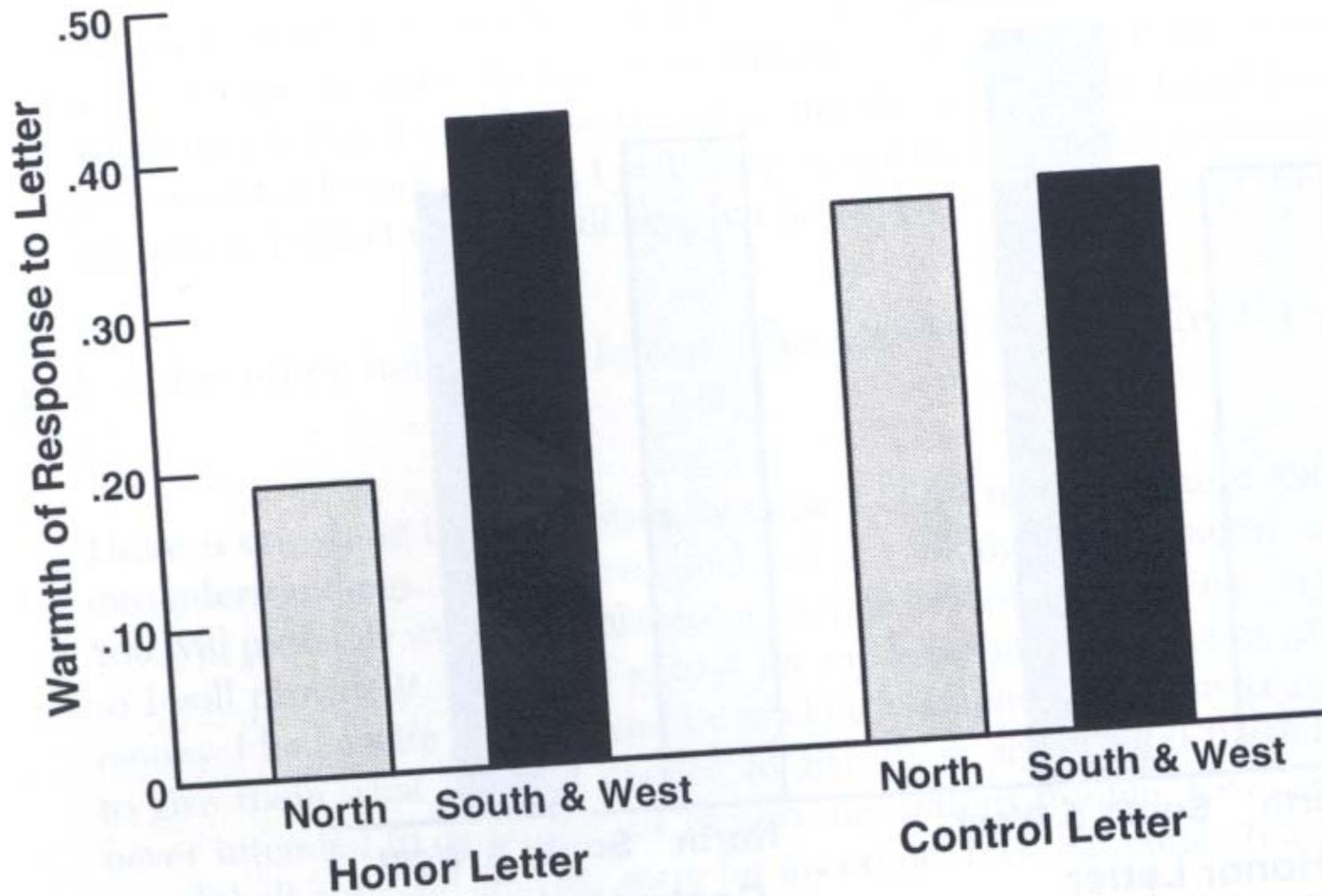


Figure 5.12 Warmth of response to job applicant's letter in the North and in the South and West when he reported an honor-related versus a non-honor-related felony. Source: Cohen and Nisbett, 1995.

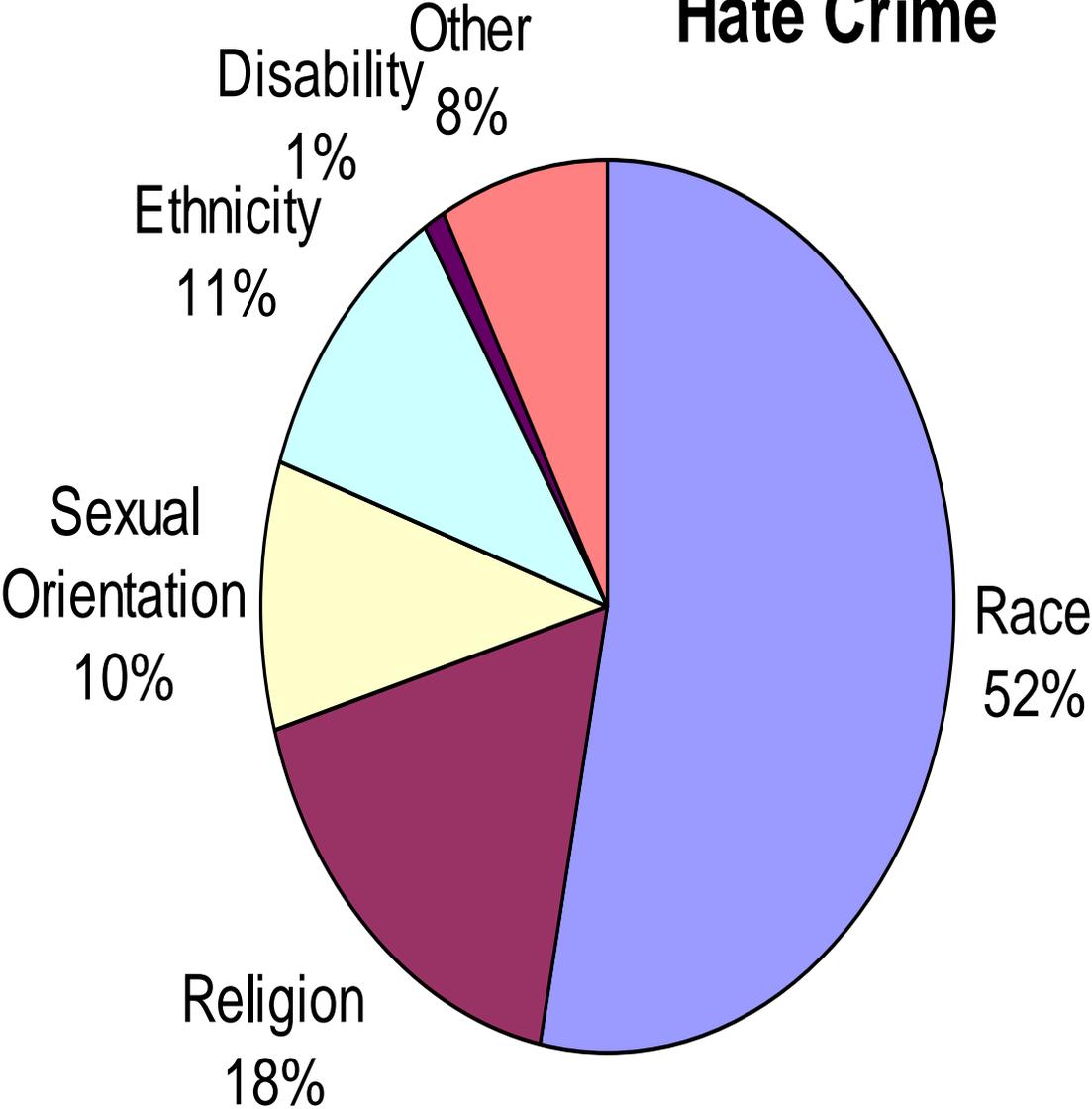
Lecture 6B

Hate Crime/Terrorism

Hate Crime

- Violent acts directed directed towards a particular person or members of a group because of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference, etc.
- UCR data: about 8,000 hate crimes a year. (60% motivated by race).
- Hate crimes have less planning and rationality as terrorism. Hate crimes become more similar to terrorist behavior if groups calculate the use violence against a group for a specific goal (e.g., KKK and control of African Americans)

Hate Crime



Defining Terrorism

“Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.”



Purpose of Terrorism

- Organizations or groups have a dispute with another group, or nation, and plan a way to implement change, usually with violence.
- **Terrorism as theatre:** make a big show for many to see and contemplate.



Ruins of Pan Am 103,
Lockerbie, Scotland, 1988.
(AP Photo/Dave Caulkin)

Forms of Terrorism Categorized By Goals of Actors

- Revolutionary: replace existing government with acceptable regime.
- Political: directed against people or groups opposing terrorists' political ideology.
- Nationalistic: Promote interests of minority ethnic or religious groups persecuted under state.
- Nonpolitical: other social or religious goals.
- State-sponsored: state attempts to control domestic citizens or foreign groups and nations.

Strategies of Terrorists

- Terrorists usually strategize their actions by planning the amount and type of violence to achieve desired goals
- Terrorists are usually weaker than those they are up against, thus violence, destruction, and fear is a way of creating power.



Strategies of Terrorists cont.

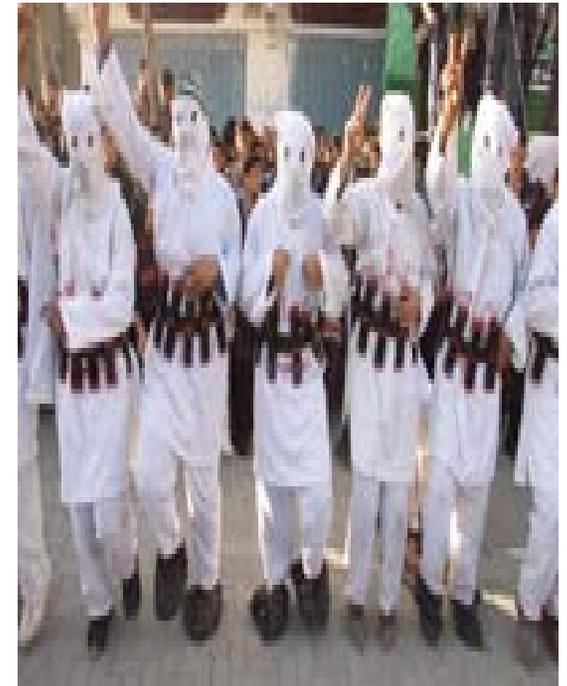
- Use enough shocking violence to bring attention to a cause felt to have been neglected, but limit scales of violence that might turn domestic and foreign audiences against the cause.
- Terrorists *usually* want a lot of people watching, not a lot of people dead

Modern Strategies

- Suicide attacks not a completely modern strategy (e.g., kamikaze pilots)
- Diffusion of the Terror Tactics
- Weapons of mass destruction.

Examples: 9-11, 1995 nerve gas by “Aum Shinrikyo in Tokyo, Anthrax letters.

- Nuclear attacks, smallpox?



Hamas members

Trends: Terrorism on Decline, Lethality Increases

- Incidents peaked in 1987 with 666 worldwide cases. (1992; 364 cases, 1996; 296).
- Deaths becoming more common.
- Causes: Tighter security makes hijackings and kidnappings more difficult; rise of religious terrorism; simpler and deadlier bombing tactics chosen.



Terrorist Motivations and Behavior

- Motivations: Ideological beliefs about the need for change (also material needs as a result of poverty and unemployment?)
- Justifying Violence: Making the “other” into an evil force; rationalizing the benefits outweigh the costs.
- Participants: Often upper class individuals. Their position gives them feeling of power to make changes.

Controlling/Preventing Terrorism

- Adding tracers to explosives.
- Controlling biological, chemical, and nuclear materials.
- Limit flows of weapons.
- International political pressure (e.g., sanctions on Iraq).

Violent Responses to Terror

- Difficult to deter terrorists with threats of violence as they are difficult to locate (also, some are willing to die).
- If violence is used, moral high ground is lost, and violence may escalate. If violence is not used, terrorists interpret the enemy as weak, and operate freely.