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Data on gender-(dis)aggregated homicides

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Report on the Meeting of the Friends of the Chair Aguascalientes, Mexico, 9 – 11 December 2009

- Indicators that require further work:
 - **Femicide and spousal homicide**
 - Stalking
 - Recognizing violence as a crime



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A feminist definition

- “The killing of females by males because they are female”*
 - Misogynist murders
 - Mutilation, rape, battery ending with the death of the victim
 - “Honour crimes”

D. Russell, 1976



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Femicide: the gender-based murder of a woman

- “Femicide occurs everywhere, but the scale of some cases of femicide within community contexts — for example, in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and Guatemala — has drawn attention to this aspect of violence against women. (...) Impunity for these crimes is seen as a key factor in these occurrences, and in the case of Guatemala, the legacy of the internal armed conflict that ended in 1996 is also seen as a contributing factor.”

In-depth study on all forms of violence against women,
Report of the Secretary General,
A/61/122/Add.1, 2006



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Femicide as an indicator of VAW

- “... 'femicide' or murder of women, which is the gravest form of violence against women. Although femicide is not captured by prevalence methodology, it constitutes one of the most accurate criminal justice statistics where such data is available.”

Statement by Prof. Yakın Ertürk
Special Rapporteur on violence against women,
its causes and consequences

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Seventh session, Geneva, 11 March 2008



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Availability of data



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Gender-based or gender statistics?

- Is it possible to identify when a crime is “gender-based” in statistics?
- Or is it only about the gender of the victim?



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Women victims of homicide

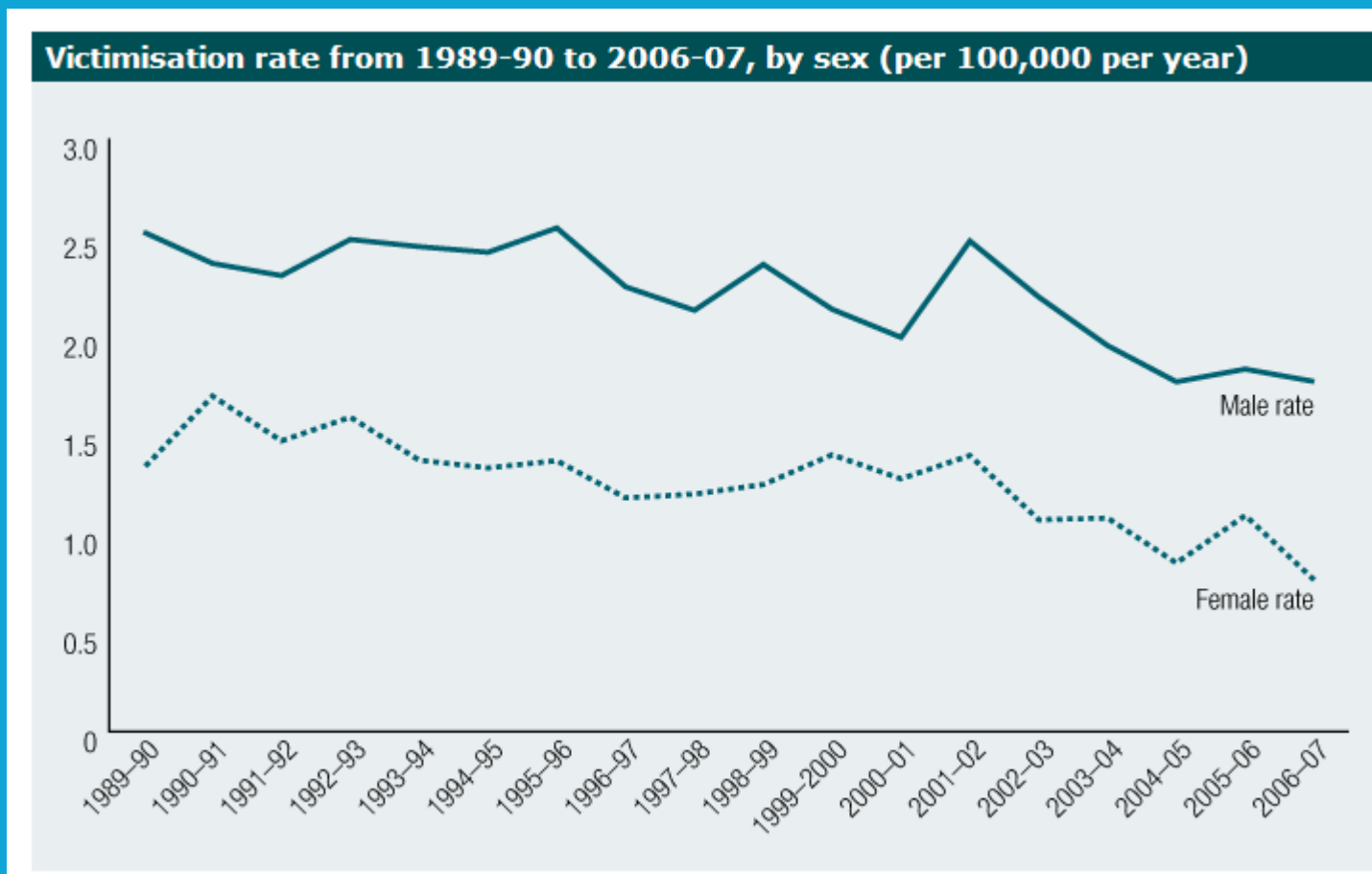
- Many countries have data on homicide disaggregated by sex
- See for example WHO deaths by violence
- Breakdown by sex
- Interpersonal violence, women as victims



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AUSTRALIA: Homicides by victims



Source: AICNHMP 1989-90 to 2006-07 [computer file]



Gender-disaggregated data on homicides are generally unavailable

TABLE 4.2 Female homicides for selected countries, 2005

Country	Total homicides	Female homicides	Female homicides as % of total homicides	Rate per 100,000 population
Belarus	1,135	393	34.6	7.6
Brazil	48,600	4,520	9.3	4.4
Bulgaria	372	100	26.9	2.5
Canada	663	180	27.1	1.1
Colombia	18,111	1,493	8.2	6.4
Czech Republic	167	58	34.7	1.1
El Salvador	3,778	390	10.3	11.5
Germany	2,723	974	35.8	2.3
Guatemala	5,338	518	9.7	8.0
Honduras	2,447	171	7	5.0
Hungary	165	77	46.7	1.5
Ireland	62	9	14.5	0.4
Jamaica*	1,471	141	9.6	10.6
Kyrgyzstan	491	106	21.6	4.1
Netherlands	198	67	33.8	0.8
Nicaragua	729	60	8.2	2.2
South Africa**	18,528	2,409	13	10.1
Turkey	6,573	1,266	19.3	3.5
Ukraine	3,529	961	27.2	3.8

* 2004 figure.

** South African Police Service statistics are given from April 2005 to March 2006.

SOURCE: World Bank Group (2008); SIM Datasus (n.d.); Colombian National Police; ¹⁹ Observatorio Centroamericano sobre Violencia (2007); Campana de prevencion de violencia de género en El Salvador (2006); IIDH (2006); Jamaica Police Constabulary; ²⁰ South African Police Service; ²¹ UNECE (2008)

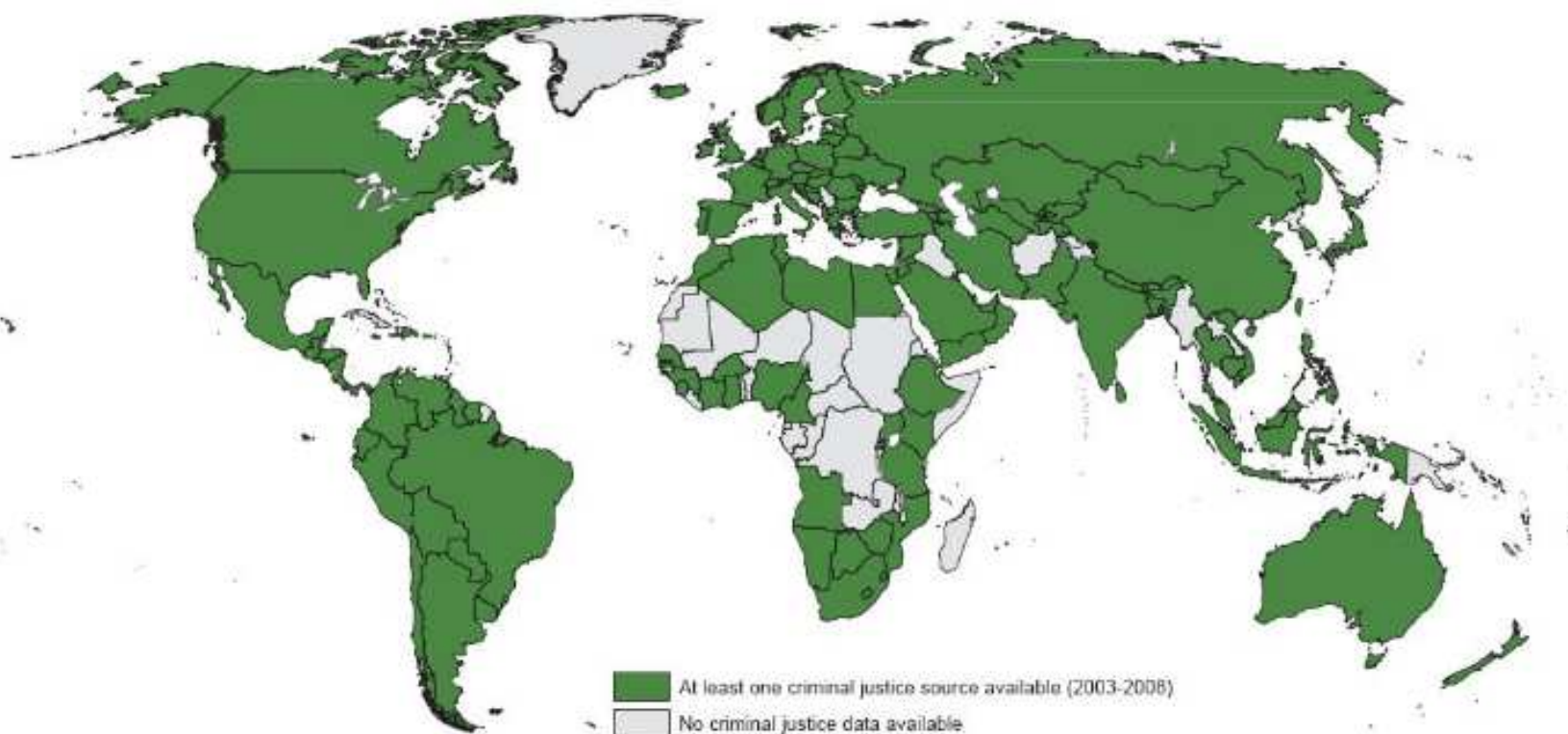


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Coverage of criminal justice data on homicide

Availability of criminal justice data on homicide





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Homicide categories (10th UN-CTS)

- Murder (deliberate and unlawful killing a person)
- Manslaughter
- Infanticide
- Homicide related to:
 - Intimate/ proximity
 - Family
 - Felony murder/ Robbery/ Assault leading to death
 - Fight
 - Sex
 - Drug
 - Alcohol
 - Arson
 - Gang/Organized Crime
 - Juvenile gang killings
 - Act of Terrorism
 - Professional negligence (medical, pharmaceutical, etc)
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Help with suicide
- Causing death by dangerous driving
- Causing death by careless driving (whilst under the influence of alcohol and drugs)

- 62 countries provided detailed information on at least some of these categories
- data were not disaggregated by sex



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Intentional homicide (11th UN-CTS)

POLICE STATISTICS

- COMPLETED Intentional Homicide:
 - offences at the national level
 - offences in the largest city
 - offences at the national level committed with firearm
 - persons (adults and juveniles) brought into formal contact with the police
- Total Intentional Homicide
 - offences at the national level
 - offences in the largest city
 - offences at the national level committed with firearm
 - persons (adults and juveniles) brought into formal contact with the police
- Number of persons killed at the national level

data not
disaggregated by sex



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Intentional homicide (11th UN-CTS – ctd.)

PROSECUTION STATISTICS

- COMPLETED Intentional Homicide:
 - Persons (adults and juveniles) prosecuted
- Total Intentional Homicide
 - Persons (adults and juveniles) prosecuted

data not
disaggregated by sex

COURT STATISTICS

- COMPLETED Intentional Homicide:
 - Persons (adults and juveniles) convicted
- Total Intentional Homicide
 - Persons (adults and juveniles) convicted

data not
disaggregated by sex

The 12th UN-CTS will include breakdown by sex of victims and offenders



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“Gender-based” homicide statistics

- Some countries have data on witchcraft killings
- Some countries have data on honour killings
- Data on spousal violence, sexual violence + breakdown by sex provide (maybe) a proxy for “gender-based” homicide
- Some countries have estimates of killings of baby girls



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Possible “gender-based” categories of homicide which may appear in statistics

- Intimate/ proximity homicide
- Homicide in the family
- Sexually-motivated homicide
- Forced abortion
- Infanticide



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Thank you