

# Lecture 13: Male Interpersonal Violence (male-male competition)

- Part I: Patterns of Conflict
- Part II: Origins of conflict (micro and macro levels)
- Part III: Institutions
- Part IV: Strategies and Dynamics

# Part I: Patterns

- There are many forms of male violence, but lets focus on the most severe cases, or the cases that end up with one or more individuals dead—homicide.

# Two Kinds of Homicide

- **Instrumental (felony-related)**

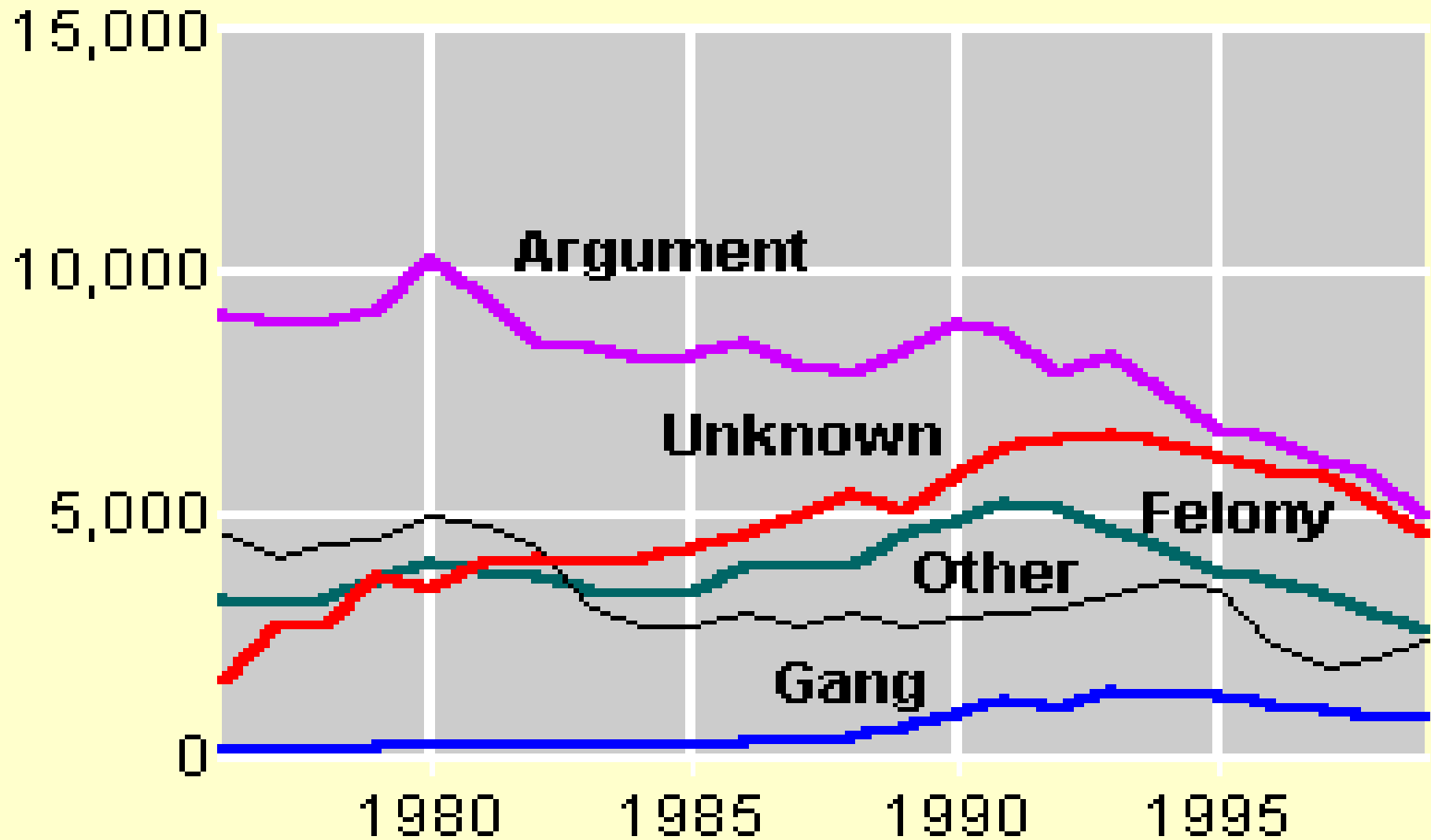
Directed towards strangers and motivated by desire of offender to increase their economic position (e.g., homicide during robbery)

- **Expressive (argument-related)**

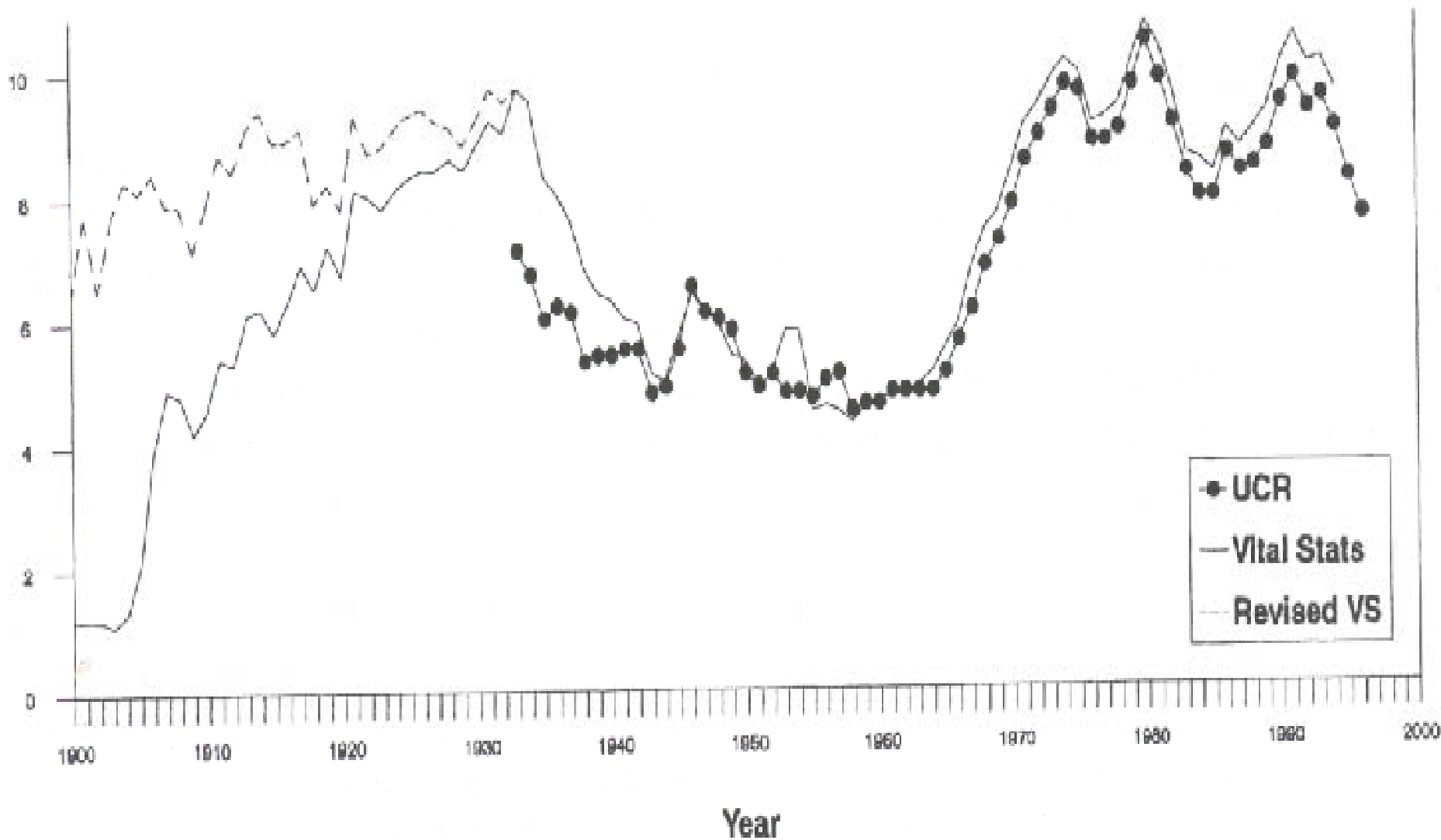
- Occurs between strangers and acquaintances to vent anger, remedy disputes, or coerce with force.
- More than half (about 70%) of all homicides are expressive.

# Homicide by circumstance, 1976-99

Number of victims



Rate

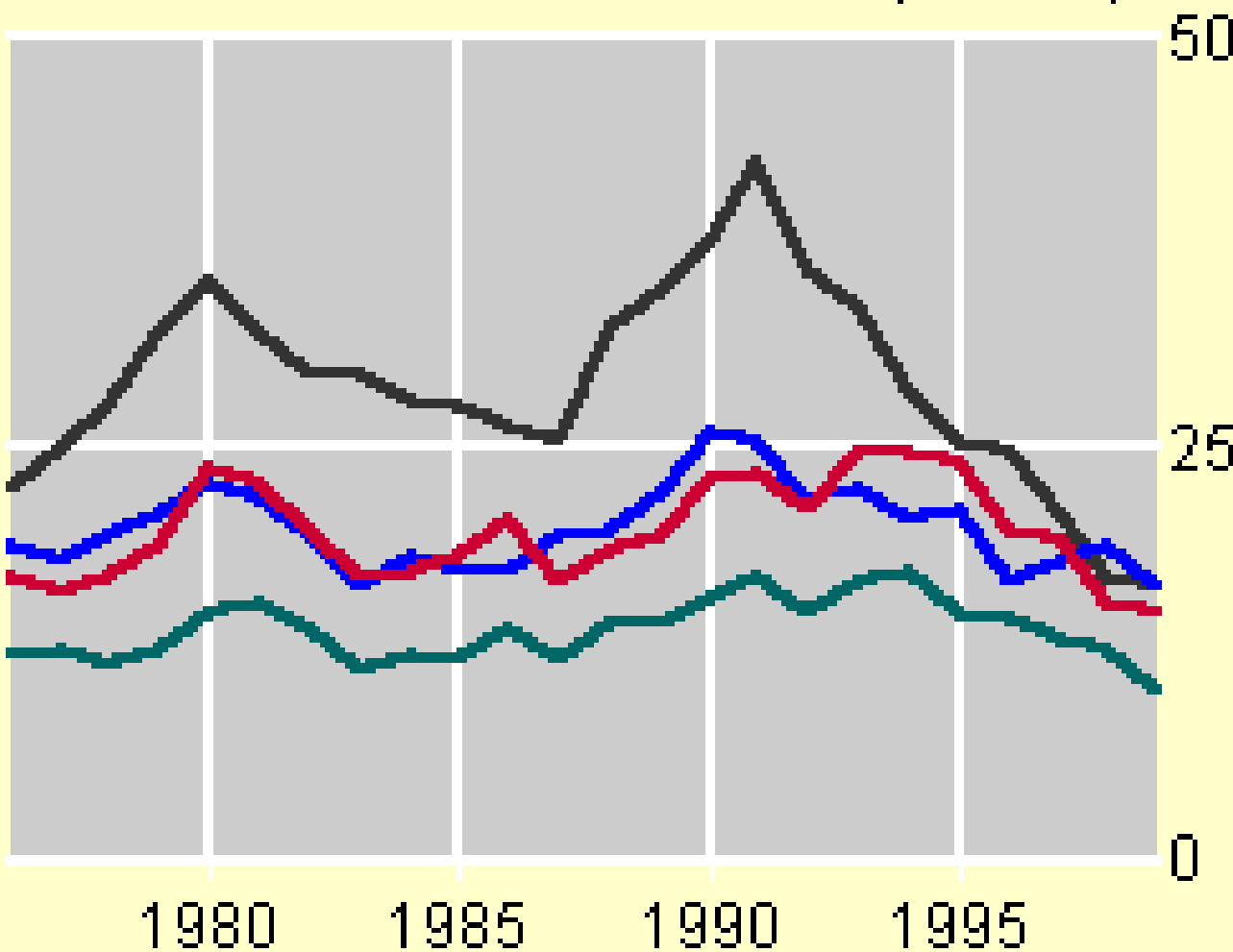


# Homicide offending rates for cities over 100,000 population, 1976-99

City size

Rate per 100,000

One million +  
500,000-999,999  
250,000-499,999  
100,000-249,999

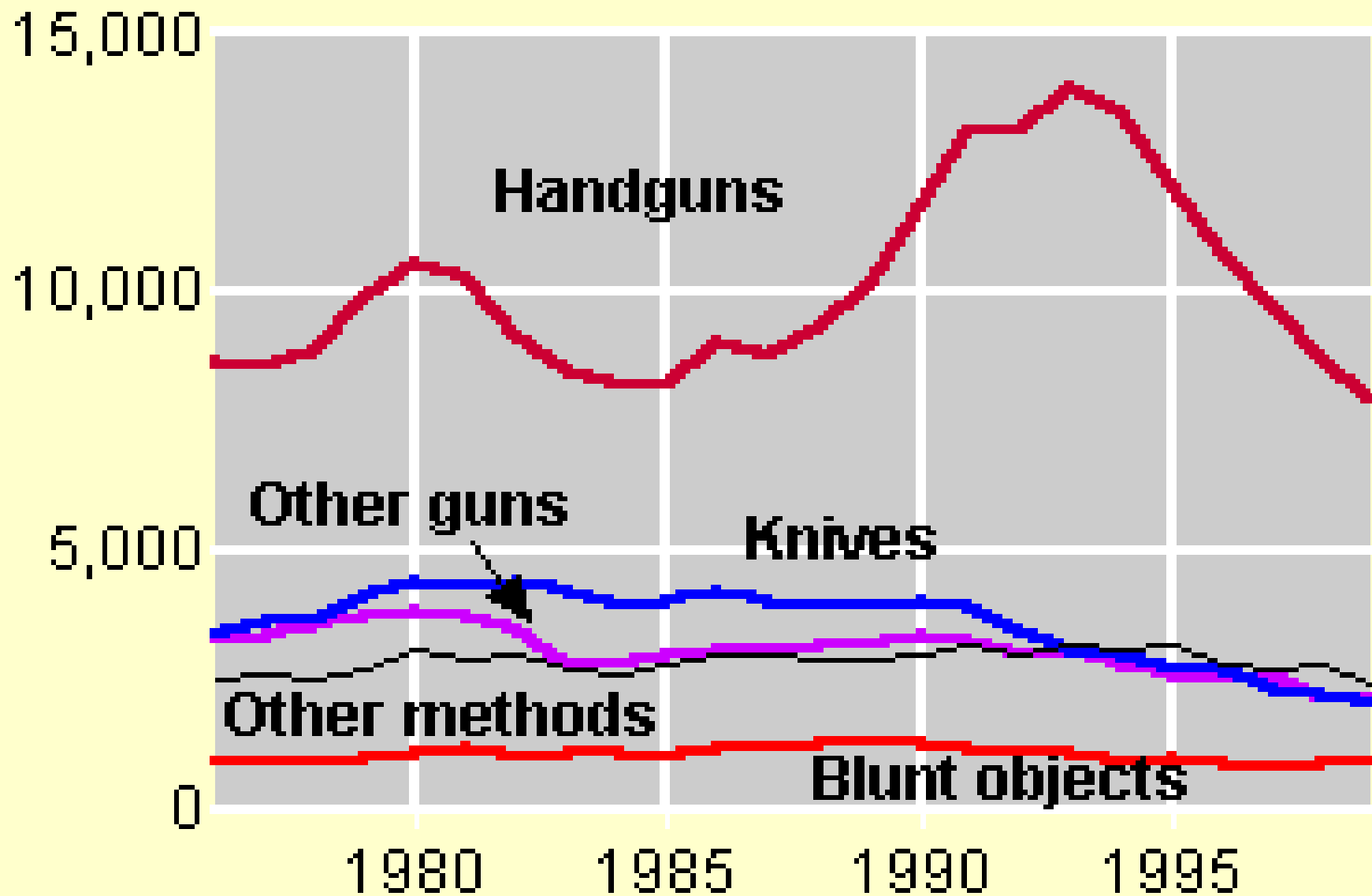


# Offender/Victim Relationship

- 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.

# Homicide by weapon type, 1976-99

Number of victims



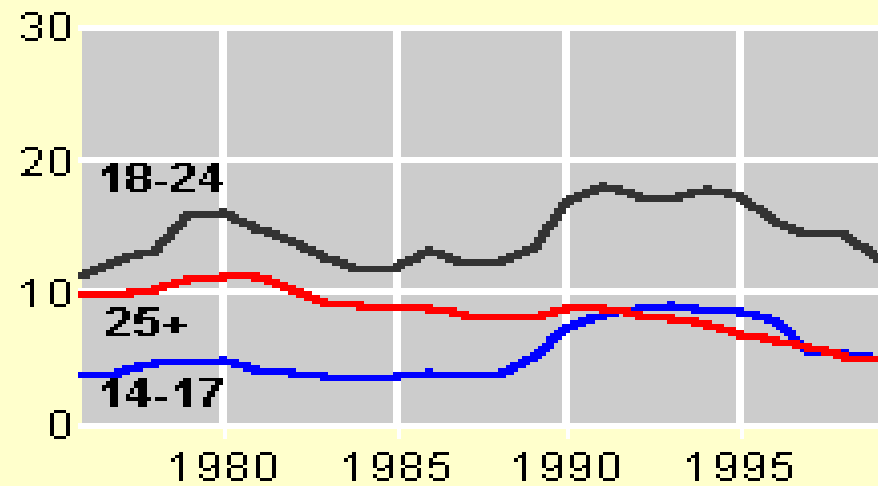
# Gender and Violence

- 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

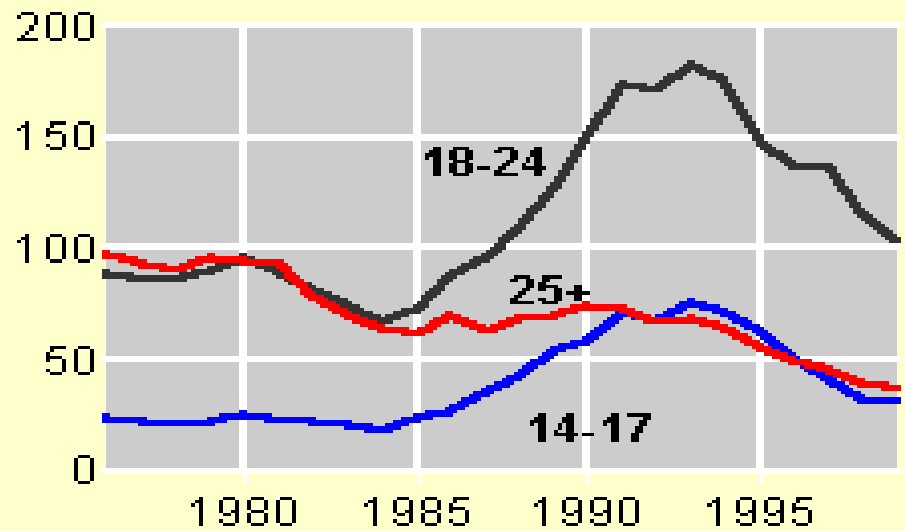
## White males

Rate per 100,000 population



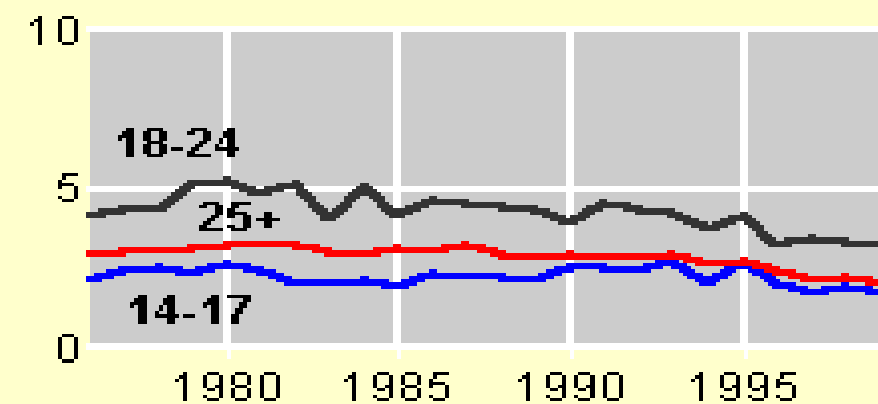
## Black males

Rate per 100,000 population



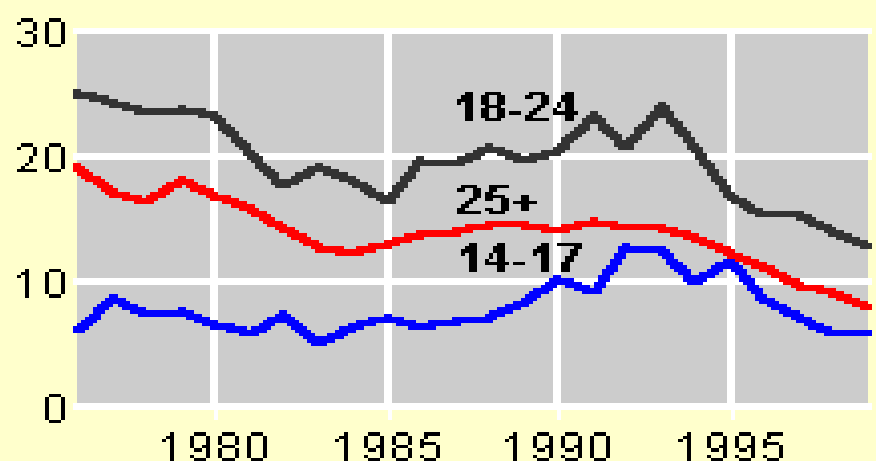
## White females

Rate per 100,000 population



## Black females

Rate per 100,000 population



# Homicide Case Descriptions

- “Murders result from little ol’ arguments over nothing at all. Tempers flare. A fight starts, and somebody gets stabbed or shot. I’ve worked on cases where the principles had been arguing over a a 10 cent record on the juke box, or over a one dollar gambling debt from a dice game” -- Dallas homicide detective.

# Case 324 (Daly and Wilson, 1988)

- The victim (a male, age 25), walking along a street with his brother, directed an insulting remark at a pair of brothers (ages 20 & 22). When the latter pair responded aggressively, the victim and his brother withdrew and went home. The insulted parties got guns and waited in ambush for the other pair to re-emerge, whereupon the victim was killed and his brother wounded.

**Table 8.3.** Two Hundred Twelve Closed Social Conflict Homicides in Detroit, 1972, in Which Victim and Offender Were Unrelated (Friends, Acquaintances or Strangers), Classified by Conflict Typology and by the Sexes of the Principals<sup>a</sup>

Conflict typology	Male killed male	Male killed female	Female killed male	Female killed female
Escalated showing-off contests	26	0	2	1
Retaliation for previous verbal or physical abuse	75	9	6	5
Jealousy conflicts	20	5	6	3
Business conflicts	10	1	2	0
Intervention in family dispute	5	0	0	0
Miscellaneous unique disputes	2	0	1	1
Insufficient information	<u>26</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total social conflicts among nonrelatives	164	19	18	11

<sup>a</sup>From Wilson and Daly (1985), Table 3.

# Part II: Origins of Male Interpersonal Violence

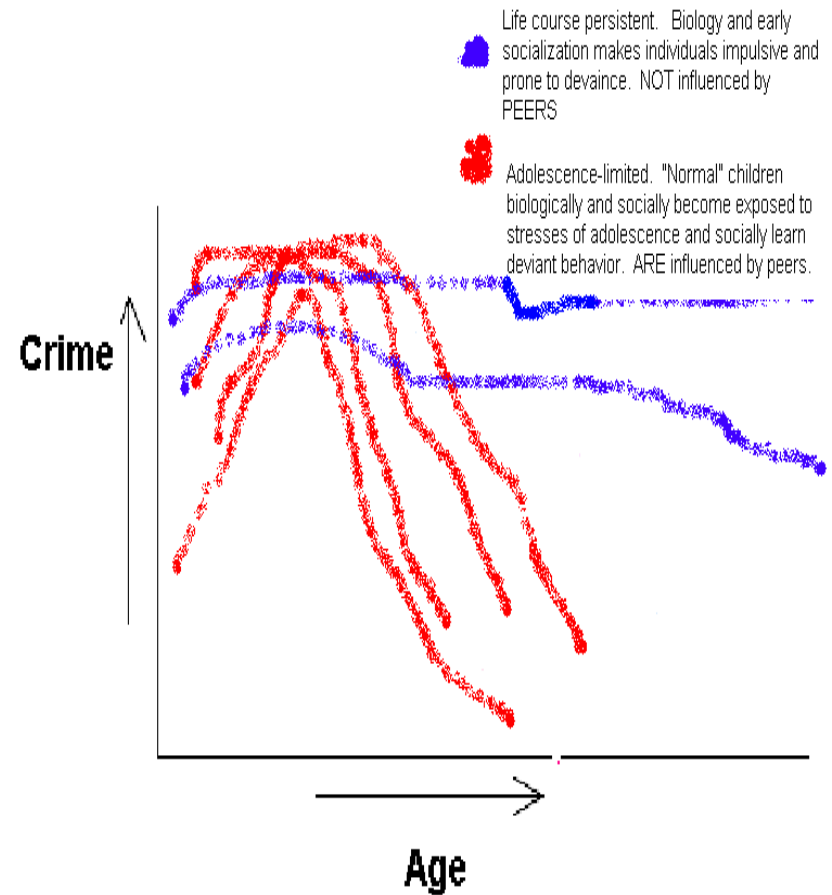
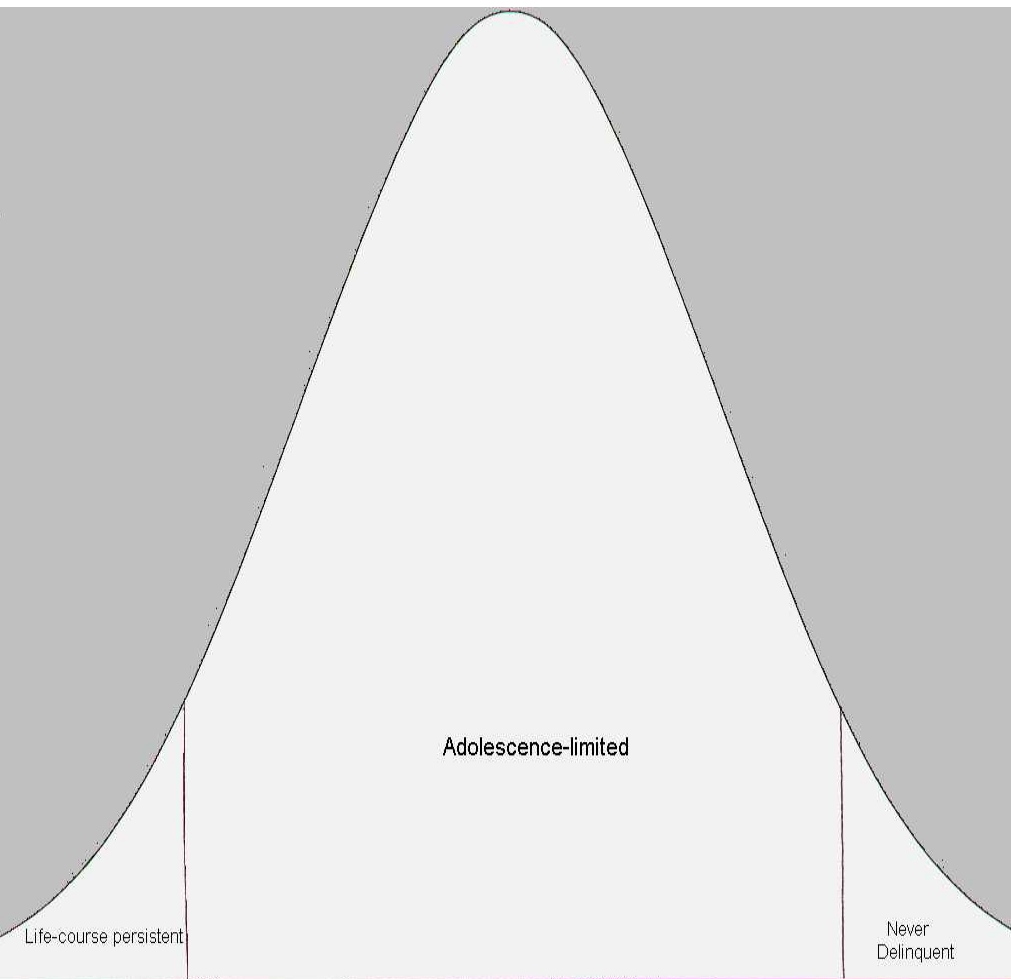
- A.) Psychology
- B.) Structural Theories
- C.) Evolutionary theory (bio-cultural)



# A.) Psychological Origins

- Psychological theories often focus on temperament, impulsiveness, and general problems with individuals following the rules.
- There is extensive interpersonal variation, and related to genes, culture, and environment. The family environment may be the most important.

# Individual variation (e.g. personality, temperament)



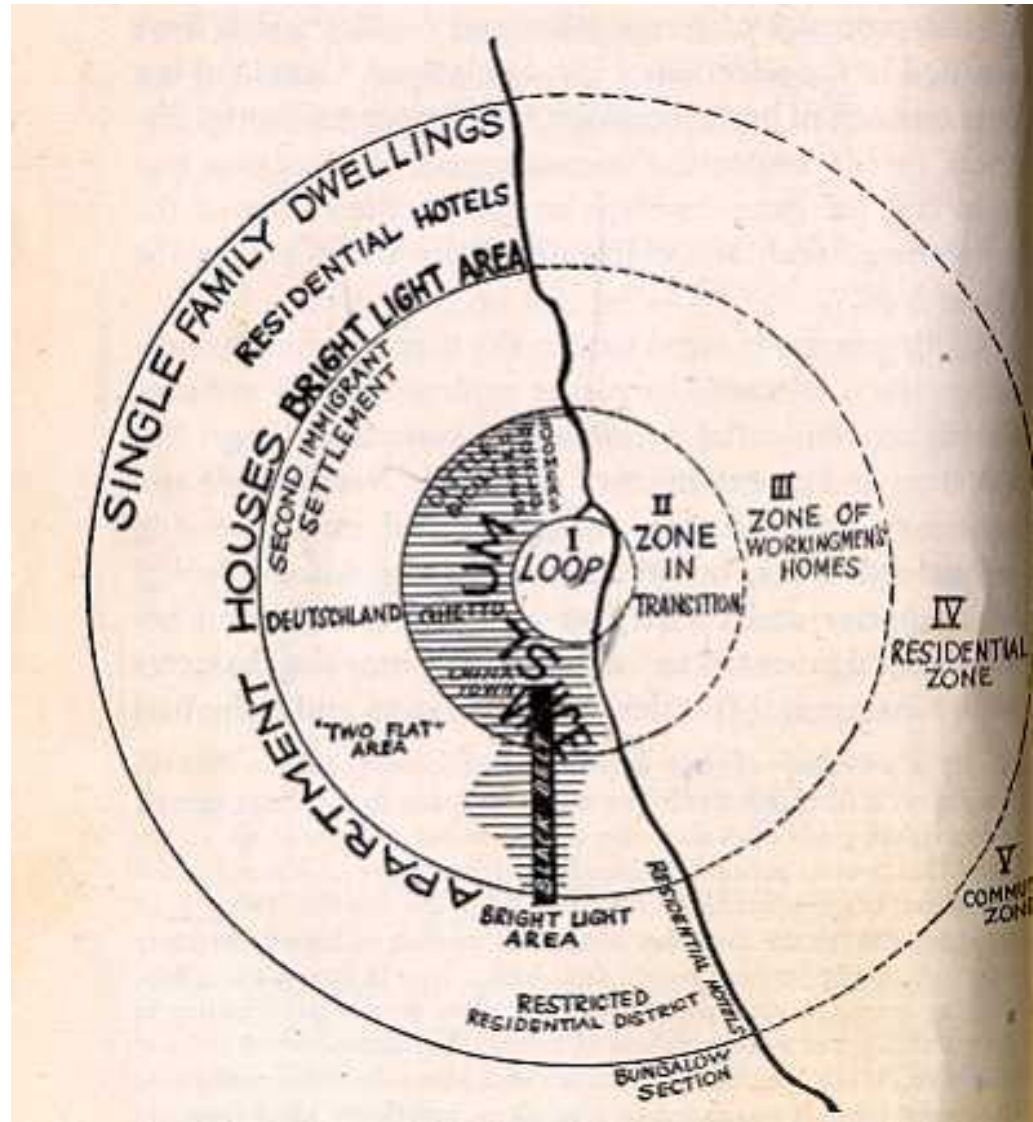
## B.) Structural Origins

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.

# Macro Sociological Theory

- Environments influenced heavily by discrimination and resource deprivation more likely to have individuals who either 1.) abandon “rules of order” or 2.) who react to the “strain” and adhere to new cultural strategies of resistance.



## C.) Evolutionary Origins

- The “take home message” from Lecture 12 is that women experience more costs of reproduction, and the variance in reproduction is higher among men than women. As a result, women are more “choosy”, and thus men will have to compete to be chosen.

## C.) Evolutionary Origins cont.

- Evolutionary theory predicts a biological “pre-disposition” for males to be competitive and violent, **DEPENDING** on the ecological conditions.
- However, cultural evolutionary theory predicts that institutions will evolve to mediate or reduce male violence to promote cooperation and intra-group peace.

# Costly signaling - another explanation for exaggerated traits

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- Zahavi proposed that exaggerated traits (such as long-tails, colorful plumage, and loud songs) might be “honest signals” of genetic quality (competitive ability, genetic endowment, health and vigor, resource control, or the like)
- If a male is able to survive to maturity even with the trait, then that may be an indicator that he is genetically superior to other males in the population.
- The signals are therefore honest because only individuals who are truly able to bear the costs associated with them can survive and reproduce.

# CST continued

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- If it is honest, then low-quality individuals will be unable to display signals because they don't have the underlying quality to back it up
- So costly signaling theory benefits both the signaler and the recipient - even if they are competitors!
- Concerning violence, only the strongest or "toughest" when would seem to be capable of aggressive behavior.

# Part III: Conflict Resolution

- Lets take it as a “given” that males in most societies will compete to impress “mates”. (Of course, the ecological (economic) conditions will influence the degree and scope of competition).
- How do different societies deal with male violence?

In Example 1, we will compare violence among White males from northern and southern states. In Example 2, we will compare patterns of violence among Chinese and Blacks in Seattle (1900-1950)

# Informal Institutions of Social Control

- Sets of cultural rules shared among groups; result in rewards and punishments.

Self-help “honor” Institutions: encourage individuals to resolve their own disputes and uphold their “honor,” even if requiring violence.

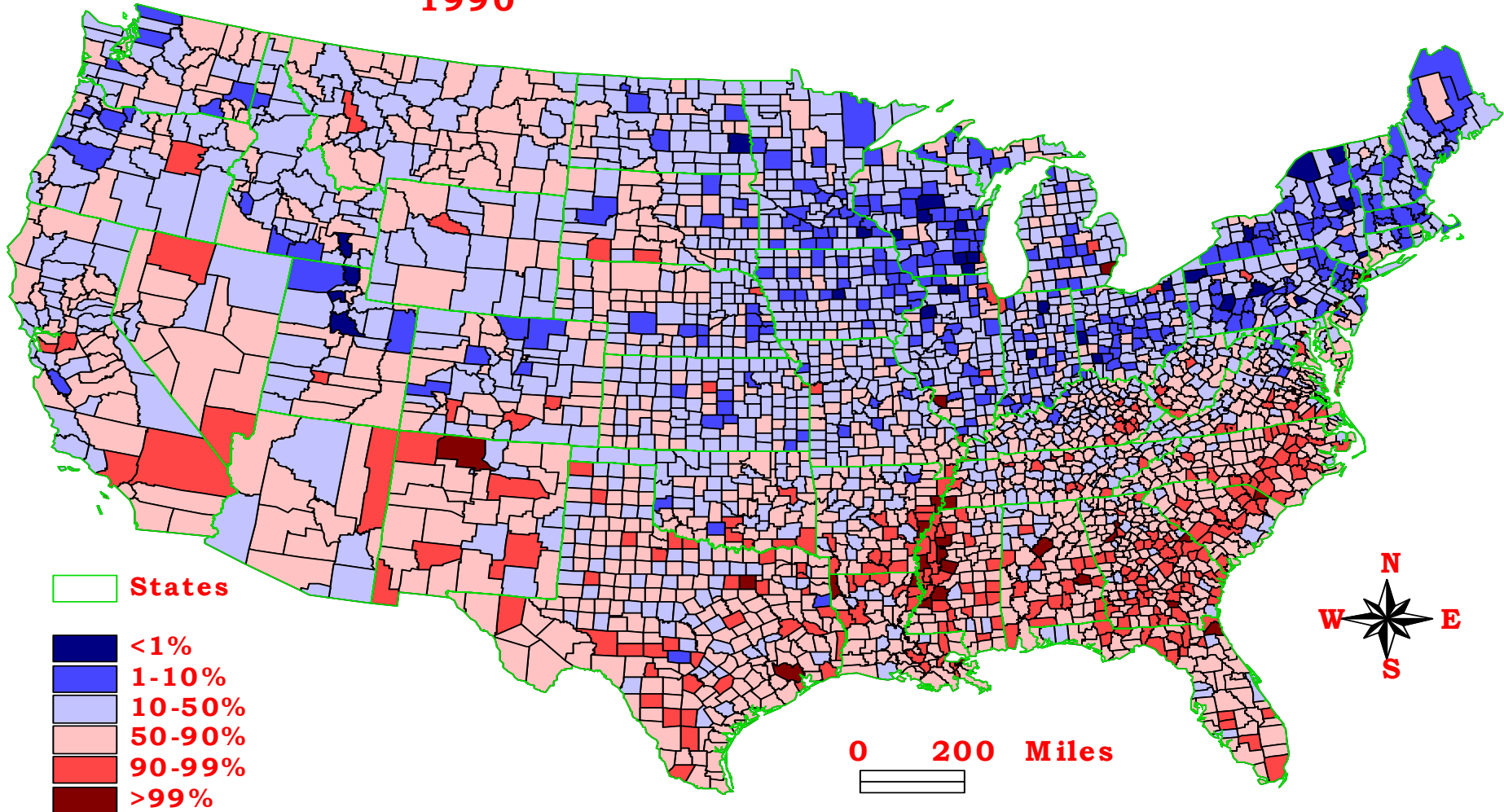
Third-party “peacemaking” institutions: encourage individuals to resolve their own disputes, and aid others in resolving their disputes, *peacefully*.

# Relative Strength of Institutions

- Although associated with poverty in some situations, homicide is related to the types of social controllers in a population (e.g, self-help and peacemaking institutions).
- When peacemaking social controls are weak, self-help “honor” social controls are often stronger. As a result, violence is used to remedy arguments and disputes in areas without strong peacemaking institutions.

# Example 1: Southern Violence

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

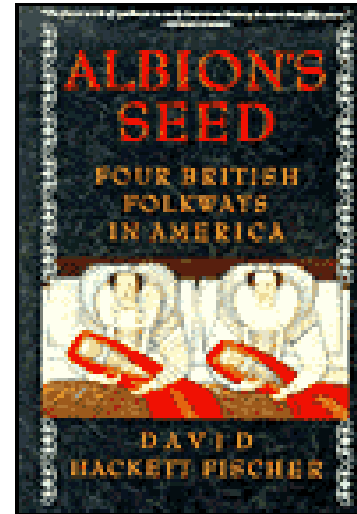


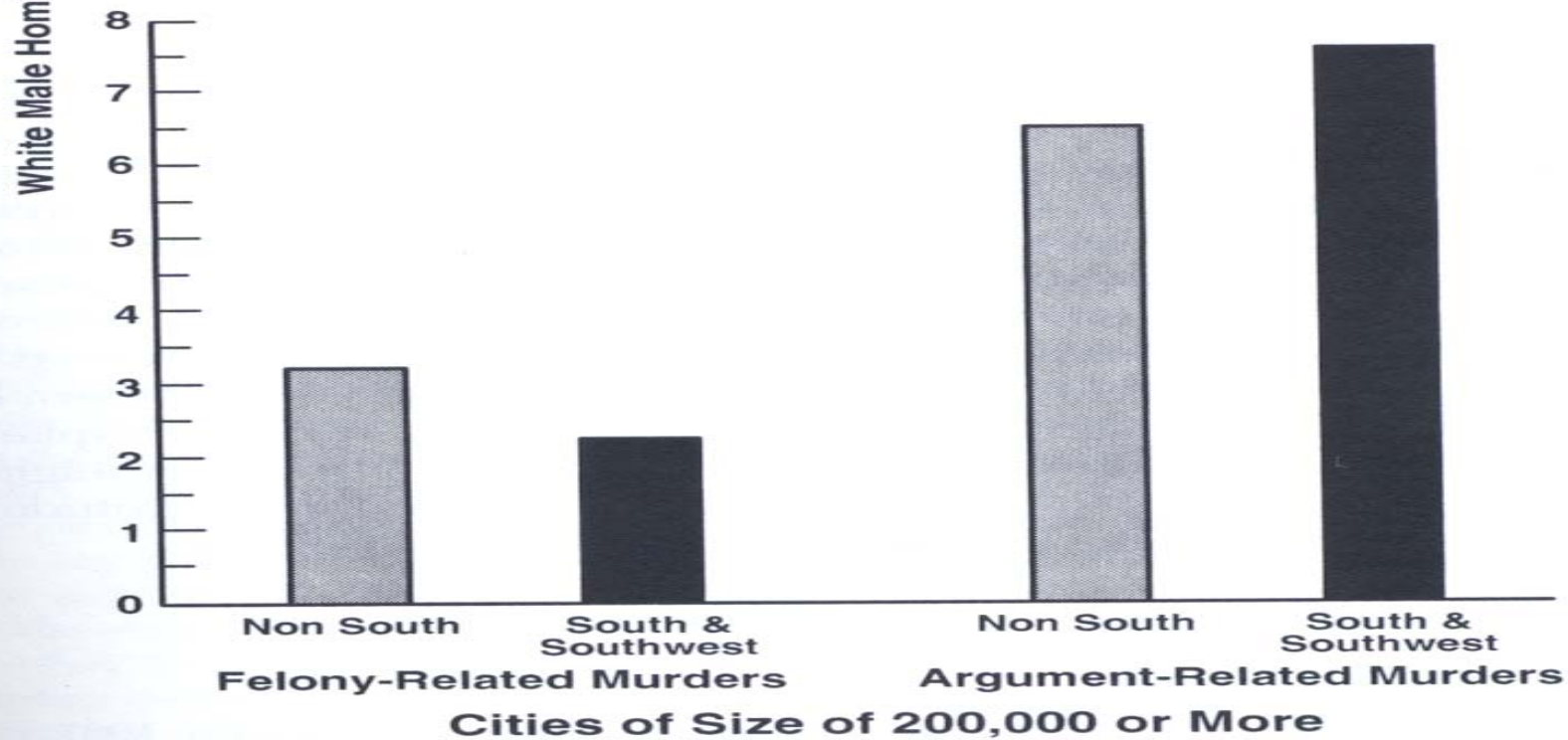
# Multivariate Statistical Analysis: Homicide 1960

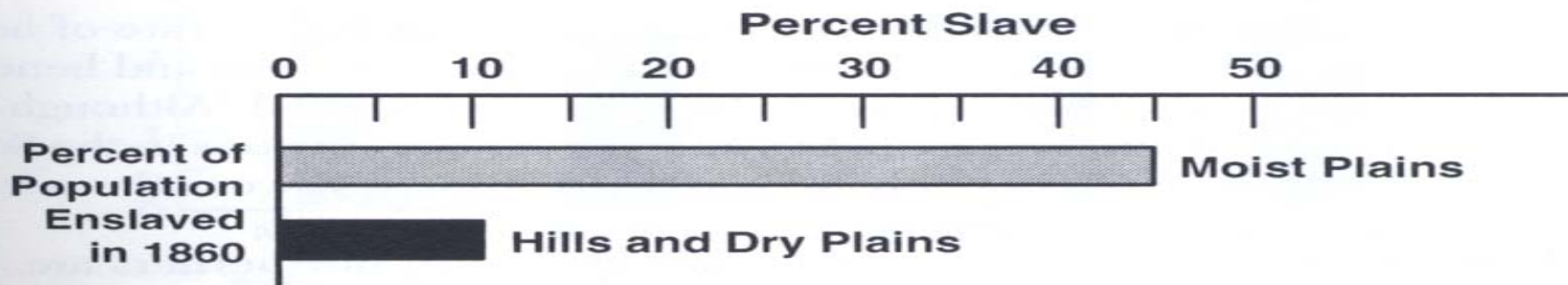
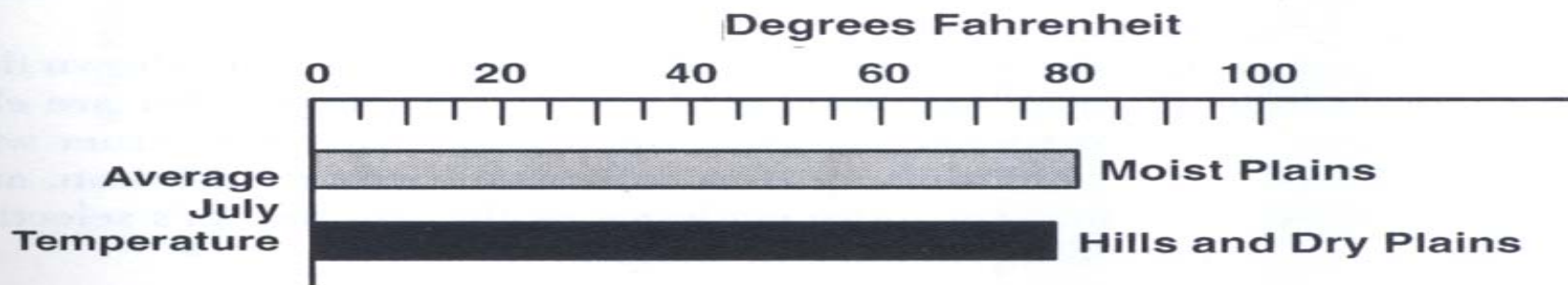
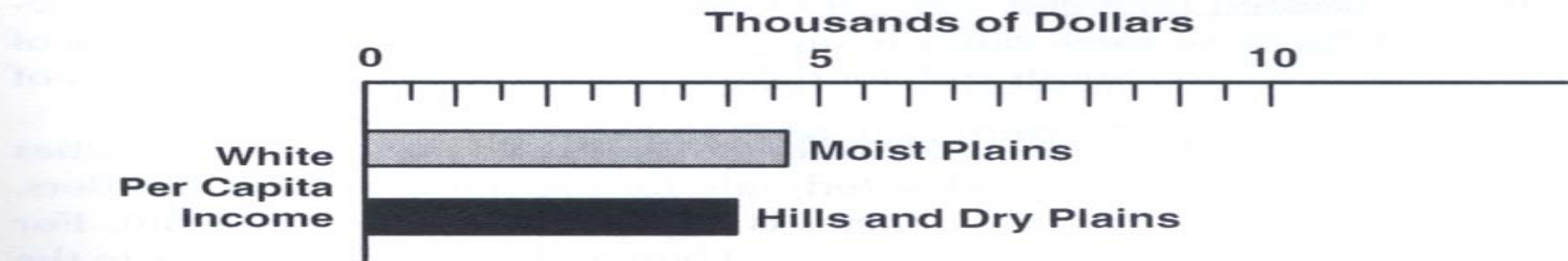
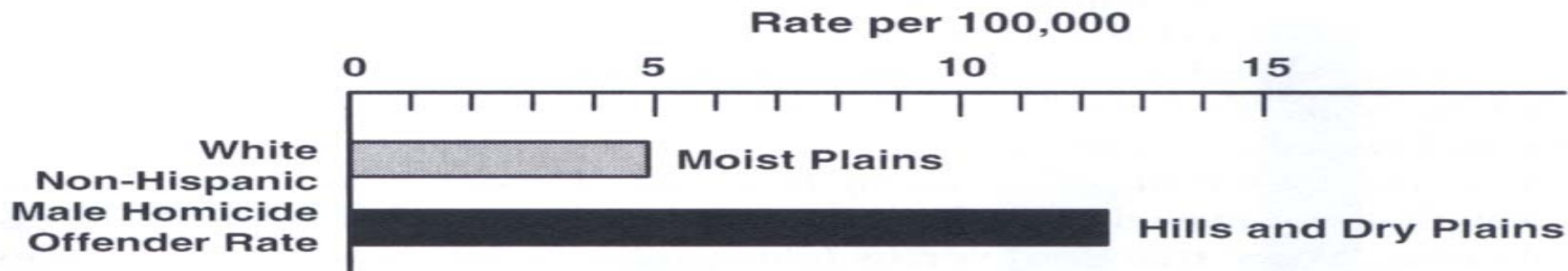
Independent Variables	City	SMSA	State
Pop. size	**		
Pop density			
% Black	**	**	
% 15-29			
% Divorced	**	**	
% Kids w/ both parent			
Income			
poverty			
Southern Region	**	**	**

# The Case of Southern Violence

- Structural hypothesis: high levels of poverty and inequality + guns = high homicide rates.
- Institutional hypothesis: Historians have documented that Scott-Irish cattle herders settled in the South. Peacemaking (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.







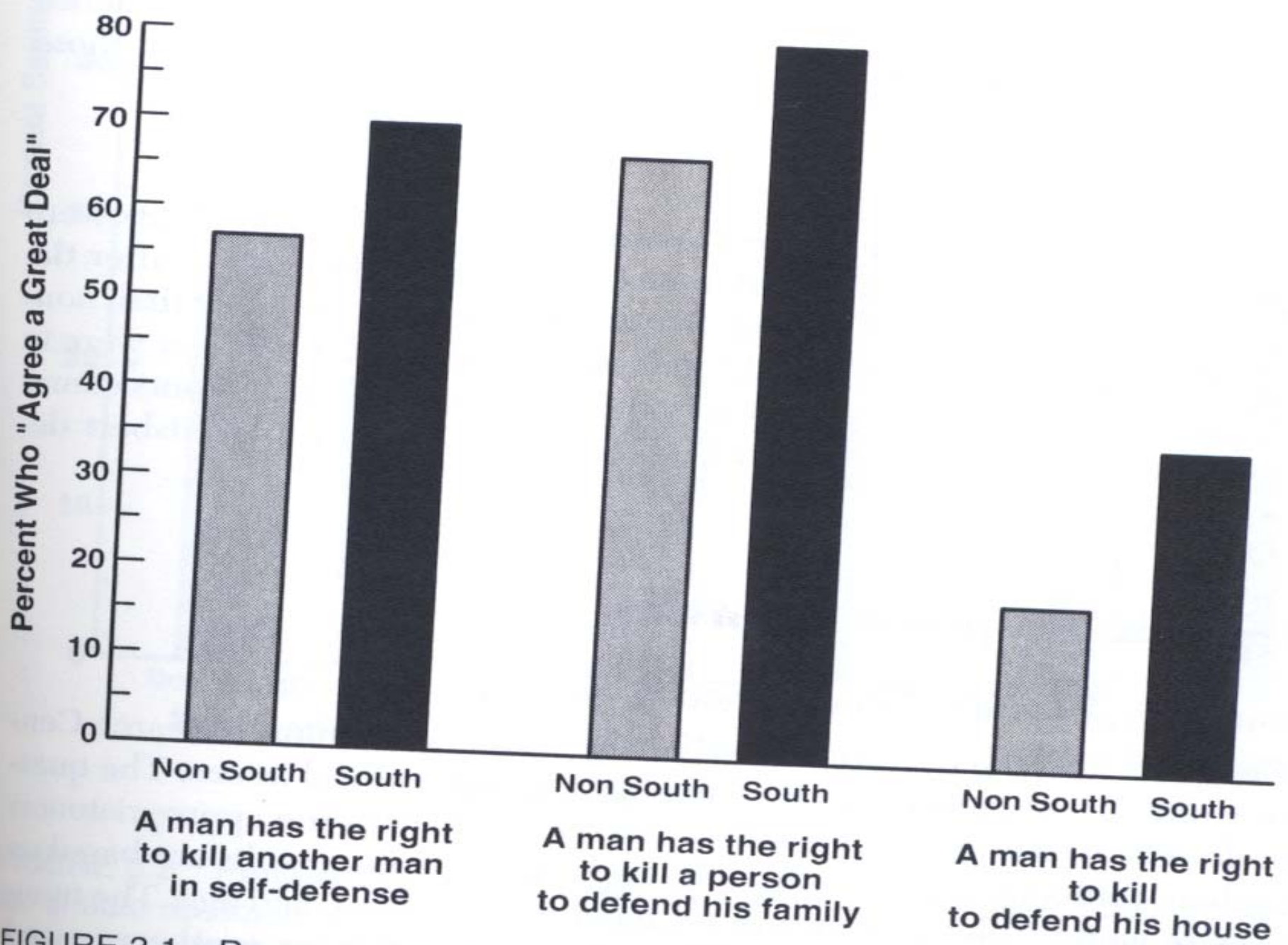


FIGURE 3.1 Percent of southern and non-southern

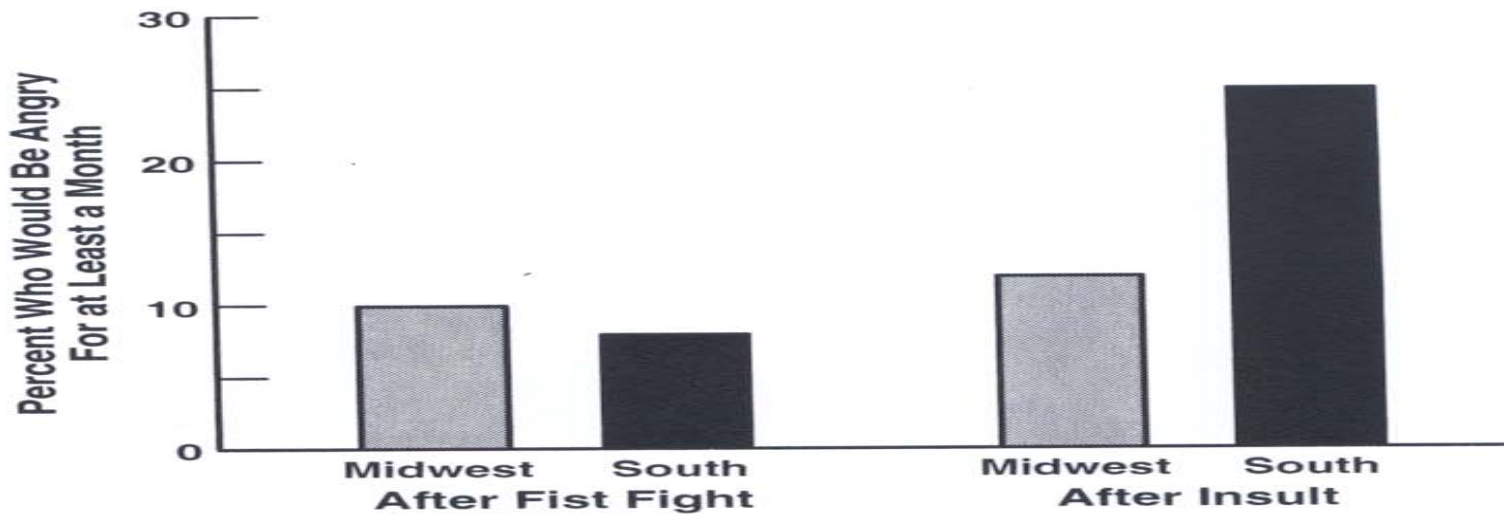


FIGURE 3.4 Percent of southerners and midwesterners saying they would be angry with a friend for at least a month following a fist fight and following an insult. Source: Cohen and Nisbett, 1994.

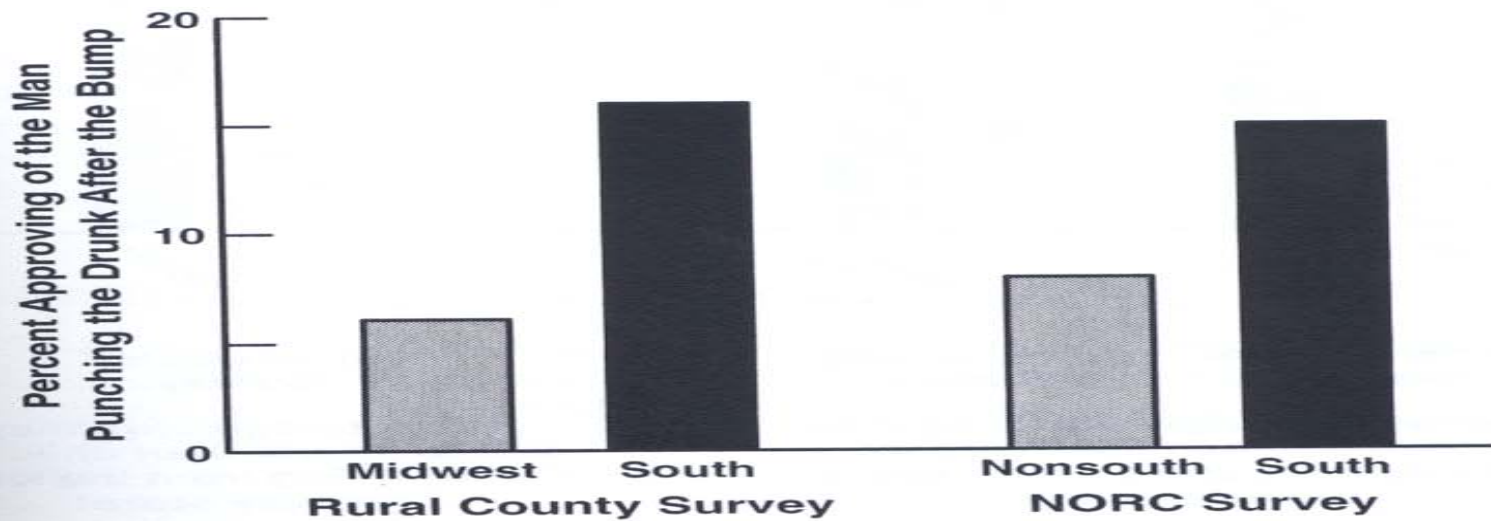


FIGURE 3.5 Percent of southerners and midwesterners who approved punching "a drunk who bumps into a man and his wife." Sources: Cohen and Nisbett, 1994; Davis and Smith, 1990.

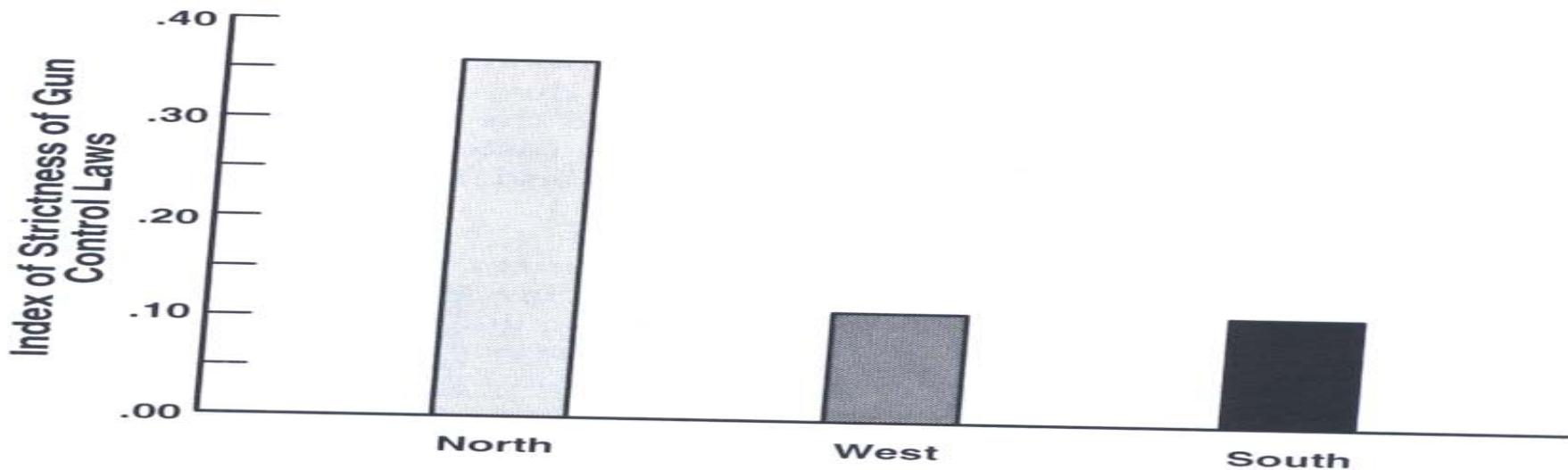


FIGURE 5.1 Strictness of gun control laws in the North, West, and South in 1992. Source: National Rifle Association, 1992.

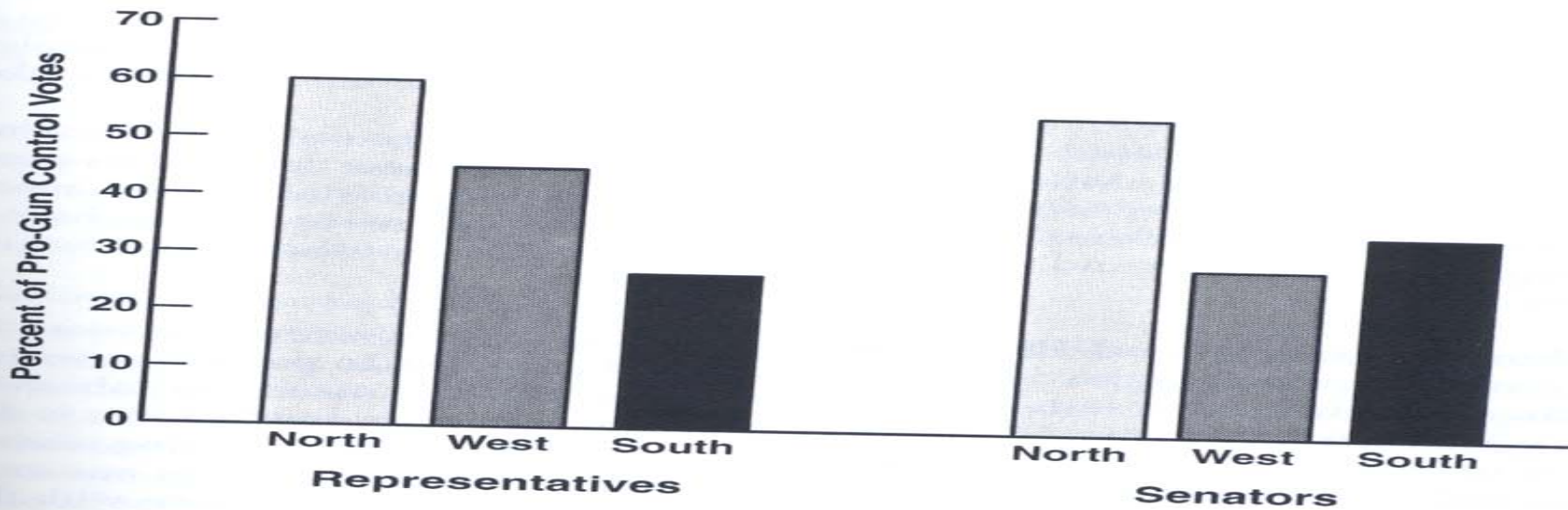


FIGURE 5.2 Percent of pro-gun control votes in the House of Representatives and the Senate from 1985 to 1991, by region. Source: Handgun Control Incorporated.

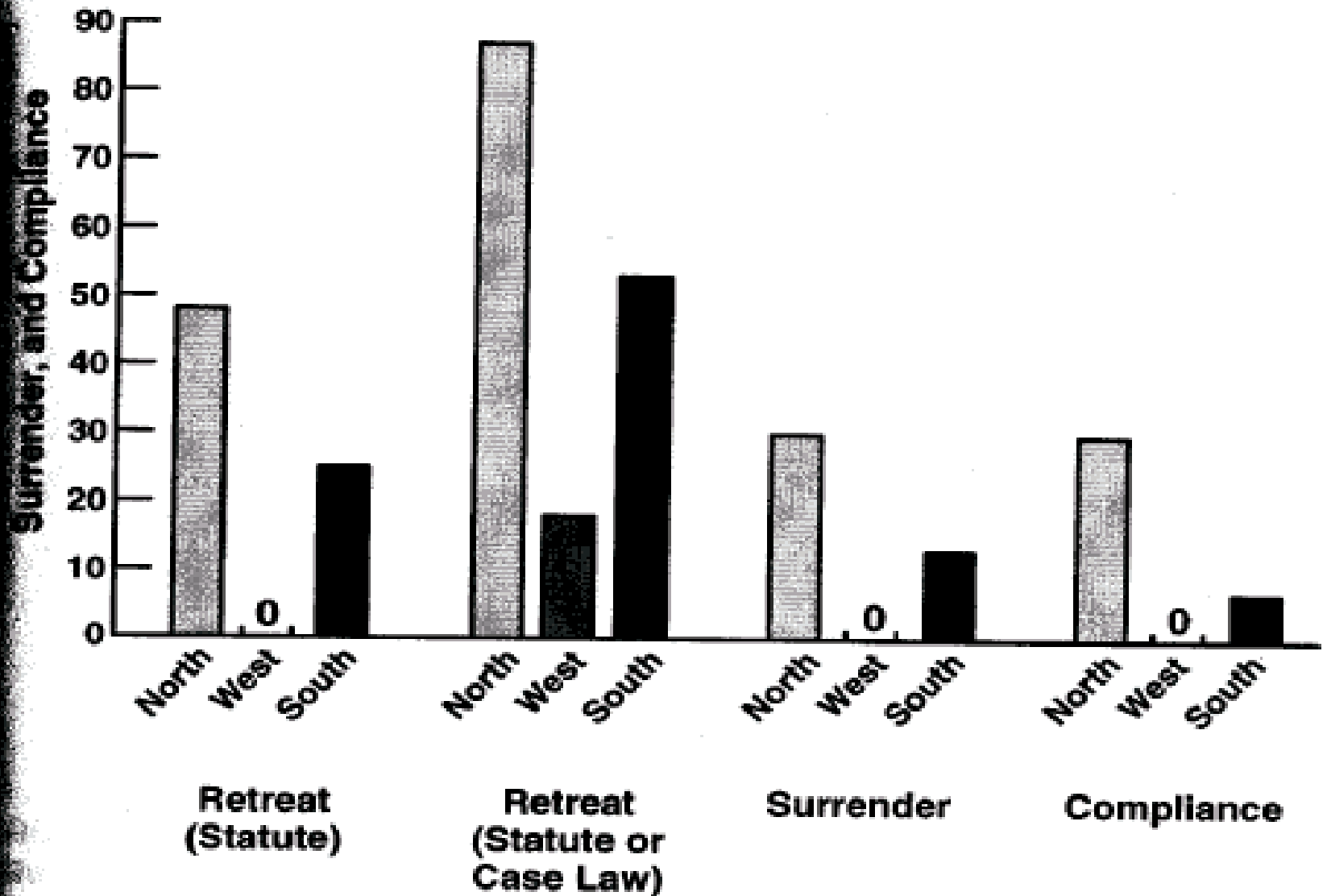


FIGURE 5.3 Percent of states in each region requiring retreat, surrender, and compliance to demands rather than killing an assailant. Source: Cohen, 1995.

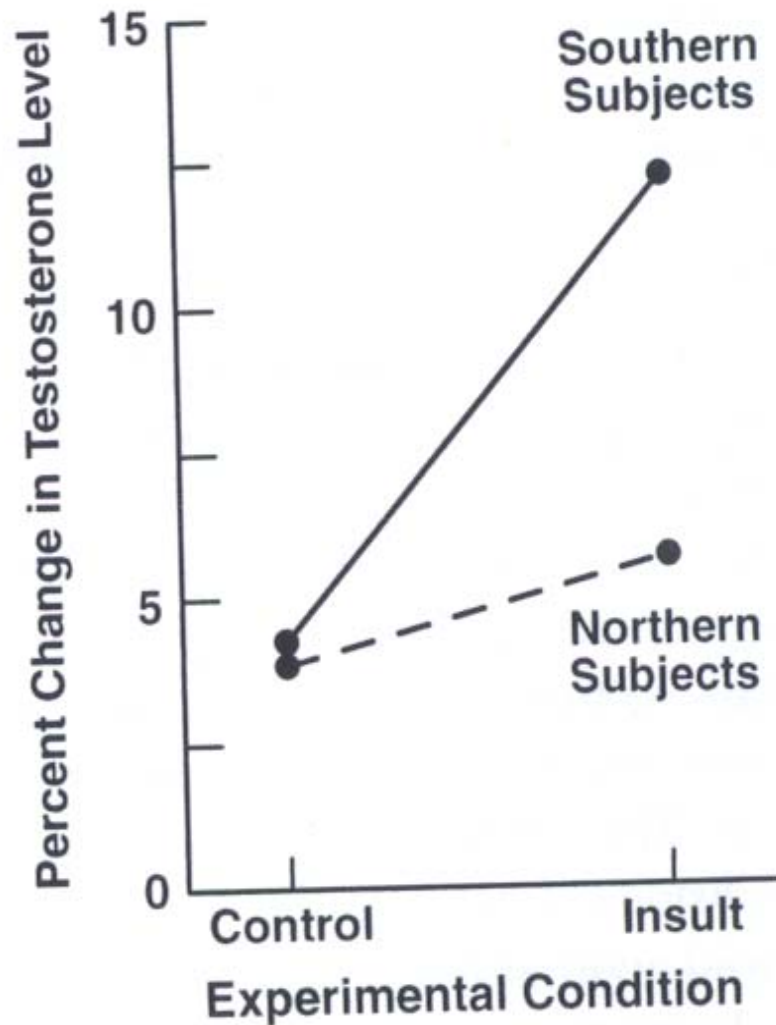
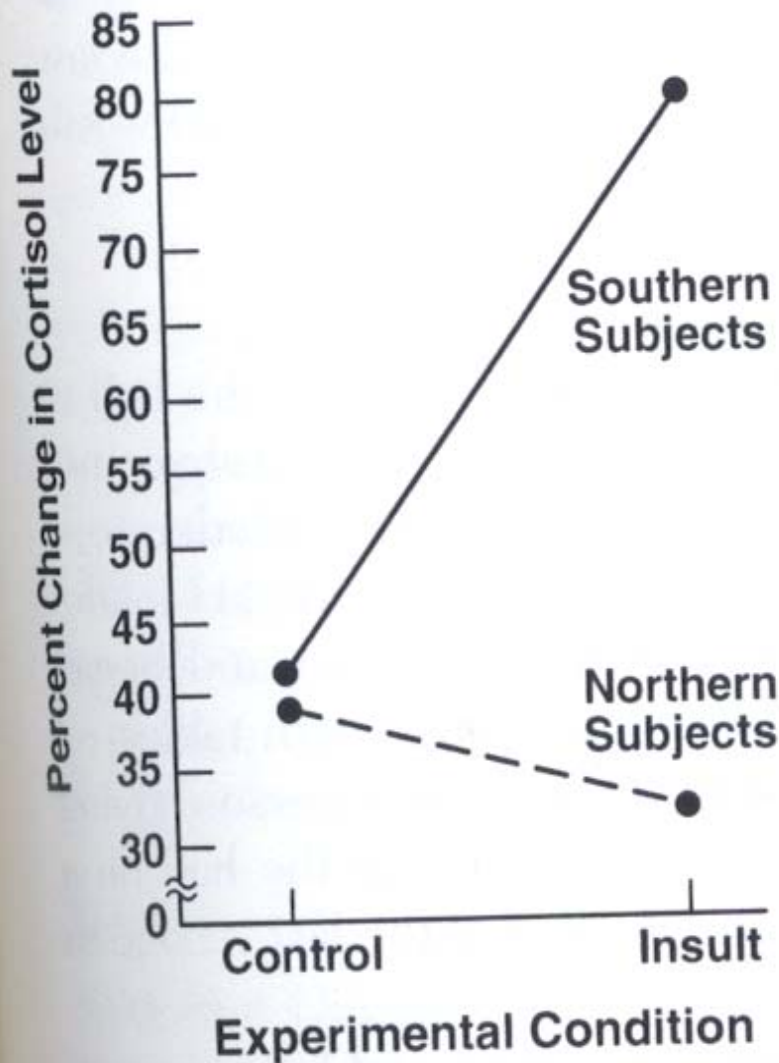


FIGURE 4.2 Change in cortisol levels and change in testosterone levels for insulted and noninsulted southerners and northerners

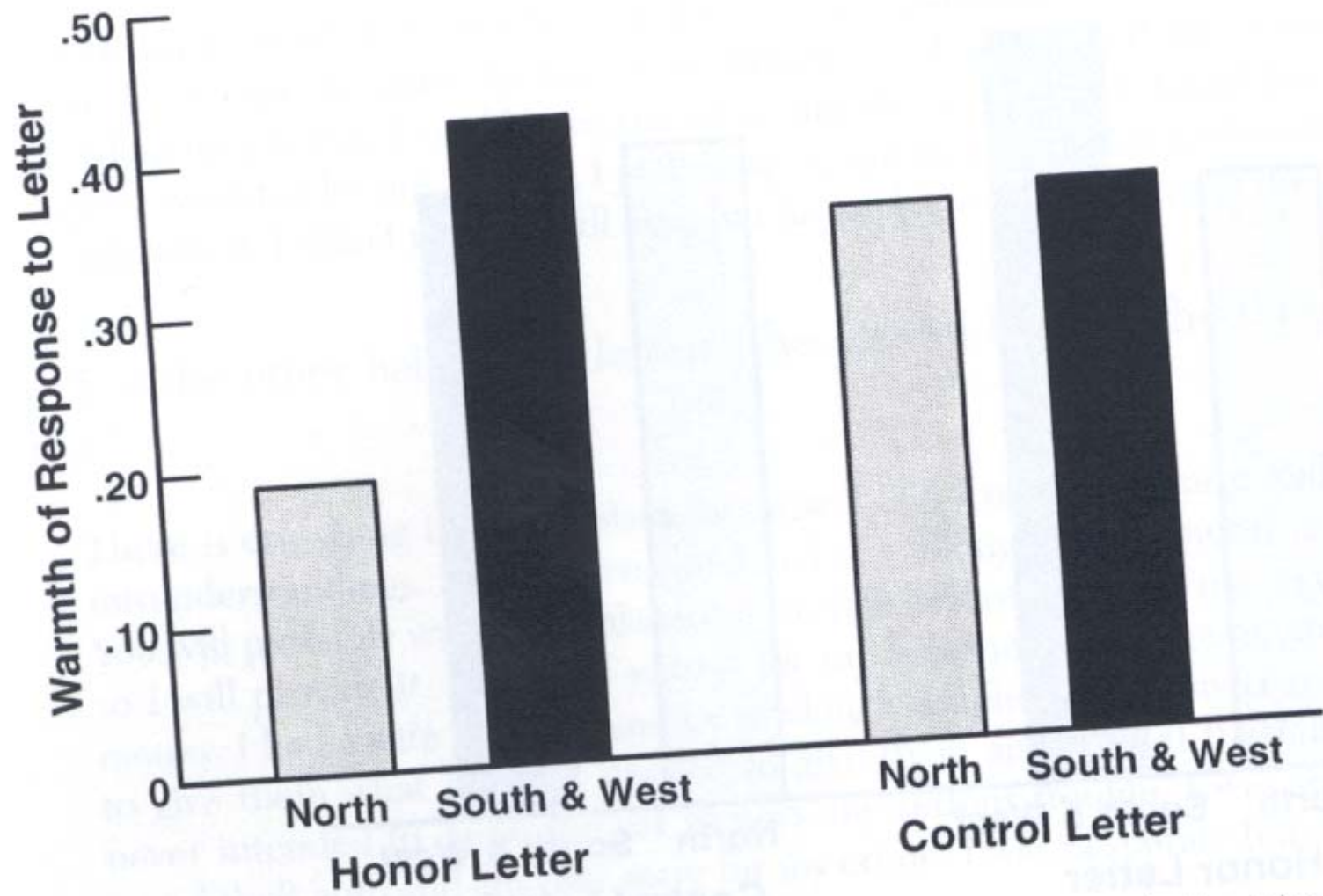
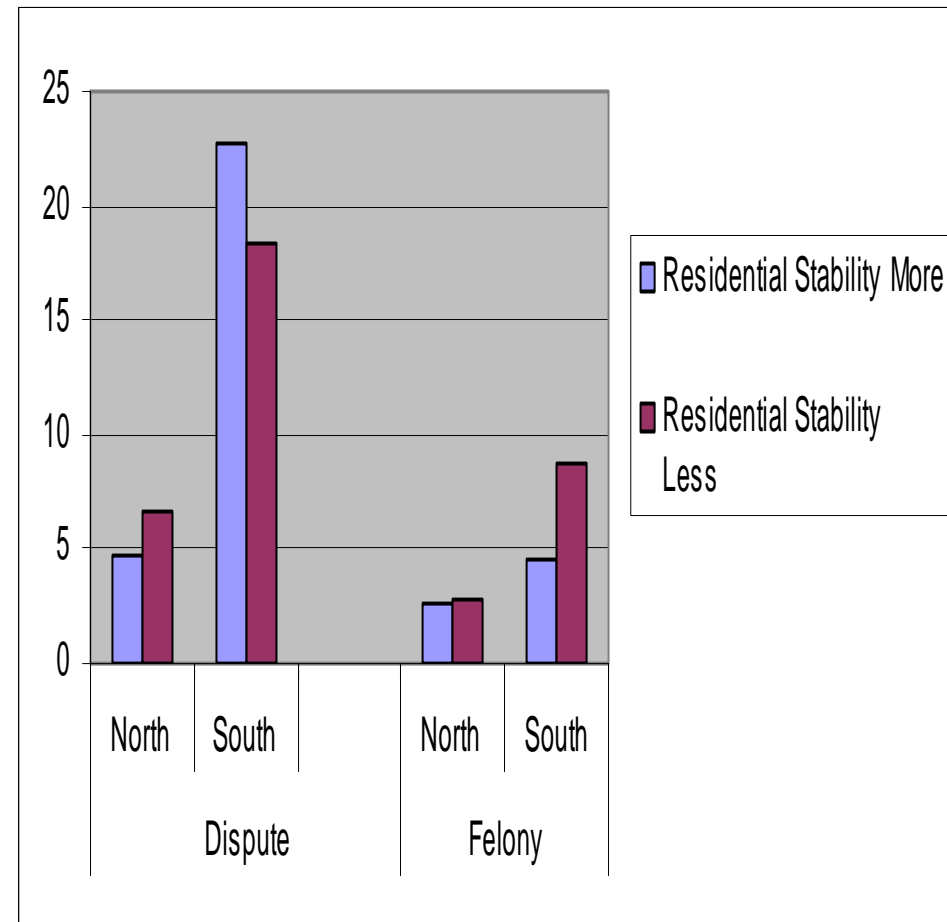


Figure 5.12 Warmth of response to job applicant's letter in the North and in the South and West when he reported an honor-related versus a non-honor-related felony. Source: Cohen and Nisbett, 1995.



# Social Disorganization Could Reduce “Crime”

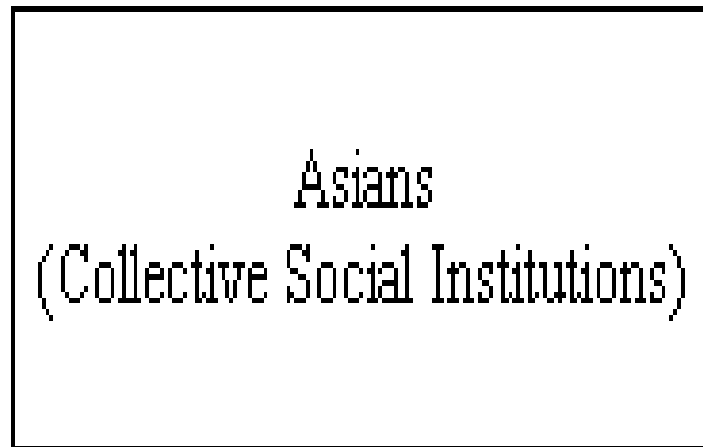
- Prediction: If informal institutions increase violence (e.g. culture of honor institutions), then social disorganization will decrease dispute-related violence.



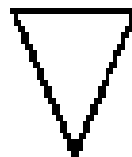
# Example 2: Ethnicity and Male Violence

- Structural factors (aggregate demographic variables such as poverty) lead to interpersonal competition, and subsequently increases likelihood of aggression (evolutionary and sociological theory).
- Social institutions influence how individuals interact and compete both within and between “groups” (e.g., families, communities, religious groups).
- Social institutions can mitigate aggressive competition, or encourage aggressive competition.

# Structure + Social Institution Hypothesis



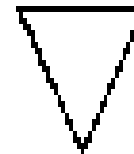
Resource Deprivation (high)



Homicide (low)



Resource Deprivation (high)



Homicide (high)

# Comparative Studies of Ethnic Groups and Violence Rates

- Lane (1986): Black violence in Philadelphia 1860-1900. Magnitude of homicide much greater for Blacks than whites
- Phillips (2002): Structural factors explain White-Latino differences, but only 50% White-Black differences. Institutional forces?

# Comparative Studies of Ethnic-specific Social Institutions

- Ivan Light (1972): Vice industry among African Americans and Asians. Biased sex ratios and demand for prostitution and drugs among both groups
- Ethnic-specific social institutions influenced how vice was provided; Asians influenced by secret organizations (tongs) and peacemaking organizations (e.g., Chinese Peace Society), whereas Blacks likely did not have organized crime networks (churches and fraternal organizations important).

# Predictions

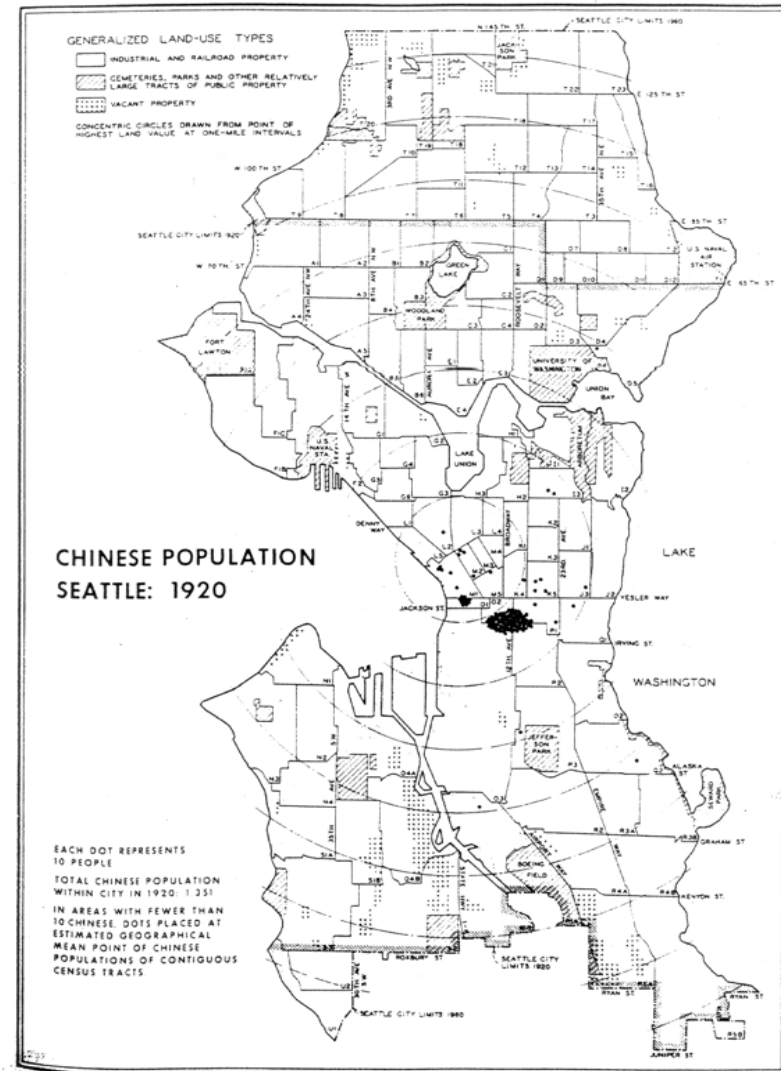
- Holding structural variables constant, Asian homicide rates will be lower than African American rates.
- Asians (1900-1940) more likely involved in multiple-offender homicides, and organized violence *between* groups. In contrast, Blacks more likely involved in spontaneous, non-organized violence.

# Results

Asian and Black homicide  
**rates** in Seattle 1900-1939

Asian and Black homicide  
**characteristics**, Seattle  
1900-1939.

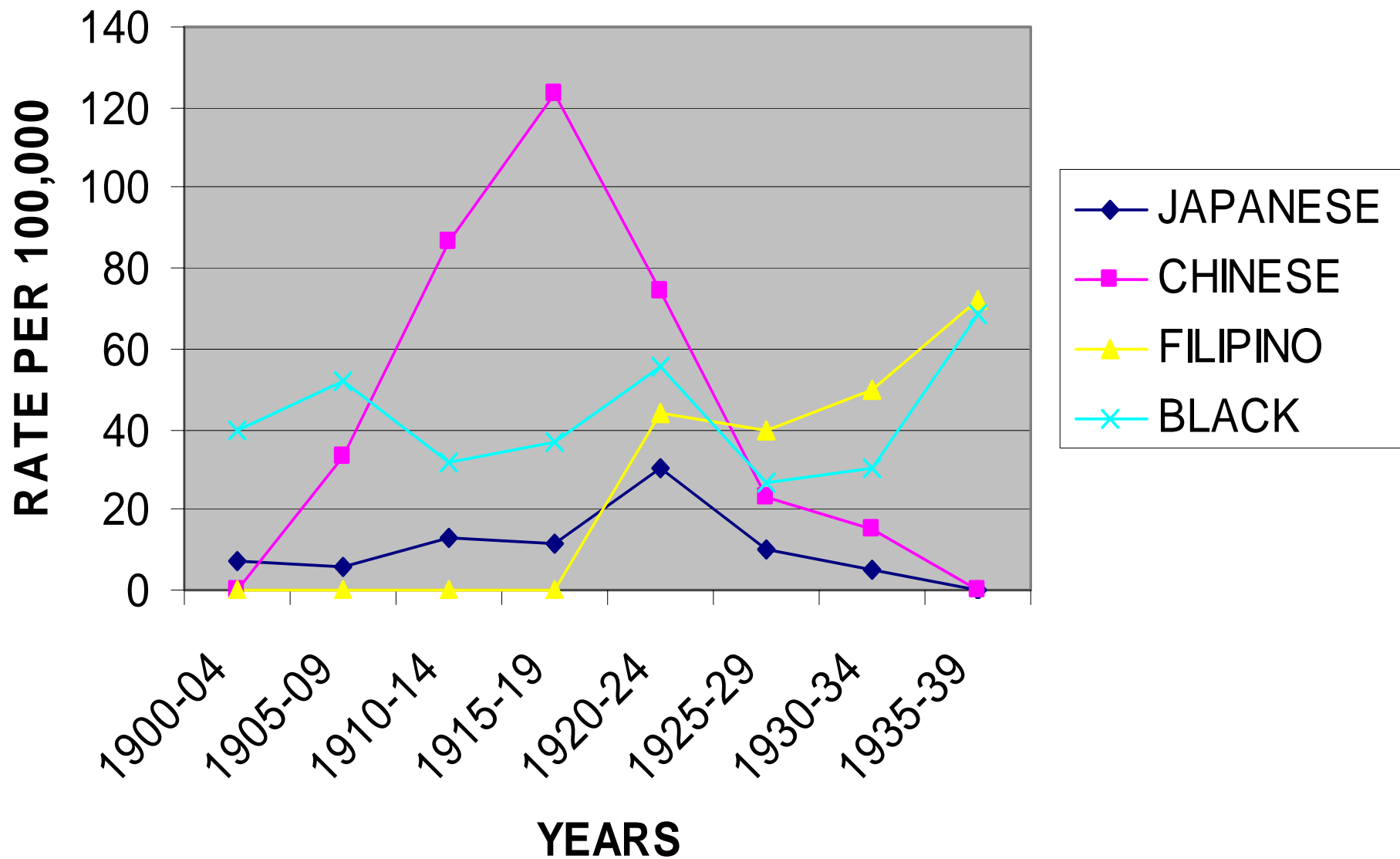
N = (Asian, 93; Black, 47).



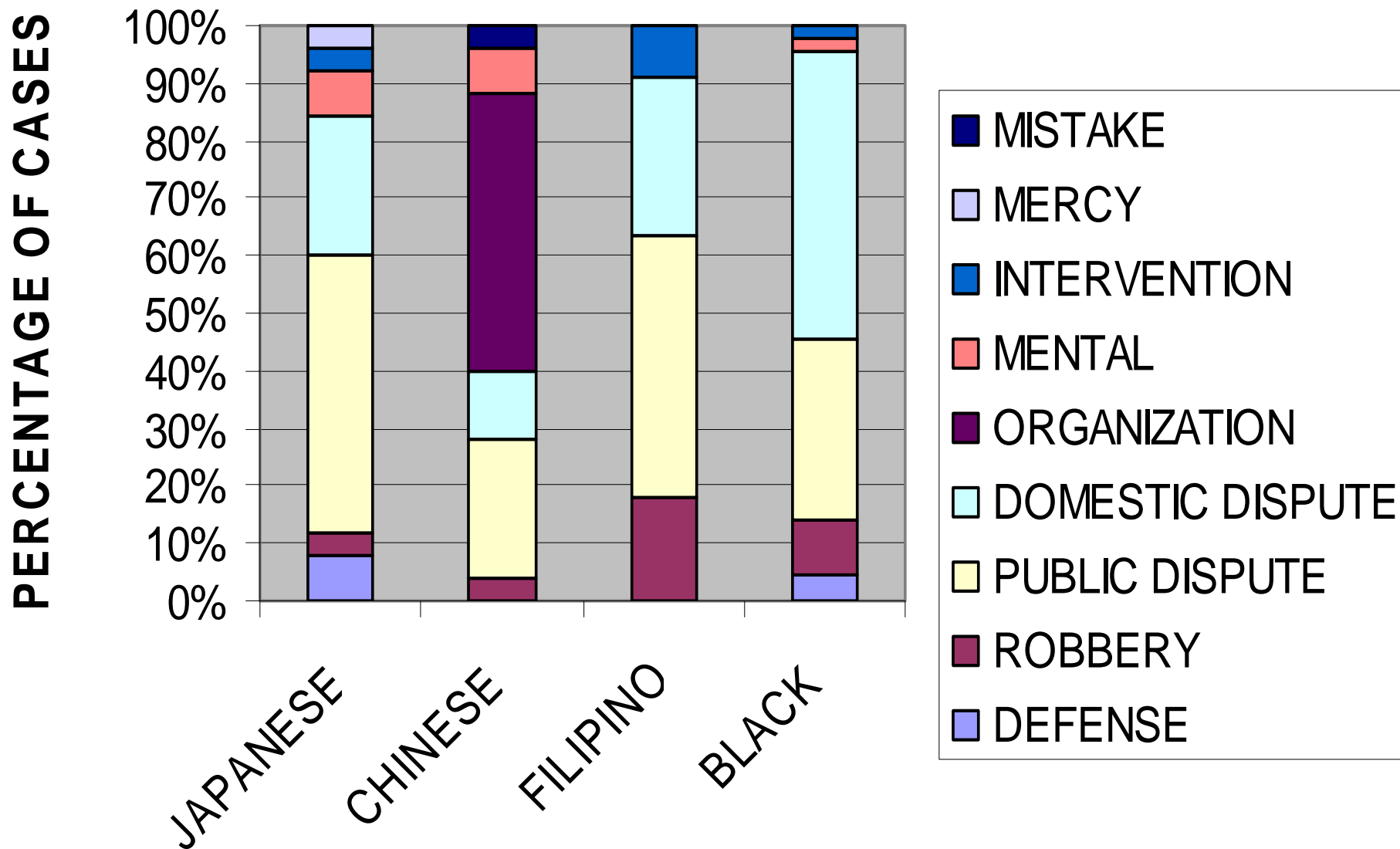
# Demography of Asians and Blacks in Seattle

	<b>1900</b>	<b>1910</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>1930</b>
<b>Japanese</b> (men/women)	2,886/47	4,988/740	3,932/2,030	3,047/2,047
<b>Chinese</b> (men/women)	399/12	789/49	1,041/95	773/185
<b>Filipino</b> (men/women)	-	-	-	1,529/29
<b>Black</b> (men/women)	186/152	1,256/776	1,492/1,033	1,560/1,218
<b>Citywide</b> (men/women)	43,477/ 21,045	113,337/ 77,200	133,208/ 113,606	149,058/ 142,560

# OFFENDER HOMICIDE RATES



# HOMICIDE MOTIVES (OFFENDERS)



# MULTIPLE OFFENDERS

