

THE EUROPEAN HOMICIDE MONITOR

How does it work and how may it benefit the understanding of femicide cases?



Violence Research
Initiative
Leiden University



Existing Datasets

Court Data

Cause-of-Death Statistics

Police Statistics

Newspaper Data



Practical Limitations

Reliability in question:

- i. Differential use of definitions
- ii. Differential data sources
- iii. Exclusion homicides in conjunction with other crime

Unit of analysis

Either victim or offender or case.



Overcoming Practical Limitations

European Homicide Monitor

i. Similar legal codes

Murder, manslaughter, infanticide, assault leading to death

ii. Joint homicide database

Finland, The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland

iii. 85 variables

Homicide victim, perpetrator and event variables

Research Report 259/Finland
Research Report 2011:15/Sweden



Homicide in Finland, the
Netherlands and Sweden

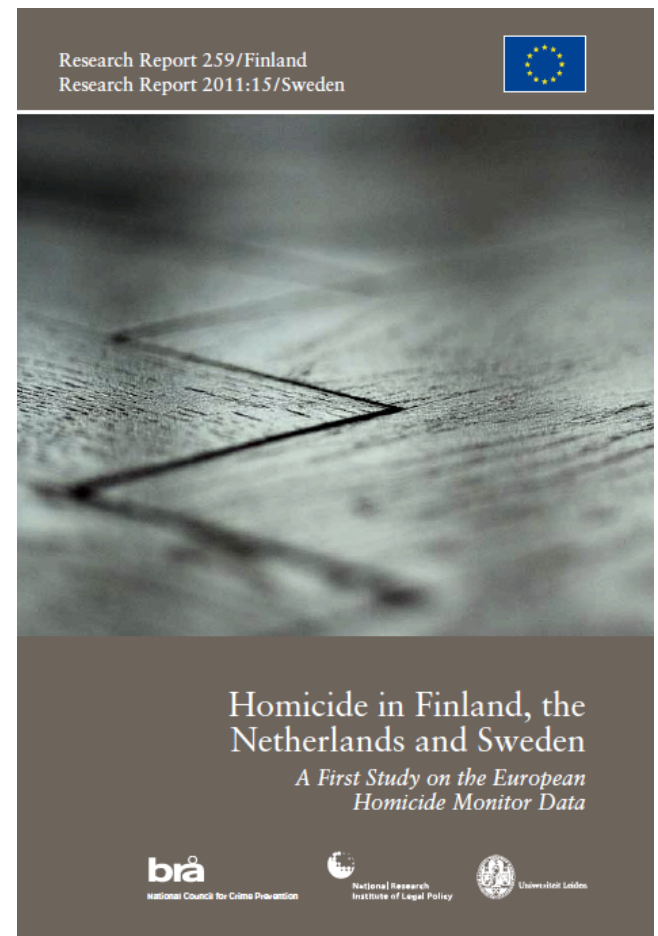
*A First Study on the European
Homicide Monitor Data*



Overcoming Practical Limitations

- iv. **1,577 homicide cases; 1,666 victims and 1,917 perpetrators**
Three countries, 4 years

- v. **Allowing for case-based (time and space), perpetrator-based and victim-based analyses**





The Importance of the EHM

Figure 6. Homicide rates in the Netherlands, by region, 2003–2006 (per 100,000 inhabitants).

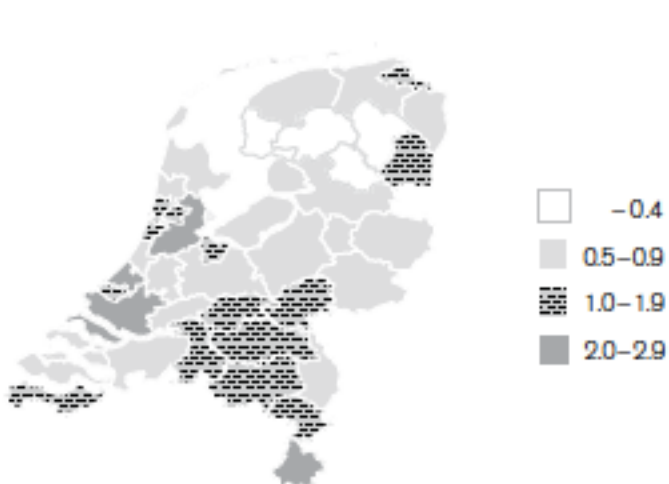


Figure 7. Homicide rates in Sweden, by region, 2003–2006 (per 100,000 inhabitants).

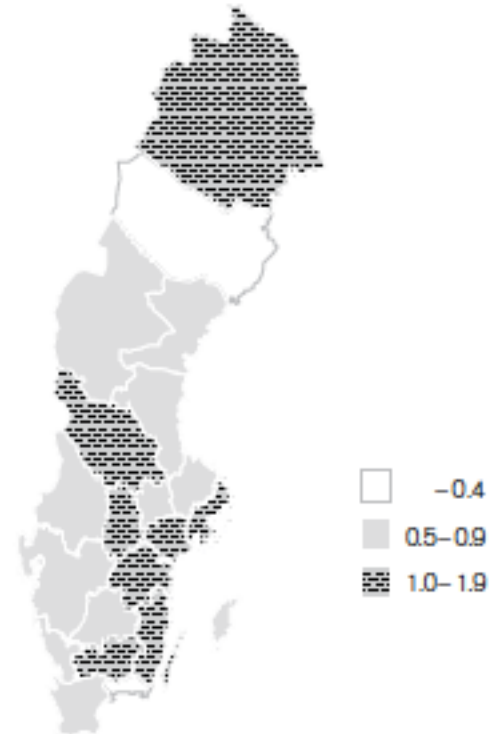
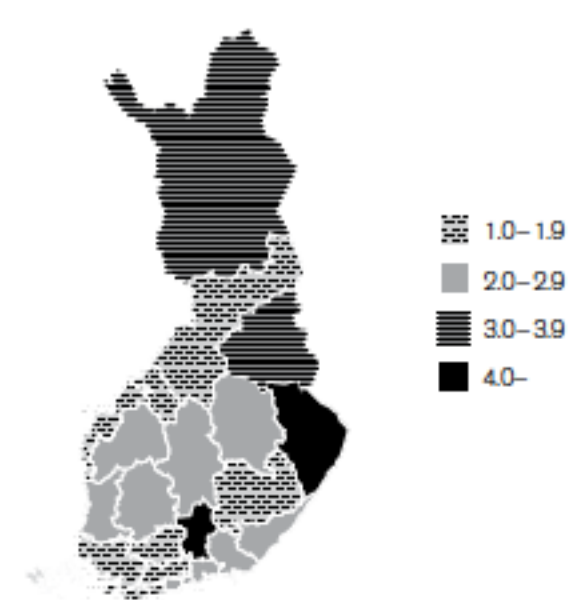


Figure 8. Homicide rates in Finland, by region, 2003–2006 (per 100,000 inhabitants).





The Importance of the EHM

Key lesson learned:

Combining data is **feasible** and of **high quality**;

Data can be used to:

Target homicide **prevention** efforts, including **femicide** prevention efforts;

Dataset is source for **evaluation** of homicide prevention **policies**.



Key Limitations

The weakest link:

Existing data in the national databases

missing variables / unknown values

Definitional problems in national databases

assault leading to death included / excluded

Time-consuming task

currently nationally funded



Researching Femicide in the EHM

Theoretical / policy-oriented perspectives
testing hypotheses, measuring impact, policy changes

Judicial perspectives
femicide clearance rates; sentencing of femicide

Small homicide types, including femicide subtypes

Long-term data collection
trends and developments in femicide



The Future of the EHM

Other member states

Other research institutions

Expanding and improving existing data



Become Involved

(i) European Homicide Monitor

Currently **four** European countries;

Empty dataset and coding **freely accessible**;

Sharing data based on quid-pro-quo principle.



Variable number	Variable name in SPSS	Complete variable name	Label	Clarifying instructions
1	SERNR	Serial number	Open variable (numeric)	The serial number starts off with the submitting countries' country code times 10,000. Add one for every new row. Each number must be unique (only appear on one single row in the dataset) and by the first digits indicate the country of origin by country code (see Appendix B for a complete list).
2	CASENR	Case number	Open variable (numeric)	The serial number starts off with the submitting countries' country code times 10,000. Add one for every new case. Each case number must be unique (only appear on the rows that belong to the same case in the dataset) and by the first digits indicate the country of origin by country code (see Appendix B for a complete list).
3	COUNTR	Country	30 = Greece 31 = Netherlands 32 = Belgium 33 = France 34 = Spain 36 = Hungary 39 = Italy 40 = Romania 43 = Austria 44 = United Kingdom 45 = Denmark 46 = Sweden 48 = Poland 49 = Germany 351 = Portugal 352 = Luxembourg 353 = Ireland 356 = Malta 357 = Cyprus 358 = Finland 359 = Bulgaria 370 = Lithuania 371 = Latvia 372 = Estonia 386 = Slovenia 420 = Czech republic 421 = Slovakia	Choose the country that has submitted the data (should be the same as the country in which the homicide occurred). The value is the same as the country code (see Appendix B for a complete list).
4	NRVIC	Number of victims	Open variable (numeric) 999 = Unknown	State the number of victims involved in the case. A victim is defined as any person who is a victim of lethal violence. Murder attempts, other forms of violence and other crimes committed against others in the

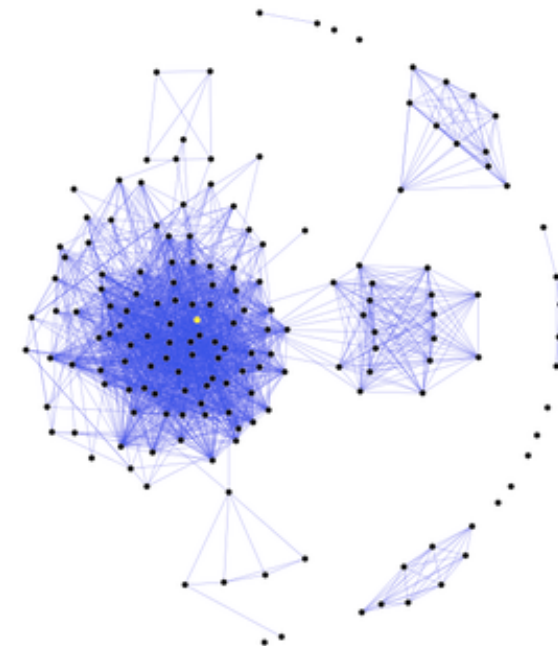


Become Involved

(ii) European Homicide Research Group

On-line presence and networking;
Panels at ASC, ESC;
Joint grant proposals.

www.violenceresearchinitiative.org/ehrg.html





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