

ORAL PRESENTATION

HOMICIDES INVOLVING FIREARMS IN THE MILAN AREA: AN ANALYSIS OF 223 CASES REGISTERED BY THE MEDICOLEGAL BUREAU BETWEEN 1993 AND 2008

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Introduction: The growing alarm aroused by the recurrent episodes of homicide all over our country (Italy) and the crime rate “emergency” that is repeatedly discussed by the media, suggesting that violence is on the increase, prompted the Authors to examine this phenomenon as concerns homicides involving firearms recorded in the metropolis of Milan.

Materials and methods: The aim of the study was to examine the cases of homicide submitted to autoptic investigations at the Medicolegal Bureau in Milan between January 1993 and December 2008. The cases were selected by examining the autopsy reports, taking into consideration only the crimes perpetrated using firearms.

Result: During the 16-year period analyzed, the number of people killed amounted to 223. An analysis by gender, age, nationality, means of inflicting injuries and location of the event provided an up-to-date picture of the homicide phenomenon in the capital of Lombardy.

Conclusions: The means of homicide analyzed represents an event with a far from negligible impact, accounting for 27% of all homicides in the general case series recorded by the Medicolegal Bureau in Milan. This high incidence may suggest the need to reinforce the safety regulations in an attempt to induce a decline in the rates of crimes perpetrated using firearms, and sometimes with atrocious violence.