

POSTER PRESENTATION

ANALYSIS OF THE METHODS OF HOMICIDE USED IN AN ITALIAN POPULATION OF 340 VICTIMS

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Introduction: Every day the media report with great emphasis on crimes that have taken place and they sometimes involve unusual forms of personal injury, influenced by the multiethnic nature of our country (Italy) these days, where various ethnic groups live side by side. Hence our interest in investigating the methods most often used to inflict injury in the cases of homicide recorded in Milan in which the victims were Italian nationals.

Materials and methods: The clinical, circumstantial and forensic data relating to 340 homicide victims of Italian nationality recorded between 1 January 1993 and 31 December 2008 in the territory covered by the Medicolegal Bureau in Milan.

Results: The crimes considered followed the same temporal trends as for homicides in general, their incidence peaking in the autumn and winter. The homicides took place mainly in the victim's home or on the road. They mainly involved the male gender (the M/F ratio was 2 to 1) and the age brackets most often involved included young people and young adults. The main methods used to inflict the injuries were: firearms (44%); cutting and thrusting weapons (25%); and contusive weapons (18%); followed by other methods with a lower impact. Among the causes of death, the most common were lesions affecting the cranial district (26% of cases), the chest, and the cardiopulmonary system in particular (18%), acute circulatory insufficiency (9%), and acute meta-hemorrhagic anemia (8%).

Conclusions: From the data analyzed, it was clear that the homicides registered by the Medicolegal Bureau in Milan are perpetrated using particularly aggressive methods, such as firearms or cutting and thrusting weapons, and especially involve the male population.