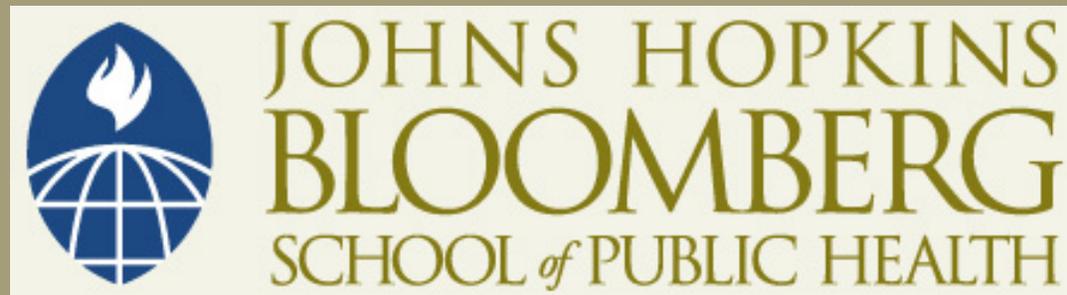


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JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
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Section B

Describing and Quantifying Intentional Injuries

Intentional Injury

- “Injury resulting from interpersonal or self-inflicted violence”
- “It includes homicide, assault, suicide and suicide attempt, sexual assault, and violence among family members and intimate partners”

Intentional Injury

- Many persons working in the injury field use the term "violence" instead of intentional injury
- What warrants discussion is whether "intentional injury" means that the intent was to injure or simply that the intent was to commit a particular behavior that then resulted in an injury

Violence

- “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation”

Classification of Violence

- The standard classification in the International Classification of Diseases includes the following major categories:
 - Various types of assaults, including homicide
 - Operation of war
 - Legal interventions
 - Intentional self-harm
 - Injury event of undetermined intent

Sources of Data

- Same as other injuries
 - National databases
 - Hospitals
 - Police
 - Registries
 - Newspapers

Newspapers: Viable Source for Intentional Injuries?

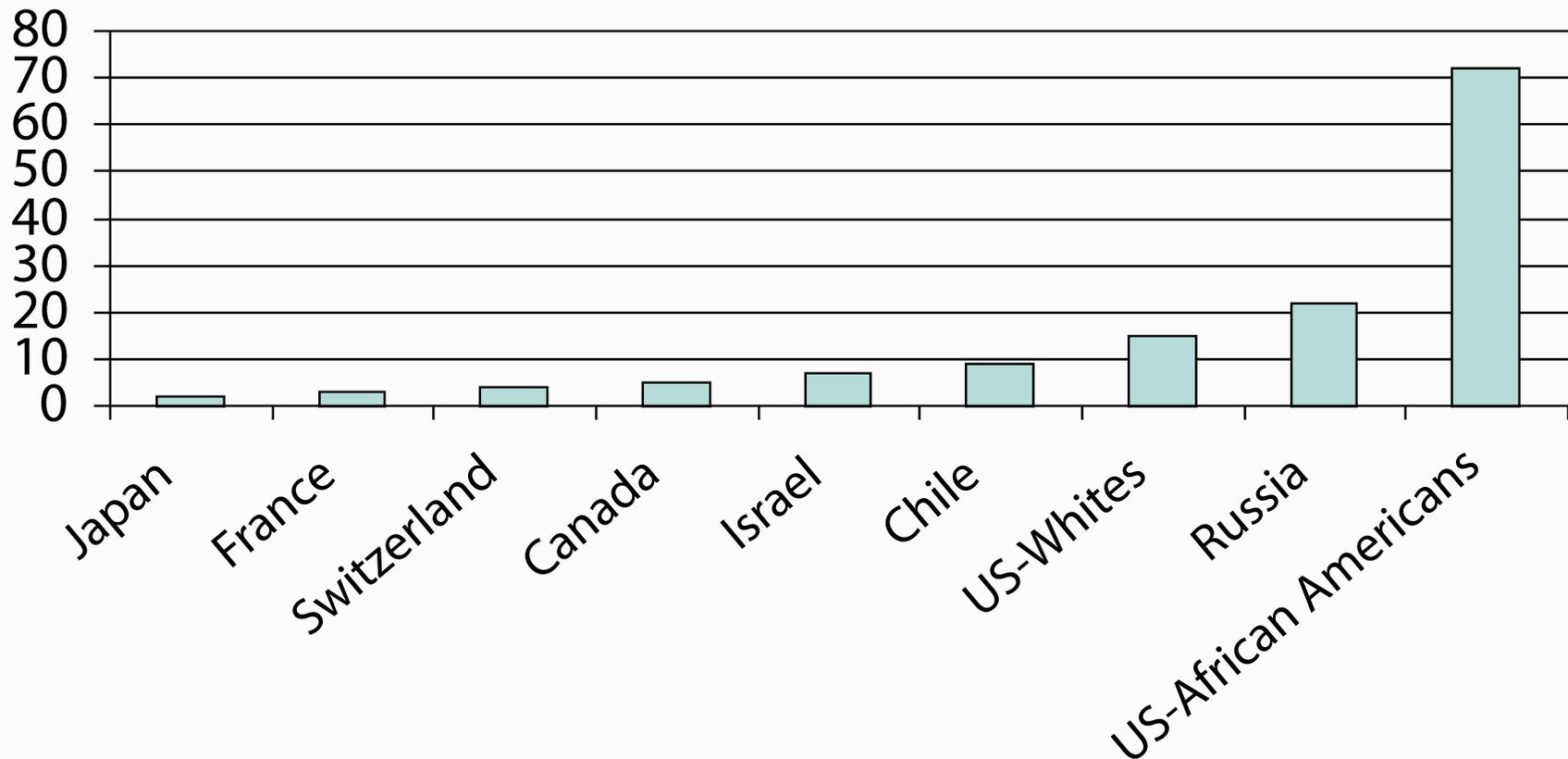
- Newspaper accounts of assaults, homicides, suicides, and rapes occurring in Jefferson County, Alabama, compared to similar data from government agencies between January 1991 and December 1991
- Newspapers greatly “underreported” suicides, rapes, and assaults

Newspapers: Viable Source for Intentional Injuries?

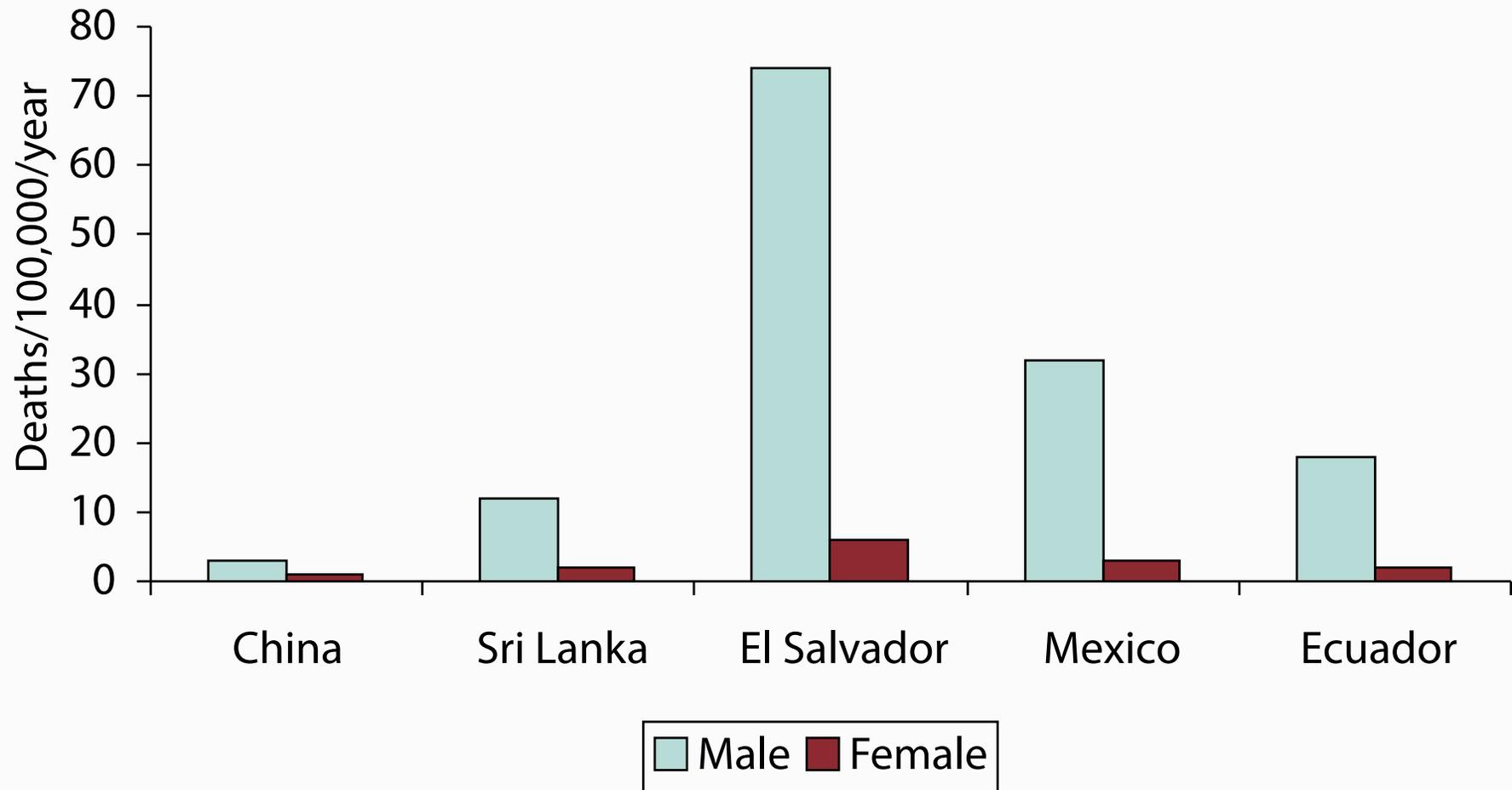
- Reporting of firearm injuries substantially “exceeded” their actual occurrences
- Newspaper—neither a reliable nor valid source for intentional injury surveillance

Adjusted Male Mortality from Homicides

- From selected countries
- Rates/100,000 pop. (1989–1991)



Reported Homicide Rates in Some Developing Countries



Source: World health annual statistics, 1999.

Violence in the Americas

- In the Americas, death by violence exceeds the number of deaths for any other cause in the five to twenty-four age group (PAHO, 1990)
- In certain countries, such as El Salvador, homicide and assault has been reported as the leading cause of death (Lang, 1989)

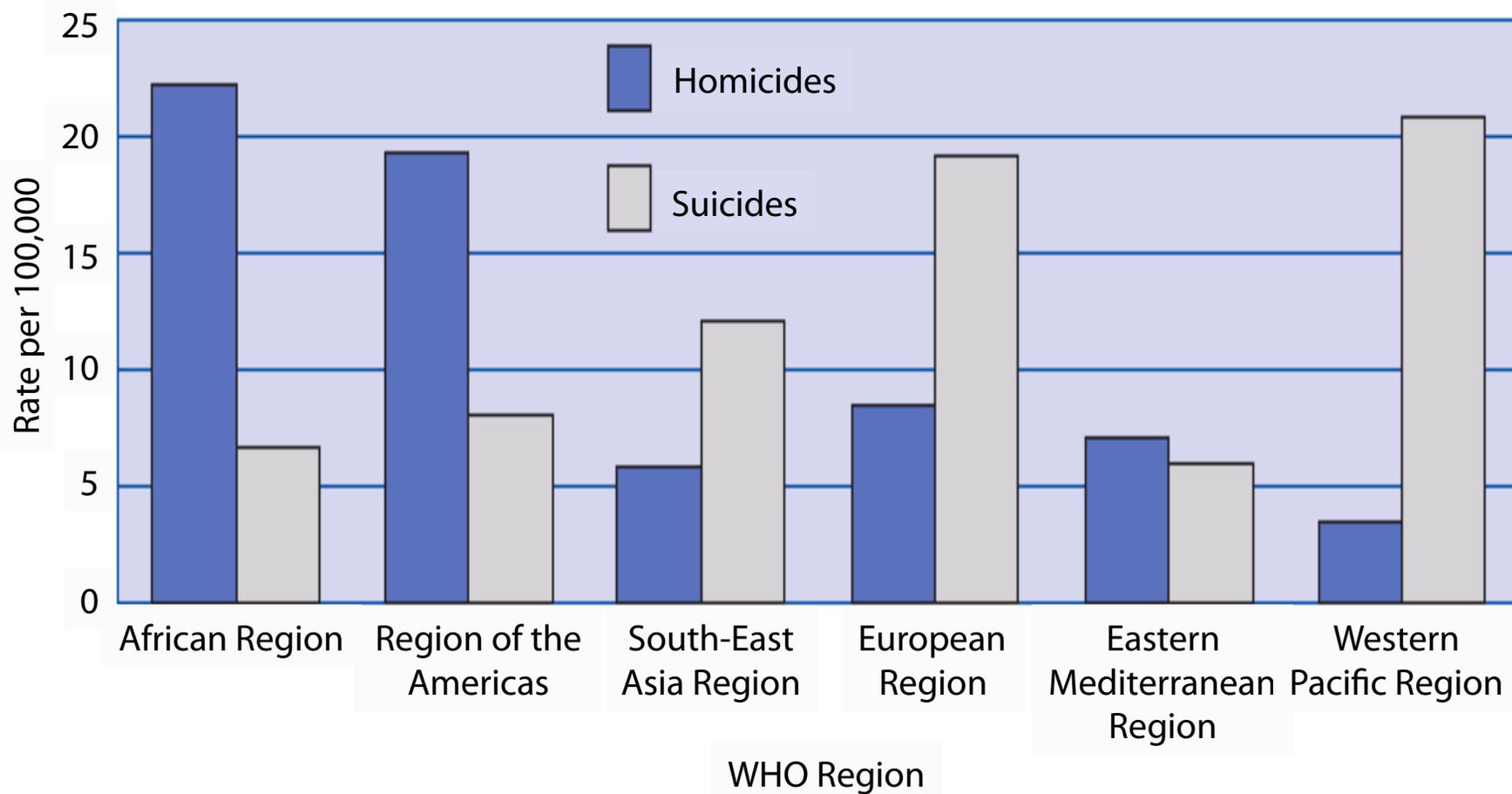
Violence in the Americas

- African Americans in the U.S. have one of the highest homicide rates in the world
- In 17 of the 27 countries that reported to the WHO during the 1980s, homicide was among the five leading causes of death (PAHO)

Violence in Colombia

- In 1990, accidents and violence accounted for one-quarter of all deaths
- In 1995, homicide was the number one cause of deaths and years of potential life lost
- More than one out of every five families have lost a family member due to homicide

Homicide and Suicide Rates by WHO Regions, 2000



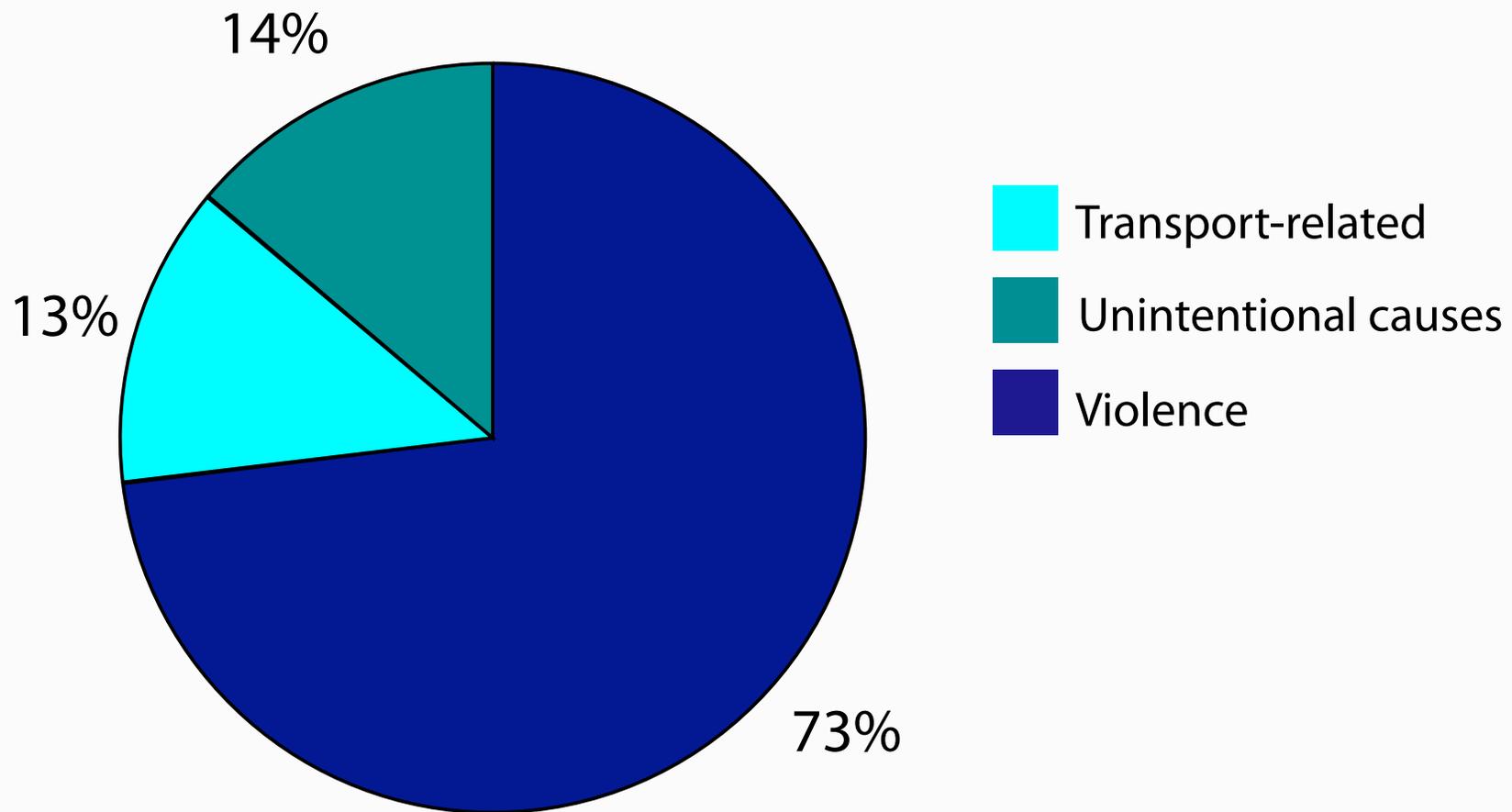
Violence in South Africa

- Violence accounted for 50% of all new cases seen in hospitals in Johannesburg (Buchart, 1991)
- Preponderance of males, colored, black, and aged 25–34 years (van der Spuy, 1993)
- 10% of cases were related to organized conflicts between political groupings
- In the remaining 90%, the motives differed with gender (Buchart,1991)

Violence in South Africa

- In males, 20% of the violent incidents were attributed to attempted robberies, while the remaining 80% were attributed to ill-defined arguments and quarrels
- In females, approximately 40% of the incidents were related to arguments, most frequently among intimates (Peden, 1993)
- In Cape Town, 60% of violent cases were clinically judged to be alcohol-related (Van de Spuy, 1993)

Contribution of Violence in Injury Deaths in South Africa



Female Homicide Victims in Bangladesh

- Characteristics:
 - According to a survey among Bangladeshi women aged 10–50, 5.3% of all injury deaths attributed to homicide
 - Out of these homicides:
 - ▶ 87% were married
 - ▶ 96% resided in villages
 - ▶ 70% were poor or lower middle class
 - ▶ 50% were illiterate
 - ▶ 68% were aged 10–29 years

Political Violence

- State terrorism has been a major source of violent injuries in many areas of the Middle East, Central America, Africa, and Asia (Chomsky, 1991)
- Serious underreporting of homicides from state terrorism often occur
- In Nicaragua, about 1% of persons suffer from physical disability mostly as a result of violence (Garfield, 1989)