

Influence of War on Frequency and Patterns of Homicides and Suicides in South Croatia (1991-1993)

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Aim. A study of homicide and suicide cases in South Croatia during three war years (1991-1993). Our hypothesis was that the war circumstances both increased the number and altered the pattern of violent deaths.

Methods. Data were collected from the autopsy and police reports. For the total of 77 homicides and 254 suicides, demographic, temporal and circumstantial data, including location, weapon used, possible motives as well as autopsy findings, were analyzed.

Results. There was an increased number of homicides and suicides during the war, especially among younger population and the military. Some new trends in the cause and manner of death (firearms and explosives) were observed.

Conclusion. War related traumas may have a direct influence on the number and pattern of violent deaths.

Key words: *homicide; suicide; war*

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