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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



## Drugs and violence

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## Summary

- Is there a link between drugs and violence?
  - Yes, but there is not a binary and causal relationship. Drugs may not be associated to violence and violence may not be associated to drugs. Drugs can be the result or the enabler of violence
- Solving the problem of violence helps to address the drug problem?
  - Yes, but not always
- De-regulating drugs solve the problem of violence?
  - To be tested, but some evidence and reasoning point to a No.

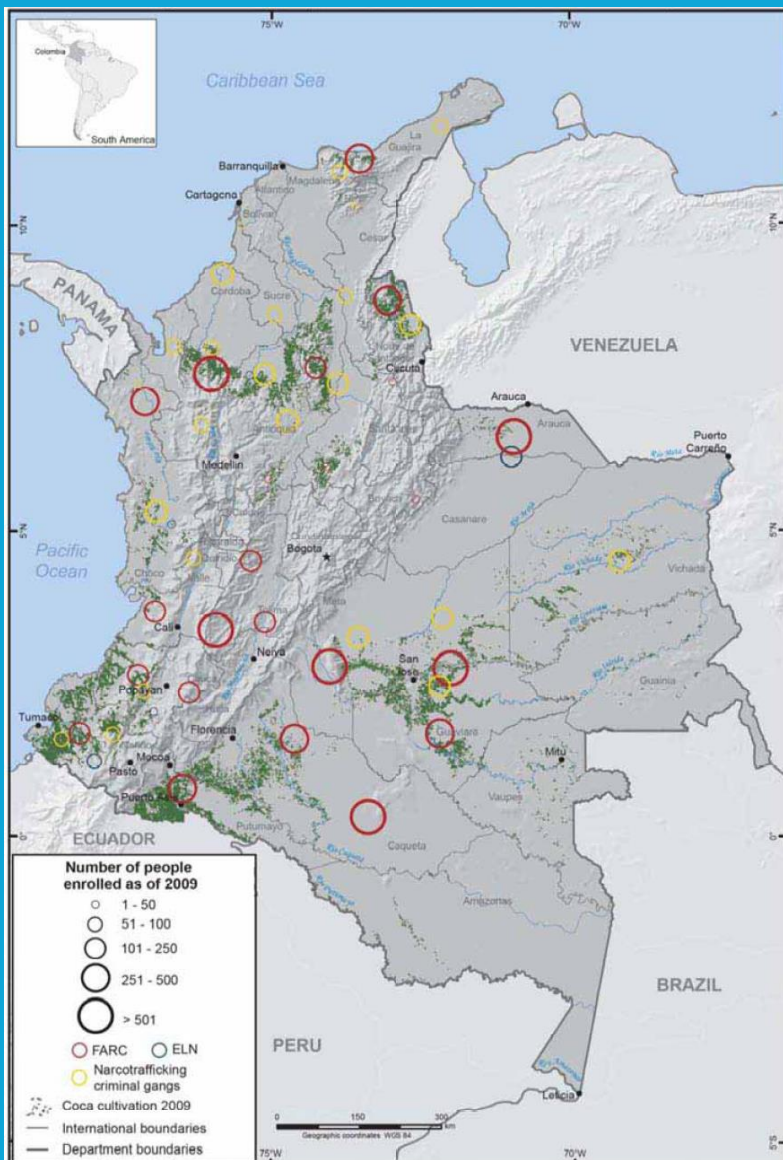


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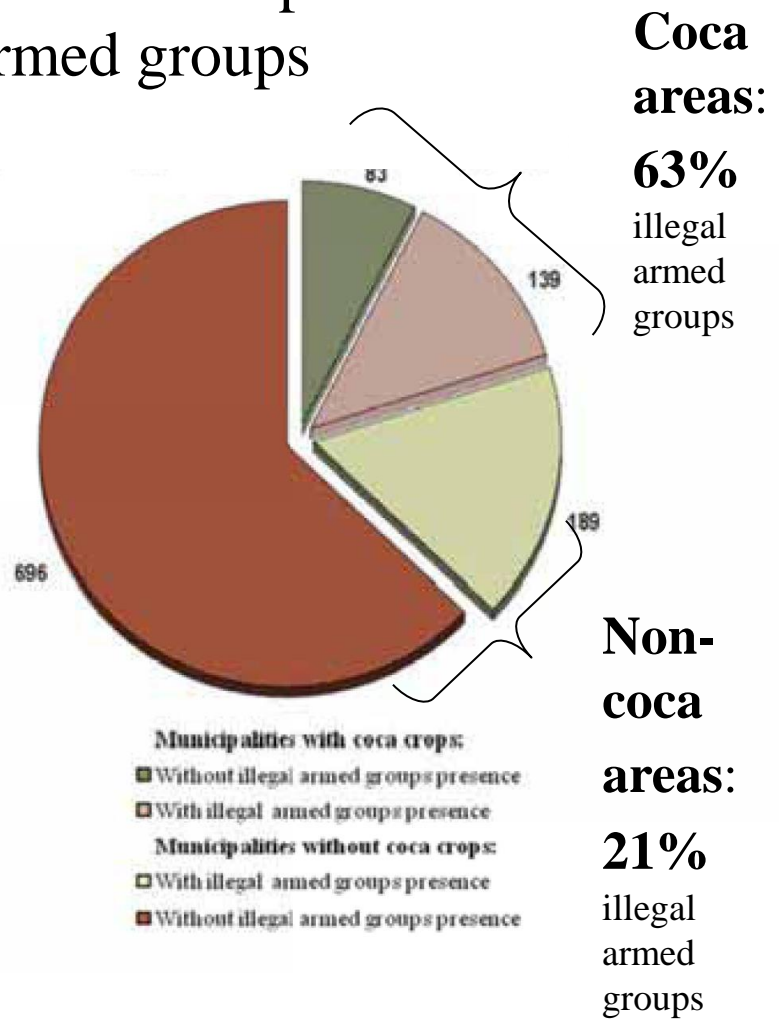
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Links  
between  
drug production/drug trafficking  
and  
violence

# Illegal armed groups and coca cultivation in Colombia, 2009

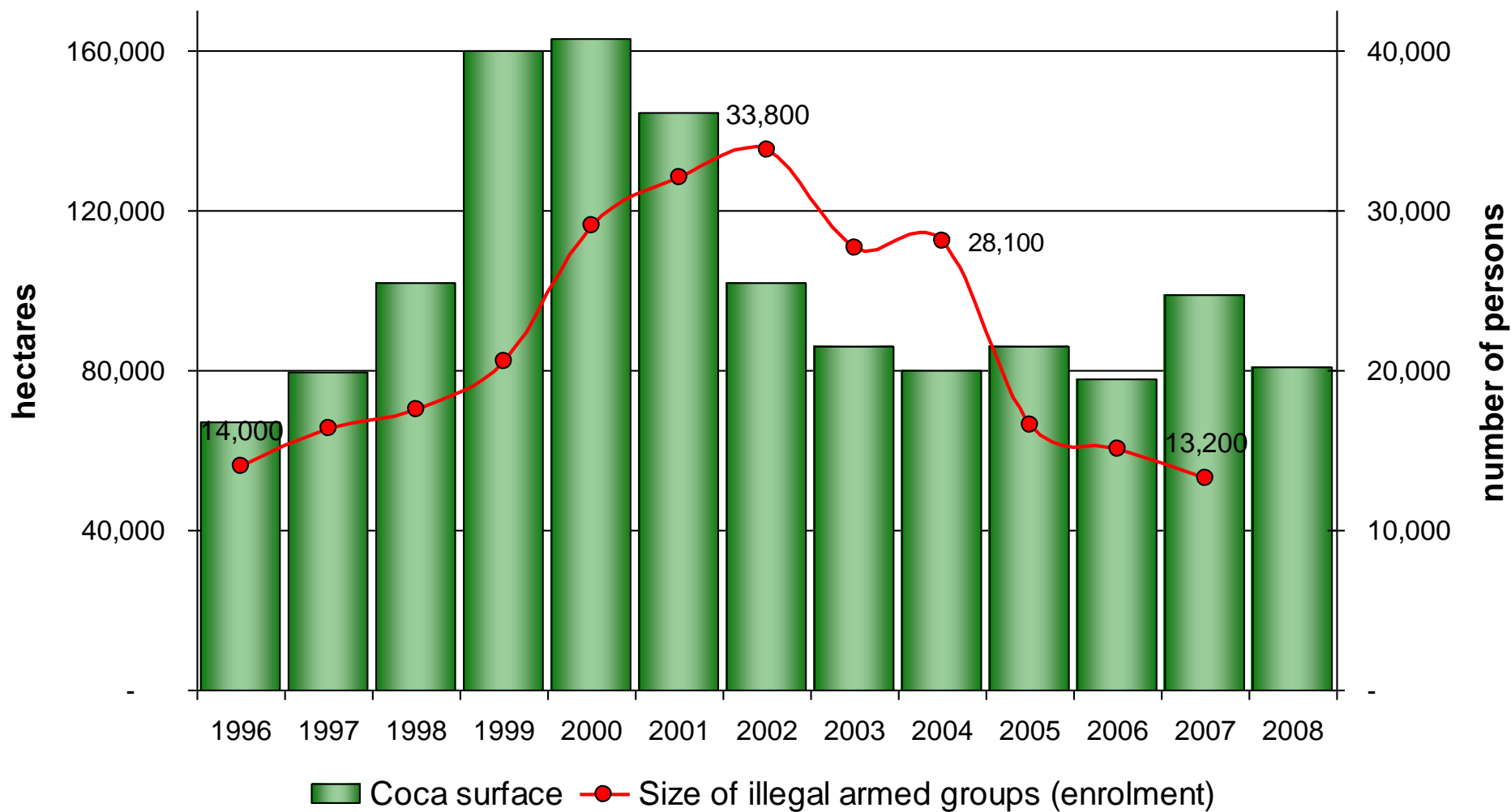


## Municipalities and presence of illegal armed groups



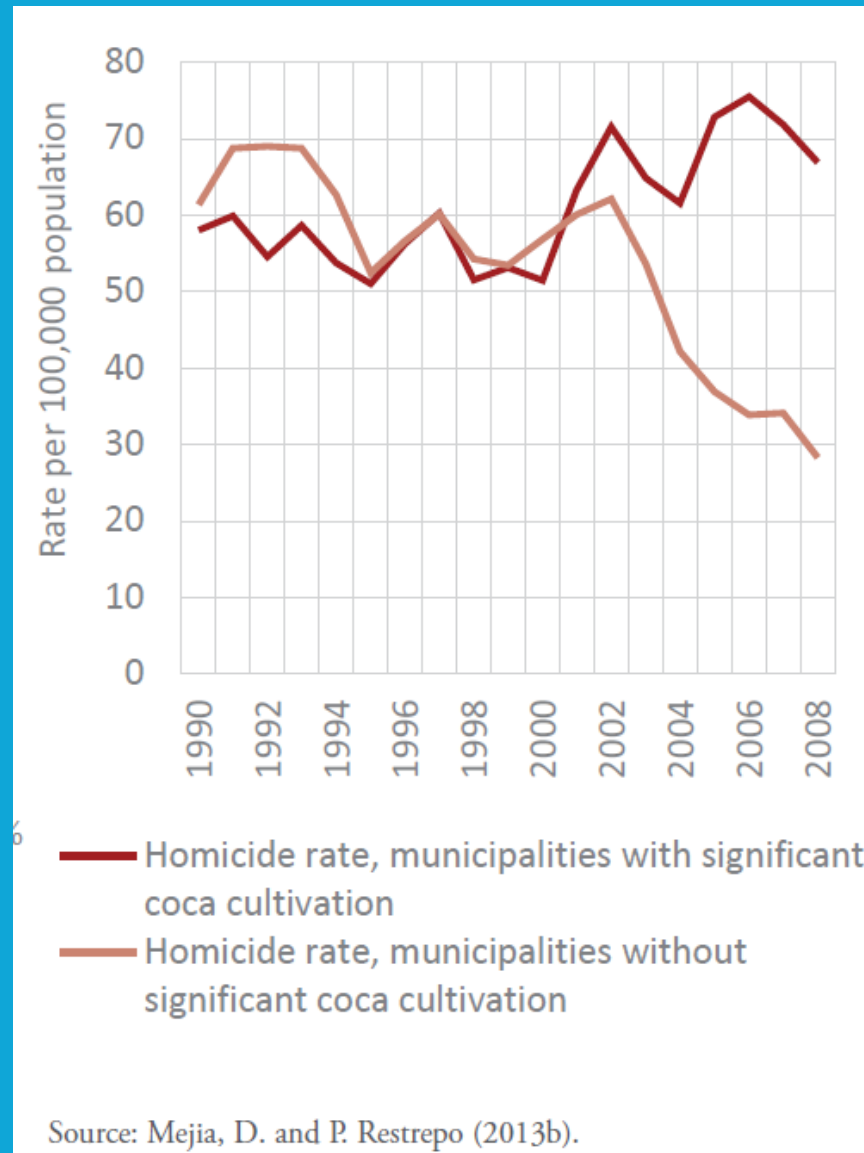
Sources: for coca cultivation Government of Colombia - National monitoring system supported by UNODC; Ministry of Defence and National Police for number of persons enrolled in armed groups. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

# Illegal armed groups and coca cultivation in Colombia, 1996-2008



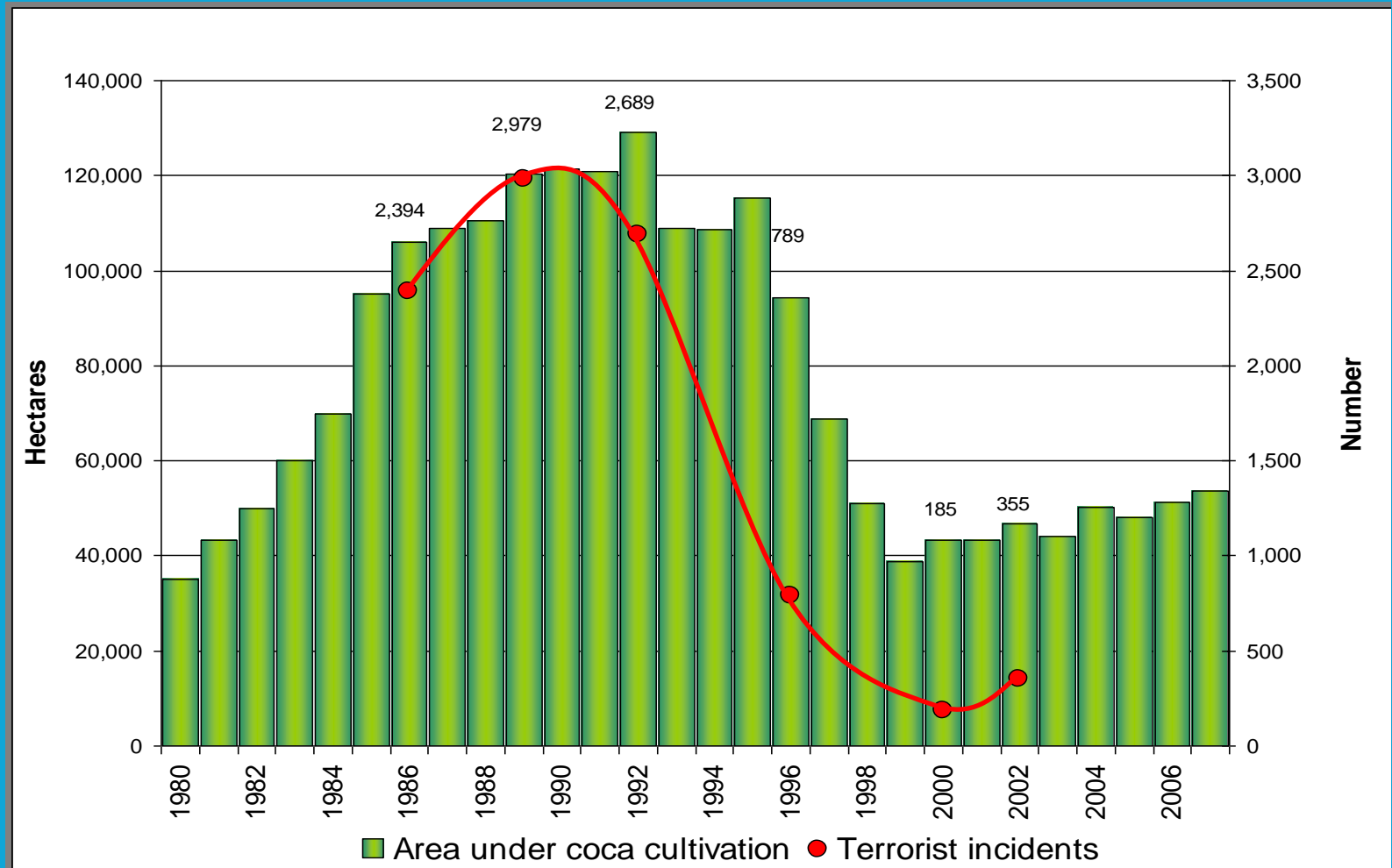


## Homicide rates in Colombia by type of municipality, 1990-2008



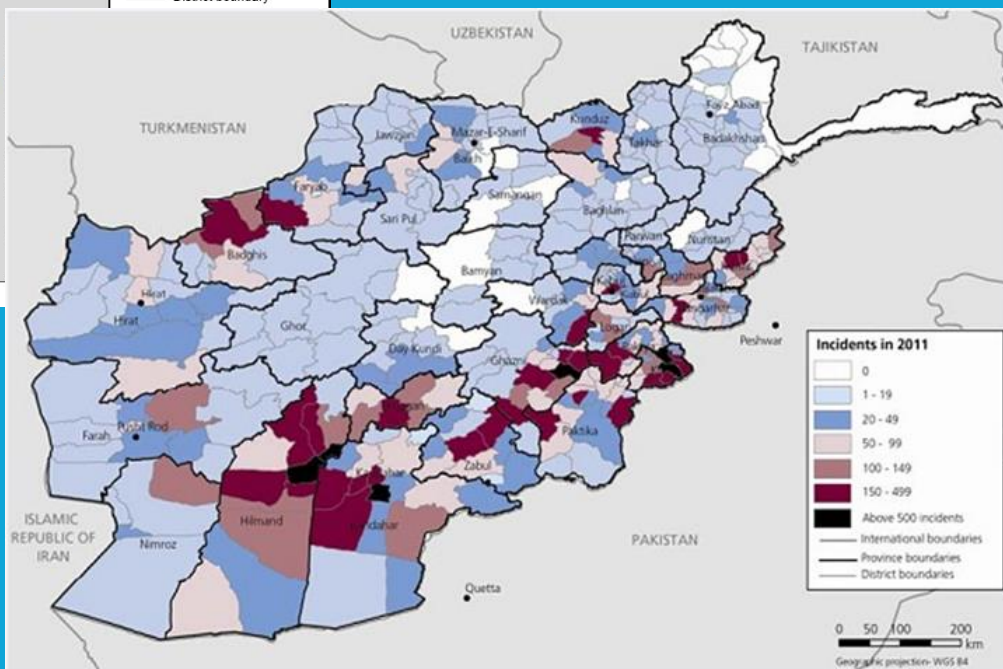
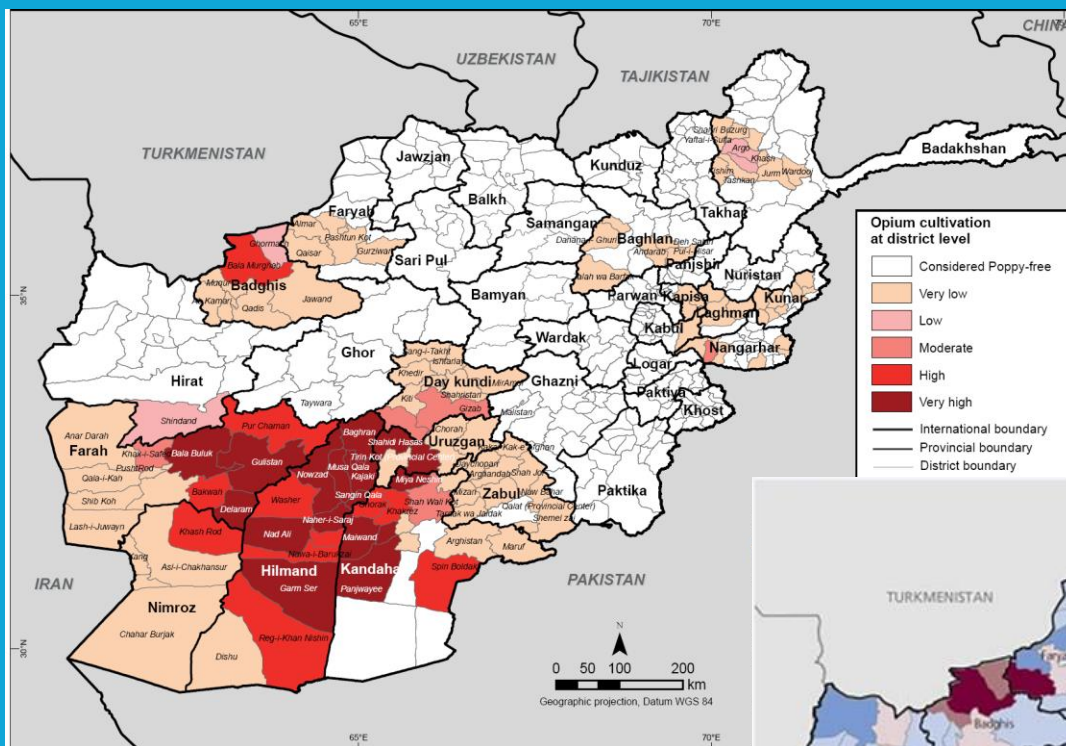
Source: UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide, 2013*.

# Peru: coca cultivation and terrorist incidents





## Opium poppy cultivation and security incidents, 2011



Source: Government of Afghanistan - National monitoring system implemented by UNODC.  
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Adapted from UNODC security incidents maps. Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



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**Important to note that violence can be  
an outcome or an enabler for drug  
production**



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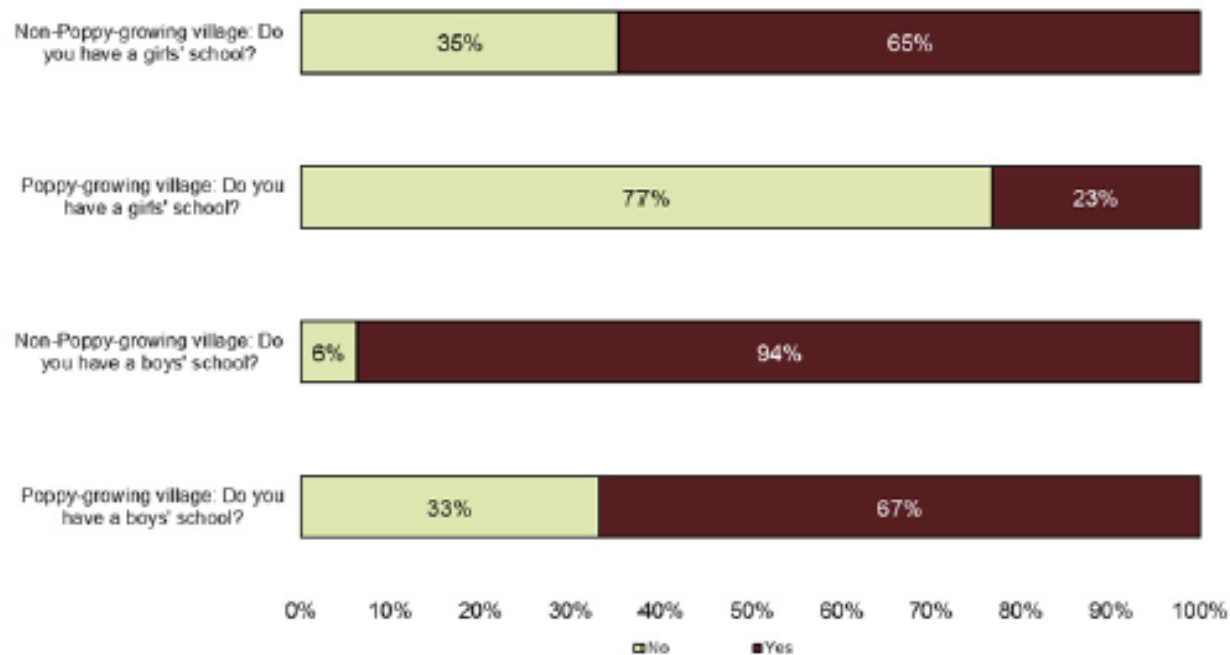
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**Violence/insecurity is not the only  
factor related to drug cultivation**



## Link between underdevelopment and opium cultivation in Afghanistan

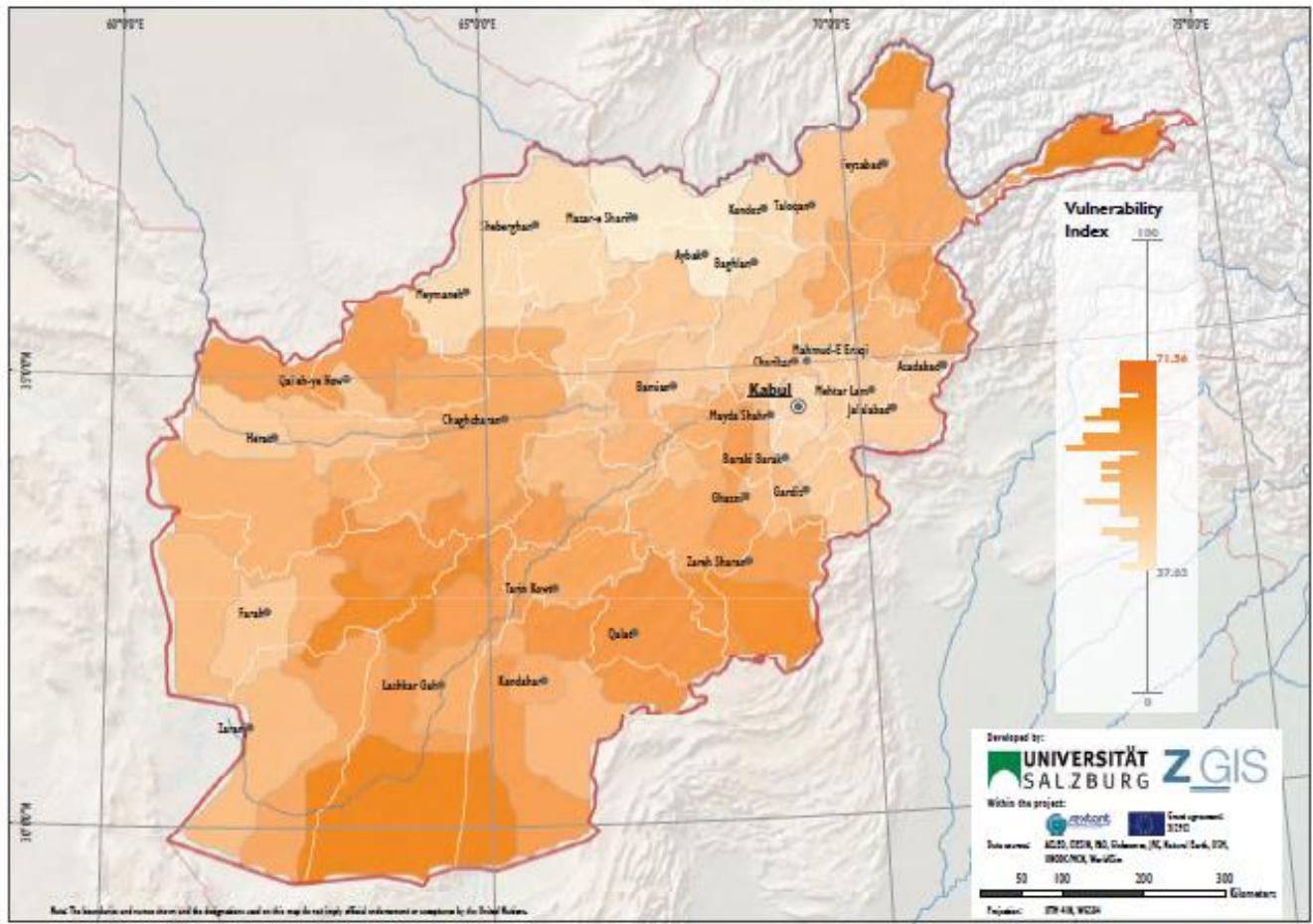
**Figure 17: Access to boys' school and a girls' schools in the Eastern, Southern and Western regions, by poppy-growing status, 2014**



*Differences are significant at the 0.01 level.*



### Map 2: Socio-economic vulnerability to opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan





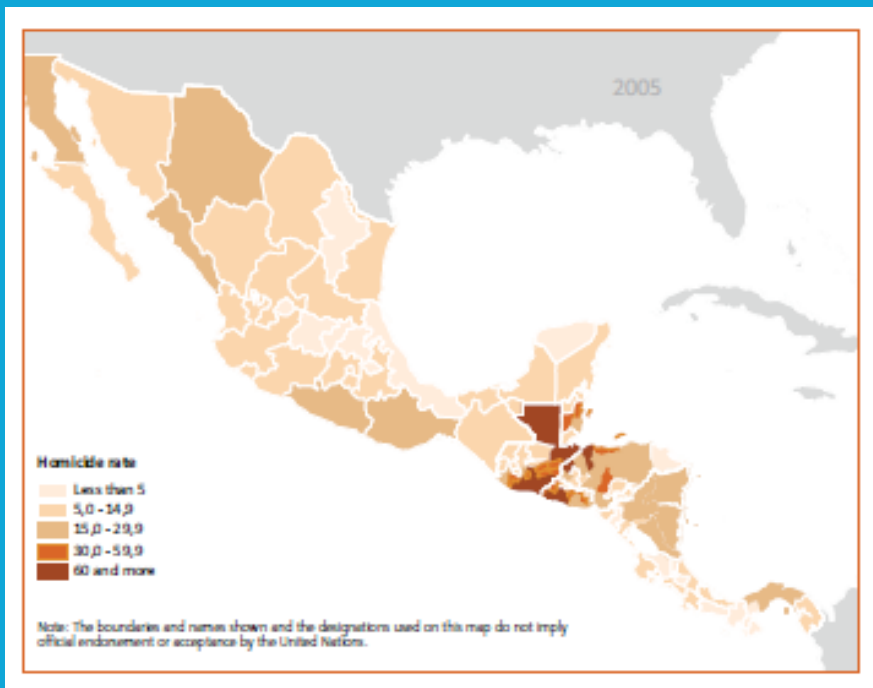
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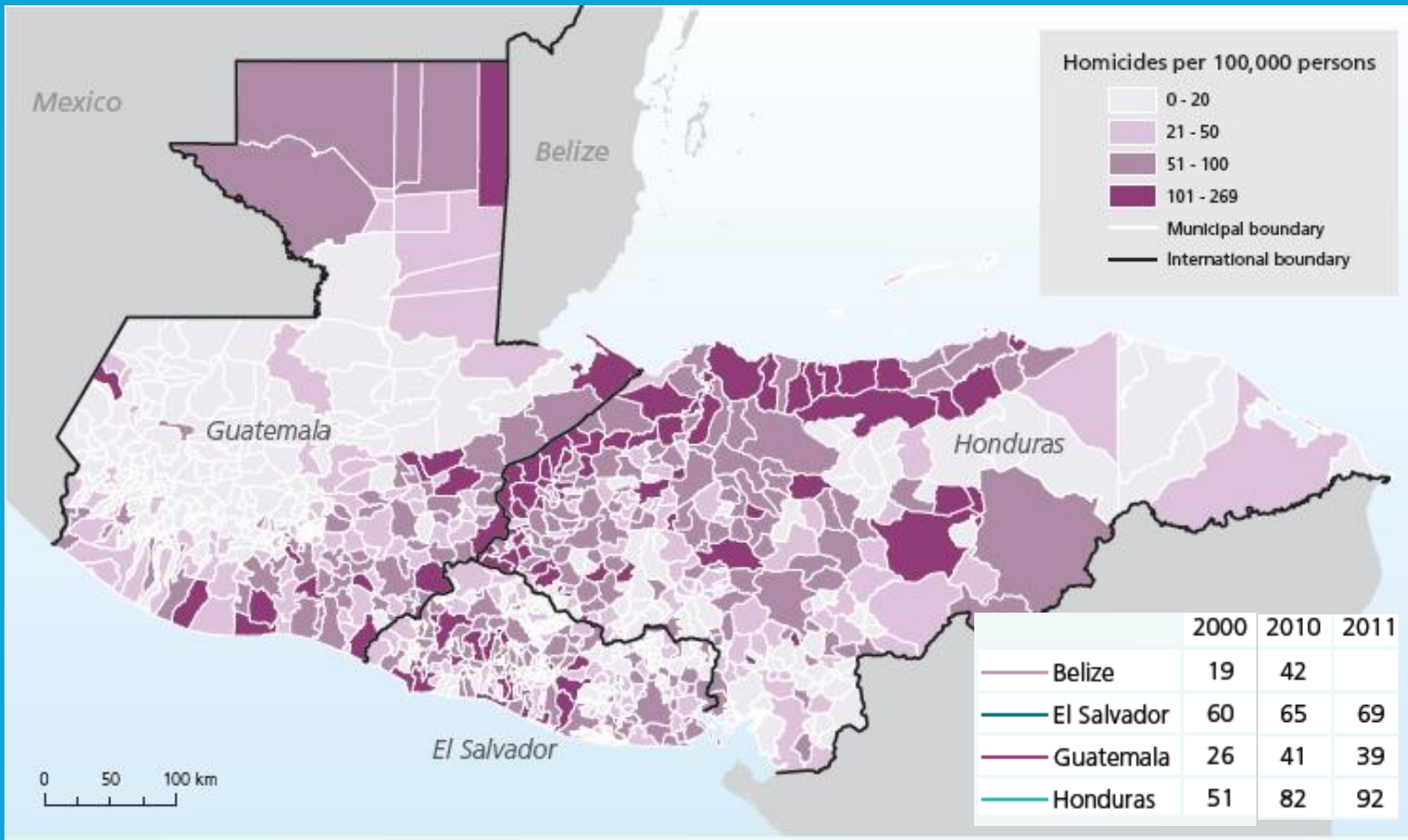
***Drug trafficking has generated  
violence***



## Homicide rates at subnational level, Central America 2005 and 2010



# Homicide rates by municipal areas in northern Central America, 2011



Source: UNODC, Transnational Organized Crime in Central America and the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment (September 2012).

# Main areas of influence of Mexican drug cartels, 2009/2010



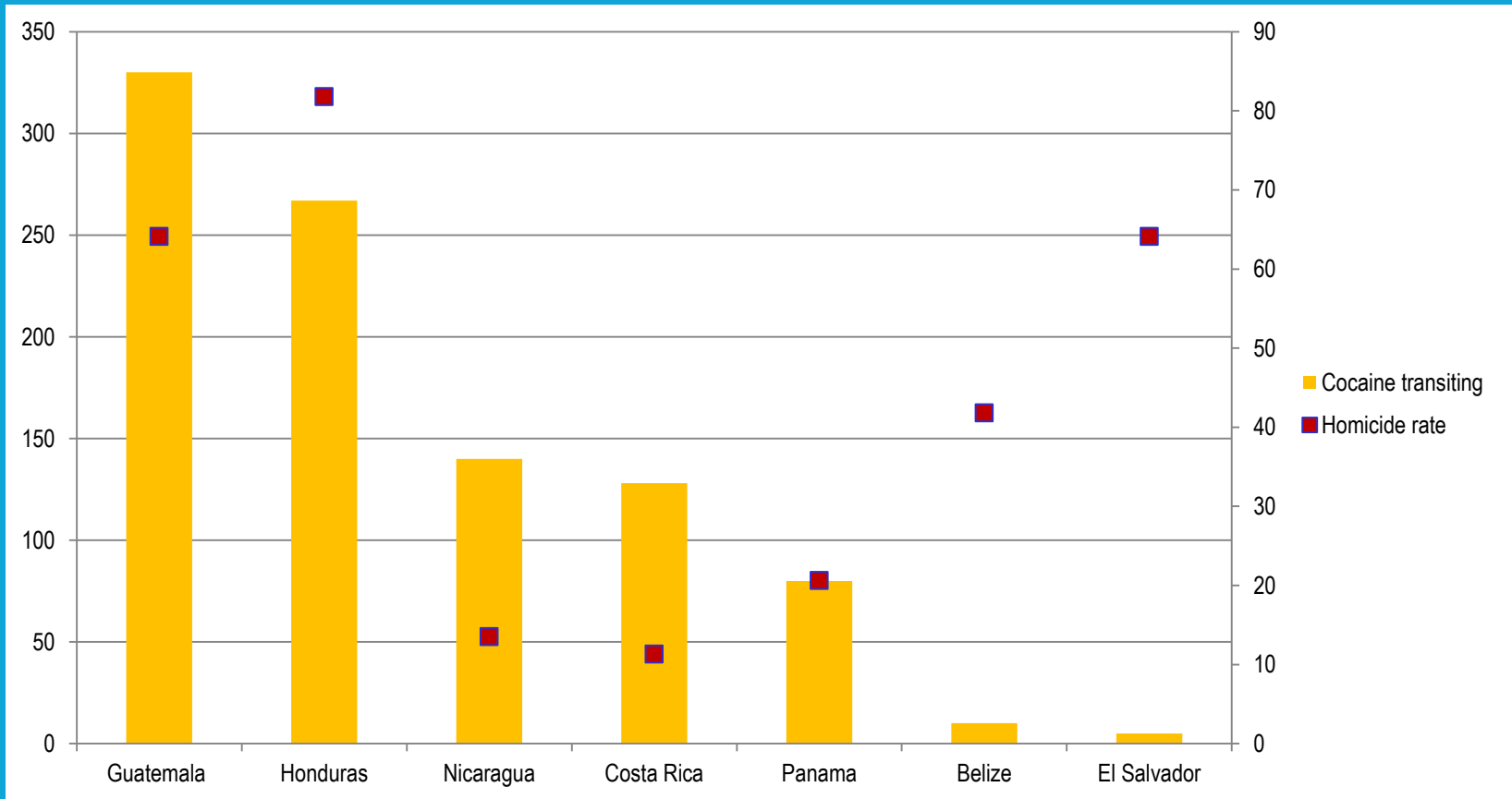


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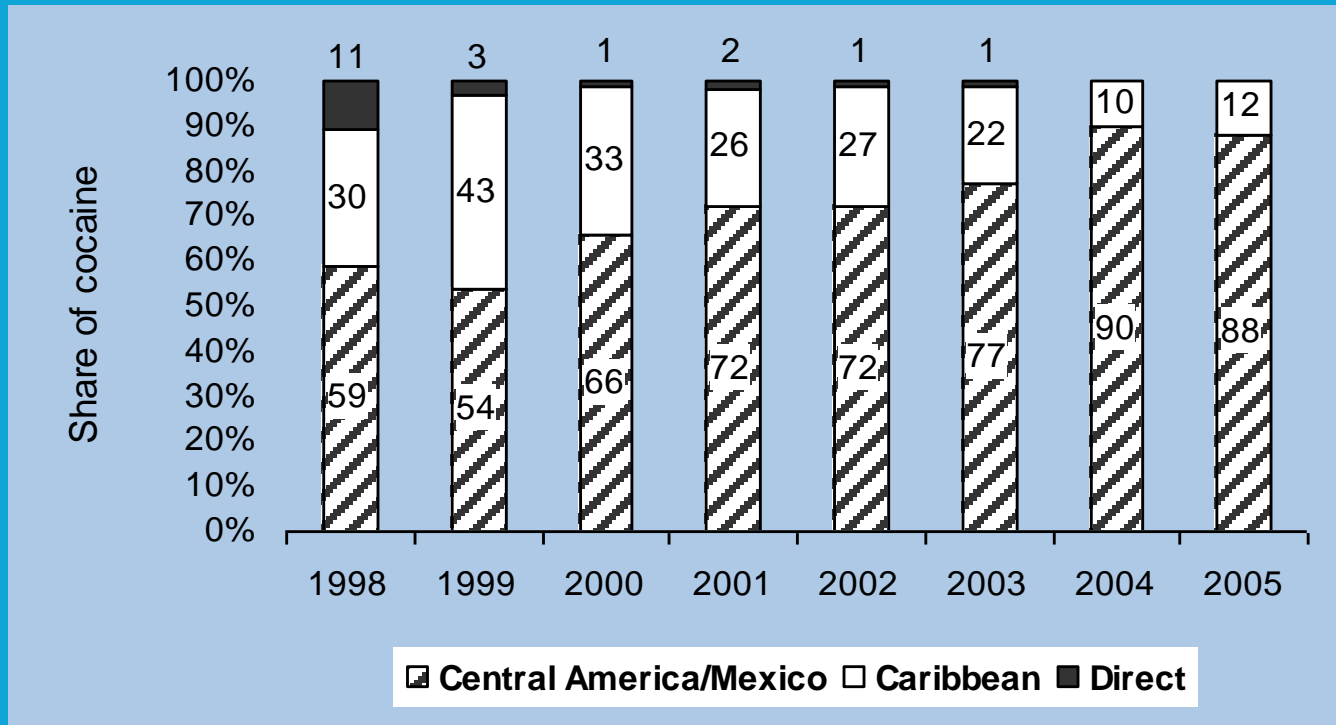
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***But not all violence in Central  
America has been generated by drug  
trafficking***

# Tons of Cocaine transiting countries in Central America and Homicide rate, 2010



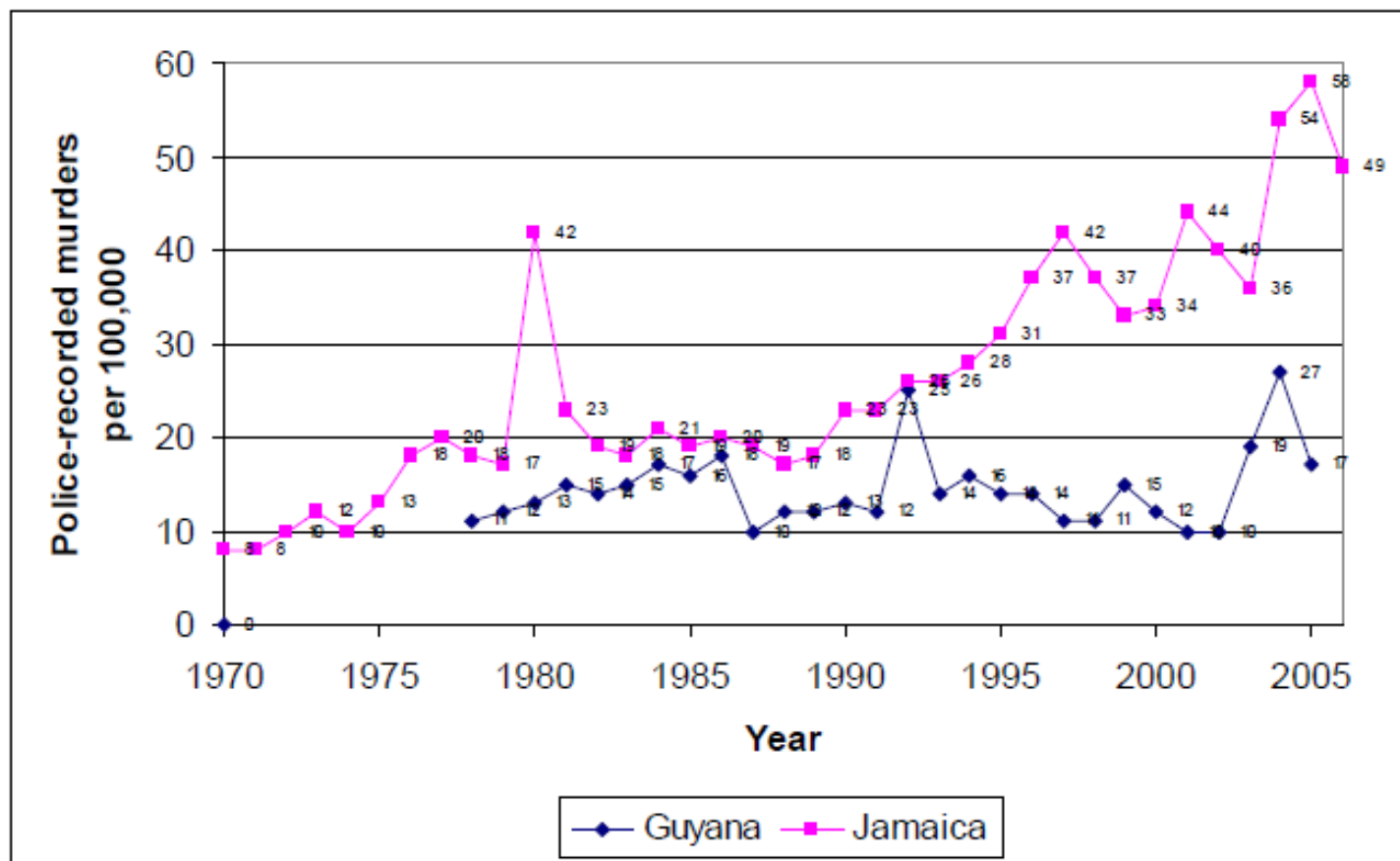
# Share of Cocaine Flowing to the United States by Transport Corridors



Source: U.S. National Drug Intelligence Center, various years.



## Homicide rate in Guyana and Jamaica



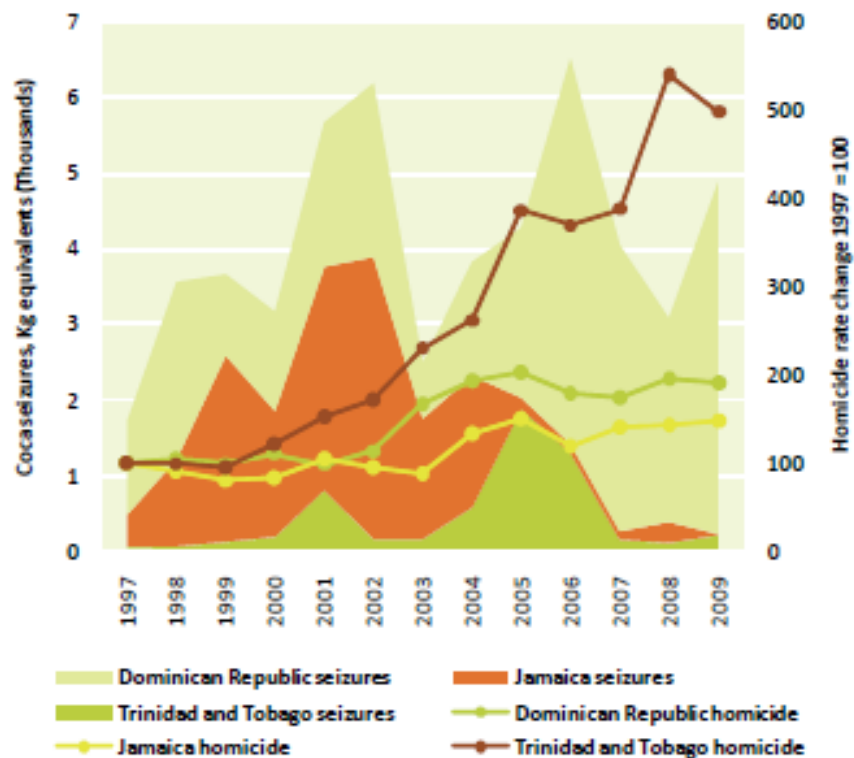
Sources: Jamaica Constabulary Force, 2006; Guyana Bureau of Statistics, 2005.



- Increase in violence has been associated with **changes** in drug trafficking (both increases and decreases)
- Destabilization of illicit markets produces violence (between organized criminal groups and/or between criminal organizations and governmental institutions)



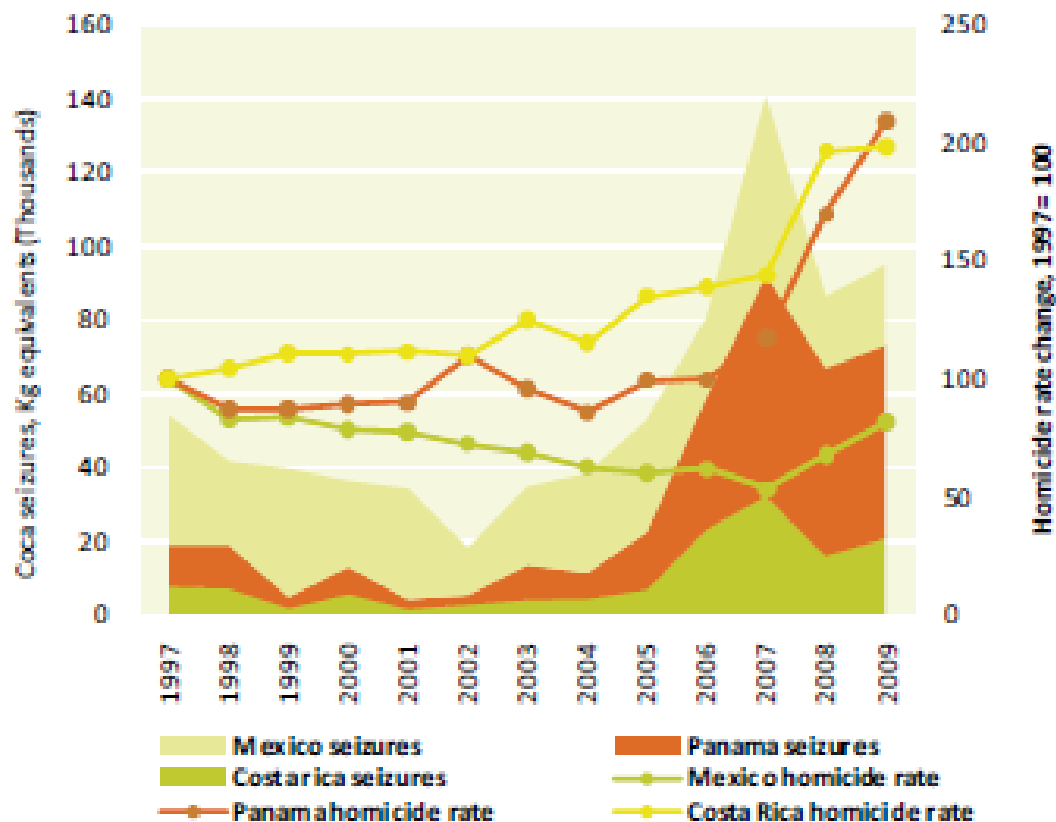
**Fig. 3.14: Cocaine seizures and homicide rates, selected countries in the Caribbean (1997-2009)**



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011) and ARQ. Area is proportional to cocaine seizures in kg equivalents. Lines represent percentage change in homicide rate based on a starting point of 100 for 1997.



**Fig. 3.13: Cocaine seizures and trends of homicide rates, selected countries in Central America (1997-2009)**

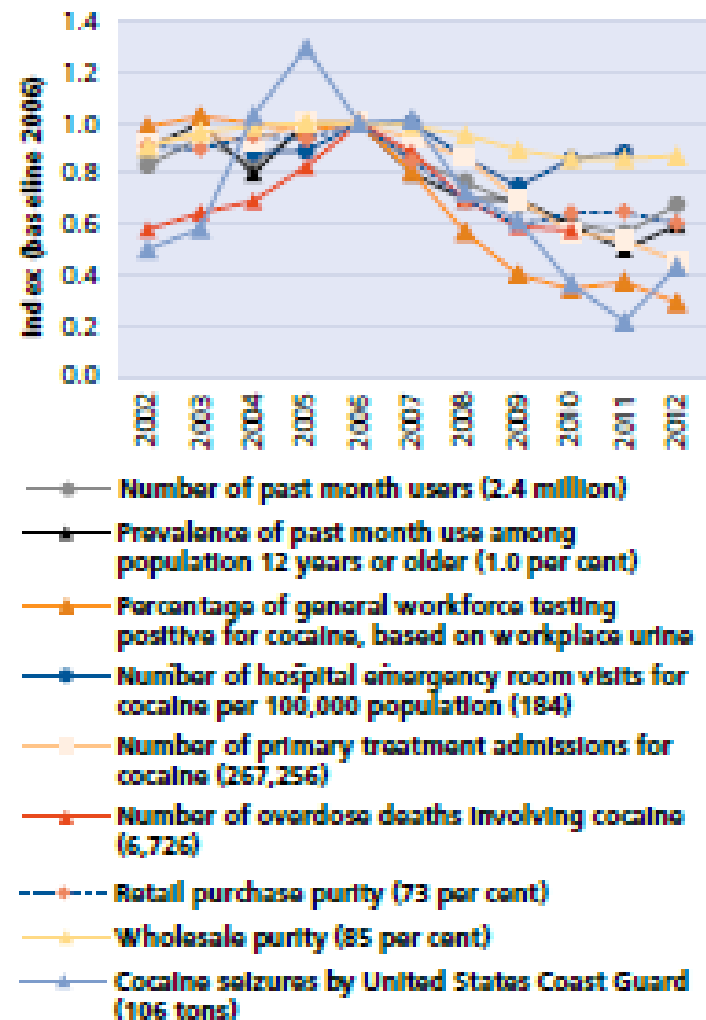


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011) and ARQ. Area is proportional to cocaine seizures in kg equivalents. Lines represent percentage change in homicide rate based on a starting point of 100 for 1997.



A reflection of shrinking cocaine market in the US (a result of disruption of trafficking in Mexico?)

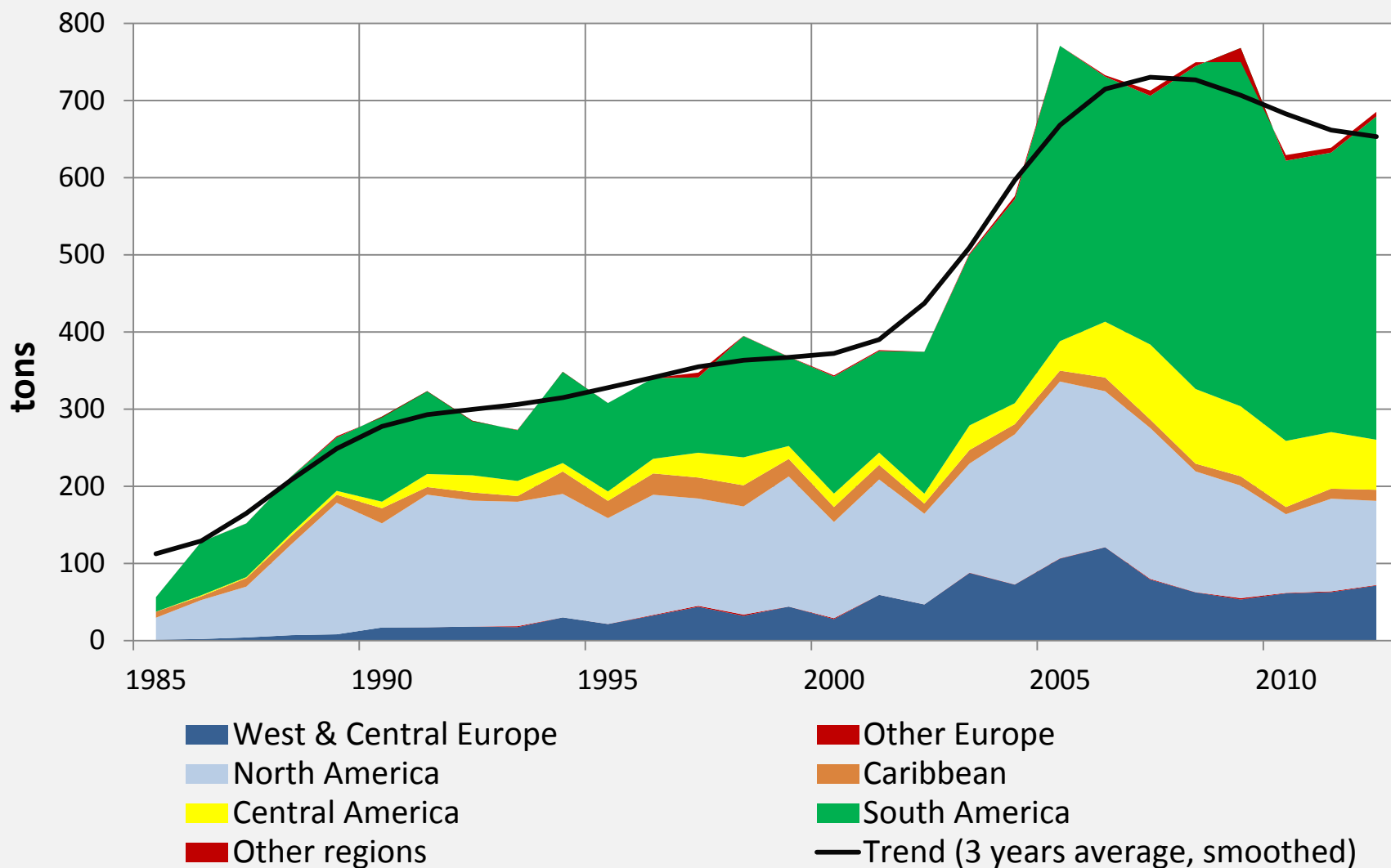
**Fig. 32. Indicators of the cocaine market in the United States, 2002-2012, indexed relative to 2006**



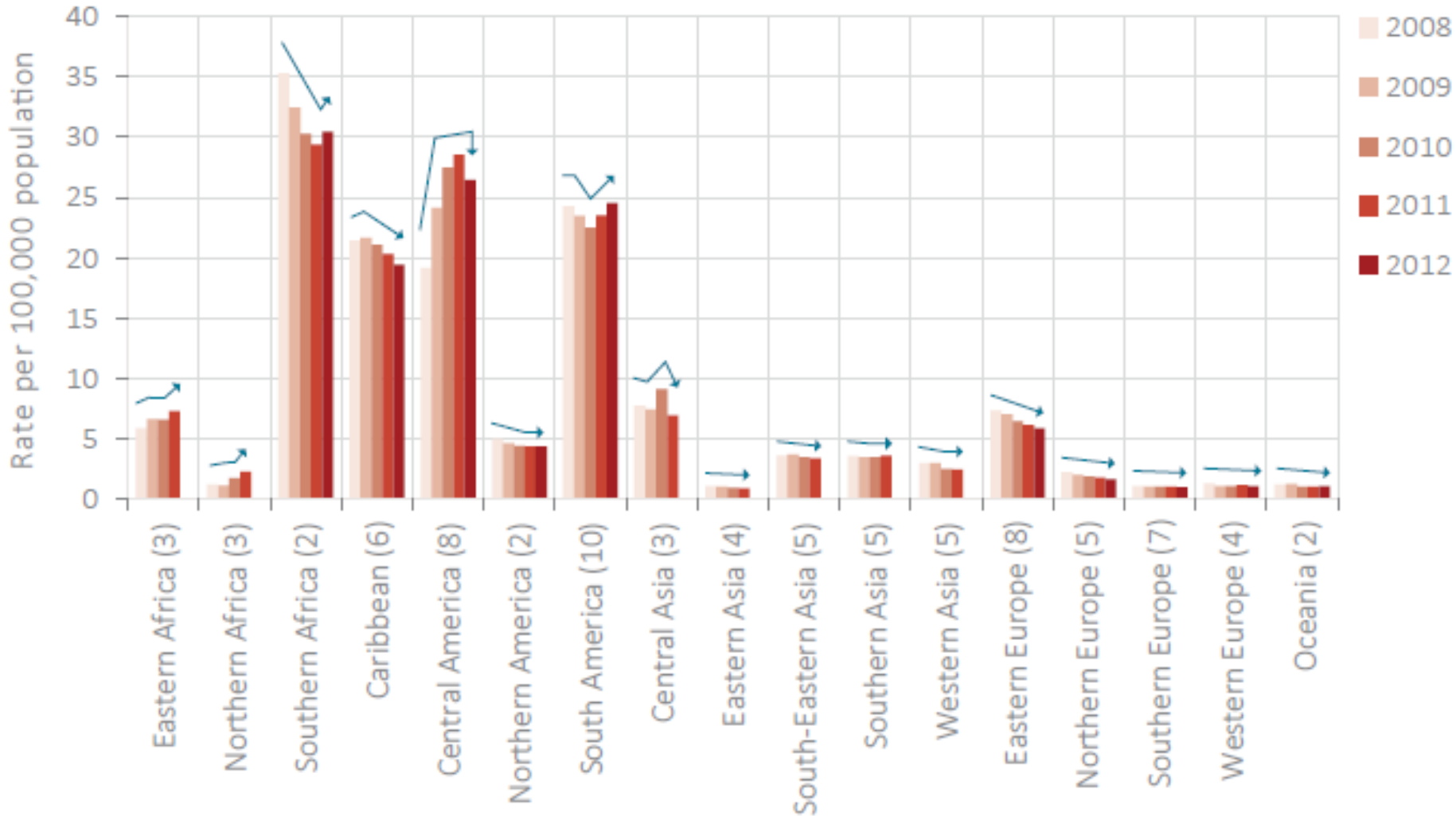
Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, US Government.

Note: Values in 2006 indicated in brackets.

## Seizures of cocaine (incl. paste and base), 1985-2012



# Homicide rates, by subregion, 2008-2012



Note: Number of countries is denoted in brackets.

Source: UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide, 2013*.

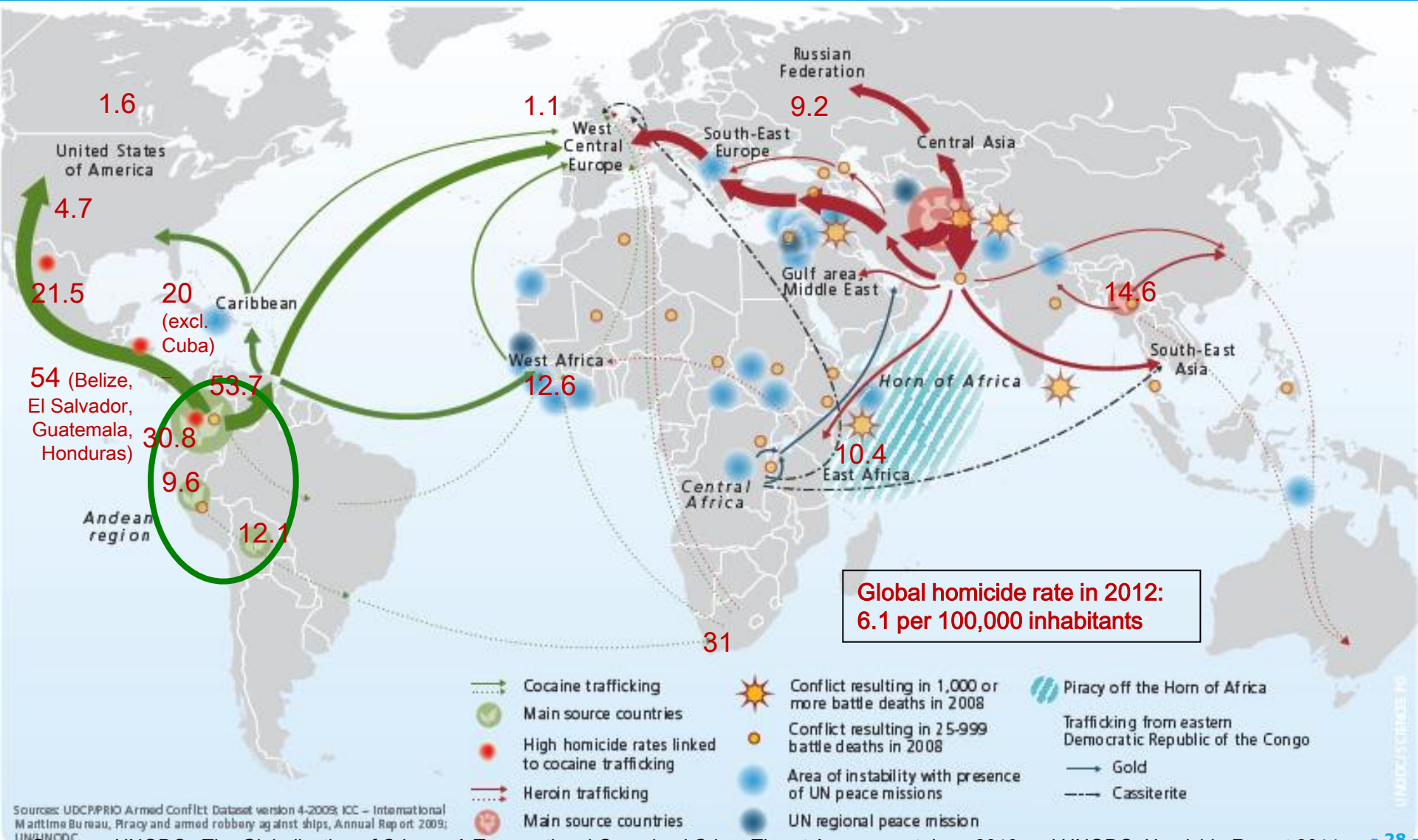


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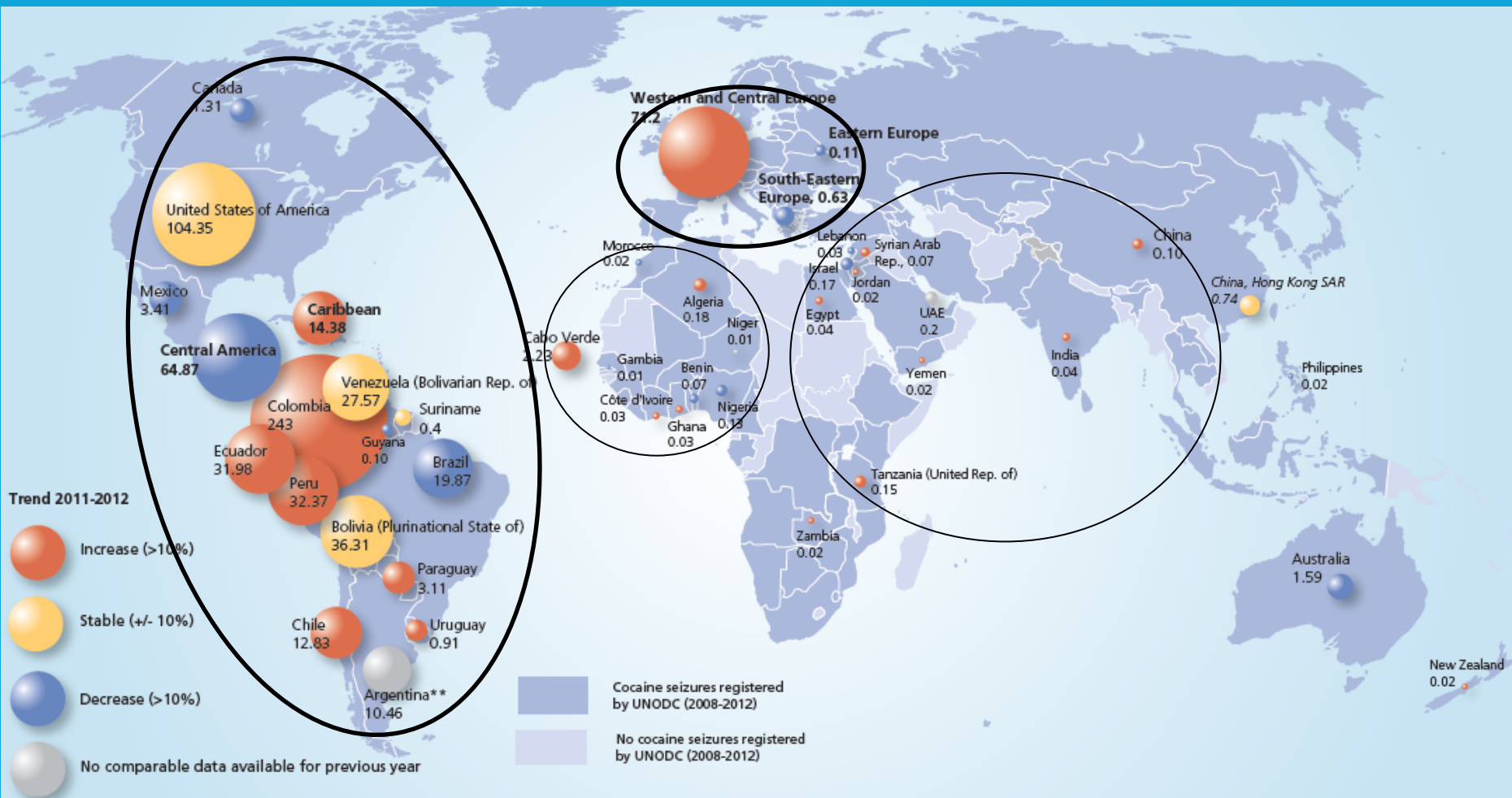
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**The absence of violence doesn't automatically reflect absence of drug trafficking. It can be a reflection of an “established” high level trafficking (pax mafiosa)**

# Drug trafficking and violence



# Seizures\* of cocaine, 2012 (tons)



Source: UNODC annual report questionnaire data, supplemented by other official sources.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

\* Seizures as reported (no adjustments made for purity). Includes cocaine salts, crack cocaine, coca paste/cocaine base and non-specified cocaine. The vast majority of seizures of cocaine are reported to UNODC by weight.

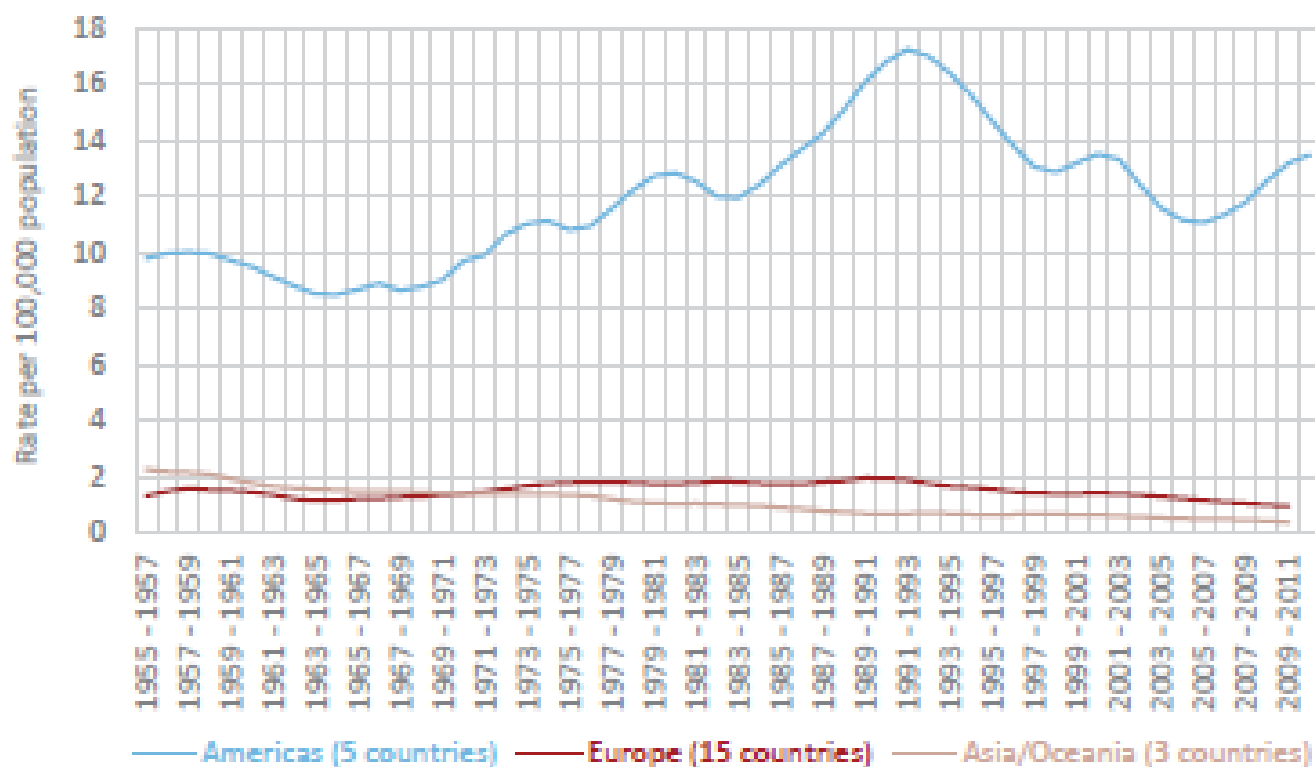
Whenever the availability of information allows, seizures expressed in other units are converted to weight; in particular 1 litre is assumed to have a weight of 1kg. For more details please refer to the methodology section of the World Drug Report.

\*\* Available data for 2011 were incomplete and therefore not comparable to 2012 data.

\* Seizures of more than 10 kg



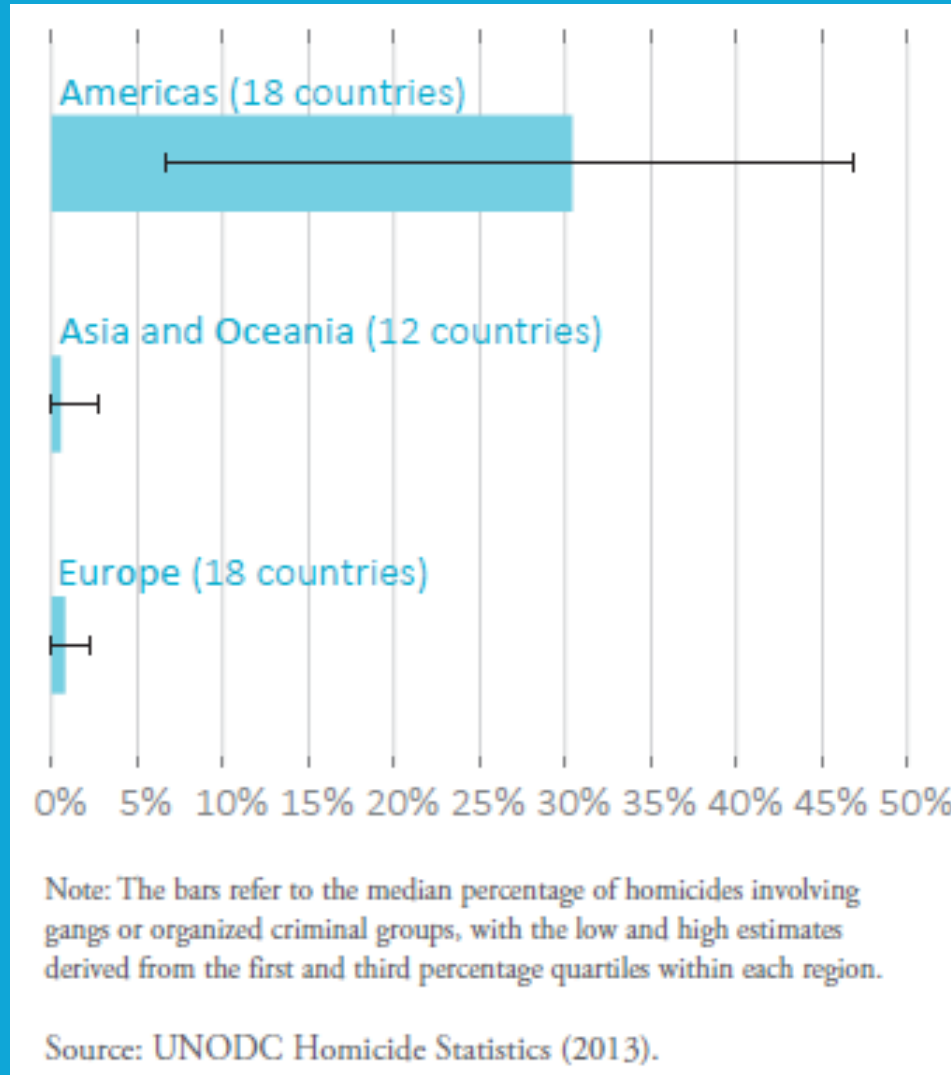
**Fig. 1.17: Homicide rates, selected regions (1955-2012, three-year moving average)**



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013) and WHO Mortality Database.

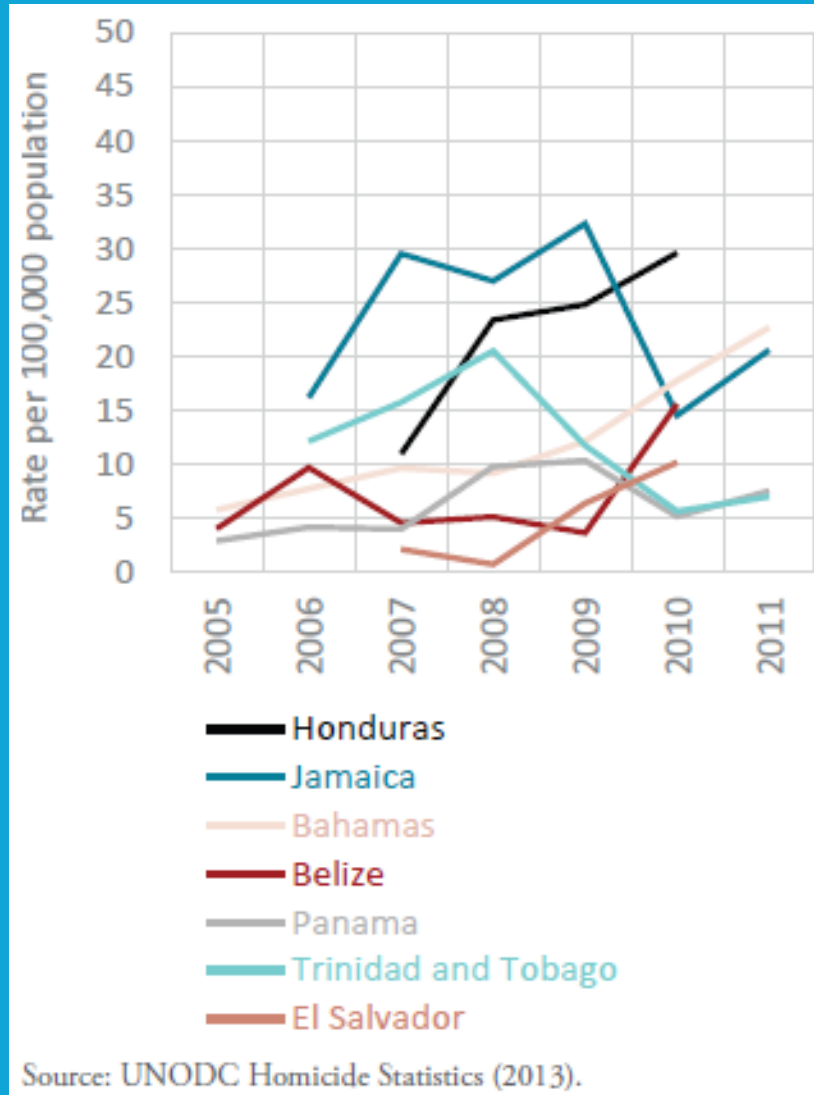


## Organized crime/gang-related homicides out of total homicides (2011 or latest year available)



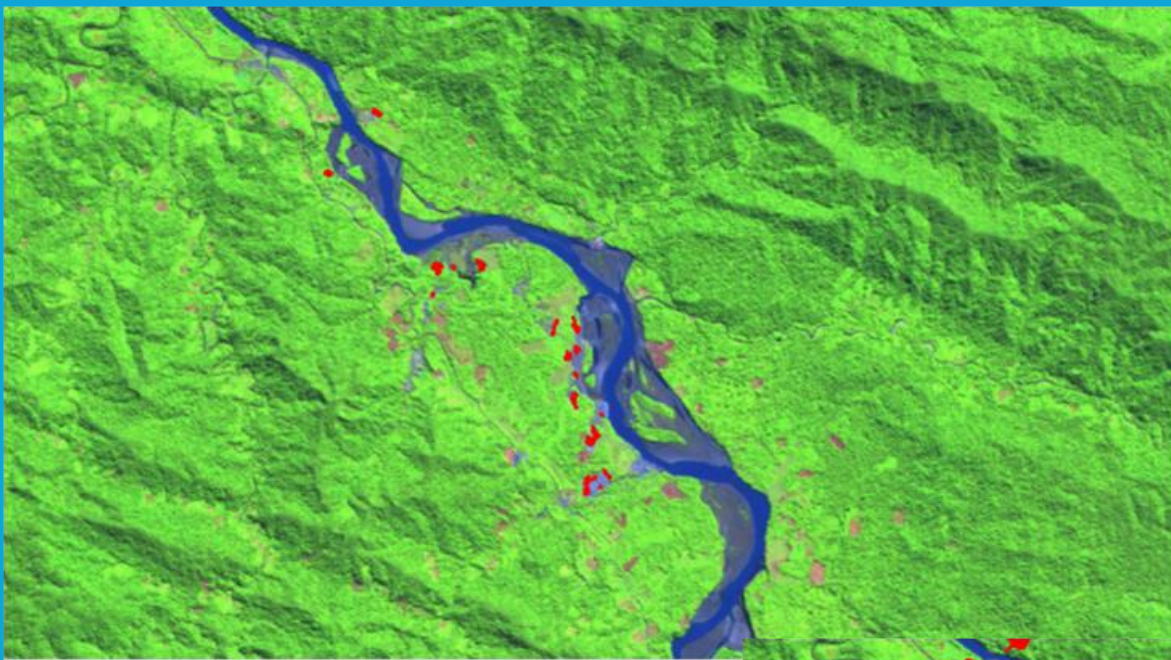


## Rates of organized crime/gang-related homicides, selected countries in Central America and the Caribbean, 2005-2011



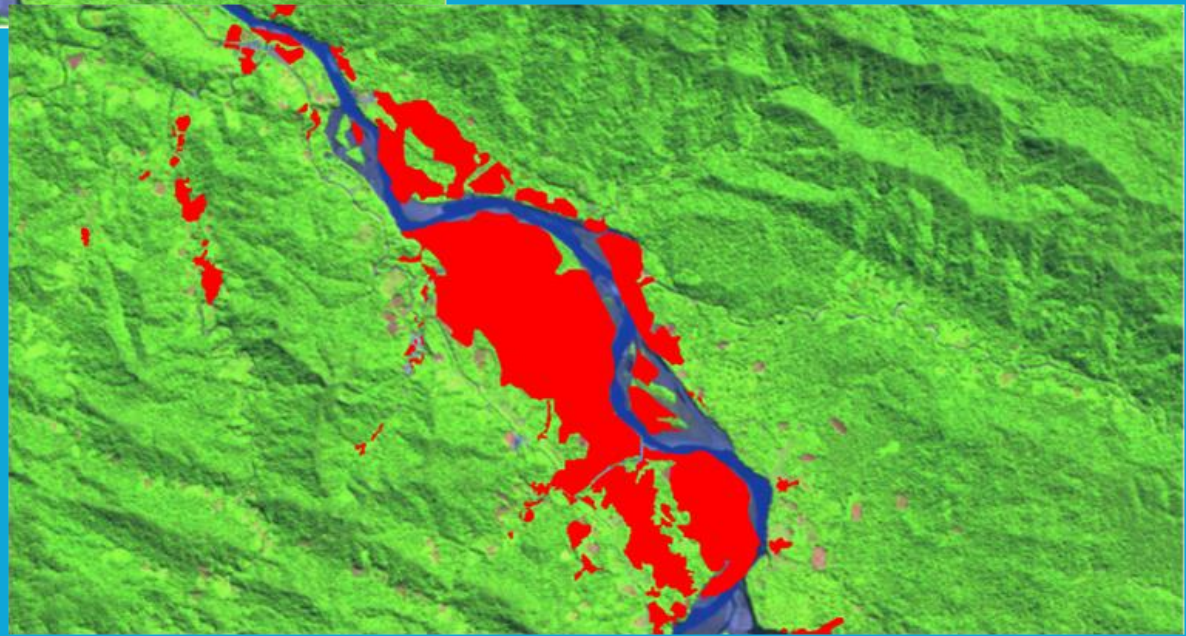


- Drugs is only one of the illicit markets managed by the OC cartels in Central America and cartels have proven to adopt very quickly to the changing environment switching quickly to different markets if one proves to be less profitable or problematic
- Eliminating drug trafficking doesn't resolve the problem of OC and violence



**Illicit mining in San Gaban, Peru 2005**

**Illicit mining in San Gaban, Peru 2013**





- OC operates where there are regulated markets. Their profits come from:
  - Offering products which are not allowed by regulations (drugs, arms, protected species)
  - Offering cheaper products or services which would be more expensive if produced/ managed according to regulations (counterfeited products, waste management)
  - Controlling the territory (extortions)



## Value of illicit markets in Europe

Table 1 – Revenues from illicit markets per year – billion euro

Illicit market	7 OOP countries	Whole EU
<b>Illicit drugs</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>27.7</b>
Heroin	5.7	8.0
Cocaine	5.3	6.8
<i>Cannabis</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>6.7</i>
<i>Amphetamines</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>2.8</i>
<i>Ecstasy</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>3.5</i>
<b>Trafficking in human beings (THB)</b>	Estimate available only in few EU MS	
<b>Illicit trafficking in firearms (ITF)</b>	-	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Illicit trade in tobacco products (ITTP)</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Counterfeiting</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>42.7</b>
<b>Illegal gambling</b>	Estimate available only in few EU MS	
<b>Extortion racketeering</b>	Estimate available only in few EU MS	
<b>Usury</b>	Estimate available only in few EU MS	
<b>MTIC fraud</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>29.3</b>
<b>Cargo theft</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.42</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>109.9</b>

Source: Transcrime-OOP estimates. In italics estimates by other authors



- As long as global societies set up standards requiring regulations there are potential markets for OC
- OC can bring violence or can operate in peace so the objective should be clear: peace at all costs (pax mafiosa)?
- The problem of OC and its associated violence can be solved only if the conditions of OC vulnerability affecting communities are addressed. **There are no short-cuts**



## Each community affected by OC has its own combination of opportunities and vulnerabilities

- Socio-economic vulnerabilities
  - Infrastructures
  - Education
  - Poverty
  - Employment opportunities
- Governance
  - Weak presence of institutions
  - insecurity
- Weak Rule of Law

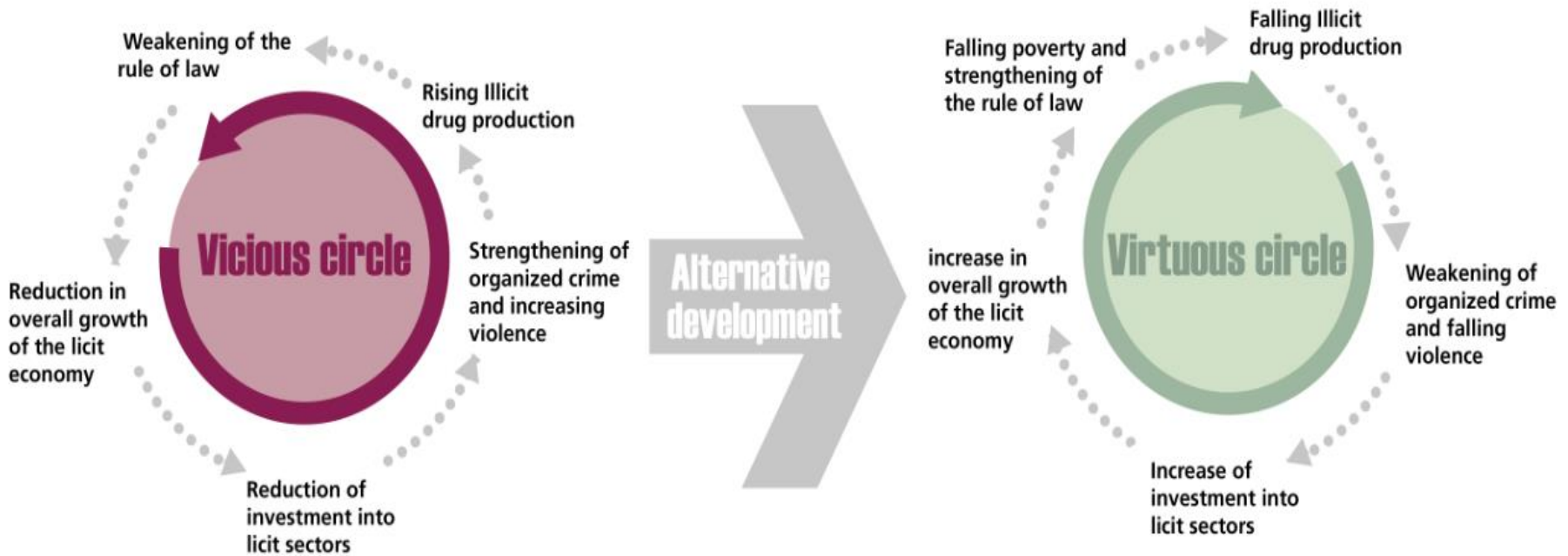


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**Drugs are only one of the many  
opportunities.....**

# “Alternative” Development to address vulnerabilities and opportunities to OC



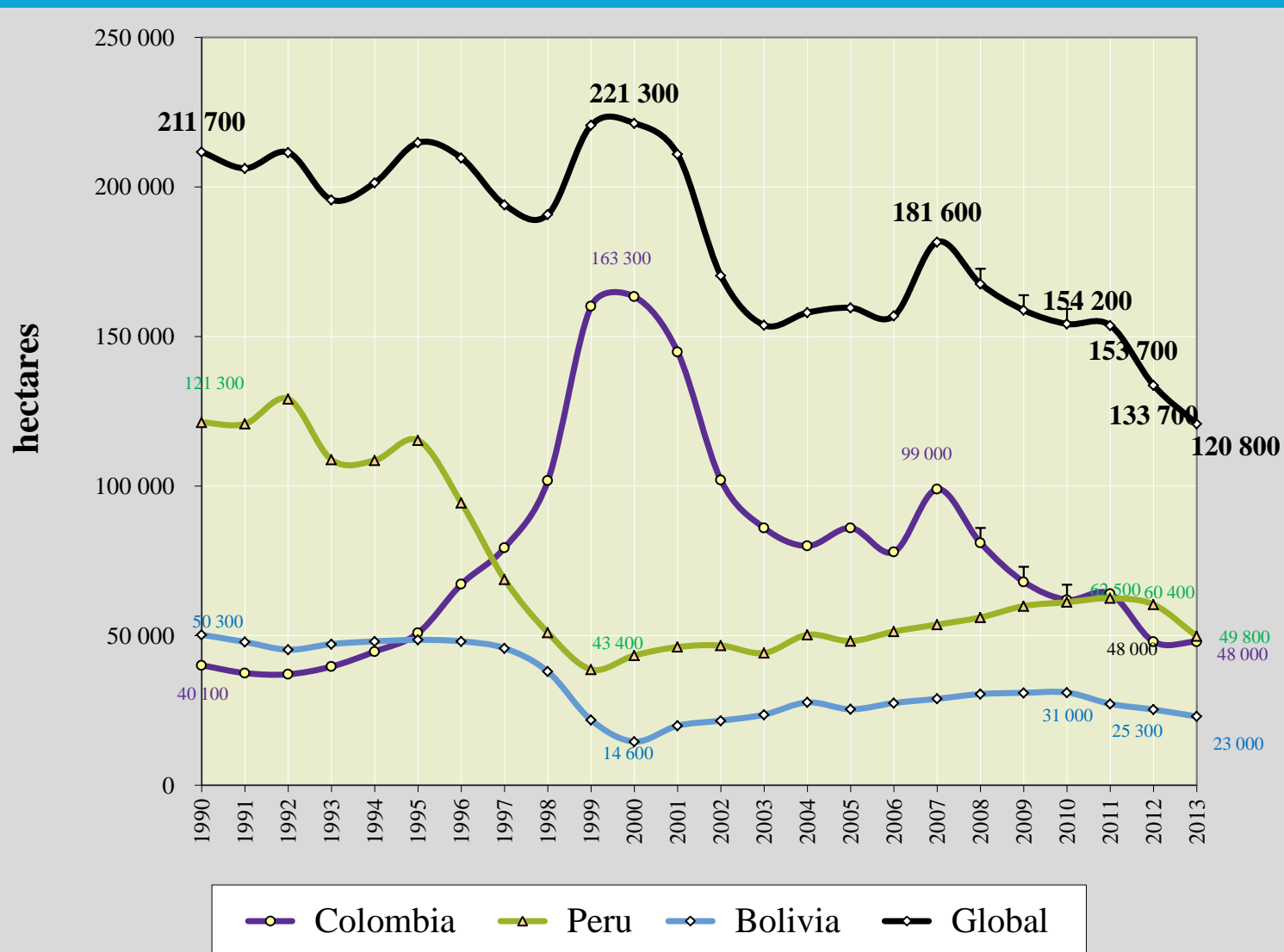


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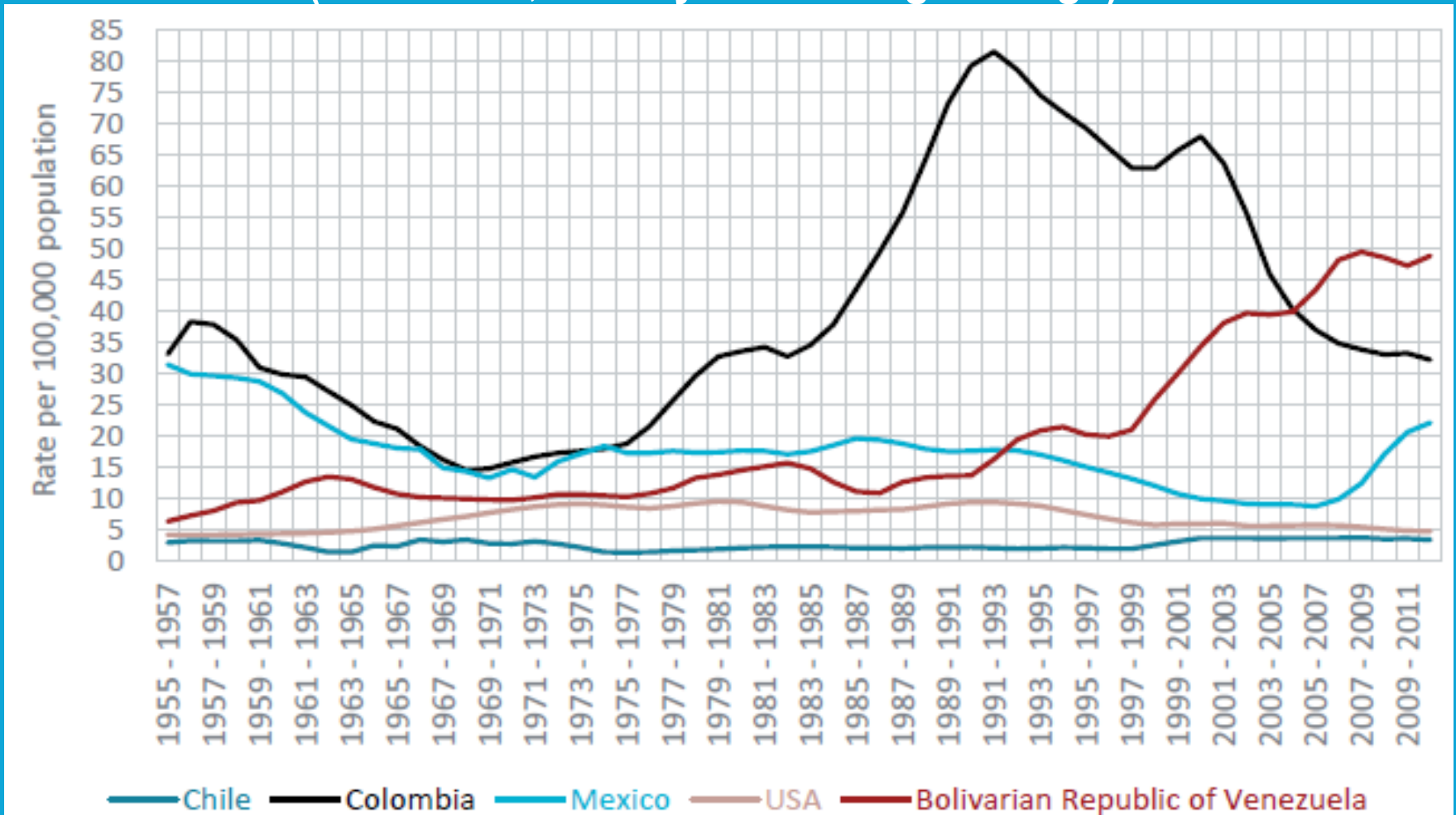
The final objective is not the PAX Mafiosa but  
the **PAX Development**

# Coca cultivation, 1990-2013





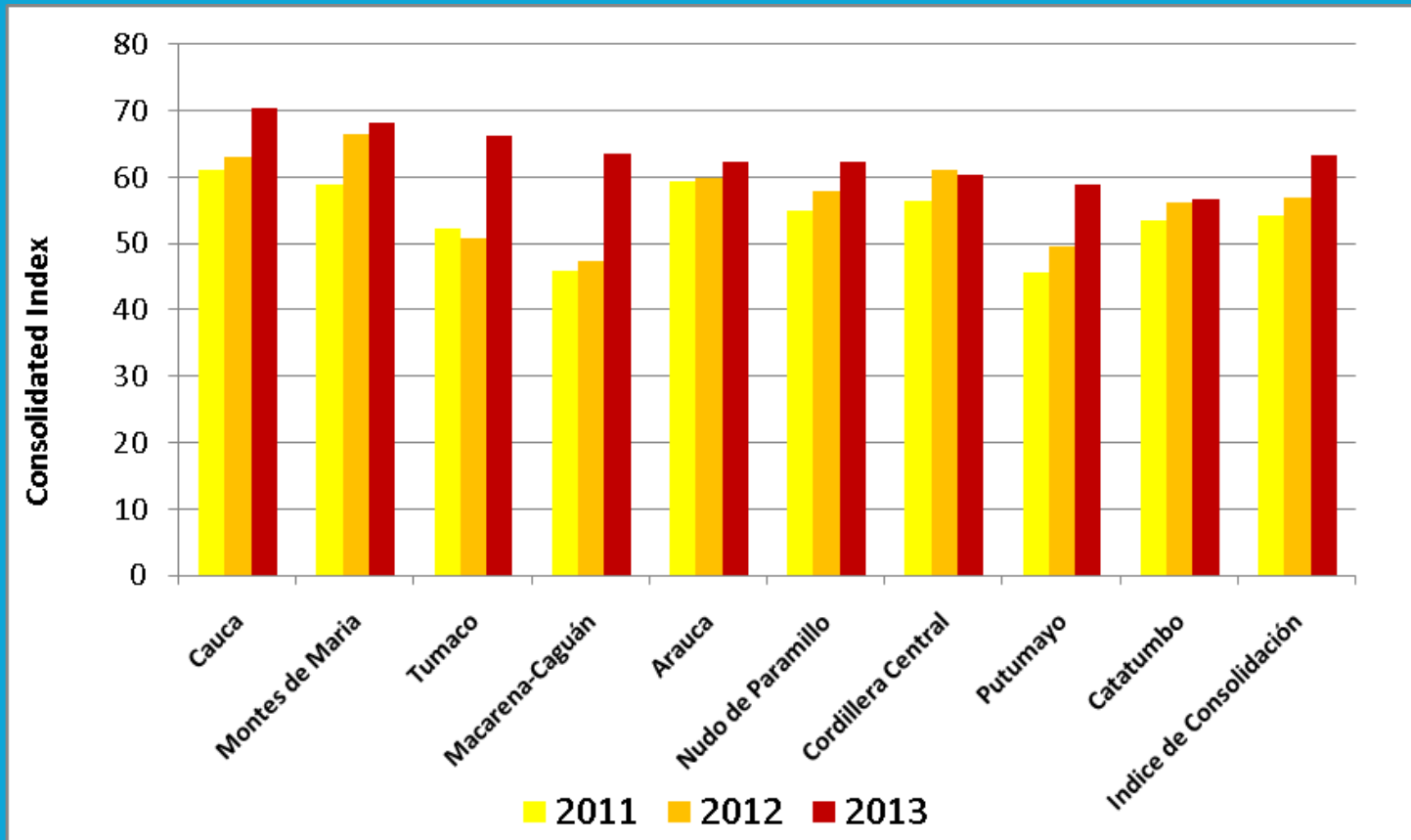
## Homicide rates in selected countries of the Americas, (1995-2012, three-year moving average)



Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013) and WHO Mortality Database.

Source: UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide, 2013*.

# Results from alternative development interventions measured in terms of the consolidation index in Colombia, 2011-2013



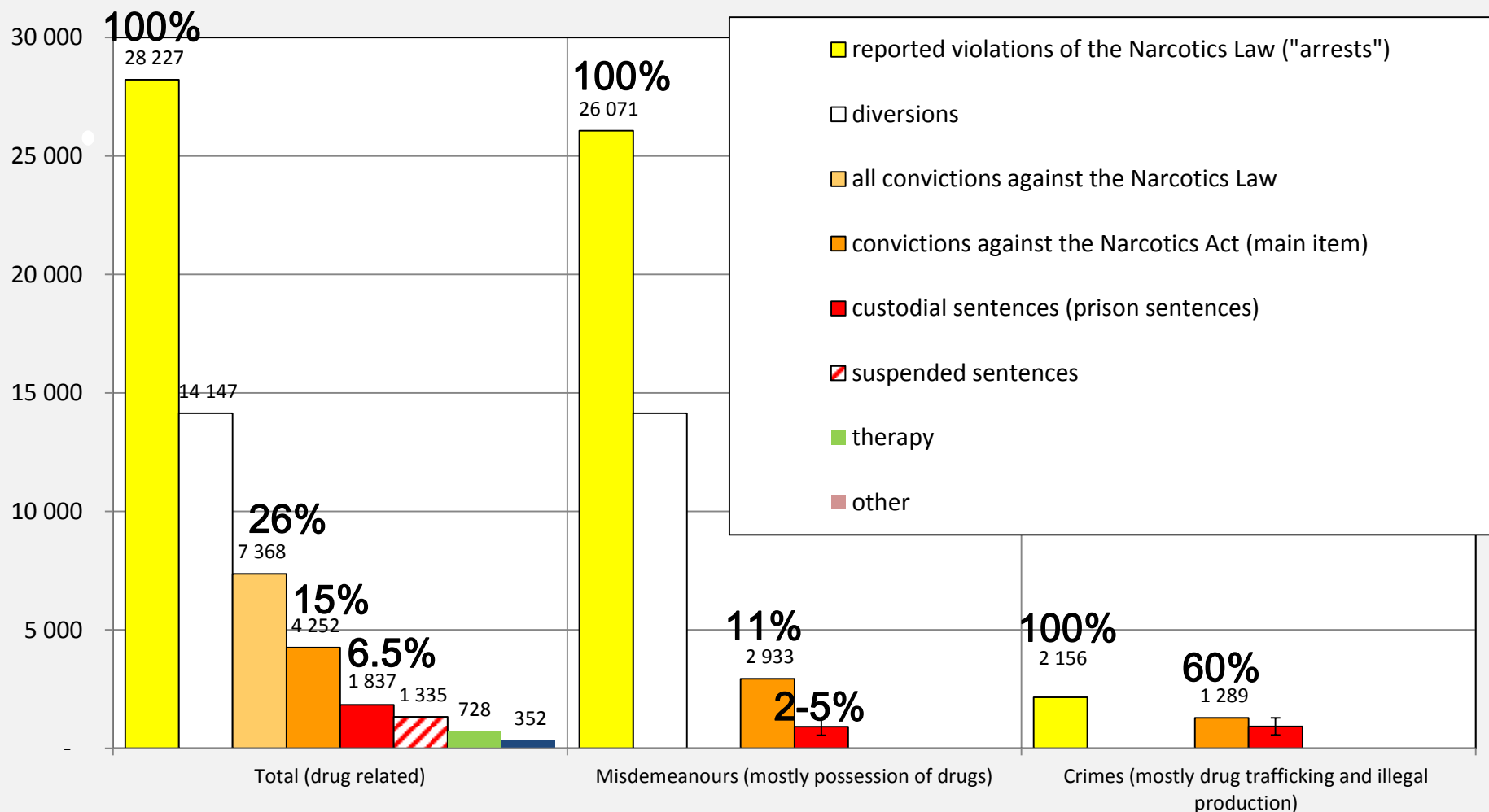


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Do all persons  
arrested for violations of the drug law  
go to prison?

# Reported violations, convictions and prison sentences in 2013 in relation to the Austrian Narcotics Act





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**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



For more information:  
<http://www.unodc.org/>