

American Homicide Supplemental Volume (AHSV)
American Homicides Twentieth Century (AHTC)

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A supplement to Randolph Roth, *American Homicide*
(The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009)



American Homicide refers directly to the tables and figures below. These tables and figures span the years from 1907 to 2005. The state-level data, 1907-1941, are from:

Bureau of the Census (1906-38) Mortality Statistics, 1900-1936. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office.

Bureau of the Census (1937-) Vital Statistics of the United States. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

The data include

Homicide statistics for 1907-41 are from:

EXPLAIN THE DRA

Data are available for some states for 1900-6, but they appear to underreport homicides severely. They certainly do so for Vermont and New Hampshire, where indictment records alone show that there were more victims than those reported by public health officials. It took time for state and local authorities to report murders and manslaughters as “homicides,” rather than as deaths from particular kinds of wounds, such as gunshots, or injuries, like “compression of the brain.” State officials misclassified such deaths as accidental or placed them in a separate category: “violent death—cause unspecified.” It is doubtful, therefore, that the first few years

EXPLAIN NORTH CAROLINA, etc. – the need to trim some of the data – probably should do so for the boxplots.

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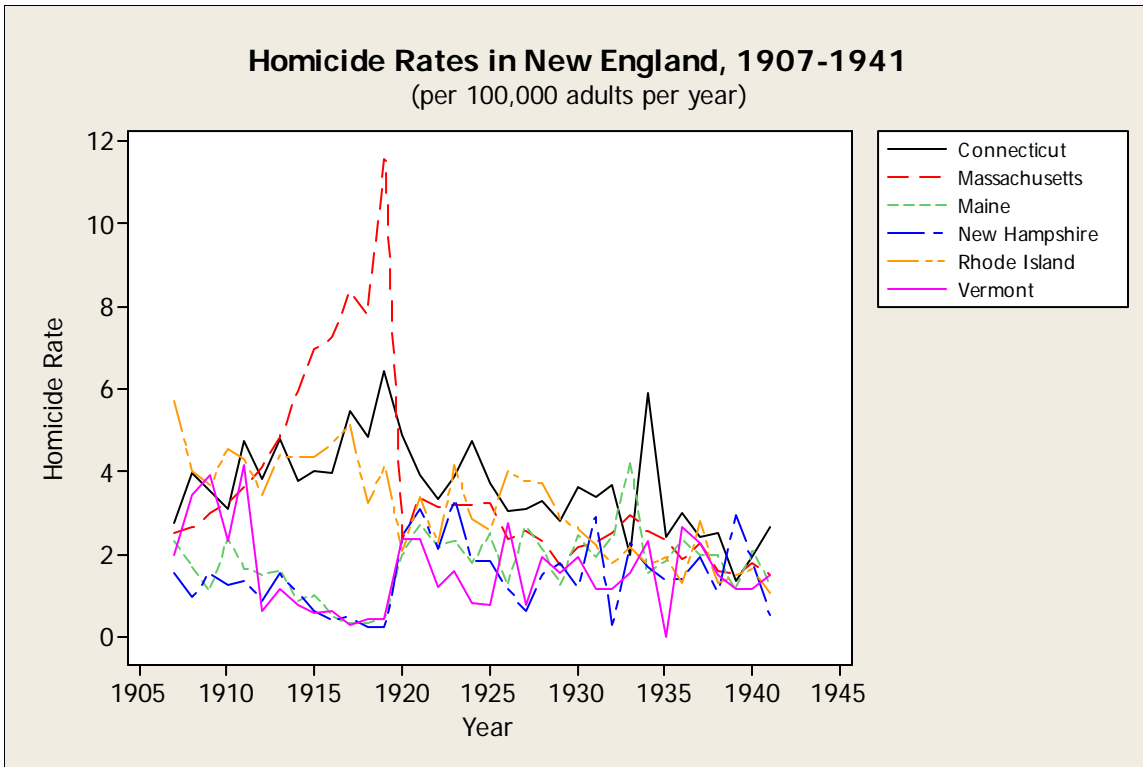
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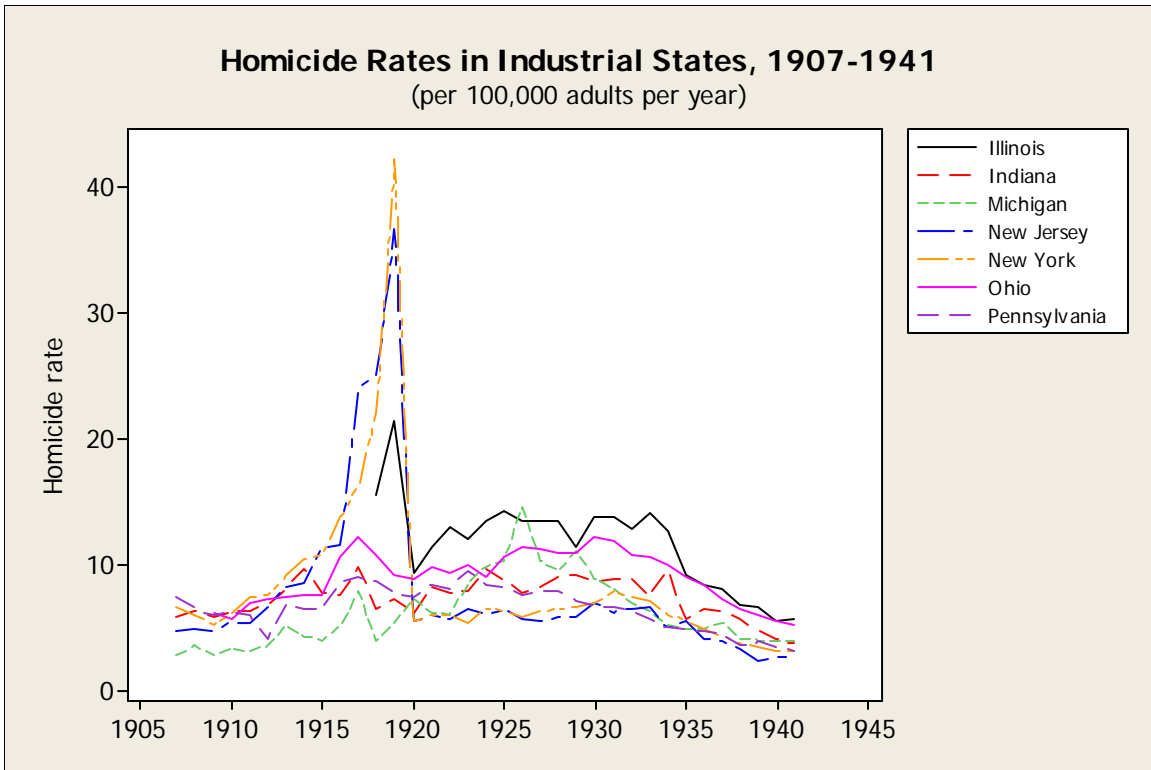
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ATHC Figure 1



AHTC Figure 2



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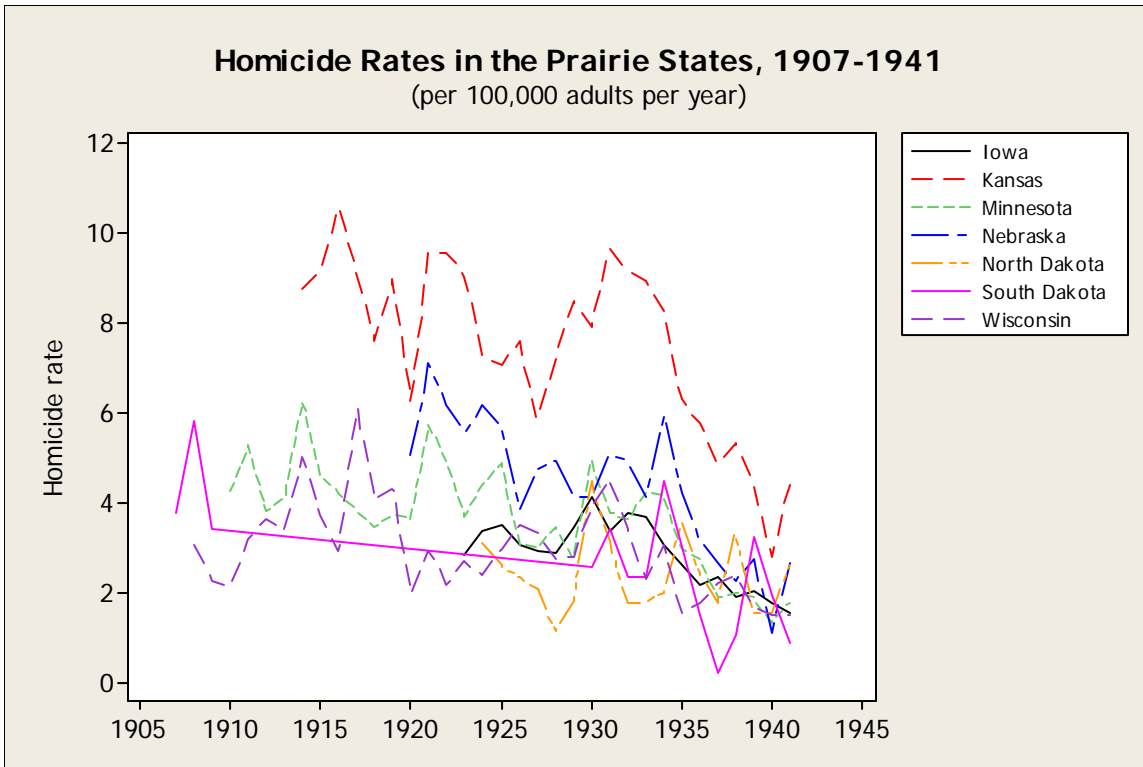


Figure 4b: Nonwhite Homicide Rates in Border States, 1907-1941
(per 100,000 adults per year)

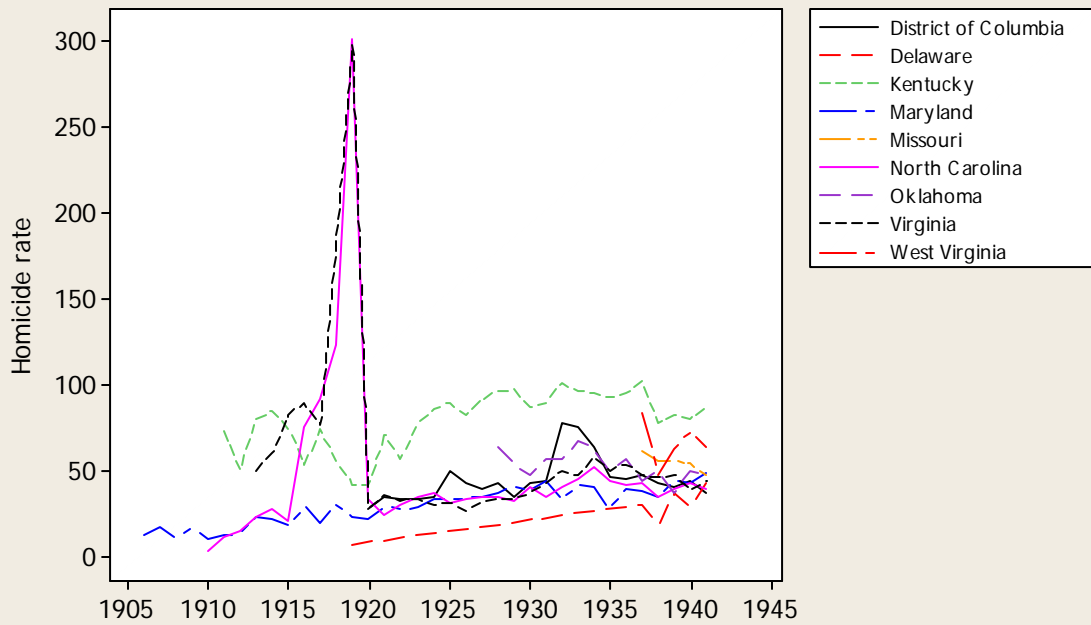
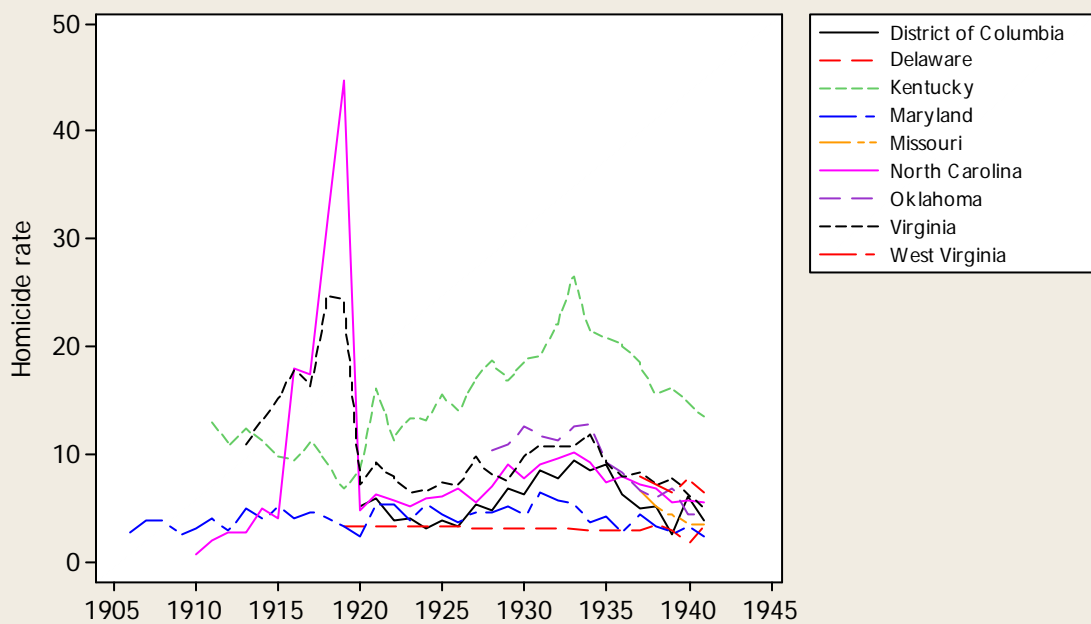


Figure 4c: White Homicide Rates in Border States, 1907-1941
(per 100,000 adults per year)



AHTC Figure 6

- 6a: Total homicide rate
- 6b: Nonwhite homicide rate
- 6c: White homicide rate

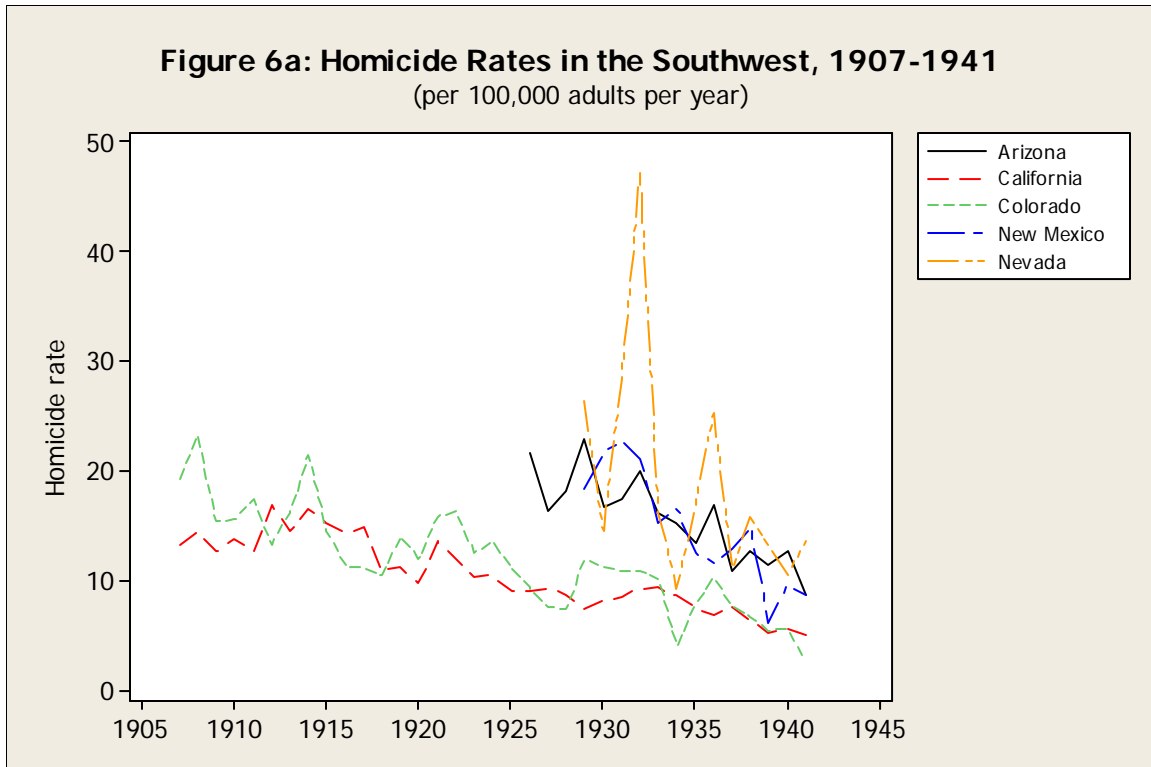


Figure 6b: Nonwhite Homicide Rates in the Southwest, 1907-1941
(per 100,000 adults per year)

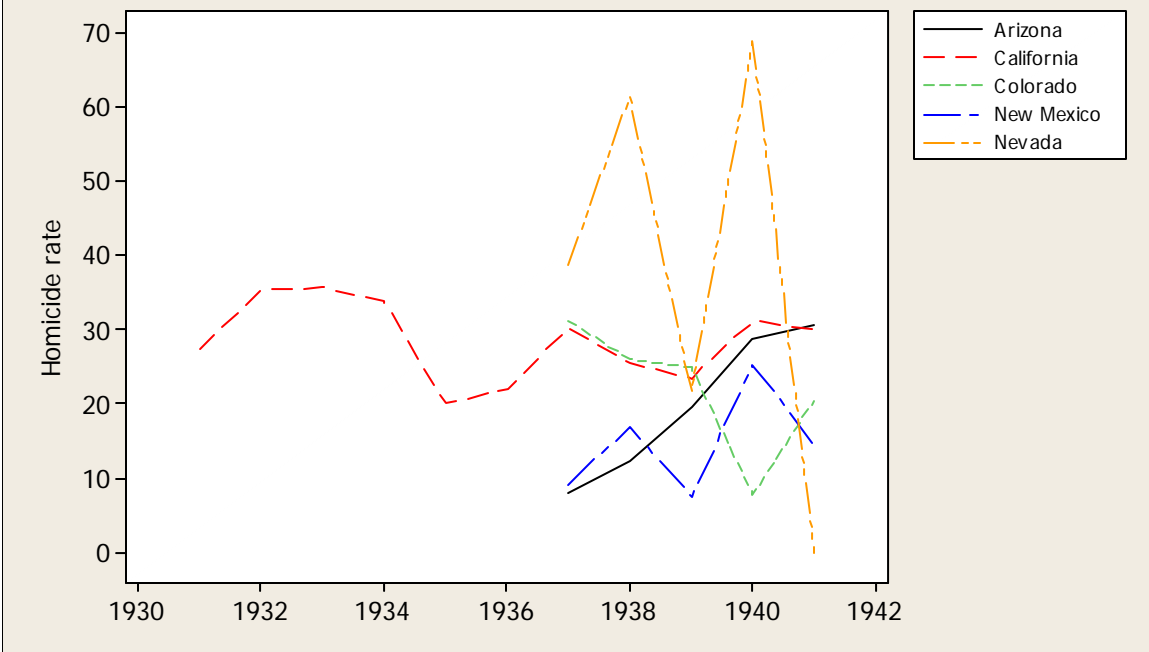
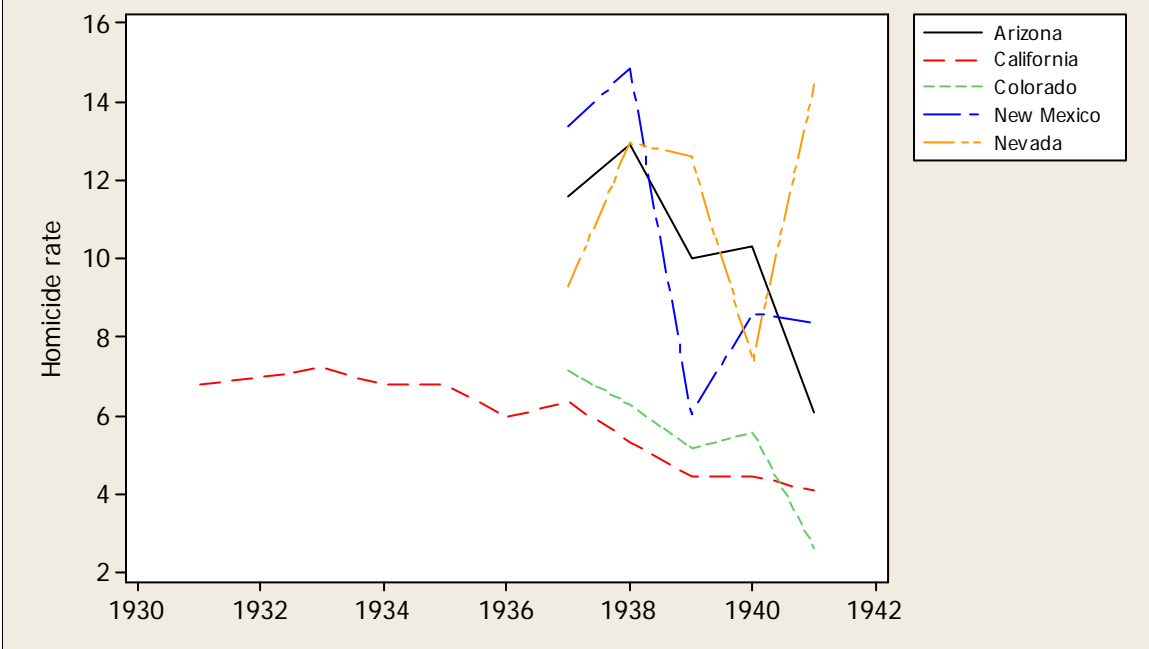
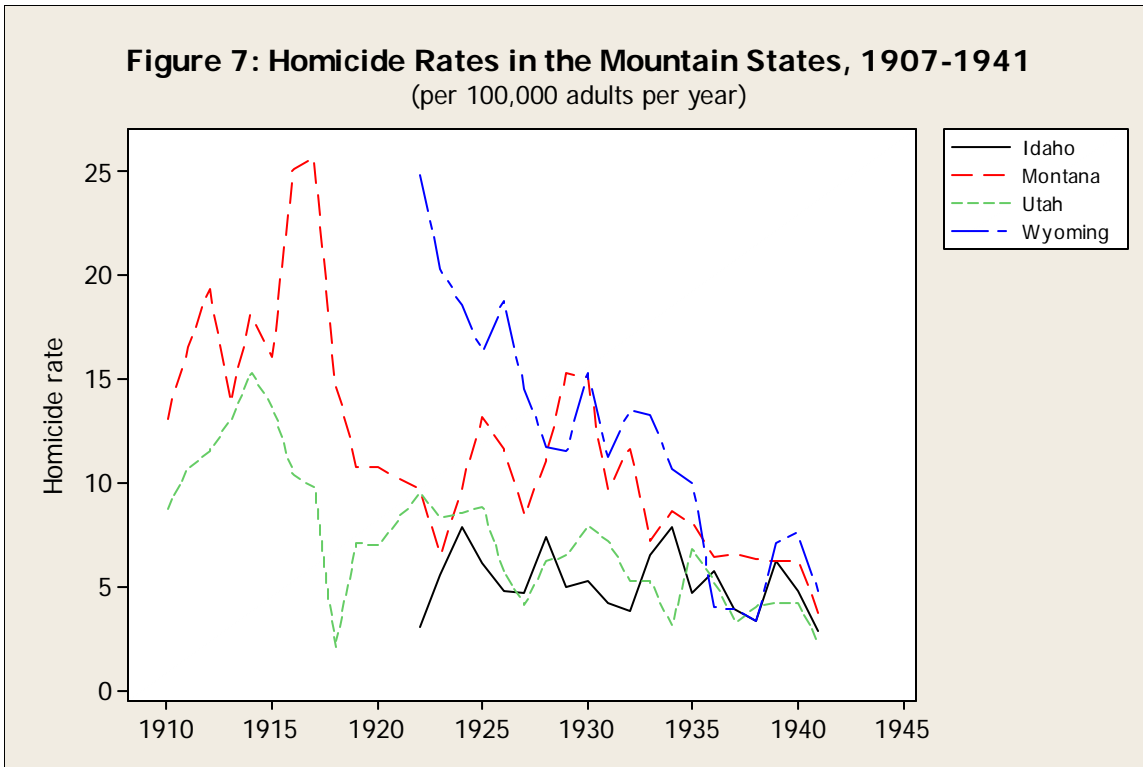


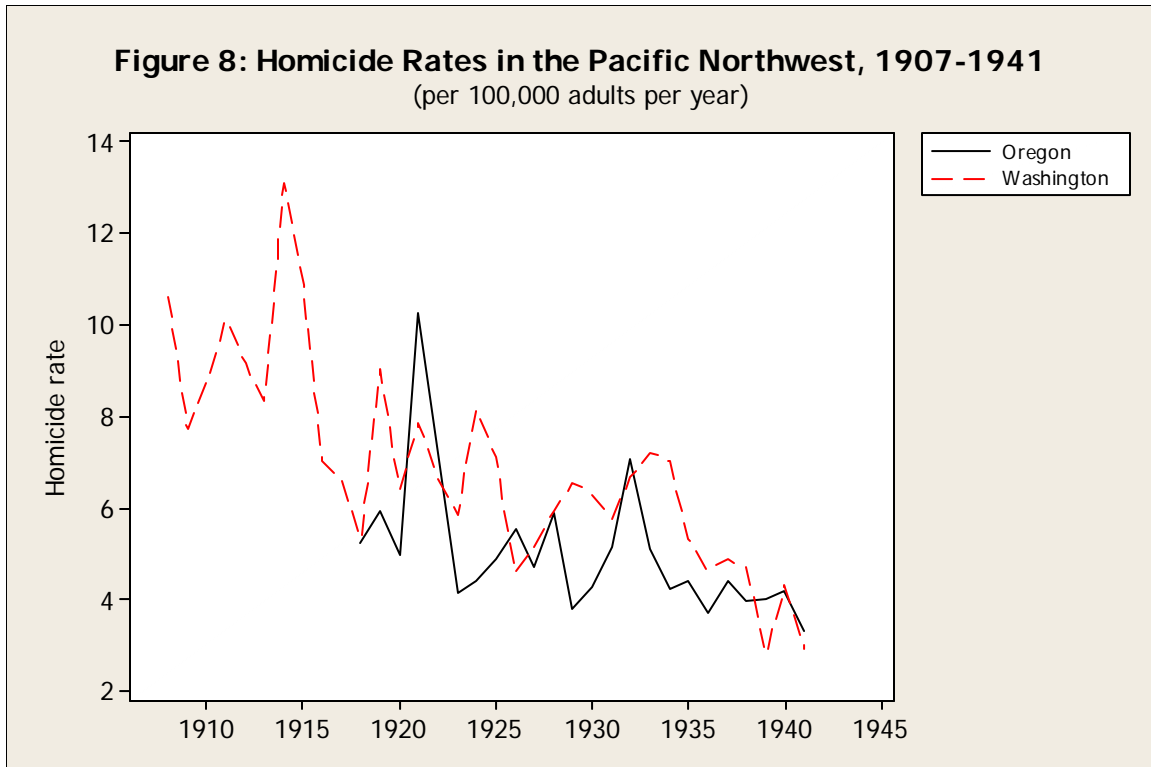
Figure 6c: White Homicide Rates in the Southwest, 1907-1941
(per 100,000 adults per year)



AHTC Figure 7



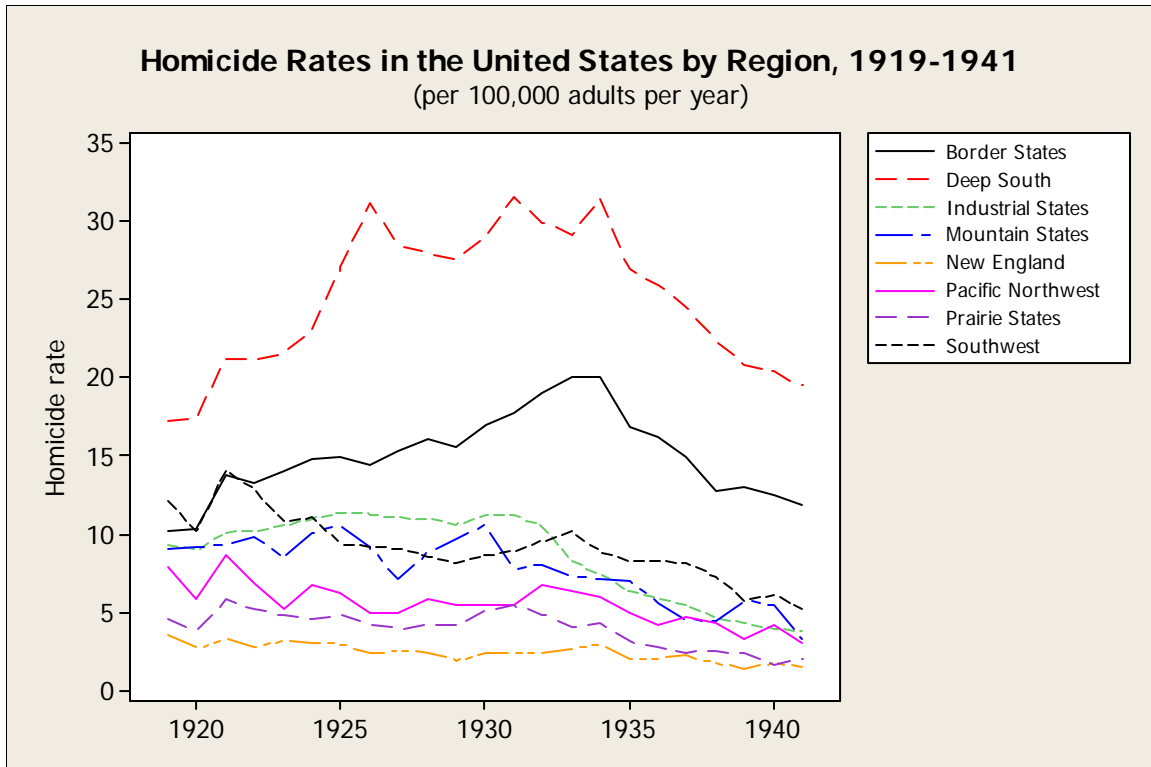
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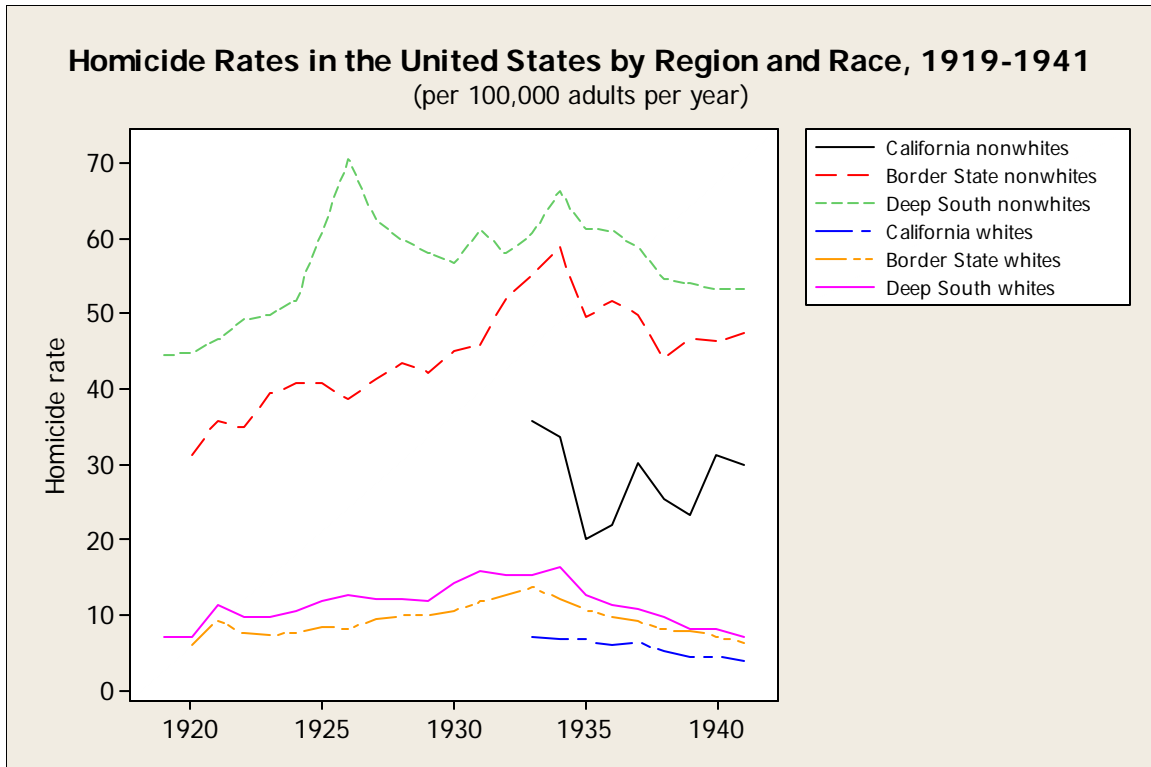
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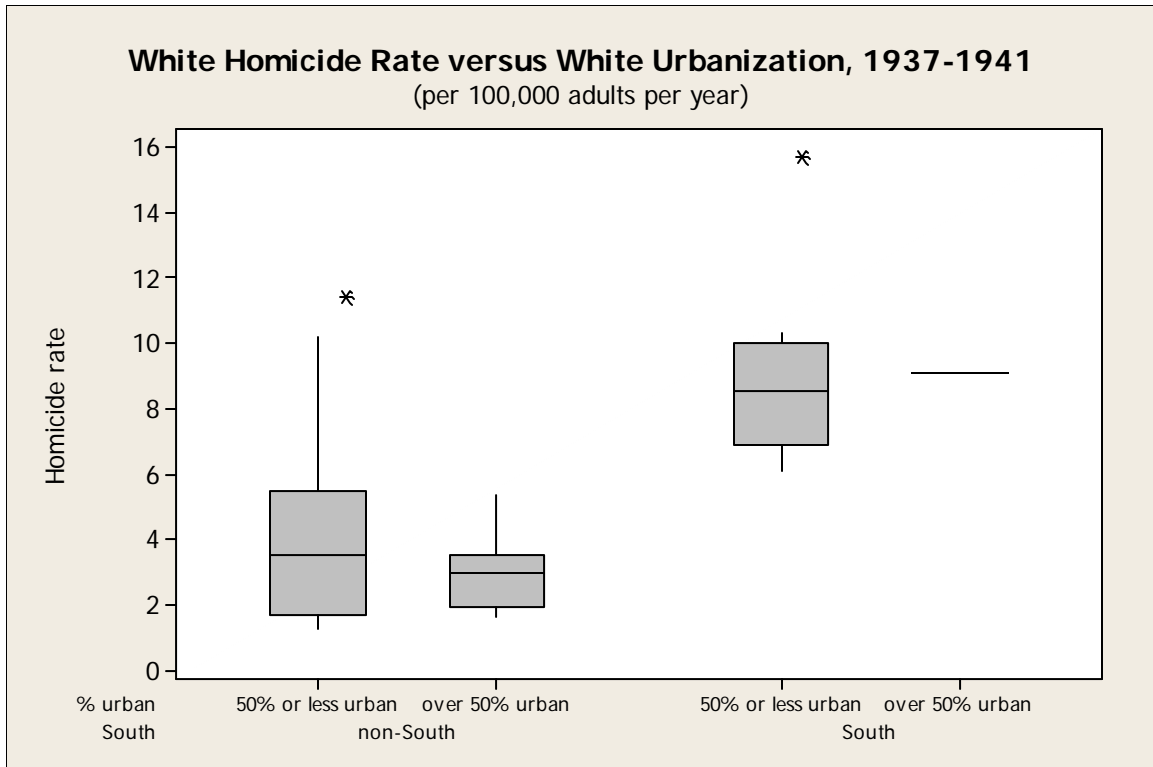
AHTC Figure 10



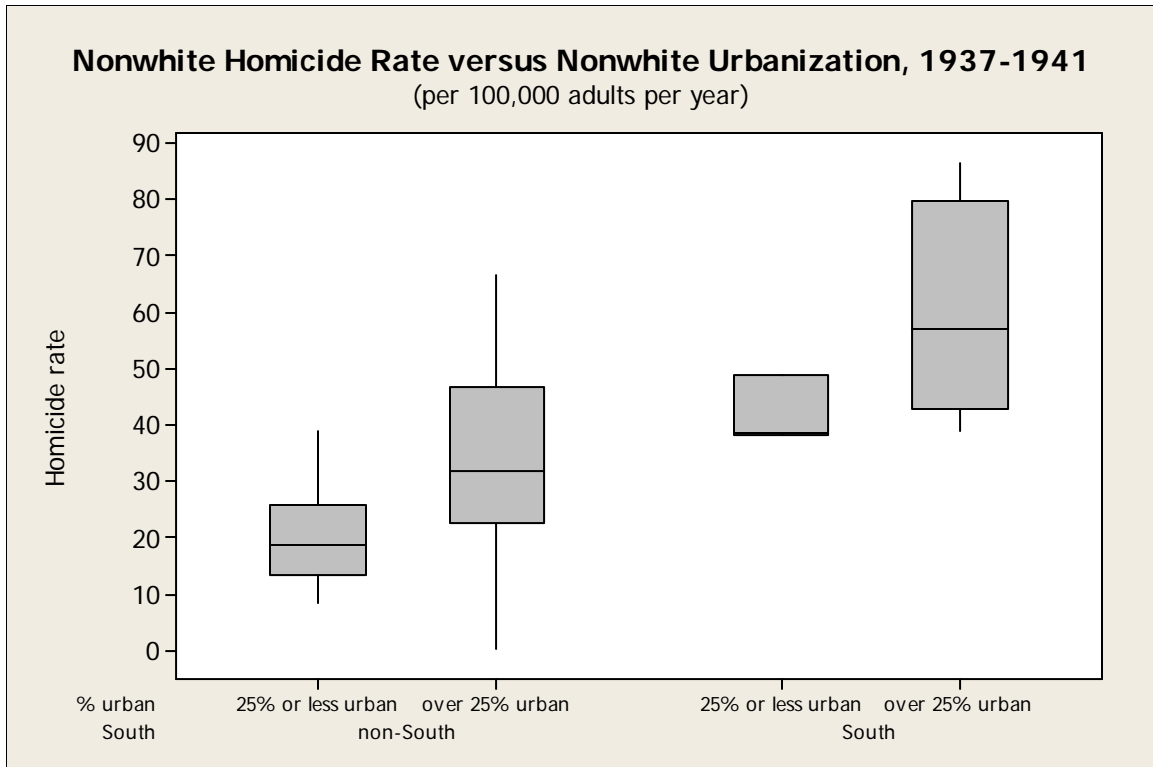
AHTC Figure 11



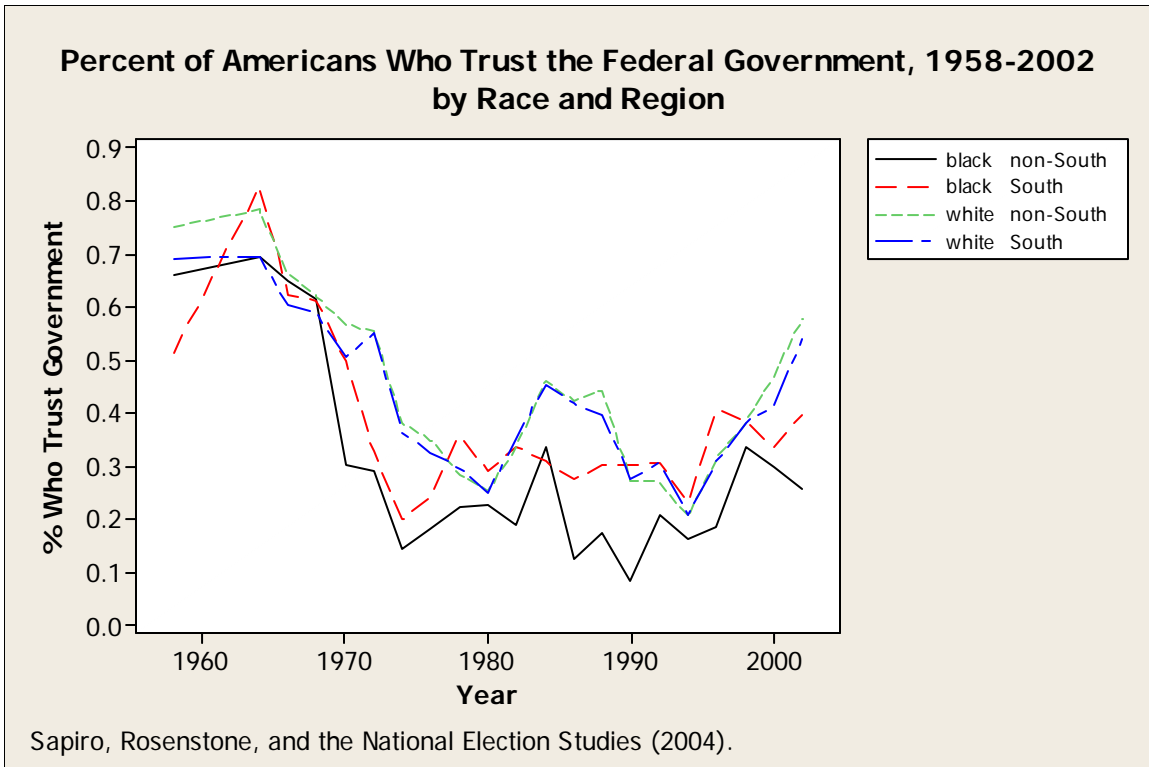
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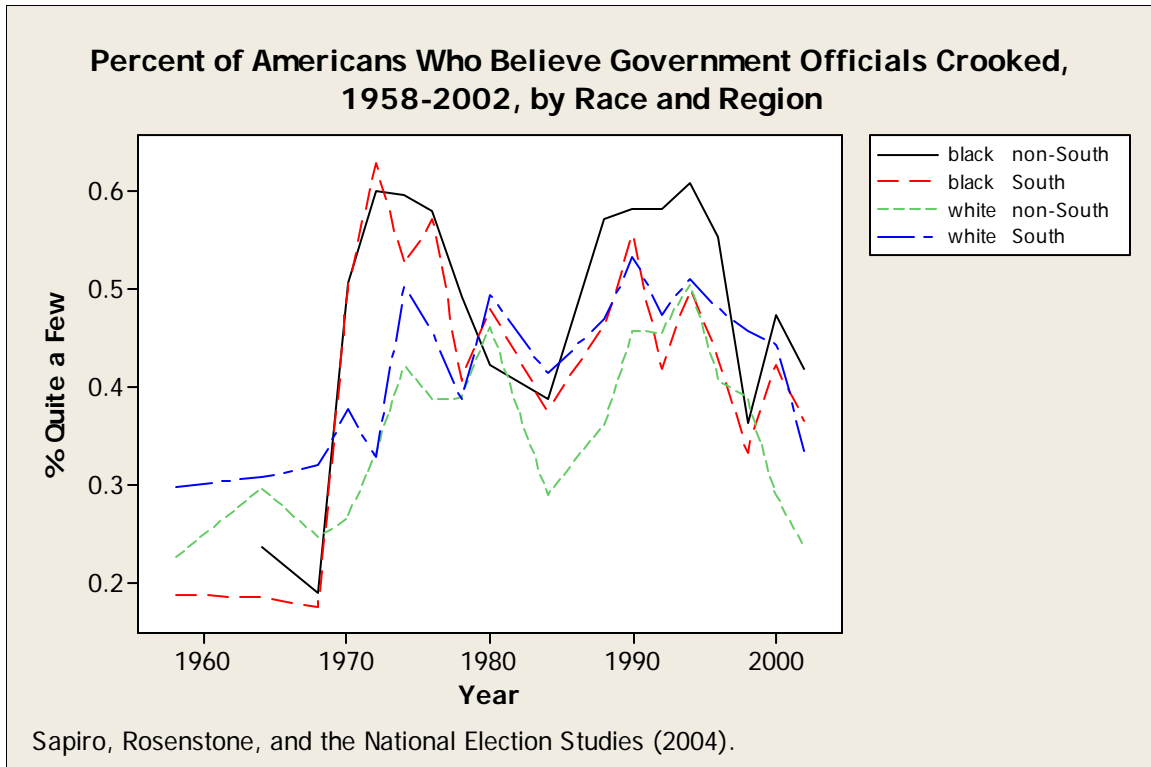
AHTC Figure 13



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AHTC Figure 15



AHTC Table 1

Homicide Rates in the United States by Race, 1933-2005

	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White
1933	6.0	42.7	16.5	23.6	*	*
1934	5.7	44.6	17.7	21.6	*	*
1935	4.8	40.8	15.6	17.5	*	*
1936	4.3	41.1	18.0	18.5	*	*
1937	4.2	38.5	15.0	24.4	*	*
1938	3.7	34.7	15.3	13.9	*	*
1939	3.3	35.1	11.1	10.6	*	*
1940	3.1	34.3	14.1	11.1	*	*
1941	2.9	33.9	11.0	15.9	*	*
1942	2.7	32.5	13.7	15.2	*	*
1943	2.6	25.7	11.9	6.0	*	*
1944	2.4	25.6	11.8	8.7	*	*
1945	2.8	27.5	13.9	10.1	*	*
1946	3.1	33.2	15.9	9.7	*	*
1947	3.0	31.5	16.1	6.5	*	*
1948	2.9	31.4	17.3	4.1	*	*
1949	2.7	28.6	14.6	7.6	*	*
1950	2.6	28.6	13.4	5.3	*	*
1951	2.4	26.0	15.6	3.3	*	*
1952	2.5	27.9	21.0	4.6	*	*
1953	2.4	25.3	18.8	3.9	*	*
1954	2.4	25.0	13.9	3.6	*	*
1955	2.3	23.2	17.1	2.6	*	*
1956	2.3	23.7	16.5	2.9	*	*
1957	2.3	23.0	15.9	3.5	*	*
1958	2.4	22.3	14.5	3.7	*	*
1959	2.5	22.6	13.3	2.3	*	*
1960	2.5	22.9	15.3	4.0	*	*
1961	2.6	22.3	11.8	2.8	*	*
1962	2.6	22.7	13.9	3.2	*	*
1963	2.6	23.1	14.9	2.2	*	*
1964	2.8	24.9	13.5	1.5	*	*
1965	3.0	26.6	16.4	2.9	*	*
1966	3.2	28.9	12.6	3.0	*	*
1967	3.6	32.8	16.7	3.5	*	*
1968	3.9	35.3	17.3	2.9	*	*

1969	4.0	37.1	18.5	4.7	*	*
1970	4.4	39.1	16.5	4.2	*	*
1971	4.8	43.3	19.1	4.7	*	*
1972	5.0	44.2	20.9	4.7	*	*
1973	5.5	42.7	21.2	3.6	*	*
1974	5.8	43.1	20.9	5.2	*	*
1975	5.9	40.6	17.5	4.2	*	*
1976	5.4	36.2	17.7	4.5	*	*
1977	5.7	34.8	17.0	4.6	*	*
1978	5.9	34.1	18.1	4.1	*	*
1979	6.4	37.2	16.1	5.1	*	*
1980	7.0	39.6	15.4	5.7	*	*
1981	6.7	38.3	14.4	5.3	*	*
1982	6.3	35.3	12.6	5.3	*	*
1983	5.6	31.1	14.2	4.8	*	*
1984	5.5	29.9	11.9	4.3	*	*
1985	5.5	29.7	11.5	4.3	15.8	4.5
1986	5.8	33.6	13.8	4.9	16.1	4.5
1987	5.4	33.1	11.2	4.2	14.1	4.1
1988	5.3	36.0	11.7	5.0	14.4	4.3
1989	5.4	37.3	12.1	5.4	16.1	4.0
1990	5.8	41.0	10.7	5.4	17.9	4.2
1991	6.0	42.6	11.9	6.3	17.9	4.4
1992	5.8	39.6	10.1	5.7	17.2	4.2
1993	5.6	40.7	10.2	6.2	16.3	4.0
1994	5.4	37.6	11.0	5.3	15.2	3.9
1995	5.1	32.7	10.4	5.0	13.9	3.6
1996	4.5	29.7	8.7	4.5	11.6	3.4
1997	4.3	27.1	9.5	4.1	10.2	3.4
1998	4.0	24.1	8.1	3.5	8.8	3.1
1999	3.8	21.9	9.0	3.2	8.3	3.0
2000	3.7	22.2	6.8	3.1	8.1	2.8
2001	4.9	22.9	6.9	4.5	8.8	4.0
2002	3.7	22.7	8.7	3.1	7.9	2.9
2003	3.7	22.8	7.7	3.0	8.2	2.7
2004	3.6	21.8	7.3	2.6	7.7	2.7
2005	3.7	23.0	8.1	3.1	8.1	2.7

AHTC Table 2

Homicide Rate Decline by Region, 1933-1941

The patterns during the Great Depression are clear: except in New England (which had a low homicide rate to begin with), the homicide rate dropped by half. But in the Border States, it dropped only 40%, & in the Deep South, only 38%. Why the difference? White homicide rates declined as they did elsewhere in the nation, by 53%, but nonwhite rates did not: only by 14% and 12%, respectively. Alienation and despair remained stronger among nonwhites than among whites.

	Border States	Deep South	California
% Decline			
Nonwhite	.14	.12	.16
White	.53	.53	.42

Table 2 (con't)

	Deep South	Border States	Industrial States	Mountain States	New England
1933	29.1	20.0	8.3	7.3	2.7
1934	31.4	20.0	7.5	7.2	3.0
1935	26.9	16.8	6.4	7.1	2.1
1936	25.9	16.2	5.9	5.6	2.1
1937	24.5	14.9	5.5	4.6	2.3
1938	22.4	12.8	4.7	4.5	1.8
1939	20.8	13.0	4.4	5.8	1.5
1940	20.4	12.5	4.0	5.5	1.8
1941	19.5	11.9	3.8	3.3	1.6
Decline	.38	.40	.54	.55	.40
	Northwest	Prairie	Southwest		
1933	6.4	4.1	10.2		
1934	6.0	4.4	8.9		
1935	5.0	3.2	8.3		
1936	4.3	2.8	8.3		
1937	4.7	2.5	8.2		
1938	4.4	2.6	7.3		
1939	3.3	2.4	5.8		
1940	4.3	1.7	6.2		
1941	3.1	2.1	5.3		
Decline	.52	.49	.48		

Table 2 (con't): by race

Nonwhite

	Border States	Deep South	California
1933	55.2	60.6	35.7
1934	58.9	66.2	33.7
1935	49.5	61.1	20.0
1936	51.7	61.0	22.1
1937	49.8	58.7	30.1
1938	44.0	54.5	25.5
1939	46.6	53.9	23.4
1940	46.4	53.1	31.2
1941	47.3	53.2	30.0
	.14	.12	.16

White

1933	13.7	15.4	7.2
1934	12.3	16.5	6.8
1935	10.7	12.7	6.8
1936	9.9	11.5	6.0
1937	9.3	10.8	6.4
1938	8.1	9.8	5.3
1939	8.0	8.2	4.5
1940	7.2	8.1	4.5
1941	6.4	7.2	4.1
	.53	.53	.42

Except
DE, MO, WV

