25 November 2016

Measuring and Reducing Illicit Arms Flows: Small Arms Survey activities in support of SDG target 16.4

Project Fire, Final Conference, Milan

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small arms survey

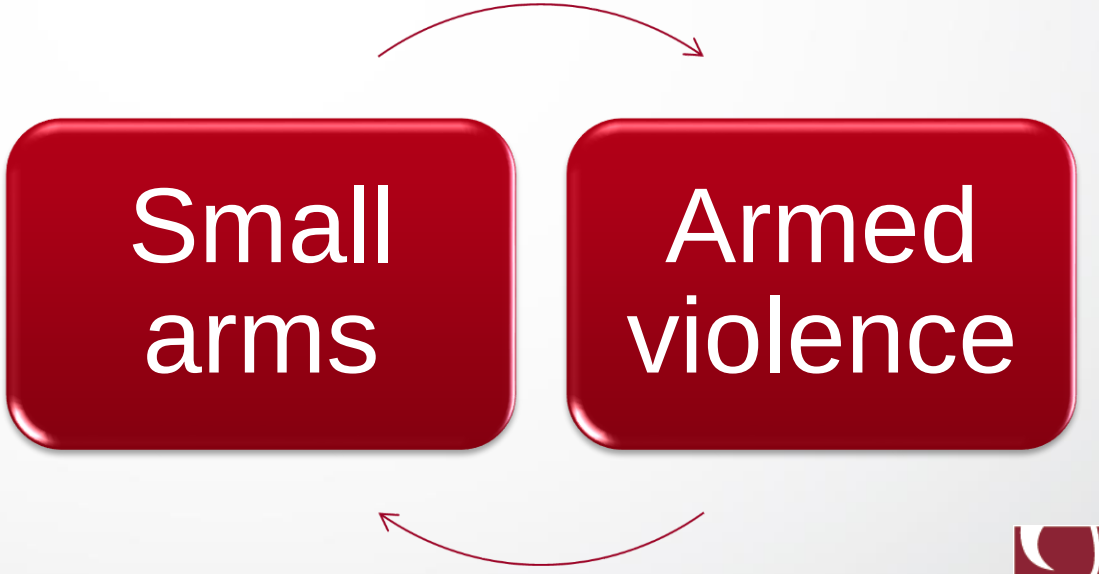
Outline

- Small Arms Survey, in brief
- Agenda 2030
- Illicit arms flows
- Measuring illicit arms flows
- Reducing illicit arms flows
- Assessing impact of reduction
- Current & future work

Small Arms Survey:
Mandate

- *"to generate **evidence-based**, **impartial**, and **policy-relevant** knowledge on all aspects of small arms and armed violence."*

- *Target audience:*
  - Policy-practitioners,
  - Programmers,
  - Researchers,
  - Civil society.



Agenda 2030:

Goals, targets, & indicators

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Agenda 2030:
SDG *16, Peace & Justice*

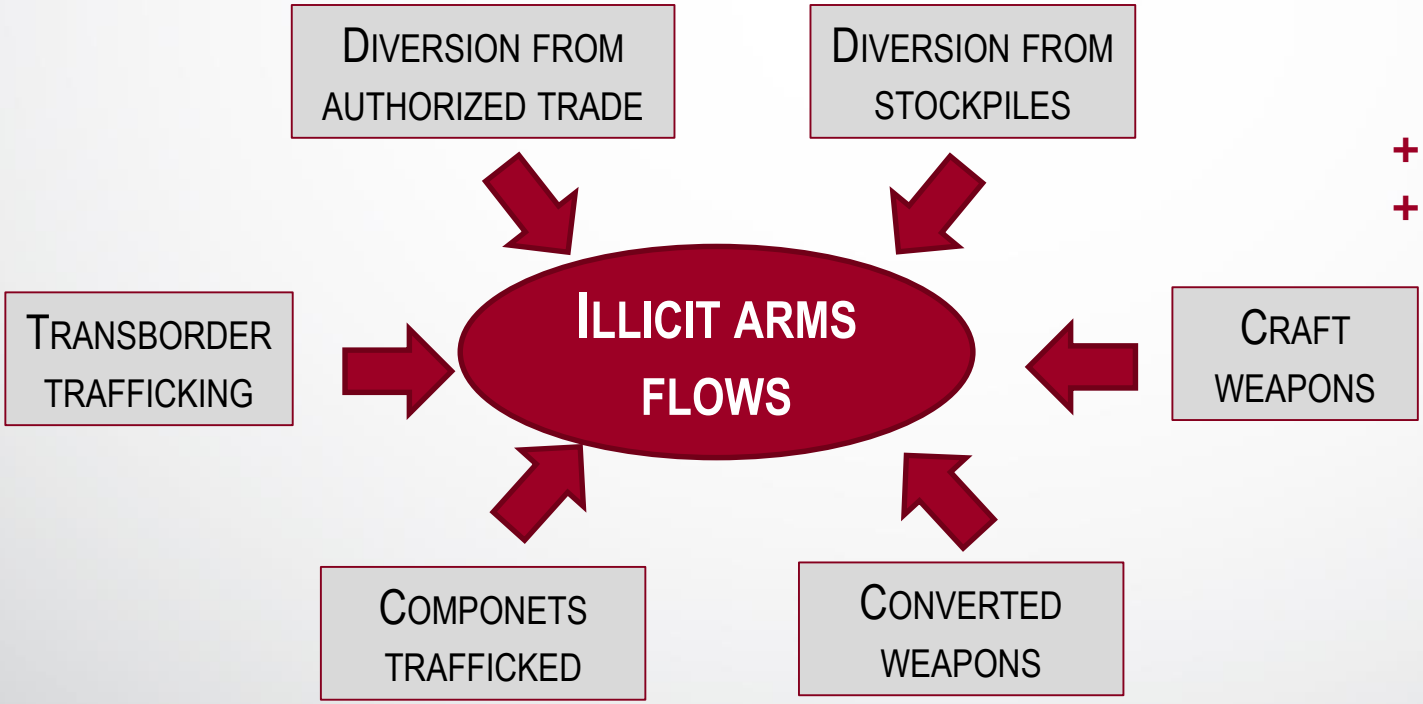
+ DEVELOPMENT,
+ PEACE,
+ SECURITY, &
+ ARMS CONTROL

Target 16.4:

'by 2030 ***significantly reduce illicit*** *financial and* ***arms flows****, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime'*

Illicit arms flows:
Definitions & dimensions

- *"Illicit arms are weapons that are produced, transferred, held, or used in violation of national or international law" (Schroder, 2013)*
- *Arms can become illicit at any point during the life-cycle.*



+ clandestine
+ lack of information

Measuring illicit arms flows:
Key questions & indicators

- *How do we translate SDG 16.4 into reality?*
- *Given the clandestine nature of illicit arms flows, how do we measure reduction?*

Indicator 16.4.2 (as of Nov 2016):

*‘ Proportion of **seized**, **found** or **surrendered** arms, whose illicit origin/ context has been **traced**/ established by a competent authority in line with international standards & instruments’*

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE

Measuring illicit arms flows: *Challenges faced by 16.4.2*

- *Lack of information*
  - Little (or no) relevant info in PoA and ITI Reports;
  - Issues with open sources

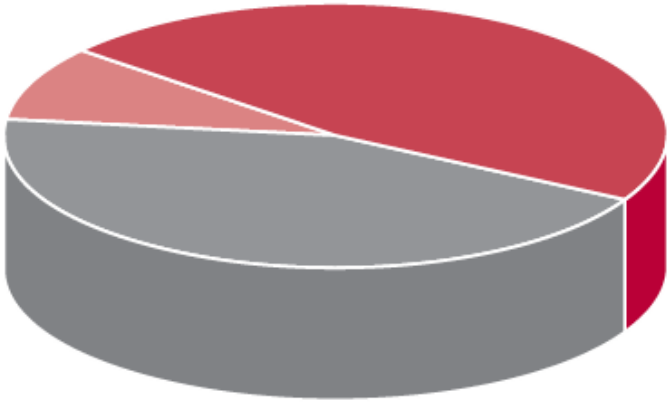
- Disaggregation (type, model, circumstances)
  - New items on the market?
  - Transfer routes of specific models?
  - New flows?
  - Mechanics of transfers?

- Marking, record keeping, & tracing ≠ reduction
  - Diagnostic tool; indirectly reduced armed flows
  - Other measures more direct → e.g. PSSM

Project

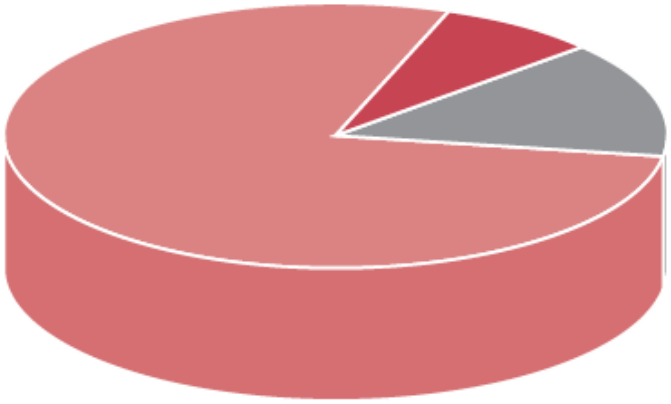
Figure 1 **Trafficking of rifles as a percentage of the 159 cases under review**

Trafficking to Mexico



- Rifles only (48%)
- Rifles and other firearms (45%)
- Other firearms only (7%)

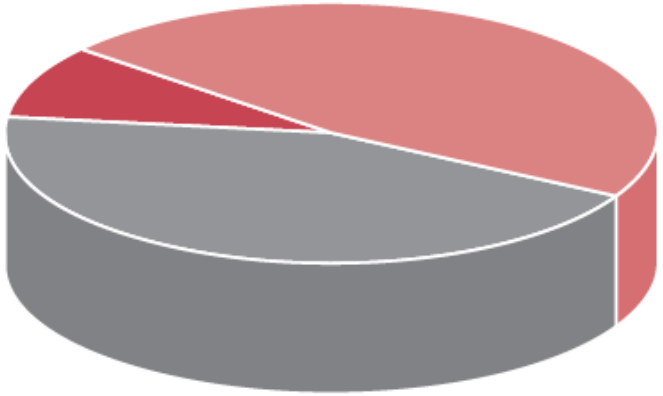
Trafficking to other countries



- Rifles only (8%)
- Rifles and other firearms (20%)
- Other firearms only (72%)

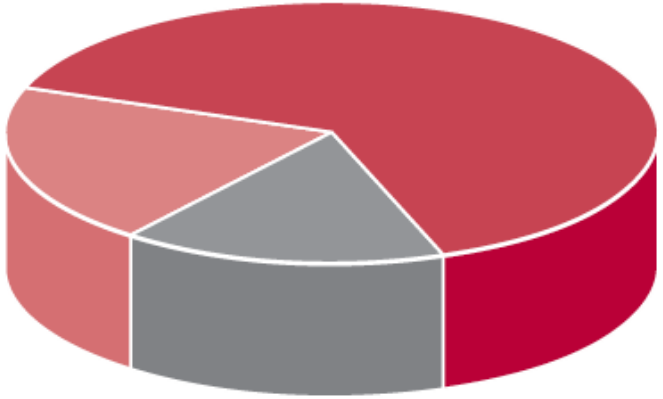
Figure 2 **Trafficking of handguns as a percentage of the 159 cases under review**

Trafficking to Mexico



- Handguns only (7%)
- Handguns and other firearms (45%)
- Other firearms only (48%)

Trafficking to other countries



- Handguns only (56%)
- Handguns and other firearms (24%)
- Other firearms only (20%)

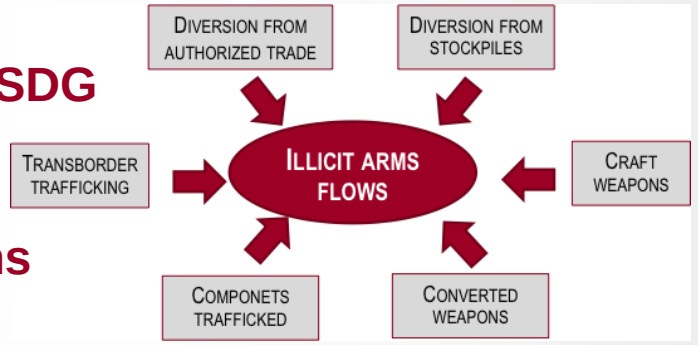
Reducing illicit arms flows:
Beyond seizures?

+ Complexities of illicit arms flow (dimension, clandestine, lack of info);

+ Challenges with seizure data (as required by SDG 16.4.2)

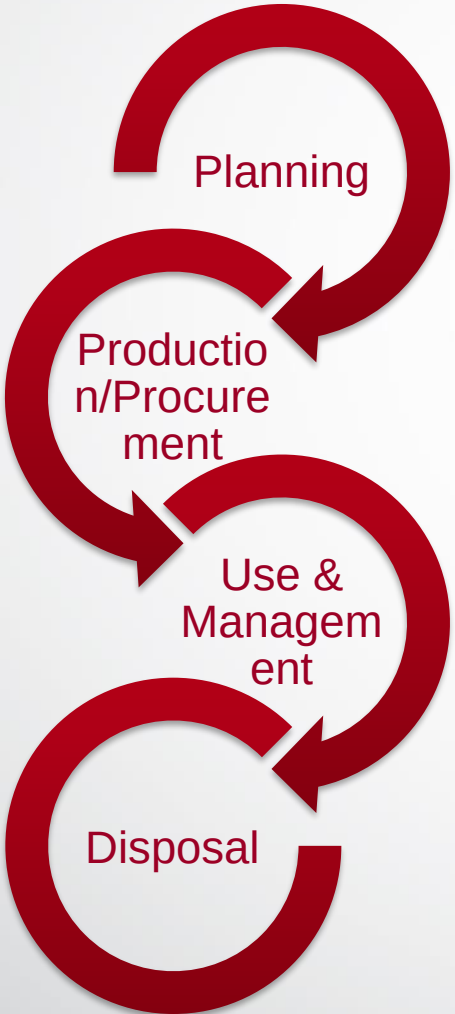
→ Additional measures to lower risk of weapons entering the illicit market

→ Additional indicators



No single indicator would cater for the fully required measurability, but a combination of several such 'progress made' indicators

Reducing illicit arms flows:
Measures, indicators & the life-cycle



- SALW control mechanisms & measures
  - Firearms Protocol, PoA, ITI, ATT, SDG 16.4
- Manufactoring & Production controls
  - Legelsative/administrative control measures; International marking requiremens
- Prices of arms and ammunition
  - Early warning system
- Physical Security & Stockpile management
  - *IATG, OSCE, ISACS, NATO– AASTP*
- Destruciton & demilitarization
  - Certificate of destruction
- Authorized trade & transparency
  - Lisences; end-users; risk assessments

Reducing illicit arms flows:

Trade Transparency Barometer

Exporters of small arms based on UN Comtrade, 2013, with transparency indicators

Category		Value (USD)		Exporters (listed in descending order of value exported)				
Top exporters	Tier 1	≥500 million	3	United States	Italy	Germany		
	Tier 2	100–499 million	13	Brazil	Austria	South Korea	Turkey	Russian Federation
				Czech Republic	Israel	Belgium	Croatia	China
				Switzerland	Japan	Spain		
Major exporters	Tier 3	50-99 million	8	Finland	France	Canada	United Kingdom	Mexico
				Serbia	India	Sweden		
	Tier 4	10–49 million	16	Portugal	Bulgaria	Philippines	Norway	Ukraine
				Hungary	Poland	Taiwan	Australia	South Africa
				Romania	Argentina	Slovakia	Cyprus	Peru
				Bosnia and Herzegovina				

LEVEL 1 (20.25–25.00)

LEVEL 2 (15.25–20.00)

LEVEL 3 (10.25–15.00)

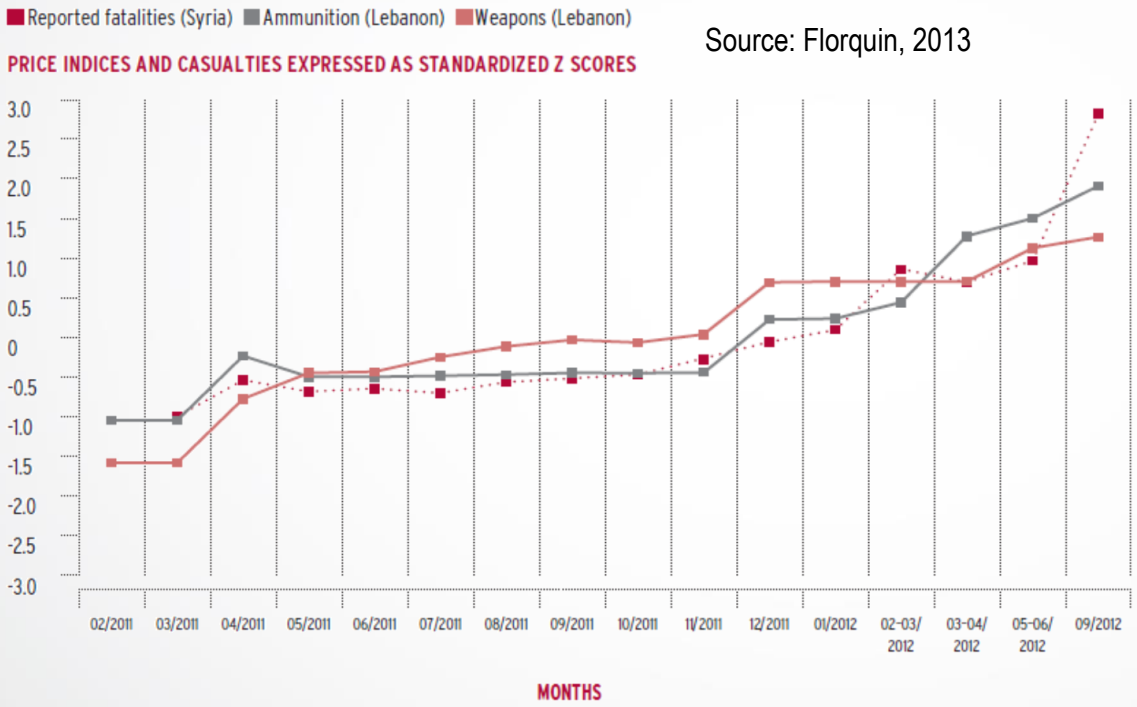
LEVEL 4 (5.25–10.00)

LEVEL 5 (0.00–5.00)

Reducing illicit arms flows:

Illicit market prices

Figure 11.5 **Fatalities in Syria vs. arms and ammunition price trends in Lebanon, February 2011–September 2012**



Source: Florquin, 2013

+ unusual price fluctuations / changes
→ early warning mechanism

→ Prices of weapons higher in contexts with strong control measures
→ Drop in weapon prices correlated with insecurity
→ Prices of ammunition is higher in times of insecurity

Figure 2 **Homicides, firearms homicides, and proportion of homicides committed with a firearm, 2005–15**

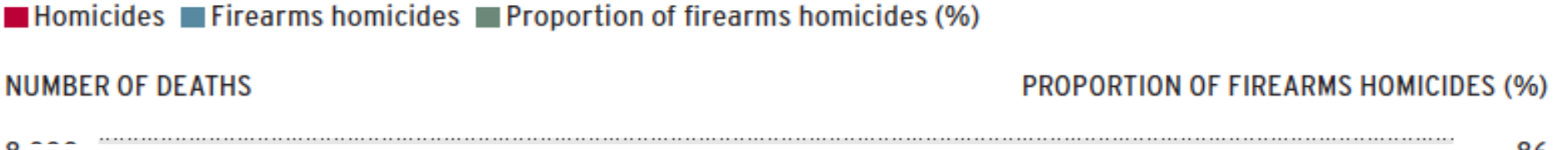
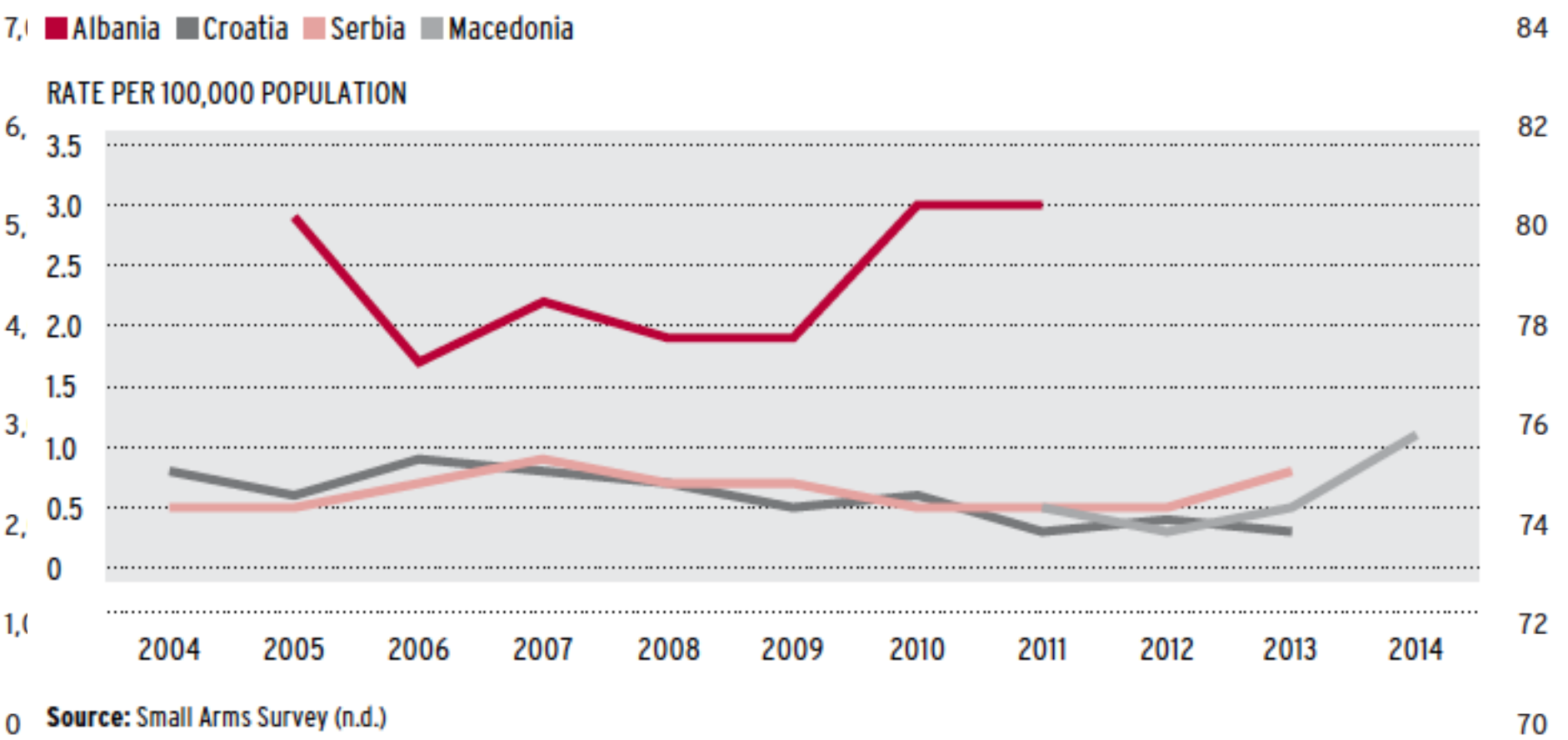


Figure 6 **Rate of violent death by firearm, selected countries**



Source: Small Arms Survey (n.d.)

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Small Arms Survey:
Current & future work

- Global Partnership on SALW
- Trade Update & Transparency
- Marking & Recordkeeping Armed Forces BiH
- Converted Firearms in Europe
- Mechanics of arms trafficking in Europe (Dribs & Drabs)
- Craft weapons (Nigeria)
- Global Study on Improvised weapons

Thank you. Questions?

www.smallarmssurvey.org

small arms survey