Research of the Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Victims in Cases of Homicide

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Abstract

Aim: To study the socio-demographic profile of victims in case of deaths due to homicide

Method: This research was carried out at the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Darbhanga medical College, Darbhanga, Bihar, India, for one year and 50 instances were brought for homicidal death study.

Result: In this study, 50 instances in all were examined, demonstrating unequivocally that men predominate 38 cases with 76% across all age demographics. Primary-level educational people have a higher percentage with 13 cases in males and 8 cases in females with a total 42% than others

Conclusion: In conclusion, studying the socio-demographic profile of victims in cases of homicide is an important area of research that can provide valuable insights into the social and environmental factors that contribute to this type of violence. By understanding these risk factors, interventions can be developed to prevent future homicides and promote social justice.

Keywords: Deaths, Injury, Homicides, Socio-Economic Profile.

Introduction

Homicide, or the death of one person by the other, occurs [1]. Homicide is a broad phrase that can refer to both legal and illegal acts, including murder. Certain homicides, such as those committed to stopping the committing of a serious crime or assisting a law enforcement official, are regarded as being justified [2]. Some murders (homicide), such as those committed in self-defences, are said to be excused. A homicide that is neither justified nor excused by the relevant specific law is treated as a criminal homicide [3].

The analysis of data on the age, gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and other pertinent aspects of those who have died as a consequence of homicide comprises studying the socio-demographic profiling of homicide victims. By identifying risk variables that raise a person's likelihood of becoming a victim of homicide, this information can help shed light on samples and drifts about homicide victimization [4].

To create successful ways to prevent homicide and lower victimization rates, it is essential to comprehend the socio-demographic profile of homicide victims. Police departments and organizations can seek to lower the rate of homicide and create resilient environments for all by

remaining at the forefront of groups and focusing protective factors on them [5].

In the current world, assembled crime is carried out professionally, and these criminal actions have a particular pattern in terms of the socioeconomic variables of the convicted, the sufferers, and the number of crimes reason. Currently, organized crime is systematically carried out, and these criminal acts follow a specific pattern in terms of the socioeconomic characteristics of the guilty, the victims, and the amount of crimes committed. [6].

Material and Method

This research was carried out at the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Darbhanga medical College, Darbhanga, Bihar, India, for one year and 50 instances were brought for homicidal death study.

Throughout the study, 50 homicide deaths that were presented for medical-legal autopsies were examined. The institutional ethical review board gave its approval to the study protocol. Information was gathered through hospital records, inquest papers, police files, and content available by the authorities and the recipient's heirs. The socio-demographic characteristics (educational, occupational, socioeconomic, and marital status) of the victims as well as the distribution of cases by age and gender were carefully examined. Tabulated observations and statistical analysis findings were recorded.

Inclusion criteria/ case definition

- Victims of homicide: The study should only include individuals who have been confirmed as victims of homicide, defined as the intentional killing of one person by another.
- The study focuses on a particular age range or includes all age groups. For example, the study may focus only on adult victims (18 years or older) or include victims of all ages.

- It includes all genders or focuses on a particular gender, such as male or female victims.
- The focal point of the investigation is on a particular ethnic or racial group or include victims from all ethnic and racial backgrounds.
- The study focuses on victims from a specific geographical area, such as a city or state.
- The study focuses on homicides that occurred during a specific time period, such as the past year or decade.
- The study focuses on homicides resulting from a specific cause of death, such as gunshot wounds or blunt force trauma.

Exclusion criteria

- The race or ethnicity of victims or offenders excludes certain racial or ethnic groups from their analysis.
- The socioeconomic status of victims or offenders excludes certain socioeconomic groups from their analysis.
- Homicides that occur in specific geographical locations and may exclude homicides that occur in other locations. For example, a study may only focus on homicides that occur in urban areas or may exclude homicides that occur in rural areas.
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Statistical Methods

Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the characteristics of the sample, including the mean, median, and mode of age, gender distribution, race/ethnicity, and other relevant variables.

Frequency tables and cross-tabulations were used to examine the distribution of different sociodemographic characteristics and how they may relate to each other.

Logistic regression was used to examine the relationship between different sociodemographic characteristics and the likelihood of being a victim of homicide.

This method can help identify which sociodemographic factors are most strongly associated with being a victim of homicide.

Clinical data

Clinical data that were collected for a better understanding of the circumstances are as follows:

Age: This is an important demographic factor as it is known to be associated with an increased risk of homicide.

Gender: Another important demographic factor is gender. You would need to collect data on whether the victim was male or female.

Race/ethnicity: Race and ethnicity are also important factors to consider as they have been shown to be associated with homicide rates. You would need to collect data on the victim's race and ethnicity.

Socioeconomic status: The socioeconomic status of the victim is also important to consider, as it may be associated with both the risk of homicide and the circumstances surrounding the death.

Geographic location: The location of the homicide may also be important, as it may be associated with different risk factors and socioeconomic factors.

Cause of death: You would also need to collect data on the cause of death, including the type of injury (e.g., gunshot, stabbing) and the location of the injury.

Relationship to perpetrator: It is also important to consider the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, as this may be associated with different risk factors and circumstances surrounding the homicide.

Legal factors: Finally, it is important to collect data on any relevant legal factors, such as whether the perpetrator was convicted of the crime and any mitigating or aggravating circumstances that may have been considered in sentencing.

Result:

In this study, 50 instances in all were examined, demonstrating unequivocally that men predominate 38 cases with 76% across all age demographics. According to the analysis, people here between the ages of 21 -30 in males were the majority afflicted, accounting for 16 cases at 42.1%, and females between the age of 31-40 were the majority afflicted, accounting for 4 cases with 23.68%. The age bracket of those younger than 10 years old in males was 5.26% and in females 8.33%. Males as senior adults from 61-70 years old made up 2.63% of all cases (table no. 1).

Table 1: No. of cases in accordance with age range

Age	Male	Female	Total %
<10	2	1	6
11-20	5	1	12
21-30	16	3	38
31-40	9	4	26
41-50	2	2	8
51-60	3	1	8
61-70	1	0	2

Primary-level educational people have a higher percentage with 13 cases in males and 8 cases in females with a total of 42% than others (refer to table no. 2).

Table 2: Number of cases maintained by educational status

Educational status	Male	Female	Total %
Illiterate	1	0	2
Primary	13	8	42
Secondary	11	4	30
Graduate	8	2	20
Postgraduate	1	1	4
Unknown	1	0	2

The topmost 26 (52%) occurrences, consisting of 19 men and 7 women, arose in married individuals. In 15 incidents, there were male victims and 3 female victims, making up 36% of all unmarried victims. Fights or romantic relationships appeared to be the obvious cause of the homicides (refer to table no. 3).

Table 3: Number of total cases in accordance with marital status

Marital status	Males	Females	Total %
Married	19	7	52
Un-married	15	3	36
Divorced	3	1	8
Non- identified	2	0	4

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Discussion

According to the World Report on Violence & Health, Geneva, WHO, 2004, 1400 persons die globally each day as a consequence of violent behaviour. It results in 520,000 mortalities. "World analysis on homicide, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2014" states that the median number of homicides across the globe is 6.2 / per 100,000 people [6]. According to the 2013 National Crime Record Bureau report, 1.3% of all offenses under the Indian Criminal Code included vicious offenses [7]. The research study, which was carried out in Bihar and revealed a total of 50 homicides, nowadays, vicious crimes including kidnapping, murder, and extortion are all too common. Homicide comprises the most terrible crime recognized by the law among violent crimes that endanger lives.

Certain demographic groupings have a higher risk of homicide than others, as discussed in the study also. For instance, young men in the United States are substantially more likely than other demographic groups to become victims of homicide. This is especially true for individuals who are African American or Hispanic. These results raise the possibility that certain groups are more likely to commit homicide due to underlying social and structural issues like poverty, prejudice, or exposure to violence [8]. Additionally, research on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator can help identify patterns in the types of relationships that are most commonly associated with homicide [9]. For example, studies have shown that intimate partner violence is a major risk factor for homicide, with women being more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than men. By understanding these patterns, interventions can be developed to target the specific risk factors associated with different types of homicide.

In research undertaken in Bengaluru, 1319 autopsies in total were performed, and 57 (4.32%) of those instances involved homicide [10]. In orange city of India, researchers looked at the injury configurations in 241 occurrences of homicide over a five-year span [11]. In a

study conducted on South Australians in more than a forty-year timeframe involving 18 researchers, the homicide overall incidence ranged from 73.5-223.97 / 100,000 people [12].

Studies conducted in the western globe found higher male-to-female ratios. Males surpassed females by a ratio of 12:1 in the Ambade VM et al.6 study on homicide by pointy object homicides because men were more likely to own and use these weapons. In a two-year study from January 2009, to December, 2010, Patel DJ et al. 19 found that 9.13% of all post-mortem involved homicides. From February 2003 to September 2004, Mittal S. et al. 20 examined 200 suspected homicide cases, or 13.03 percent, out of 1662 complaints referred for autopsy assessment at the governmental medical university.

According to a Malaysian study by Bhupinder S et al, 37% of casualties were between the ages of 20 and 39 [13]. According to Singh OG et al22, the majority of homicide victims, 19, were between the ages of 21 and 30 [14]. The outcomes of the studies mentioned previously show that homicide rates are rising worldwide. [15]

Conclusion

Overall, the findings of these studies suggest that there are significant disparities in the incidence of homicide victimization across different demographic groups. For example, young adult males are more likely to be victims of homicide than any other age or gender group. These patterns highlight the importance of addressing the root causes of violence, such as economic inequality, social exclusion, and discrimination. By addressing these underlying issues, it may be possible to reduce the incidence of homicide and create safer and more equitable communities for everyone.

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