

Overheads

ASS Sociology – Lecture 3

Michaelmas 2001

*“On the same day as the tragic cases of
Lauren Wright and Victoria Climbié hit
the headlines ... social workers across the
country protected the lives of thousands of
vulnerable children ...”*

President of the Association
of Directors of Social Services

Director BASW

etc

The Times 19.10.01

*'The most crucial issue
for the child protection services
is how successful or otherwise
they are in their ability
to prevent
the deaths of children.'*

C. Prichard BJSW 1993

Comparative homicide

Logarithm (73-4 rate / 87-88 rate)

+ve = getting better

<i>Country</i>	
England/Wales	.92
Scotland	.85
Italy	.63
West Germany	.60
Norway	.52
Denmark	.48
Greece	.09
Finland	.05
Austria	-.02
Switzerland	-.07
France	-.11
The Netherlands	-.20
Belgium	-.89
Spain	-1.01
Sweden	-¥
Ireland	+¥

Figure 1: England & Wales homicide rates, infants.

[The five-year moving average is centred on mid-year]

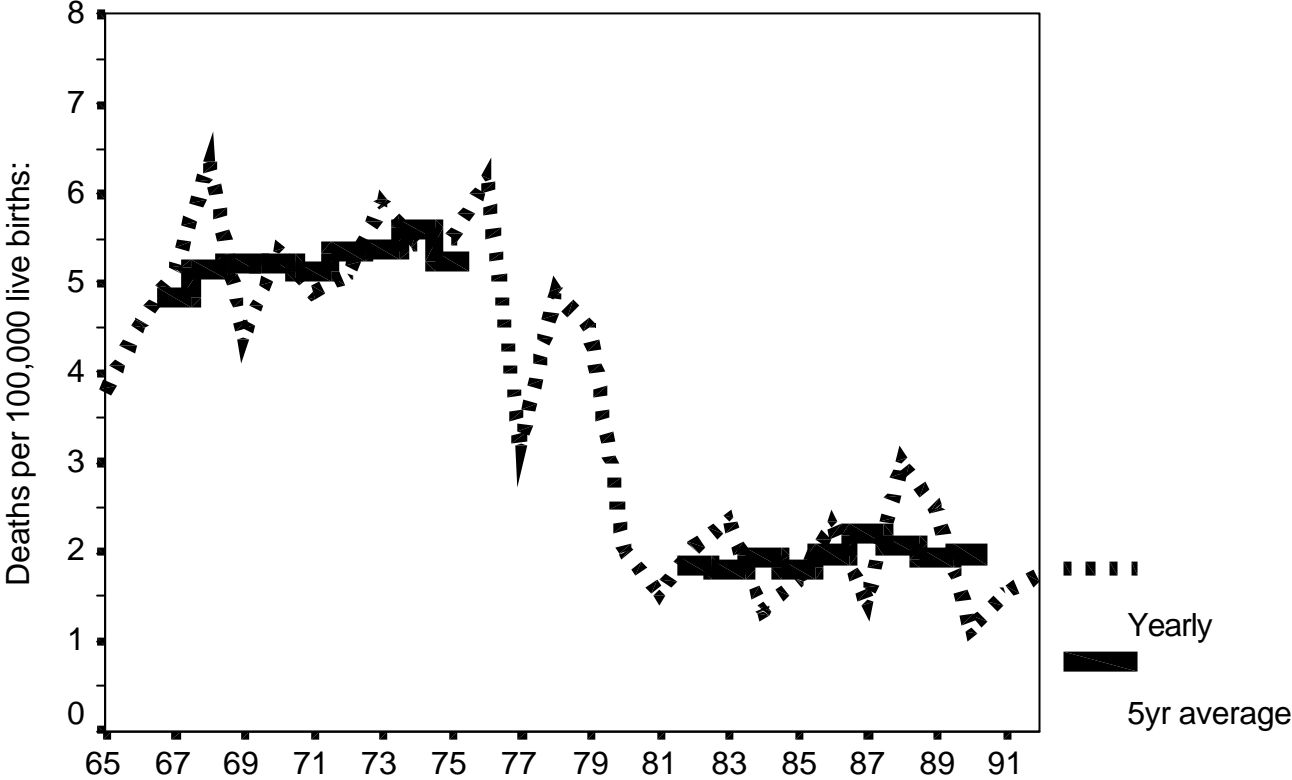
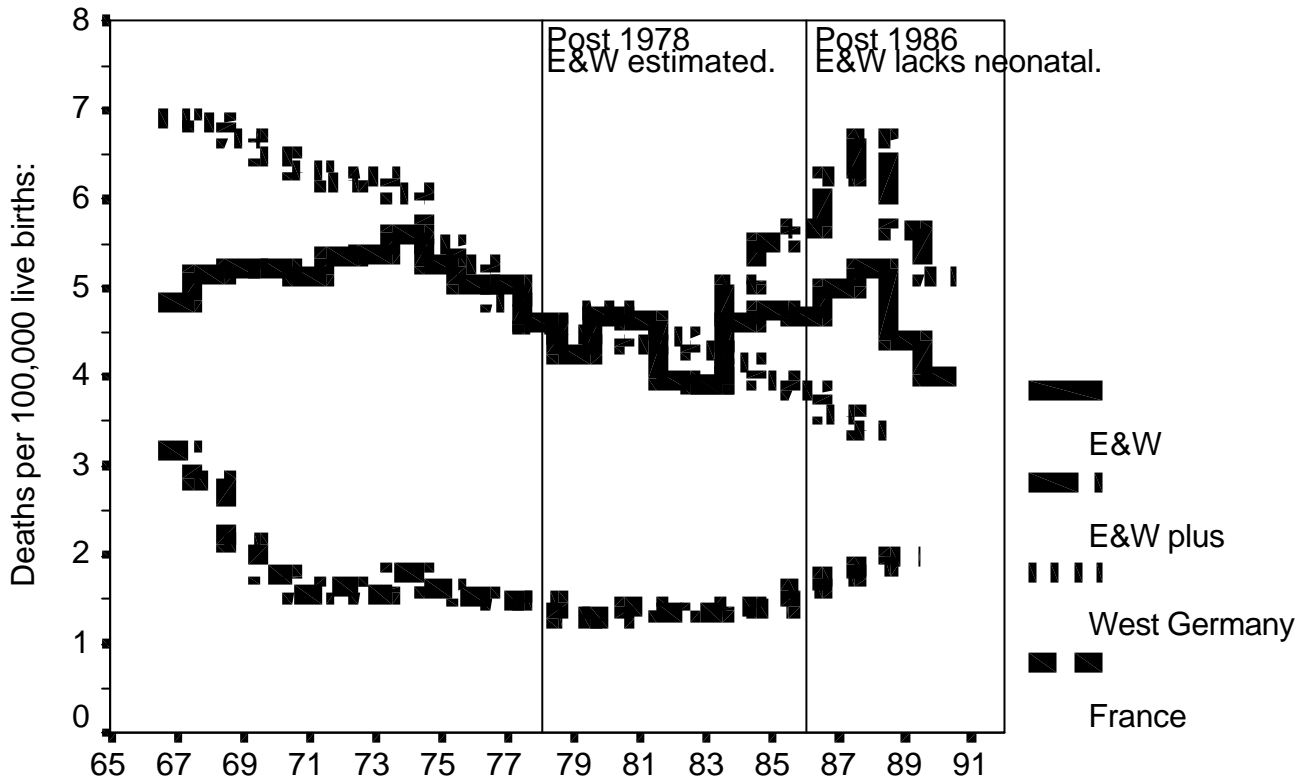


Figure 2: Comparative homicide rates, infants.

[Five-year moving averages, centred on mid-year]



Note: "E&W plus" includes estimated neonatal - see text.

E&W

<i>Rates per 100,000</i>	Child Protection Register	Homicides
Under 1	370	5.0
1-4	470	1.1
5-14/15	350	0.3

**Suppose we develop a test,
let us call it *Damocles* ,
that determines accurately whether or not
someone is an about-to-be infant-
murderer.**

By accurate we mean that when presented
with an about-to-be infant-murderer
Damocles correctly
identifies their status **90%** of the time
(*getting it wrong only one time in ten*).
To match this ‘false negative’ rating,
let us assume that *Damocles* has
an equivalent 10% ‘false positive’ score.

**Suppose we apply *Damocles* to YOU,
and you score positive.**

**What, given the above, is the
likelihood that you are an about-to-be
infant-murderer?**

Rates per 200,000 births

Murders: **10**

Pertinent adult population?: **400,000** say

Whence:

identified potential *murderers*: say **9**

false positives: **40,000**

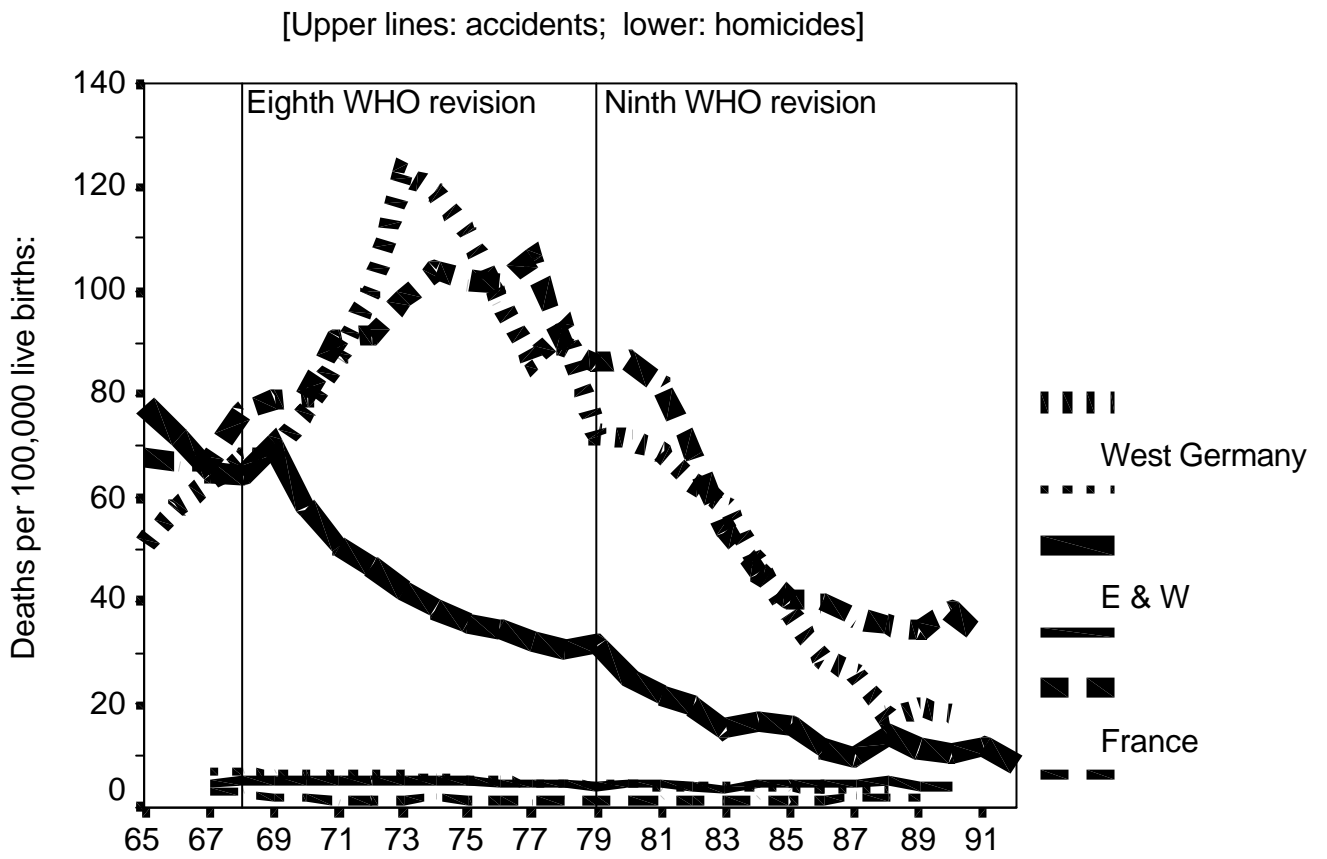
Total *positives*: **40,009**

Chance that a *positive* is a potential
murderer ?

$$= \mathbf{9 / 40,009}$$

$$= \mathbf{0.0002 \text{ (or .02\%)}}$$

Figure 3: Comparative fatal accident and homicide rates



Note: Accidents graphed yearly, homicides as five-year averages.

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