

# Current Trends in Homicide: Issues in Ohio and the Midwest

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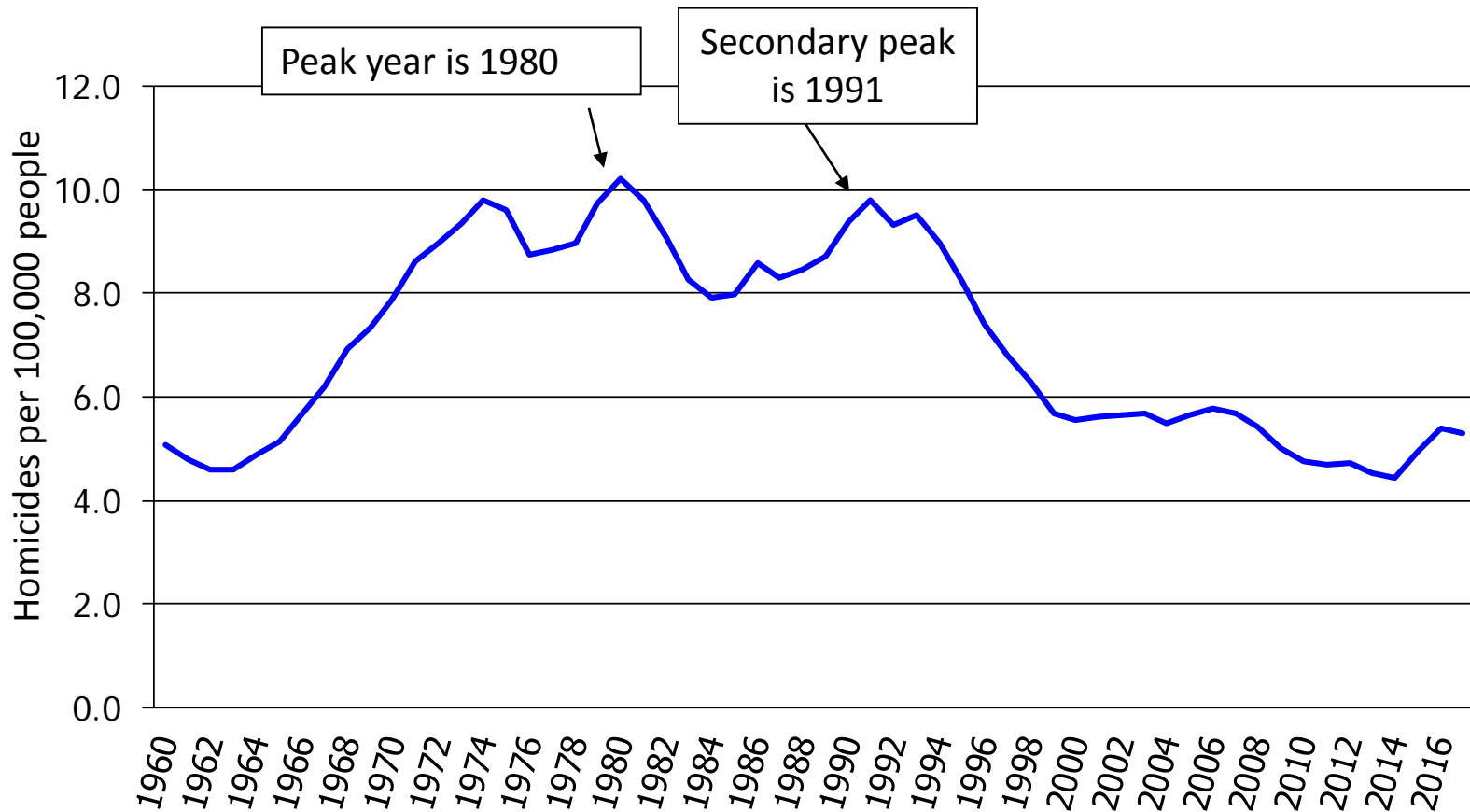


# DOJ Press Release, September 24, 2018

*“The report, which covers January-December 2017, reflects that after two consecutive, historic increases in violent crime, in the first year of the Trump Administration the nationwide violent crime rate began to decline.”*

*“After historic increases in violent crime in 2015 and 2016, we are beginning to see encouraging signs.”*

# Homicide Rate in the United States, 1960-2017



Source: 1960-2014: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *UCR Data Tool*; 2015-2017: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*

# And if you are in Ohio. . .

*Two homicides in the last 24 hours means the city of Columbus has, unfortunately, set a new record. There have now been 140 homicides in 2017. That surpasses the previous high of 139 back in 1991.*

Source: WBNS-TV, Columbus, OH, December 26, 2017

# Research Questions

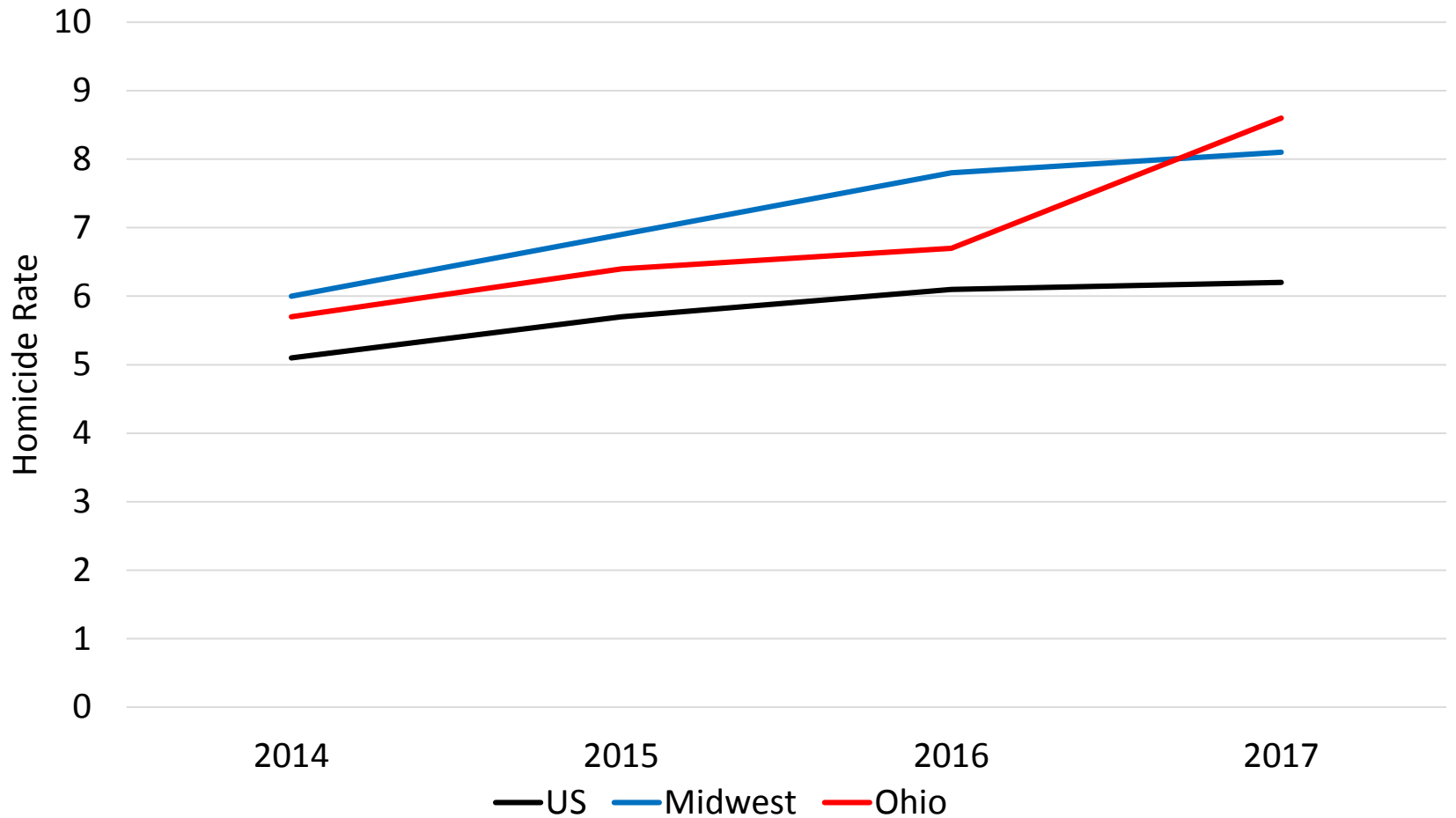
1. Are homicide rates in Ohio and the Midwest higher than the rest of the country?
2. Did homicide rates in Ohio and the Midwest remain at high rates over the past two years even as the country as a whole declined?
3. Can we explain why homicide rates in Ohio and the Midwest are different from the country as a whole?

# Methodology

- Use data from municipal police departments from the FBI annual report *Crime in the United States*.
- Limit to municipalities reporting data from 2014 to 2017 in all four years (“same places”). N=7724 departments.
- Examine local news article to identify explanations for homicide rates in selected cities in Ohio and Midwest.

# Comparative Homicide Rates, 2014-2017

## Same Cities Year-to-Year



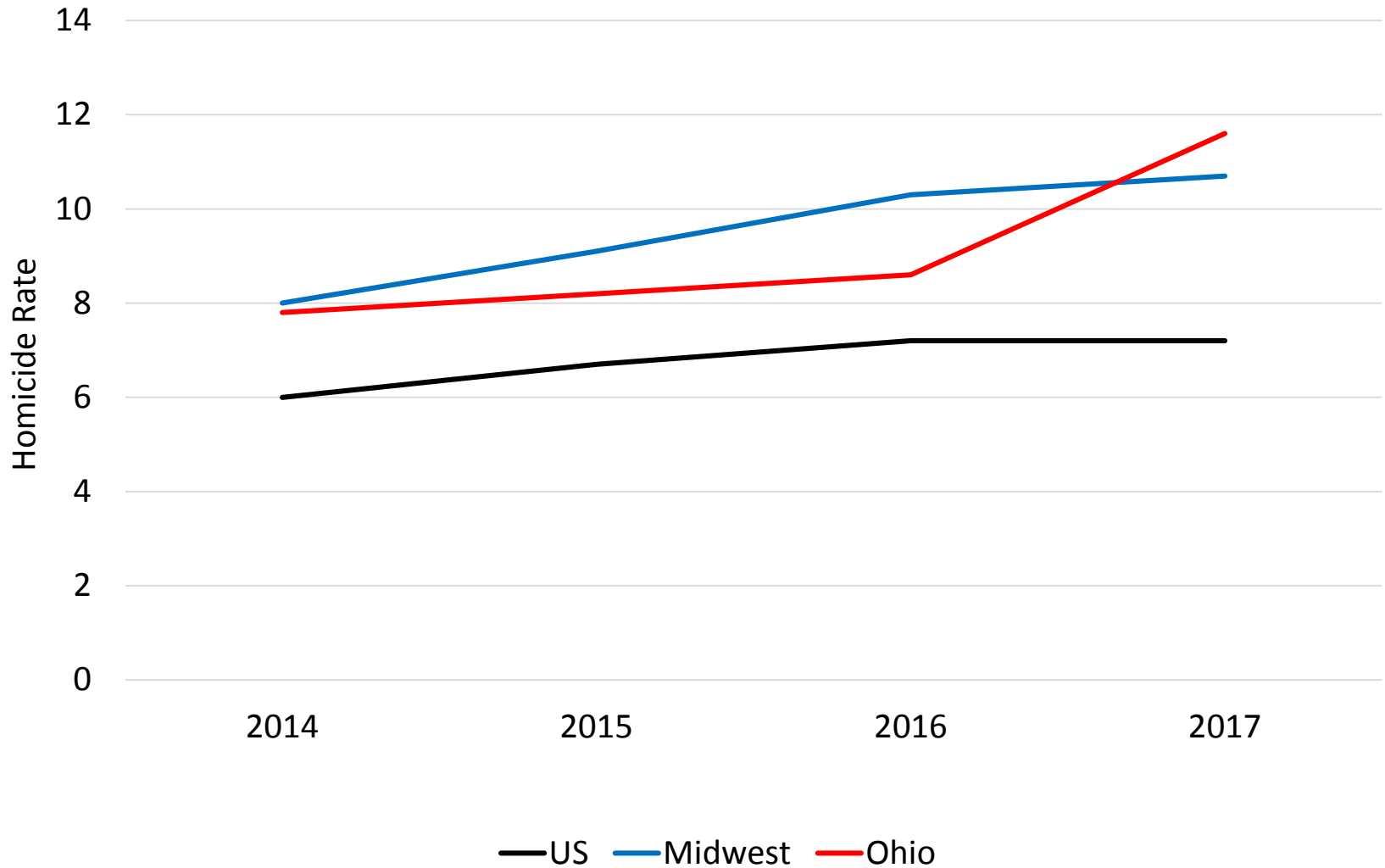
# Comparative Change Rates Same Cities Year-to-Year

	<b>1 Year % Chg.</b>	<b>2-Year CAGR</b>	<b>3-Year CAGR</b>
<b># Homicides</b>			
US	1.6	11.5	7.5
Midwest	3.4	16.6	10.8
Ohio	28.3	23.4	15.1
<b>Homicide Rate</b>			
US	1.0	10.1	6.6
Midwest	3.2	16.1	10.4
Ohio	8.6	27.9	14.6



# Comparative Murder Rates, 2014-2017

## Same Cities Year-to-Year / Pop $\geq$ 25K



# Comparative Change Rates

## Same Cities Year-to-Year / Pop $\geq$ 25K

	<b>1 Year % Chg.</b>	<b>2-Year CAGR</b>	<b>3-Year CAGR</b>
<b># Murders</b>			
US	1.6	11.3	7.4
Midwest	3.9	16.6	10.8
Ohio	36.0	22.7	14.6
<b>Murder Rate</b>			
US	1.0	9.7	6.4
Midwest	3.7	15.9	10.3
Ohio	9.9	5.5	12.9

# Comparative Change Rates: Ohio Cities

	2017 Murders	1-Year % Chg.	3-Year CAGR
Columbus	16.3	54.3%	17.7%
Cincinnati	23.4	22.7%	5.1%
Dayton	21.4	-16.6%	4.3%
Akron	21.2	23.4%	17.4%
Canton	22.5	101.7%	26.8%
Youngstown	36.0	92.5%	18.5%

# Comparative Change Rates: Midwest Cities

	2017 Murders	1-Year % Chg.	3-Year CAGR
Detroit	39.8	-12.0%	-2.9%
Indianapolis	17.9	4.9%	4.2%
Chicago	24.1	-14.0%	16.9%
Milwaukee	19.9	-15.6%	9.8%
Des Moines	12.9	109.7%	43.9%
St. Louis	66.1	10.5%	9.8%

# Explanation for Homicide Rates in Ohio Cities

	Guns	Drugs	Poverty
Akron	YES	YES	
Canton	YES		
Cincinnati	YES	YES	
Columbus	YES	YES	
Dayton	YES	YES	
Toledo	YES		
Youngstown	YES	YES	YES

# Explanation for Homicide Rates in Midwestern Cities

	Guns	Drugs	Poverty
Detroit	YES		
Indianapolis	YES	YES	YES
Chicago	YES	YES	YES
Milwaukee	YES		
Des Moines	YES		
St. Louis	YES	YES	

# Conclusion:

## Back to Our Research Questions

1. Are homicide rates in Ohio and the Midwest higher than the rest of the country?

Yes, especially in Ohio.

2. Did homicide rates in Ohio and the Midwest remain at high rates over the past two years even as the country as a whole declined?

Yes.

3. Can we explain why homicide rates in Ohio and the Midwest are different from the country as a whole?

Emphasis is on access to guns primarily and secondarily drugs, not classical explanations like poverty. Explaining crime activity by guns and drugs does not explain the timing of the current homicide wave.