Gender, Race, and Ethnicity of Victims and Offenders

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The Value of Examining Crime Trends by Victim and Offender Characteristics

Most studies of crime trends rely on UCR data, especially SHR.

Research Examples

- Homicide research reveals well-known differences in levels and trends by race, ethnicity, gender, and age of victim.

    -Studies of age, race and the homicide increases of the late 1980s/ early 1990s

    -Gender and intimate partner homicide.

General Issues

- Limited victim and offender information in SHR.

- NIBRS data permits similar types of comparisons, but sample representativeness and police reporting/recording are concerns.

Crime Trends by Victim Characteristics

National Crime Survey (NCS) and National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data permit more extensive subgroup/crime type trend comparisons for nonlethal violent *victimization*.

Research Examples

- Variations in male serious violence trends by race/ethnicity (Lauritsen and Heimer, 2010 CPP).

- Variations in serious youth violence trends by race/ethnicity, gender, and crime type (Lauritsen, Gorislavsky, and Heimer, forthcoming).

- Variations in violence against women by victim-offender relationship (Lauritsen and Heimer, ICPSR 27082)
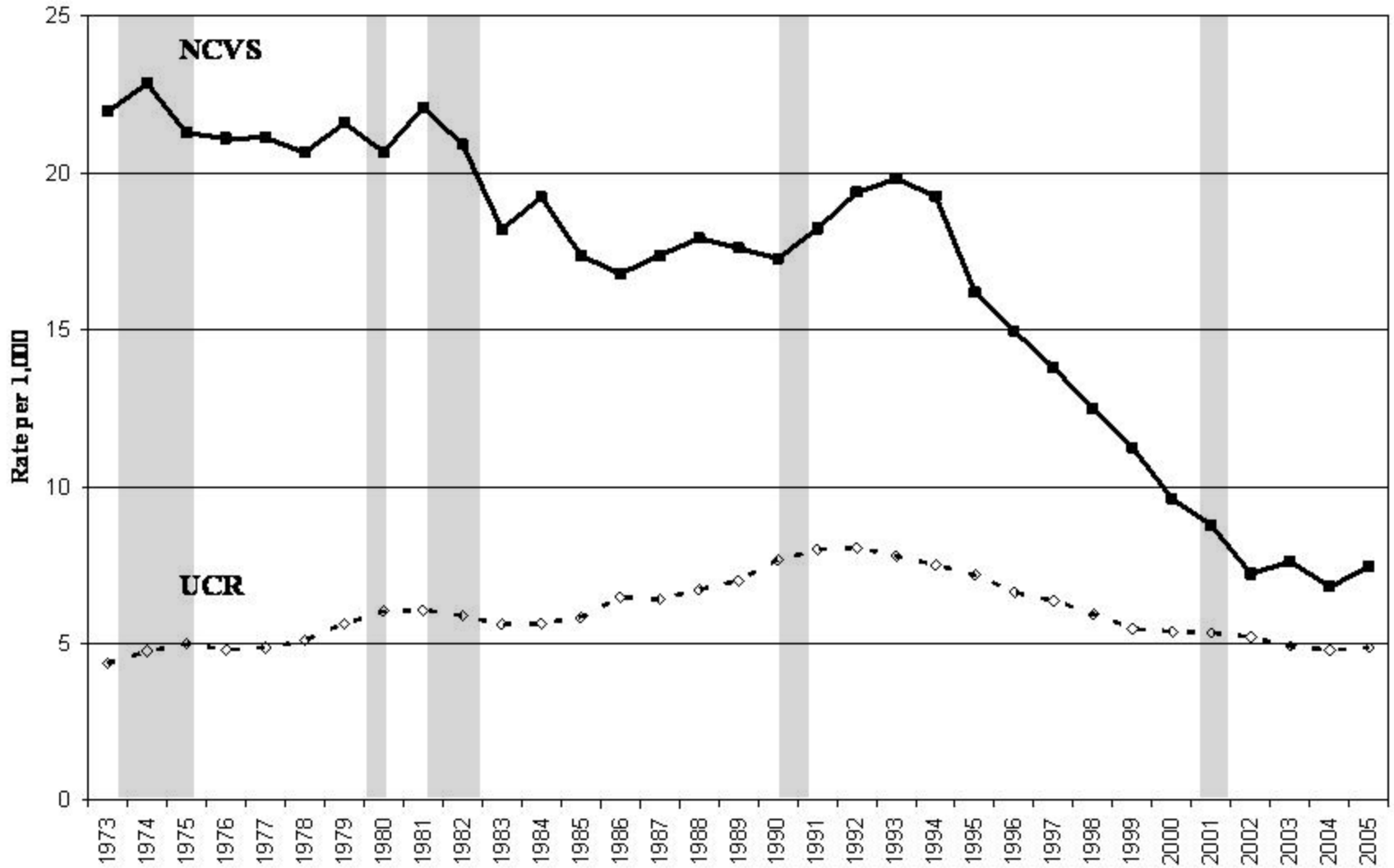
Crime Trends by Victim Characteristics, cont'd

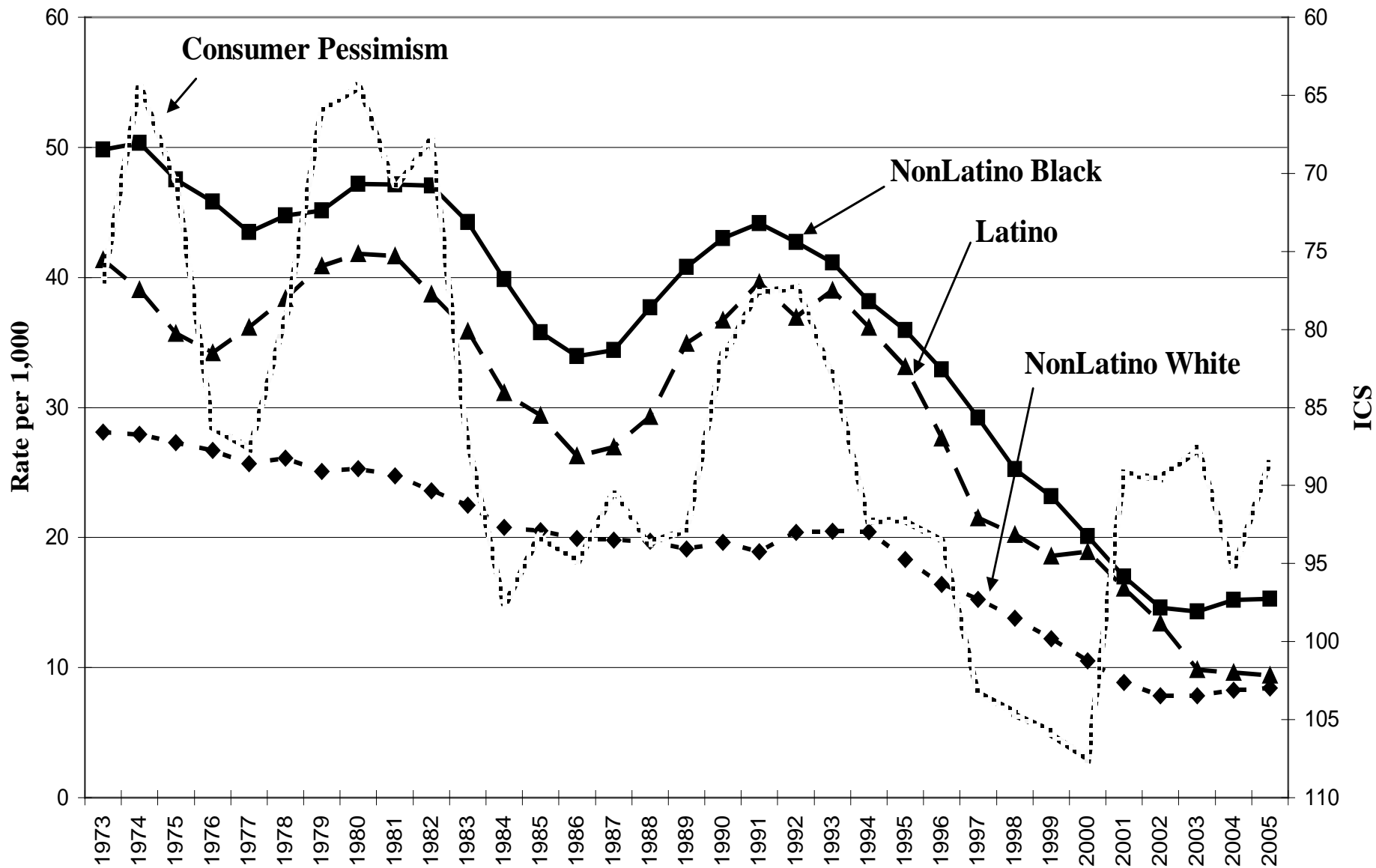<u>Lessons from NCS/NCVS analyses</u>

- Subgroup trend variations in short-term fluctuations rather than long-term trends.

- Short-term fluctuations vary in degree and timing.

Thus, potential macro-covariates can be expected to vary in their relationships with different subgroup (and subtype) crime trends.
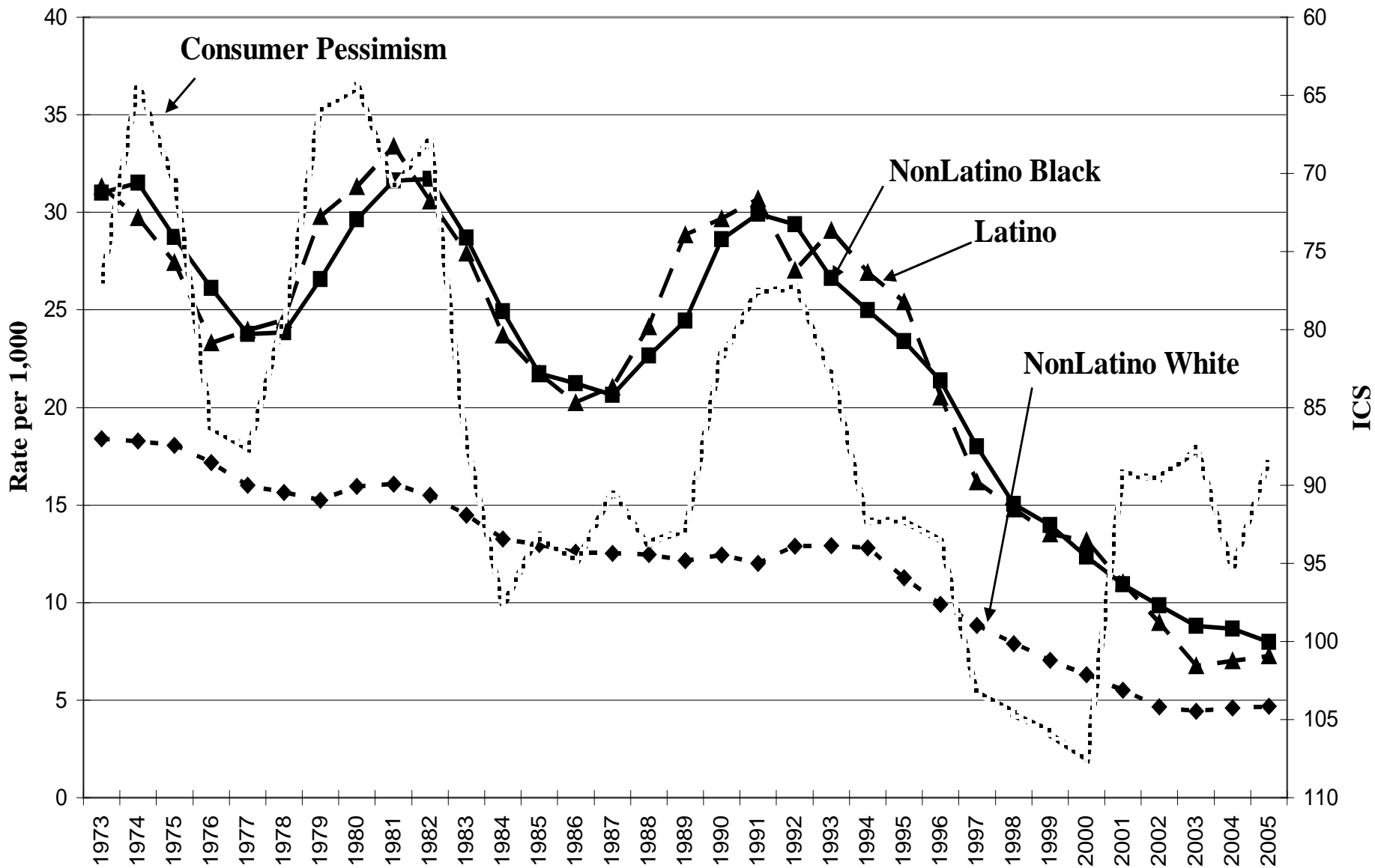
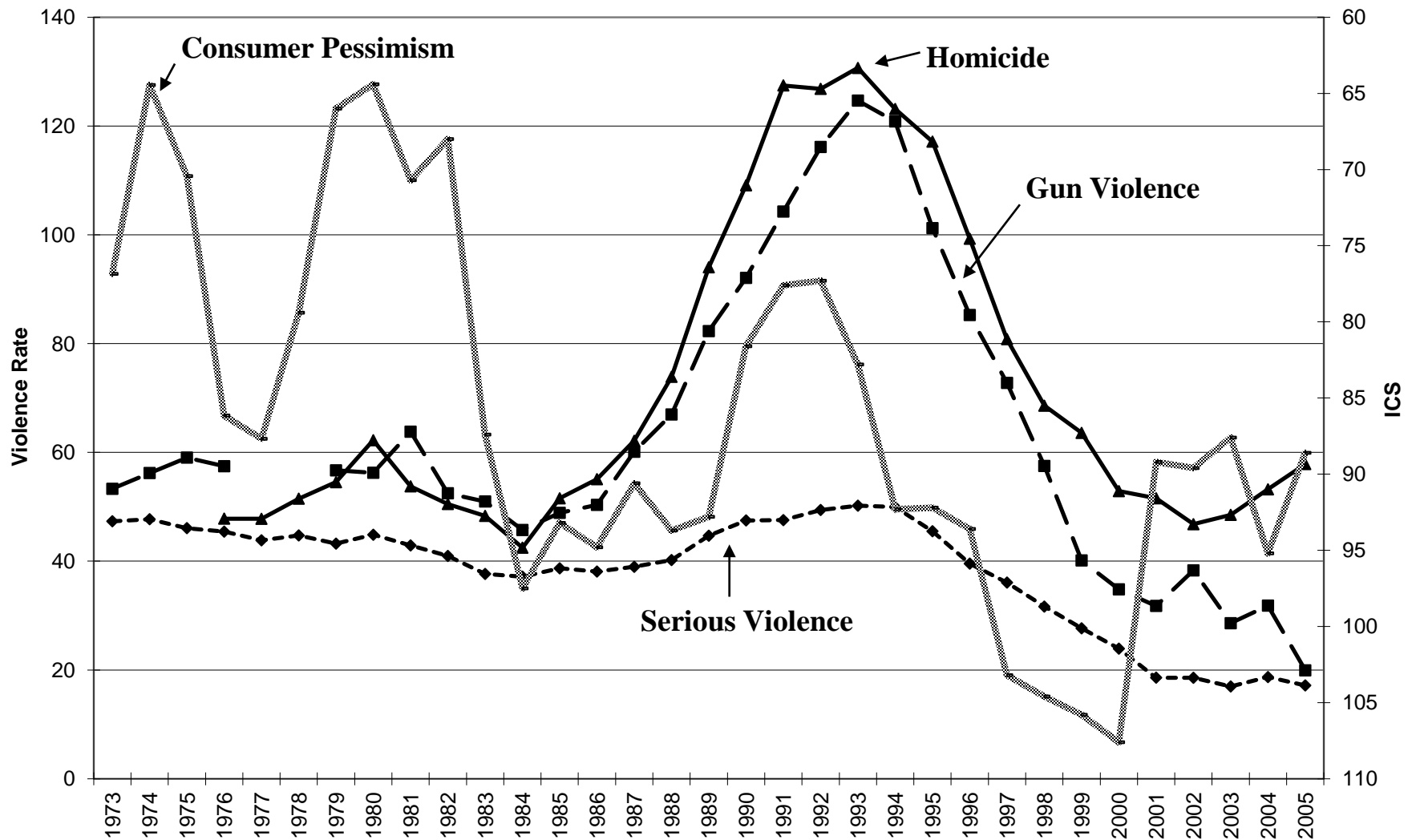# Serious Violent Crime Rates: UCR and NCVS 1973-2005

NCVS

UCR

Rate per 1,000

25

20

15

10

5

0

1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

Male Serious Violent Victimization by Race and Ethnicity and Consumer Pessimism: 1973-2005

Male Serious **Stranger** Violent Victimization by Race and Ethnicity and Consumer Pessimism: 1973-2005
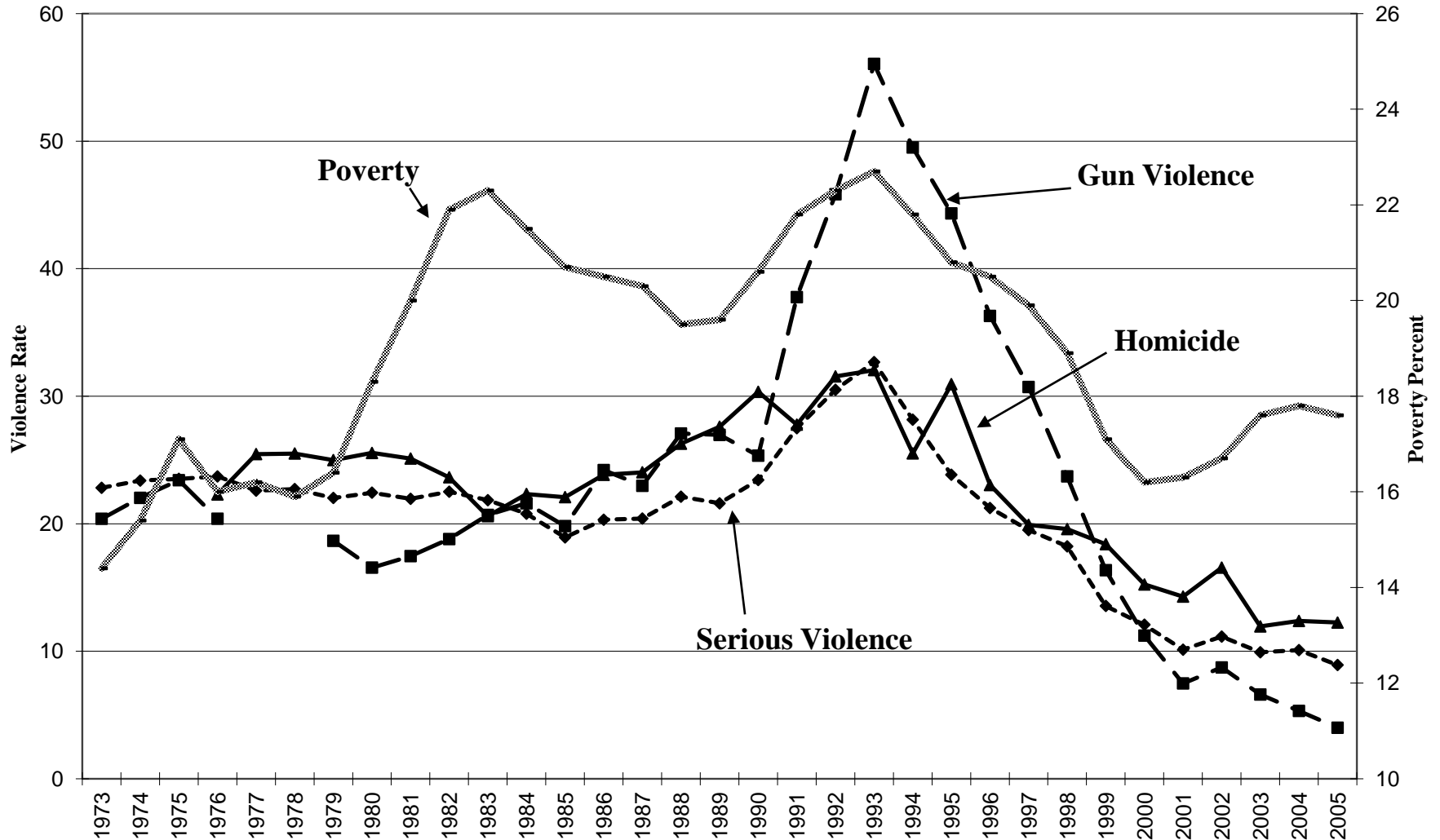
Homicide (per 100,000), Gun Violence (per 10,000), Serious Violent Victimization (per 1,000) and Consumer Pessimism: Males Ages 12-17
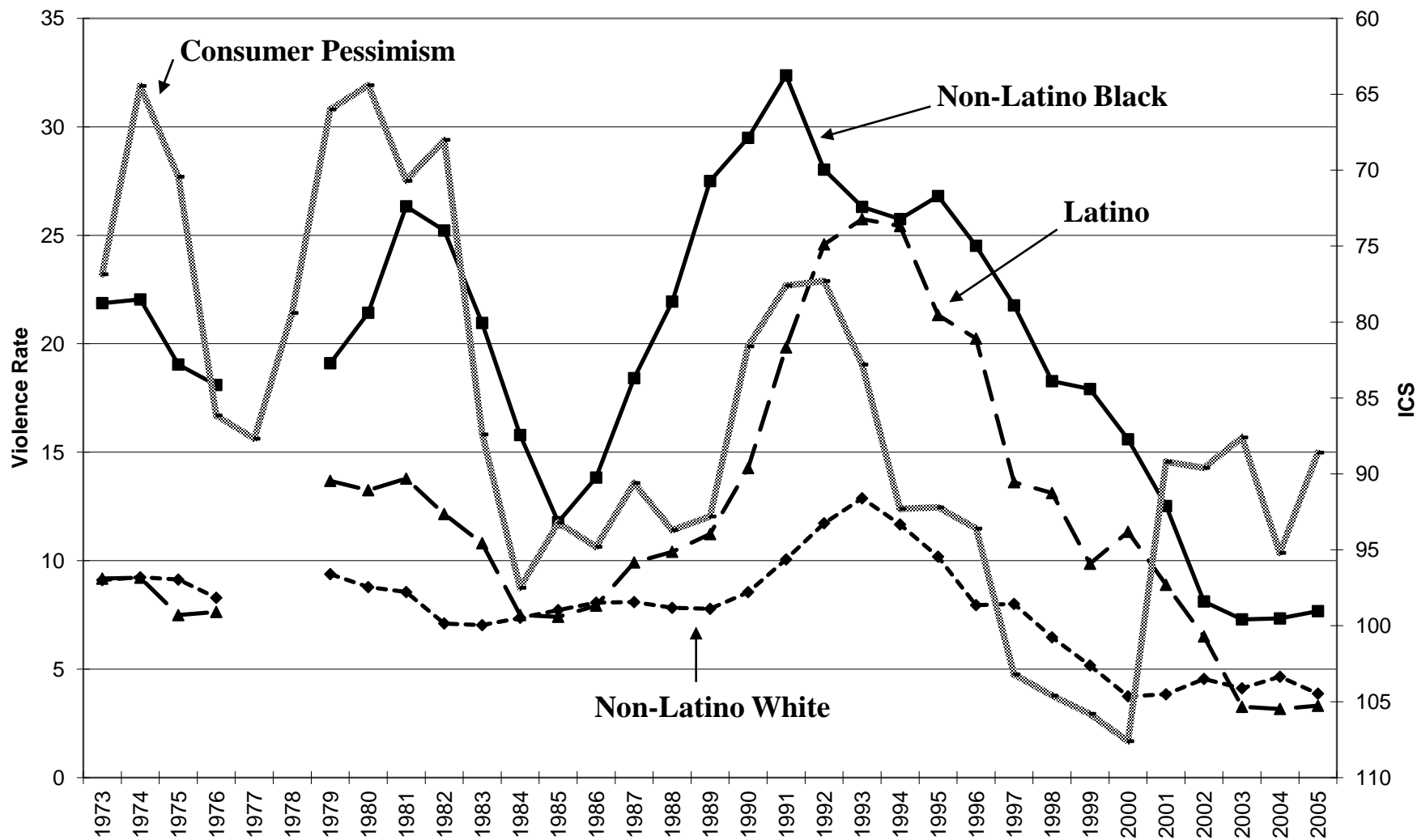

From Lauritsen, Gorislavsky, and Heimer, forthcoming.

Homicide (per 100,000), Gun Violence (per 10,000), Serious Violent Victimization (per 1,000) and Youth Poverty: Females Ages 12-17

From Lauritsen, Gorislavsky, and Heimer, forthcoming.

Nonlethal Gun Violence (per 1,000) by Race and Ethnicity and Consumer Pessimism: Males Ages 12-24

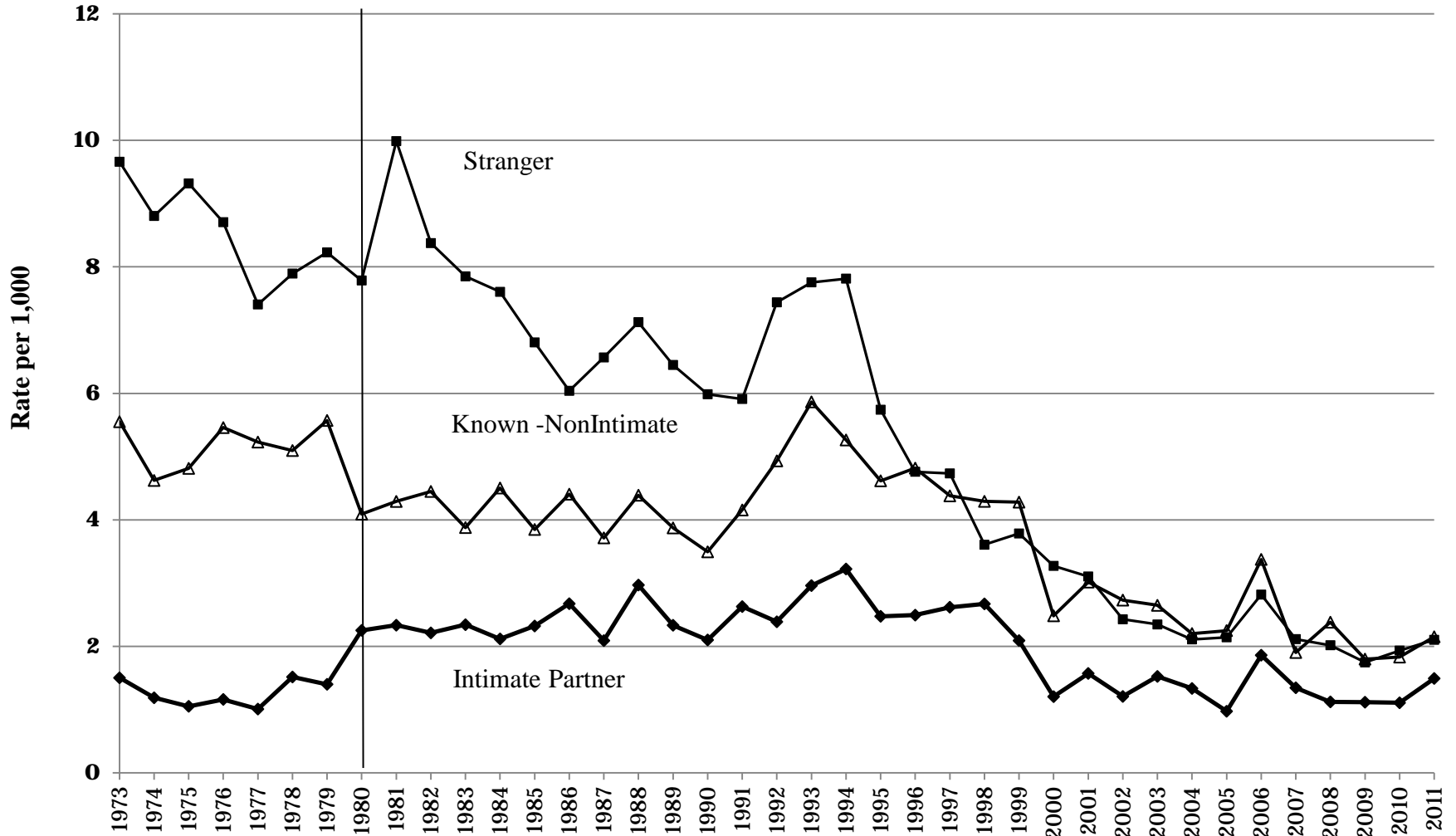From Lauritsen, Gorislavsky, and Heimer, forthcoming.

First-Difference Correlations Between Macro-Economic Indicators and Youth Violence by Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and Type of Victimization.[a]

	Consumer Pessimism	Youth Poverty	Youth Unemployment
Males Ages 12-24			
Non-Latino Black			
Gun Violence	.37*(.22)	.25 (.21)	.16 (.07)
Serious Violence	.52*(.34*)	.25 (.22)	.16 (.07)
Latino			
Gun Violence	.39*(.22)	.33*(.26)	.21 (.13)
Serious Violence	.39*(.27)	.23 (.18)	-.03 (-.08)
Non-Latino White			
Gun Violence	.16 (.12)	.34*(.34*)	.09 (.12)
Serious Violence	.39*(.16)	.33*(.32*)	.10 (.04)
Females Ages 12-24			
Non-Latino Black			
Gun Violence	.10 (.05)	.48*(.47*)	.30 (.28)
Serious Violence	-.02 (-.06)	.48*(.48*)	.36*(.34)
Latino			
Gun Violence	-.15 (-.23)	.13 (.12)	.03 (.00)
Serious Violence	.06 (.01)	.41*(.39*)	.33*(.31*)
Non-Latino White			
Gun Violence	.12 (.18)	.38*(.33*)	.10 (.13)
Serious Violence	.41*(.31*)	.31 (.29)	-.02 (-.02)

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[a] Correlations for 1973-2000 period appear first, followed by correlations for 1973-2005 period in parentheses.

*$p \leq .05$ (one-tail)

Female Serious Violent Crime Victimization Rates by Victim/Offender Relationship: NCS/NCVS 1973-2011

Other Types of Analyses of Victimization Trends

Research Issues

- Subgroup sample size and rate variation over time set limits on the types of subgroup/type of crime trends that may be produced.

- Limited ability to model subnational variation in crime trends. Only currently available data is NCVS "40 largest MSA" file (1980-2004).

Research Examples

- Xie et al (2011) 5-year pooled estimates of VAW studies relationships between changes in women's status and risk for stranger, known/nonintimate, and IPV.

- Xie et al (2012) Study of police and social service workers per capita in 3-level model of women's risk for IPV (individuals nested in years and MSAs).

Other Types of Analyses of Victimization Trends, cont'd

<u>Individuals situated in historical context</u>

- Heimer, Lauritsen, and Lang (ongoing) studies of NCS/NCVS micro-data over time to assess associations between macro-contextual factors net of individual covariates.

Example research questions: male serious violence

1) Is consumer pessimism associated with risk net of individual factors?

2) Does consumer pessimism account for race and ethnic differences in victimization?

3) Are race and ethnic differences declining over time?

Examining Crime Trends by Offender Characteristics

NCS and NCVS data also permit some subgroup comparisons for nonlethal violent *offending*.
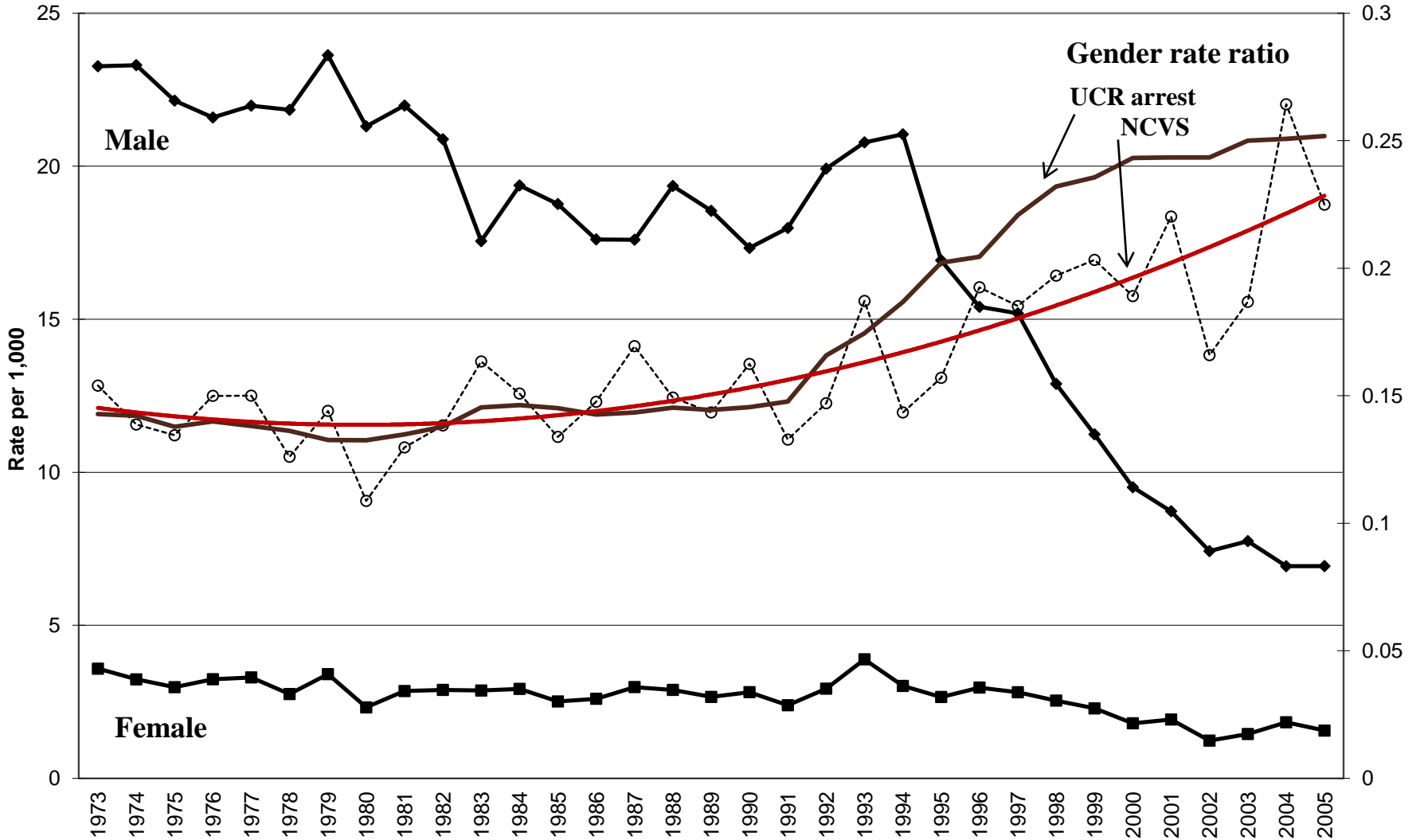
Advantage

- Alternative to arrest data

Issues

- Offender data limited to victim's perception of age, gender, and race (but not ethnicity) of offender in face-to-face incidents.

- Estimates complicated by occurrence of multiple offender incidents.

UCR Arrest and NCVS Aggravated Assault Offending by Gender: 1973-2005 .

Summary of Research Potentials and Issues

Potentials

- Length of NCS/NCVS data series has resulted in range of possibilities for further unique studies of crime trends based on victim and incident characteristics.

Issues

- **Statistical and methodological:** e.g., variable availability over time, redesign(s), intra-person correlation, standard error estimation, etc.

- **Substantive: 1)** What research questions and unit(s) of analysis should be given priority? **2)** What is the best approach to conceptualizing historical factors given current state of theorizing about crime trends and varying empirical patterns?