



Africa Criminal Justice Reform
Organisation pour la Réforme de la Justice Pénale en Afrique
Organização para a Reforma da Justiça Criminal em África



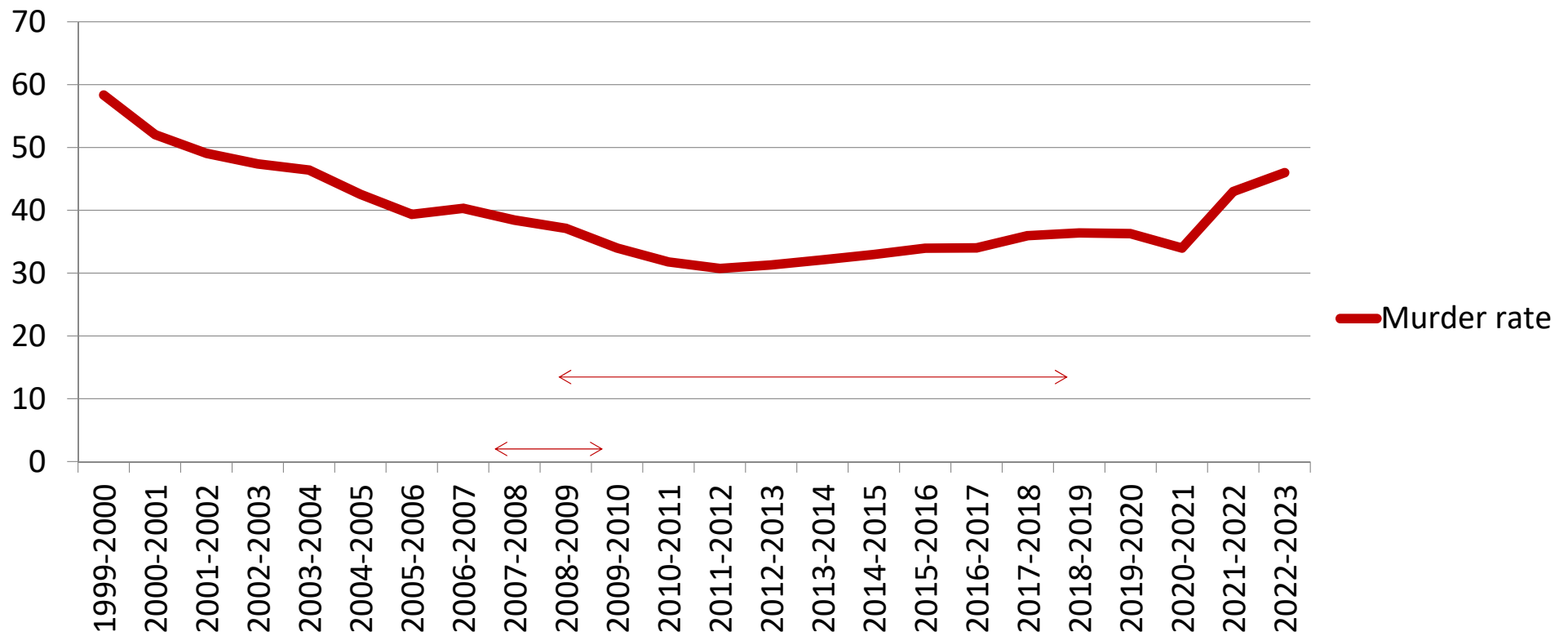
What is crime data telling us?

Implications for Policy

ACJR Webinar | 15 August 2023



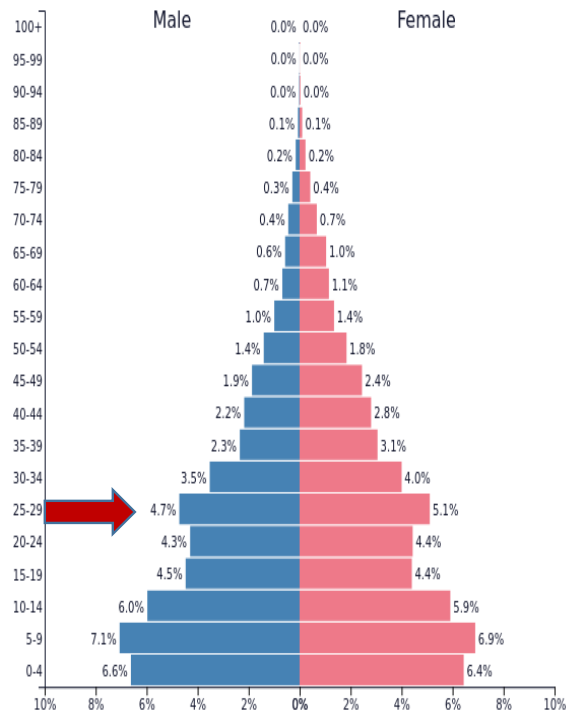
South Africa murder rate, long term



What happened between 1995 and 2011?

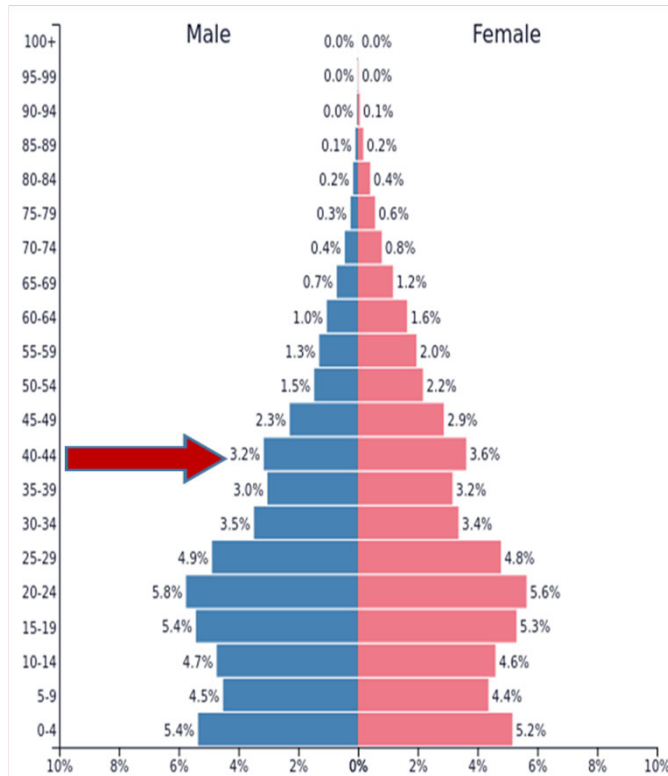
- Democratic government
- Demographic change
- Investment and economic growth incl. improvement in employment
- Massive investment in policing
- Improvements in CJS performance
- *The problem of collinearity*

Demographic change – 1995, 2010 and 2022



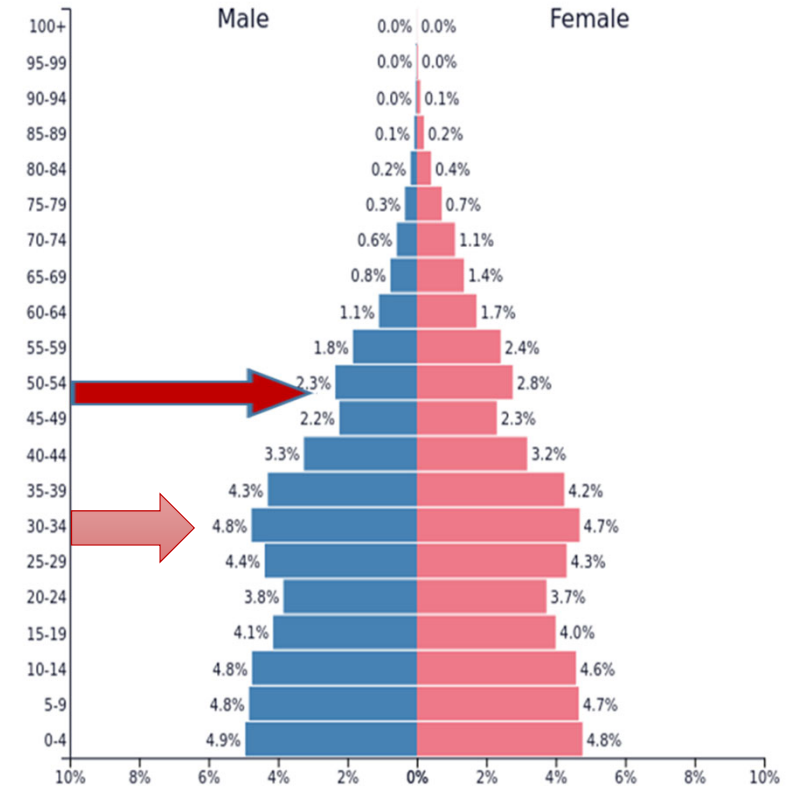
South Africa - 1995
Population: 43,986,083

PopulationPyramid.net



South Africa - 2010
Population: 51,784,921

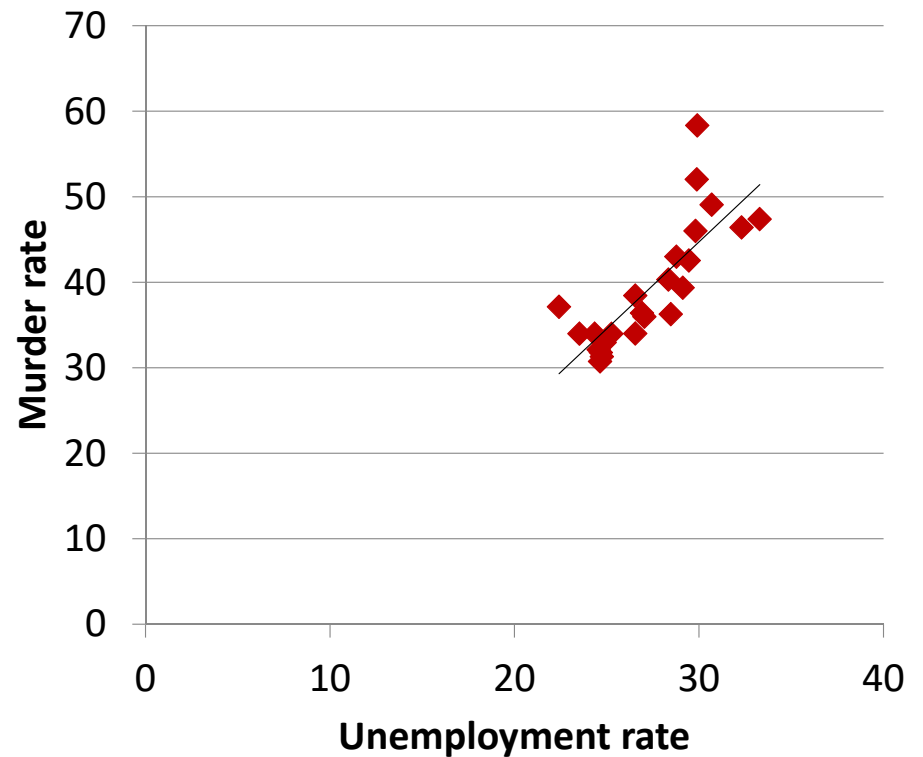
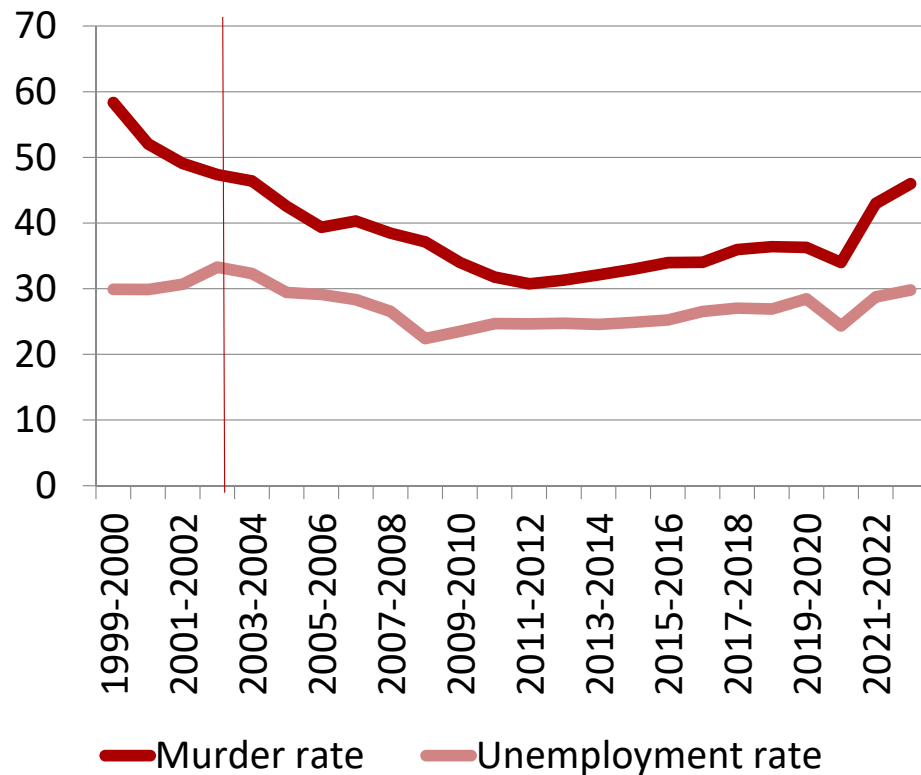
PopulationPyramid.net



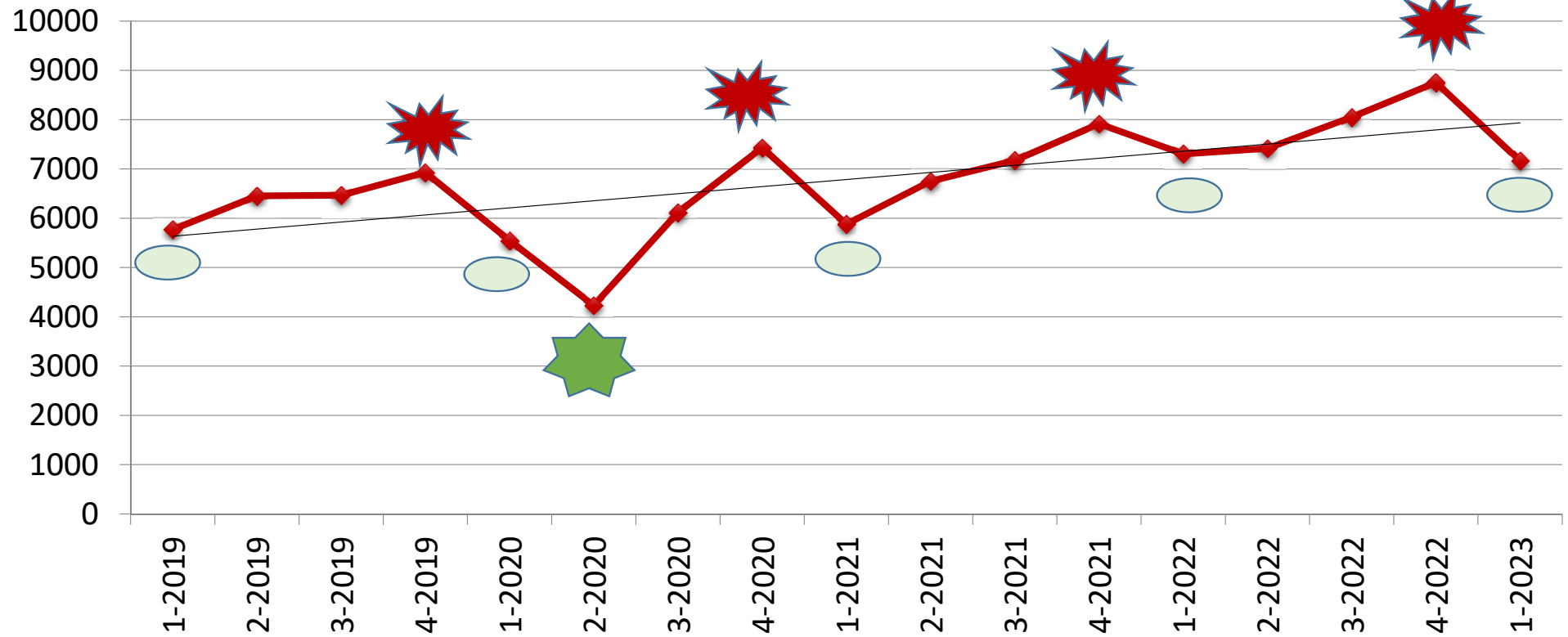
South Africa - 2022
Population: 59,893,885

PopulationPyramid.net

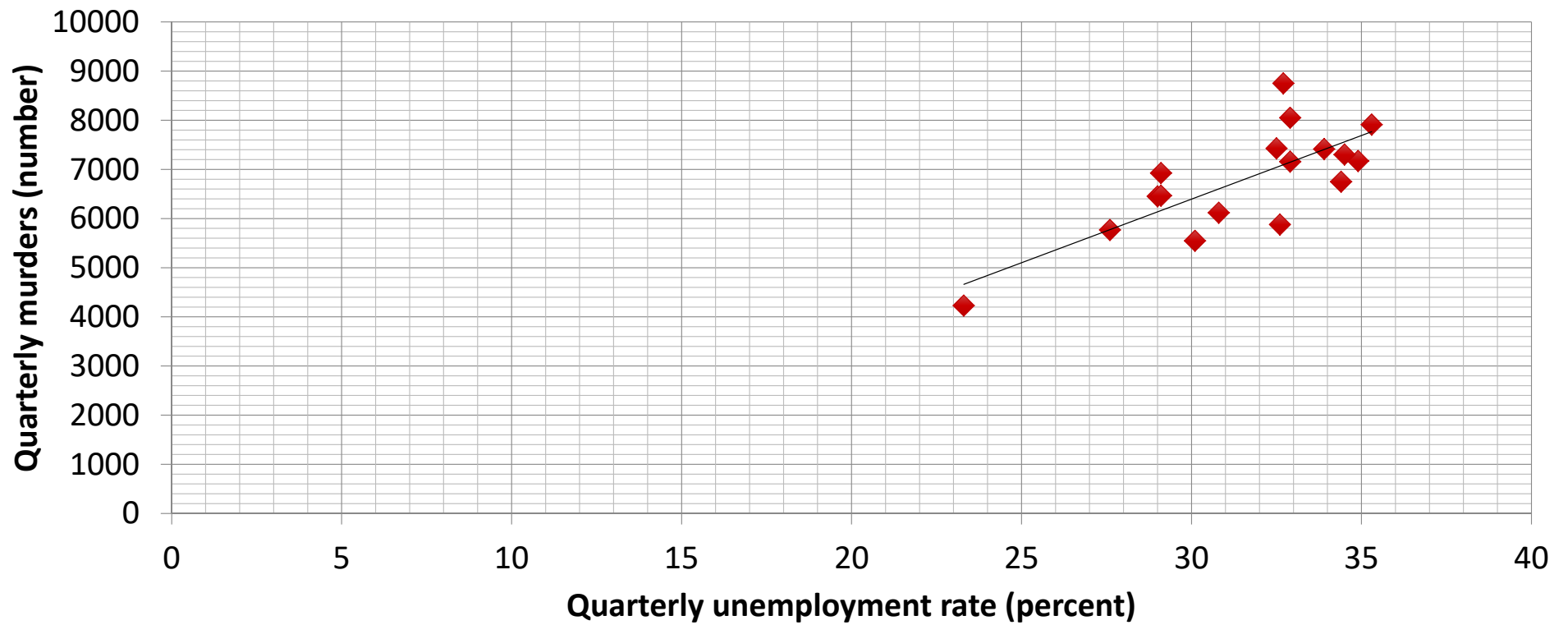
Murder and unemployment (annual)



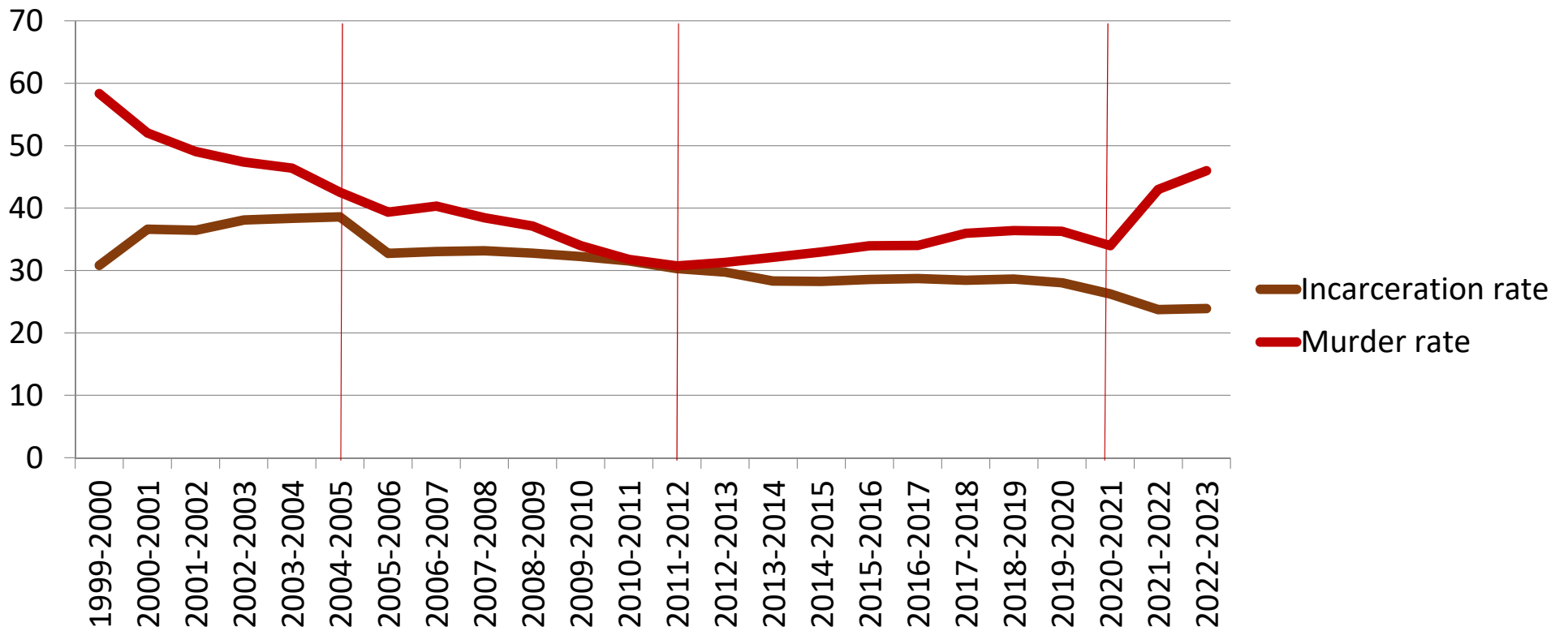
2019-2023 Quarterly Murder



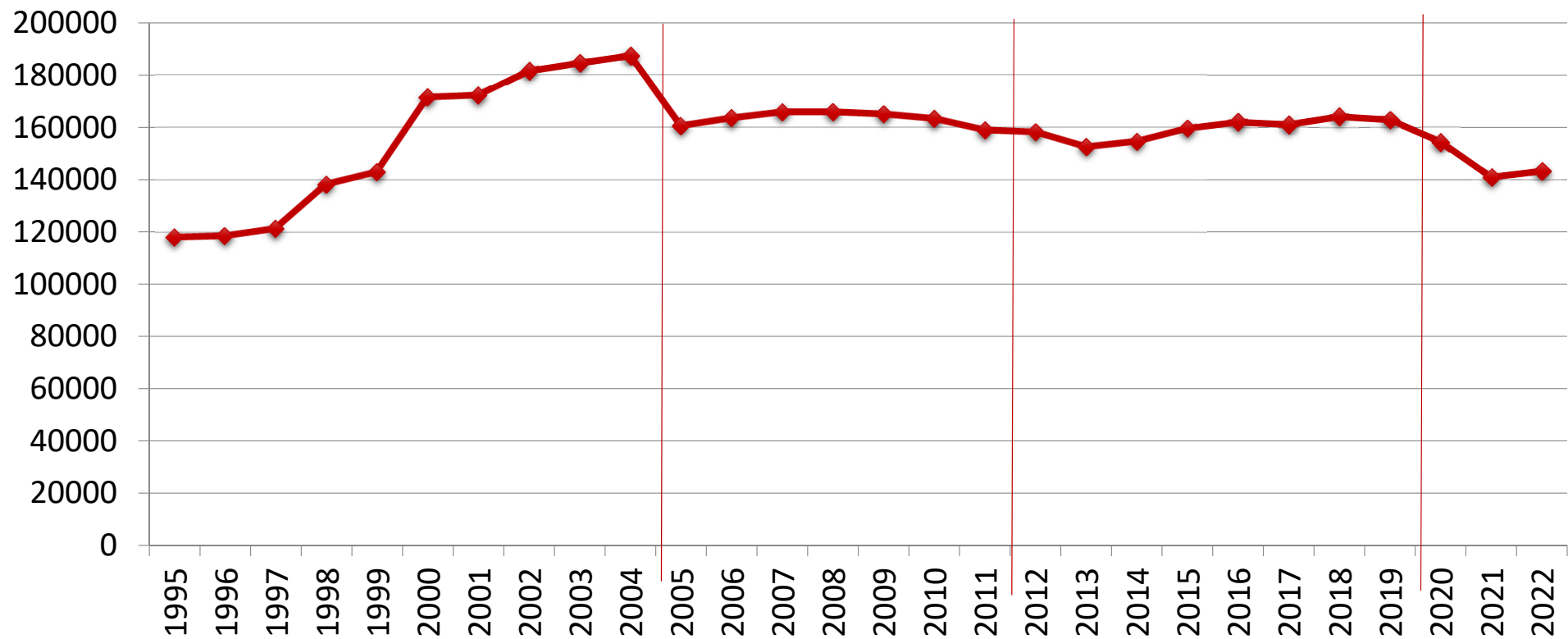
Unemployment and murder (quarterly)



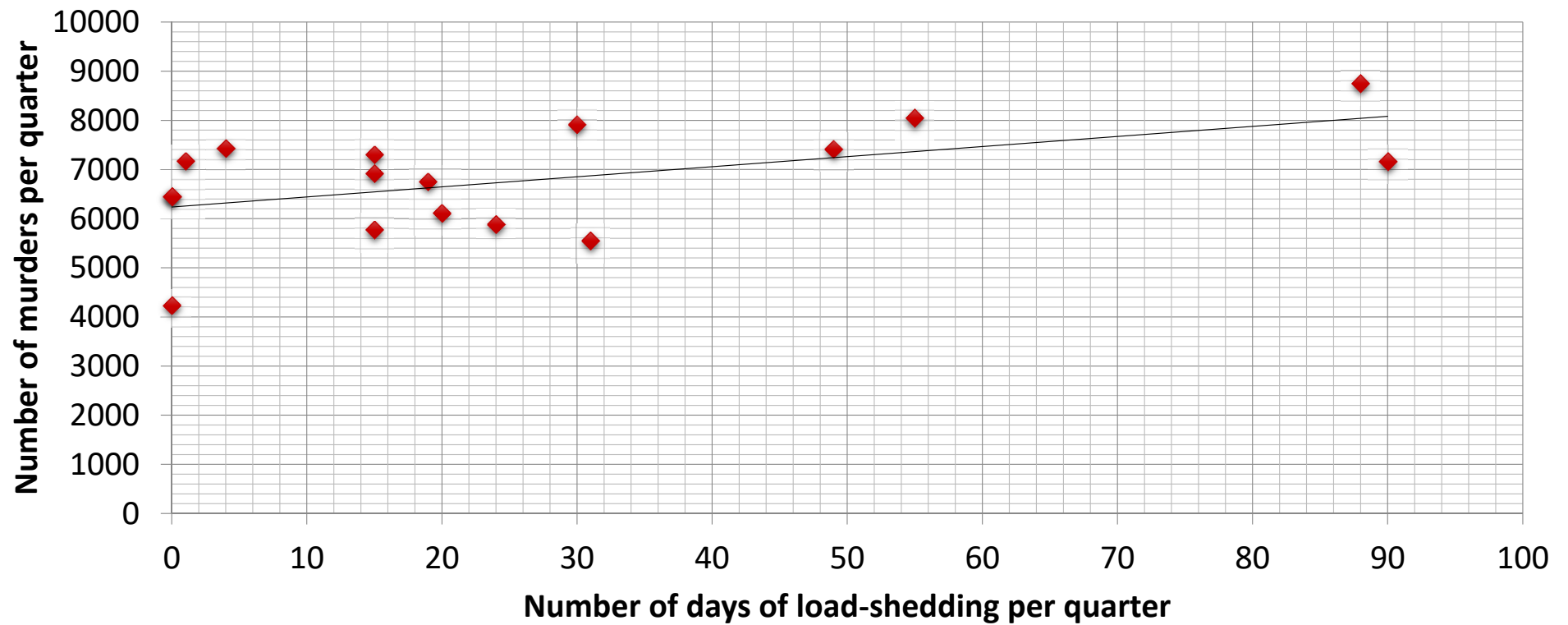
Incarceration and murder



Number incarcerated*



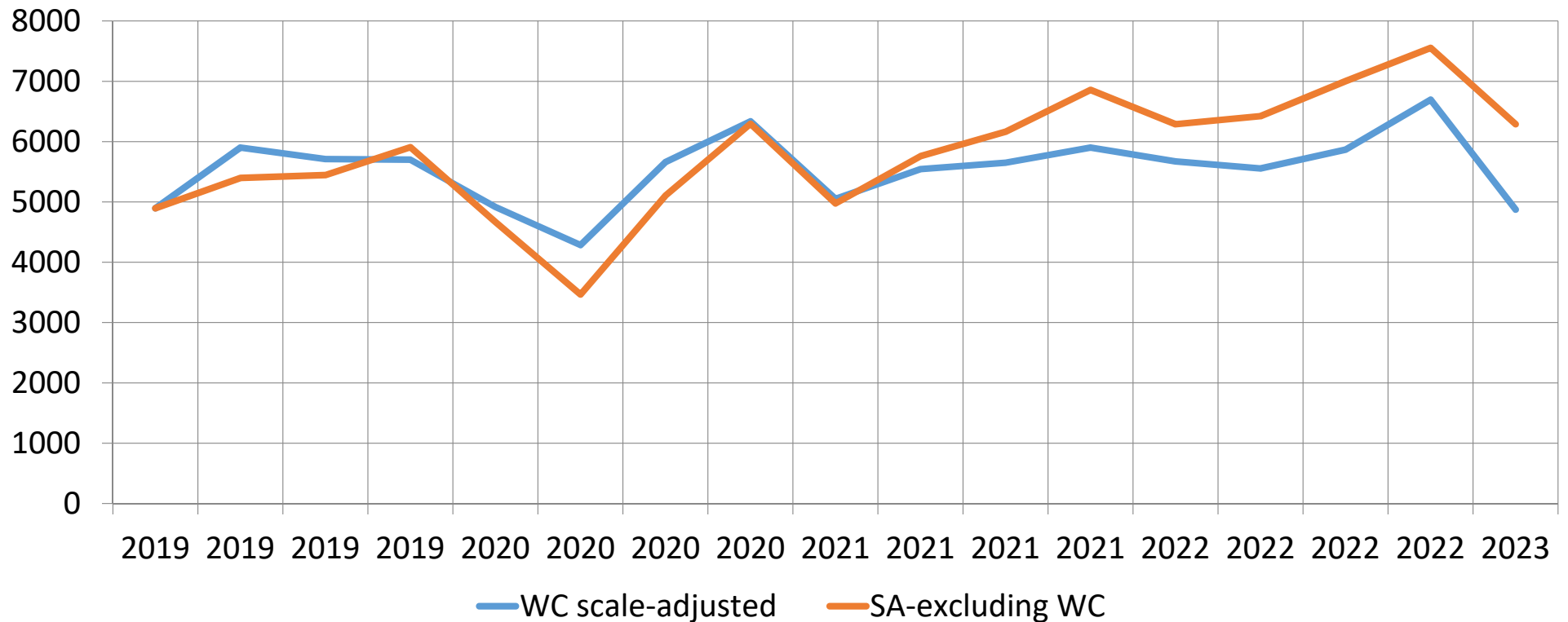
Load-shedding and murder (national)



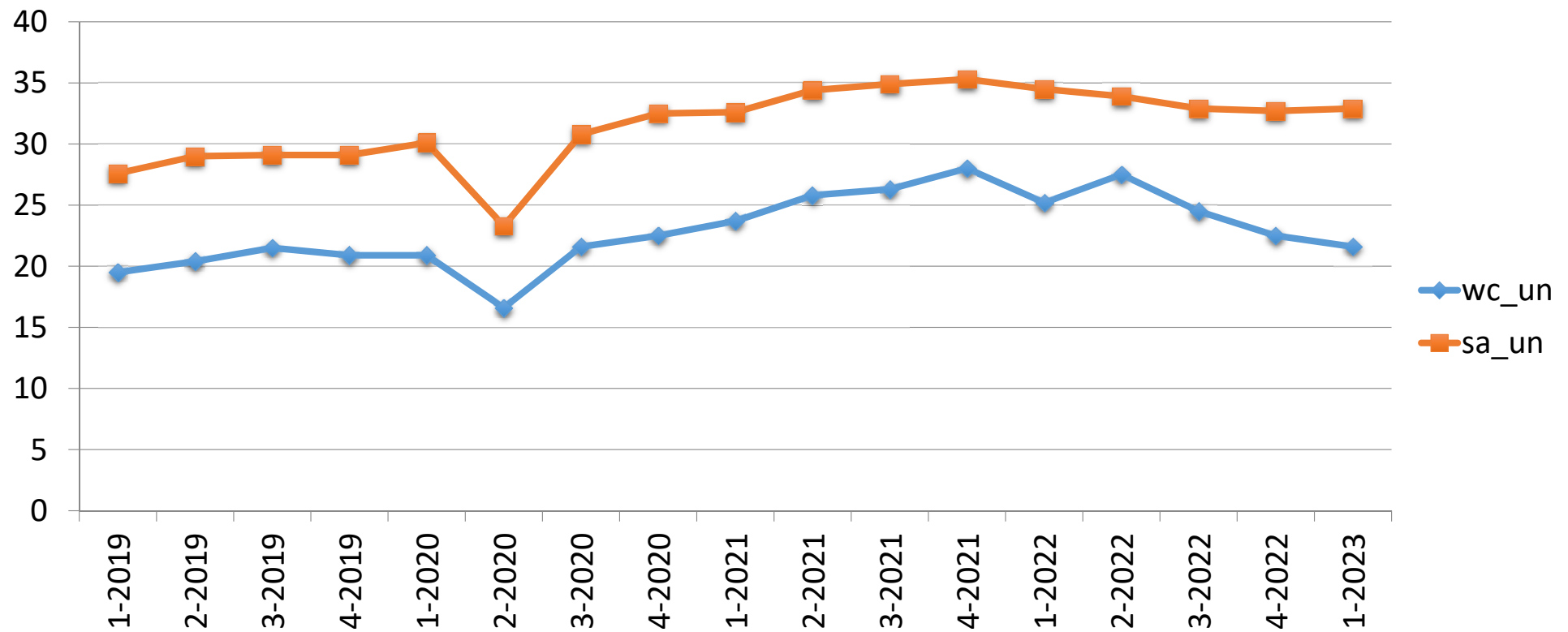
Law Enforcement Advancement Plan

- Mid-2022 there were promising results for 13 areas since 2020
- However comparing 2019 and 2022
 - LEAP areas are not **consistently** doing better than non-LEAP areas
 - Are non-LEAP areas, as lower crime areas, less affected by the factors which are increasing crime?
- Localised reduction in murder in some but not all LEAP areas
 - 5 areas overall reduction comparing 2019 with 2022
 - 8 with increases.
 - 3 are below the national increases and broadly in line with population change
 - also well below the comparison control areas (inside and outside the province),

Western Cape and South Africa



Unemployment, national and provincial



Load-shedding explains divergence?

- No significant relationship between murder and load-shedding for the Western Cape at provincial level
- National relationship of murder with load-shedding is stronger if Western Cape data is omitted

Western Cape LEAP analysis

- The murder rate in the Western Cape remains high
 - Still higher than that of the country as a whole.
- However it is stabilising and may even be reducing slightly, which is in contrast to the national trend, which in previous years the province tended to follow closely
- While some of the divergence from national may be due to
 - relative resilience of the province in terms of load-shedding
 - slightly better employment trends
- Extent of the improvements in some LEAP areas does not appear to be easily explainable by other factors, although SAPS allocations may play in a role
- The trend since mid-2021, although toward a reduction in murder, is insufficiently marked to halve the murder rate by 2029
- If the current trend continues, by the end of 2029 the number of murders will still be approximately the same, although the population will have grown to 8.2 million

National Analysis

- National trends are worsening and explainable by unemployment, insufficiently targeted criminal justice, and load-shedding
- Possibility that load-shedding trends explain significant percentage of quarterly changes
 - This may become less so as resilience improves
- What is needed is a recognition of crisis
 - Focus on load-shedding resilience
 - Employment
 - Galvanised CJS