

Open drug markets as risky places for shootings

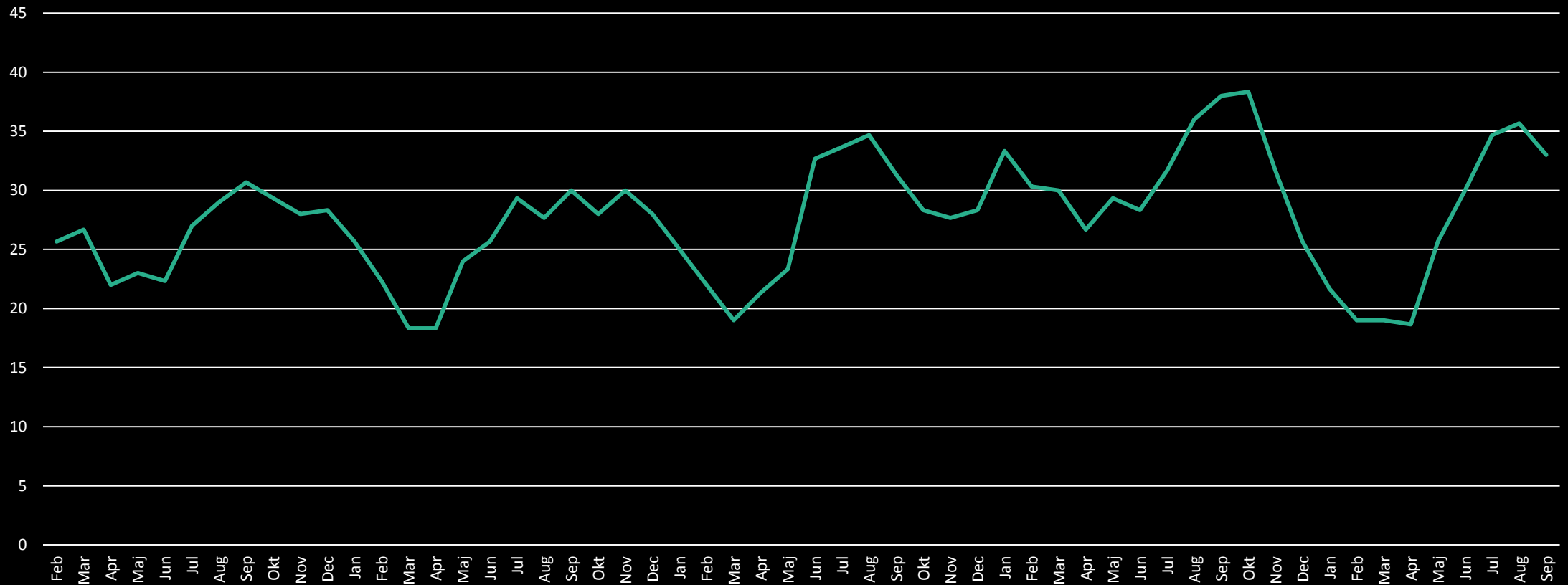
Manne Gerell

Risky places for crime seminar series, Safe places network

October 7th, 2021

Monthly illegal firearm discharges

3-month rolling average for illegal firearm discharges in Sweden, Nov 2016-Sep 2021



Sturup et al 2019: 20 year trend for gun violence

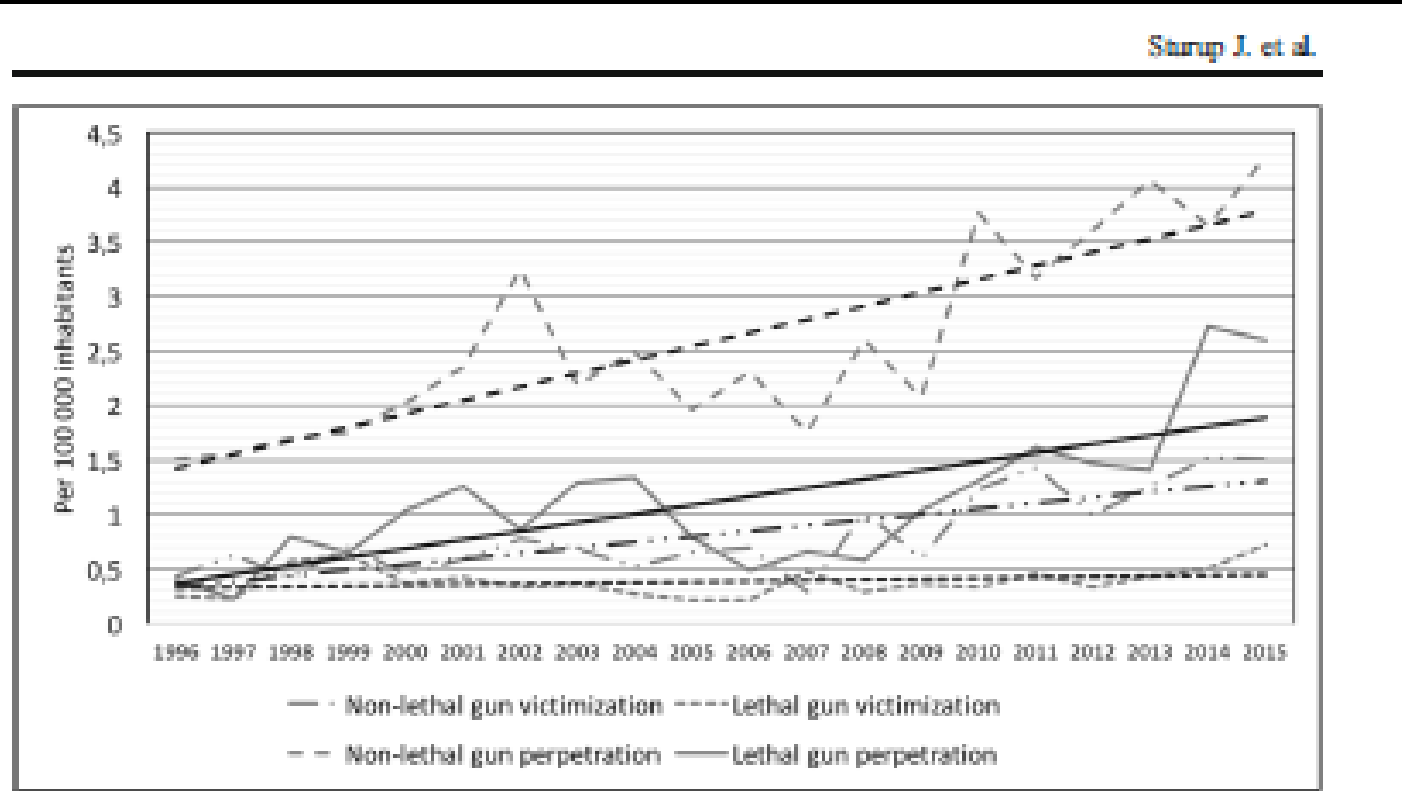


Fig. 1 Lethal and non-lethal gun victimization and perpetration rates in males over age 15 per 100,000 inhabitants in Sweden 1996 to 2015 according to the Swedish Cause-of-death registry, Hospital registry and Registry of criminal suspects (gray = observed, black = linear trend)

Sturup et al 2019: Mostly driven by 15-29y old males

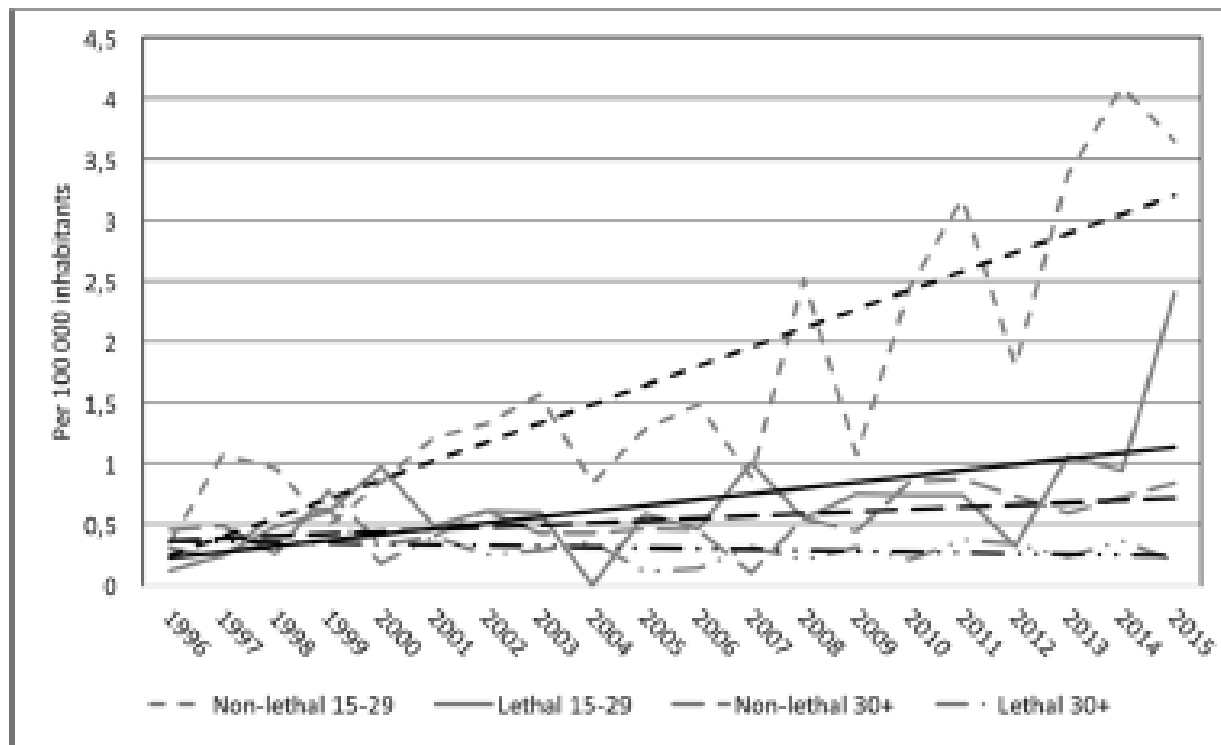


Fig 2 Lethal and non-lethal gun victimization rates per 100,000 inhabitants in Sweden 1996 to 2015 in males aged 15–29 years and males 30 years and older according to the Swedish Cause-of-death registry and Hospital registry (gray = observed, black = linear trend)

International comparison

Increased Gun Violence Among Young Males in Sweden: a Descriptive...

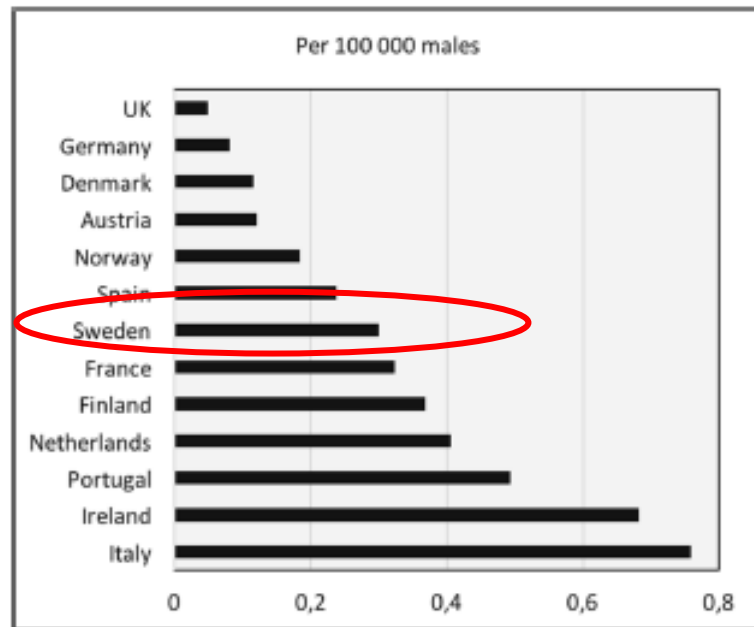


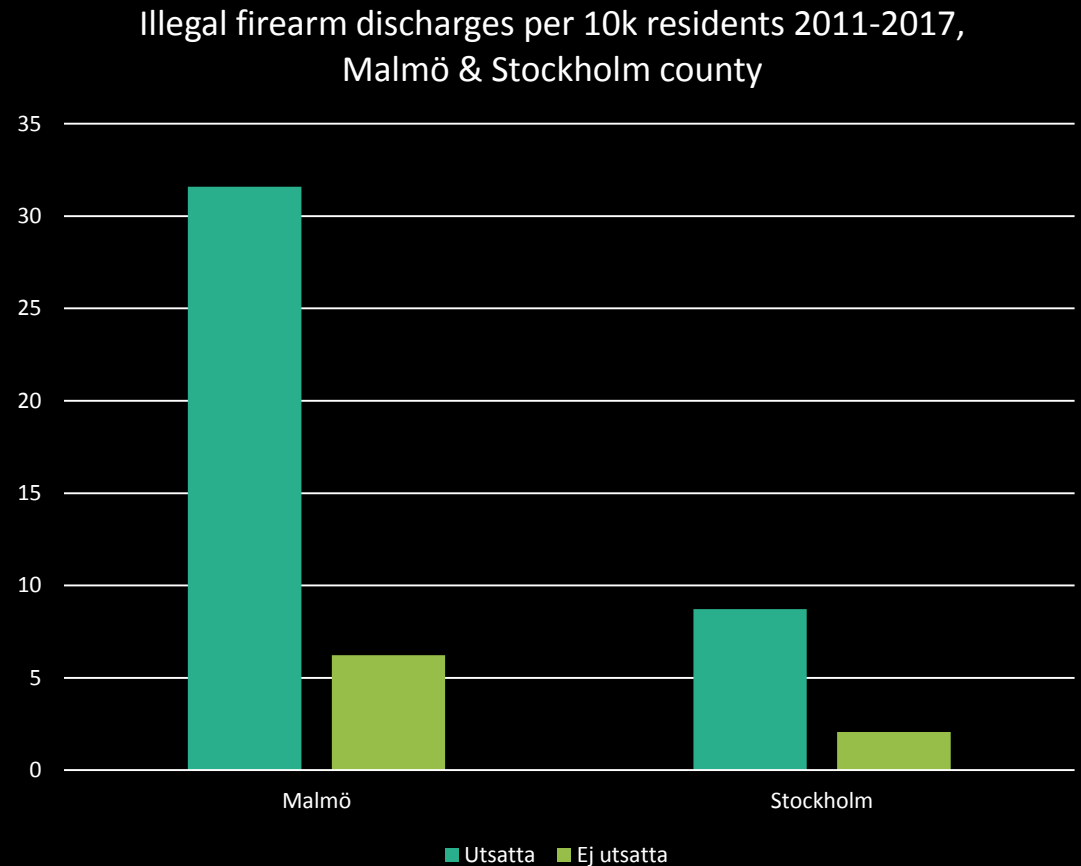
Fig. 6 Rates of lethal gun victimization among males aged 30 years or older in 13 European countries, data from the latest 5 years with available cause-of-death statistics from WHO



Fig. 5 Rates of lethal gun victimization among males aged 15 to 29 years in 13 European countries, data from the latest 5 years with available cause-of-death statistics from WHO

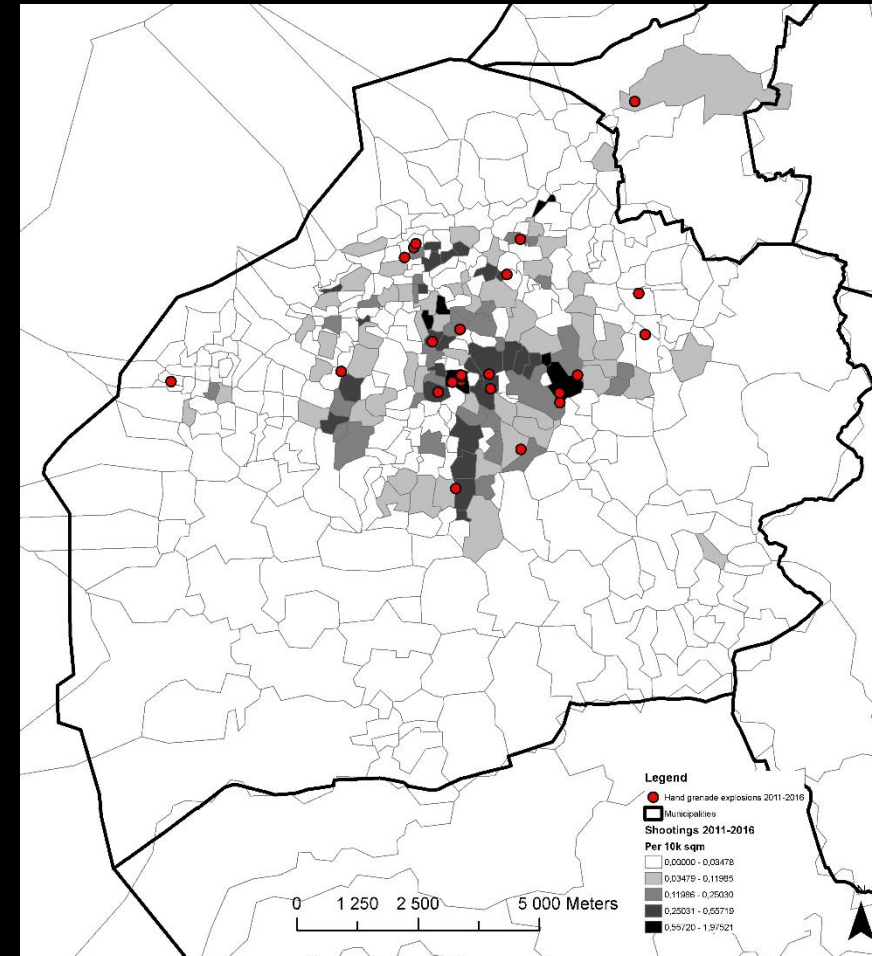
”Swedish conditions” ?

- Swedish conditions? – Norway, Denmark, Finland
- (Gang-) Crime, immigration/integration
- => ”Vulnerable neighborhoods”
- ~5x higher gun violence rate
- ~1.5x higher non-gun violence rate



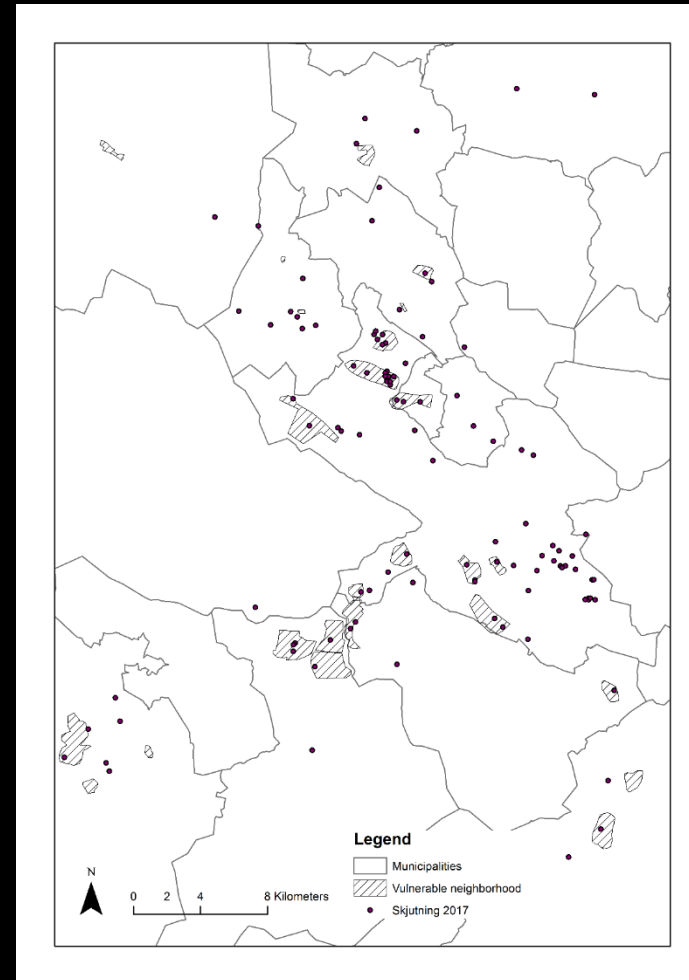
Handgrenades & shootings - similarities and differences

- Area level shooting – hand grenade association: 1.7 – largely about vulnerable neighborhoods
- But hand grenades more common in city center. Against restaurants, bars, and government offices
- Mostly used for intimidation/sending a message



Near repeat patterning

- “when your neighbor has been burgled, you are at an elevated risk of being burgled too”
- Different mechanism for shootings, but same principle
- After an initial incident, 4x the normal risk for a new shooting within a couple weeks and a few hundred meters
- But 4x ~0..



Near repeat mechanisms



Flags vs boosts tied to risky places



Two "gang" neighborhoods



Shooting in neighborhood 1



Which now is flagged (in conflict)



Retaliation in neighborhood 2



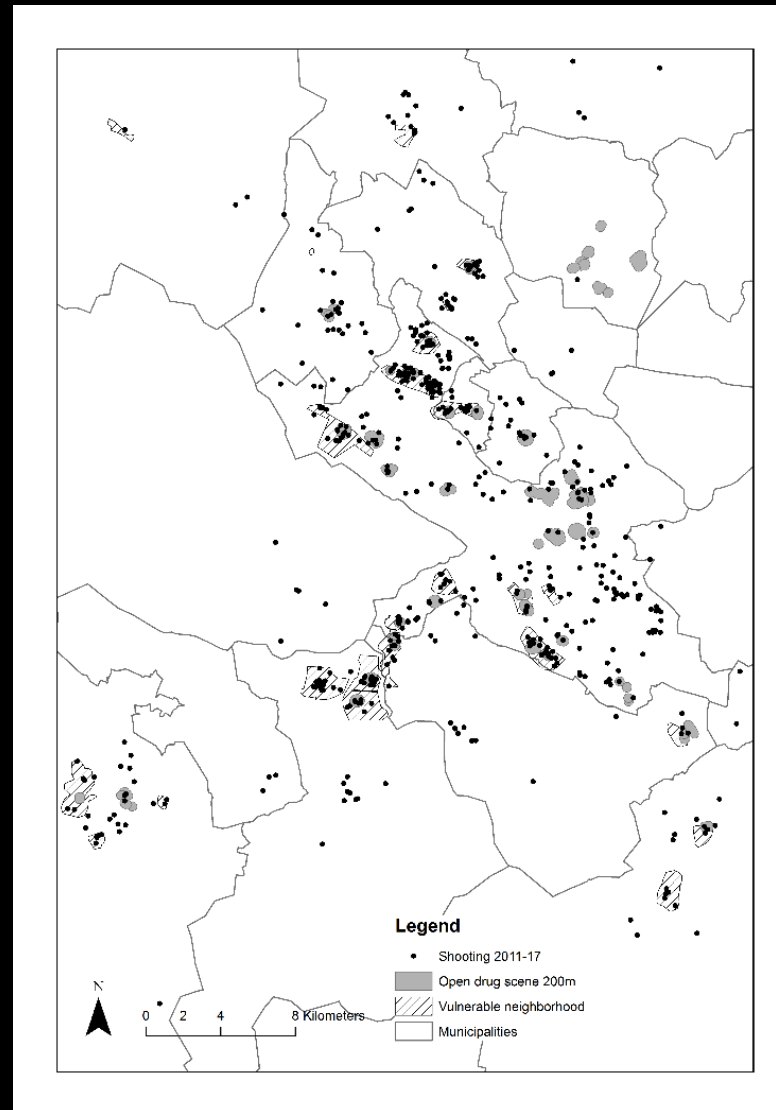
(Which now also is flagged)



Near repeat shooting



Risky place - vulnerable neighborhoods



Risky places – open drug markets

- “Finally, one expects repeat and near-repeat shootings to occur in public or semi-public places that are the focus of routine illegal activities of many potential victims. An excellent example of this is a drug-sales corner.” (Ratcliffe & Rengert 2008: 61)



Open drug market locations

- Often by local centers
- Often in deprived neighborhoods
- Malmö: Can often provide shelter (roof)
- Malmö: And/or parking (parking lots – residential or public institutions such as schools)

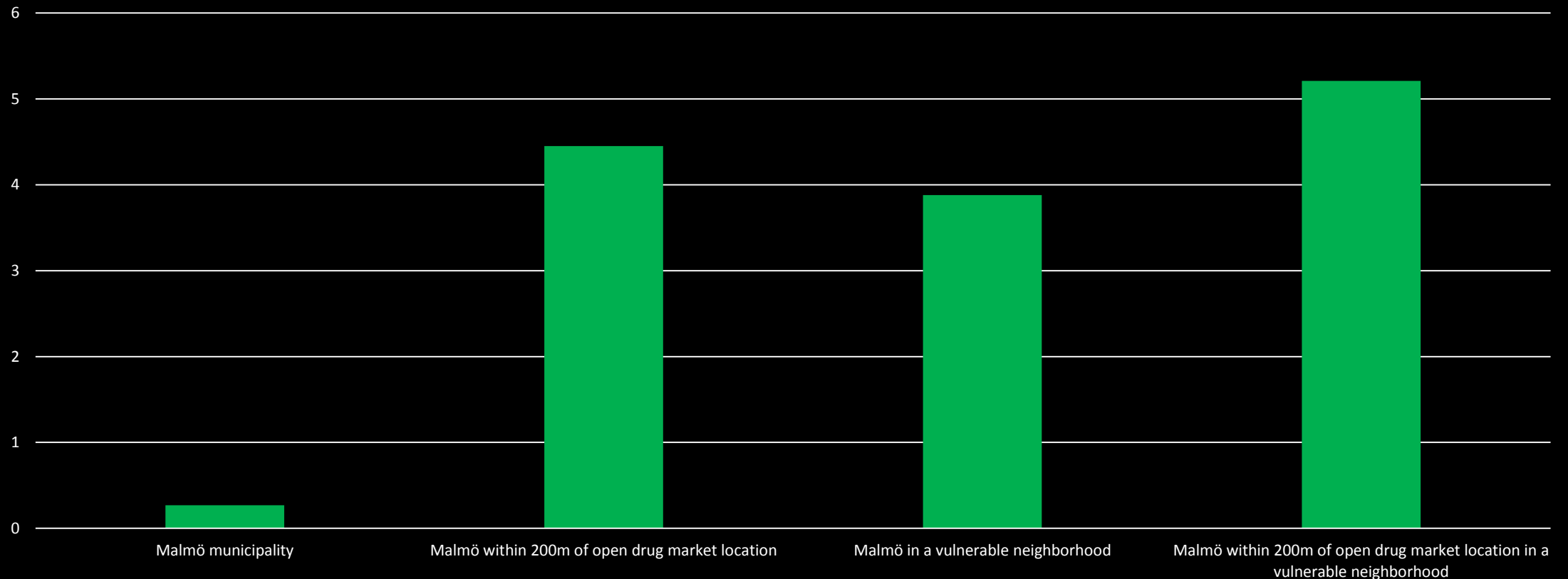
- Open drug scenes typology – Magnusson (2020). City - Vulnerable neighborhood – Suburb - Other

Research idea

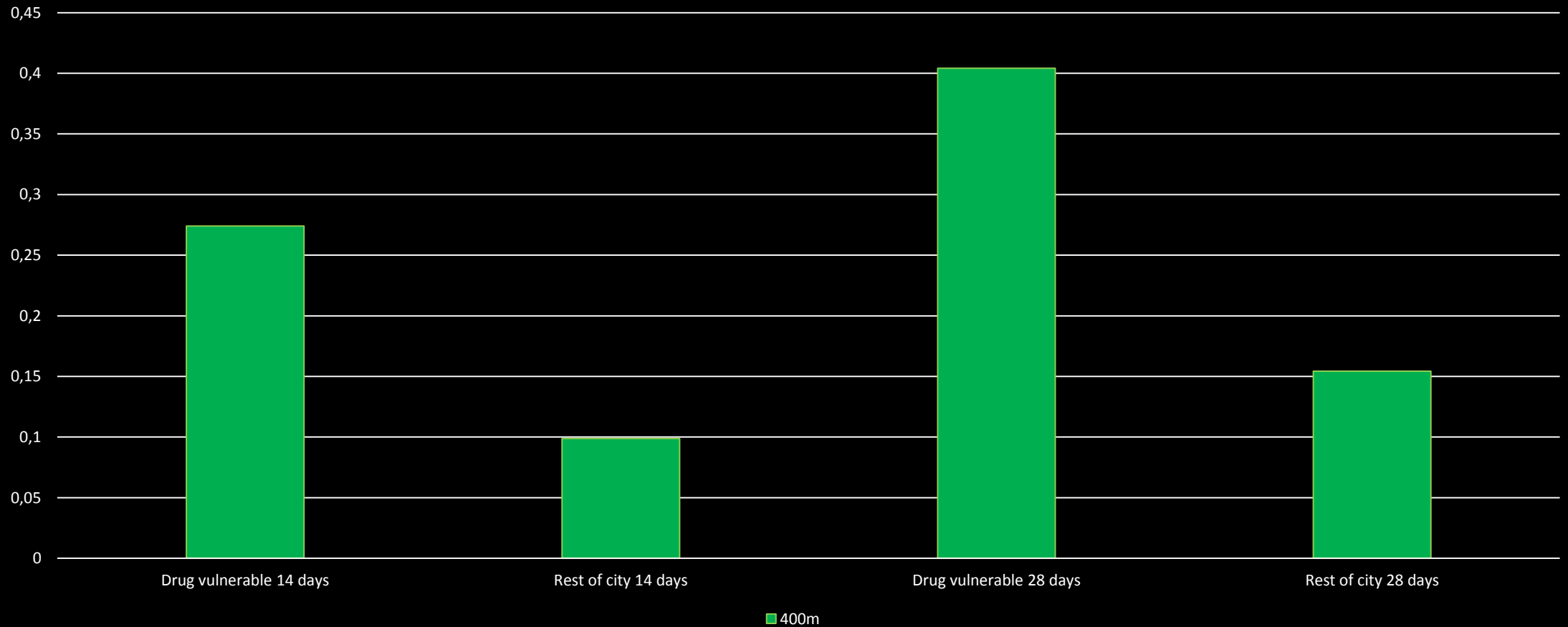
- Shootings/area in different types of places
- => How much more common is gun violence in vulnerable neighborhoods and/or open drug markets than elsewhere?
- Near repeat frequency in different types of places
- => How much more common is near repeat gun violence by an open drug scene in a vulnerable neighborhood than elsewhere?
- Stockholm County (~2M pop), Malmö Muni (~300k).
- Shooting registries (illegal firearm discharges) 2011-2017 (N=958).

Open drug markets in vulnerable neighborhoods very risky places

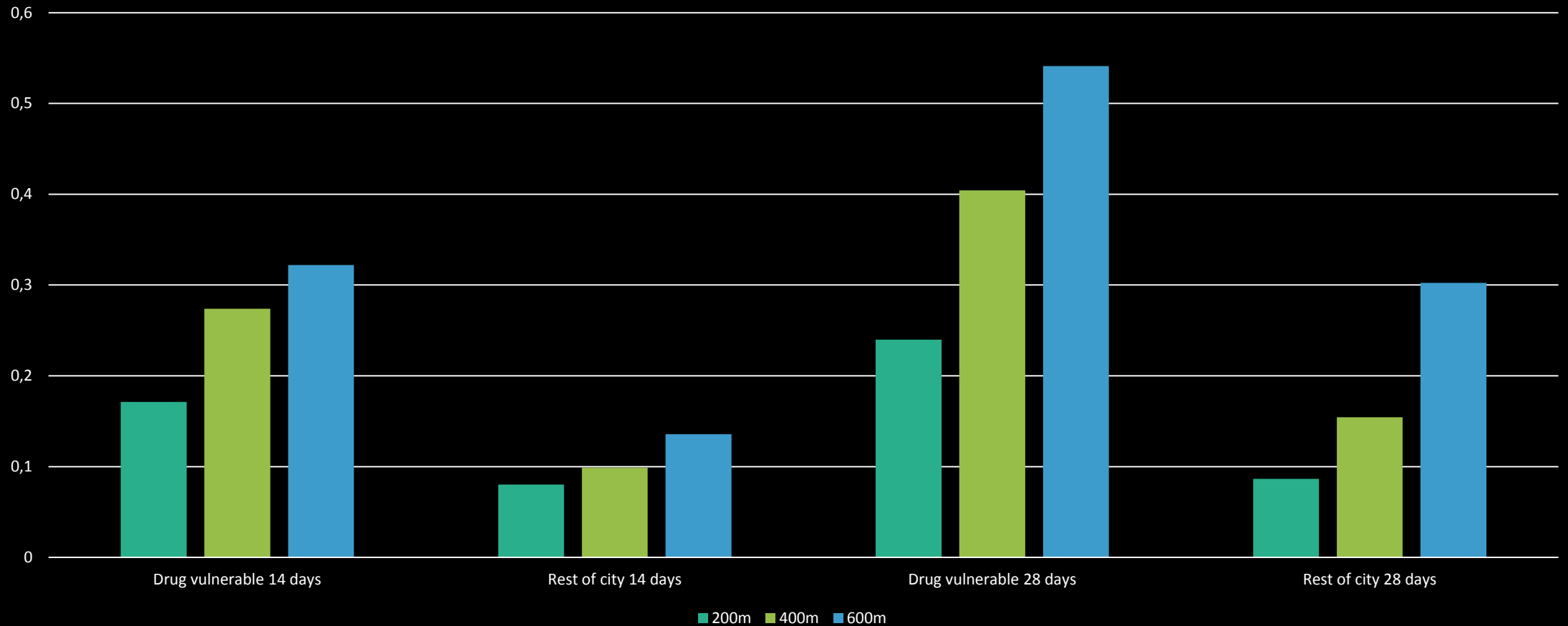
Shootings per square kilometer in Malmö 2011-2017



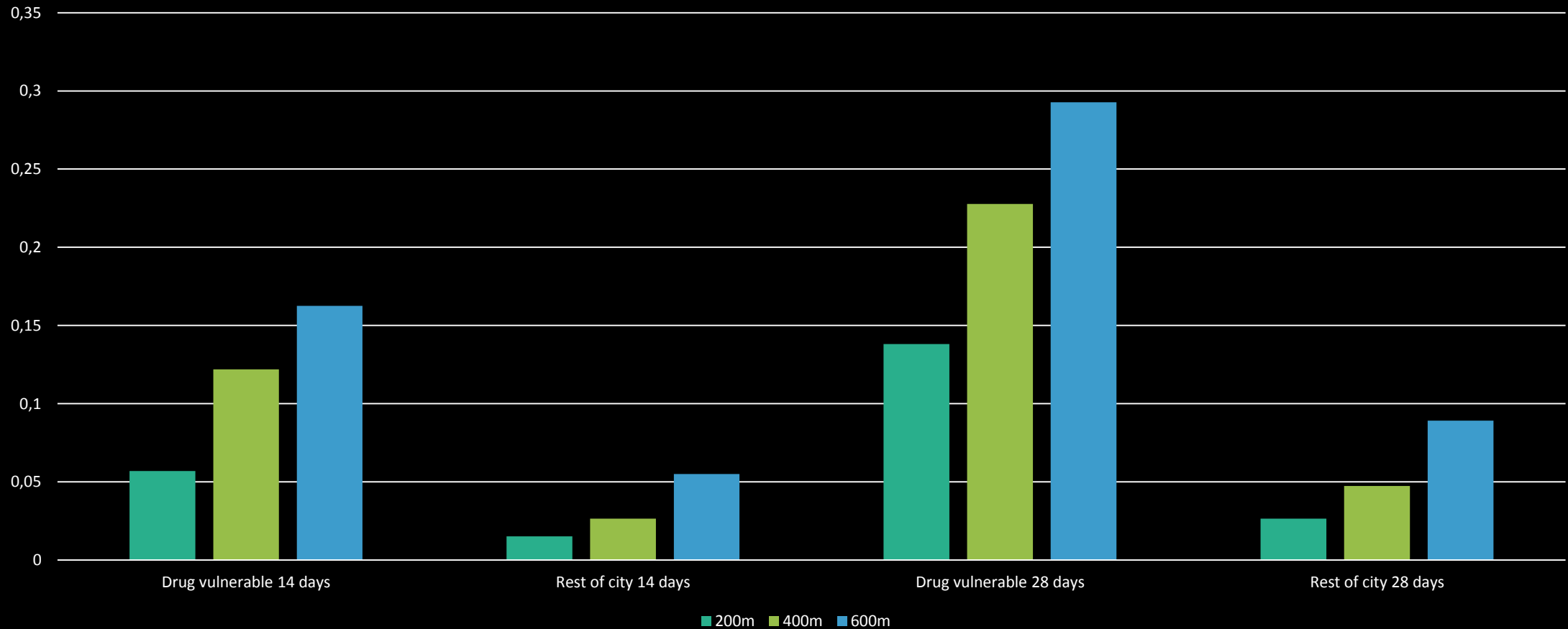
Risky places also have much higher repeat rates



Near repeats/originator event location Malmö

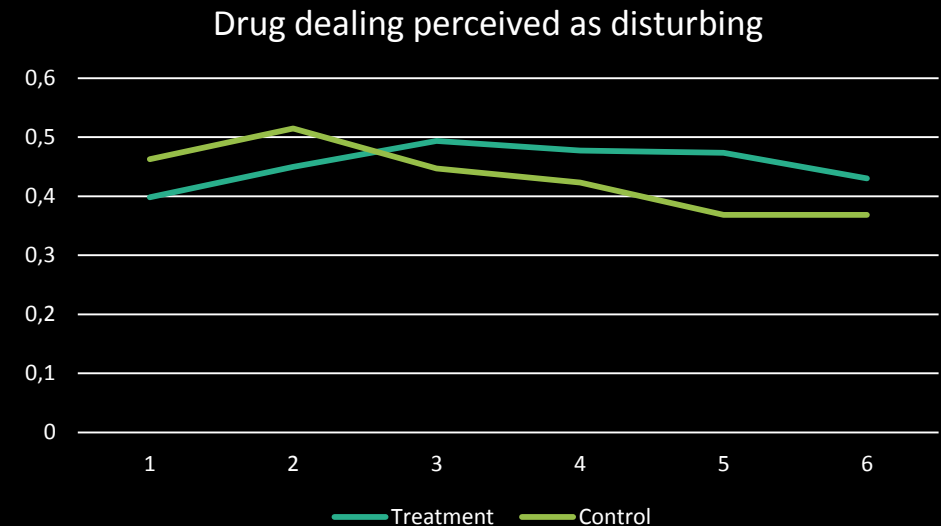


Near repeats/originator event location Sthlm



What can be done then?

- Increased police presence at high risk* location after a shooting
- ~Hot-spot policing of such locations? (resulted in more drugs/weapons seized, but no impact on violence)
- Trying to remove/displace the open drug scenes?
- Drone supported interventions to improve resident perception of the situation? (no short term impact)



Risky places for gun violence

- Risky places – open drug markets and “gang” neighborhoods – do a fair job in predicting shootings
- = Risky places are incredibly risky in the weeks following a shooting
- Drugs? Gangs!
- Police interventions against high risk locations are likely worthwhile

Further reading on effect of policing on violence

- Werb, D., Rowell, G., Guyatt, G., Kerr, T., Montaner, J., & Wood, E. (2011). Effect of drug law enforcement on drug market violence: A systematic review. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 22(2), 87-94.
- Wheeler, A. P., Riddell, J. R., & Haberman, C. P. (2021). Breaking the chain: How arrests reduce the probability of near repeat crimes. *Criminal justice review*, 46(2), 236-258.
- Chalfin, A., LaForest, M., & Kaplan, J. (2021). Can precision policing reduce gun violence? evidence from “gang takedowns” in new york city. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.