

Trends of Violence in Pan-American Organized Crime

Kyle Gardiner

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1 Introduction

Is there a substantial trend of increasing organized criminal violence since 1989?

The hypothesis of this analysis is that no, violence between gangs, and upon civilians is stable and any variation is within standard deviation.

This analysis undertook answering the question primarily by examining the conflicts recorded in the UCDP (Croicu & Sundberg, 2015), filtering and wrangling out other causes of violence to focus on cartels, gangs, and criminals. The operational definition of non-state violence used in this study excludes groups with external motivations such as paramilitary groups with extremist left- or right-wing political ideologies, even if they are funded by illegal means, since their motivation for violence cannot be positively stated as being in the pursuit of crime, but is more likely to be connected to the pursuit of political power.

2 Methods

The data required by this study was only a small subset of the data recorded in the UCDP, which was filtered by region, and then each unique conflict dyad was read to highlight those of criminal nature, they were split by UCDP conflict type into different dataframes to filter out non-criminal conflicts, and then criminal conflicts were bound together into a single comprehensive dataframe.

```
library('tidyverse')

conflict = read.csv('conflict.csv')

conflict.am = conflict %>%
  filter(conflict$region %in% c('Americas'))

conflict.am.1 = conflict.am[!duplicated(conflict.am$dyad.name), ]

conflict.am.1 = conflict.am.1 %>%
  filter(conflict.am.1$type.of.violence == 1)

conflict.am.2 = conflict.am[!duplicated(conflict.am$dyad.name), ]

conflict.am.2 = conflict.am.2 %>%
  filter(conflict.am.2$type.of.violence == 2)

conflict.am.3 = conflict.am[!duplicated(conflict.am$dyad.name), ]

conflict.am.3 = conflict.am.3 %>%
  filter(conflict.am.3$type.of.violence == 3)

conflict.am.2 = conflict.am %>%
  filter(conflict.am$type.of.violence == 2)
conflict.am.3 = conflict.am %>%
  filter(conflict.am$type.of.violence == 3)

conflict.am.3 = conflict.am.3 %>%
  filter(dyad.name %in% c('los zetas - civilians',
    'Medellín Cartel - Civilians',
    'Cartel del Norte del Valle - Civilians',
    'Cali Cartel - Civilians',
    'Buxton gang - Civilians',
    'PEPES - Civilians',
    'Mara Salvatrucha (Honduras) - Civilians'))
```

```

conflict.am.2$crime.dyad = ifelse(conflict.am.2$dyad.name %in% c('AUC -FARC',
  'MRTA - Senderp Luminoso',
  'Santiago Xochiltepec - Santo Domingo Teojomulco',
  'Supporters of Jean-Bertrand Aristide - Supporters of Roger Lafontant',
  'Supporters of JLP - Supporters of PNP',
  'Laime - Qaqachaca',
  'AUC - ELN',
  'FARC - Autodefensas Campesinas del Magdalena Medio',
  'Ambalo Indians - Guambiano Indians',
  'Huaorani - Tagaeri'), 'false', 'true')

conflict.am.2 = conflict.am.2 %>%
  filter(crime.dyad == 'true')

conflict.crime = rbind(conflict.am.2, conflict.am.3)

```

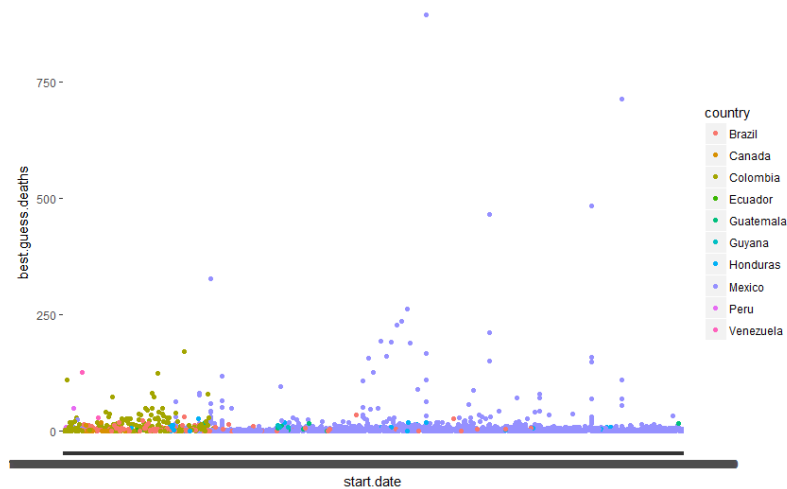


Figure 1: With a few extreme anomalies, crime is stable

3 Conclusion

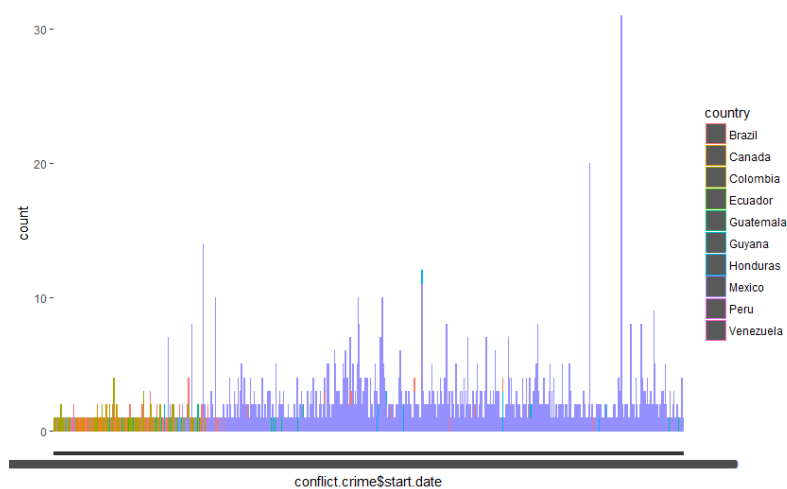


Figure 2:

As can be seen in Figure 1, despite there existing a few extraordinary anomalies throughout the Americas over the past 27 years, the occurrence and extravagance of violence has not seen dramatic changes, although its location seems to, which can also be seen in Figure 2.

To be noted for further research is the lack of the inclusion of statistical data on individually committed criminal violence, which left the United States of America decidedly absent from the above analysis.

The link to the Git repository for the data analysis of this study can be found at:

4 References

References

Croicu, M. & Sundberg, R. (2015). Ucdp ged codebook version 2.0. *Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University*.