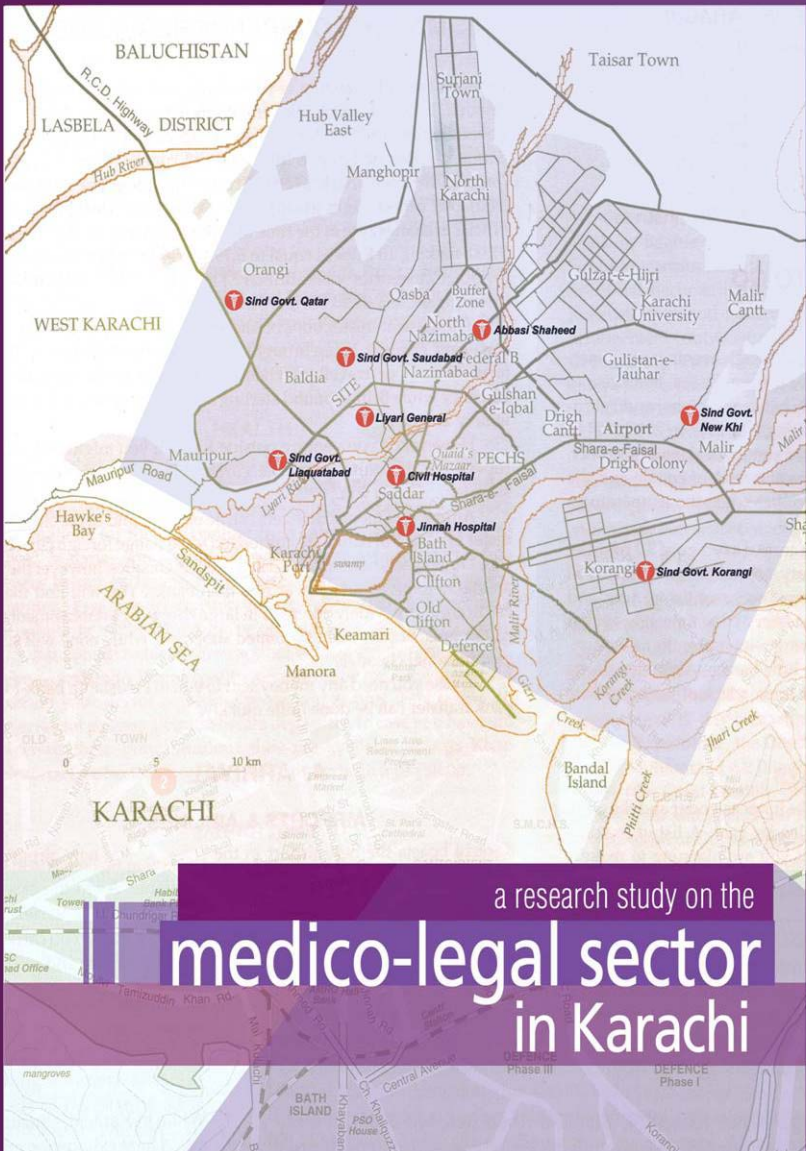


AAHUNG'S RESEARCH STUDY ON THE MEDICO- LEGAL SECTOR IN KARACHI.



What is the Medico-legal Department ?

In the event of certain injuries requiring **medical** and **legal** intervention individuals need to be examined by a **government appointed doctor** working in one of the **designated public hospitals**.

The **public hospital section** where such patients are **examined** and **treated** is referred to as the **medico-legal department**.



Objectives of the Study

1. To determine the **effectiveness** of medico-legal services in Karachi;
2. To assess the **knowledge and adherence** to policy protocol of all the stakeholders in the medico-legal sector;
3. To assess the **practices and challenges** faced by stakeholders involved in the medico-legal sector; and
4. To develop **recommendations** to improve medico-legal services which can be submitted to the relevant government authorities

Stakeholders

- Medico-legal Officers
- Additional Police Surgeons
- Police Surgeon
- Office of the Chemical Examiner
- Client/Survivor



Methodology and Research Design

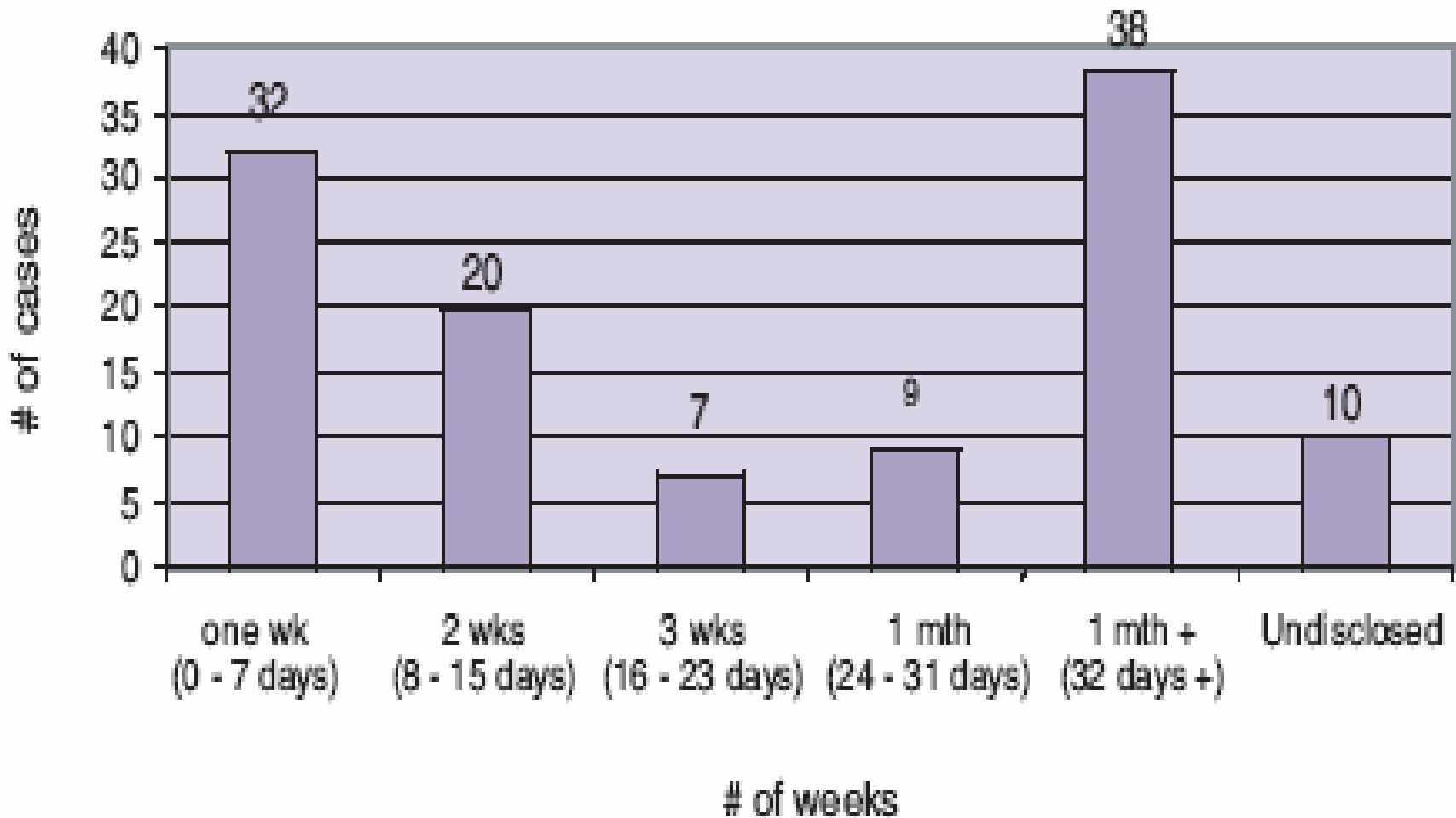
- Planning Phase
 - Comprehensive Literature Review
 - Interviews with medico-legal stakeholders
 - Analysis of select medico-legal certificates (for the period 2003)
 - Analysis of Karachi's crime statistics (2000 – 2004)
- Sampling: All stakeholders interviewed
- Data Collection: Quantitative and qualitative interviews



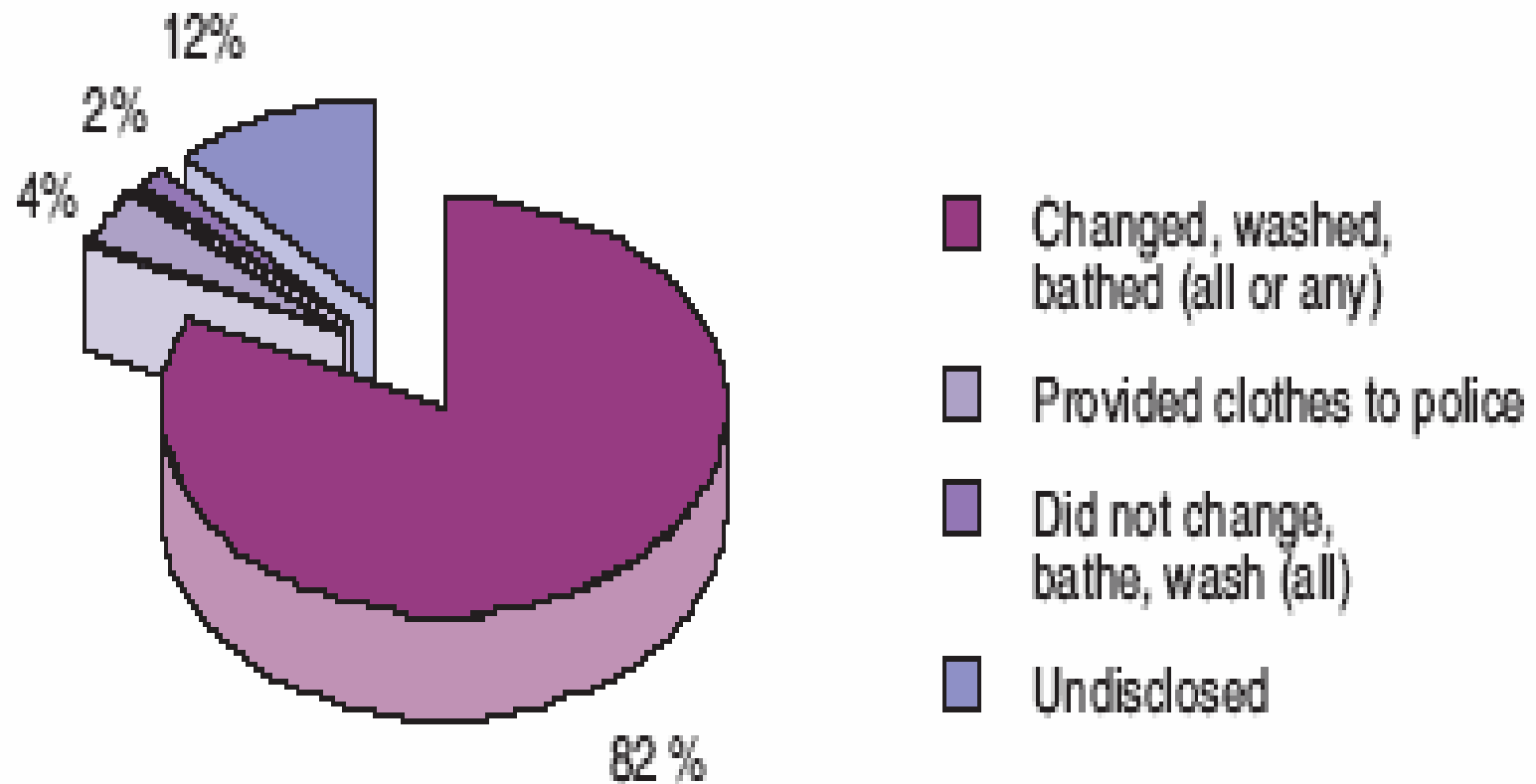
CASE STUDY 1

Civil Hospital Karachi – 2003 Data

Analysis of select ML certificates



Analysis of select ML certificates

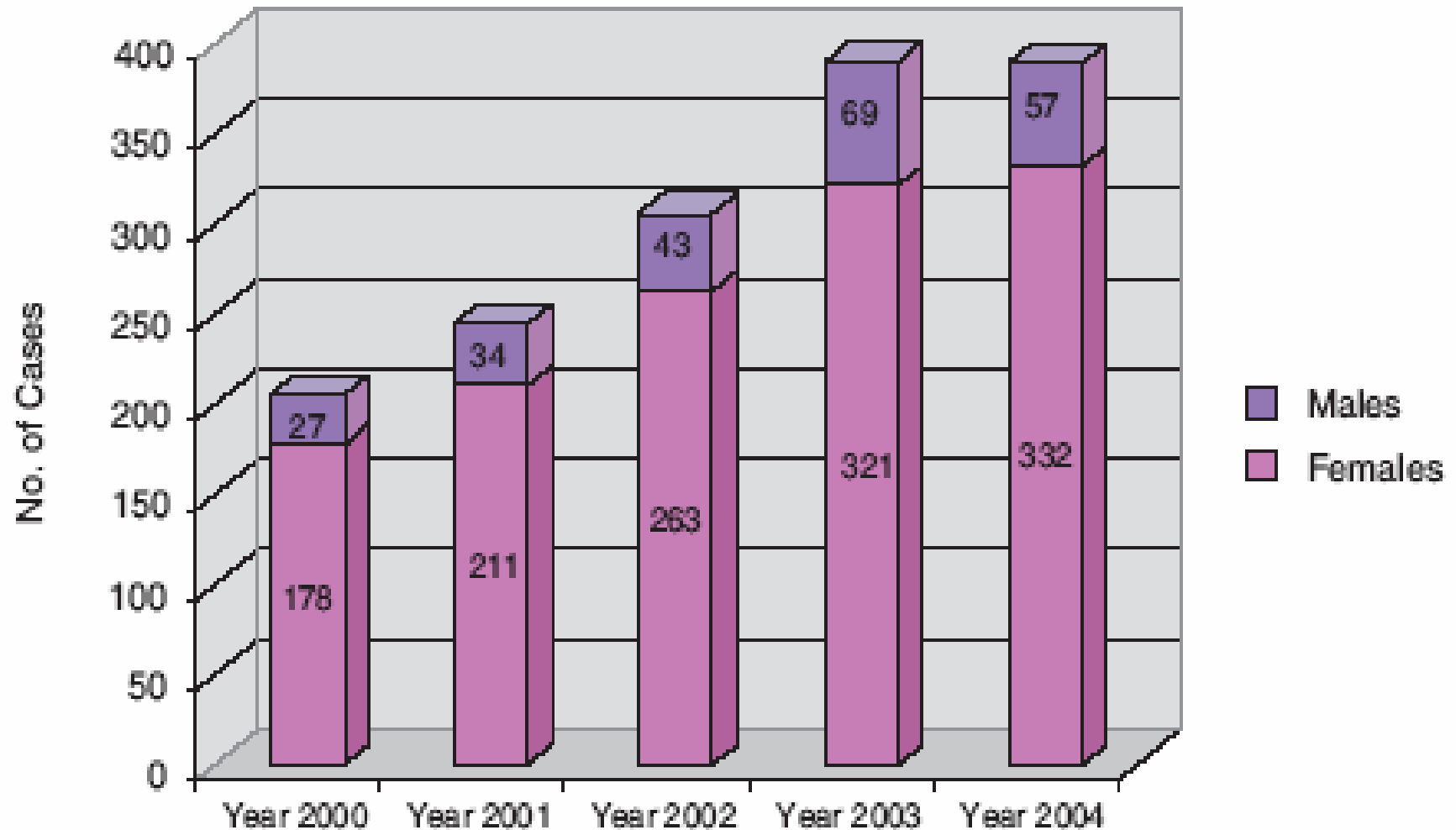




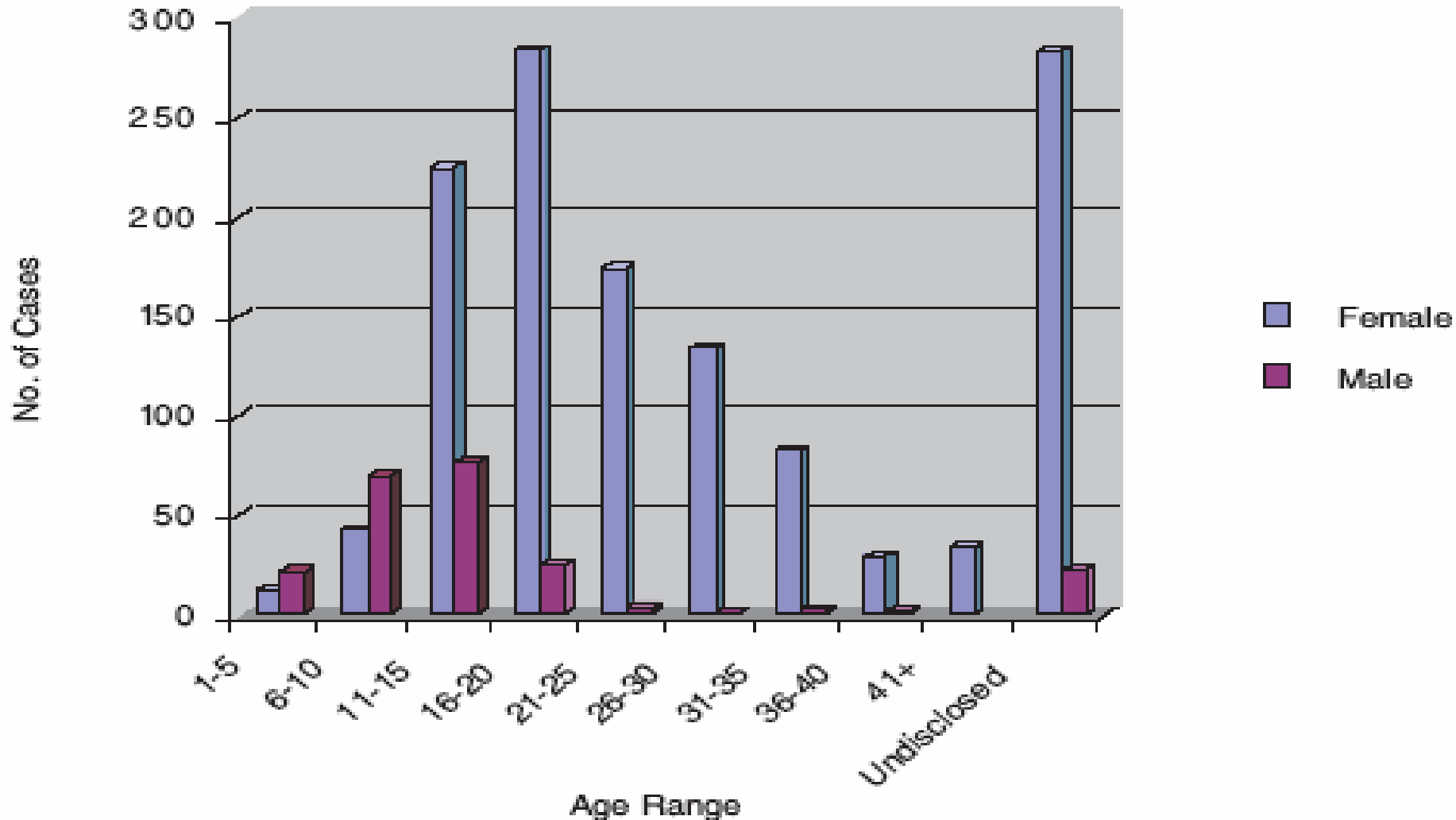
CASE STUDY 2

Karachi Crime Statistics
2000 – 2004 Data

Analysis of crime statistics for 2000-2004



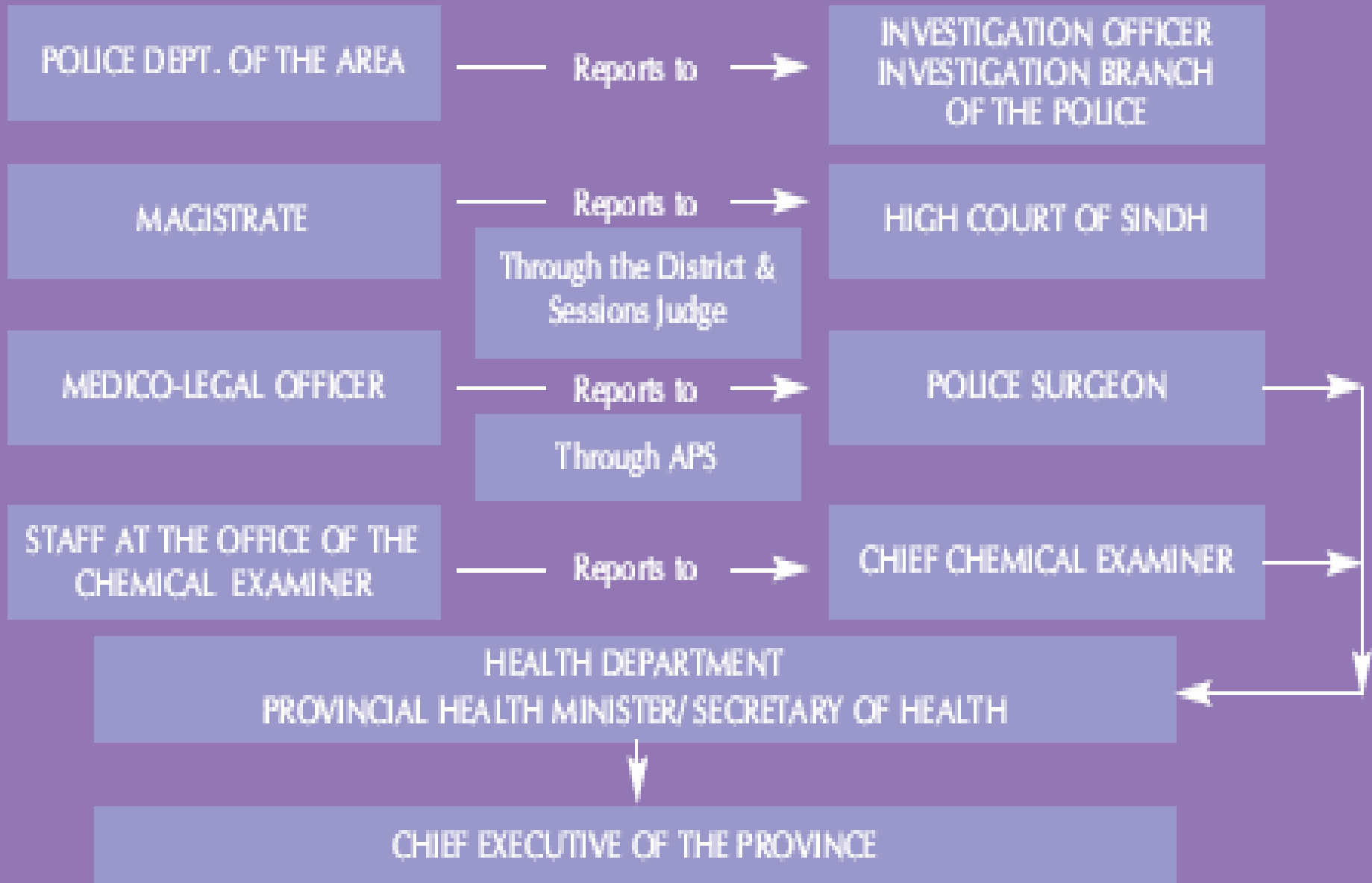
Analysis of crime statistics for 2000-2004





KARACHI MEDICO LEGAL SYSTEM RESEARCH

REPORTING STRUCTURE



Areas of Research

- Qualifications and Trainings
- Facilities and Equipment
- Prophylactic Measures
- Salaries and Budgets
- DNA Testing/Forensic Analysis
- Informed Consent
- Virginity Testing
- Counseling Services
- Examination Costs
- Medico-legal Certificate Related
- Recommendations





RESEARCH FINDINGS

Research Findings

- Poor implementation of government policies and protocols
- Lack of specialization and formal trainings
- Lack of trained counselors
- Insufficient number of MLOs in relation to the total pop. of Karachi (specifically female MLOs)
 - 51MLOs servicing 14 million people
- Dissatisfaction with salaries and benefits
 - 88% expressed dissatisfaction

Research Findings (cont'd)

- Cost of transportation to and from court has to be borne by MLOs
 - Disincentive to make court appearance
- No fee for the examination
 - But, existence of associated costs
- DNA testing is not conducted very often

Research Findings (cont'd)

- Written and informed consent from clients not always practiced
- Pregnancy testing offered depending on time elapsed since rape
- Emergency contraception not offered
- STIs testing not always conducted
 - 60% said not conducted
- Existence of pressure to alter contents of the medico-legal reports
 - 73% said faced a great deal of pressure

Research Findings (cont'd)



- Lack of basic equipment and facilities (proper lighting, examination table etc).
- Delays in forensic analysis and subsequently delays in issuing of the final medico-legal report
- Absence of a standardized medico-legal certificate format
- Virginity testing still practiced

Research Findings - Office of the Chemical Examiner

- No standard procedure or established time line for analysing samples.
- Office has a running stockroom and that it was unusual for them to suffer a shortage of any materials they may need.
- No training on presenting findings in court.
- Attending court to provide testimony can be difficult.
- Limited hours of service
 - M to Th and Sat: 9 -4 pm Fri: 9-12pm; Closed Sunday
- Police sometimes allow samples to pile up before depositing them in bulk
- Bribery and corruption not major issues



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations – Facilities and Equipment

- Provide basic forensic equipment to the medico-legal centers so chemical analysis can be carried out at the center.
- Increase the numbers of medico-legal officers
- Ensure adequate storage and transportation facilities
- All centers should be made fully functional
- Provide separate examination rooms for both men and women

Recommendations – Facilities and Equipment (cont'd)

- Provide a separate washroom for female MLOs and clients
- Introduction of a rape kit
- Basic equipment and facilities states in WHO medico-legal guidelines should be provided to all centers
- Ensure forensic evidence is transported to the Chemical Examiner's Office on the same day it is collected

Recommendations – Budget

- Separate the medico-legal sector budget from the public hospitals' budget.
- Provide a separate travel allowance for court attendance to MLOs and personnel from the Chemical Examiner's Office



Recommendations – Training/Duties

- Provide comprehensive and standardised trainings/refresher trainings
-MLOs, APS, CE
- Provide a job description to all new and existing Medico-legal Officers
- Institute specialised protocols for the care of survivors of sexual violence

Recommendations – Holistic Care

- Ensure availability of Emergency Contraception for survivors of sexual violence
- Provide testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV to all survivors of sexual violence.
- Expand the scope of medico-legal services to include testing and care for pregnancy and abortion.

Recommendations – Holistic Care (cont'd)

- Introduce a consent form for clients at the medico-legal centres.
- Eliminate the practise of performing the 'virginity test' on survivors of sexual violence.
- Provide trained counselors to serve the needs of survivors of sexual violence at the medico-legal centres.
- Strive for more common use of DNA testing in matters related to sexual violence

Recommendations – ML Certificates

- Ensure that the medico-legal certificate is in a bilingual (English and Urdu) format.
- Introduce one standardised medico-legal certificate for survivors of sexual violence across all centres.



Recommendations – M & E

- Introduce mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of medico-legal sector personnel to ensure that protocols are being disseminated and followed.
- Introduce an independent review of the medico-legal sector's functioning on an annual basis.



THANK YOU!