



The Impact of Gun Culture on Society

***Prepared for Firearms Summit
24 March 2015***

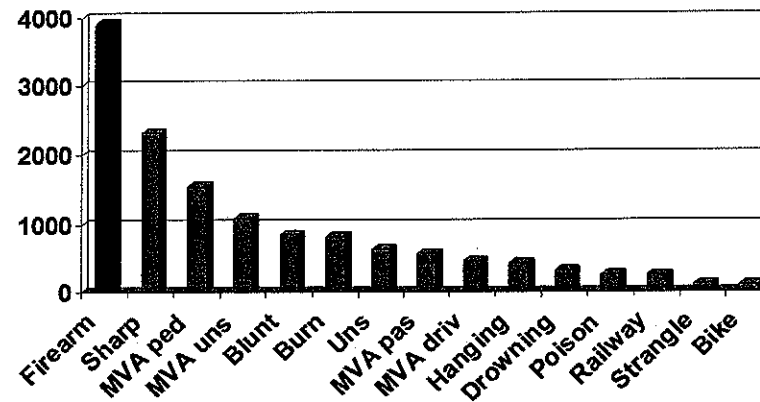
Portfolio Committee on Police in Partnership with the Civilian Secretariat for Police

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Gunshots in South Africa

- *Violence a leading cause of death*
- *Firearm the leading external cause of non-natural deaths (NIMSS)*





Gunshot Statistics (in 2000)

- *More than 800 children killed with firearms*
- *Total homicides 25 000 per year*
- *Over 50% due to gunshots*
- *Attempted murder with firearms 22 000 per year*



Effects of guns on society

- *Men*
- *Women*
- *Children*



■ *Women*



National femicide study

- *1147 (1 of every 3 killed) women were shot by firearms*
- *Nearly half were killed by intimate partners - 405 women*



Legal firearms and women killed

- *Ownership of legal firearms was strongly associated with women killed*
 - *There was a 7 times greater risk of being murdered by an intimate partner if he owned a legal gun*



Suicides with legal guns

- *1 in 5 of the perpetrators committed suicide after killing a partner, most of them had a legal gun*
- *80% of these double murders could have been prevented*



Security workers and legal guns

- *10% of the men who killed their partners were employed as security workers*
- *89% of these security workers used legal guns*



■ *Children*

Gunshot-related injuries in children

- *Systematic Review*

- *Childsafe South Africa Database*

- *All Child injuries treated at Red Cross since 1991*
(n = 160 000)

- *1991-2010 (20 years)*

- *Including all fire-arm related injuries to children*



Red Cross Trauma Unit

- *Only children under the age 0 – 12 years*
- *Drains the Western Part of the Cape Town municipality*
- *10 000 patients per year*

Gunshot-related injuries in children



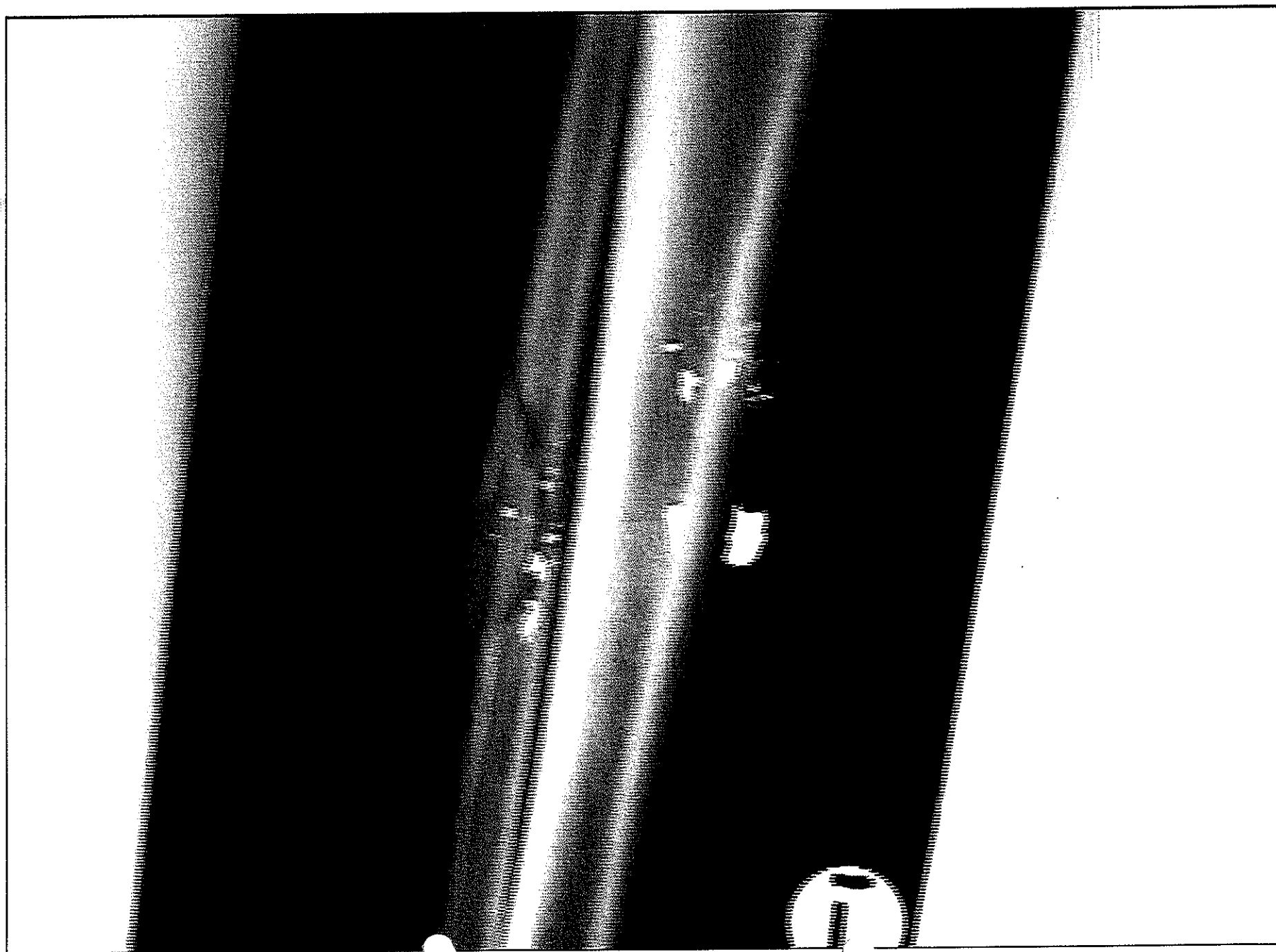
*children
with gunshot
admitted*

Findings: $n = 476$

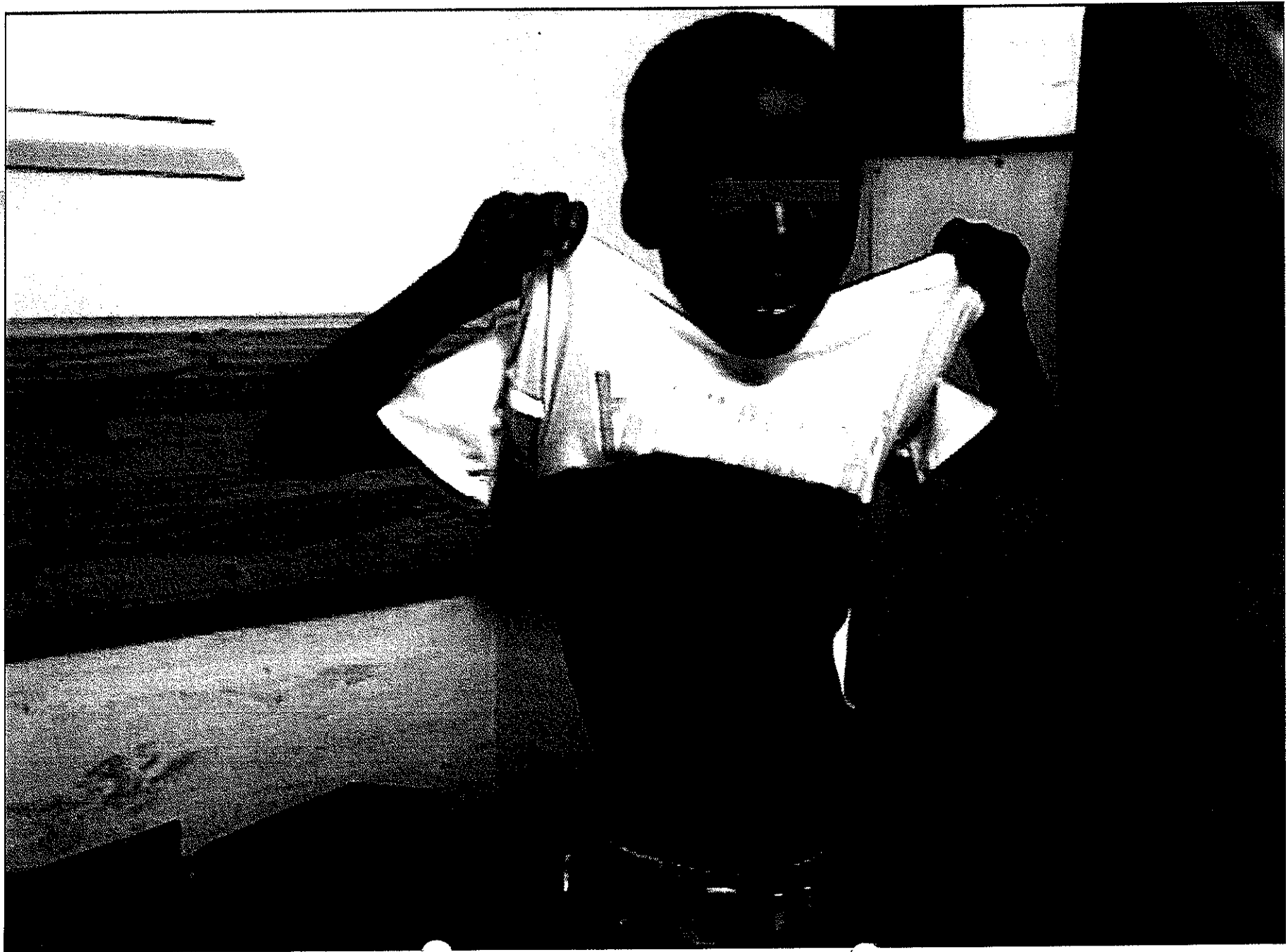
Circumstances of children being shot *(n= 476)*

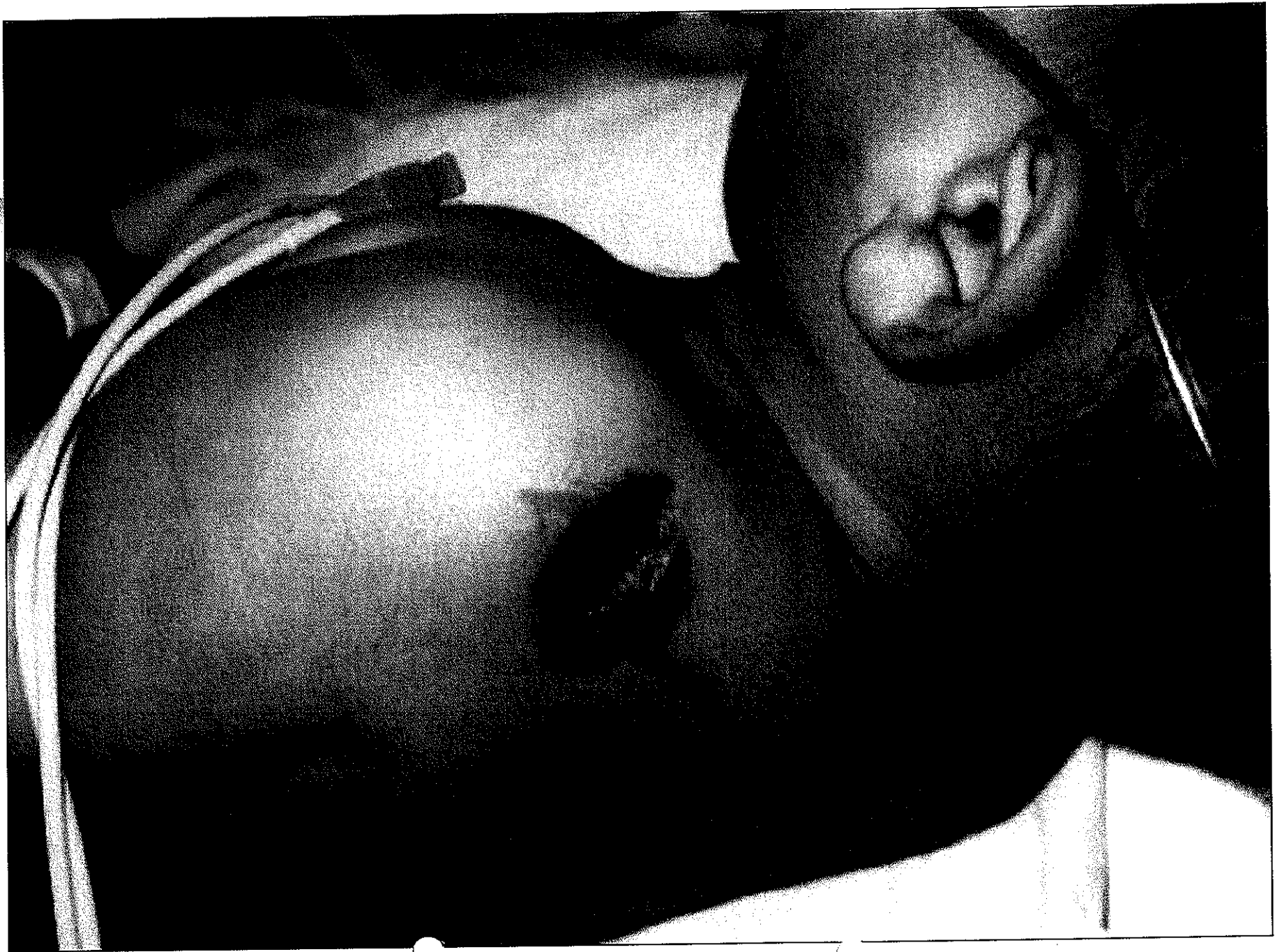
not
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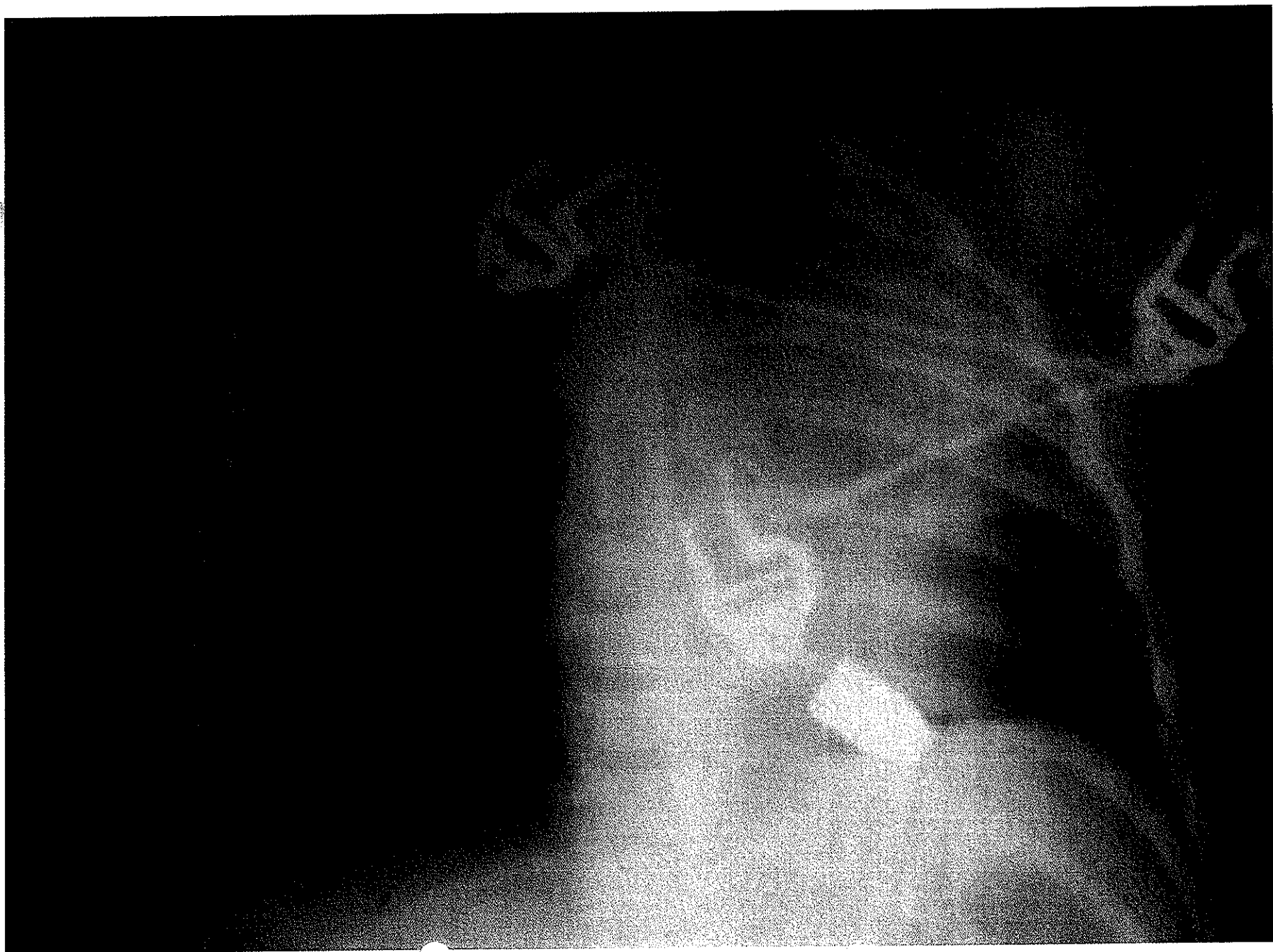
- ***Caught in crossfire*** **43%**
- *Shot deliberately by an adult* 9%
- *Shot deliberately by a child* 3%
- *Playing with a gun* 2%
- *Shot by gangsters* 5%
- *Accidental* 14%

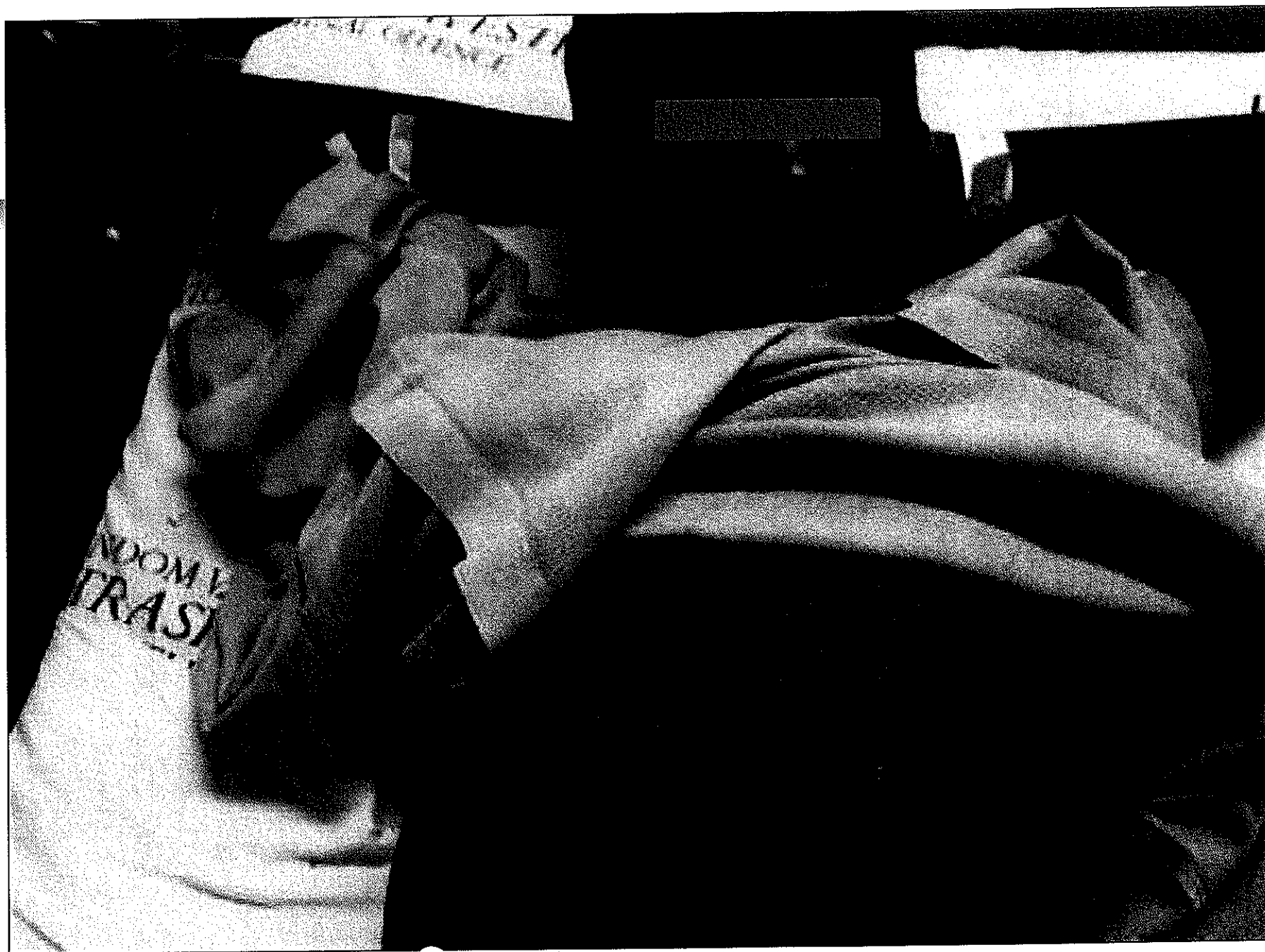


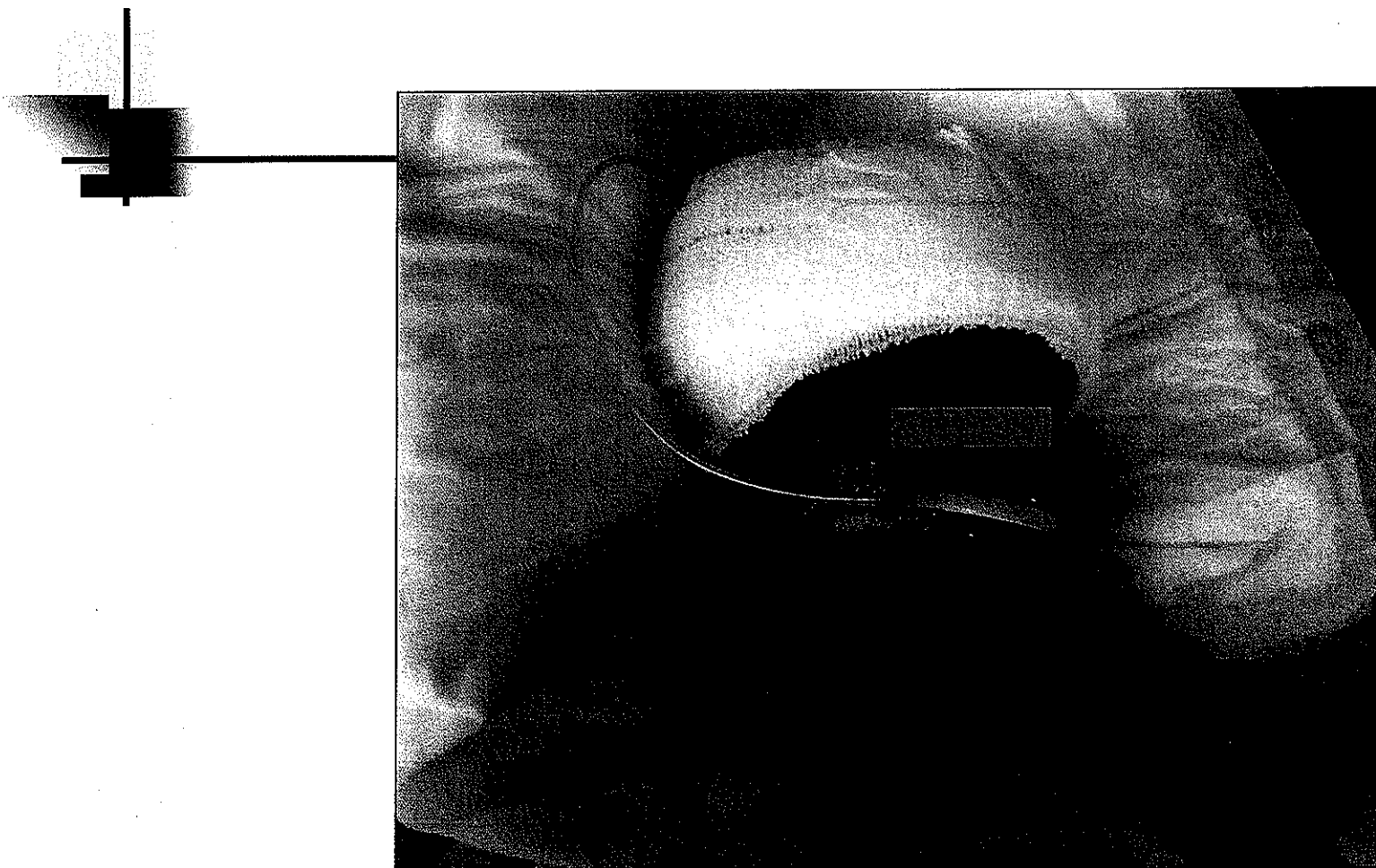












Place of occurrence

- *Informal settlements/townships*

- *In and around own home*

50%

- *Road/ pavement*

40%

*not shot far away
from home
danger of stray bullets*

New Firearm Bill

*biggest impact
of him*

- *Raise minimum age to 21 years*
 - *(Was previous 16 years)*

- *Competency Certificate*
 - *(Previous anyone could buy a gun)*

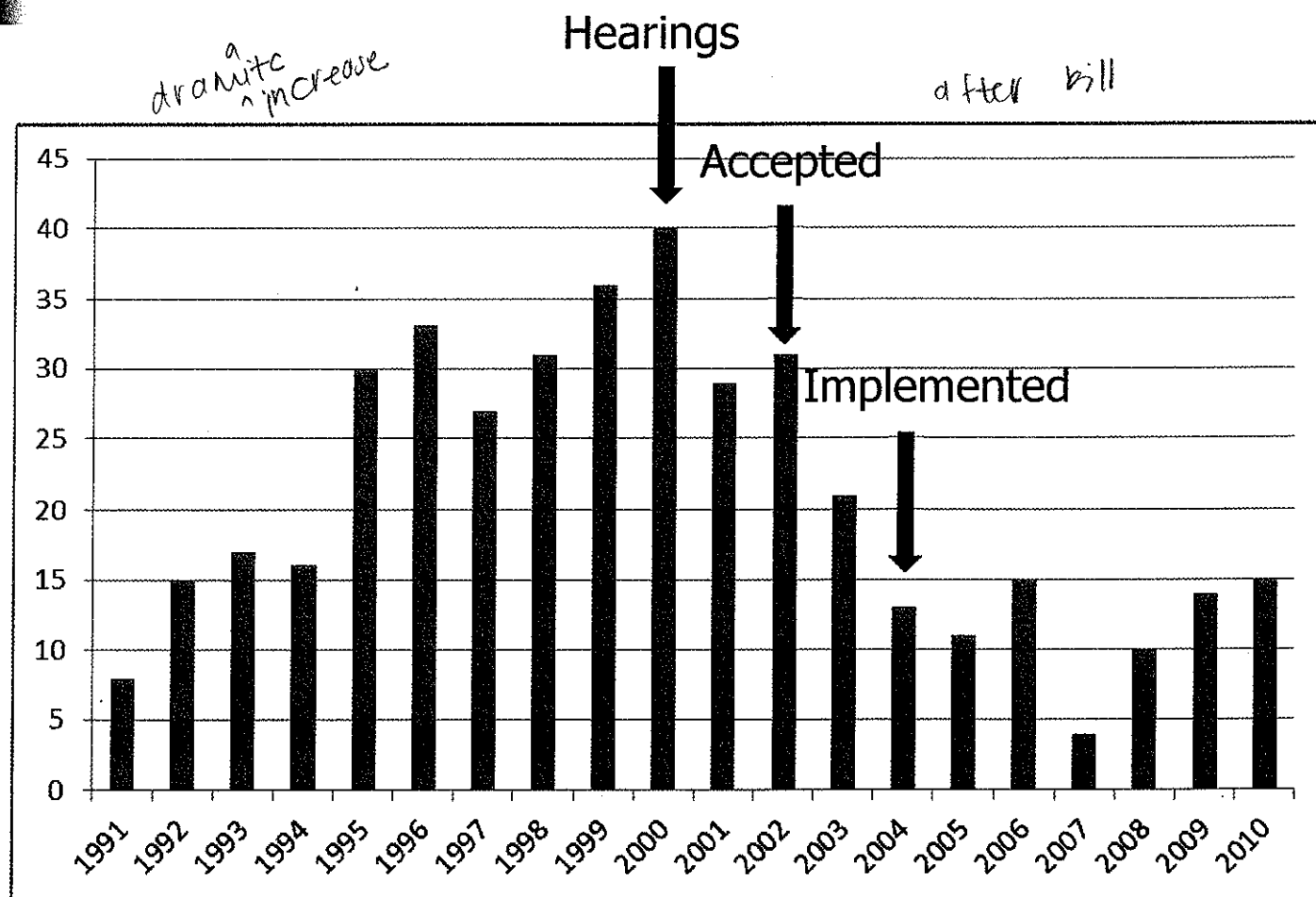
- *Gunfree Zones*
 - *(Places of worship, schools, hospitals,
public transport, shopping centres)*



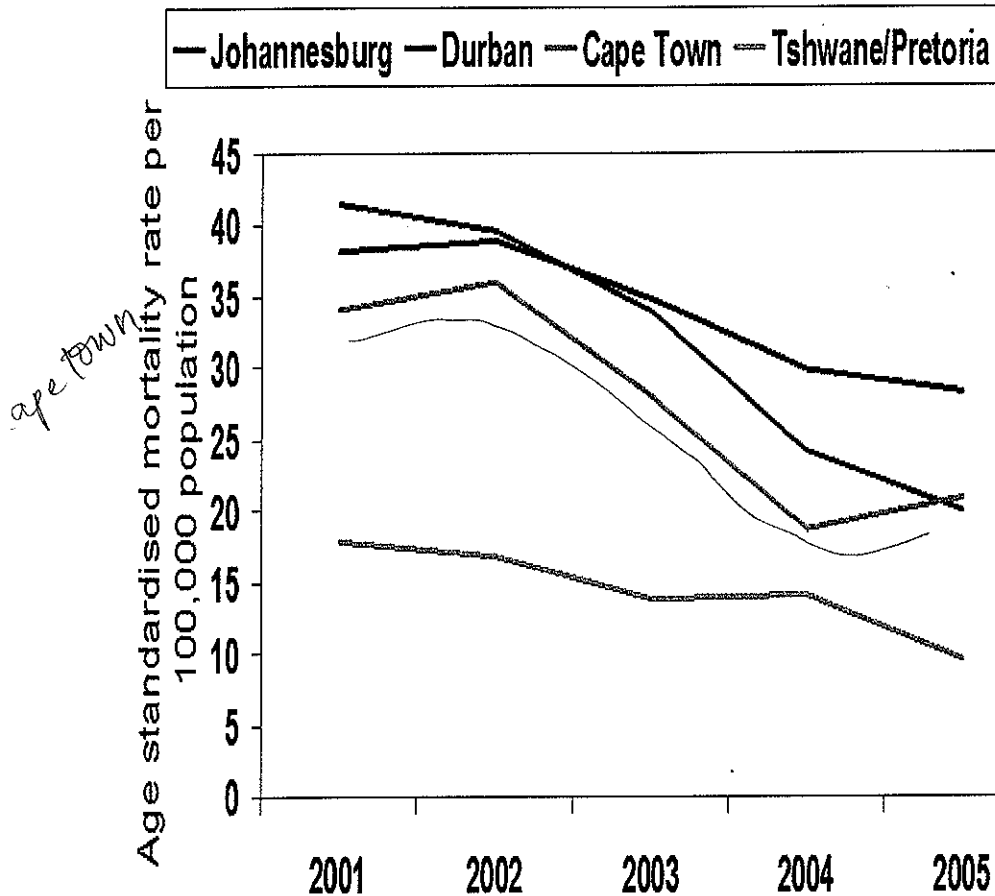
New Firearm Bill

- *First parliamentary hearings in 2000*
- *Adopted in 2002*
- *Implemented in 2004*

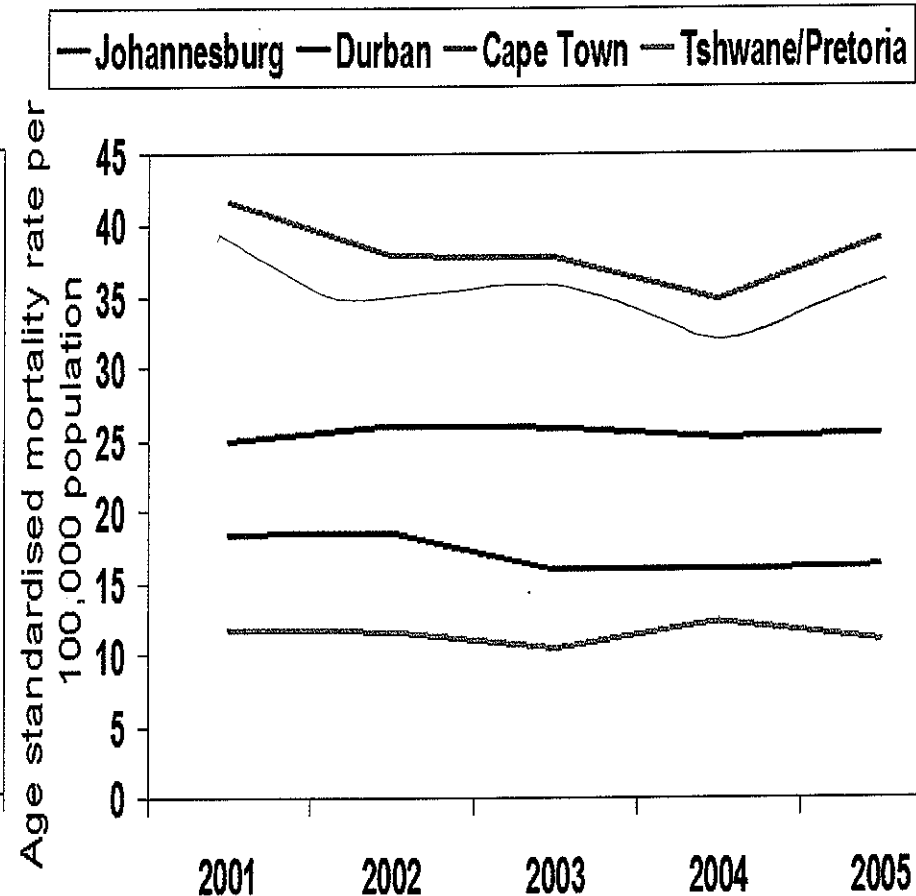
Gunshots of children at Red Cross Children's Hospital (n = 476)



Effect on national firearm related deaths (2001 – 2005; NIMMS)

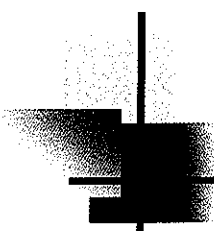


Firearm deaths



Non firearm deaths

ape town



Does the possession of a firearm make you safer?

- *Studies in the USA:*
 - *From all shots fired in the home or yard:*
 - * ■ *only 3 % in self defence*
 - *of which half in self defence against family member*
 - ***ONLY 1.5 % IN SELF DEFENCE AGAINST STRANGER***

*Injuries and deaths due to fire arms in the home. AL Kellerman, G
Somes et al. Journal of Trauma 1998;45:263-267*

Does owning a gun make you safe?



■ *Studies in RSA¹:*

- *84% of violent crimes involve firearm*
- *Of people in possession of firearm for self defence purpose, only 8% wore it at the time of the attack*
- *Possessors of firearms for self defence are 4 times more likely to have it stolen than used*

¹ *A Altbeker. Guns and public safety: Gun crime and self defence in Alexandra and Bramley Graduate School of Public and Development Management at the University of Witswatersrand*