

“From Warfighter To Crimefighter”: The 1033 Program and Police Militarization

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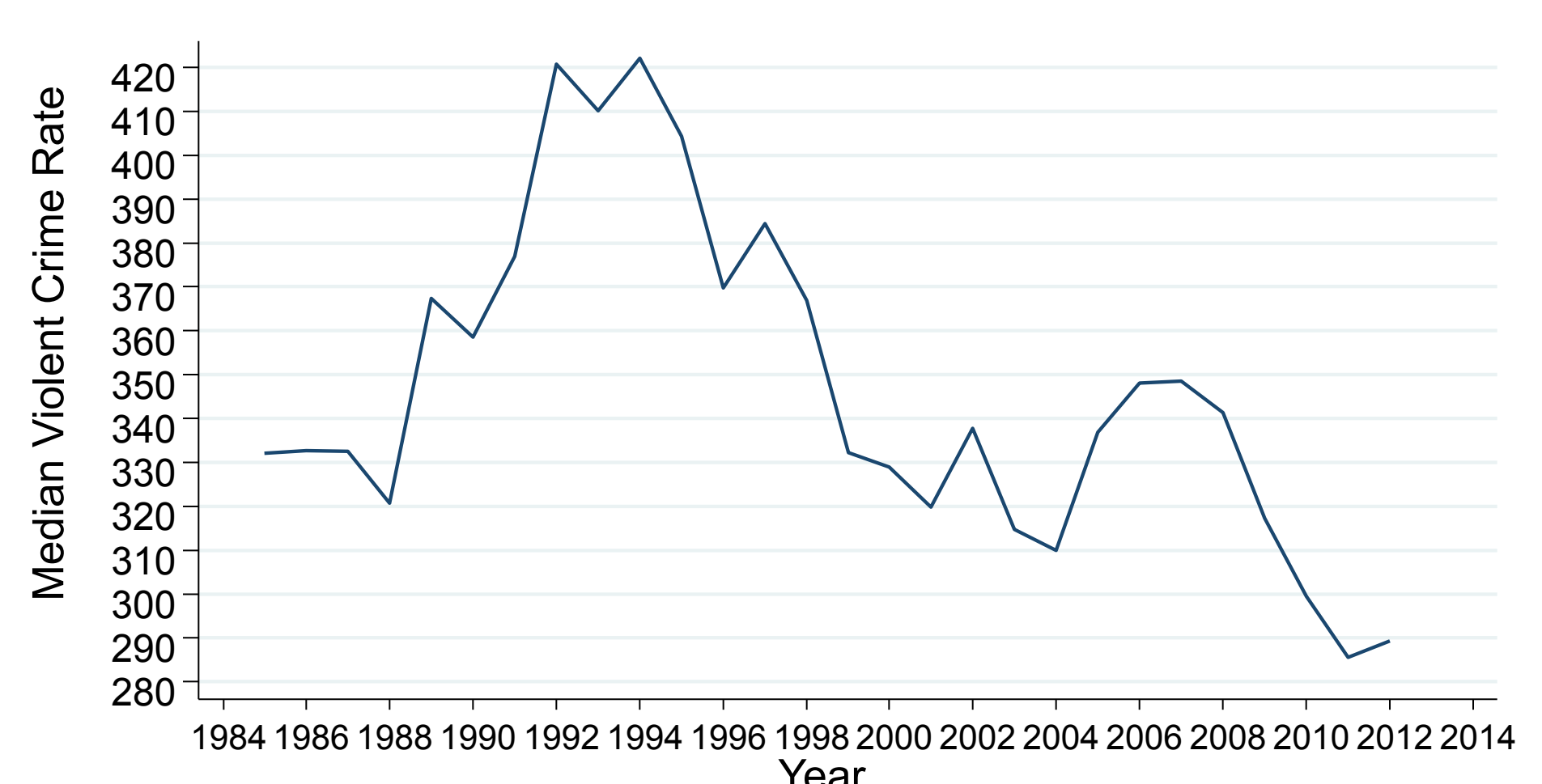
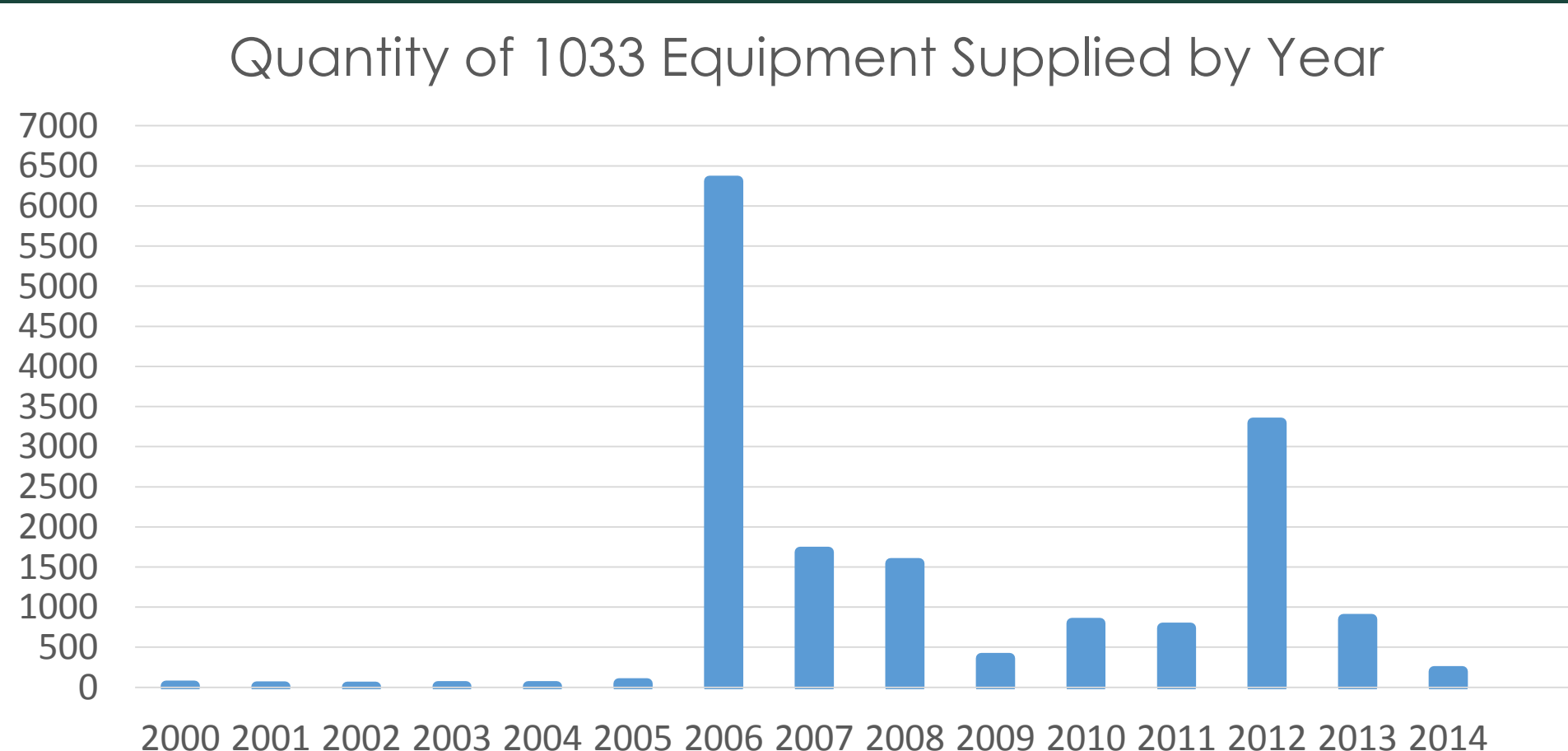
1033 Background

- The 1033 Program is a Department of Defense program that supplies military equipment to police departments
- All equipment is provided for free, except for shipping costs
- Equipment can range from office furniture to armored vehicles
- Over 8,000 police departments have received program aid

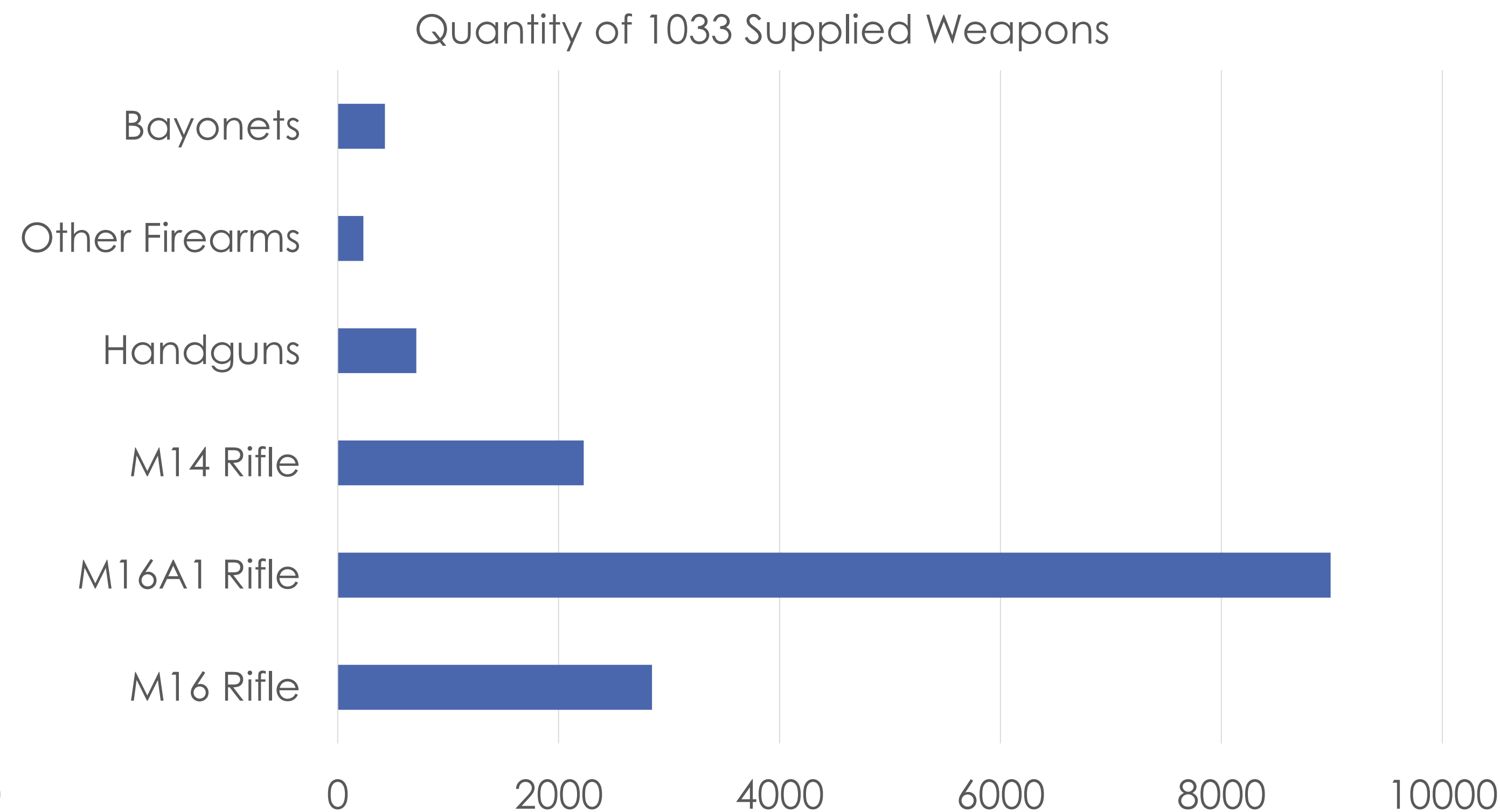
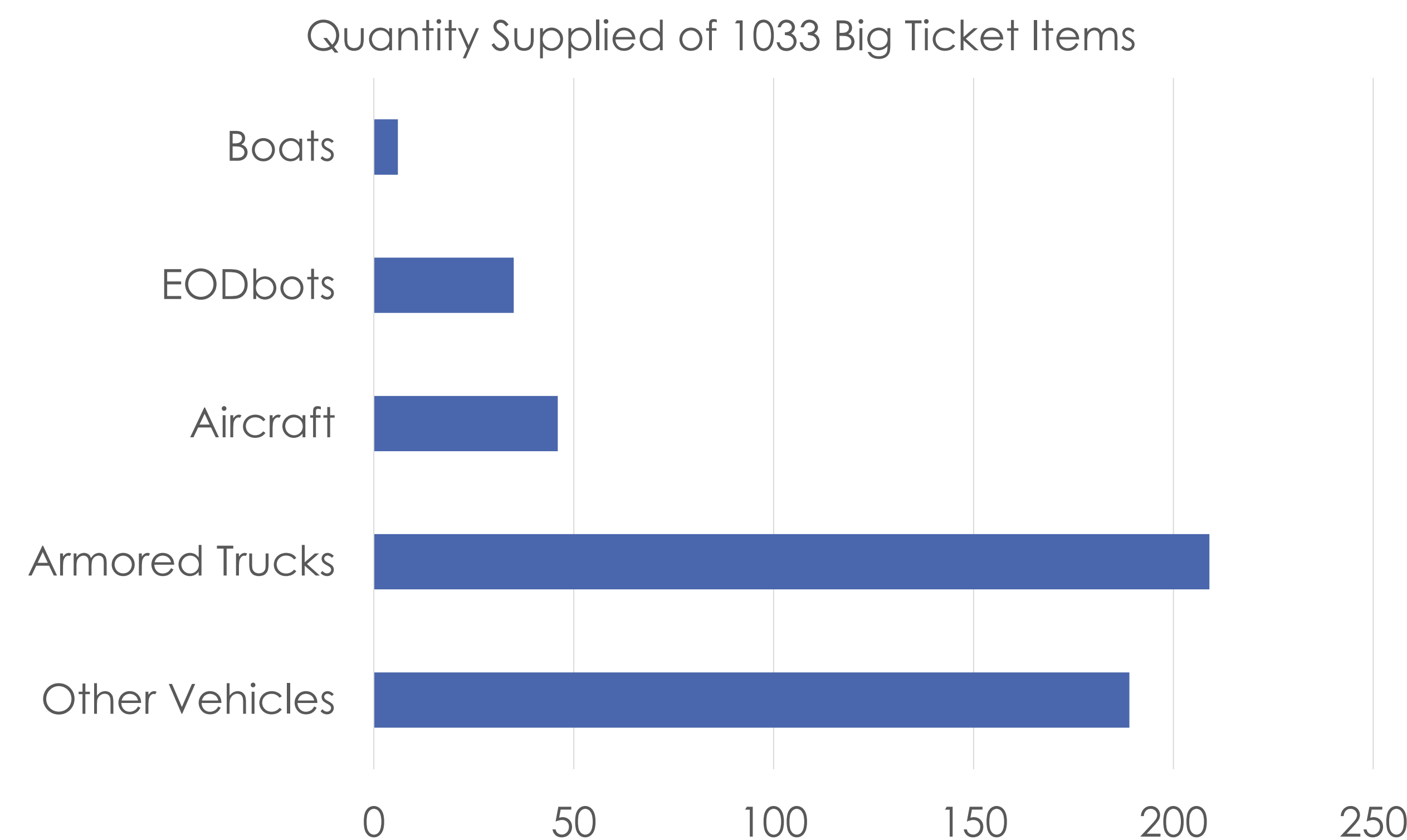
Militarization Concerns

- Experts believe police can develop an “us vs them” view of their work and overly rely on force
- Nationally, SWAT raids per year went from 3,000 in 1980 to over 50,000 in 2005
- Many SWAT teams are not properly trained in using military tactics and weapons
- 80% of towns with populations between 25,000 and 50,000 had a SWAT team by 2005
- Costs associated with the program are also a concern: over \$ 5 billion in total property transfers

1033 and Crime Trends

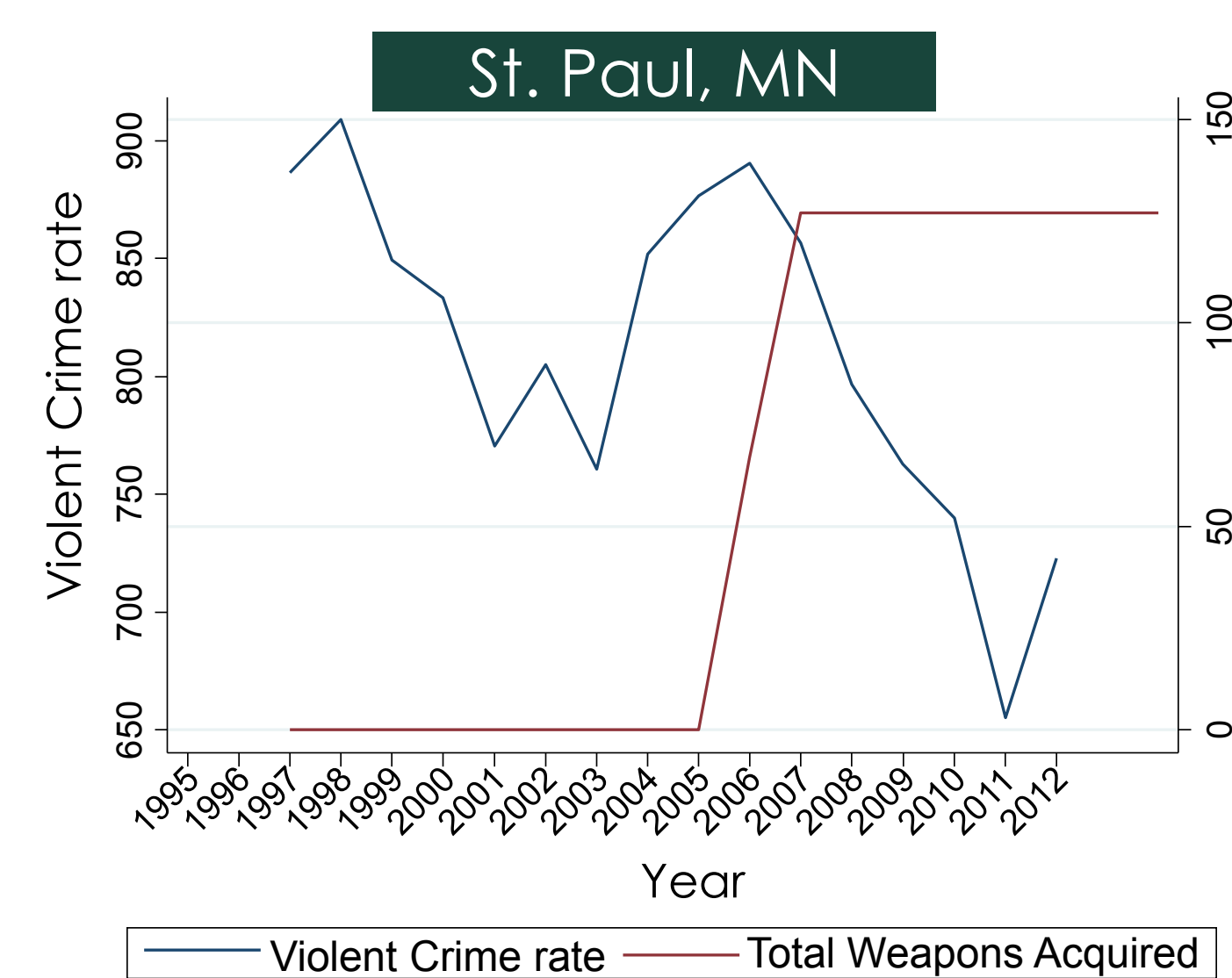
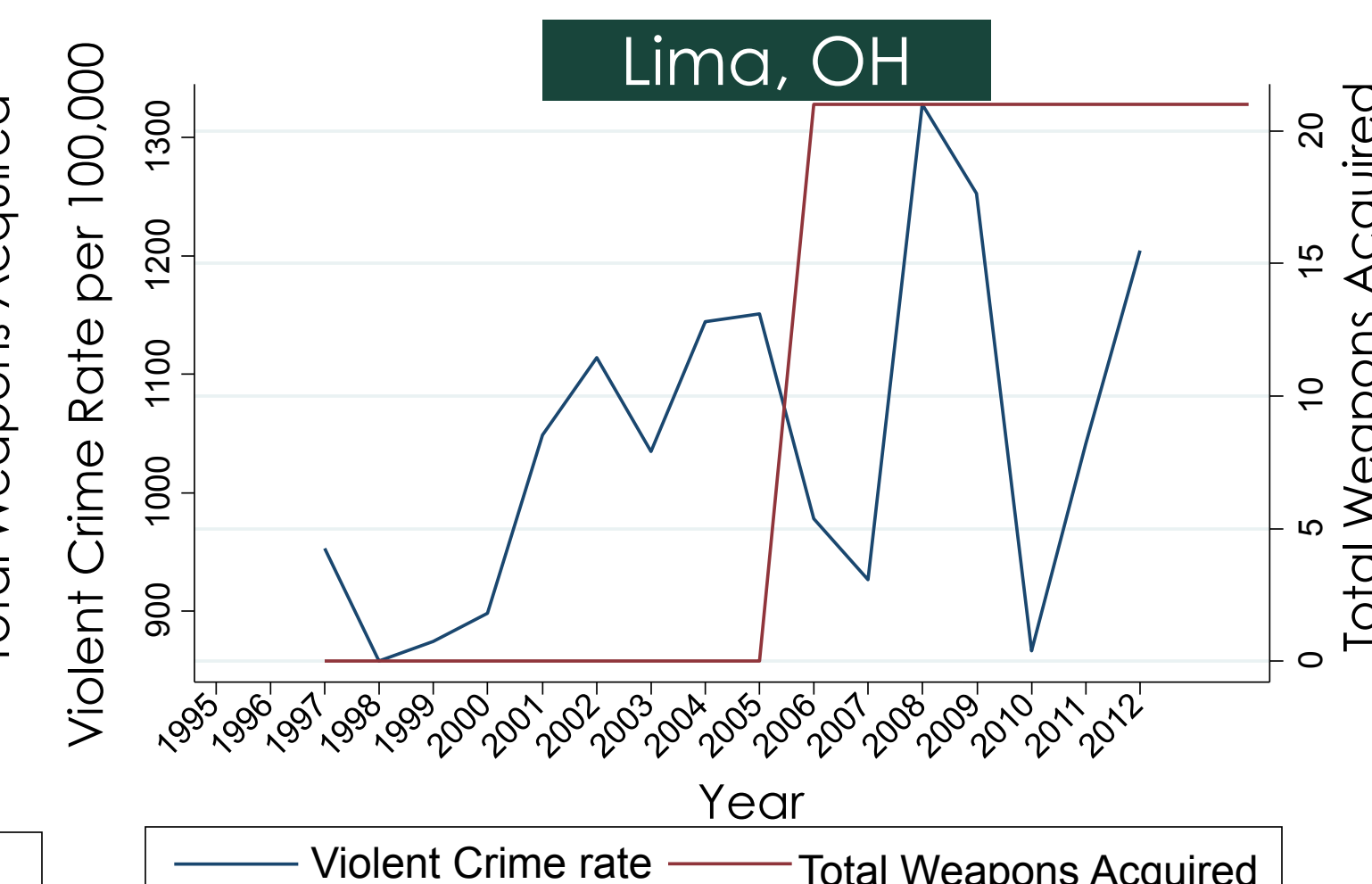
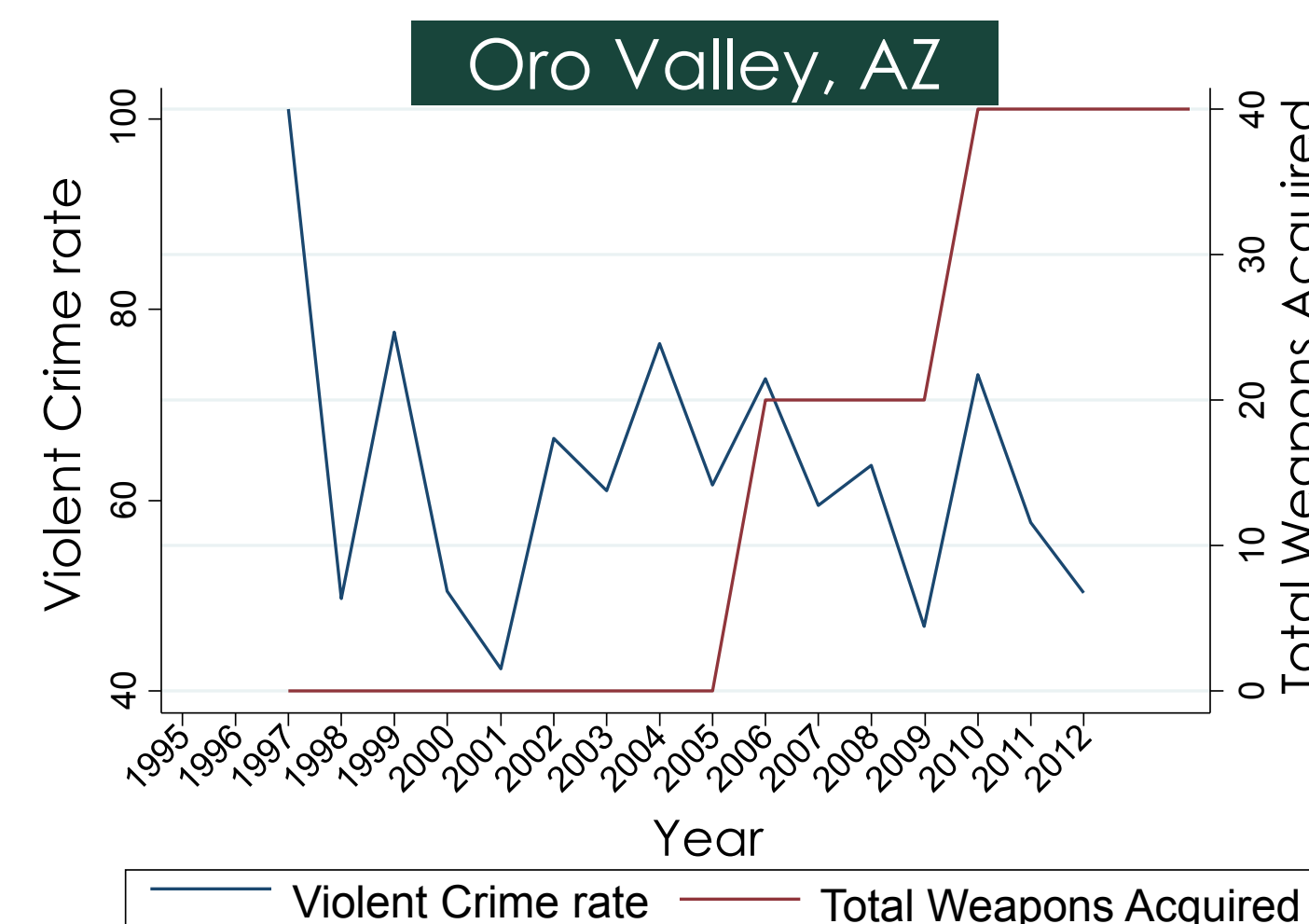
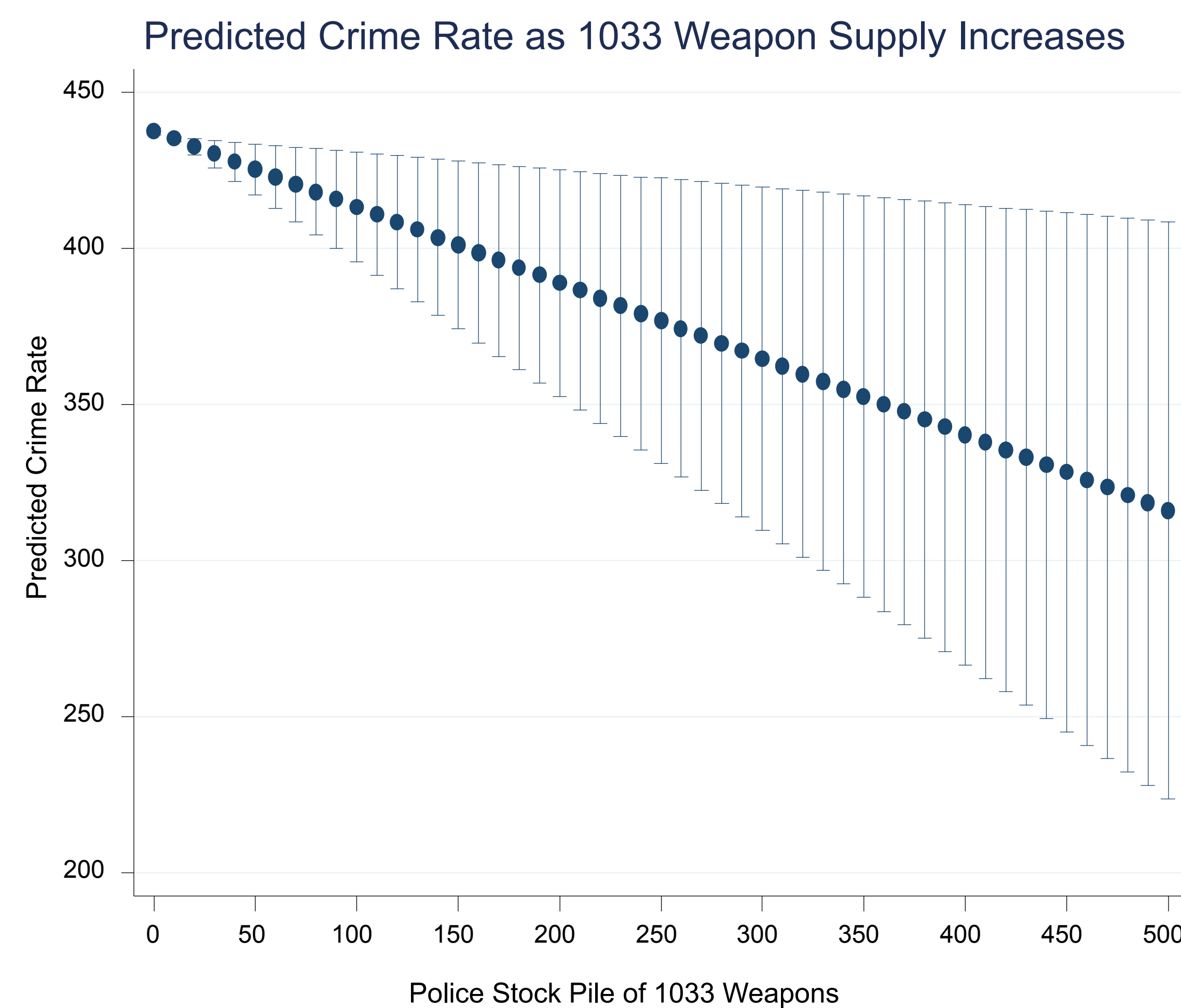


Research Design



- Equipment data from 30 states was collected, representing the varied geography of the US
- Crime data from 1985 to 2012 was obtained from the FBI, measured as the rate of violent crime per 100,000
- Data on 930 police departments was included, 570 had taken part in the 1033 program
- Routine equipment was excluded, only categories that could increase escalation, efficiency, or possibly be a deterrent
- Fixed effects regression estimation was used to determine results

Results and Case Studies



- As the Predicted Crime Rate Graph shows, only massive stockpiles of weapons noticeably reduce violent crime
- Only weapons have a statistically and practically significant result: a one gun increase at a department reduces crime by .2 per 100,000
- Policymakers must also weigh the human costs of the program when deciding its merit
- In 2011, a SWAT raid involving Oro Valley officers killed an Iraq war veteran who thought he was being robbed
- A Lima SWAT team killed an innocent mother holding her child in 2008
- Also in 2008, St. Paul SWAT teams raided the homes of suspected protestors, before they had even protested

1033 Implications

- Even though weapons, vehicles, aircraft, and EODbots are popular, they have little effect on crime
- The results are not cost effective: over \$100,000,000 for the equipment in this study
- The 1033 program is mostly redundant in the face of several other competing programs
- One sample of 800 raids executed in 2011-2012 found that 640 were to serve warrants, up to 520 turned up no evidence
- Scaling the program back to only providing routine equipment would maintain aid to needy departments, but reduce militarization
- Poor program oversight has resulted in occasional missing items and outright theft

Next Steps

Very few studies have specifically looked at the 1033 program, background research turned up only a handful that specifically address the program. The next step in studying the topic is obtaining data for all 50 states to see if there is a difference in the results obtained.

The average police department does not need armored vehicles and massive stockpiles of weapons, this study shows that they lead to very small decreases in crime. Reducing police militarization may begin to change the militarized mindset of many police departments. It may also help to restore the negative image some citizens have of the police.

Acknowledgements

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