



Africa Criminal Justice Reform
Organisation pour la Réforme de la Justice Pénale en Afrique
Organização para a Reforma da Justiça Criminal em África



Violent crime and elections

Does violent crime affect ruling party support?

ACJR Webinar | 27 October 2021



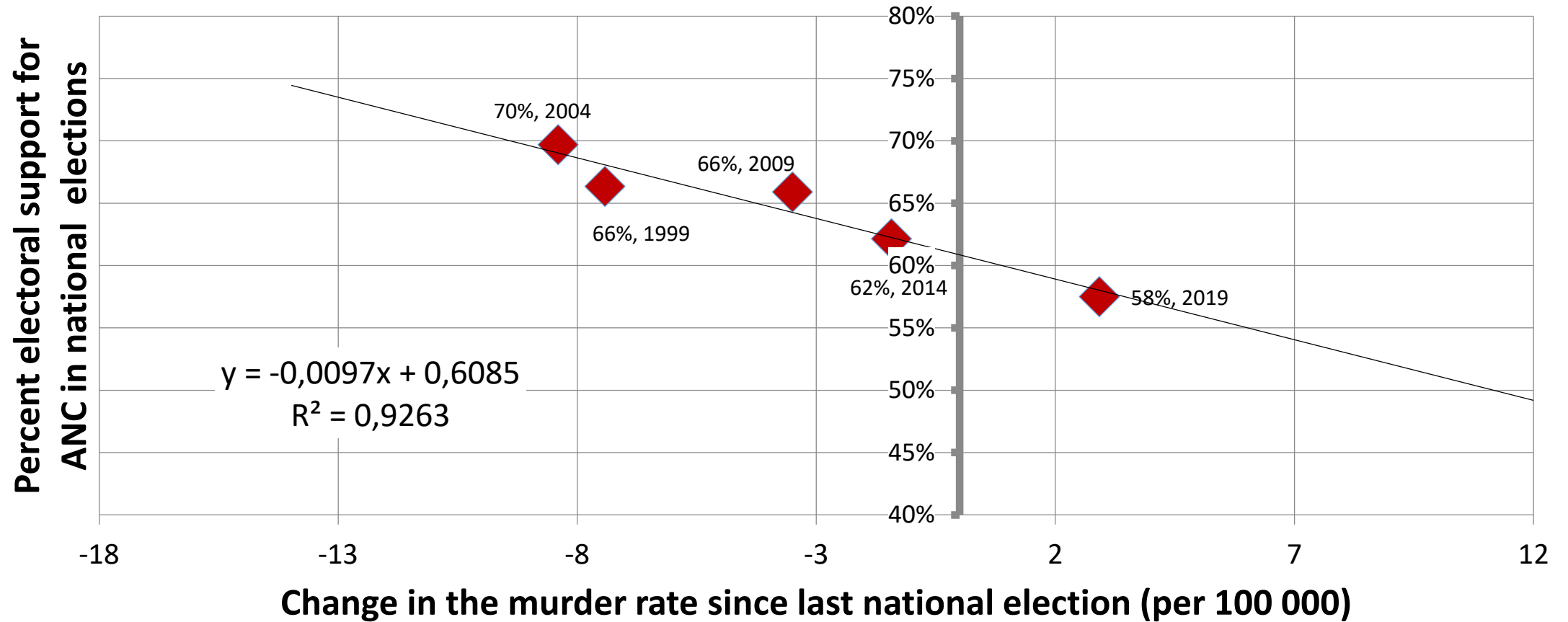
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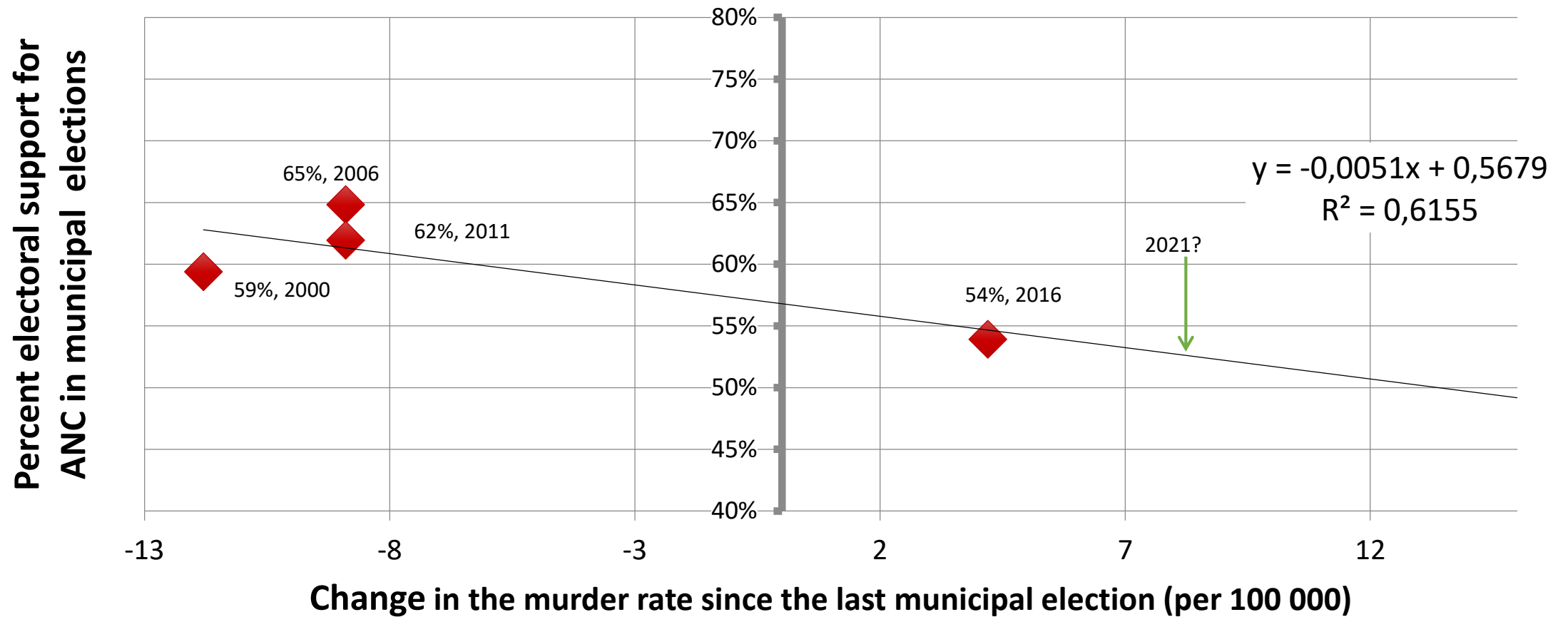
'Crime doesn't affect election results'

- Spatial cross-sectional analysis by municipality in a single year
 - No relationship between relative average murder rates within the municipality and electoral support for the ANC (the national ruling party) at the level of the municipality in the 2019 **national** election
 - Murder rates within municipalities are compared to the level of support for the ANC in the same municipalities in one year only
 - There is no relationship: low murder rates are not associated with ANC party support and nor are high murder rates
- Does this mean violent crime does not affect ANC ruling party support?

National change in murder rate and national elections



National change in murder rate and municipal elections



Conclusion

- At a national level a change over the preceding five years in the murder rate is associated with change in overall support for the ruling ANC, in both national and municipal elections.
 - The effect is more pronounced in national elections.
 - The correlation is negative (a higher murder rate since last election = lower ANC support)
- The murder rate improved to 2012 and worsened 2012-2017
 - There was some stabilisation in 2018 and 2019 and artificially low rates during 2020.
 - Rates in the current year (April-June) so far compare unfavourably with 2016, 2018 and 2019 .
 - This does not take into account July riots.
 - Reduced support for the ANC is therefore likely in 2021.