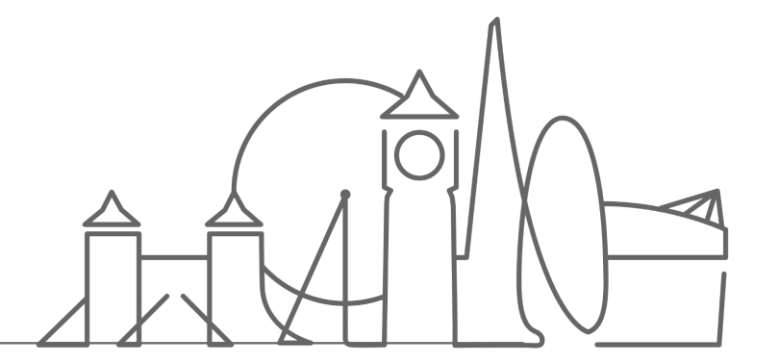




# “There’s been a murder!”

Using MOPAC’s Public Attitude Survey to explore the impact of homicides on local communities in London.



## Introduction

The number of homicides in London has increased over recent years, with articles describing the city as a ‘bloodbath’ and ‘more dangerous than New York’.

**But what effect does this have on Londoners?** MOPAC’s Public Attitude Survey (PAS) provides valuable insight into the views of over 12,800 residents living across the capital each year. At a city-wide level, Londoners have become more concerned about serious violence issues, and less confident that the police effectively tackle crime.

The current research builds upon this evidence base, using a novel approach to analysing data from the PAS to give more *localised* insight – how does the occurrence of a homicide affect residents living in the immediate vicinity?



### Hypothesis 1 Fear of Crime

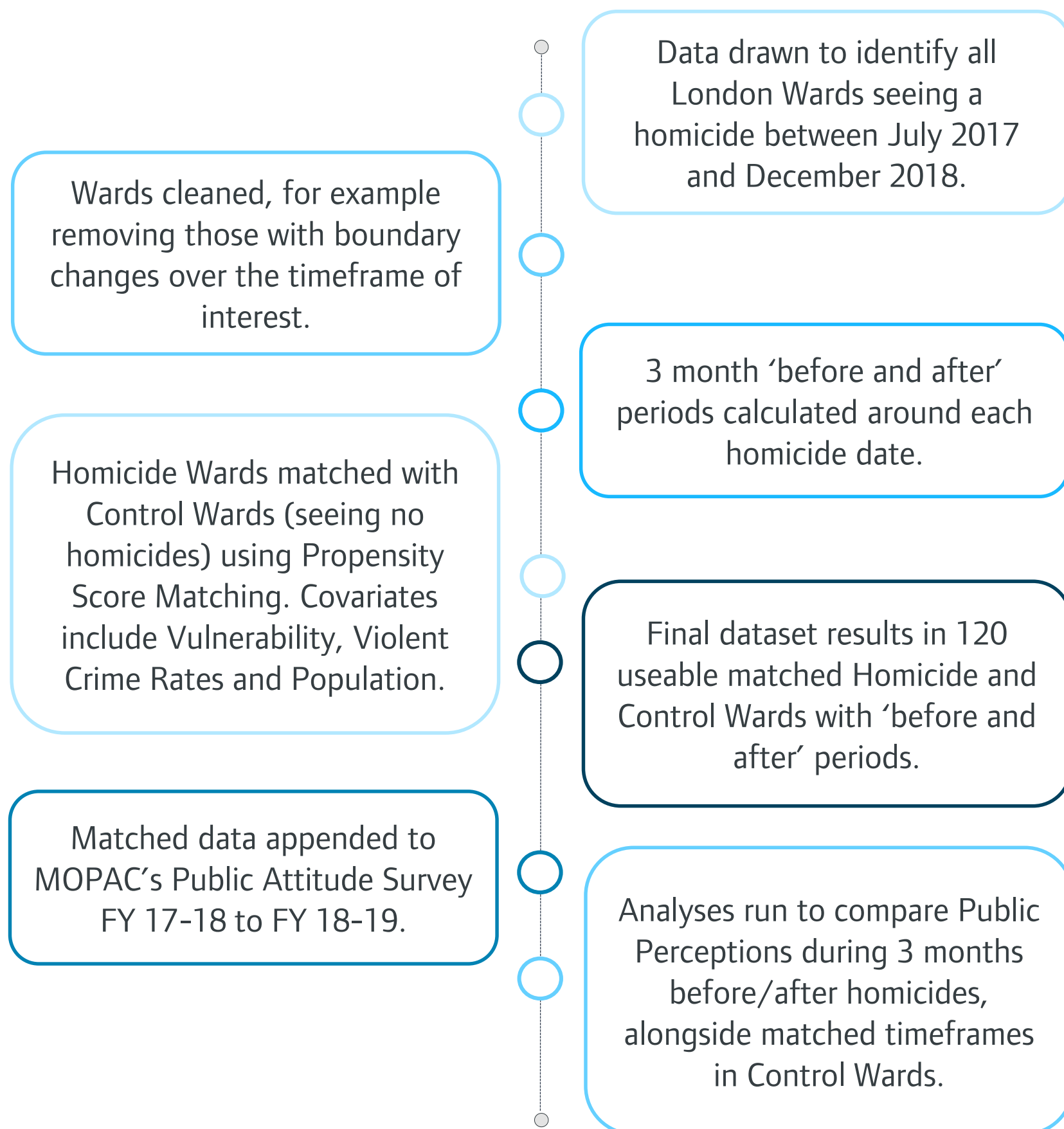
In the months after a homicide, changes will be seen in local residents’ fear of crime.



### Hypothesis 2 Views of Police

In the months after a homicide, changes will be seen in local residents’ views of the police.

## Analysis



## Hypothesis 1: Fear of Crime

In the months after a homicide, local residents become **more worried about crime**. However, this effect appears relatively **isolated to serious violence issues** (e.g. knife crime, gun crime and gangs), with no increases seen in residents’ wider concerns about other issues (e.g. ASB, hate crime):

Figure 1: % concerned about **knife crime in local area**, before and after homicide (with matched timeframe in Control Wards).

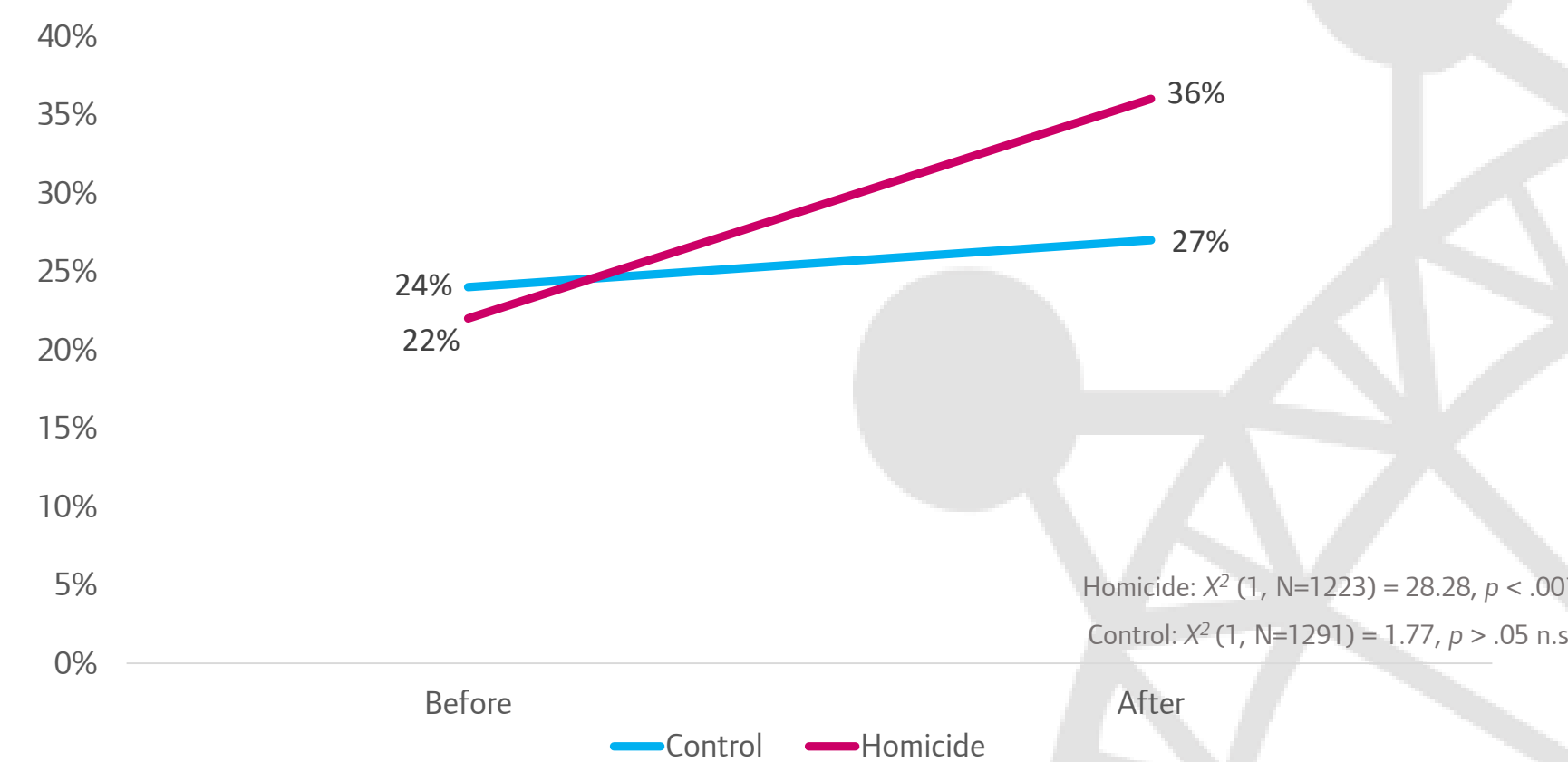
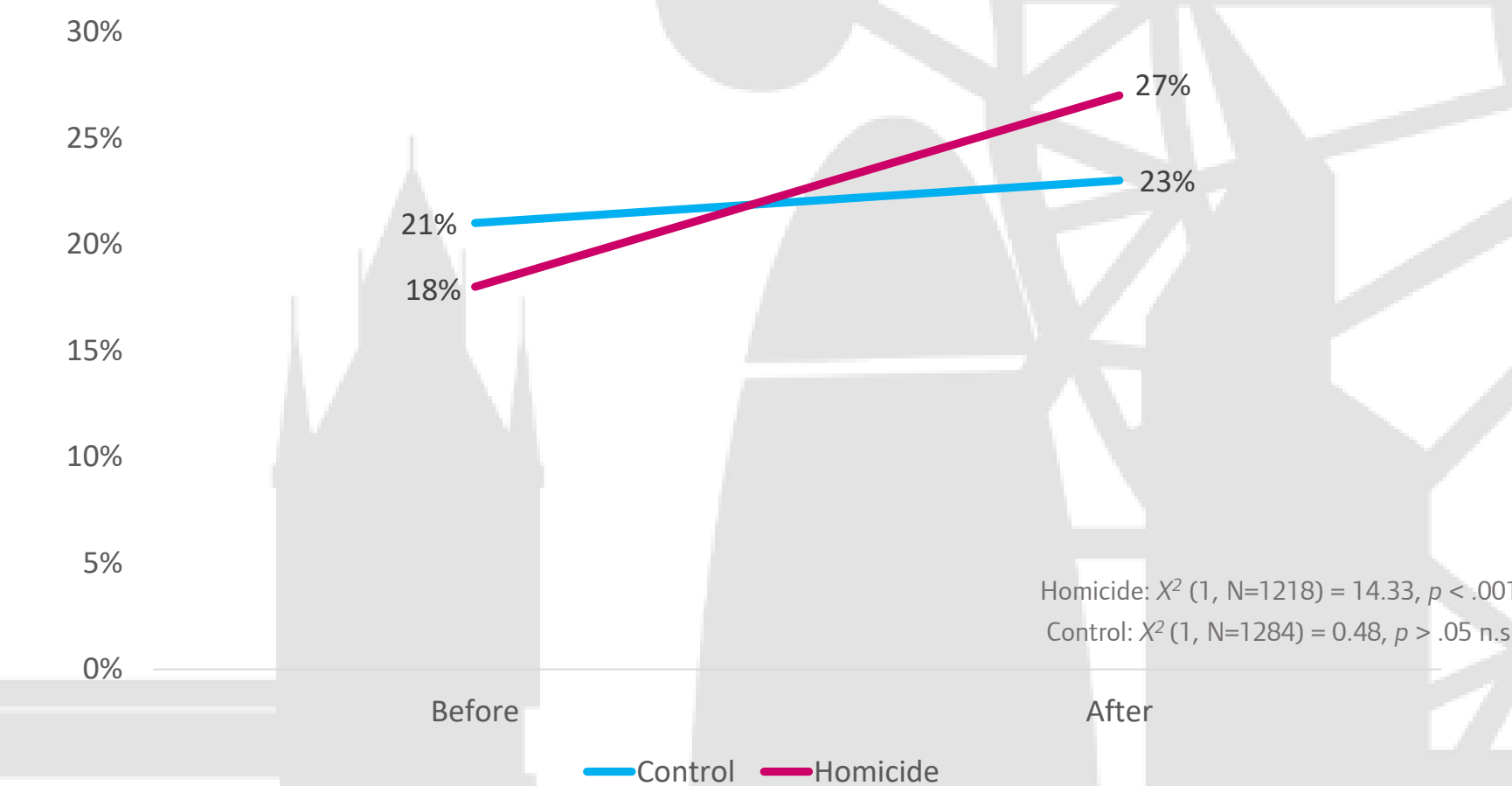


Figure 2: % concerned about **gangs in local area**, before and after homicide (with matched timeframe in Control Wards).



## Hypothesis 2: Views of Police

A homicide occurring in the local area appears to have little impact on residents’ confidence or views of their *local* police. However, reductions are seen for residents’ wider confidence in **policing across London as a whole**, and for some specific measures of effectiveness of the Metropolitan Police Service:

Figure 3: % feeling police do a **good job in London**, before and after homicide (with matched timeframe in Control Wards).

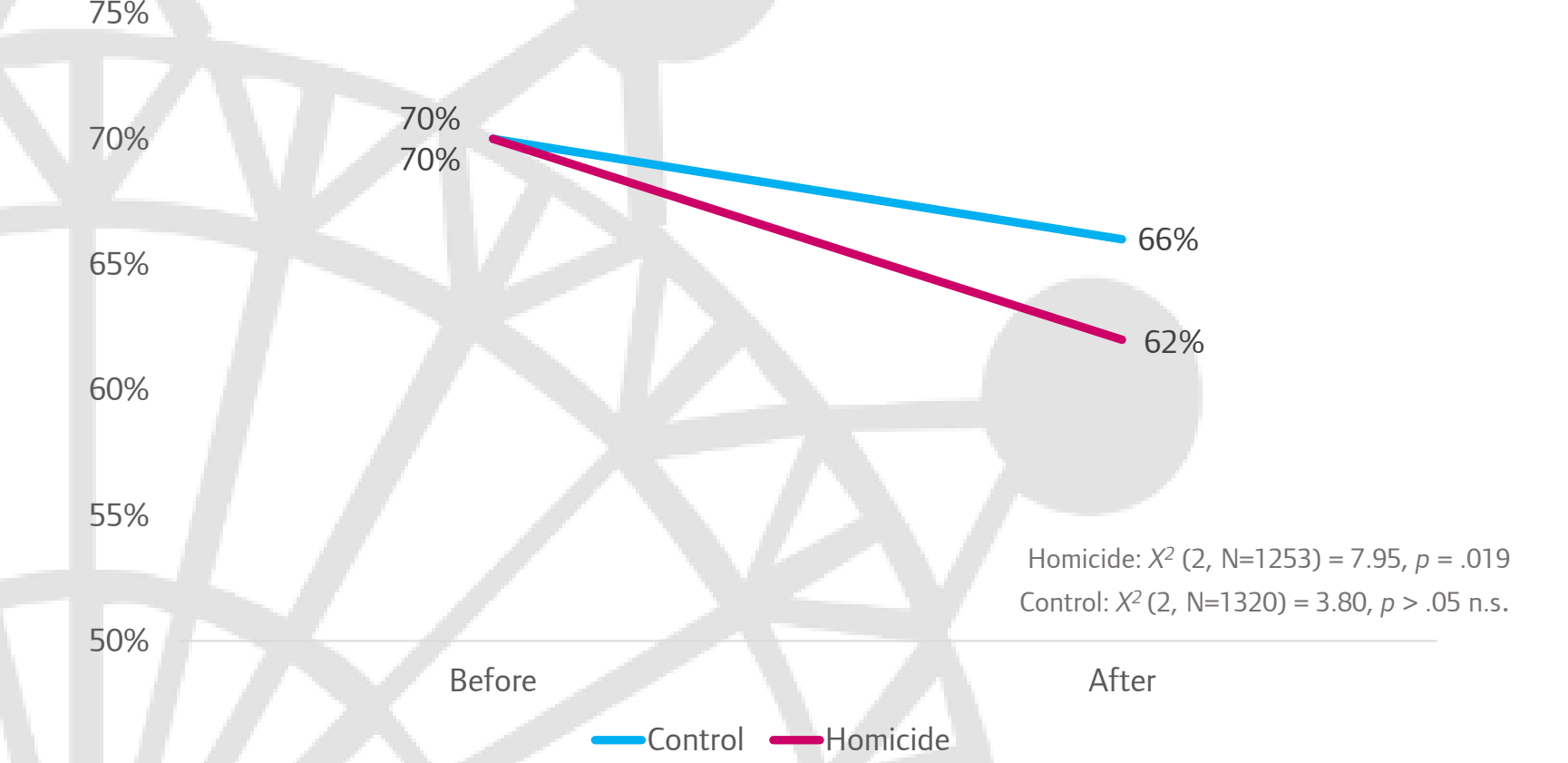
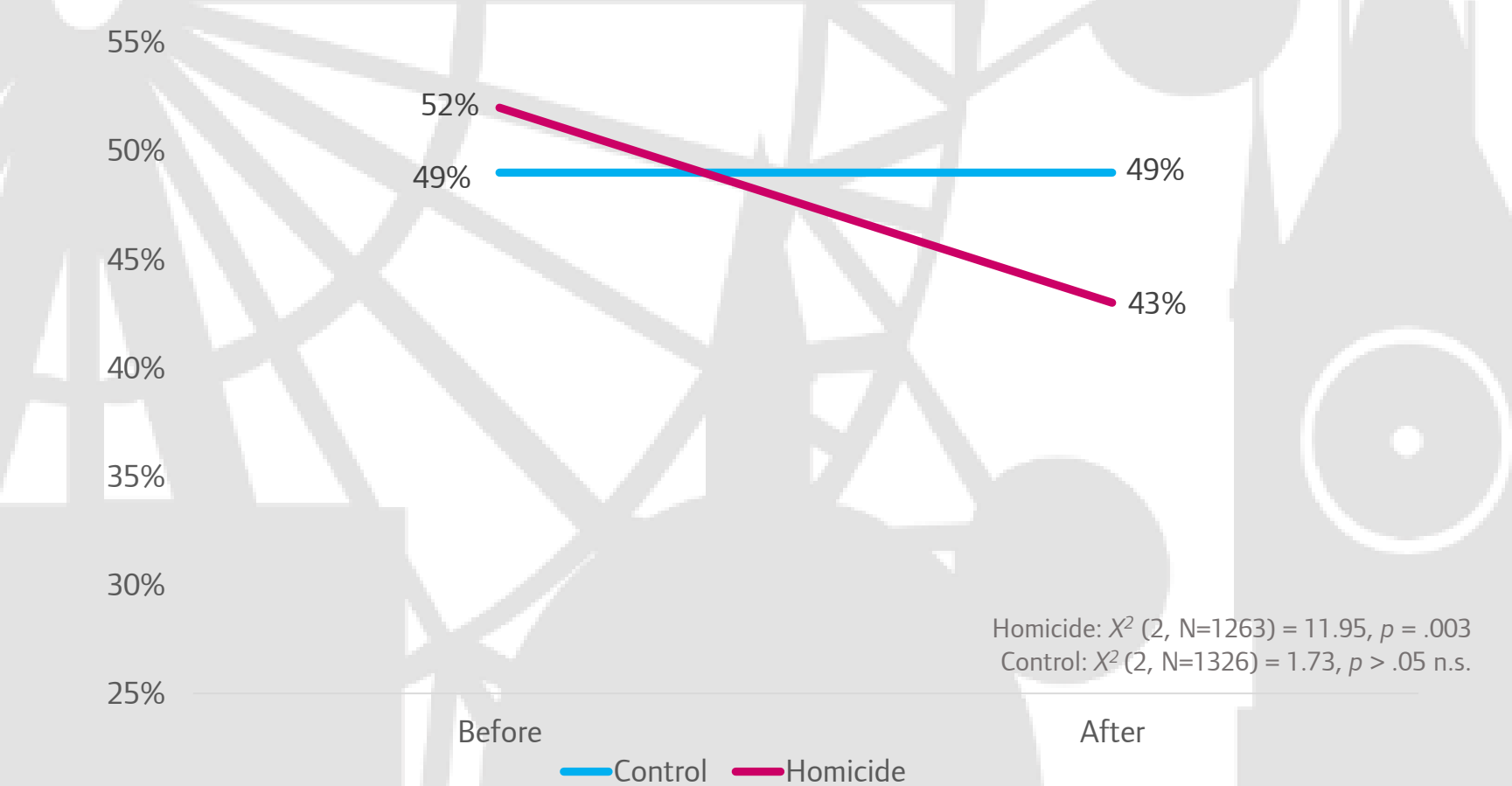


Figure 4: % feeling MPS effectively provide a **visible patrolling presence**, before and after homicide (with matched timeframe in Control Wards).



## Application

**Policing in the aftermath of murder:** This research demonstrates that homicides can have wider effects on local communities (including increasing fear of violence), with implications for how police and other authorities should engage with and reassure the public. Early analyses suggest that different types of homicide may have different impacts, with youth homicides appearing to increase fear of crime to a greater extent than domestic homicides.

**Widening the analytical approach:** This research documents a novel approach to analysing existing Public Attitude Survey data, with opportunities to apply this methodology to explore more localised impacts of other events (e.g. police operations, wider crime types, community incidents).



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