Introduction
In the 1960s, gender concept and female role developed highlighting sexual inequalities in the relationship between males and females. These inequalities resulted from the position that women historically (o throughout history) had relative to males leading roles in family and society. In patriarchal families of the nineteenth century, even when a woman had a job, there was an indisputable male leading role; legally, husbands had for a long time a huge decision-making right over their wives and their children and women only got the right to vote after the Second World War; until the last decades of the twentieth century, women did not get a fair salary at work because society did not believe in a complete female independence. With this in mind, there was a need to identify the violence perpetrated by men against women in order to gain awareness of the phenomenon.

In 1990, Diana Russell coined the term “femicide” to describe the murder of a woman by a man, because she is a woman, following his aggressive, misogynous or discriminatory behaviors.

In this study, we analyze the features of murders involving males as perpetrators and females as victims, occurred in Turin between 1970 and 2012. Our goal is to determine whether the law and cultural changes that took place in Italy during that period had an impact on the rate of these crimes. In addition to this, victims’ features and characteristics of femicides will be taken into consideration as secondary aims.

Materials and Methods
The archives of the Institute of Legal Medicine and those of the Central Morgue of Turin were examined together with the stories reported in local newspapers to better understand the circumstances in which such crimes occurred. Information collected was classified according to the following criteria: where crimes took place, weapons used, details about the perpetrators (including their motivations), victims’ ages and nationalities. Furthermore, crimes were also divided into femicides and homicides to compare the two categories.

Results and Discussion
According to our findings, femicides were more frequent than homicides (125 compared to 113 cases); the rate of violent deaths decreased over time and moreover, for femicides in particular, their frequency seems to have decreased getting pretty near to zero in the period from 2006 to 2009 and then increasing again during the last three years considered in this study (Figure 1). Furthermore, considering an aggregation of cases by decade, alongside a constant reduction of homicides, it is evident that the number of femicides has remained the same in the last 20 years (Table 1).

As regards to the victims’ ages, there was a discrepancy within the two groups: most of the homicides took place against women over the age of 65; while femicides were concentrated in an age range of 25 to 50.

On the contrary, the nationalities of the victims in both groups were evenly distributed and about 90% are Italian women.

Regarding the mode of injury between femicides, the analysis shows that there was no prevalence of a particular weapon; firearms were the most used weapon (in 38% of femicides, of which 98% of times a gun was used), followed by canonical pointed and sharp edged weapons (in 27%, of cases of which 82% a knife was used), by blunt objects (in 13% of cases of which 6% a club was used), by mechanical asphyxia (in 15%), and by burns (1%).

As for the locations where the femicides took place, there was a prevalence of couples’ home (in 41% of examples), followed by the victim’s home (24%) and in the street (13%).

The distribution of the different reasons for homicides and femicides was analyzed, finding it to be more homogeneous for the latter group; desertion of the woman (20%) was the most important reason, followed by partner jealousy (18%) and disputes (16%). Conversely, motives for the homicides were characterized by a less uniform distribution, highlighting robberies and impulsive killings as the most frequent in 28,32% and 21,24% of cases respectively; perpetrator’s depression, as well as disease, accounts for a low number of cases.

In general, victims’ body most hit was the head, and frequently there was more than one injury; furthermore, the analysis shows that when the perpetrator used a blunt object to kill, injuries were localized on the victim’s head rather than on her thorax (Figure 5).

Conclusion
In conclusion, analysis of the results shows that the introduction of divorce law (1970) did not alter the trend of femicide, which decrease only after the ban of mitigating circumstances for “honor killing” (1981). Furthermore, the average age of the victims of femicide between 25 and 50 years old is younger than the one of the victims of homicide because younger women are probably more self-confident, more affirmed at work, more autonomous causing friction with the partner. The prevalence of injuries multiplicity is probably linked to a psychological aspect of rage, highlighting the perpetrator’s goal of hitting and injuring the victim in the most serious and worst possible way.

Finally, our results are similar to national ones, in particular:
- the average age of femicide victims is between 25 and 50;
- in most cases it is a single murder followed by suicide or attempted suicide by the killer;
- the murderer is usually the partner or ex;
- the motive is framed in a feeling of jealousy, rejection, abandonment or separation;
- the use of firearms and bladed weapons exceeds other types of weapons;
- using atypical weapons is frequent and this confirms the domestic character of the crime;
- there are multiple injuries, concentrated on the head, which emphasizes the intent to offend seriously;
- the highest number of murders takes place in the home of the couple or the victim’s home.

Bibliography
- Corriere.it, www.corriere.it
- ISTAT, La violenza contro le donne dentro e fuori la famiglia. Anno 2014
- PECCHIOTTI S., LA VIOLENCIA CONTRO LE DONNE: NATURE, INTENSITY, CONVESSI. La Stampa, 2008, Torino
- ROMITI P., La violenza e il genere: donne e morte. Franco Angeli, 2000, Milano
- www.istat.it/it/archivio/violenza
- www.corriere.it
- www.118.it