



South East Europe Armed Violence Monitor

Quarterly Regional Report

April-June 2022

Background

The widespread proliferation and misuse of firearms continue to pose a grave threat around the globe. To echo the concern about the negative impact of firearms on security, human rights, as well as social and economic development, UNDP SEESAC initiated data collection in 2014 to track the firearm-related incidents in South East Europe (SEE) and established a Regional Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP).

The AVMP covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo*. The data is gathered daily from the relevant authorities' official websites, as well as print and online media. Data for Kosovo is also gathered from daily police reports.

The present regional report builds on monthly Armed Violence Monitor Reports, and it has been prepared to provide a collection of data, show the trends, highlights, as well as threats regarding firearm incidents in SEE from **April-June 2022**.¹

Quarterly AVMP regional reports aim to serve as an information tool to research organizations and all interested parties engaged in the area of small arms and light weapons with the primary goal of providing a better understanding of the firearms' negative impact on civilians.

*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

¹Data retrieved on 20.07.2022. Given that news articles may be published after the incidents occurred or that recorded incidents can be updated with new pieces of information, the given statistics may slightly differ in the future.

QUARTERLY SNAPSHOTS



723

firearm incidents were
observed in SEE.



336

weapon seizures were
reported.



42

victims were killed
with firearms.



33

firearm-related domestic
violence cases were
recorded.



91

incidents of undetermined
shootings were recorded.



16

people died by suicide
with firearms.

TYPE OF INCIDENTS



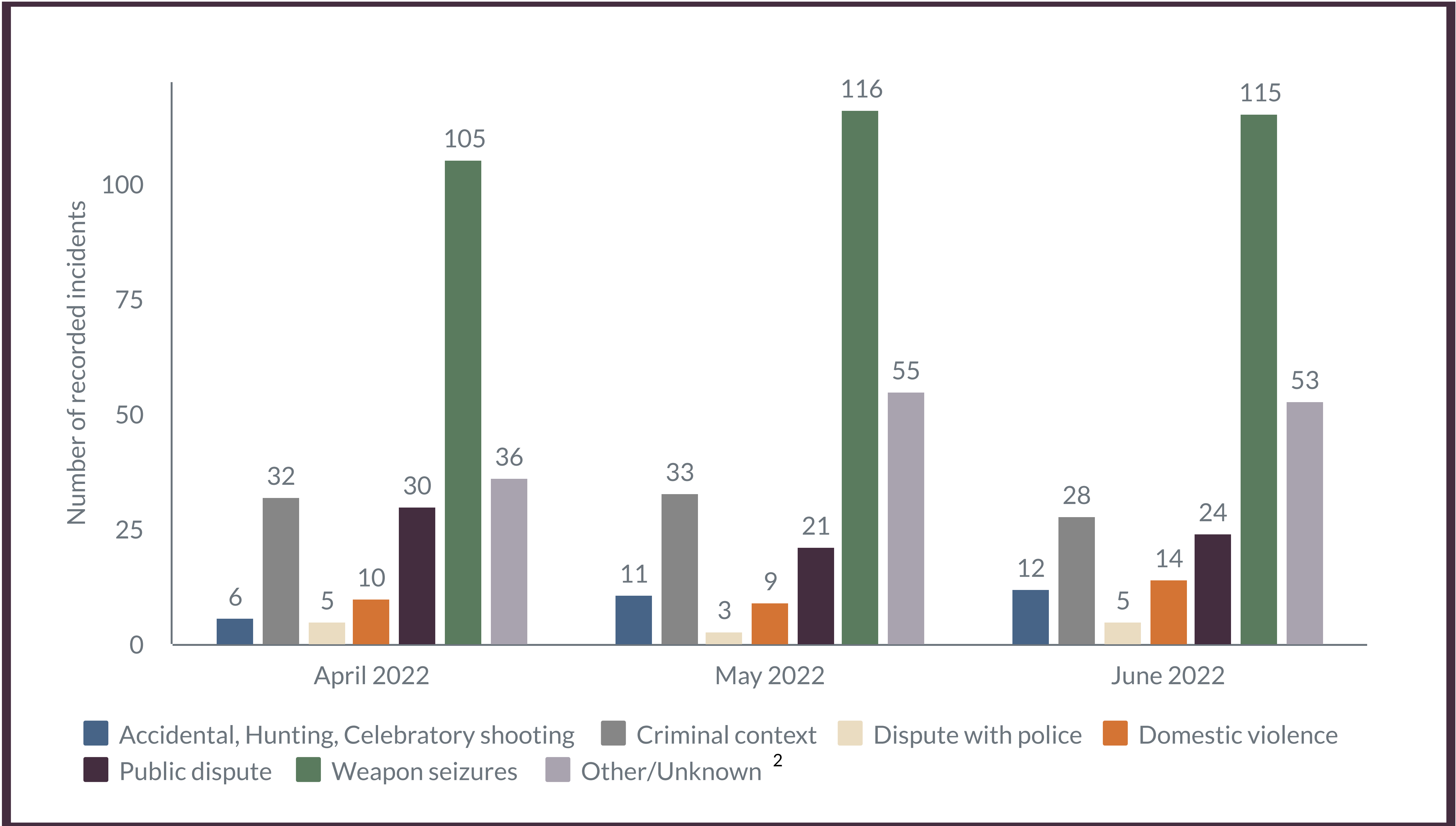
Weapon seizures accounted for **46.5%** of all reported incidents.



In **59 cases**, **explosives** were found by civilians.



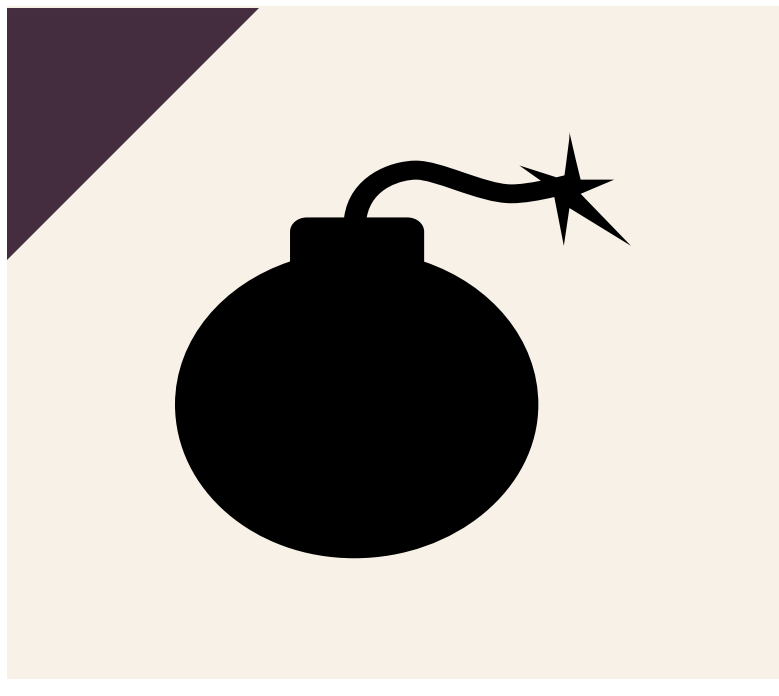
15 incidents of intimate partner violence were reported - all committed by men.



15 incidents of celebratory shootings were recorded.



10 accidental shootings were recorded with 2 people killed and 8 injured.



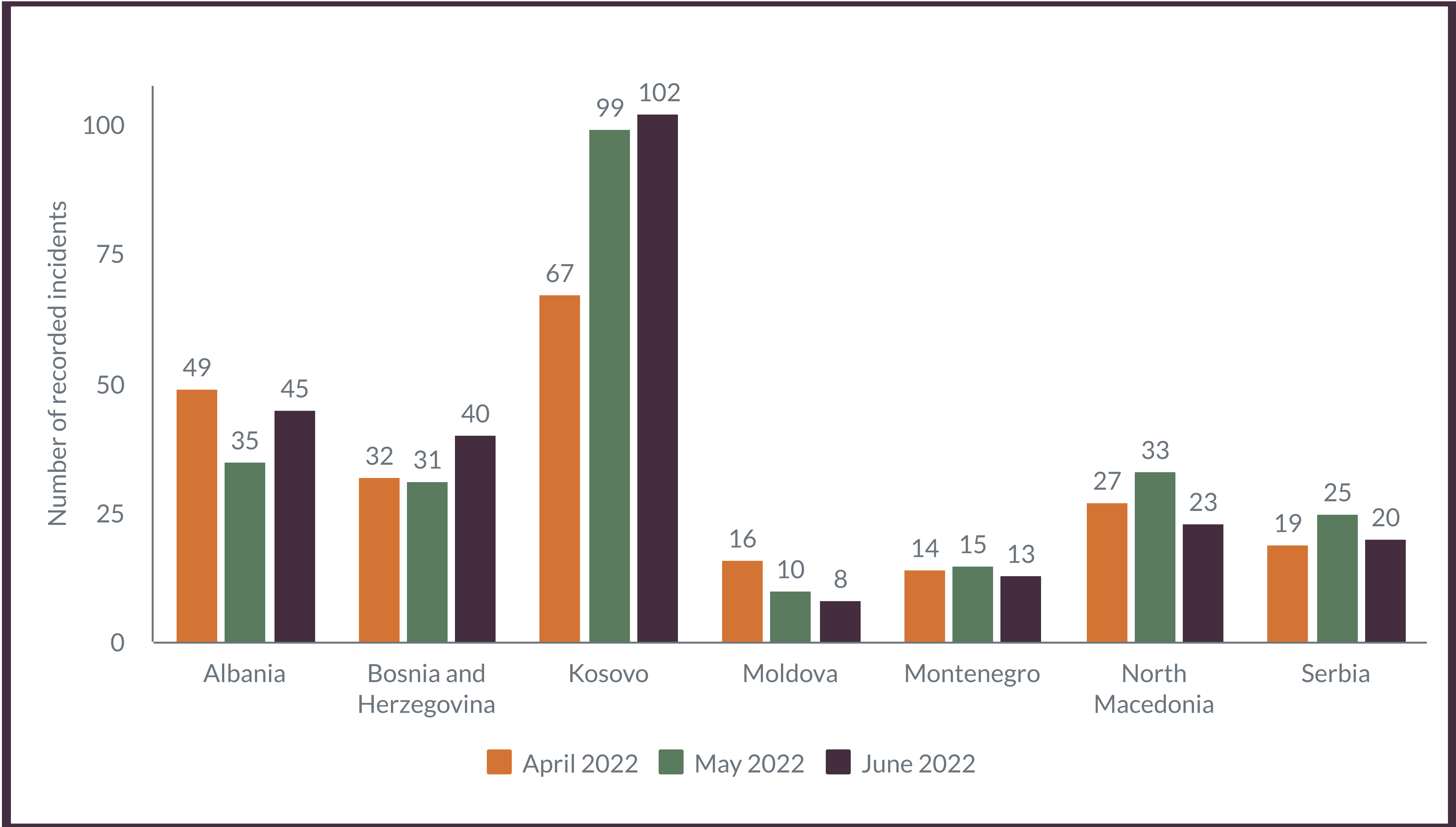
20 incidents of undetermined explosions were recorded.

² Other/ Unknown refer to suicides, shootings under undetermined circumstances, non-hunting related shooting of animals, explosions, weapons used for defence, and all other incidents that cannot be classified under any of the categories above.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The total number of incidents recorded in this quarter **decreased by 11.3%** in comparison to Q1 2022 (from 815 to 723).

The number of incidents **increased** from April to June **by 12%** (from 224 to 251).

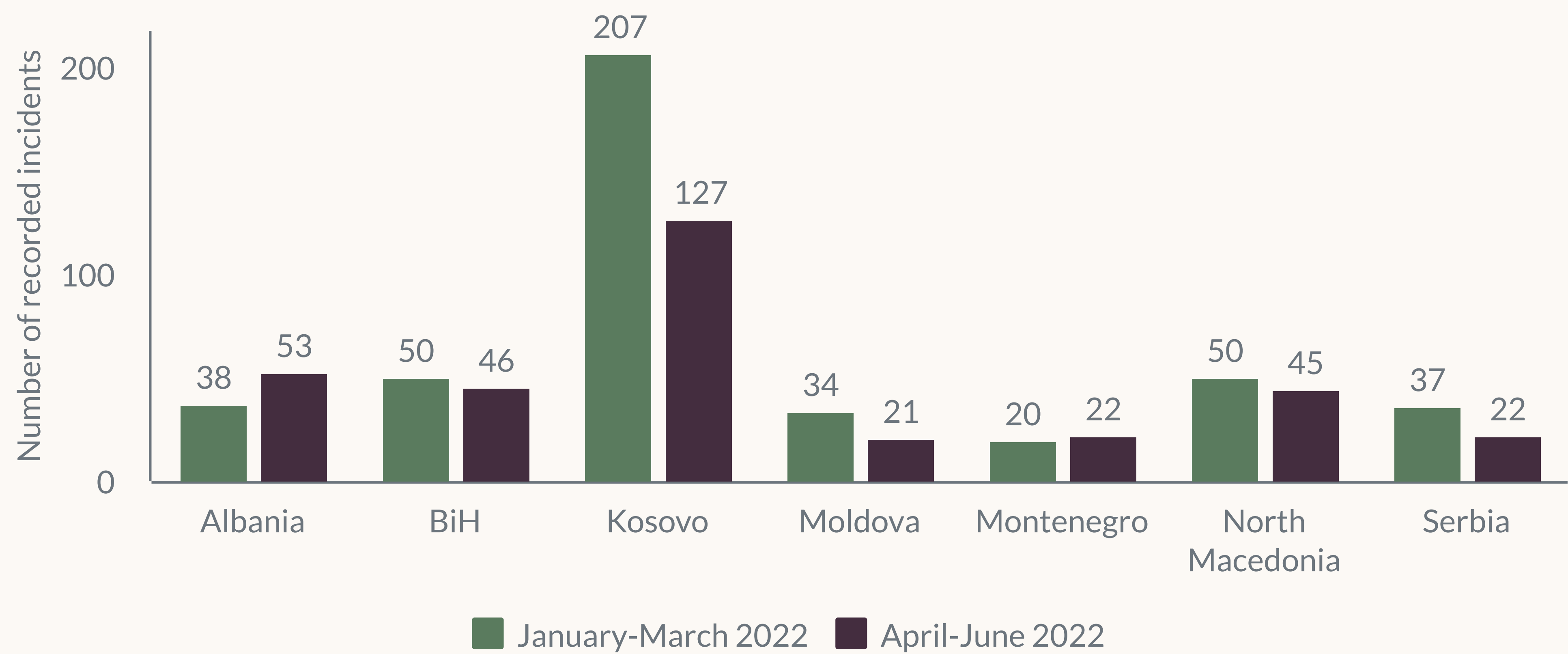


Kosovo (268), Albania (129) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (103) reported the highest number of firearm incidents.

Weapon seizures (336) and incidents of criminal context (93) were the most reported types of incidents.

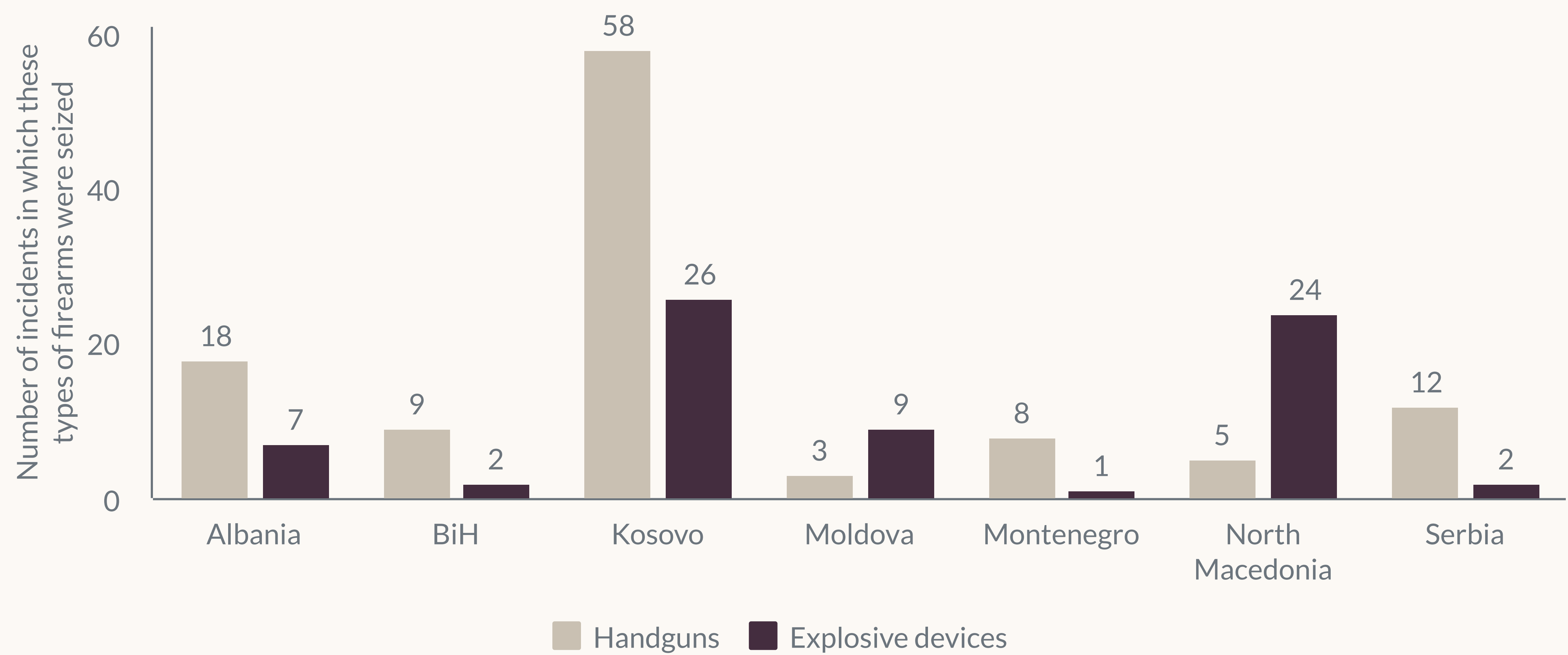
MAIN TRENDS - Weapon seizures

- With **336 incidents** recorded in Q2, **weapon seizures** continue to be the most reported type of incident.
- A significant **decrease of 22.9%** was observed in comparison to the previous quarter (436 cases). Compared to the same period last year, a decrease of 4.5% was noted (352 cases).



- **Albania** and **Kosovo** recorded the highest number of seizure cases during this quarter.

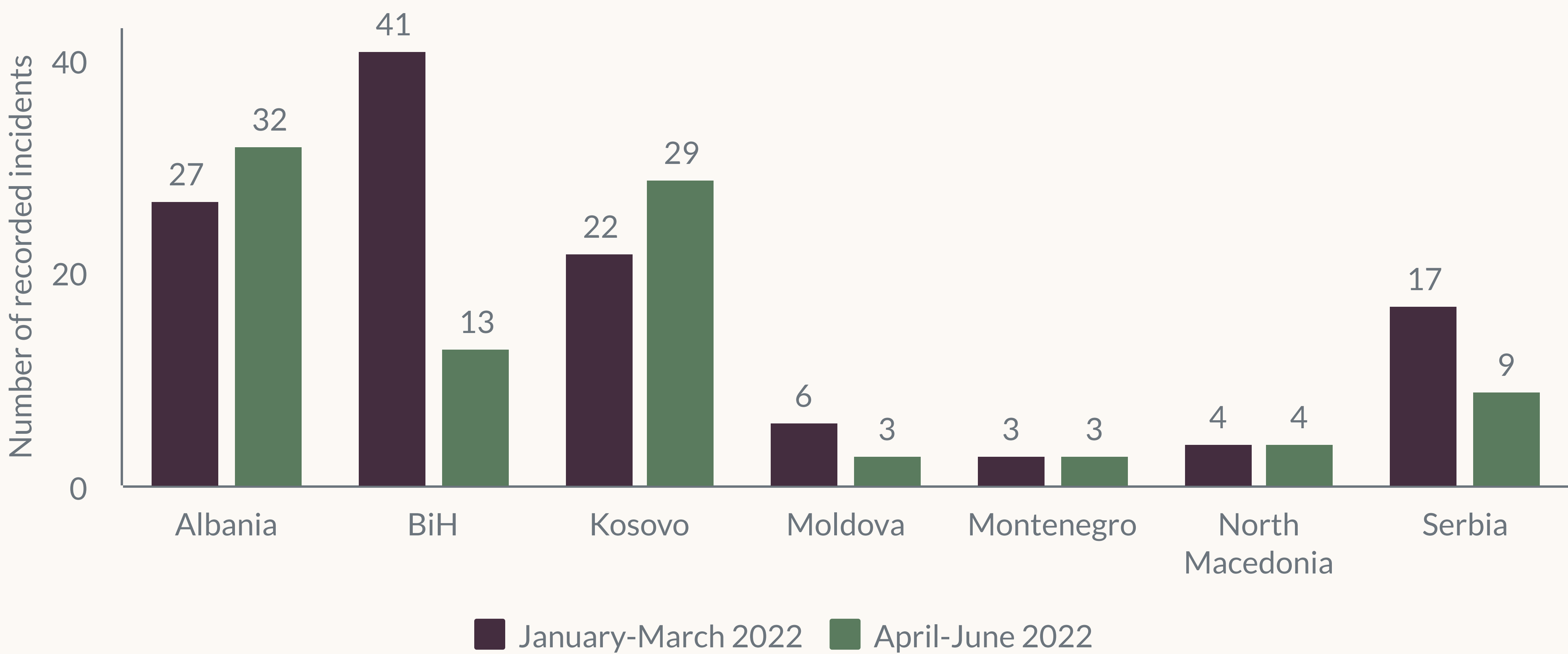
-
- **Handguns** continue to be the **most seized type of weapon**, being seized in 113 incidents (out of 232). The highest number of handgun seizures was reported in Kosovo (58).
 - **With 71 seizures, explosive devices** were the second most seized type. Kosovo (32) reported the highest number of incidents in which this type of firearm was seized.



Two most seized types of weapons in the April-June 2022 period.

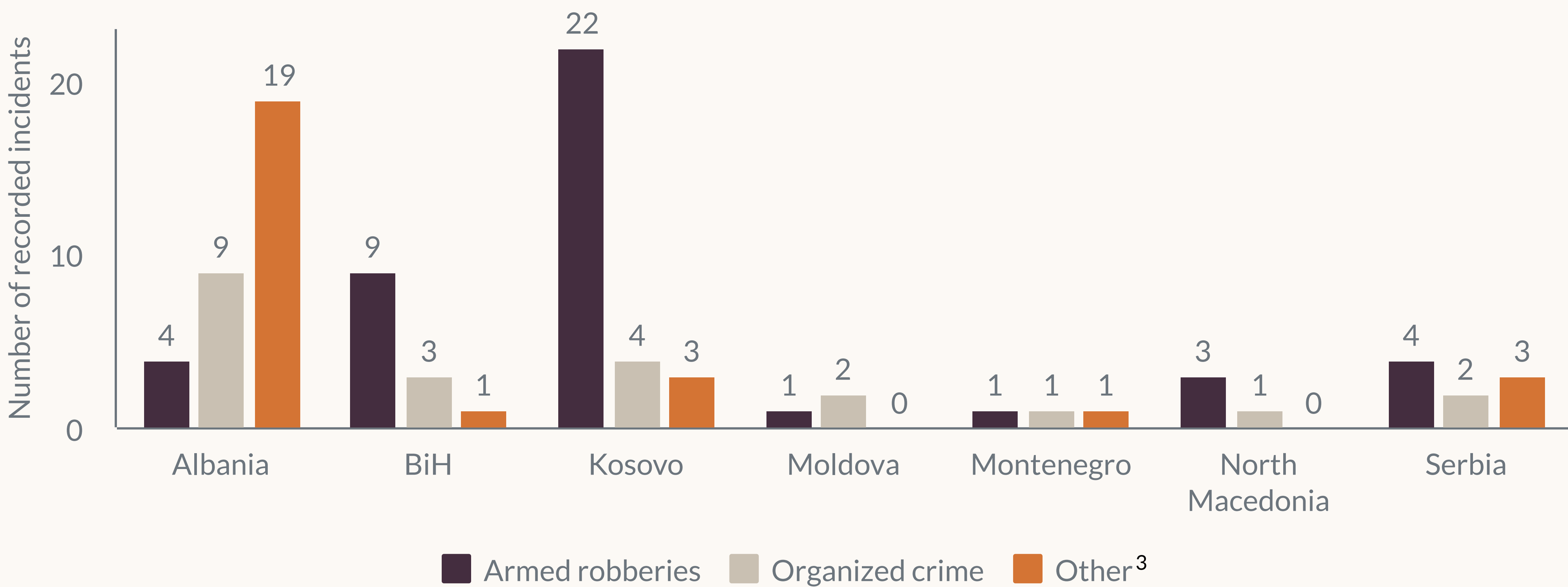
MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Criminal context

- With **93 incidents of criminal context**, this type of incident was the second most reported. Compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease of 22.5%** was observed (from 120 to 93).



- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, and Serbia reported a decrease of incidents of criminal context.
- 66 victims** of incidents in criminal context were reported, of which **9 people** reported as **killed, 6 injured** and **39 threatened**.

- Out of 93 incidents in criminal context, **44 incidents were related to armed robberies**, half of which were reported in **Kosovo (22)**.

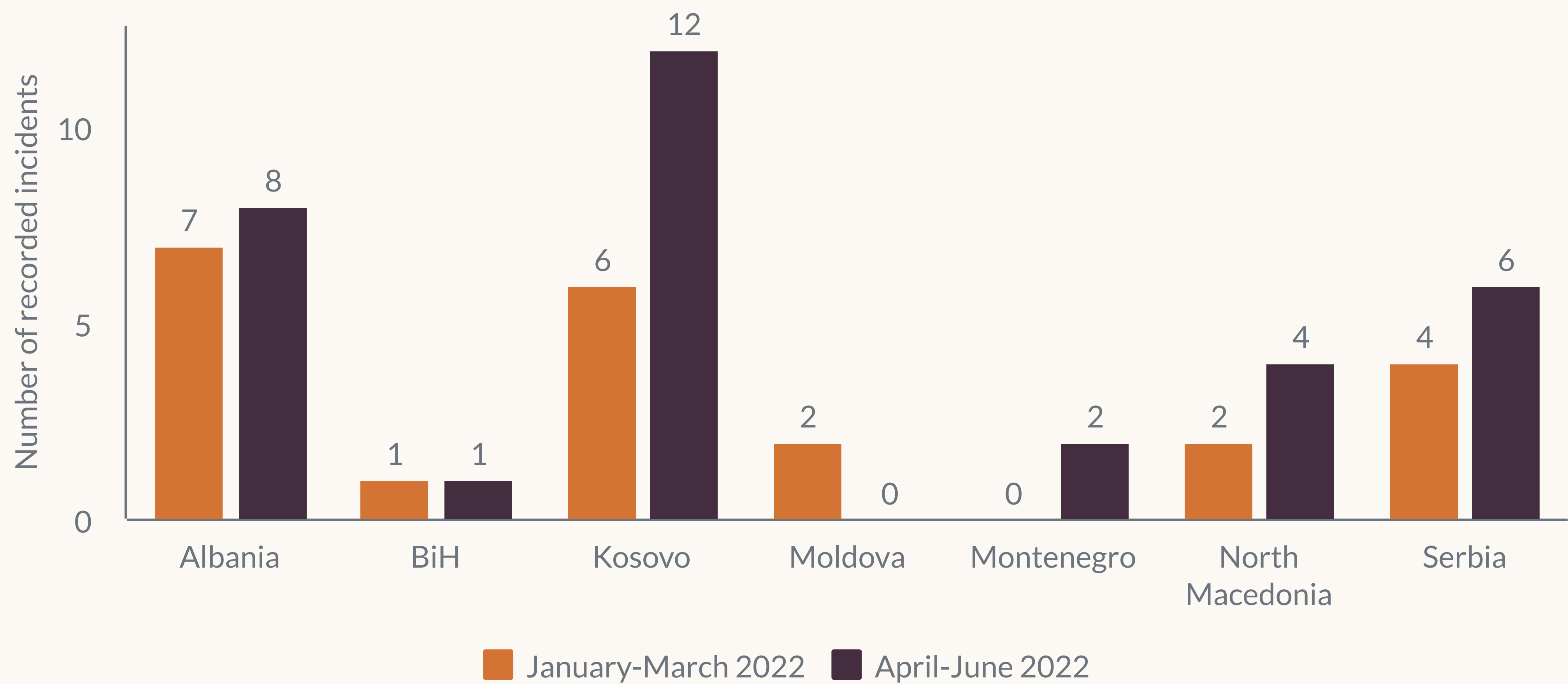


- Armed robberies were mostly reported in **homes (12), vehicles (7)** and **gas stations (4)**.

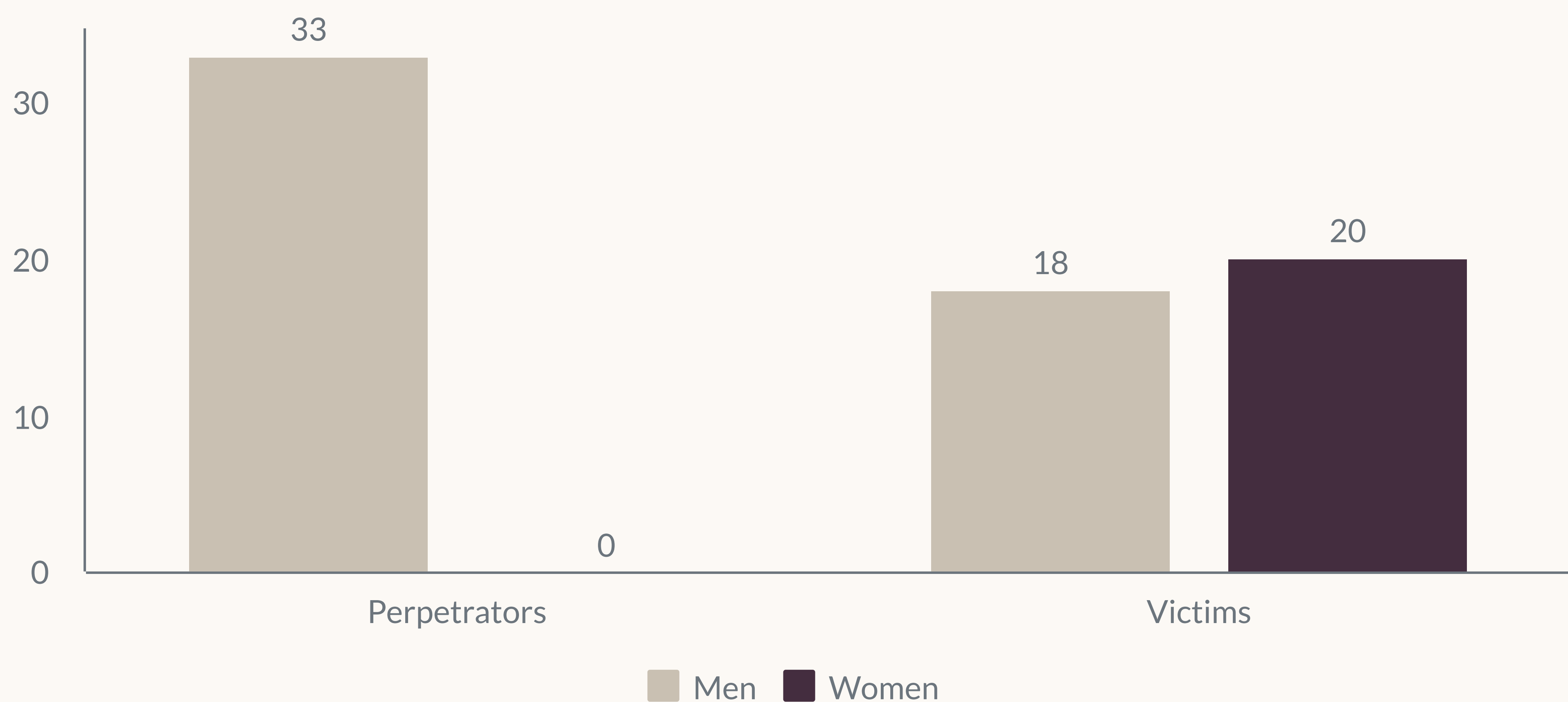
³ Other refers to any incident which does not fall under robberies or organized crime, but is related to criminal context.

MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Domestic violence

- **33 firearm-related domestic violence incidents** were recorded. This is a **50% increase** from the previous quarter (from 22 to 33).



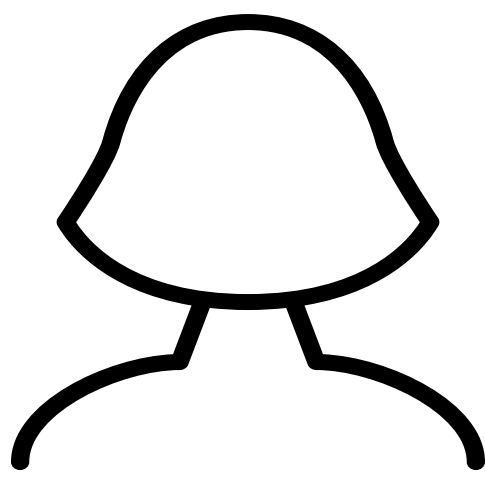
- **Handguns, rifles/shotguns** and **automatic/military-grade weapons** were the most used types of weapons. In **16 incidents**, firearms were **in illegal possession**.
- **Eight** victims, of which 5 women, were **killed**, while **14** victims were **threatened**.



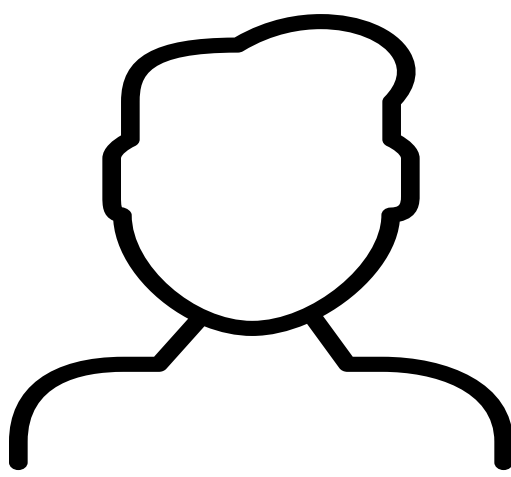
- **21 domestic violence incidents** were reported in **homes** and were committed by **intimate partners** and **nuclear family members** (fathers and brothers).

PERPETRATORS

From April to June 2022, there were **789 perpetrators⁴** of firearm incidents, of whom



14
were women



633
were men

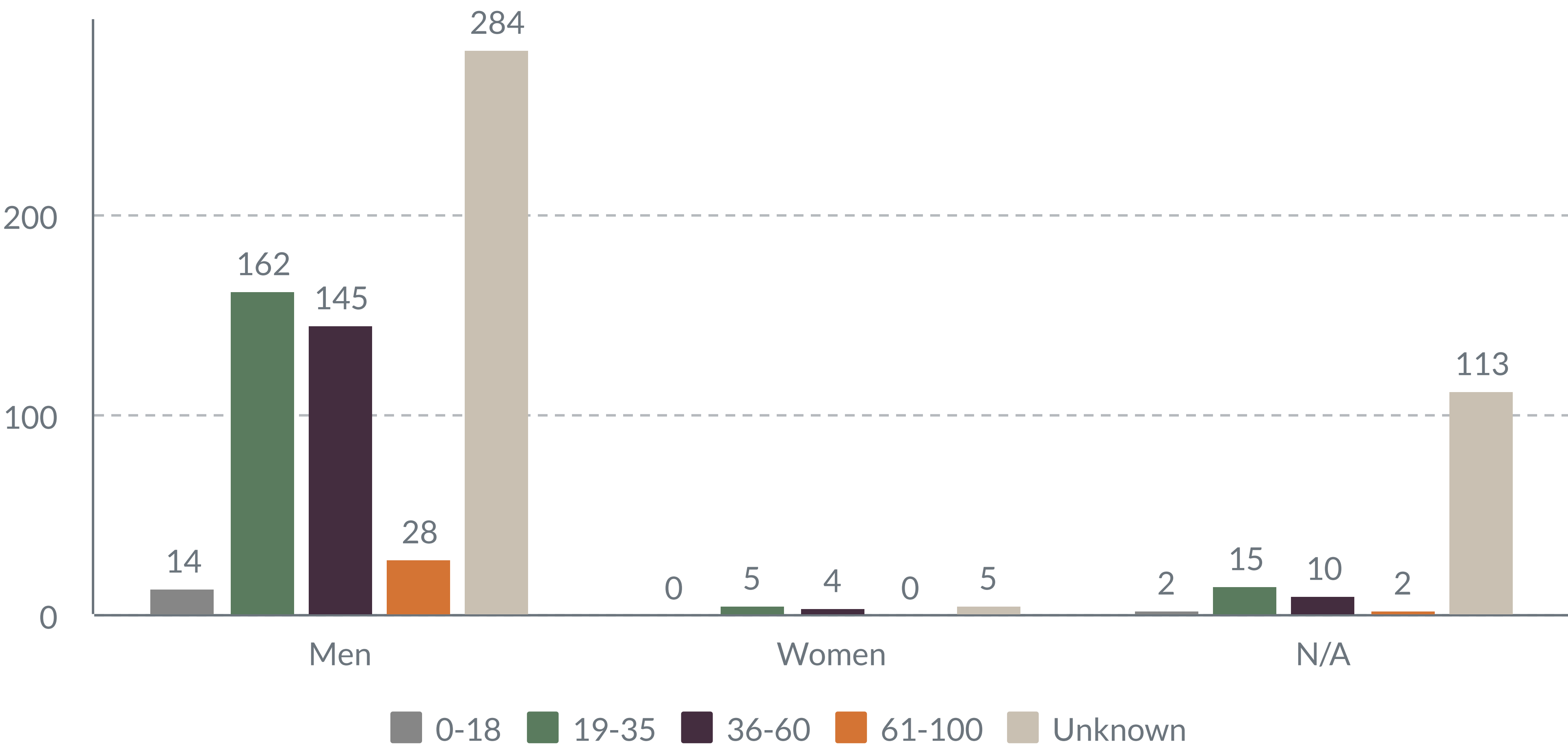
N/A

for **142**
sex was not reported

In incidents where **men were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly reported in incidents related to **weapon seizures (43.3%)** and in **criminal context (16.1%)**.

In incidents where **women were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly related to **weapon seizures (42.8%)**.

- In incidents where age of **men and women perpetrators** was reported, the majority fell under the **age group of 19-35**, closely followed by 36-60 age group.

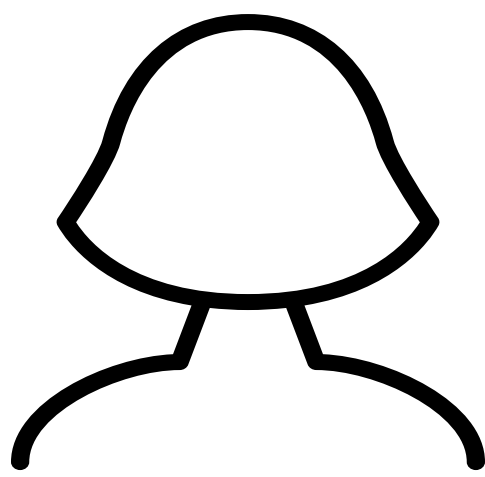


- For **402 (51%) perpetrators** the **age was not reported**. For 113 perpetrators neither sex nor age was reported.

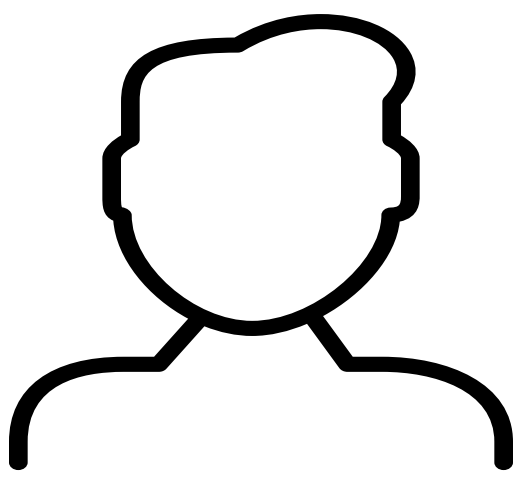
⁴ Perpetrator refers to any individual who has used a firearm/ammunition/explosive to commit any of the types of incidents covered by the AVMP.

VICTIMS

From April to June 2022, there were **291 victims**⁵ of firearm incidents, of whom



44
were women



232
were men

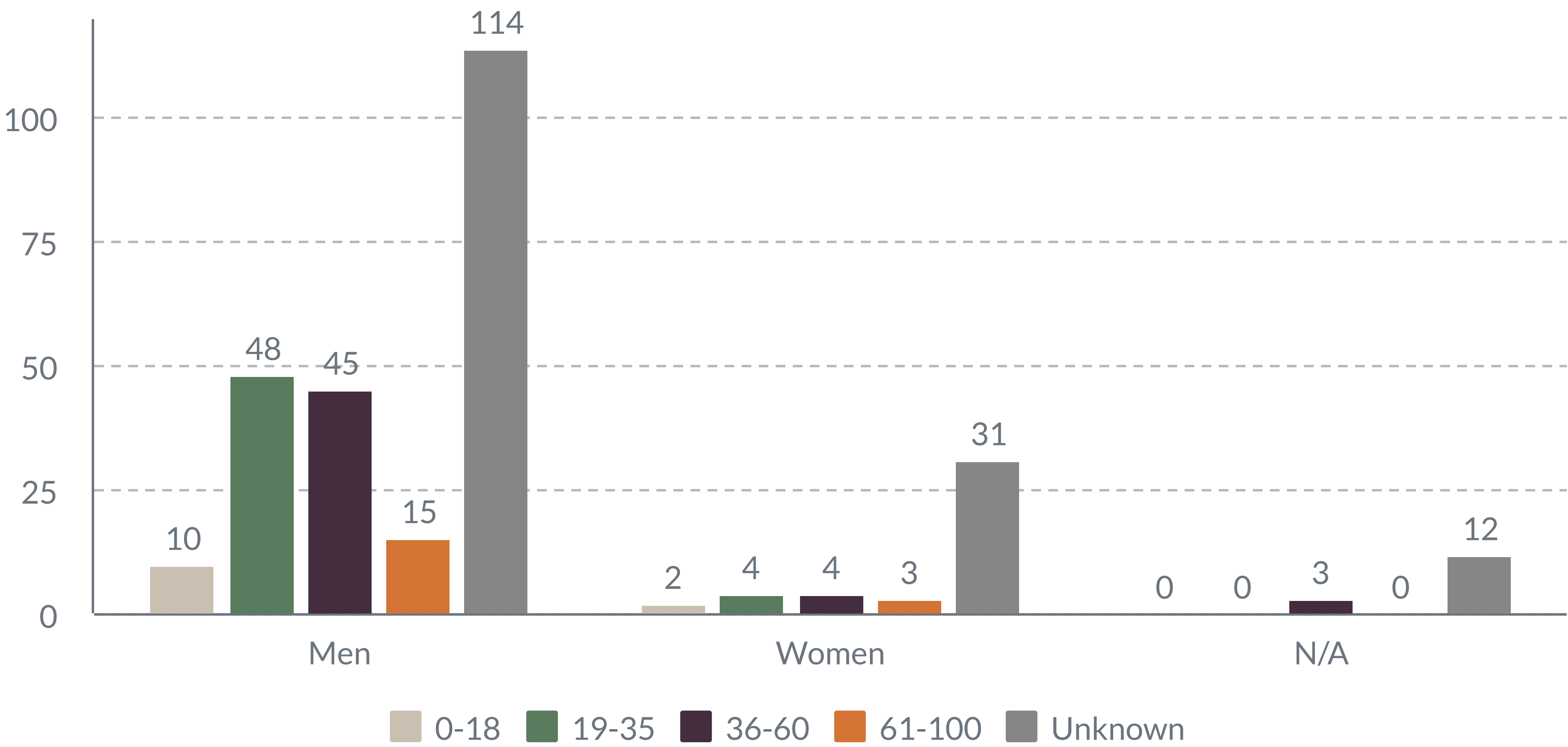
N/A

for **15**
sex was not reported

In incidents where **women** were reported as **victims**, they were mostly related to **incidents of domestic violence (45.4%)** and **criminal context (29.5%)**.

In incidents where **men** were reported as victims, they were mostly related to incidents of **public disputes (36.2%)** and **criminal context (20.2%)**.

- In incidents where age of **men** and **women victims** was reported, the majority fell under the **age group of 19-35**, followed by the 36-60 age group.



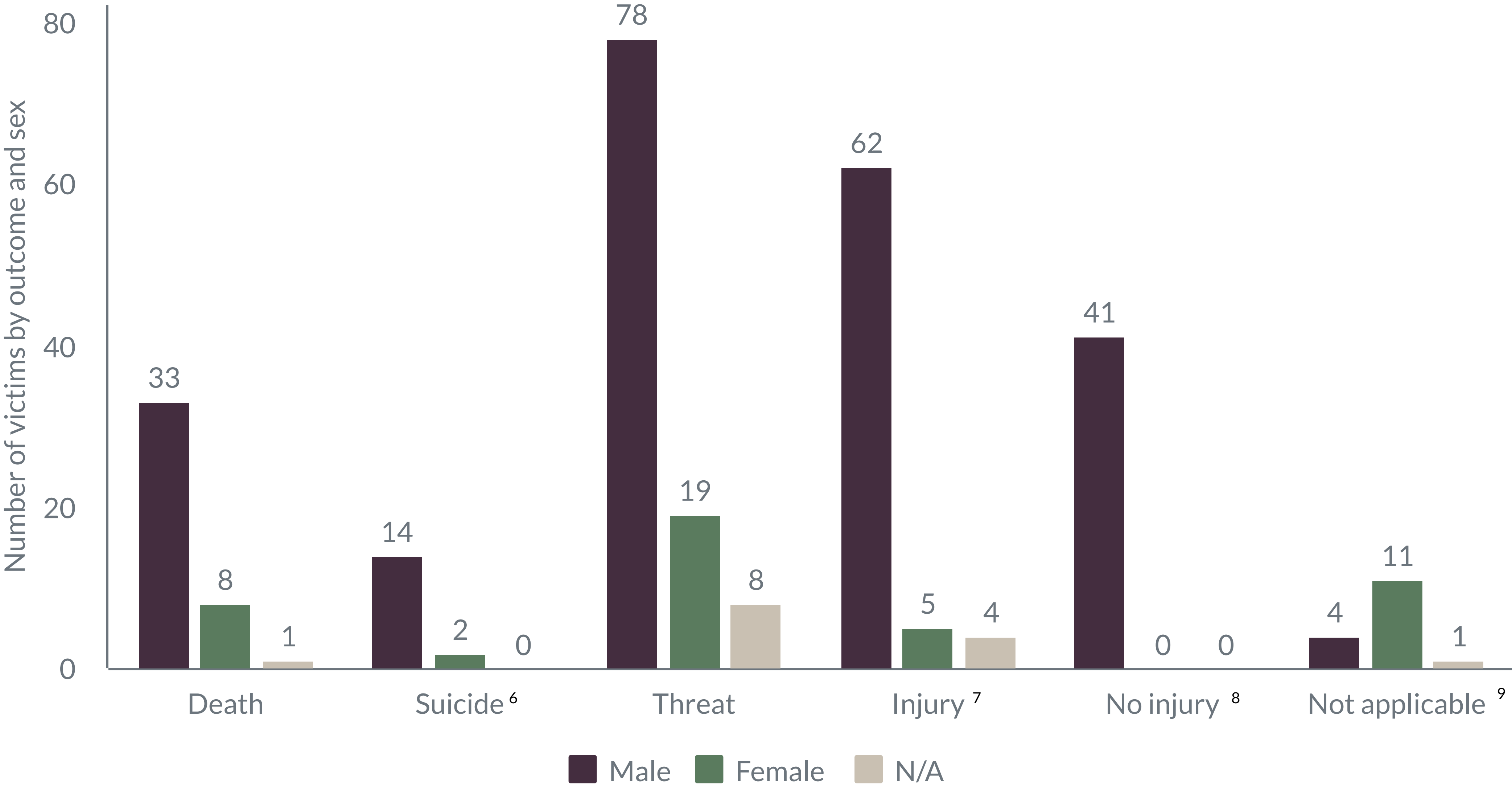
- For **157 (53.9%) victims** the **age was not reported**. For 12 victims neither sex nor age was reported.

⁵ Victim refers to any individual who has been threatened, injured or died as a result of the use of a firearm/ammunition/explosives.

OUTCOME FOR VICTIMS

105 reported victims **were threatened with firearms**, with 40 of them in public disputes and 38 in armed robberies.

71 victims **were injured**. Most of them were injured in public disputes (28).



42 people were killed with **firearms**, which is a 75% increase compared to Q1 (24 murders). Most of them were killed in incidents of criminal context and domestic violence.

A total of 16 suicides with firearms were reported, with 14 victims being men.

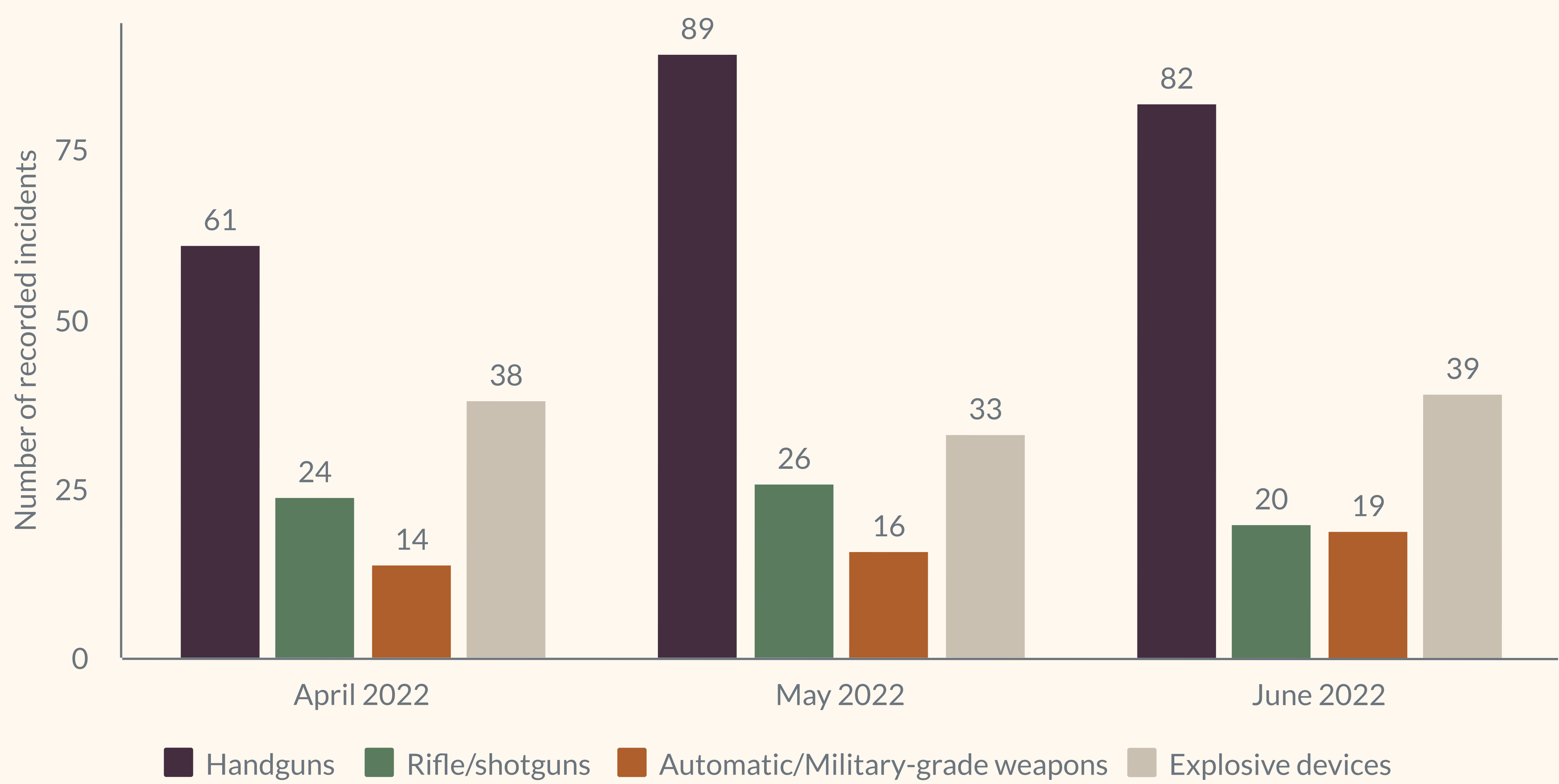
⁶ Suicide refers to all incidents in which the victim killed him/herself with a firearm.
⁷ Injury refers to all incidents in which an individual sustained an injury due to weapon use.
⁸ No injury refers to all incidents in which a weapon was discharged, but the victim did not sustain a gunshot injury.
⁹ Not applicable refers to all incidents in which a weapon is present but not used or discharged (for example, theft of a weapon).

TYPE OF WEAPONS



In **380** (52.5%) **incidents**, the firearms used were in **illegal possession**, while in **31** (4.3%) cases they were in **legal possession**. In 312 (43.2%) incidents the status of possession was not reported.

- **Handguns** were reported in **232 incidents**. In 113 cases, this type of firearm was seized, while in 40 cases it was used in public disputes.
- With **110 incidents** recorded, **explosive devices** were the second most used. In 59 incidents, explosives were reported as accidentally found by citizens (usually during construction works).



Please note that the graph represents the number of incidents in which four most reported types of weapons were used. During this quarter, in 18.9% of all reported cases the type of firearm was either unknown or not reported.

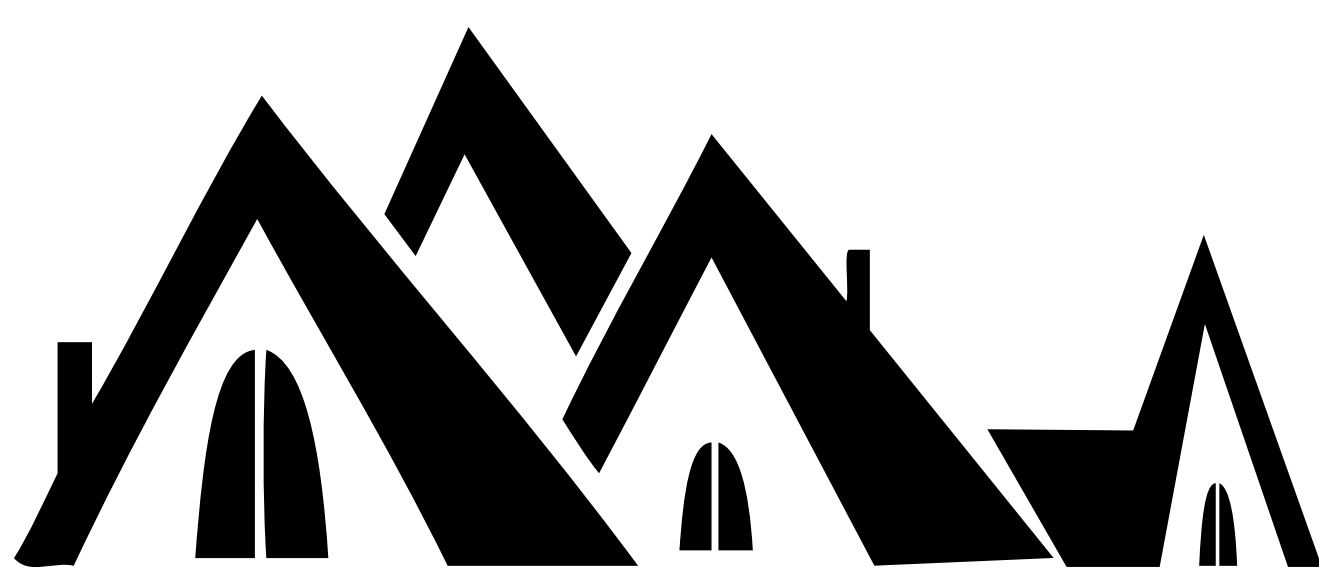
- **Rifles/shotguns** were reported in **70 incidents**. This type of firearm was the third most seized (in 37 incidents) and also reported in 11 incidents of criminal context.
- **Automatic/military-grade weapons** were reported in **49 incidents**. Where the exact type of this weapon was reported, they were mostly AK-47/Kalashnikov.

MACRO AND MICROLOCATION

From April to June 2022

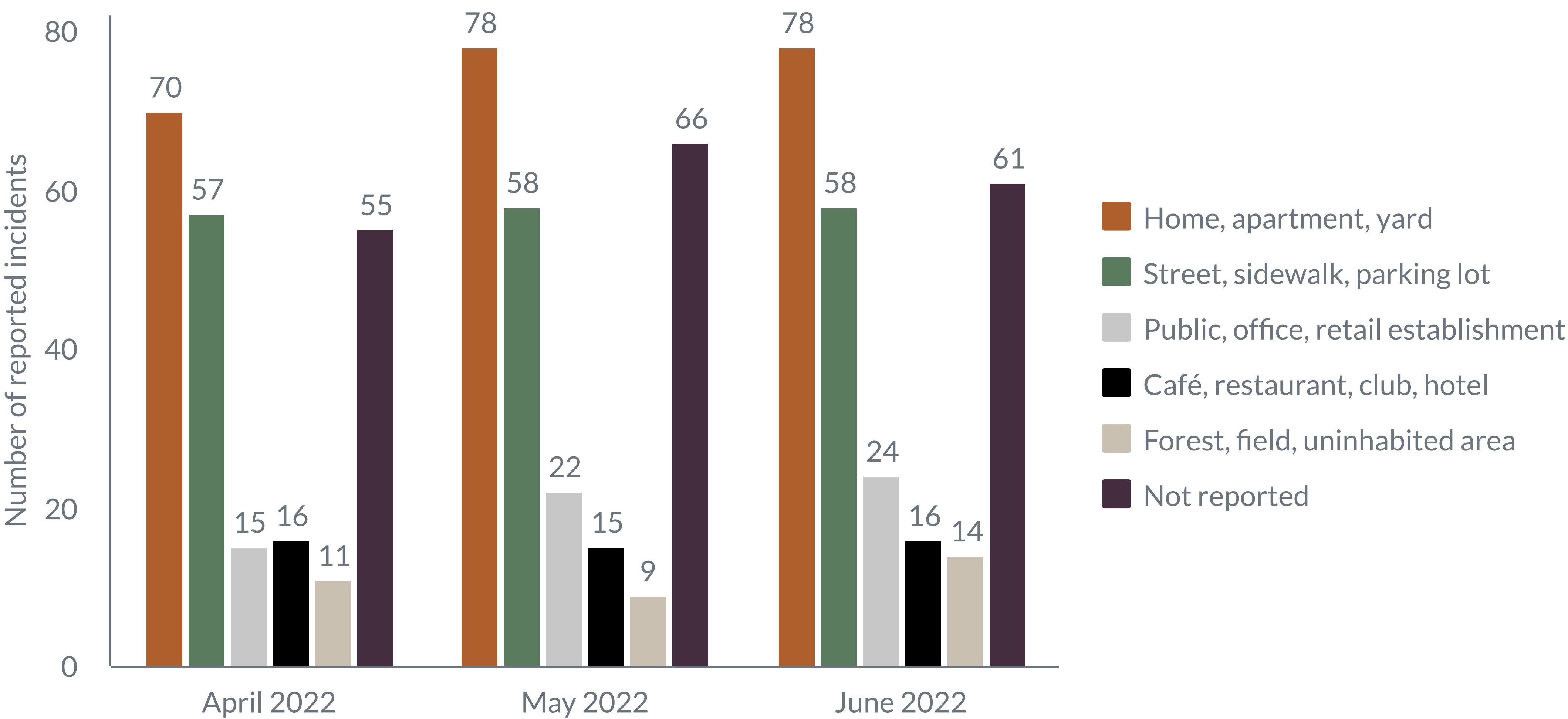


481 (66.5%) incidents
occurred in urban areas.

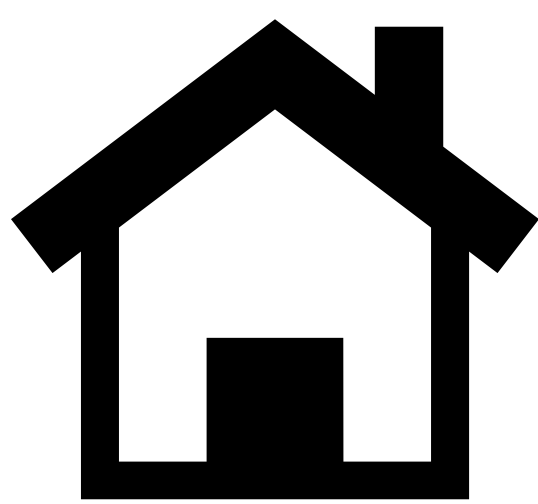


242 (33.5%) incidents
occurred in rural areas.

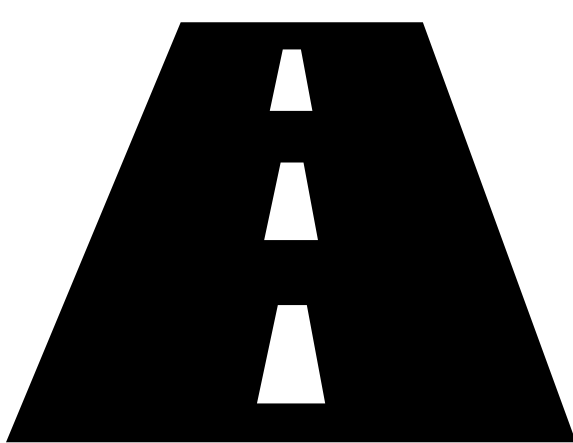
Microlocation



Majority of incidents were reported



at homes
192 incidents



in streets
165 incidents



in cafes/restaurants
39 incidents



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