



South East Europe Armed Violence Monitor

Quarterly Regional Report

January-March 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 **January-March 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 10.04.2022. 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



811

firearm incidents were
observed in SEE.



435

weapon seizures were
reported.



72

victims were injured
with firearms.



21

celebratory shootings
were recorded.



13

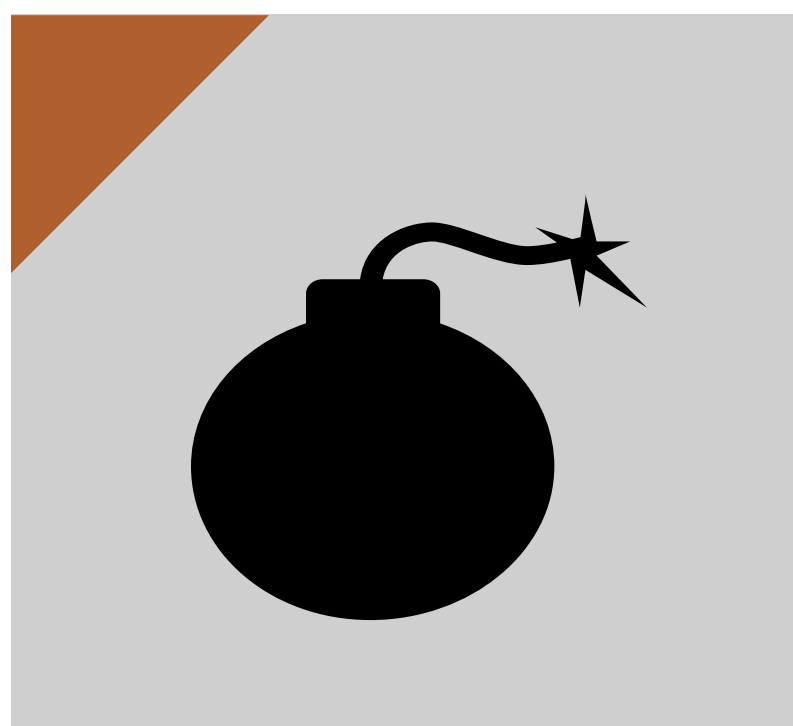
men died by suicide
with firearms.



57

armed robberies
were recorded.

TYPE OF INCIDENTS



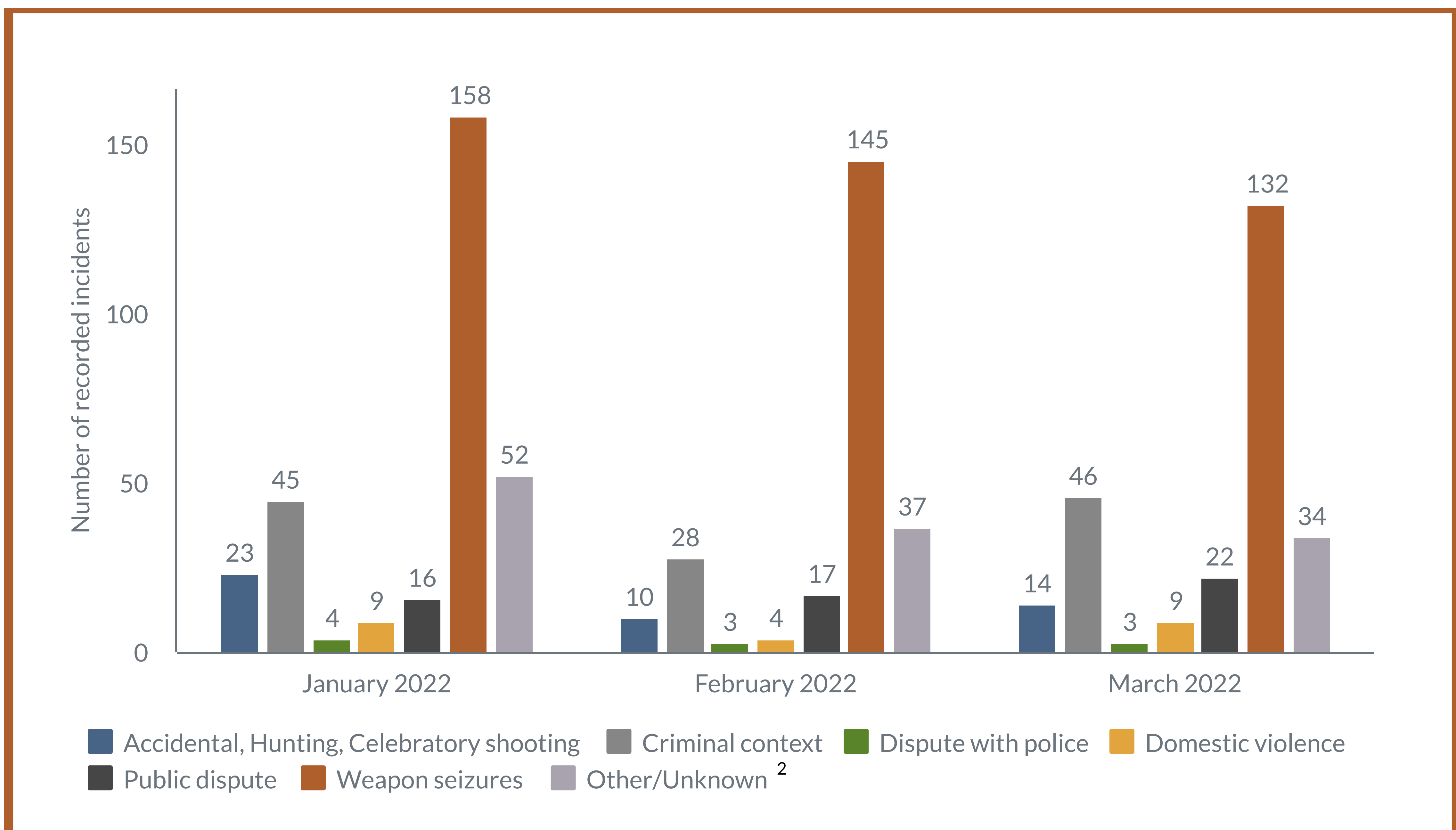
In **36 cases**, explosives were found by civilians.



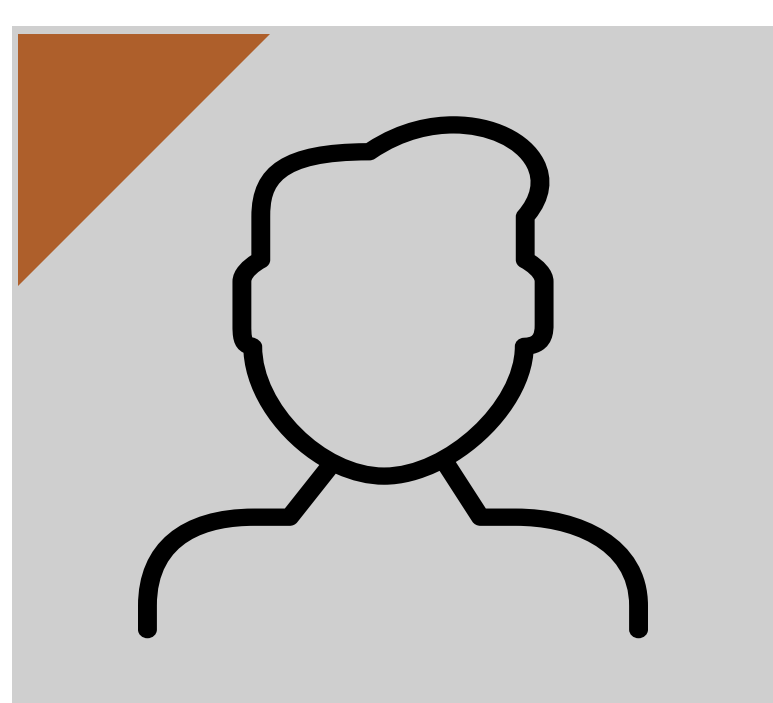
11 people accidentally shot themselves.



68 incidents of undetermined shootings were reported.



13 incidents of intimate partner violence were reported.



66 men were injured with firearms.



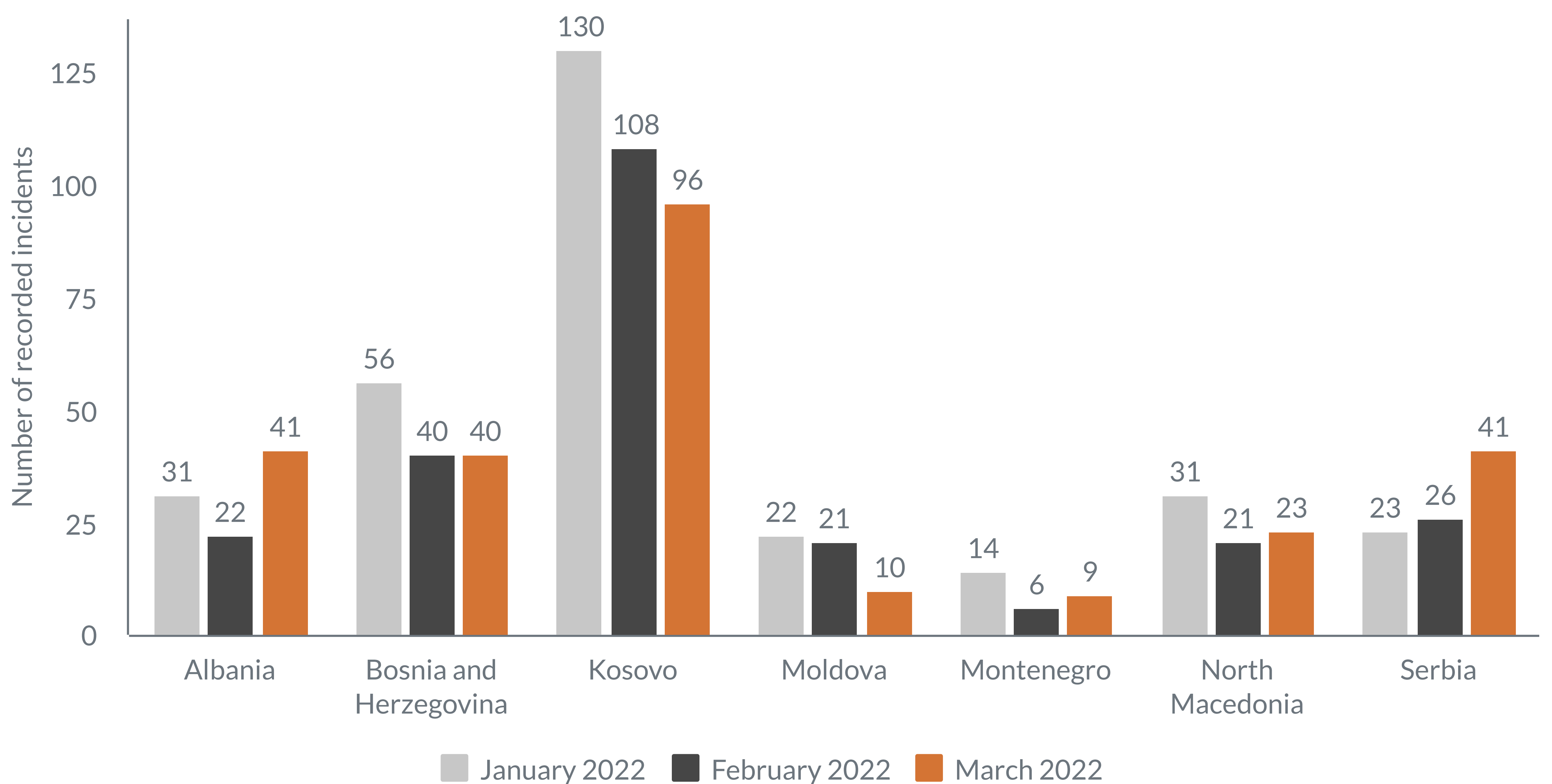
Majority of **murders (13)** occurred in **homes** and **on streets**.

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 **increased by 6%** in comparison to Q4 2021 (from 765 to 811).

The number of incidents **decreased** from January to March **by 15.3%** (from 307 to 260).

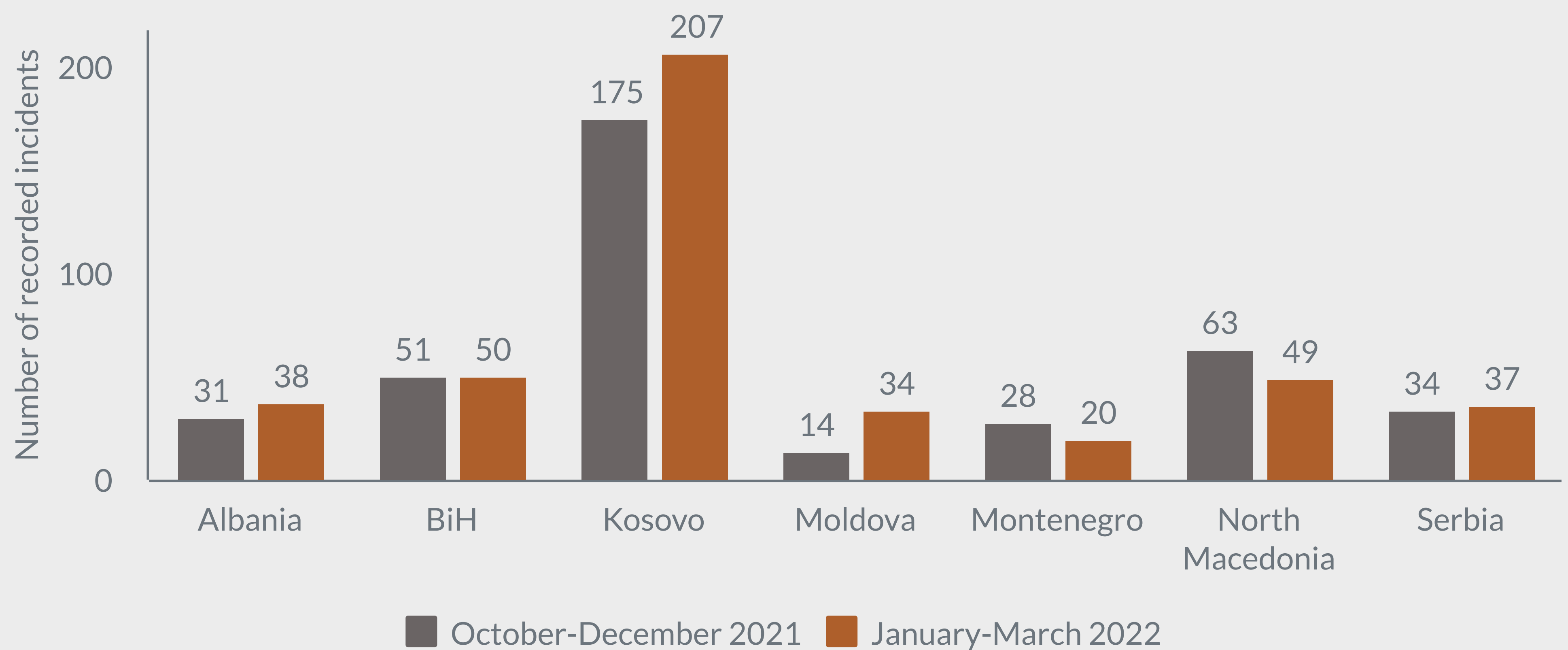


Kosovo (334), Bosnia and Herzegovina (136) and **Albania (94)** reported the highest number of firearm incidents.

Weapon seizures (435) and **incidents in the criminal context (119)** continued to be the most reported types of incidents.

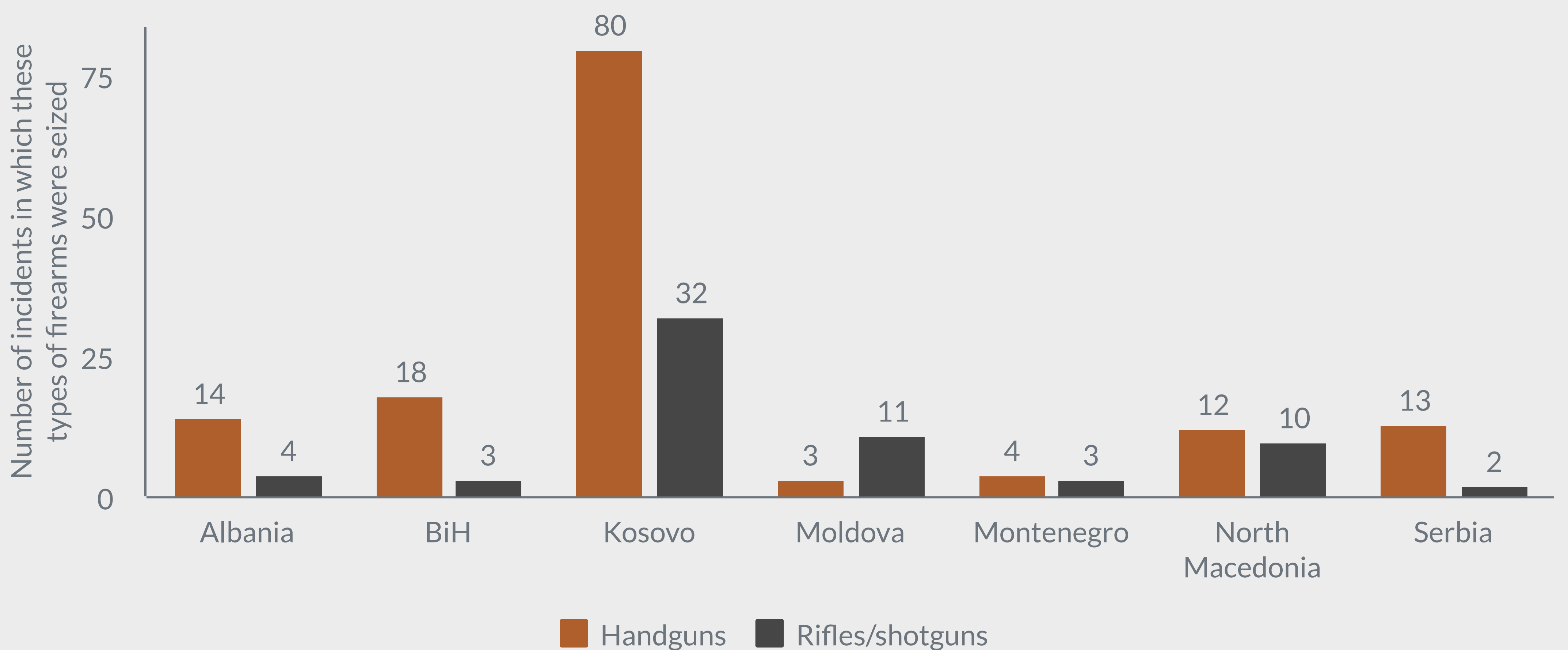
MAIN TRENDS - Weapon seizures

- Weapon seizures continue to be the most reported type of incident, with a total of **435 seizures** reported in this quarter.
- **An increase of 9.8%** was recorded compared to the previous quarter (396 cases).



- **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo** and **North Macedonia** recorded the highest number of seizure cases during this quarter.

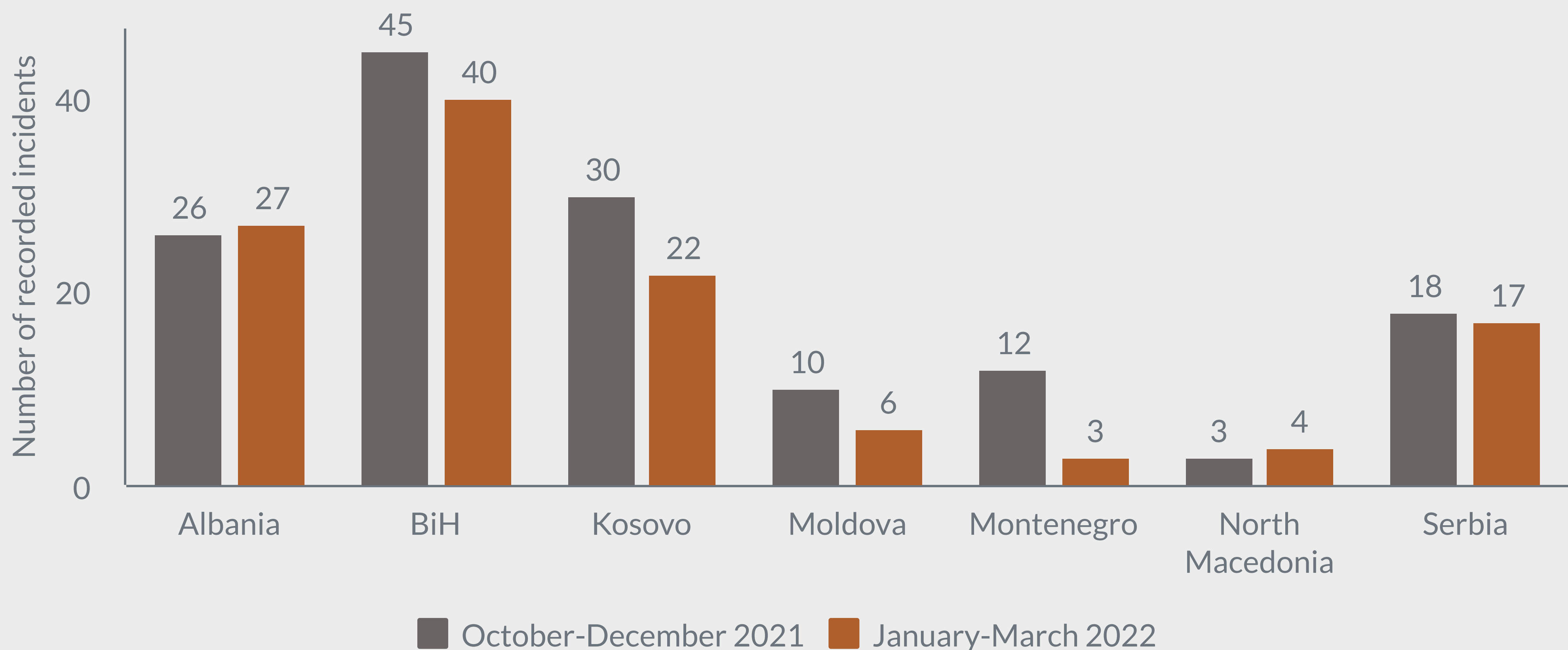
- **Handguns** continue to be the **most seized type of weapon**, being seized in 144 incidents (out of 435). The highest number of handgun seizures was reported in Kosovo (80).
- **With 65 seizures, rifles/shotguns** were the second most seized type. Kosovo (32) reported the highest number of incidents in which this type of firearm was seized.



Two most seized types of weapons in the January-March 2022 period.

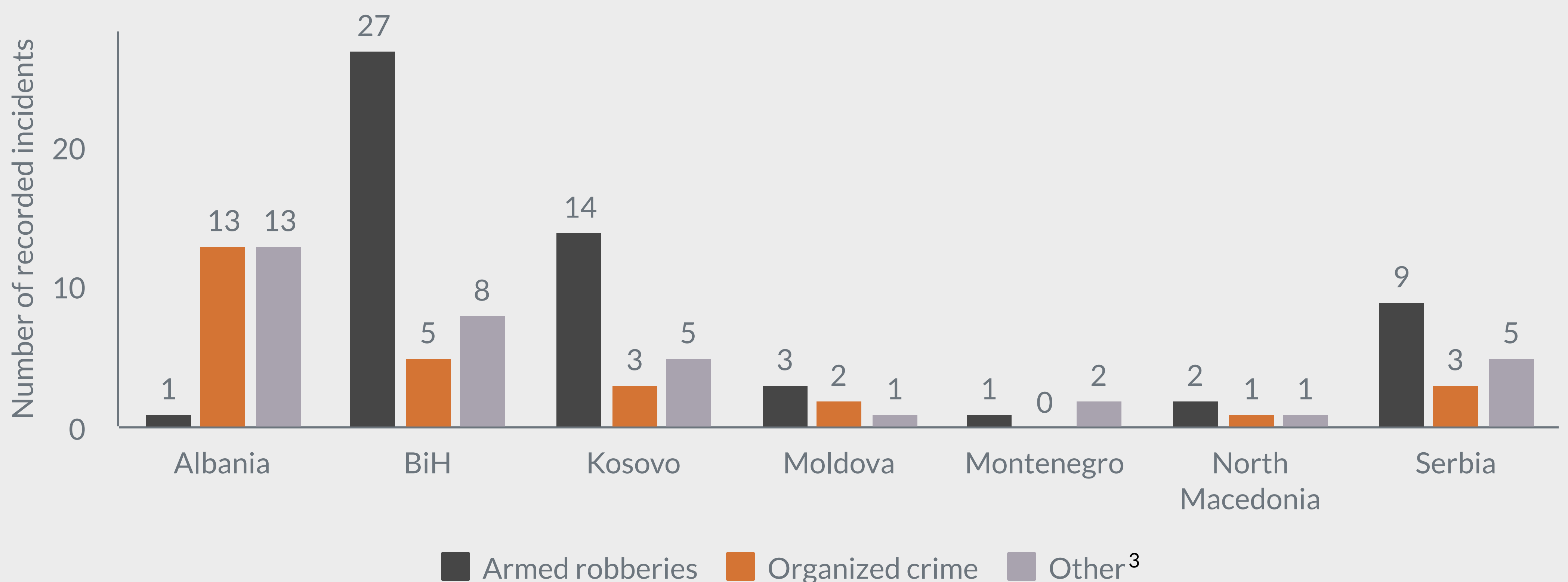
MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Criminal context

- With **119 incidents of criminal context**, this type of incident was the second most reported. Compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease of 17.3%** was observed (from 144 to 119).



- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia reported a decrease of incidents of criminal context.
- **91 victims** of incidents in criminal context were reported, of which **6 people** reported as **killed, 20 injured** and **56 threatened**.

- Out of 119 incidents in criminal context, **57 incidents were related to armed robberies**, which were mostly reported in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (27)** and **Kosovo (14)**.

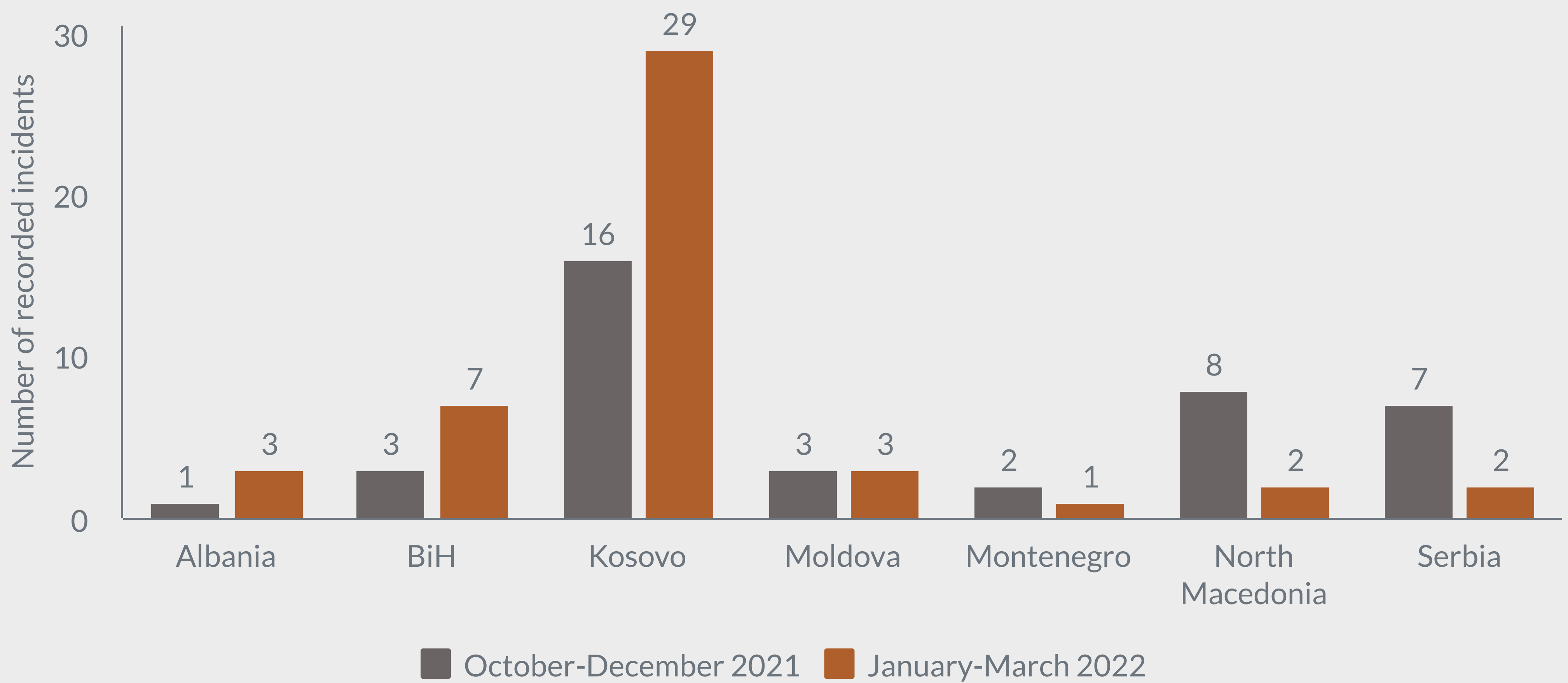


- Armed robberies were mostly reported in **shops (21), homes (10), post offices (4)** and **pharmacies (4)**.

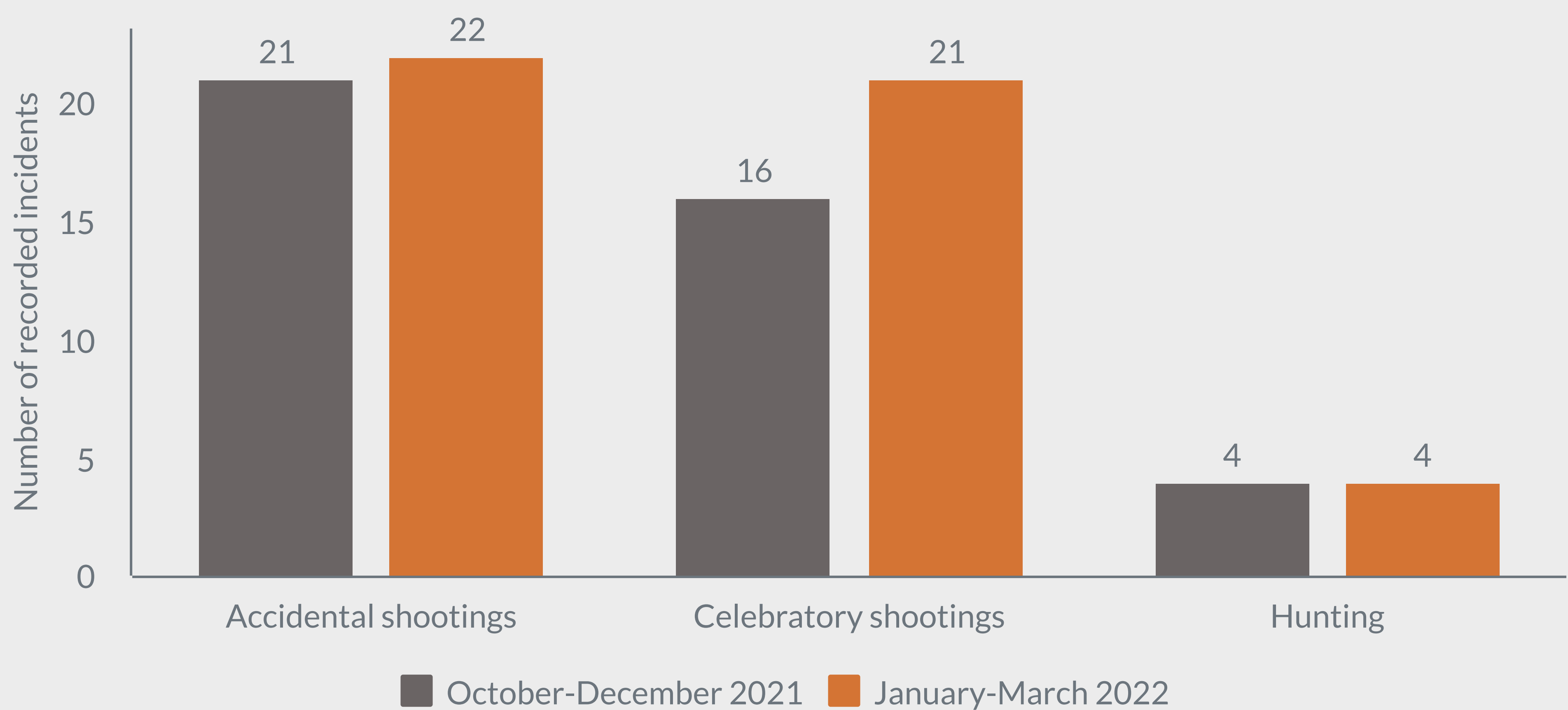
³ Other refers to any incident which does not fall under robberies or organized crime, but is related to criminal context.

MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Accident, hunting, celebratory shooting

- **47 incidents** of accidental, celebratory shootings, and hunting were recorded. This is a **14.6% increase** from the previous quarter (from 41 to 47).



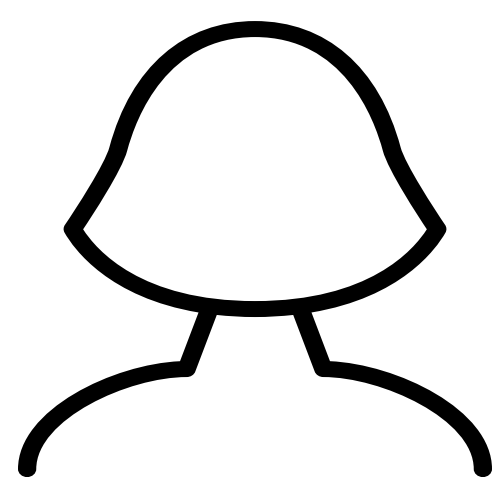
- **Accidental shootings** resulted in **5 killed** and **15 injured** victims.
- In **4 incidents**, firearms were used for **illegal hunting**. Where identified, **rifles/shotguns** were the most used type of weapon.



- An **increase of 31.2% of celebratory shootings** was recorded (from 16 to 21), with the highest number reported in Kosovo (17).
- **Gas pistols** and **handguns** were the most used weapons in celebratory shootings.

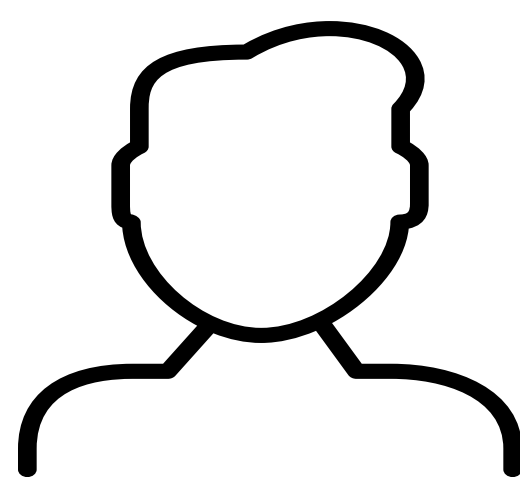
PERPETRATORS

From January to March 2022, there were **1032 perpetrators⁴** of firearm incidents, of which



19

were women



804

were men

N/A

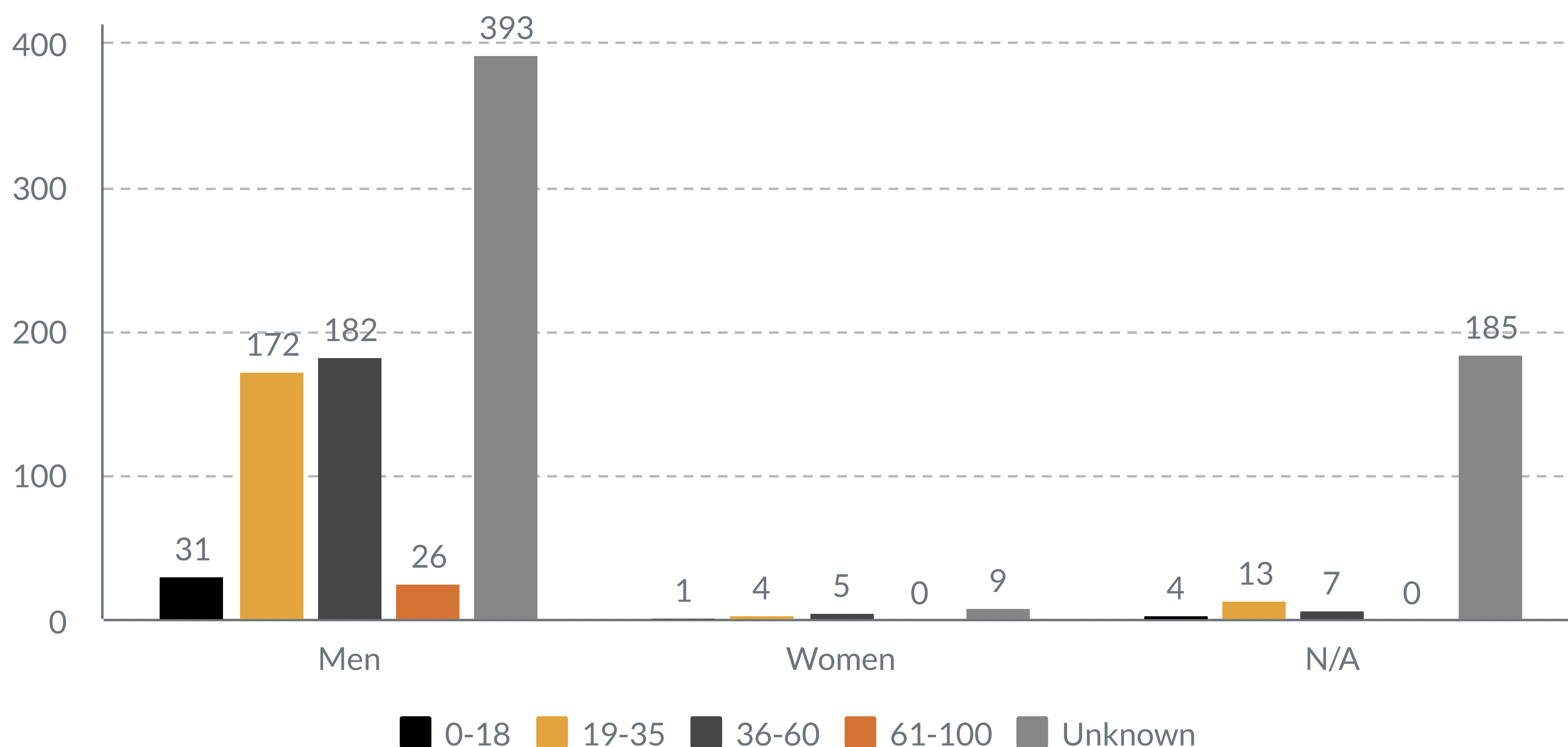
for **209**

sex was not reported

In incidents where **men were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly reported in incidents related to **weapon seizures (51.6%)** and in **criminal context (19.8%)**.

In incidents where **women were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly related to **weapon seizures (63.1%)**.

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

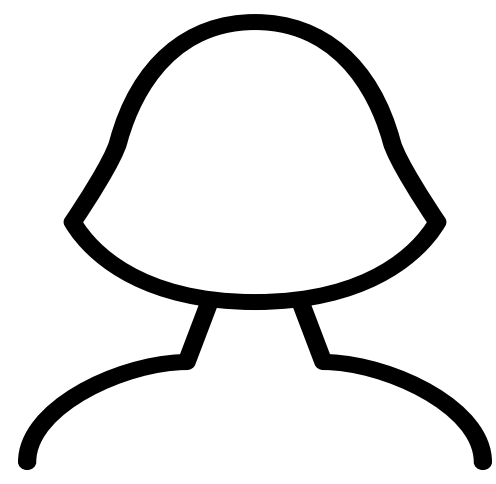


- For **587 (57%) perpetrators** the **age was not reported**. For 185 perpetrators neither sex nor age was reported.

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.

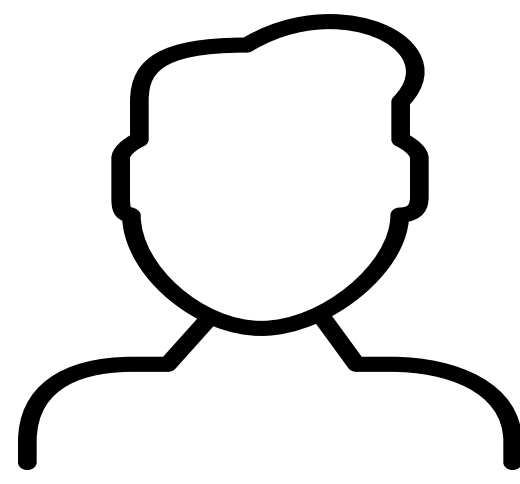
VICTIMS

From January to March 2022, there were **257 victims**⁵ of firearm incidents, of which



51

were women



175

were men

N/A

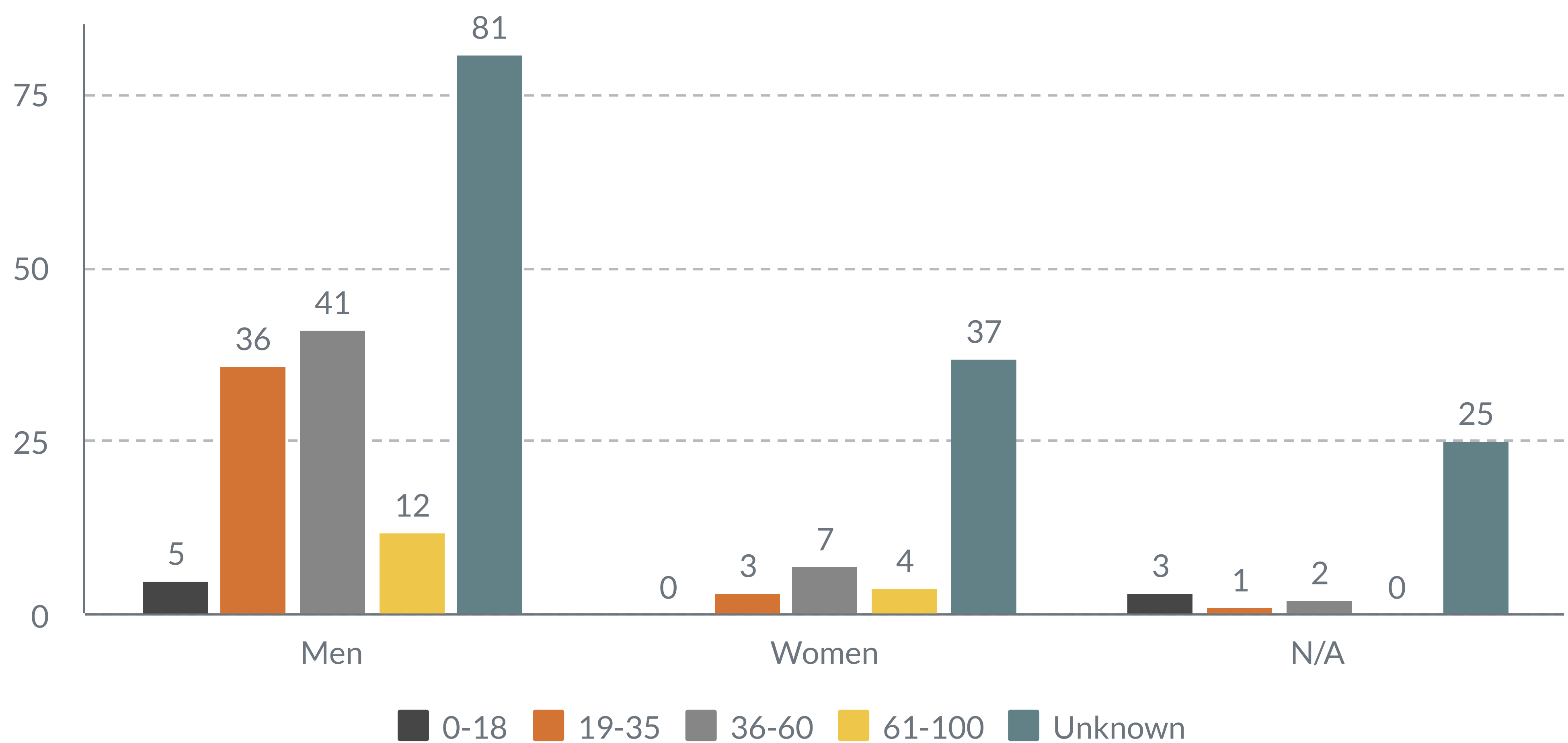
for **31**

sex was not reported

In incidents where **women** were reported as **victims**, they were mostly related to **incidents of criminal context (45%)** and **domestic violence (31.3%)**.

In incidents where **men** were reported as victims, they were mostly related to incidents of **criminal context (30.8%)** and **public disputes (30.8%)**.

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



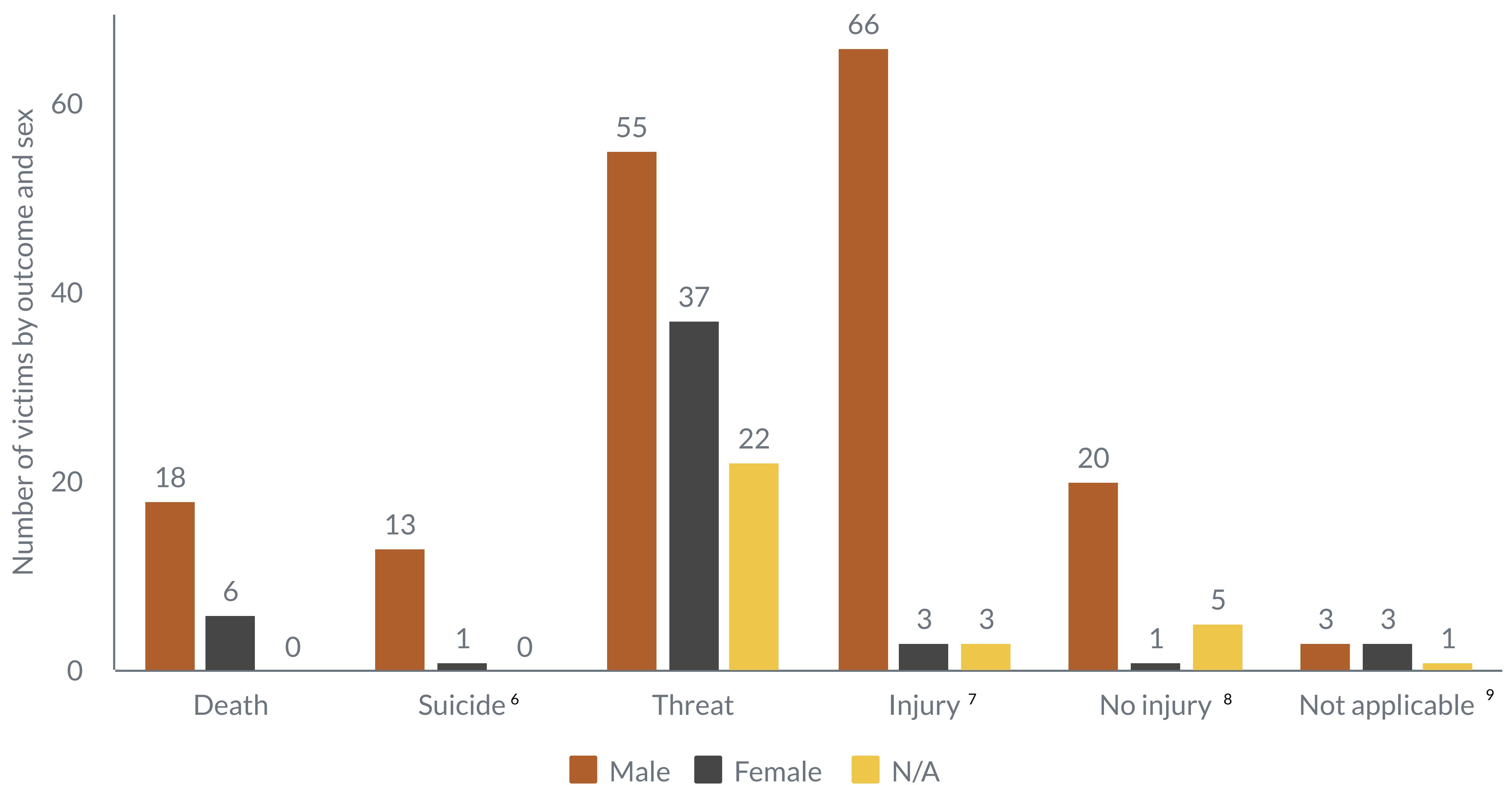
- For **143 (55.6%) victims** the **age was not reported**. For 25 victims neither sex nor age was reported.

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

114 reported victims **were threatened with firearms**, with 45 of them in armed robberies and 33 in public disputes.

72 victims were injured. Most of them were injured in criminal context (20) and public disputes (12).



24 people were killed with firearms, of whom most were killed in incidents of criminal context (6) and in accidental shootings (5).

A total of 14 suicides with firearms were reported, which is a 50% increase since previous quarter.

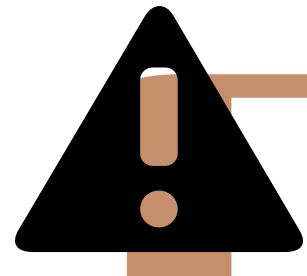
⁶ Suicide refers to all incidents in which the victim killed him/herself with a firearm.

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.

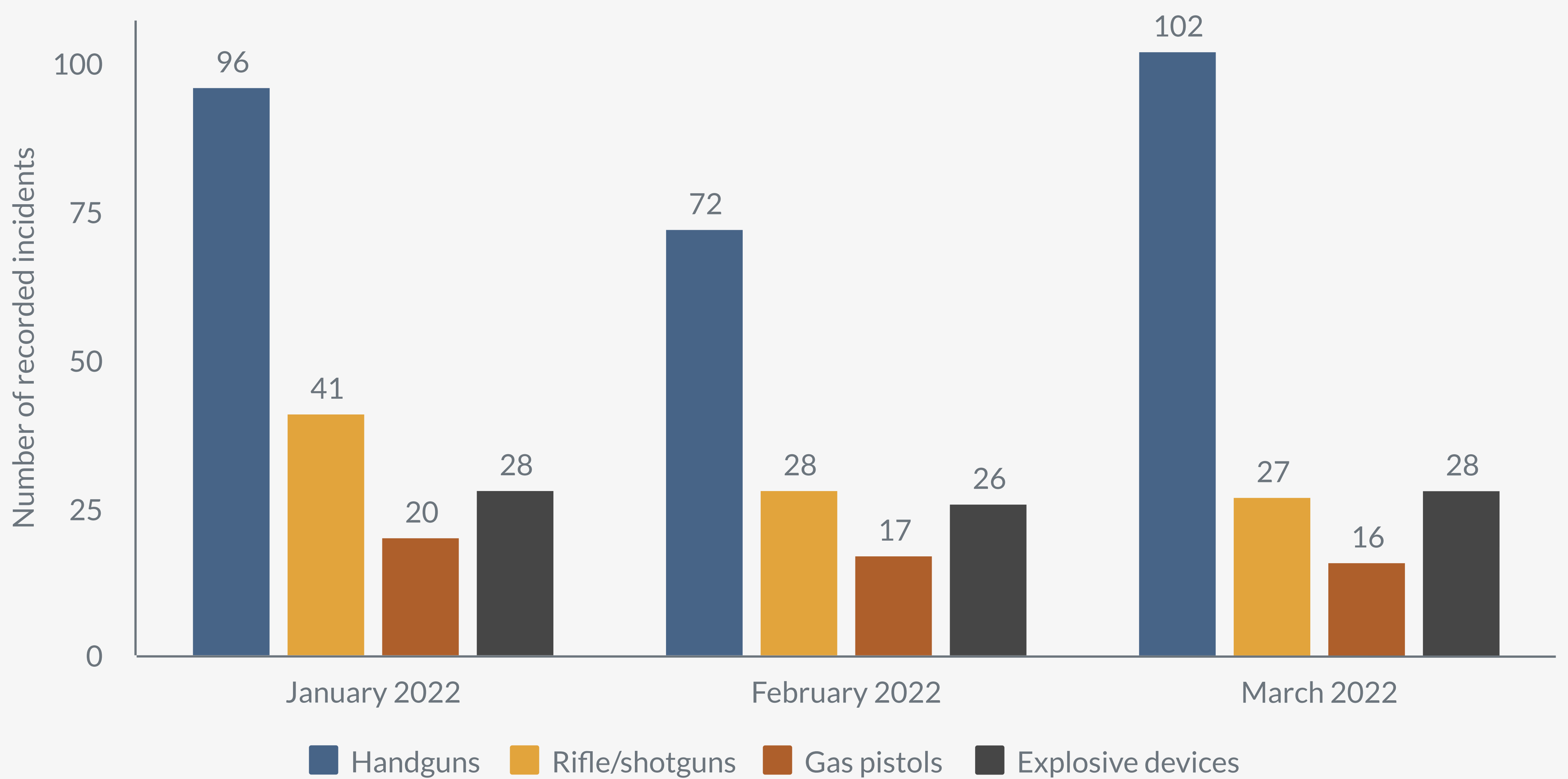
⁹ Not applicable refers to all incidents in which a weapon is present but not used or discharged (for example, theft of a weapon).

TYPE OF WEAPONS



In **524** (64.6%) **incidents**, the firearms used were in **illegal possession**, while in **33** (4%) cases they were in **legal possession**. In 254 (31.4%) incidents the status of possession was not reported.

- **Handguns** were reported in **270 incidents**. In 144 cases, this type of firearm was seized, while in 49 cases it was used in the criminal context.
- With **96 incidents**, **rifles/shotguns** were the second most reported. In 65 incidents, this type of firearm was seized.



Please note that the graph represents the number of incidents in which four most reported types of weapons were used. During this quarter, in 15.3% of all reported cases the type of firearm was either unknown or not reported.

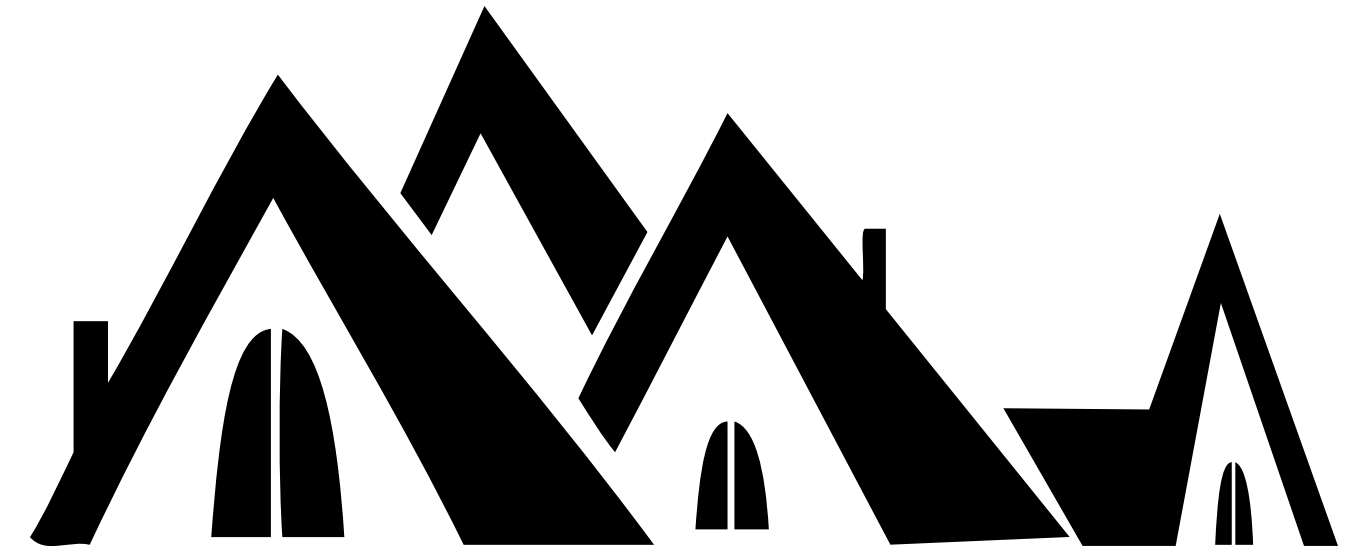
- **Explosive devices** were reported in **82 incidents**, of which in 36 these devices were reported as found by civilians.
- **Gas pistols** were reported in **53 incidents**. In 27 cases, this type of firearm was seized and in 9 cases it was used in celebratory shootings.

MACRO AND MICROLOCATION

From January to March 2022

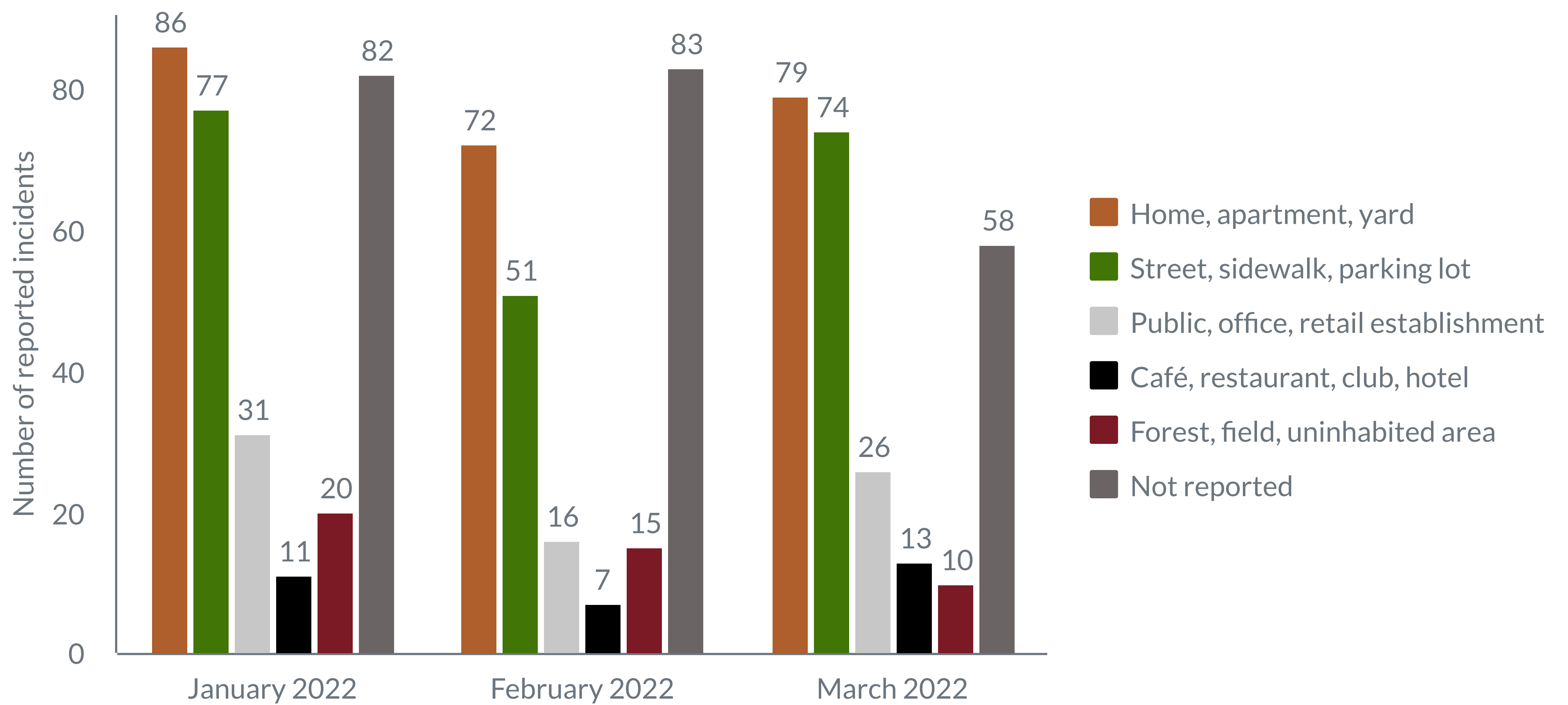


539 (66.4%) incidents
occurred in urban areas.



272 (33.6%) incidents
occurred in rural areas.

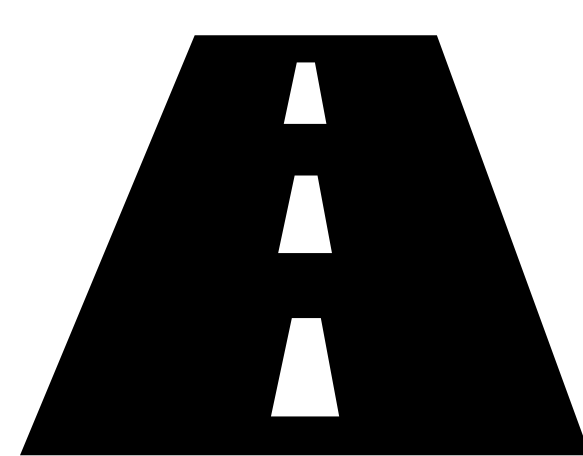
Microlocation



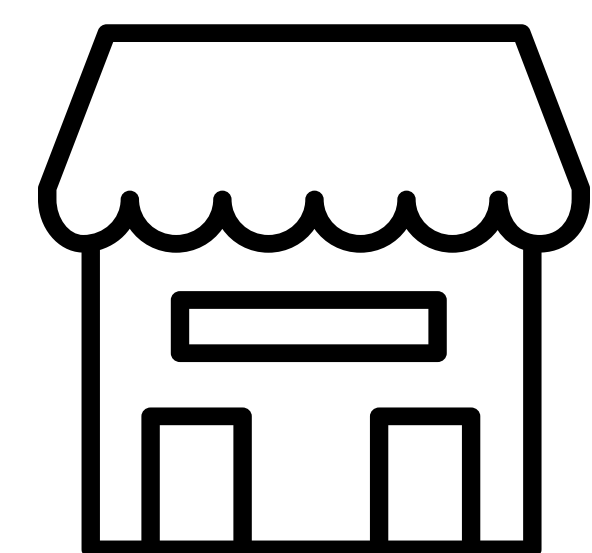
Majority of incidents were reported



at homes
219 incidents



in streets
195 incidents



in shops
27 incidents



South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of
Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)

Bulevar Zorana Đinđića 64
11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Tel: +381 11 4155300
Fax: +381 11 4155499

e-mail: seesac@undp.org

www.seesac.org



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