



# **South East Europe Armed Violence Monitor**

***Quarterly Regional Report***

*January-March 2021*

## 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, Kosovo\*, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. 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 2021**.<sup>1</sup>

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.

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

<sup>1</sup> Data retrieved on 18.05.2021. 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.

# SNAPSHOTS



**816**

firearm incidents were  
observed in SEE.



**378**

cases of weapon seizures  
were recorded.



**126**

armed robberies were  
reported.



**16**

people committed suicide  
with firearms.



**5**

women were killed in  
domestic violence context.

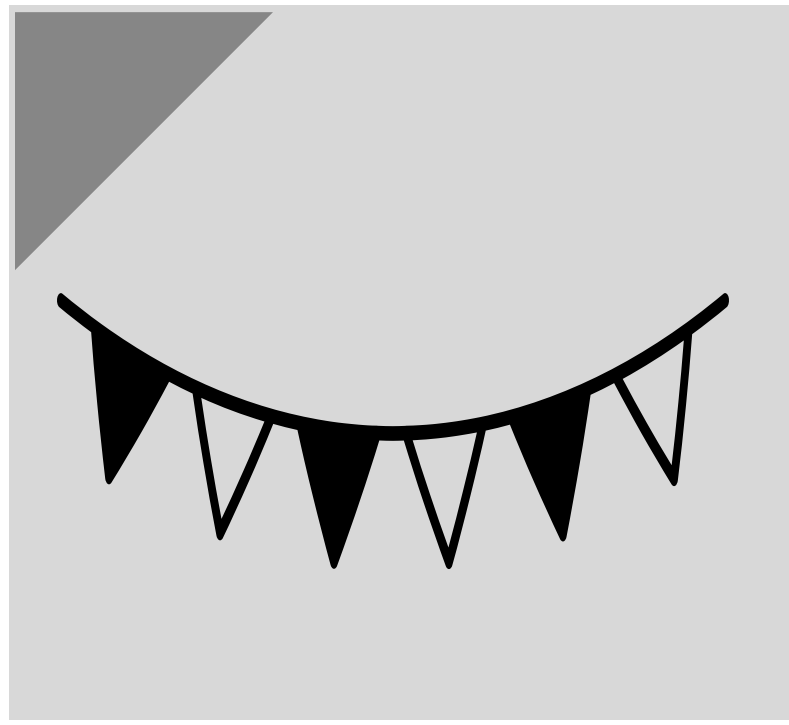


**29**

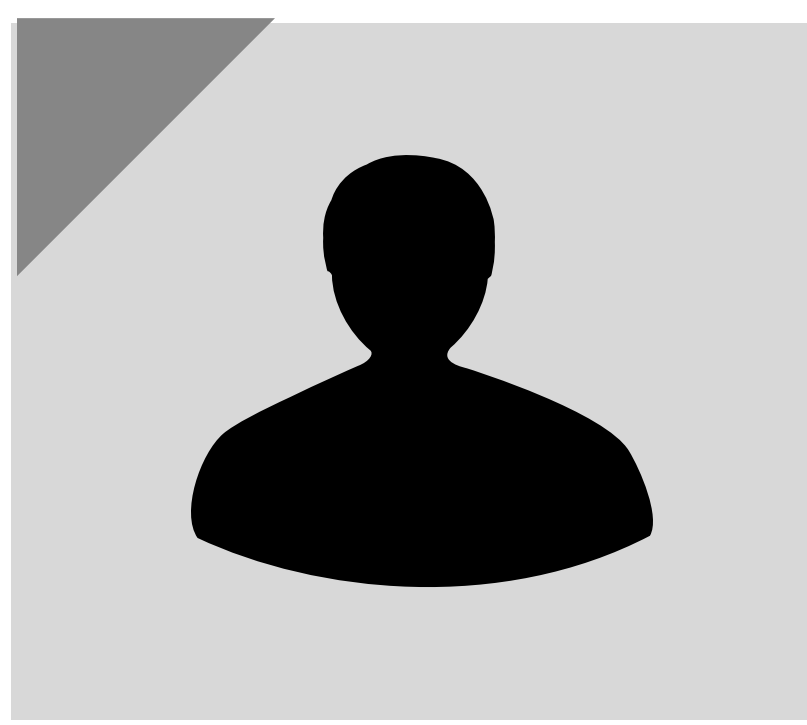
underage perpetrators were  
reported.



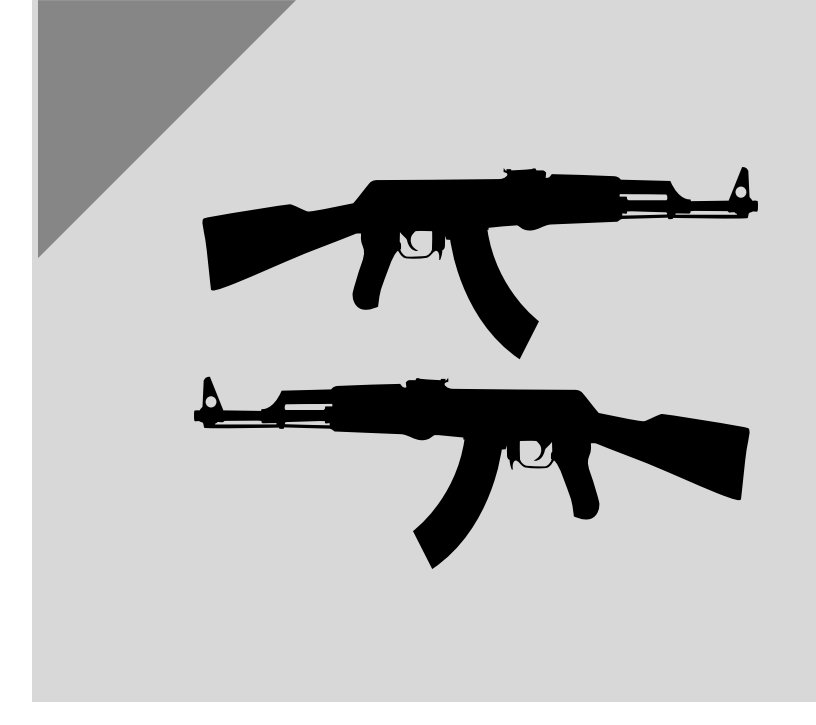
# TYPE OF INCIDENTS



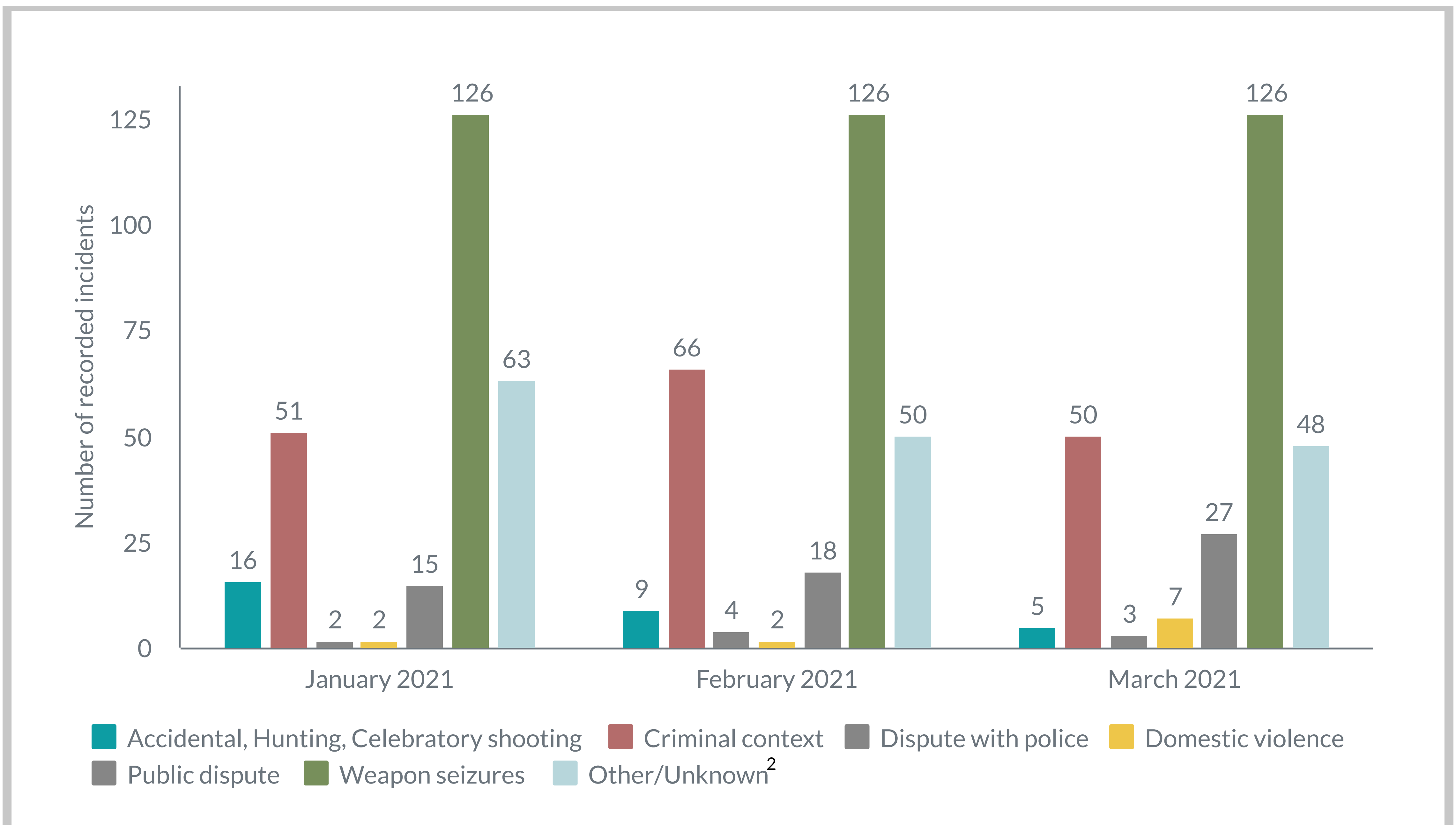
There were **12 celebratory shooting incidents**.



**Intimate partner violence** was recorded in **7 cases**.



**Weapon seizures** accounted for **46.3%** (or 378) of all reported incidents.



**100 incidents of shooting of unknown context** were reported.



In **169 incidents**, weapons were seized in private spaces.



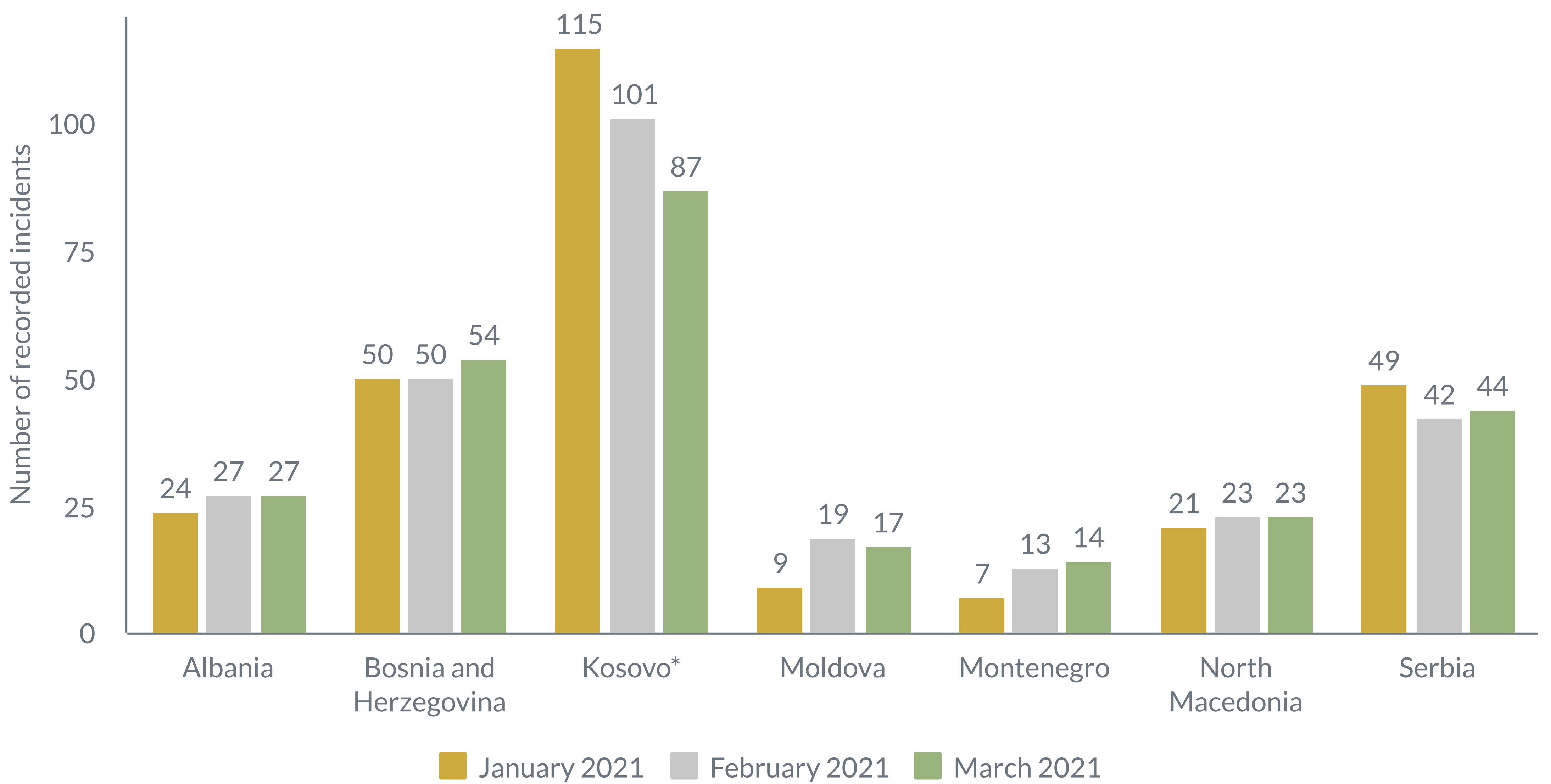
**14 victims** were injured in **accidental shootings**.

<sup>2</sup>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

**January** recorded the **highest number** of firearm incidents in Q1 2021, while a decrease was observed from January to March (275 v 262).

**Kosovo (303), BiH (154) and Serbia (135)** reported the highest number of firearm incidents in this quarter.

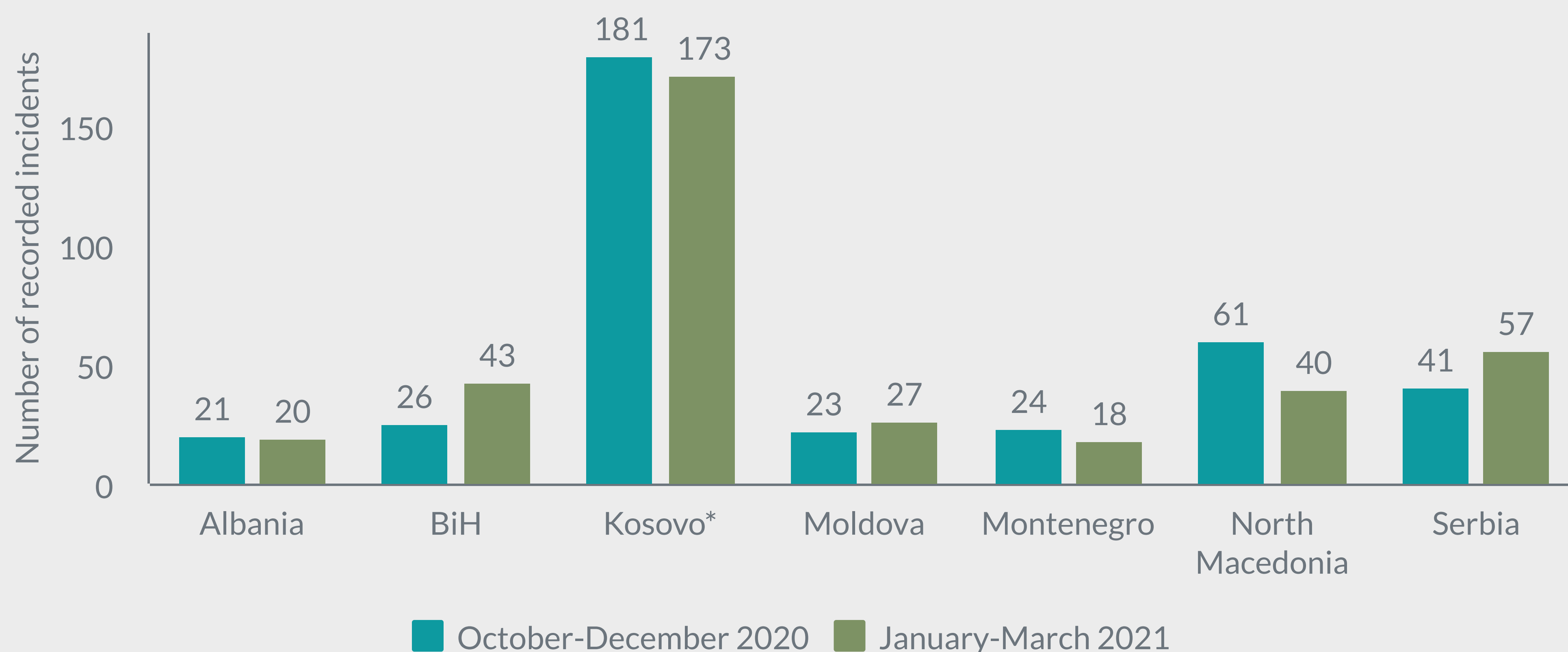


**Weapon seizures** were the **most observed** type of incident, with 126 seizures recorded each month.

The number of reported incidents **remained stable** in most jurisdictions during this quarter.

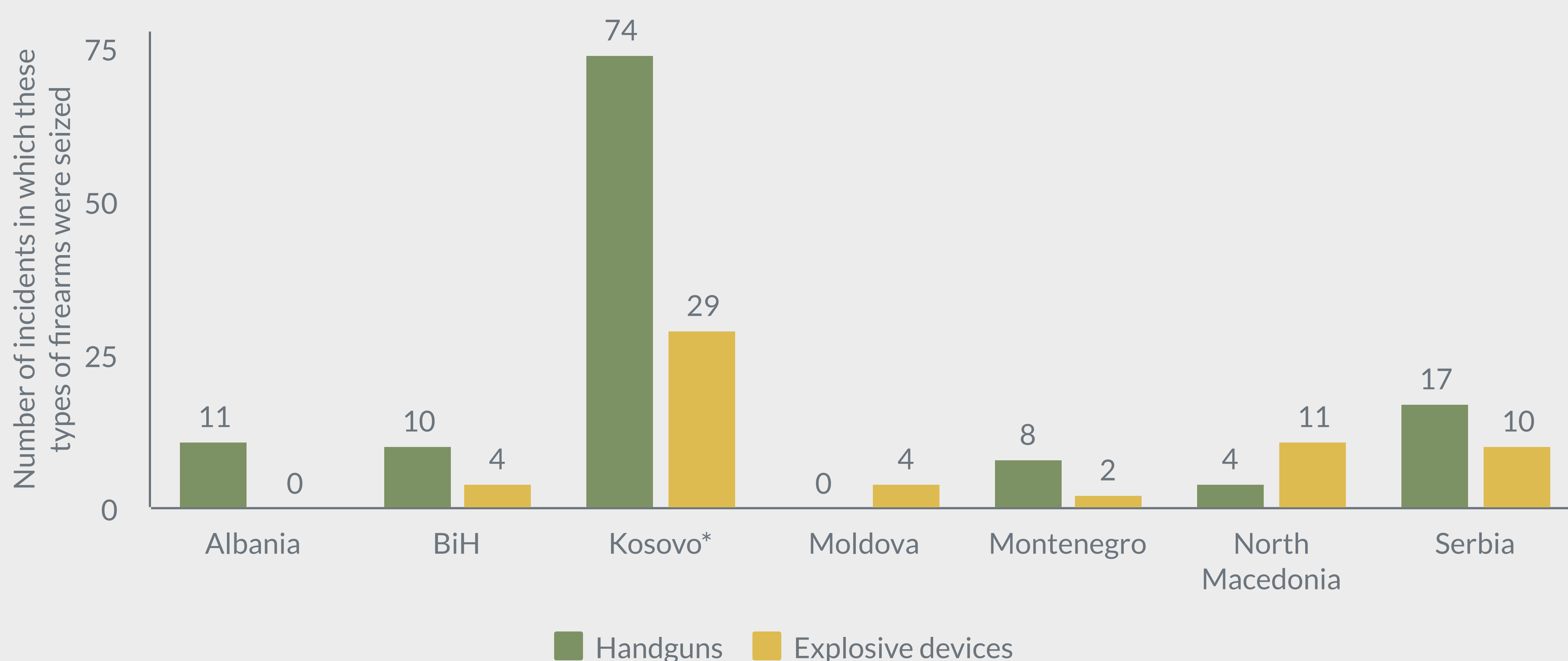
# MAIN TRENDS - Weapon seizures

- With **378 cases recorded**, weapon seizures continue to be the most reported type of firearm incident in the region.



- **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Serbia** recorded an increased number of weapon seizures during the reporting period, compared to the previous one.

- **Handguns** were the **most seized type of weapon** in this quarter, being seized in 124 incidents (out of 378). **Kosovo** recorded the **highest number of handgun seizures (59.6%)**.

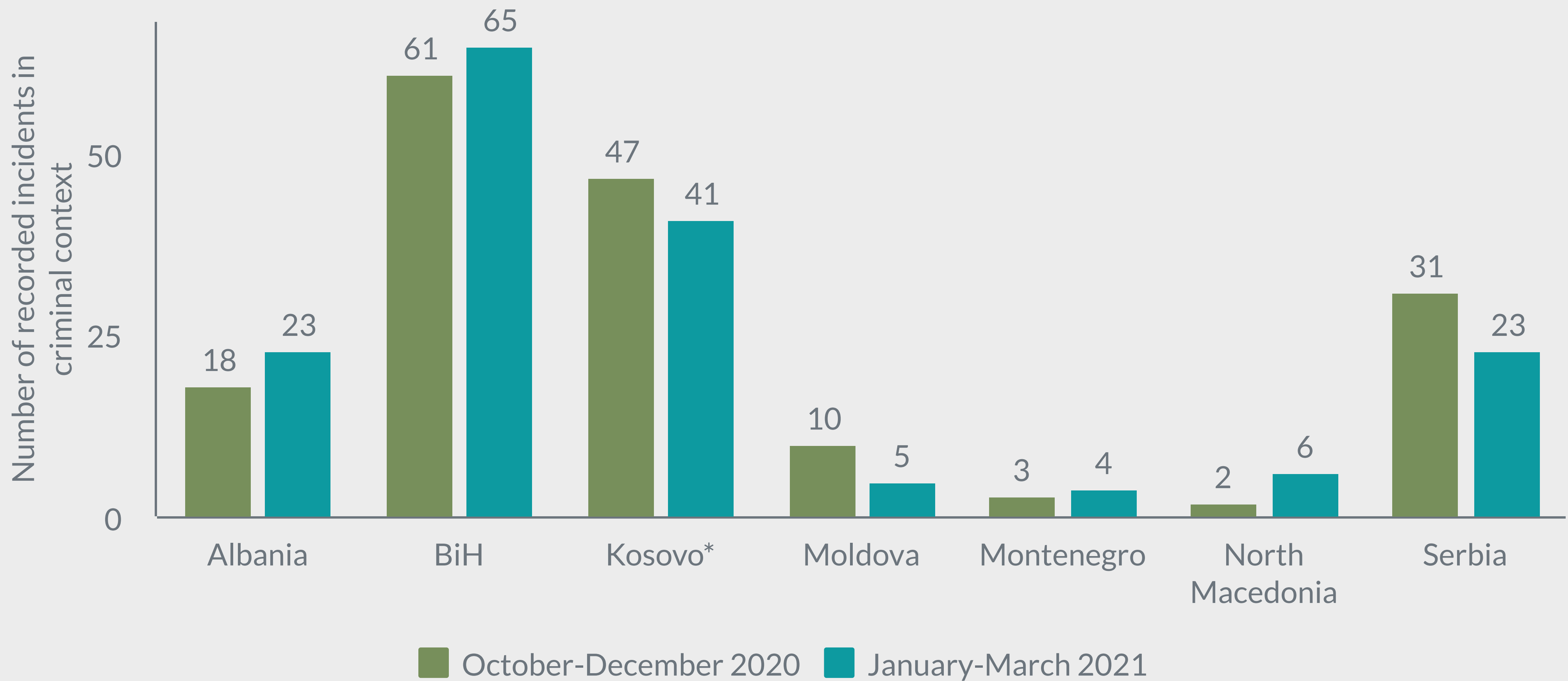


Two most seized types of weapons in the January-March 2021 period.

- **Explosive devices** came second most seized, in **60 incidents**. **Kosovo (29)**, **North Macedonia (11)** and **Serbia (10)** reported the highest number of incidents in which explosives were seized.

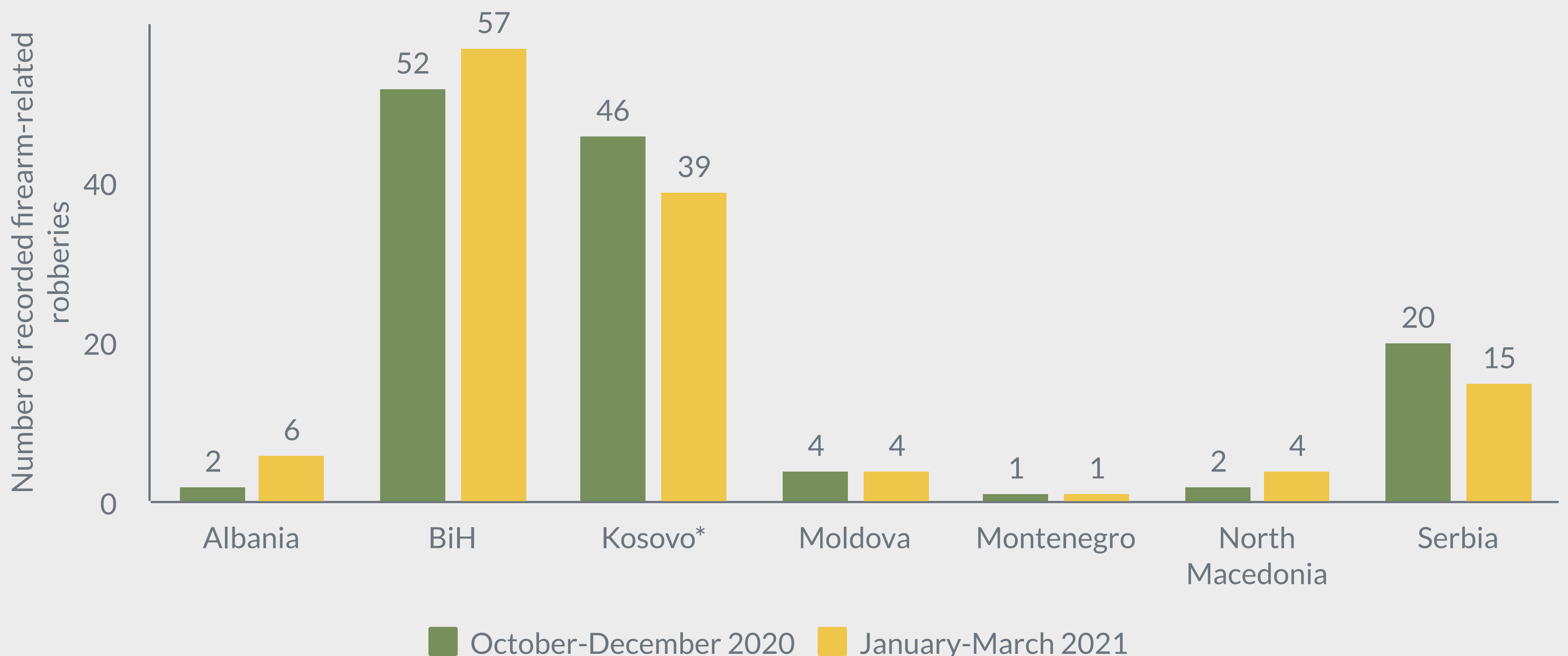
# MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Criminal context

- With **167 cases** recorded, **incidents in criminal context** were the second most frequent type of incident in SEE.



- **Bosnia and Herzegovina (65 incidents)** and **Kosovo (41 incidents)** continue to record the highest number of incidents in the criminal context.

- Out of 167 incidents in criminal context, **126 were related to armed robberies**. With the exception of **Kosovo and Serbia**, which experienced a **decrease**, all other jurisdictions observed an increase in armed robberies since the previous quarter.

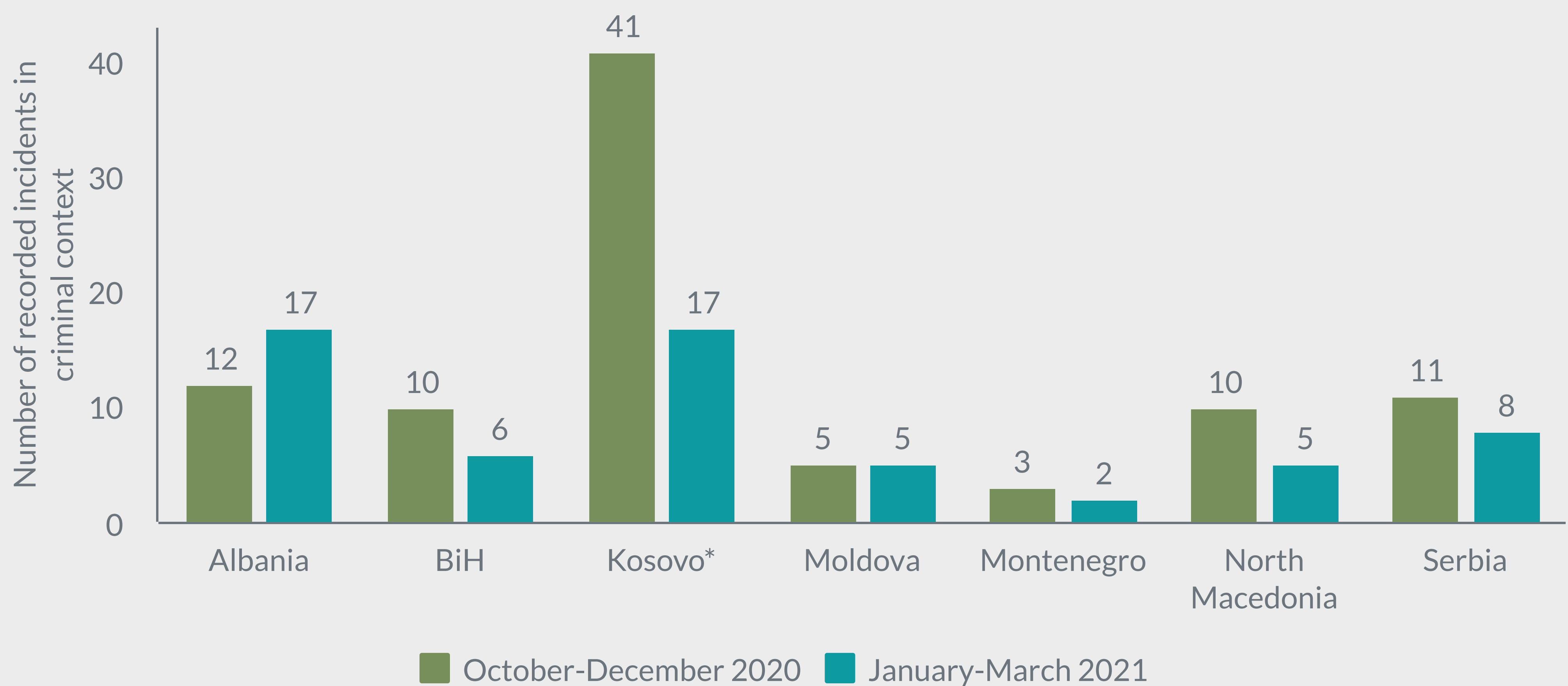


- The highest number of armed robberies was recorded in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (57)**, **Kosovo (39)** and **Serbia (15)**.

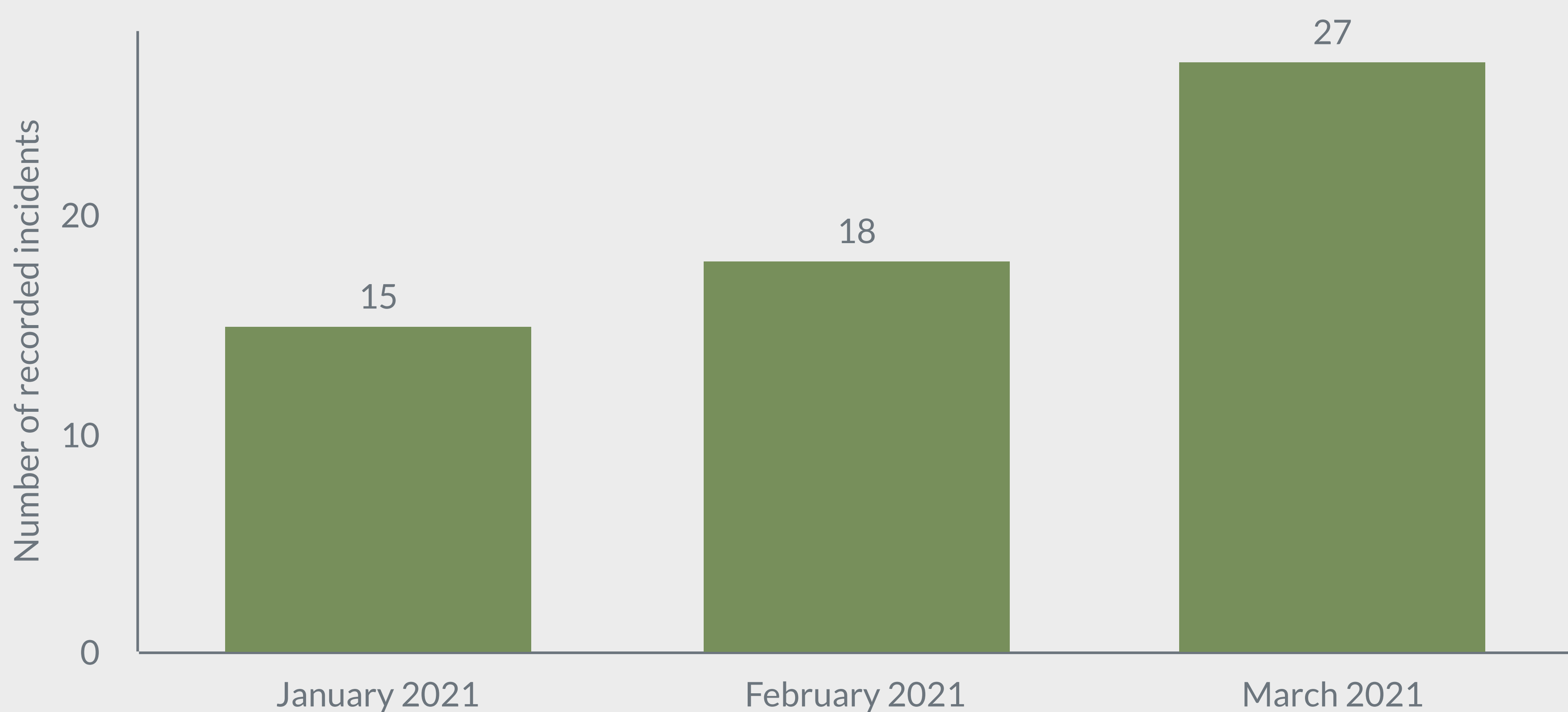


## MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Public disputes

- **60 incidents of public disputes** were reported. **A decrease of 34.7%** (92 v 60) was observed in comparison to the previous quarter.



- **Two jurisdictions**, namely Kosovo and Albania, recorded the highest number of incidents in this category, **accounting for 56.6%** of all reported public disputes in this quarter.

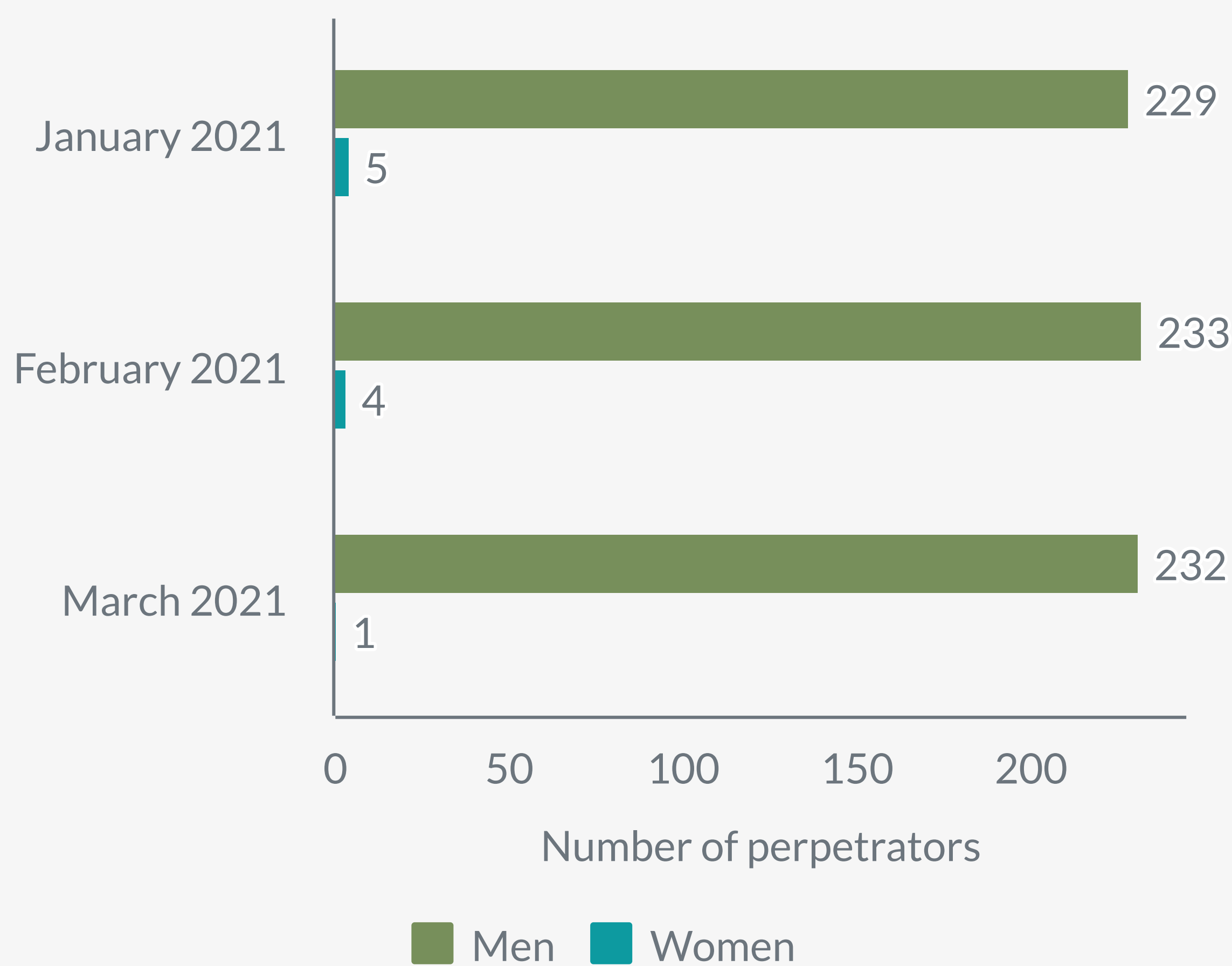


- **An increase of 80%** of incidents involving the use of firearms in **public disputes** was observed from January to March 2021.



# PERPETRATORS AND VICTIMS

## Perpetrators

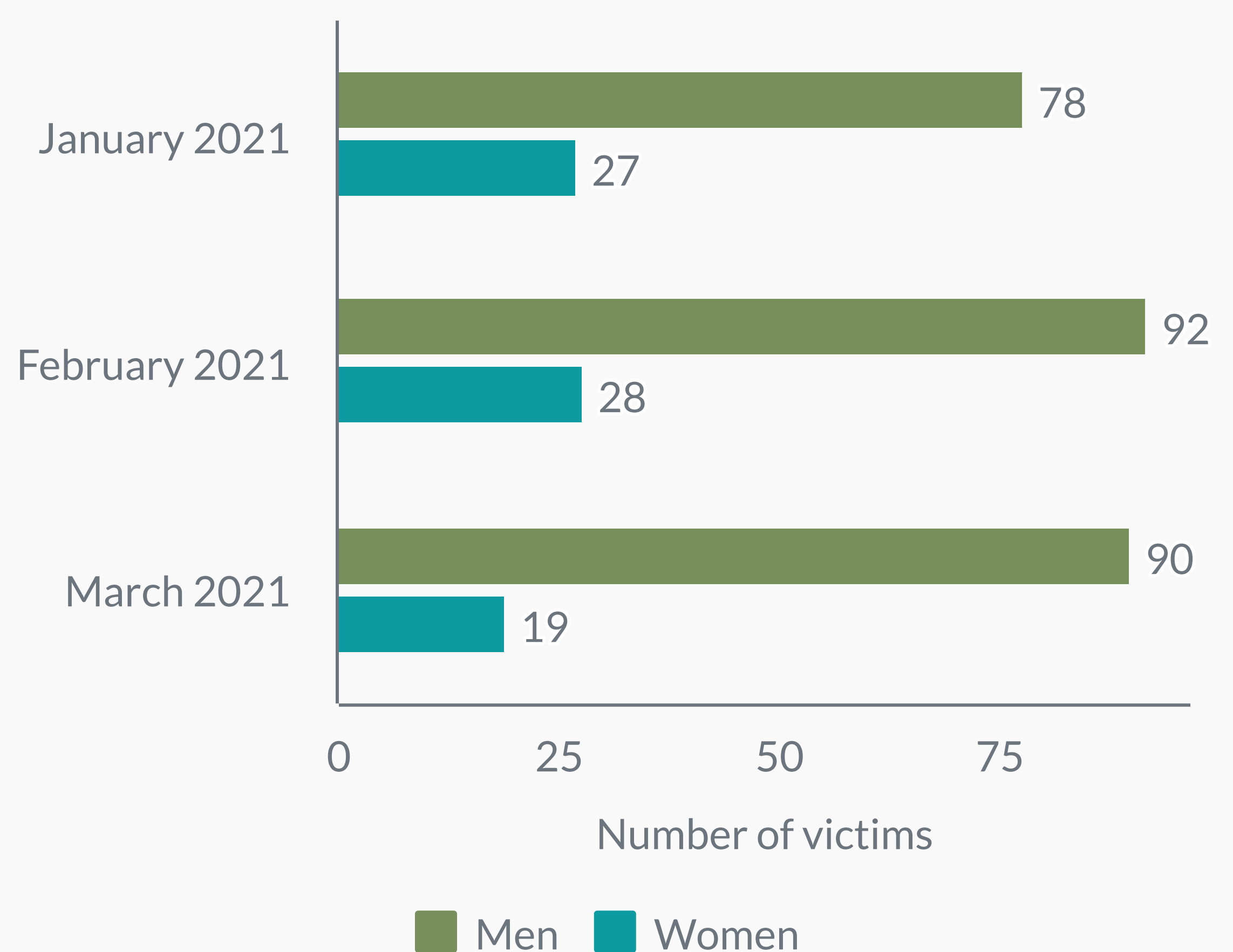


- Out of **993 reported perpetrators**<sup>3</sup>, 694 were men and 10 were women.
- For 289 perpetrators sex was not reported.
- Men accounted for **98.5%** of all perpetrators, whose sex was reported.
- Women accounted for the minority of perpetrators and were mostly involved in incidents related to **weapon seizures** (in 9 incidents) and **celebratory shooting** (in 1 incident).

Refers only to incidents for which the number and sex of the perpetrators were reported.

- Out of **388 reported victims**<sup>4</sup>, 260 were men and 74 were women. Sex was not reported for 54 victims.
- **Women** were mostly victims of incidents in the **criminal context (67.1%)** and **domestic violence (15%)**, out of all incidents in which women were identified as victims.
- **Men** were mostly reported as victims of incidents related to **criminal context (27.3%)** and **public disputes (22.3%)**, out of all incidents in which men were identified as victims.
- In incidents where age of perpetrators and victims was reported, the majority fell under the **age group of 19-35**, followed by the 36-60 age group.

## Victims



Refers only to incidents for which the number and sex of the victims were reported.

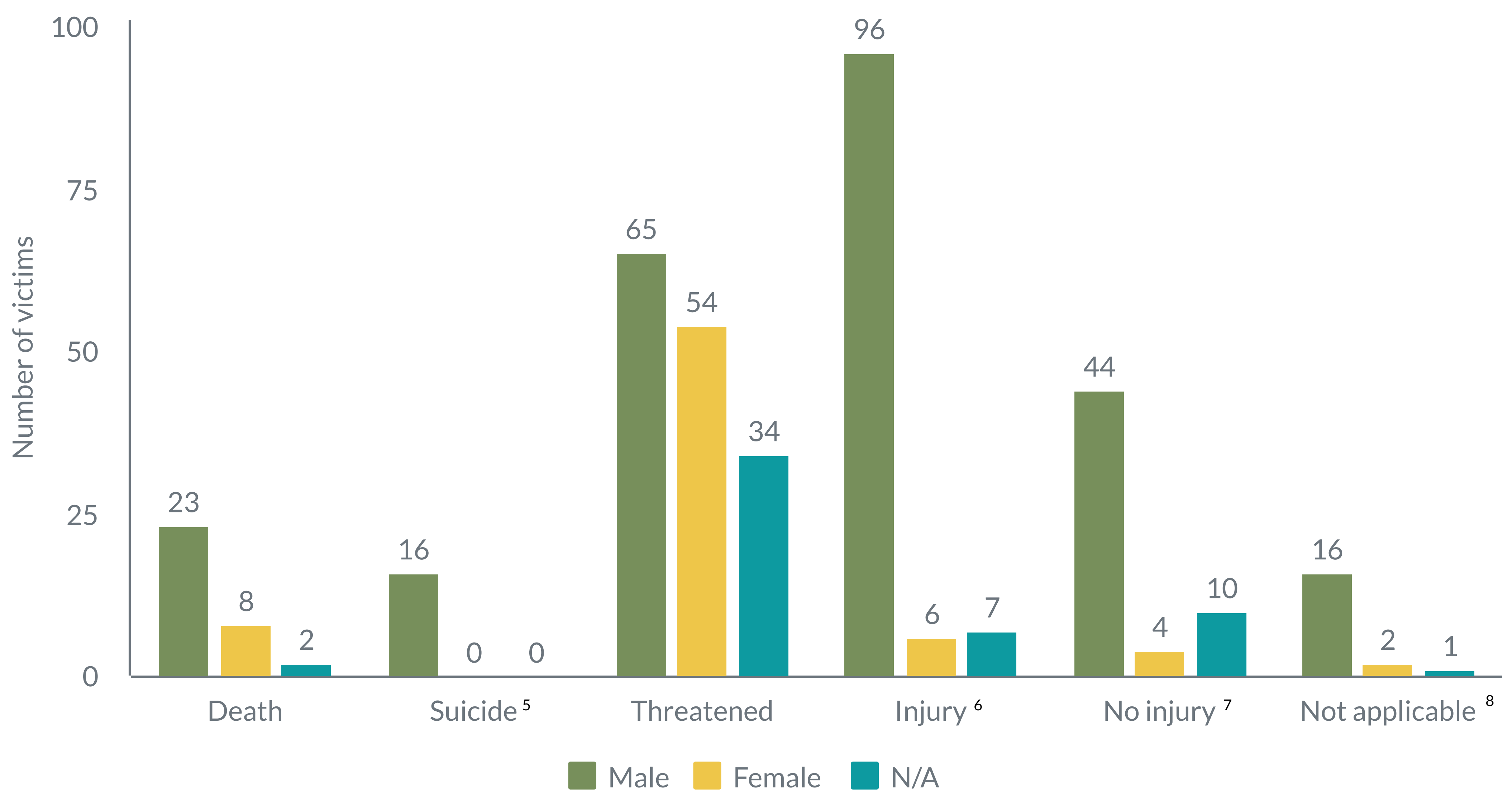
<sup>3</sup> Perpetrator refers to any individual who has used a firearm/ammunition/explosive to commit any of the types of incidents covered by the AVMP.

<sup>4</sup> 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

**153** reported victims were **threatened** with firearms, with 113 of them during armed robberies.

**109** victims were **injured**. Most of them were injured in public disputes (36) and undetermined shootings (32).



**33** people were killed with firearms. 5 women were killed in domestic violence context.

**16** suicides with firearms were reported in this quarter, with **all victims being men**.

<sup>5</sup> Suicide refers to all incidents in which the victim killed him/herself with a firearm.

<sup>6</sup> Injury refers to all incidents in which an individual sustained an injury due to weapon use.

<sup>7</sup> No injury refers to all incidents in which a weapon was discharged, but the victim did not sustain a gunshot injury.

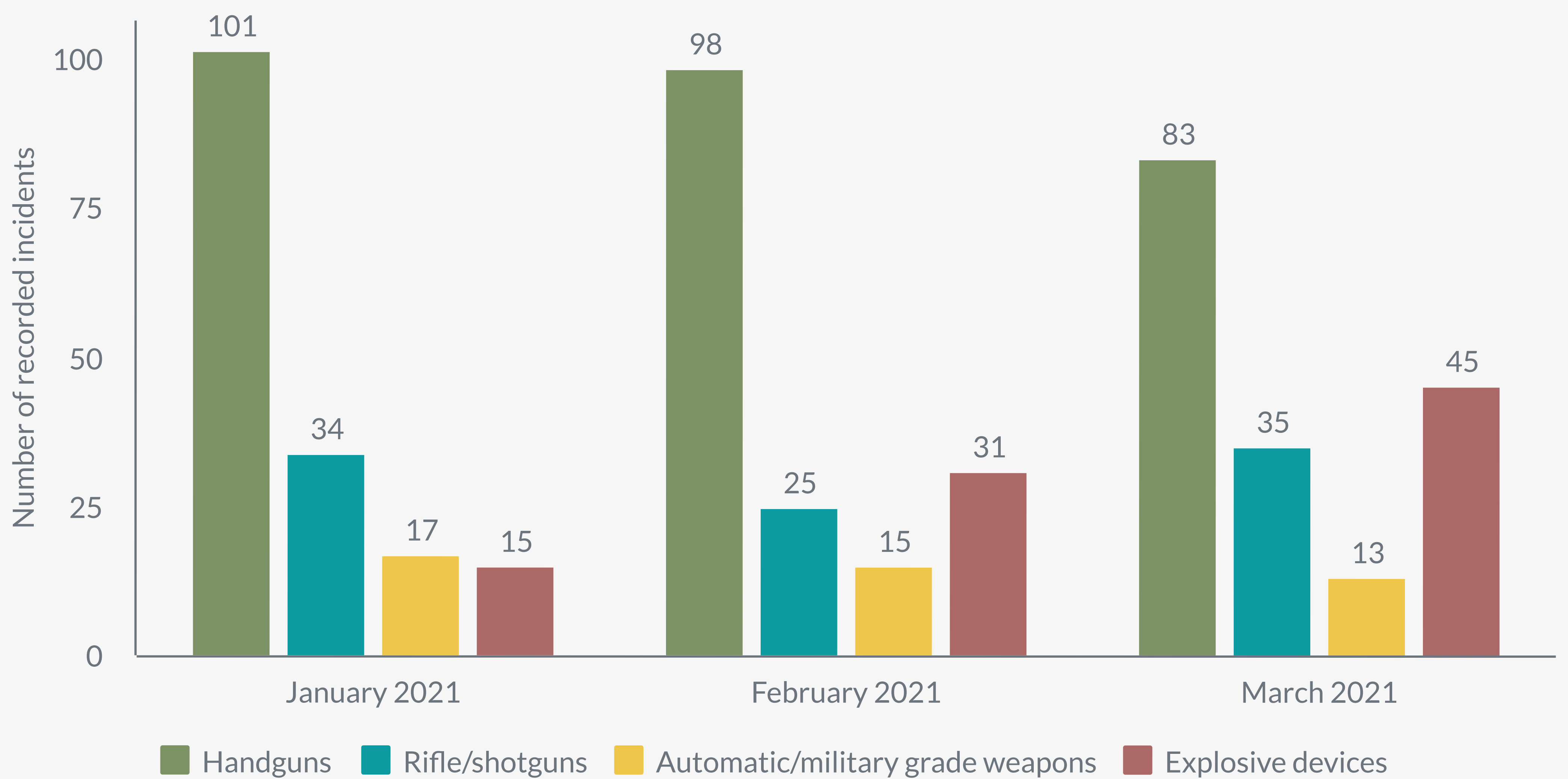
<sup>8</sup> Not applicable refers to all incidents in which a weapon is present but not used or discharged (for example, theft of a weapon).

# TYPE OF WEAPONS



In **382** (46.8%) **incidents**, the firearms used were in **illegal possession**, while in **38** (4.7%) cases they were in **legal possession**. In 396 (48.5%) incidents the type of possession was not reported.

- **Handguns** were reported in **282 incidents**. In 124 cases, this type of firearm was seized, while in 70 cases it was used in robberies.
- **Rifles/shotguns** were recorded in **94 incidents**, mostly related to seizures (44 cases) and in incidents in criminal context (16 cases).



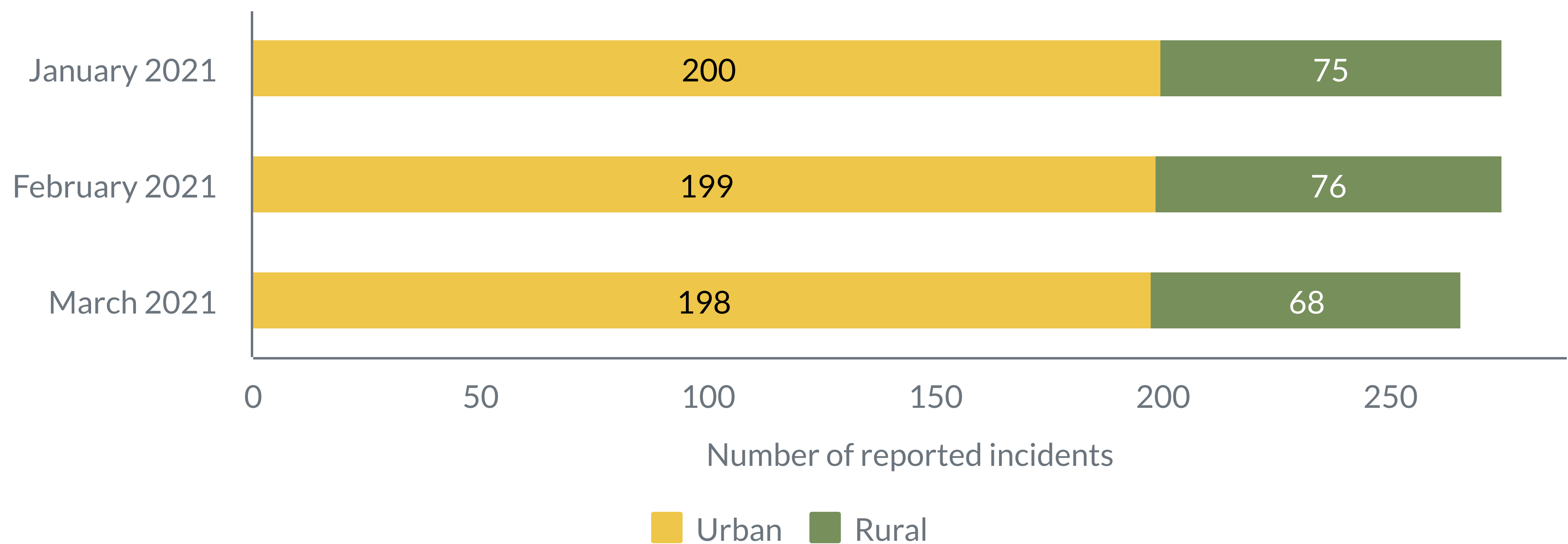
Please note that the graph represents the number of incidents in which four most reported types of weapons were used. During this quarter, in 18.7% of all reported cases the type of firearm was either unknown or not reported.

- With **91 incidents**, **explosive devices** were the third most reported. In **20 incidents explosive devices** were activated under undetermined circumstances.
- **Automatic/military grade weapons** were reported in **45 incidents**. In 24 cases, this type of firearm was seized, while in 8 cases it was used by criminal groups.



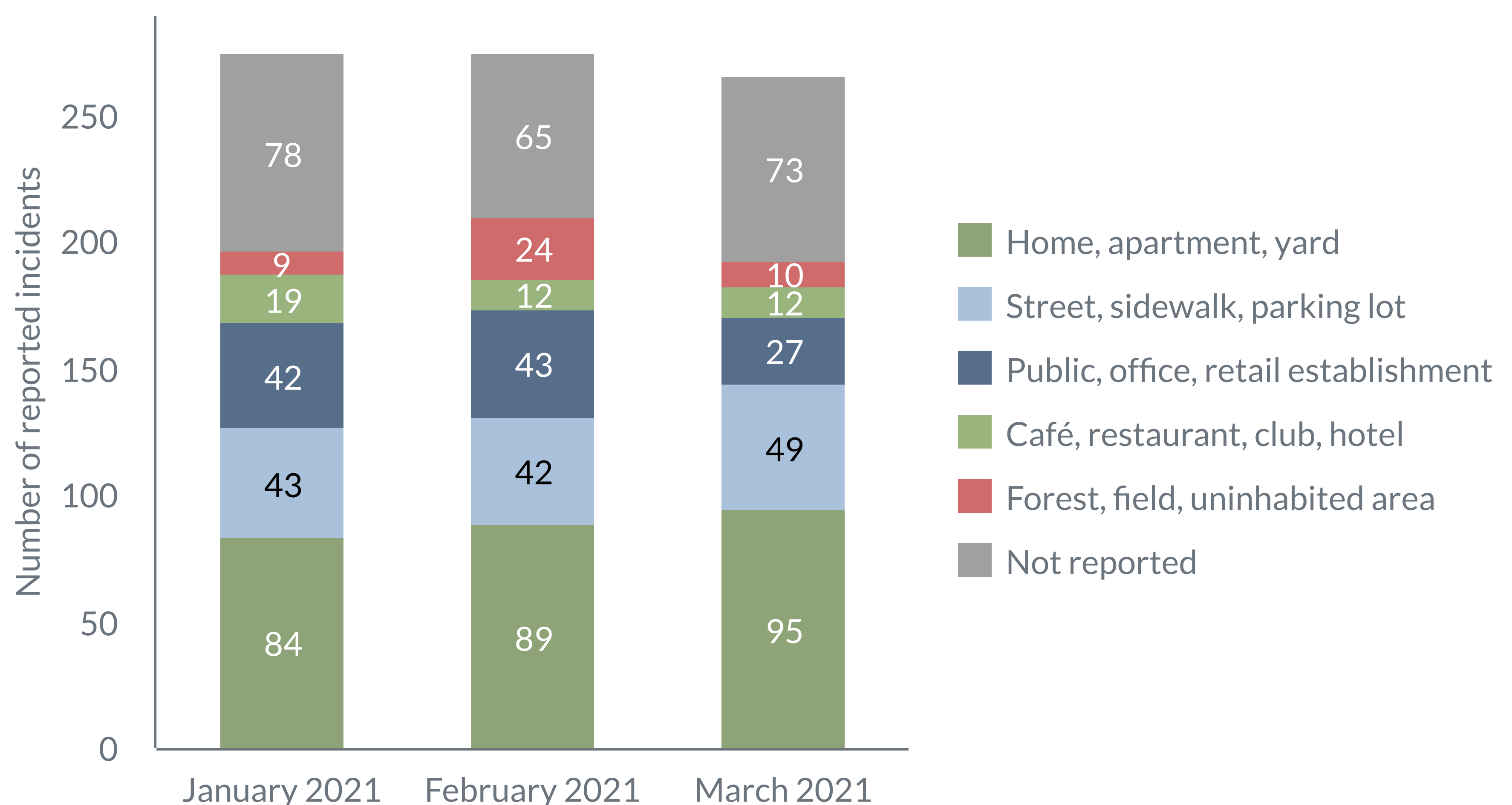
# MACRO- AND MICROLOCATION

## Macrolocation



- In total there were **597** firearm incidents recorded in **urban areas**, **accounting for 73.1%** of all reported incidents, while **219** incidents were reported in **rural areas**.

## Microlocation



- The **exact microlocation** was identified in **600 firearm incidents** (or in **73.5%**), while it was **not reported in 216 such cases** (or **26.5%**).
- More precisely, majority of firearm incidents took place at **home (243)**, followed by **street (125)** and **public buildings** such as **shops (49)** and **gas stations (24)**.





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