



South East Europe Armed Violence Monitor

Quarterly Regional Report

October-December 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, 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 **October-December 2021**.

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 12.01.2021. and updated on 01.02.2022. 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



756

firearm incidents were
observed in SEE.



142

incidents in the criminal
context were reported.



36

men were killed with
firearms.



393

weapon seizures
were recorded.



5

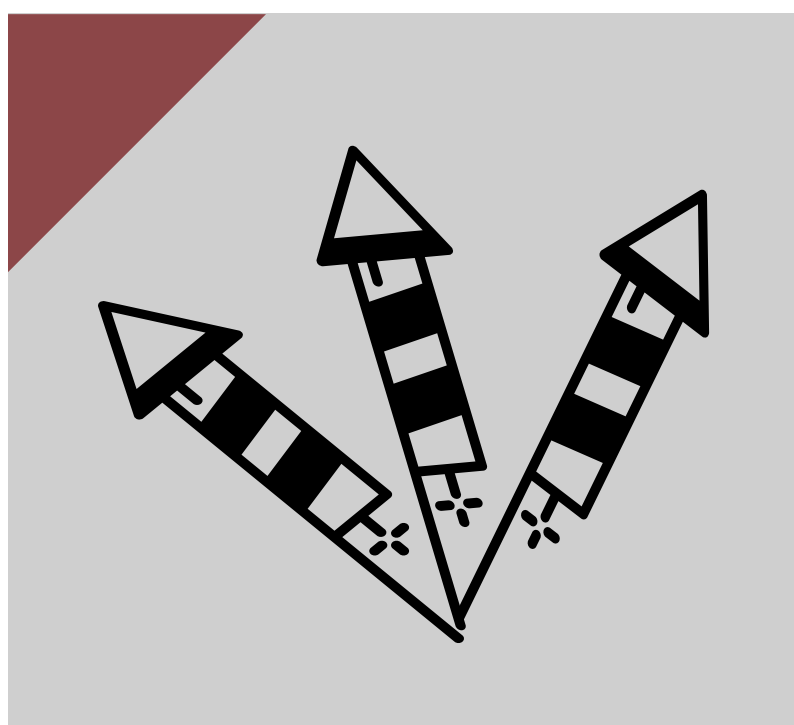
women were killed in
domestic violence context.



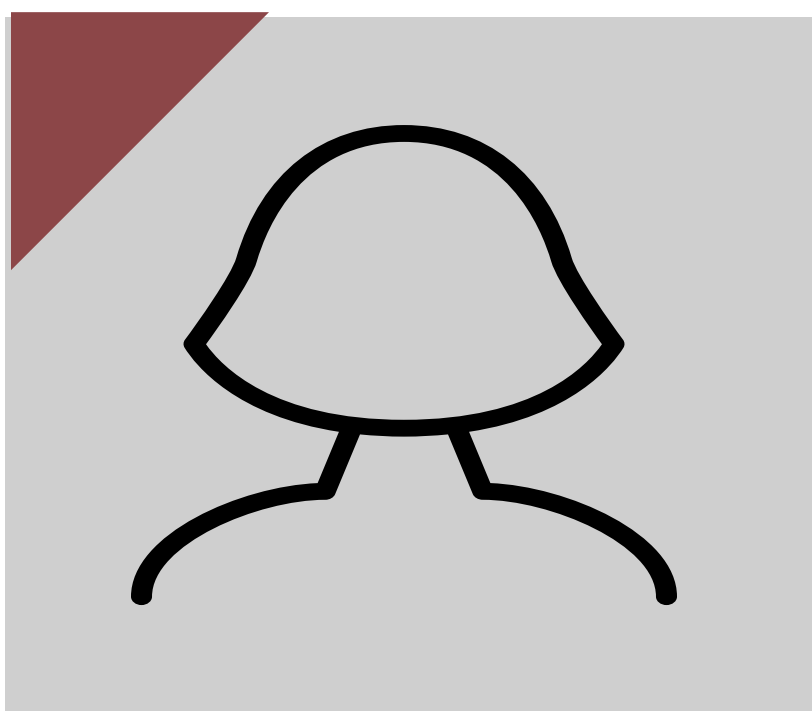
21

accidental shootings
were recorded.

TYPE OF INCIDENTS



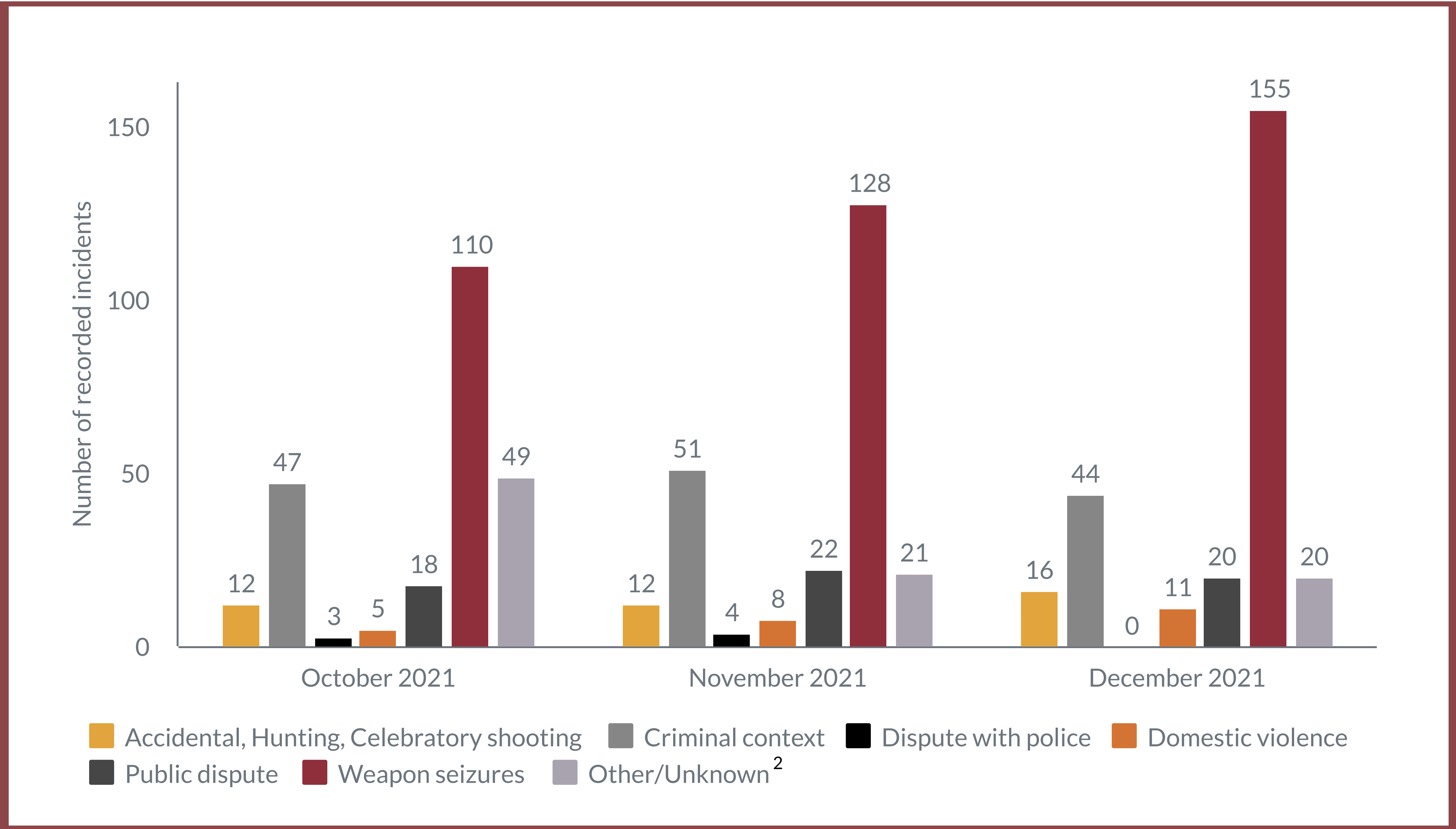
27 cases of **pyrotechnic seizures** were recorded.



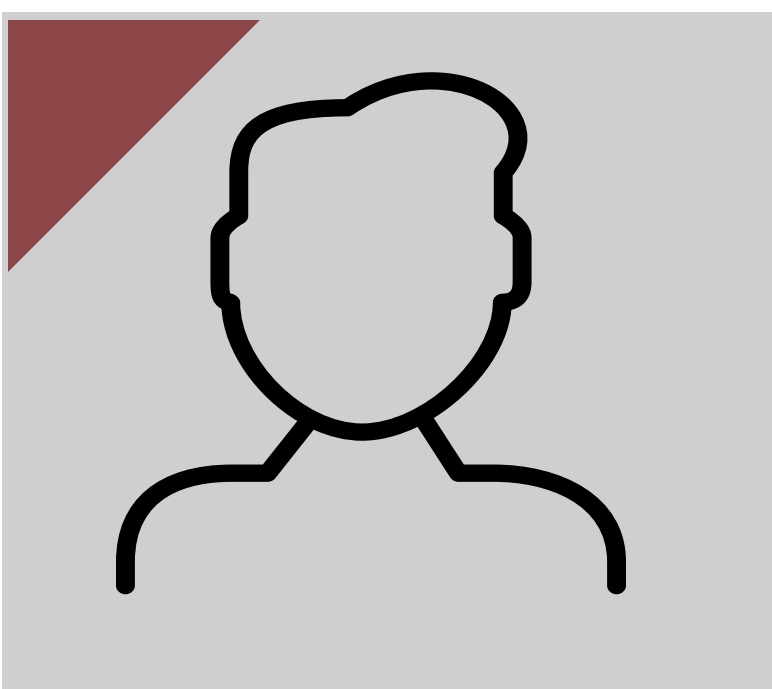
39 women were **threatened** in armed robberies.



Use of **handguns** was reported in **29 public disputes**.



55 incidents of **undetermined shootings** were reported.



Seven men committed **suicide** with firearms.



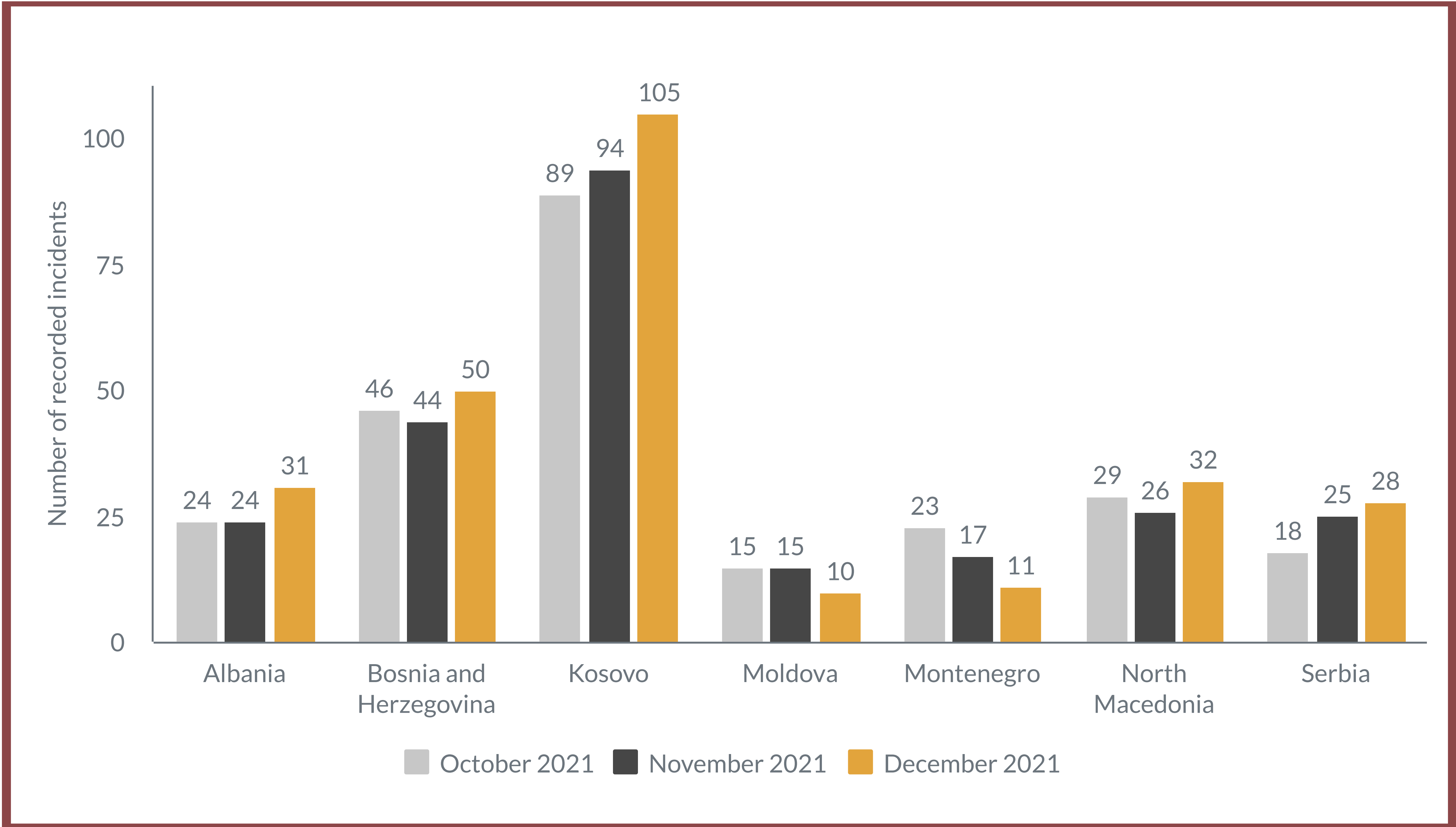
42 incidents related to **organized crime** were reported.

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 18.3%** in comparison to the previous one.

Weapon seizures recorded the **highest increase** from October to December, by **41%** (110 v 155).

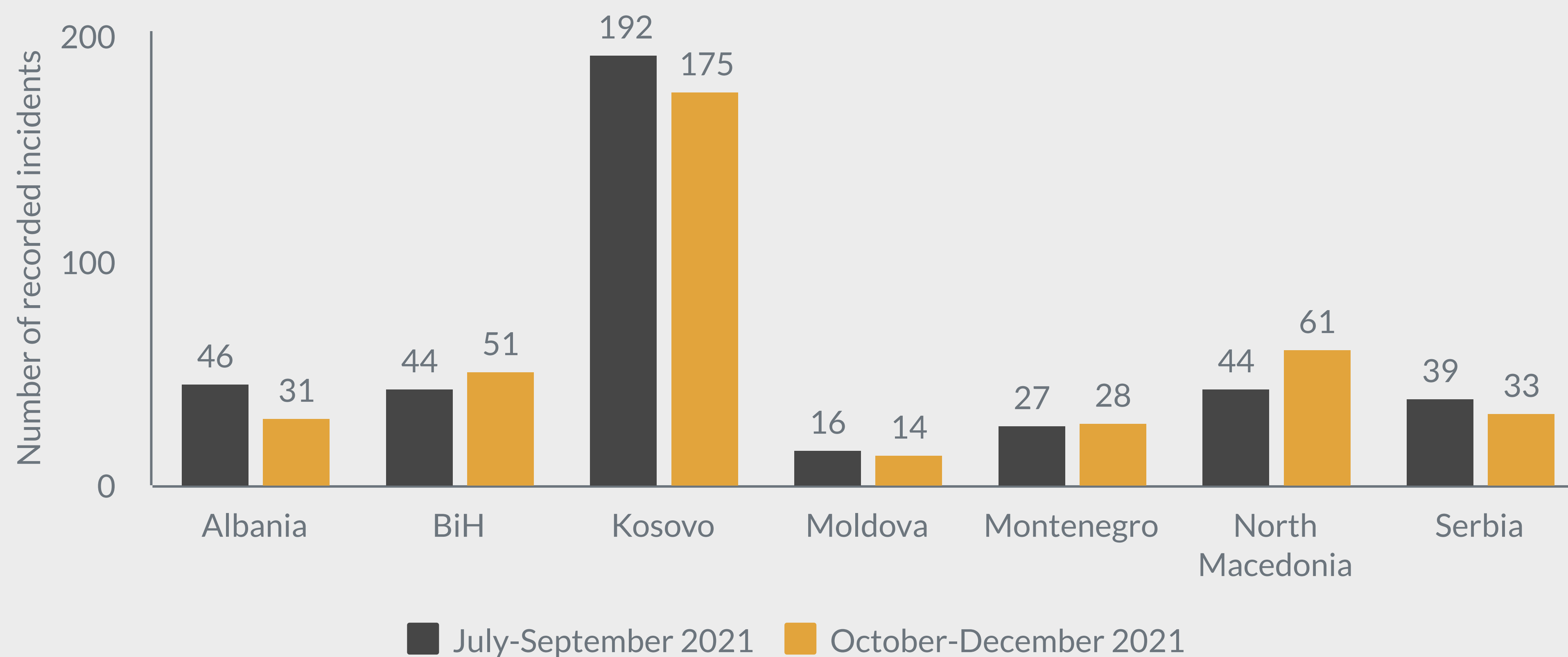


Kosovo (288), Bosnia and Herzegovina (140) and North Macedonia (87) reported the highest number of firearm incidents.

Weapon seizures were the **most observed** type of incident, with **393 cases** recorded, followed by incidents in the **criminal context (142)**.

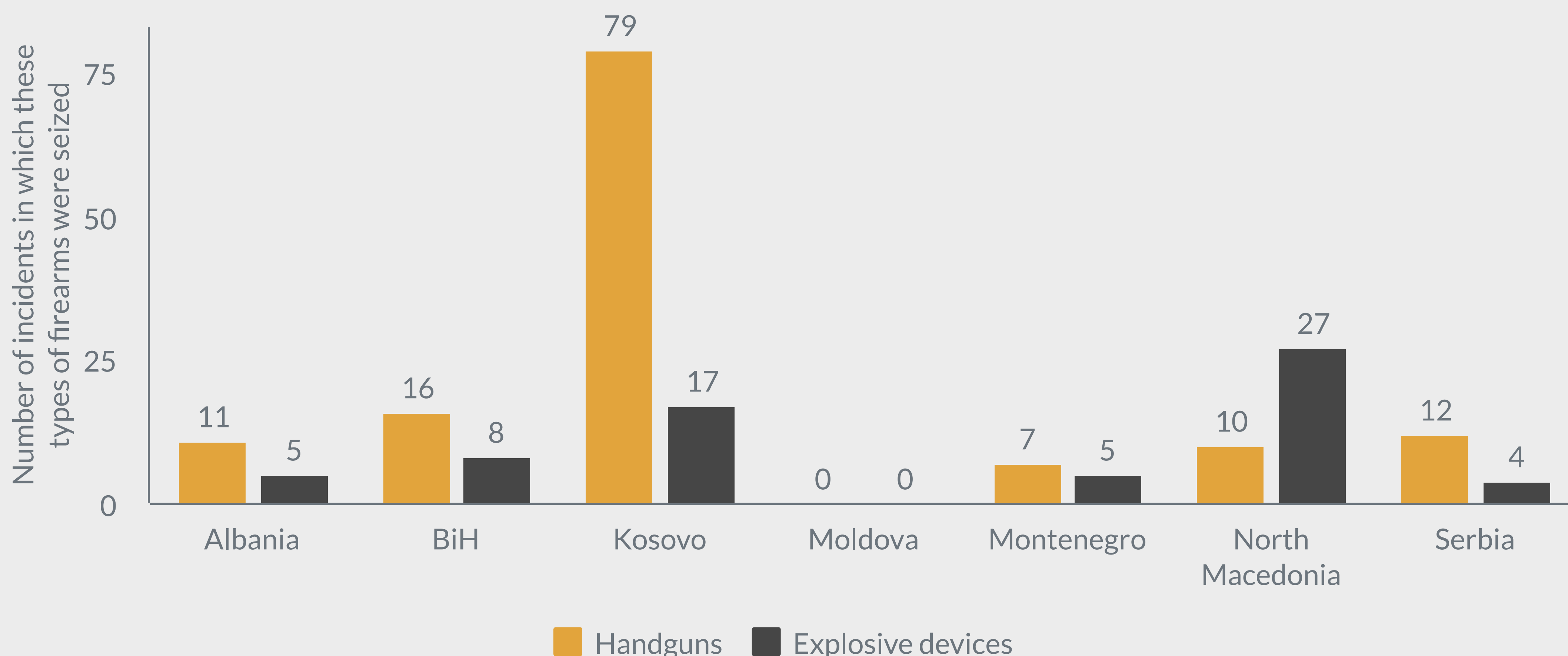
MAIN TRENDS - Weapon seizures

- With **393 incidents reported** in this quarter, **weapon seizures** continue to be the most reported type of firearm incident in the region.
- **Yet, a decrease of 3.7%** was recorded compared to the previous quarter (408 cases).



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

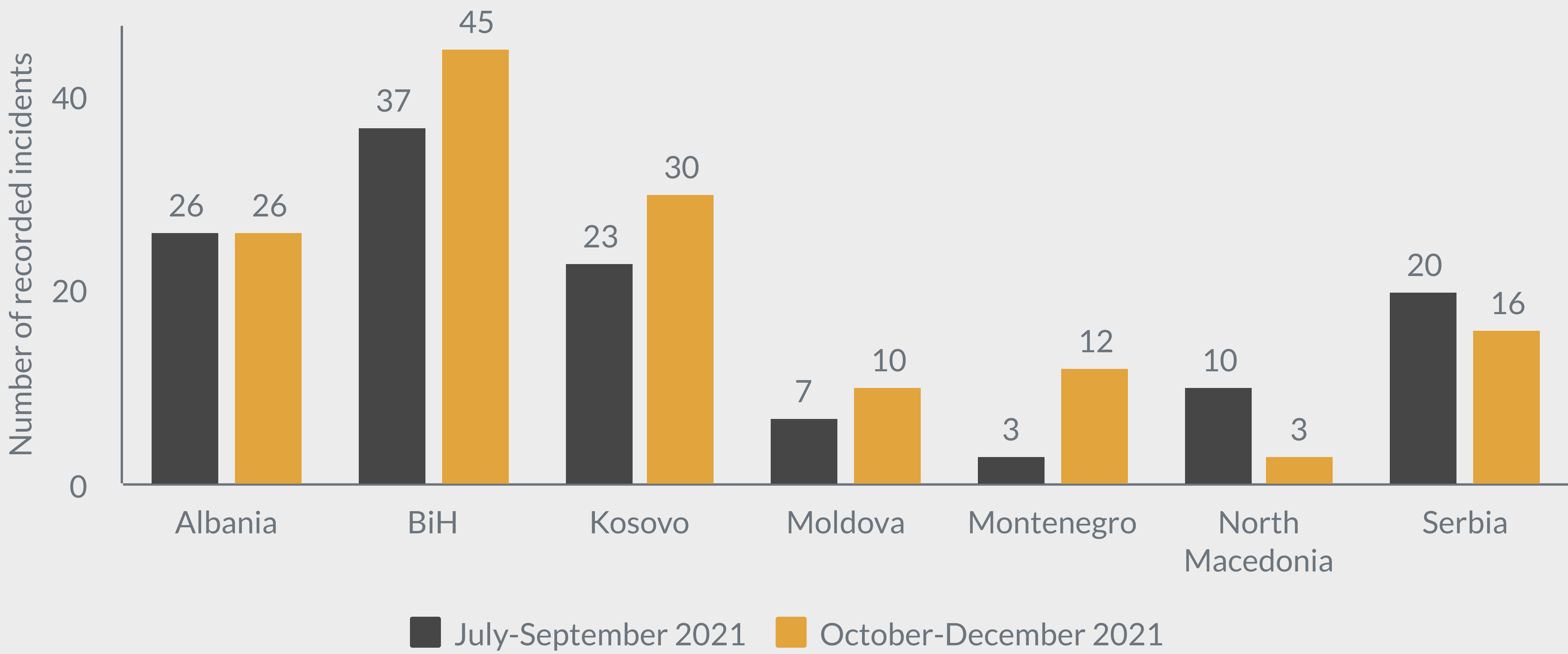
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- **Handguns** continue to be the **most seized type of weapon**, being seized in 135 incidents (out of 392) in this quarter, and with **79 handgun seizures** reported in **Kosovo**.
 - **With 66 seizures, explosive devices** were the second most seized type. **North Macedonia (27)** and **Kosovo (16)** continue to report the highest number of incidents in which explosives were seized.



Two most seized types of weapons in the October-December 2021 period.

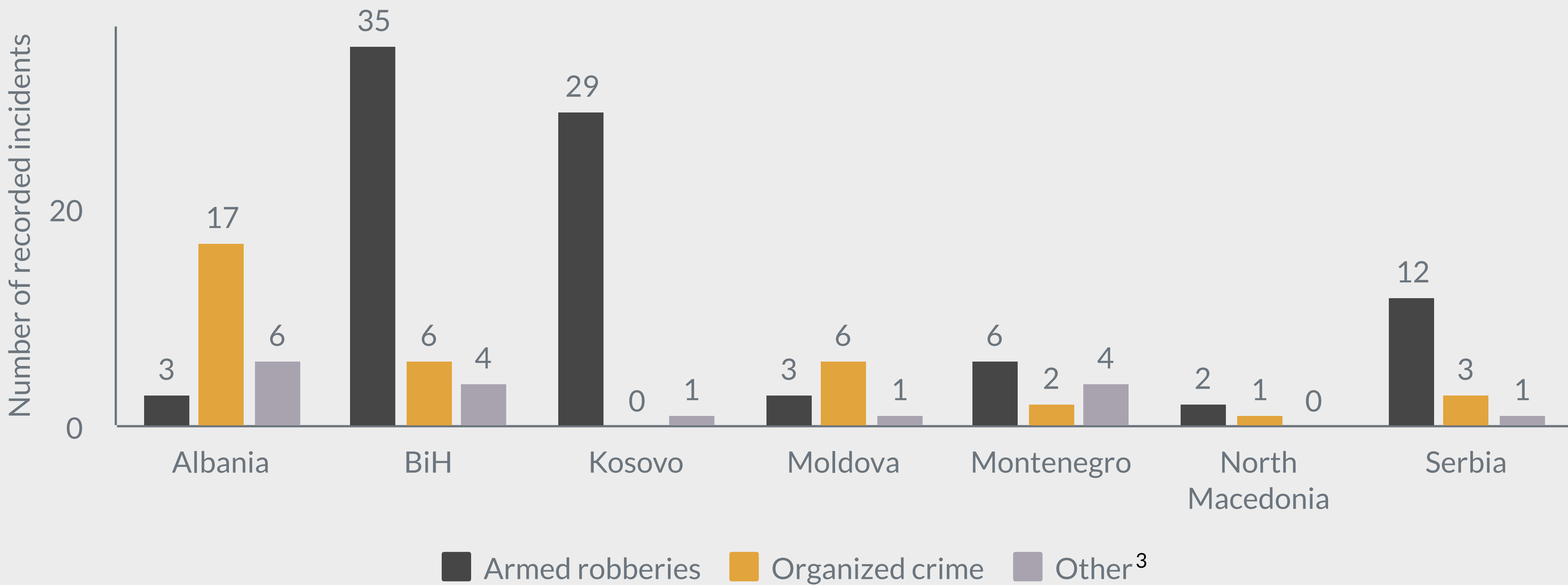
MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Criminal context

- The number of **incidents in the criminal context increased** during this quarter, with **142 such incidents** recorded. This type of incident continues to be the second most frequent, following weapon seizures.



- Serbia** and **North Macedonia** were the only two jurisdictions which reported a **decrease of this type of incidents**, while **significant increase** was recorded in **Montenegro**.
- 122 victims** of incidents in criminal context were reported, of which **16 people** reported as **killed**, **12 injured** and **77 threatened**.

- Out of 142 incidents in criminal context, **90 incidents were related to armed robberies**, which were mostly reported in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (35)** and **Kosovo (29)**.

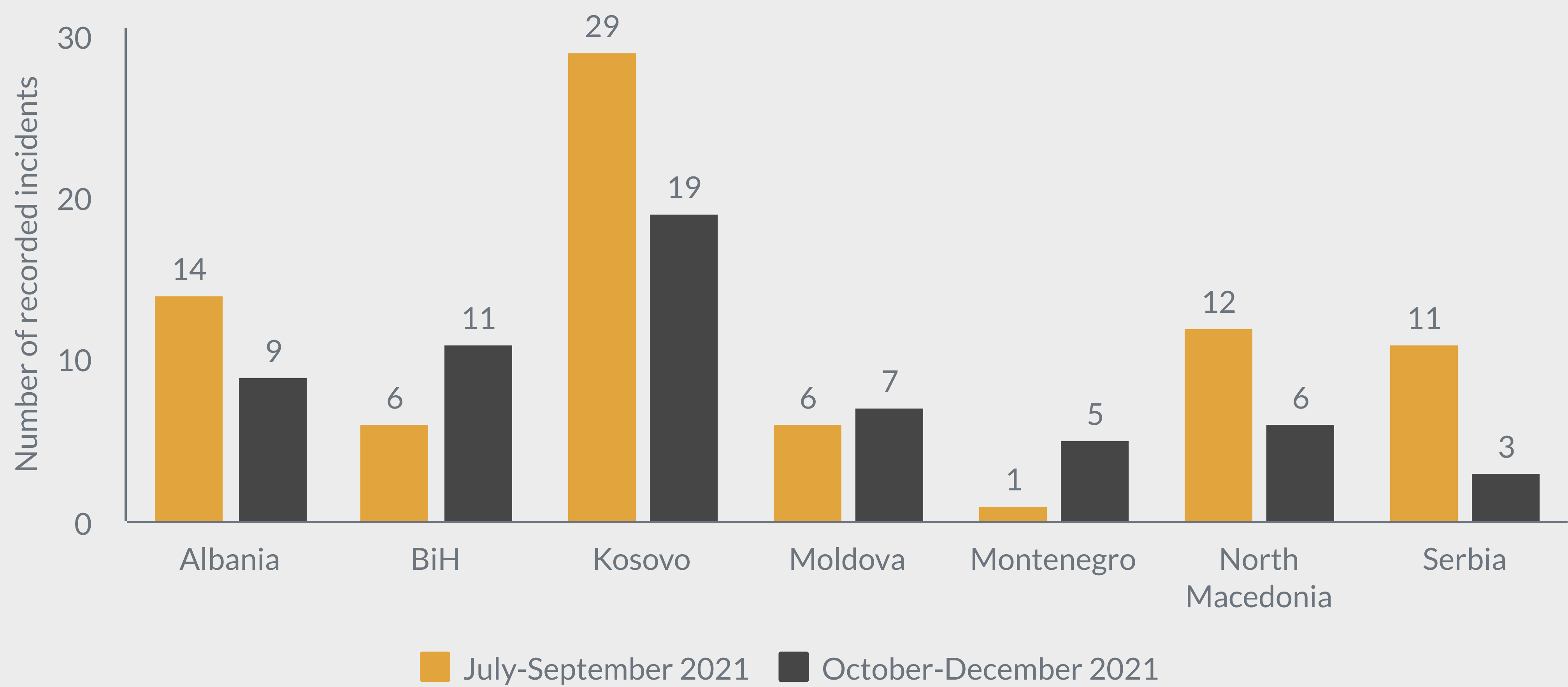


- The highest number of incidents related to **organized crime** were reported in **Albania (17)**.

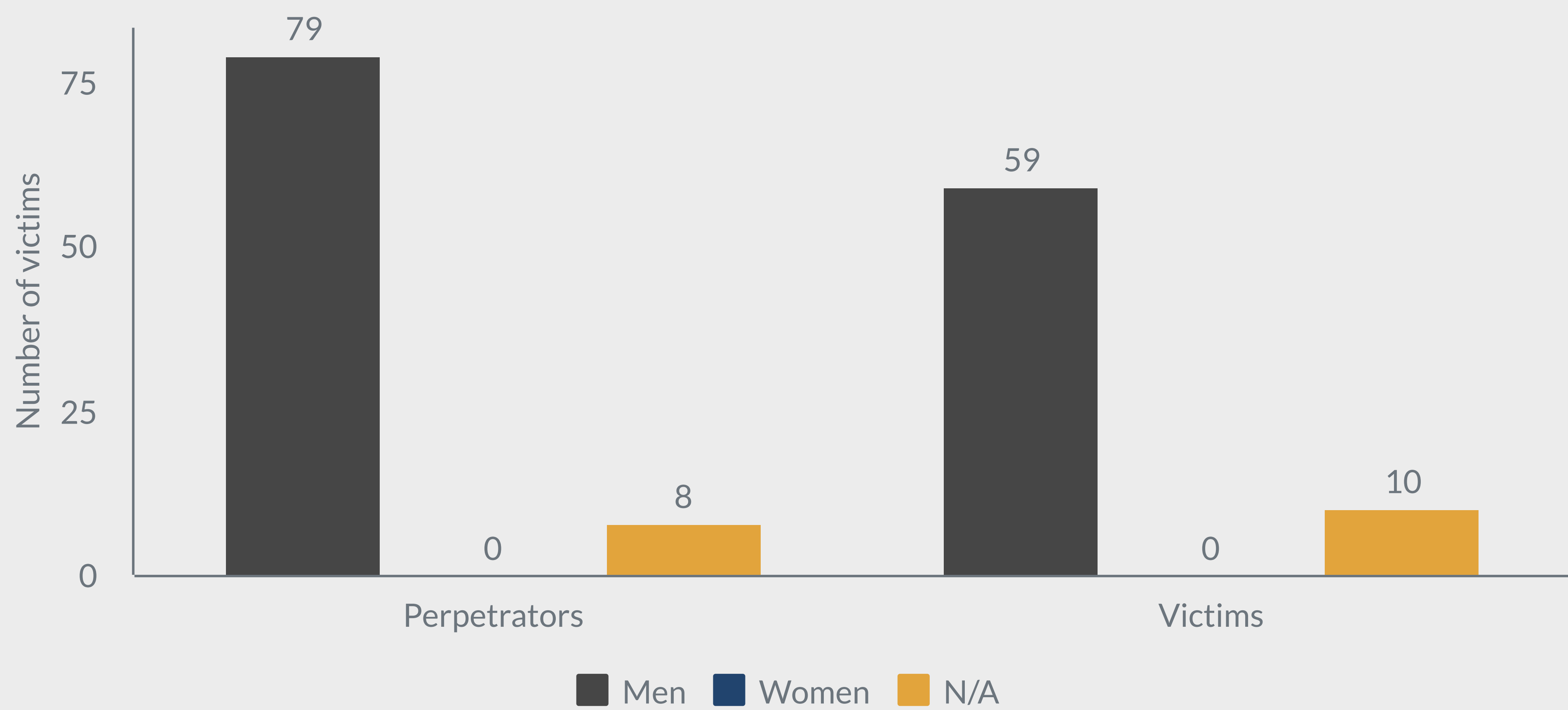
³ Other refers to any incident which does not fall under robberies or organized crime, but is related to criminal context.

MAIN TRENDS (CONT.) - Public disputes

- **60 incidents** of use of firearms in public disputes were recorded. This is a 24% decrease from the previous quarter.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova** and **Montenegro** reported an **increased number of public disputes** involving firearms in this quarter.



- **Men** were both the **perpetrators and victims** of all public disputes involving firearms during this quarter. For 8 perpetrators and 10 victims, sex was not reported.

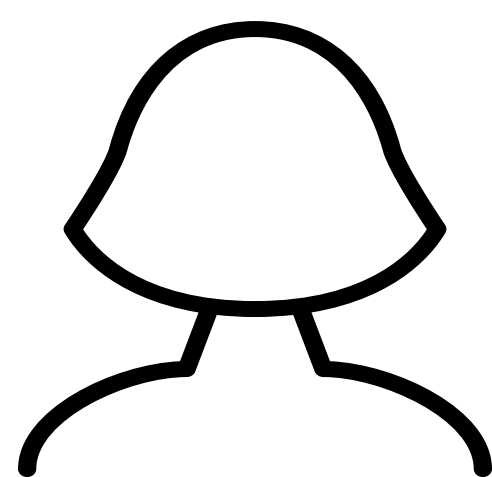


Perpetrators and victims of public disputes in the October-December 2021 period, by sex

- The most reported **outcomes for victims** of public disputes were **threats (28 victims), injuries (16 victims)** and **murders (11 victims)**.

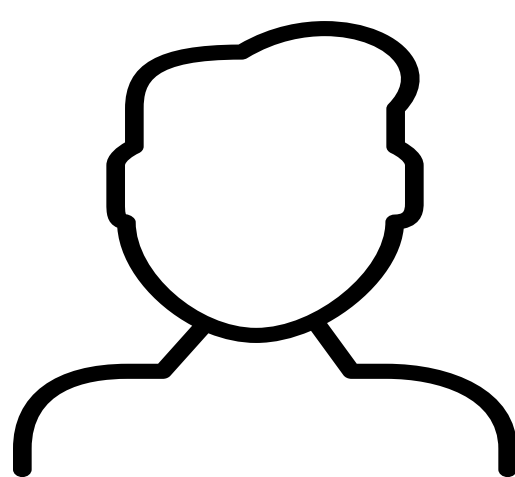
PERPETRATORS

From October to December 2021, there were **999 perpetrators**⁴ of firearm incidents, of which



16

were women



752

were men

N/A

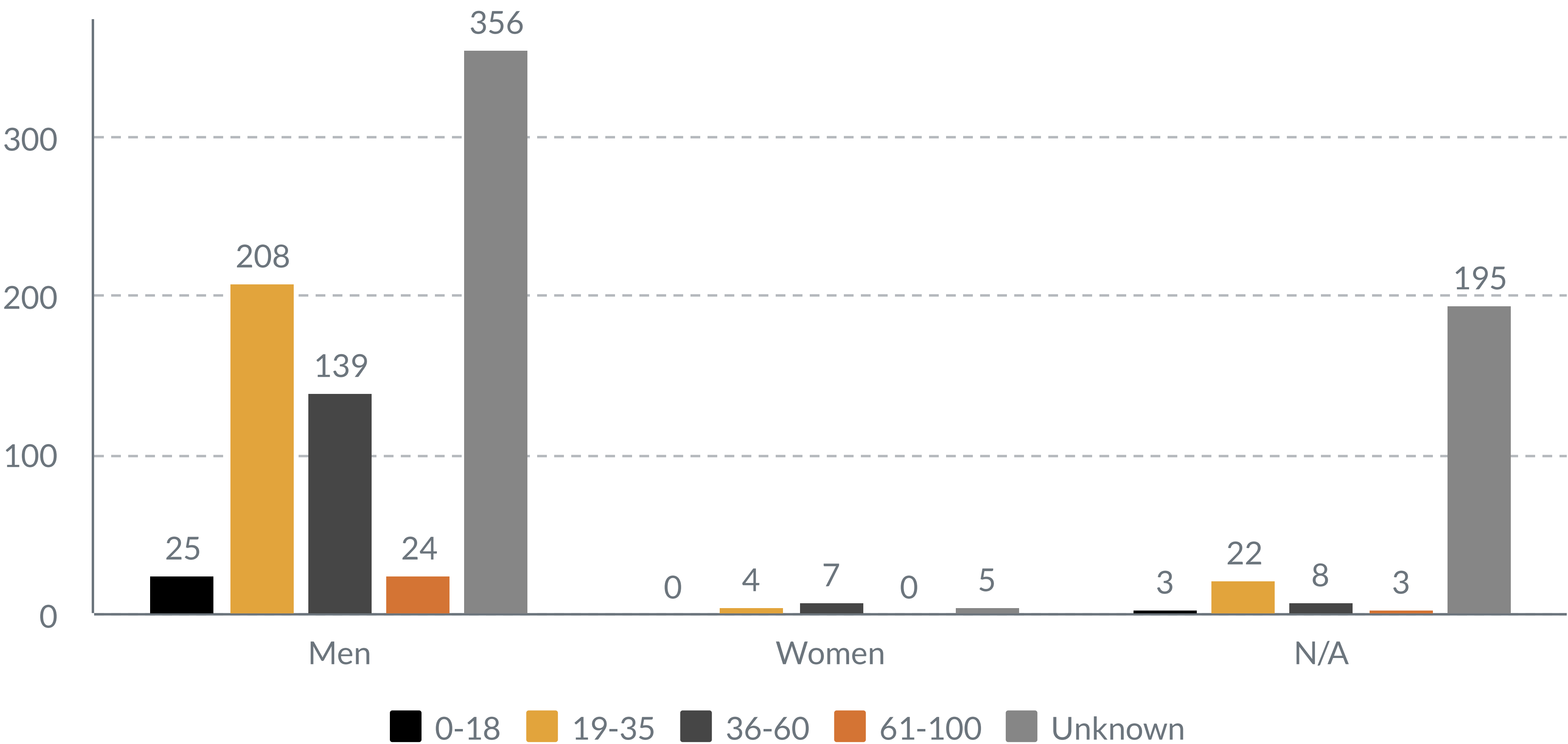
for **231**

sex was not reported

In incidents where **men were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly reported in incidents related to **weapon seizures (50.8%)** and in **criminal context (20.6%)**.

In incidents where **women were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly reported in incidents related to **weapon seizures (47%)** and in **criminal context (17.6%)**.

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

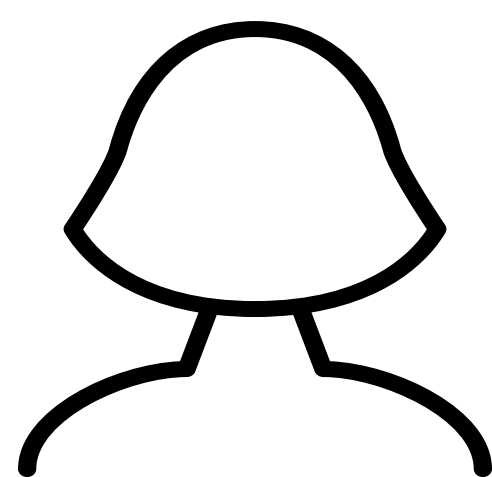


- For **556 (55.6%) perpetrators** the **age was not reported**. For 195 perpetrators neither sex nor age was reported.

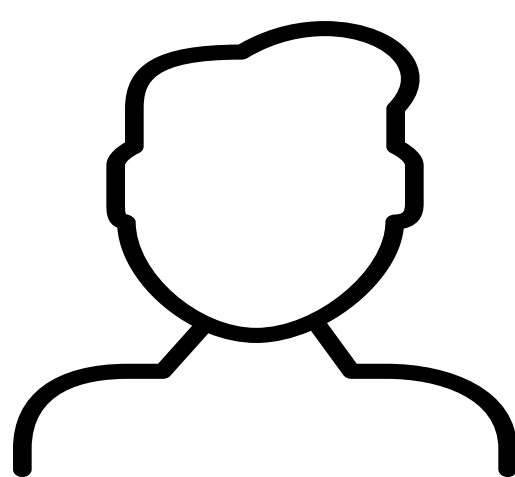
⁴ Perpetrator refers to any individual who has used a firearm/ammunition/explosive to commit any of the types of incidents covered by the AVMP.

VICTIMS

From October to December 2021, there were **287 victims⁵** of firearm incidents, of which



69
were women



188
were men

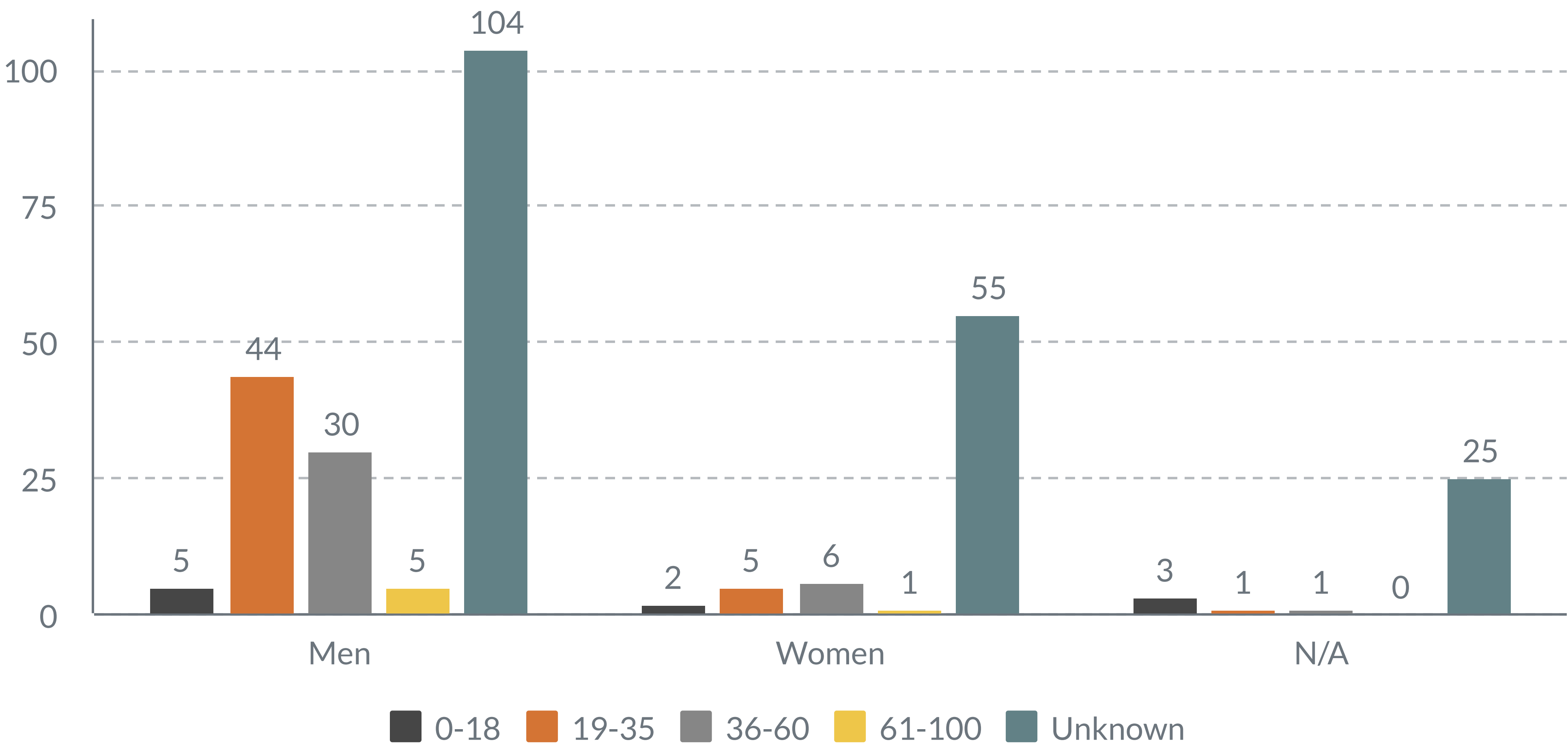
N/A

for **30**
sex was not reported

In incidents where **women** were reported as **victims**, they were mostly related to **incidents of criminal context (63.9%)** and **domestic violence (29%)**.

In incidents where **men** were reported as victims, they were mostly related to incidents of **criminal context (33.8%)** and **public disputes (31.2%)**.

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



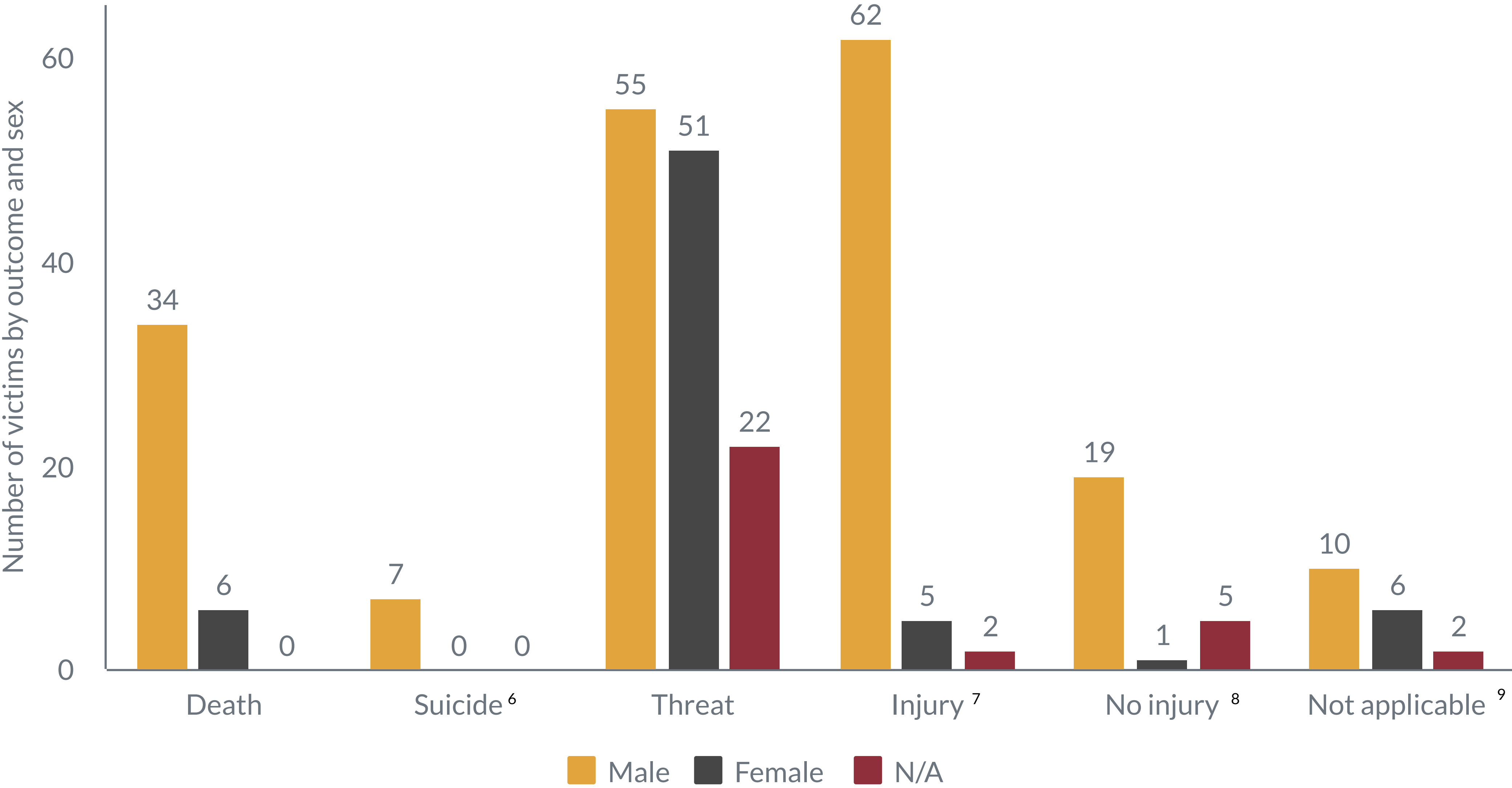
- For **184 (64.1%) victims** the **age was not reported**. For 25 victims neither sex nor age was reported.

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

128 reported victims **were threatened** with firearms, with 74 of them in armed robberies.

69 victims **were injured**. Most of them were injured in accidental shootings (16) and public disputes (15).



40 people were killed with firearms, of whom **most** were killed in **incidents of criminal context** (16 victims).

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

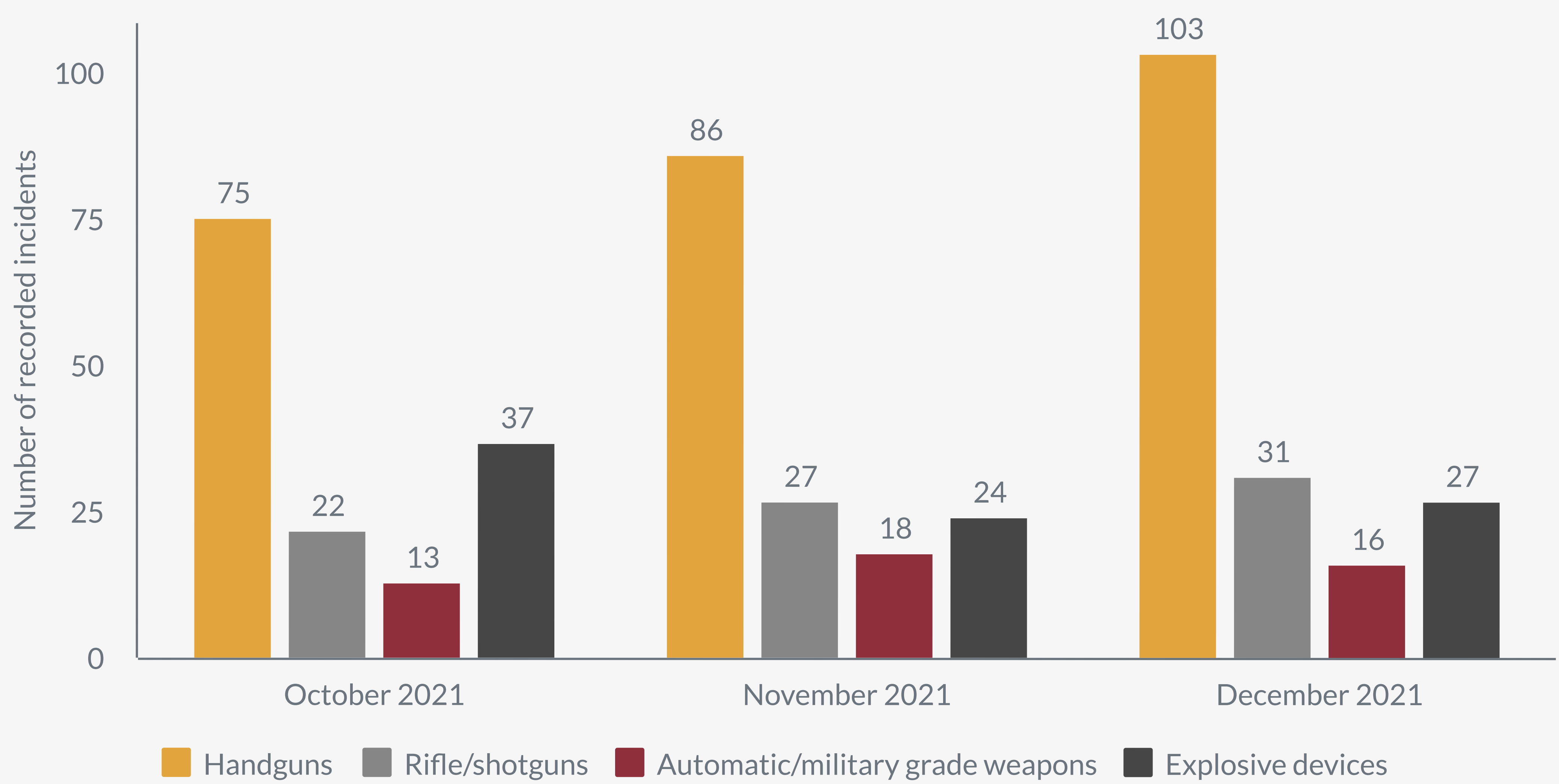
⁶ Suicide refers to all incidents in which the victim killed him/herself with a firearm.
⁷ Injury refers to all incidents in which an individual sustained an injury due to weapon use.
⁸ No injury refers to all incidents in which a weapon was discharged, but the victim did not sustain a gunshot injury.
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 **461 (61%) incidents**, the firearms used were in **illegal possession**, while in **32 (4.2%) cases** they were in **legal possession**. In 263 (34.8%) incidents the status of possession was not reported.

- **Handguns** were reported in **264 incidents**. In 135 cases, this type of firearm was seized, while in 56 cases it was used in the criminal context.
- With **88 incidents**, **explosive devices** were the second most reported. In **66 incidents** explosive devices were 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.

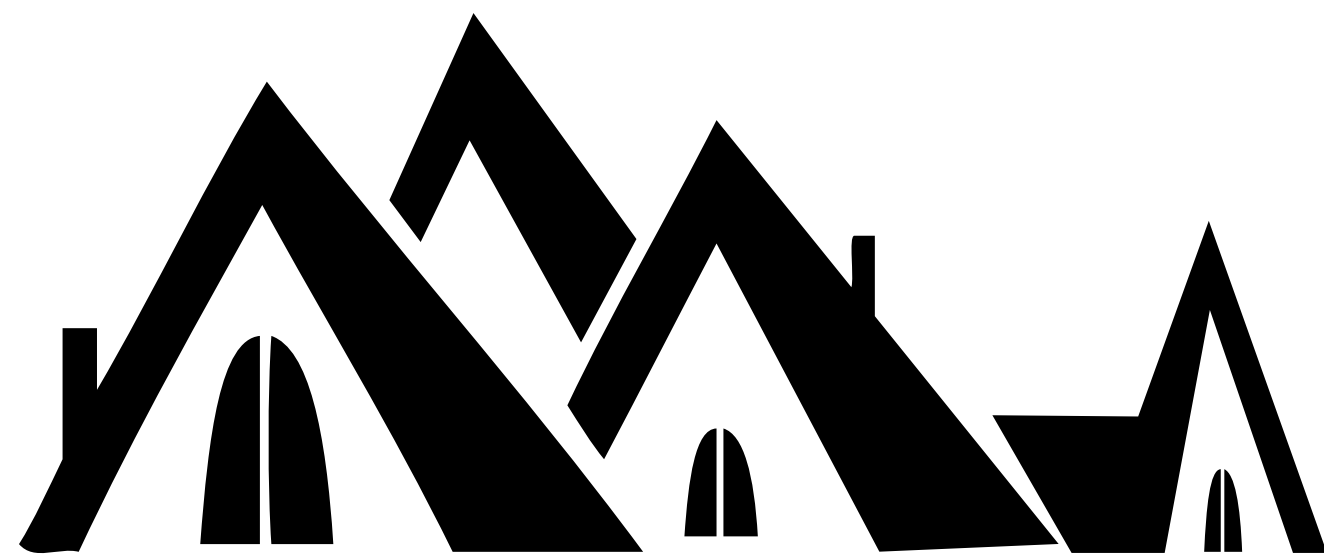
- **Rifles/shotguns** were reported in **82 incidents**, mostly related to seizures (51 cases) and accidental shootings (9 cases).
- **Automatic/military grade weapons** were reported in **47 incidents**. In 27 cases, this type of firearm was seized and in 10 cases it was used in criminal context.

MACRO AND MICROLOCATION

From October to December 2021

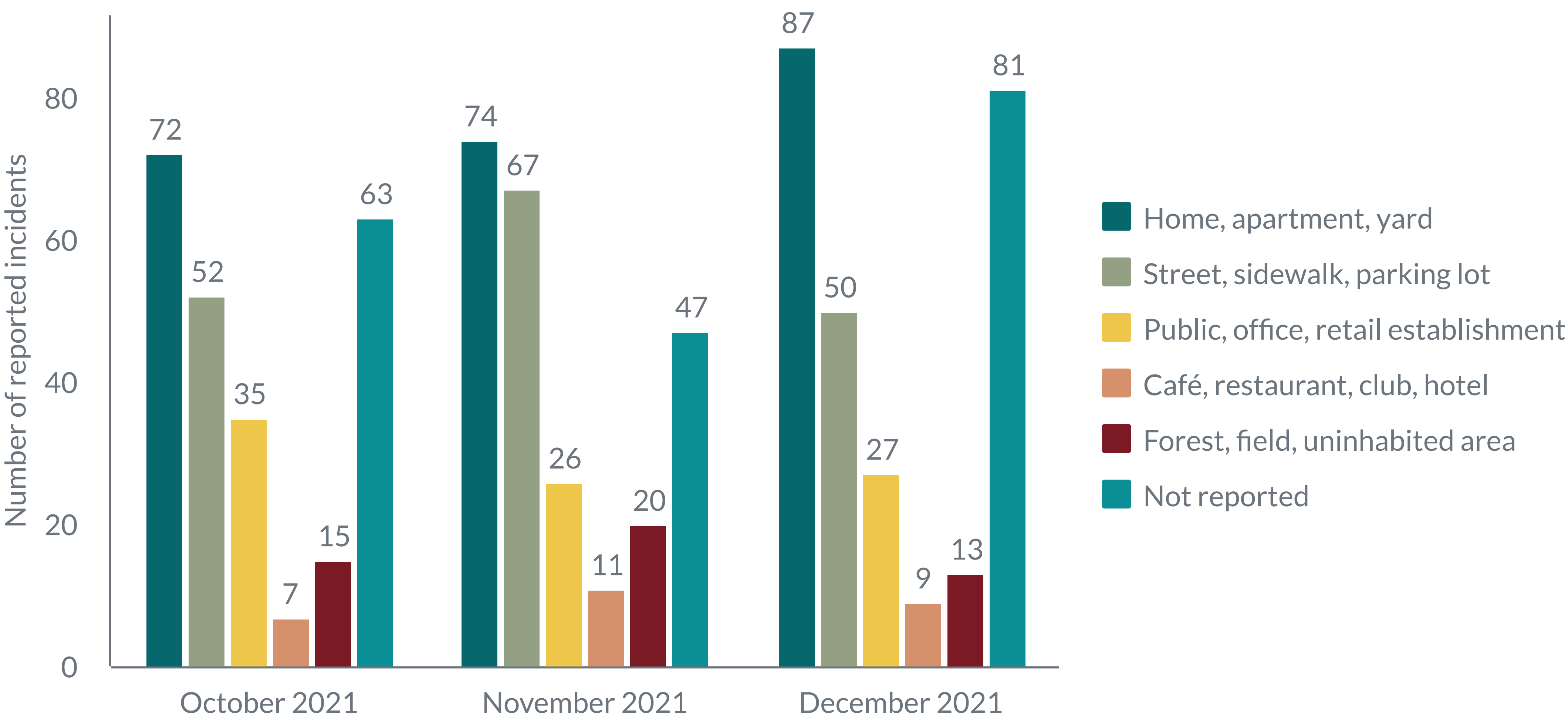


518 (68.5%) incidents
occurred in urban areas.



238 (31.5%) incidents
occurred in rural areas.

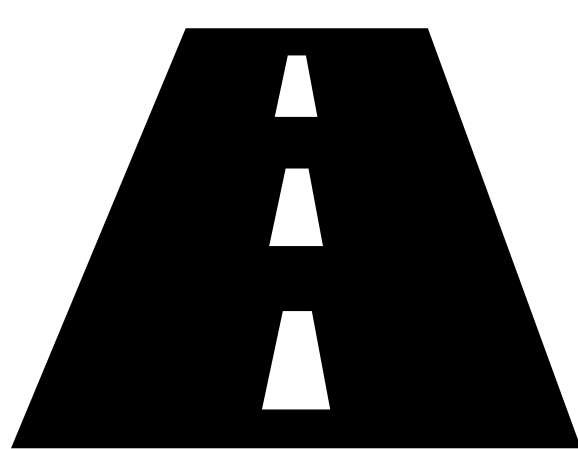
Microlocation



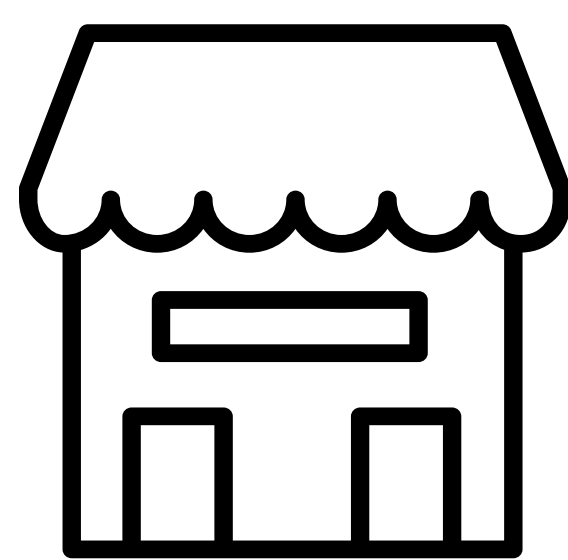
Majority of incidents were reported



at homes
217 incidents



in streets
157 incidents



in shops
35 incidents



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