



South East Europe

ARMED VIOLENCE MONITOR

April - June 2026

Background

The spread and misuse of firearms remain a persistent threat to public safety, human rights, and sustainable development worldwide. Recognizing this challenge, UNDP SEESAC established the Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP) to systematically collect and analyse data on firearm-related incidents across South East Europe (SEE).

Monitoring and analysing firearm-related incidents are therefore essential to understanding the scale, scope, and dynamics of armed violence. Comprehensive and timely data is crucial to inform evidence-based policymaking, strengthen prevention and response strategies, and support efforts to reduce the illicit possession and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

To support these goals, this **Quarterly Regional Report** presents key trends, incident patterns, and emerging threats observed between **April** and **May 2026**. Building on monthly reports, it aims to enhance understanding of firearm-related violence in SEE.

Methodology

The AVMP provides real-time insight into the scope and impact of firearm incidents, covering **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo**.¹

The AVMP data is collected **daily**² from a combination of **official sources**, including websites of law enforcement institutions and ministries of interior, **online and print media**, with Kosovo's data primarily sourced from daily police reports³.

Data on firearm incidents is categorised according to standardised definitions to ensure consistency and comparability across jurisdictions and reporting periods. Each incident is reviewed and analysed using a methodology developed by SEESAC.

¹ For the United Nations Development Programme, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

² Data was retrieved on 15 July 2026. 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



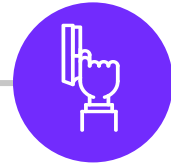
849

firearm incidents were reported, an 11% decline from the previous quarter.



415

cases of weapon seizures were reported, nearly half of all firearm incidents.



77

undetermined shootings, 31% increase from the prior quarter.



32

people were killed in firearm incidents, a 60% increase from the previous quarter.



88

people were injured, a 12% decline from the previous quarter.

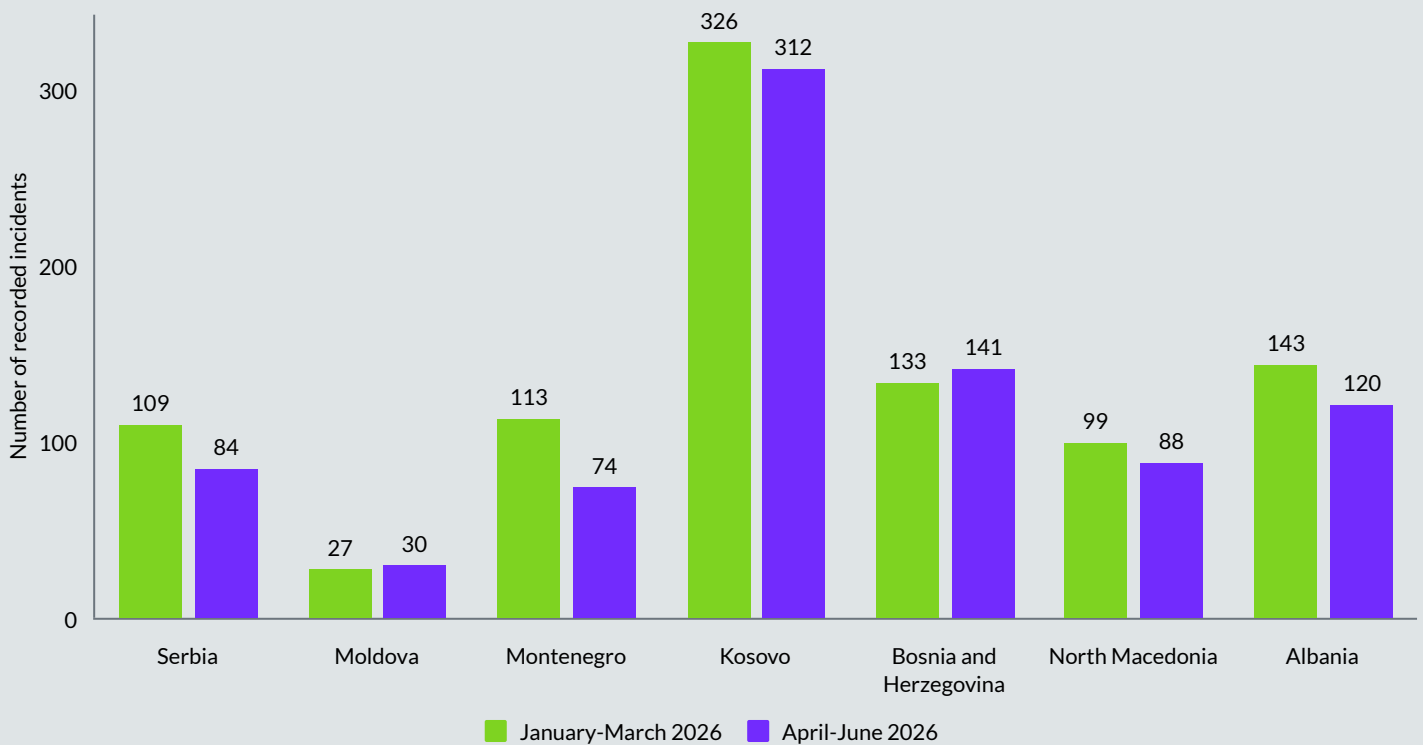


565

incidents involving illegally possessed weapons, 91% of incidents with known possession status

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

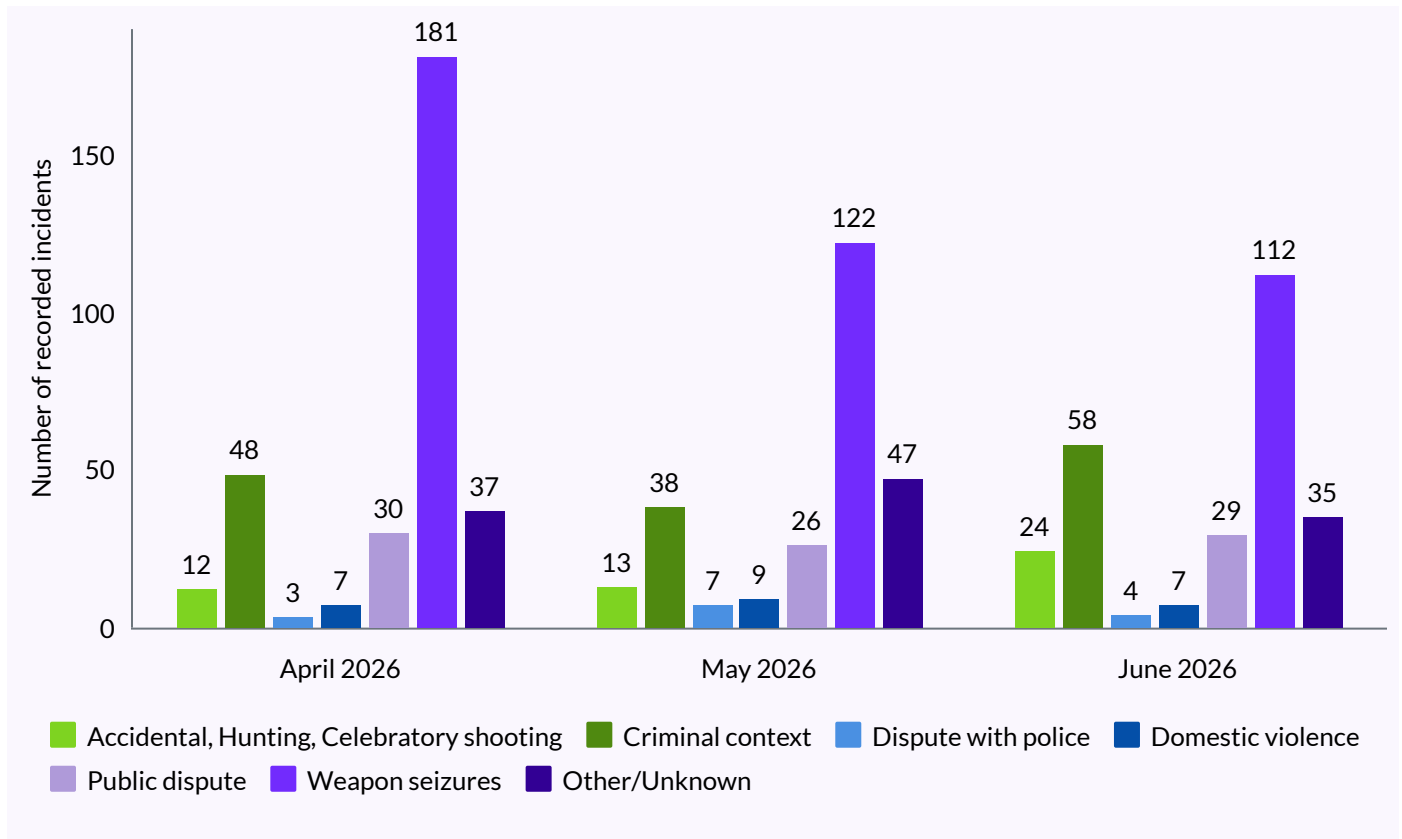
- A total of **849 firearm incidents were reported** in the second quarter of 2026, representing an **11% decrease** compared to the previous quarter (950 incidents) and only a marginal increase compared to the same period in 2025 (832 incidents).
- **April 2026** recorded the **highest monthly number** of incidents, with **318 cases**, a **9% increase** from April 2025 (292 cases).



- With **312 reported firearm incidents**, the **highest number of cases** continued to be recorded in **Kosovo**, a **4% decline** from the previous quarter.
- An **upward trend** was seen only in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (141)** and **Moldova (30)**, where incidents **increased** by **6%** and **11%**, respectively.
- In contrast, **Montenegro (74)** recorded a **35% decrease**, the most pronounced decline among all jurisdictions.
- **Serbia (84)** and **Albania (120)** also recorded decreases of **23%** and **16%**, respectively, while incidents in **North Macedonia (88)** fell by **11%**.

TYPES OF INCIDENTS

The monthly distribution of firearm incidents in the second quarter of 2026 reveals fluctuations across different types of incidents:

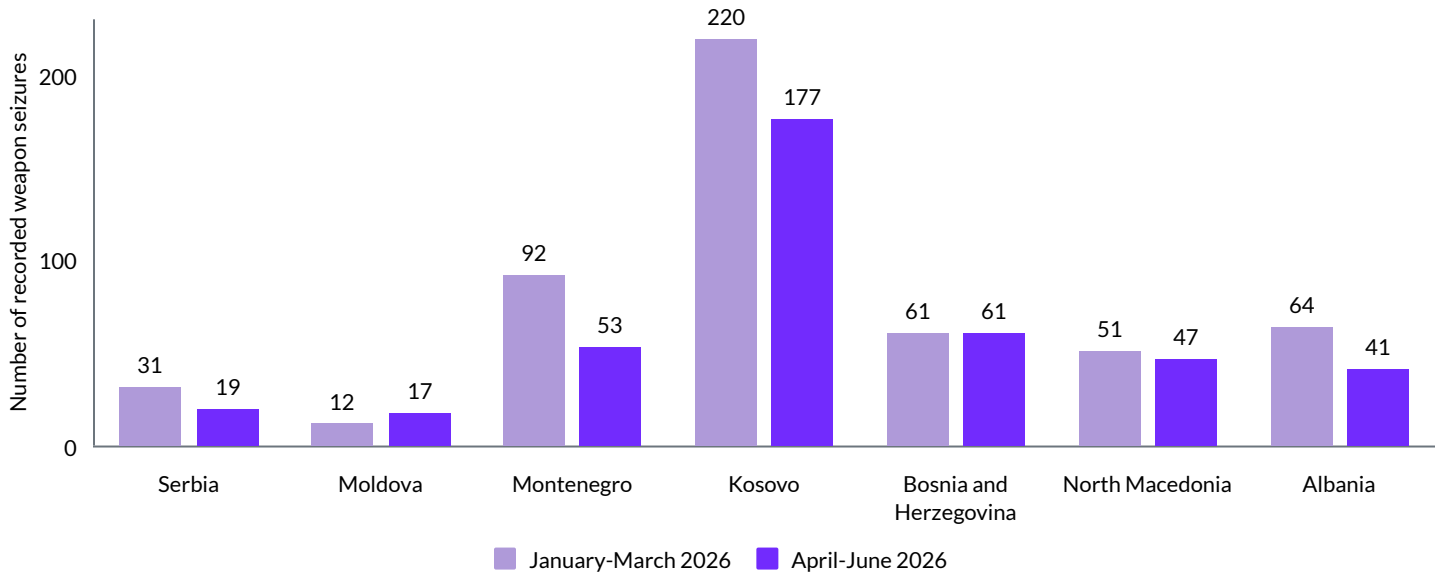


- The reporting period was characterized by a continued **decline in weapon seizures**, which nevertheless remained the **most recorded type of incident**, accounting for **415 cases**. A steady **downward trend** was observed throughout the quarter, from 181 in April to the quarterly low of 112 in June.
- A total of **144 incidents** were reported in the **criminal context**, with incidents fluctuating across the quarter.
- **Public disputes** involving firearms totalled **85 incidents, unchanged** from the previous quarter, with the monthly number of cases remaining **relatively stable** throughout the reporting period.
- Incidents arising from **accidental, celebratory shootings/hunting** amounted to **49 cases**, a **29% rise** from the previous quarter, with incidents peaking in **June (24)**.
- **Domestic violence** incidents reached **23 cases** over the quarter, nearly matching the numbers from the previous quarter (24), with **marginal fluctuations** across the months.
- **Disputes with police** were the **least frequently recorded** category, with **14 cases** in total. Incidents peaked in **May (7)**.
- **The Other/Unknown** category accounted for **119 incidents**, a **rise** from 107 in the previous quarter, with most cases being **undetermined shootings**.

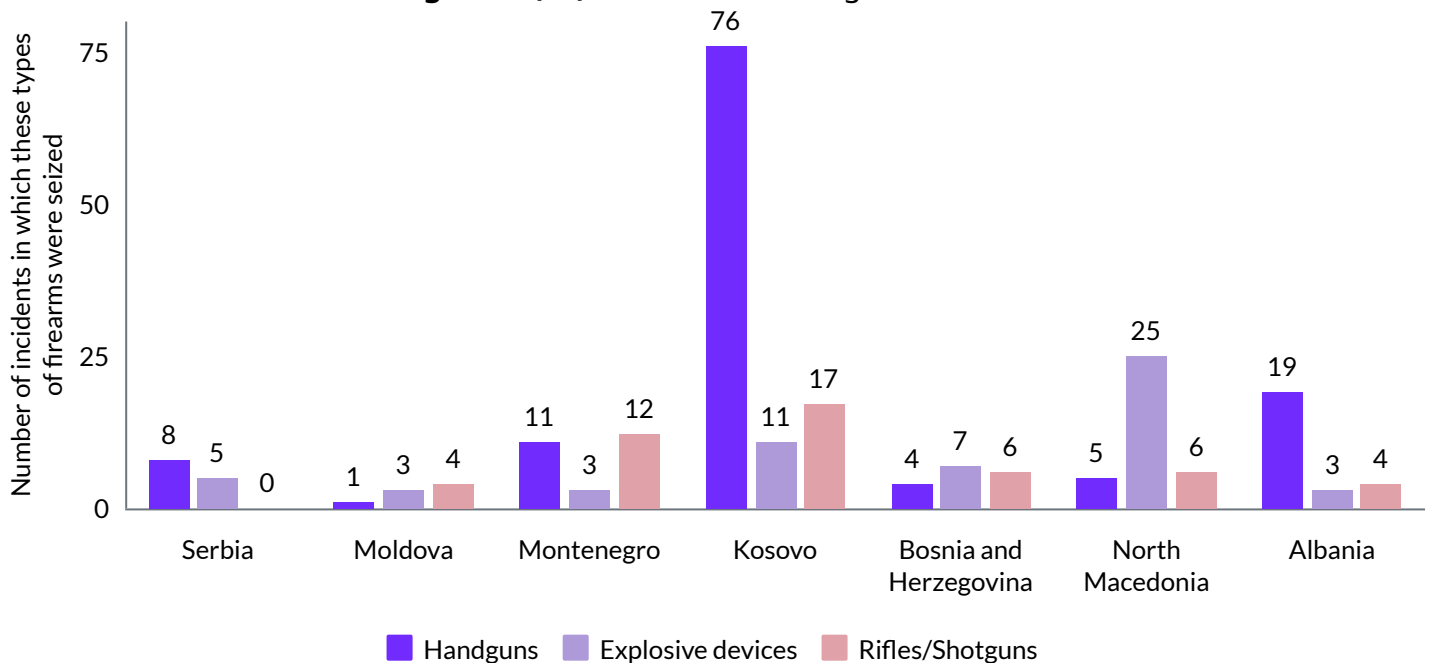
MOST REPORTED INCIDENTS

Weapon seizures

With **415 cases**, **weapon seizures** continued to be the **most reported type of incident**, accounting for **49% of all reported incidents**. Compared to the previous quarter, the number of cases **decreased by 22% (531)**, and by **12% compared to the same period in 2025 (469)**.



The **highest number of seizures** was seen in **Kosovo (177)**, a **20% decrease** from the previous quarter. **Montenegro (53)** registered the **sharpest decline (42%)**, followed by **Serbia (19)**, **Albania (41)**, and **North Macedonia (47)**. **Moldova (17)** was the only jurisdiction to record an increase, while the cases in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (61)** remained unchanged.



Three most seized types of weapons in April-June 2026

Handguns remained the **most commonly seized type of weapon**, accounting for **124 cases**. This represented a **32% drop** from the previous quarter (183 cases), mainly due to **declines in Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

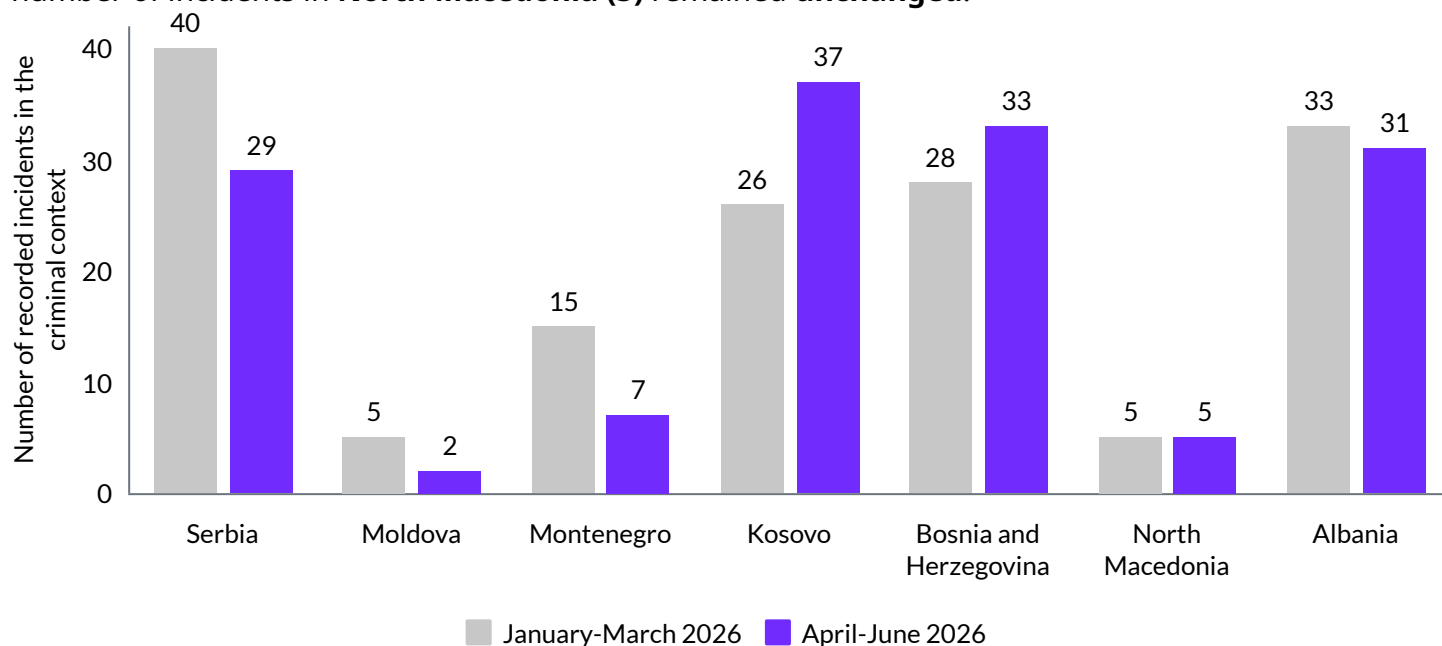
Seizures of **explosive devices increased by 12%** compared to the first quarter of 2026, rising from 51 to **57 cases**. This rise was largely caused by an increase in **North Macedonia**, where cases rose from 15 to 25.

Seizures of **rifles/shotguns** saw a **36% decrease** from **76 to 49 cases**, mainly driven by a drop of **rifles/shotguns** seizures in **Kosovo**, (from 32 to 17 cases), and **Montenegro** (from 17 to 12 cases).

Criminal context

Incidents in a criminal context totalled **144 cases** in the reporting period, a **5% decrease** compared to the previous quarter (152 cases), but a **45% increase** compared to the same period in 2025 (99 cases).

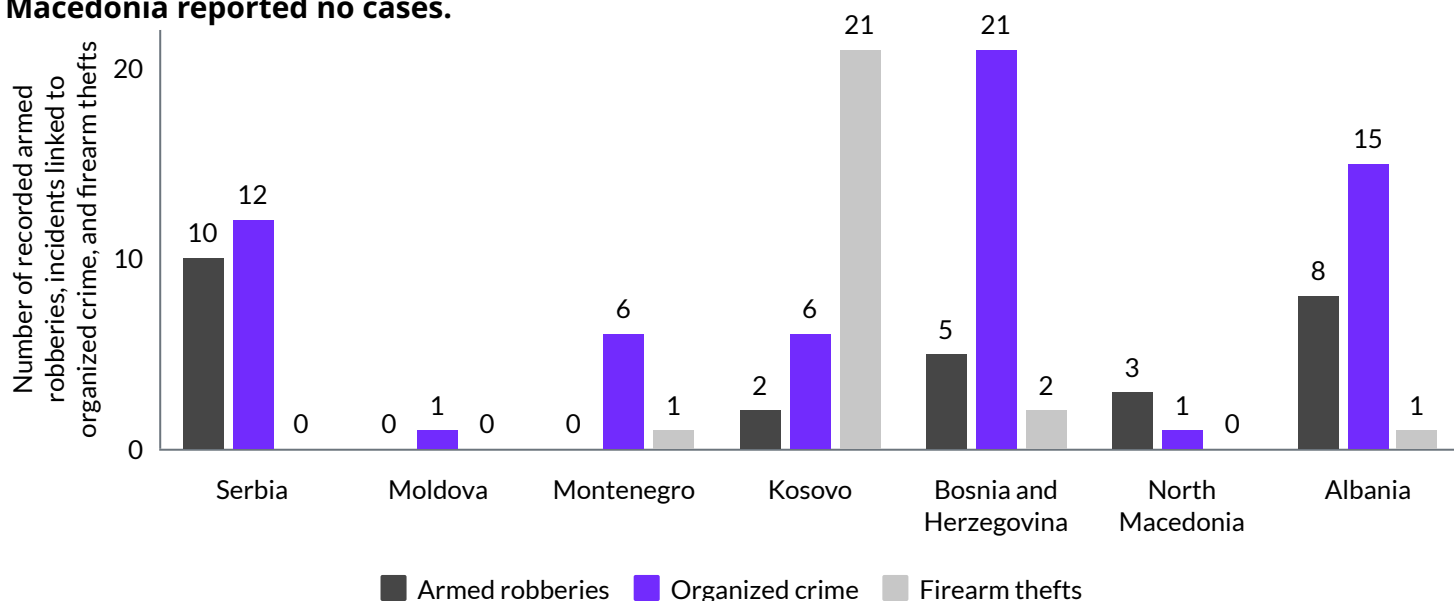
Kosovo reported 37 incidents, marking a **42% increase** compared to the previous quarter. **Bosnia and Herzegovina (33)** also showed an **upward pattern (18%)**, while **Albania (31)** remained **relatively stable**. **Serbia (29)**, which recorded the highest number of incidents in the previous quarter, saw a **28% decrease**. **Montenegro (7)** and **Moldova (2)** experienced **declines**, while the number of incidents in **North Macedonia (5)** remained **unchanged**.



Armed robberies fell from 33 cases in the first quarter of 2026 to **28 cases** in the second. The **highest number** was recorded in **Serbia (10)**, despite a decline from the previous quarter. **Albania (8)**, which recorded an **increase**, and **Bosnia and Herzegovina (5)** followed. **North Macedonia (3)** also recorded a modest **increase**, while **Kosovo (2)** reported a **drop** in these cases. Montenegro and Moldova continued to record no armed robberies.

Incidents linked to **organized crime decreased** from 68 cases in the previous quarter to **62 cases** in the reporting period. **Bosnia and Herzegovina (21)** recorded the **highest number, rising from 15** cases in the previous quarter. **Albania (15)** followed with a slight decline, while **Serbia (12)** and **Montenegro (6)** also recorded **decreases**. **Kosovo (6)** recorded an **increase** compared to the previous quarter. The remaining jurisdictions experienced decreases.

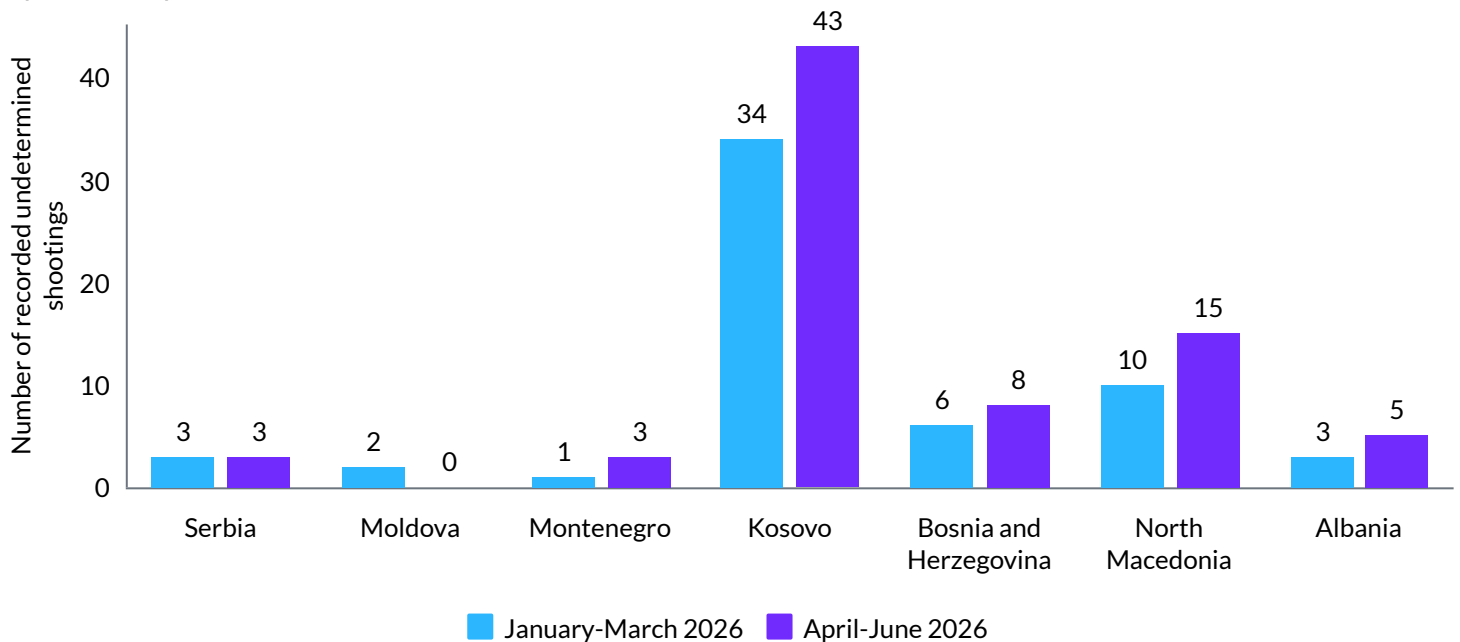
Firearm thefts decreased from 34 cases to **25 cases**. The **highest number** was recorded in **Kosovo (21)**, showing a **further increase** compared to the previous quarter. In contrast, **decreases** were recorded in **Albania (1)** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina (2)**, while **Serbia, Moldova, and North Macedonia reported no cases**.



Undetermined shootings

In the reporting period, a total of **77 undetermined shootings³** were recorded, representing a **31% increase** compared to the previous quarter (59 cases).

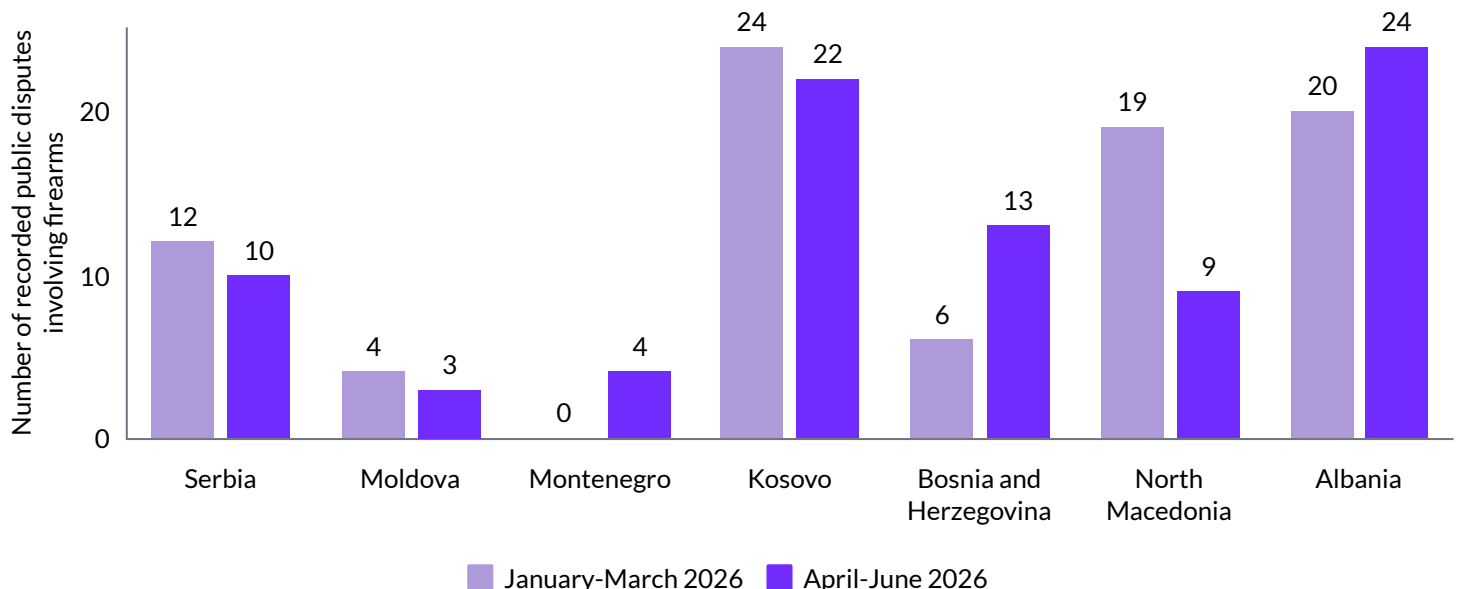
The **highest number** was documented in **Kosovo (43)**, showing an **increase**. **North Macedonia (15)**, **Bosnia and Herzegovina (8)**, **Albania (5)**, and **Montenegro (3)** also recorded higher figures than the previous quarter.



Public disputes

Public disputes involving firearms amounted to **85 incidents** in the second quarter of 2026, unchanged from the previous quarter.

Albania (24) documented the **highest number of cases**, showing an **upward trend**. Incidents in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (13)** more than **doubled** compared to the previous quarter. An **increase** was also observed in **Montenegro (4)**. In contrast, cases in **North Macedonia (9)** more than **halved**, while **Serbia (10)**, **Moldova (3)** and **Kosovo (22)** recorded **moderate decreases**.



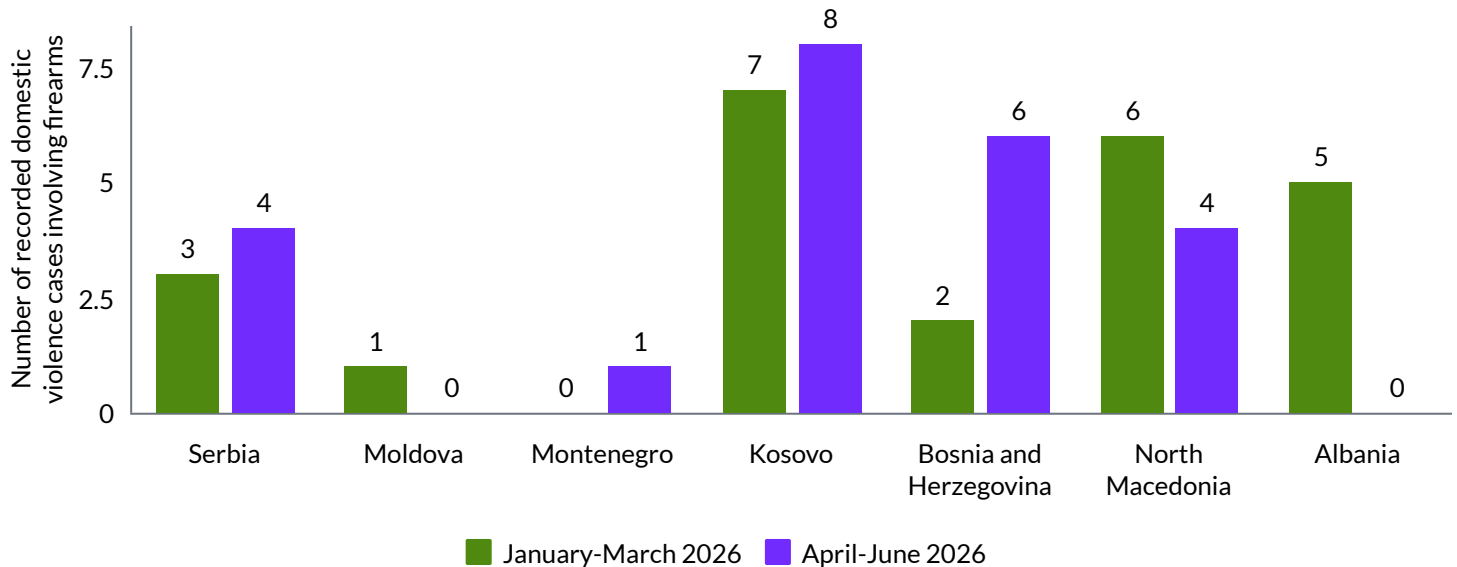
³ Undetermined shooting refers to any firearm discharge under unknown circumstances and motives, regardless of whether or not such an incident caused a fatality, injury, or damage.

Domestic violence

Firearm incidents in the **domestic setting** reached **23 cases** in the second quarter of 2026, a **slight drop** from the previous quarter (24 cases) but a **23% decrease** compared to the same period in 2025 (30 cases).

Incidents in **Bosnia and Herzegovina increased** from 2 cases in the previous quarter to **6**, while **Kosovo (8)** and **Serbia (4)** recorded **slight increases**. In contrast, **North Macedonia (4)** registered a decline. Albania and Moldova reported no cases during the quarter.

Of the 23 incidents, **10** were committed by **intimate partners**, a **decrease** compared to the previous reporting period (13 cases). In contrast, firearm-related violence **by other family members increased** slightly, from 11 to **13 cases**.

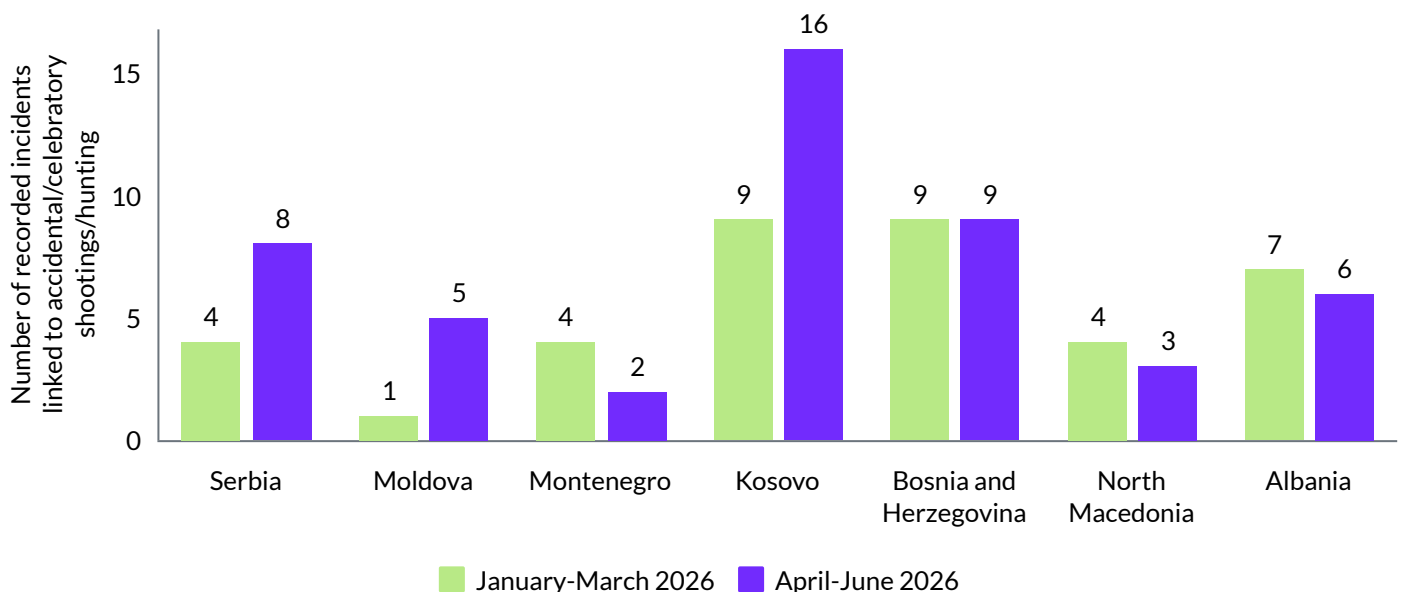


Accidental/Celebratory shootings/ Hunting

Incidents in the **accidental, celebratory shootings, and hunting** category totalled **49 cases** in the second quarter of 2026, a **29% increase** compared to the previous quarter (38 cases).

Accidental shootings (26) were the **most common subcategory**, with a 53% increase from the previous quarter. **Celebratory shootings (22 cases)** followed, showing a marginal rise.

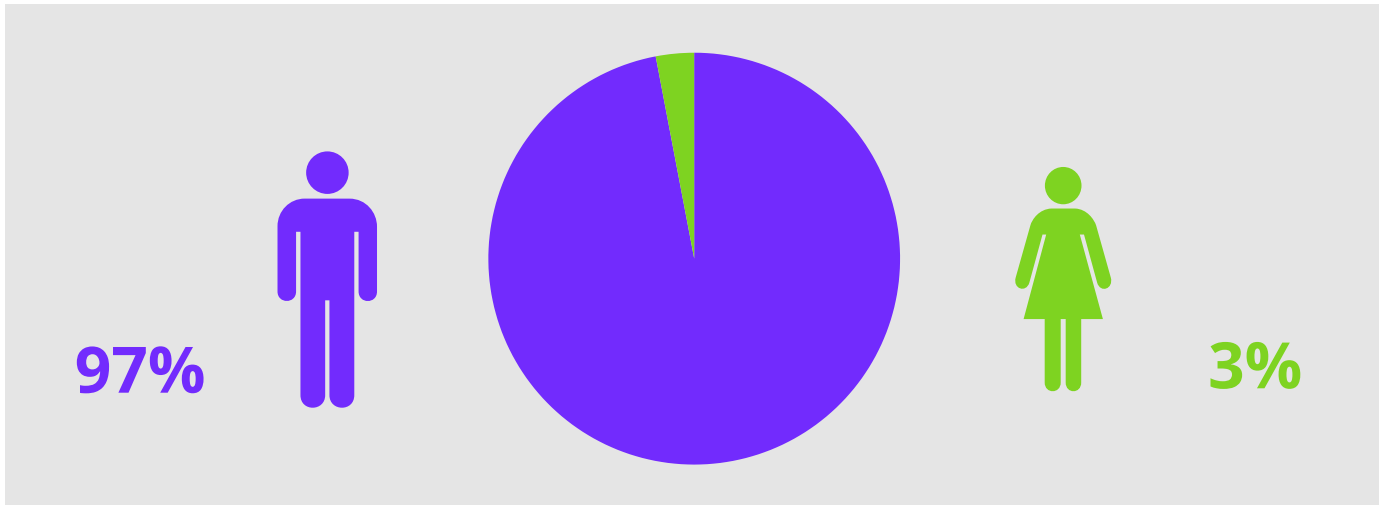
Kosovo (16) recorded the **highest number, rising** from 9 cases in the previous quarter, while cases in **Serbia (8)** **doubled**. **Moldova (5)** also experienced a **rise**. The number of cases in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (9)** remained **unchanged**, while incidents in **Albania (6)**, **Montenegro (2)** and **North Macedonia (3)** **declined** slightly.



PERPETRATORS

A total of **1,013 perpetrators⁴** were recorded in firearm incidents during the reporting period. The majority were **men (848)**, while **23 were women**, and sex was not indicated for 142 individuals.

In cases when the sex was known, men accounted for 97% and women for 3% of perpetrators.

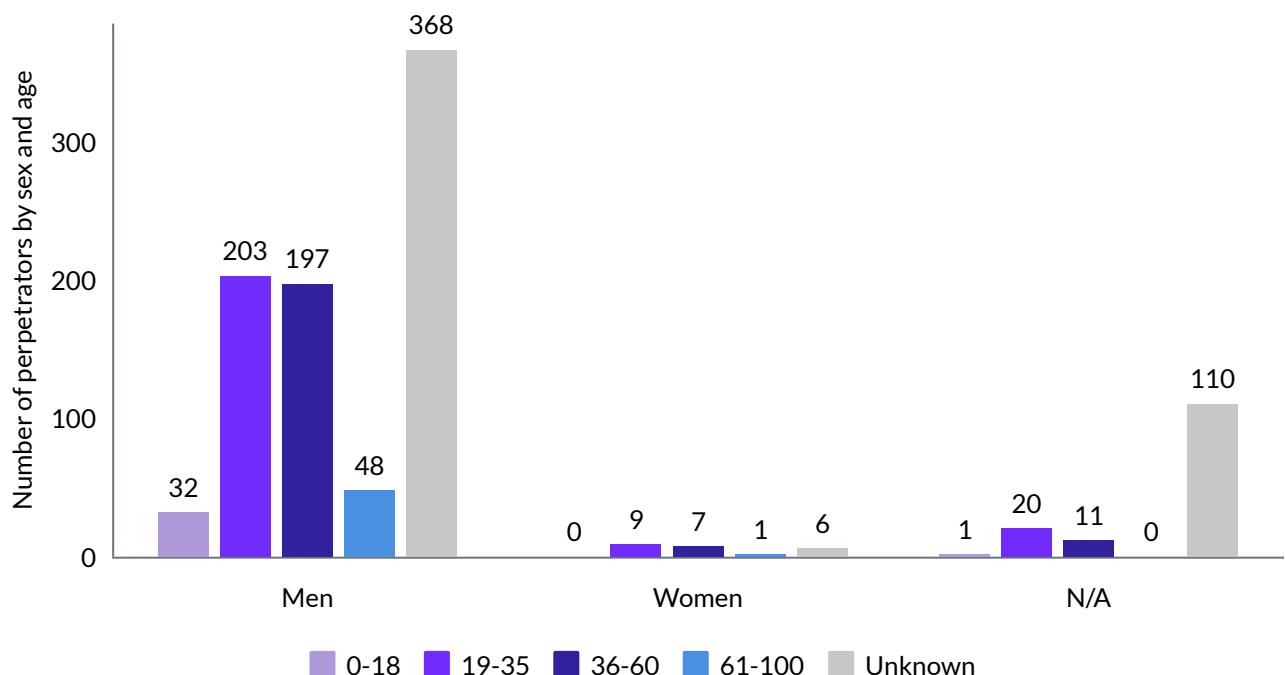


Men were identified as perpetrators mostly in incidents related to **weapon seizures (41%)**, **criminal context (26%)**, **public disputes (14%)**, and **undetermined shootings (7%)**.



Women were identified as perpetrators mainly in incidents related to **weapon seizures (57%)** and **criminal context (26%)**.

The **most common age group** among perpetrators was **19-35 (232)**, followed by **36-60 years (215)**. A total of **49** perpetrators were **61 and older**. There were also **33 perpetrators** aged **18 and younger**, a **decline** from 56 in the previous reporting period. However, for **484 perpetrators**, the age remained unknown, while for 110, neither age nor sex was reported.

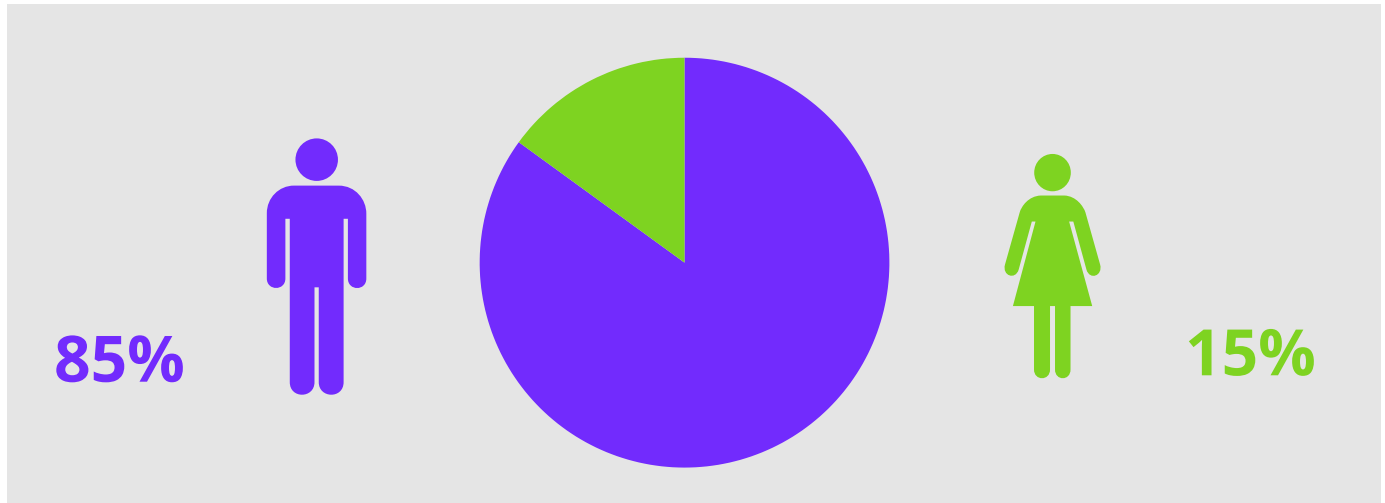


⁴ Perpetrator refers to any individual who has used a firearm/ammunition/explosive to commit any of the types of incidents covered by the AVMP.

VICTIMS

A total of **320 victims**⁵ were recorded in firearm incidents. This marks a **9% decline** compared to 352 in the previous quarter. **Men accounted for the majority of victims (234 men)**, while **41 were women**, and for **45 individuals**, the information on sex was not reported.

In cases when the sex was known, **men accounted for 85%** and women for **15% of victims**.

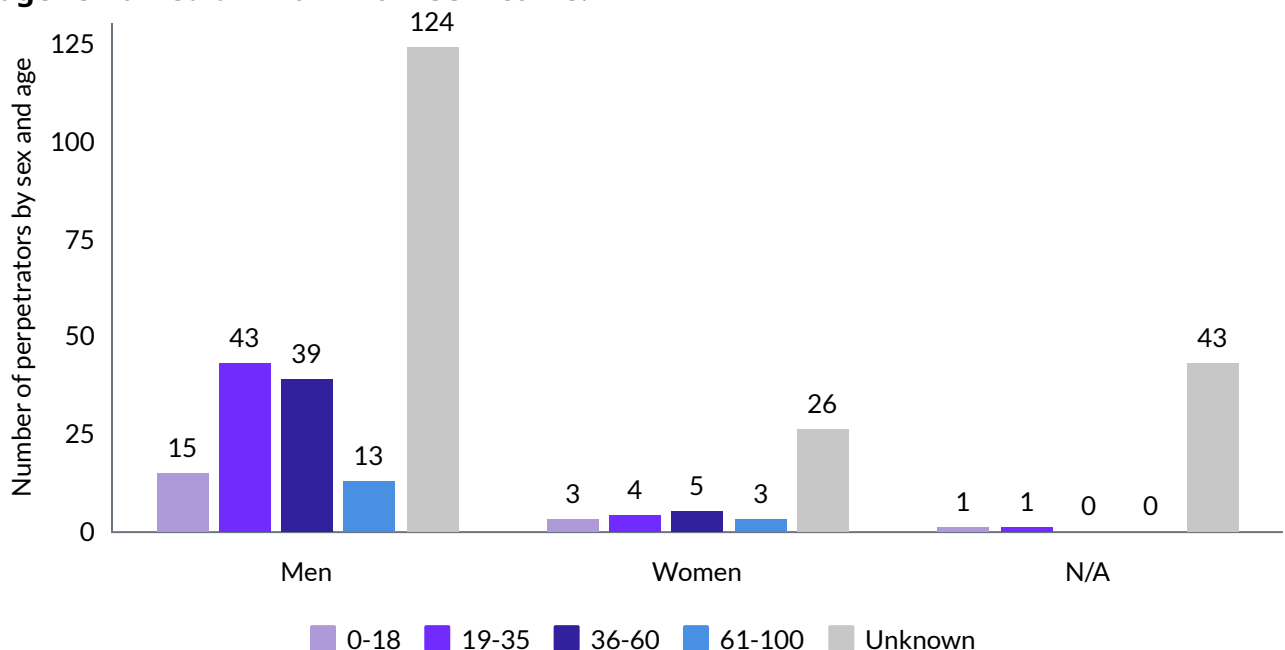


Men were identified as victims mostly in incidents related to **public disputes (41%)**, **criminal context (26%)**, and **accidental/celebratory shootings/hunting (11%)**.



Women were identified as victims mainly in incidents related to **domestic violence (34%)**, and **the criminal context (27%)**, specifically in **armed robberies**, and **undetermined shootings (15%)**.

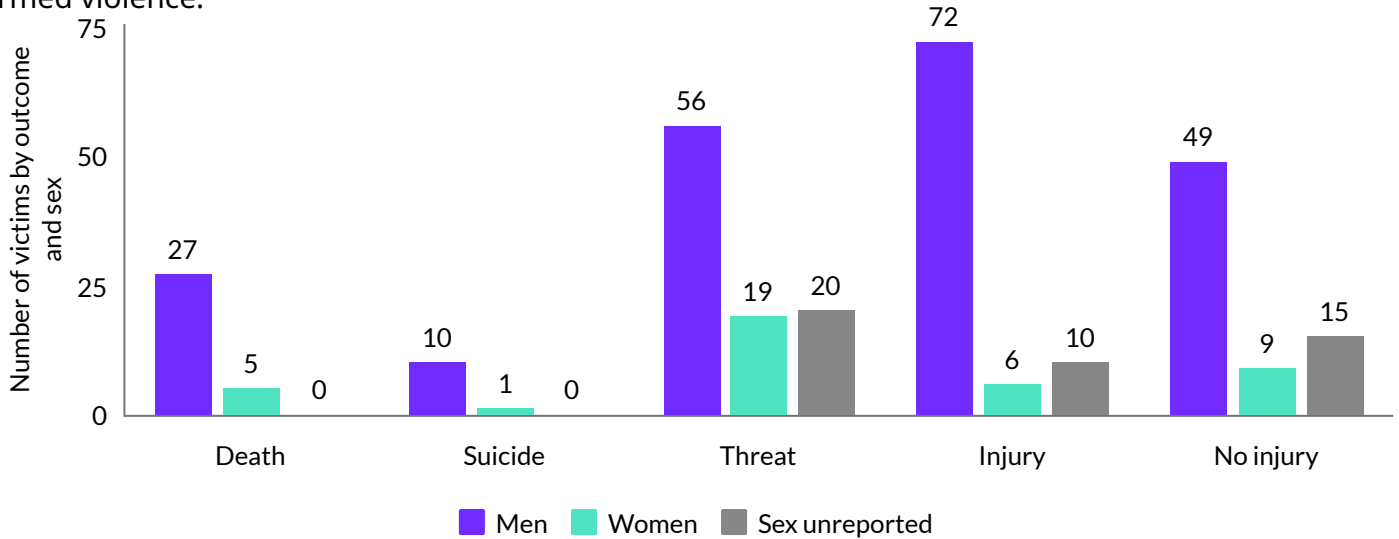
When the age was known, the **19-35 age group** was the **most affected** among victims, with **48 victims**. This was also the age group with the highest number of men victims. Those aged **36-60** closely followed (**44 victims**). This was also the group with the highest number of women victims. A total of **19 victims** were aged **18 and younger**. There were **16 victims aged 61 and older**, while the **age remained unknown for 193 victims**.



⁵ Victim refers to any individual who has been threatened, injured or died as a result of the use of a firearm/ammunition/explosives. Victims also include those who were present when a firearm was discharged but did not sustain a gunshot injury and those who were present during an incident in which a firearm was present but was not used.

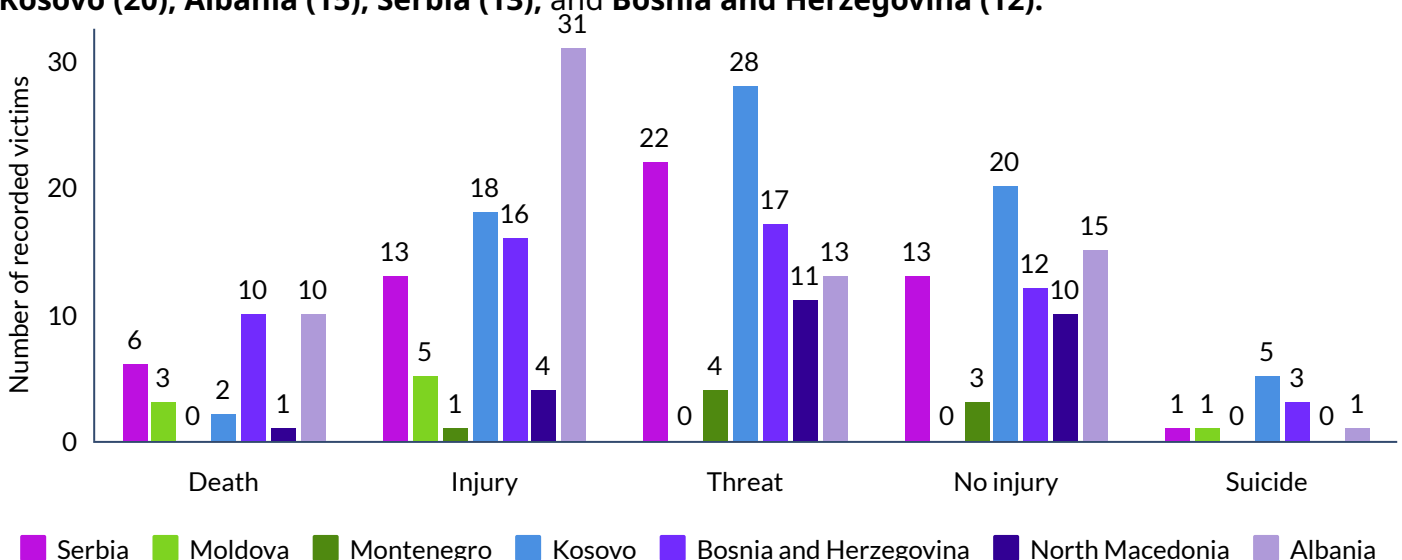
Outcomes for victims

The outcomes of firearm incidents in the first quarter of 2026 reflect different levels of impact of armed violence.



Most reported outcomes of firearm incidents by type from April to June 2026

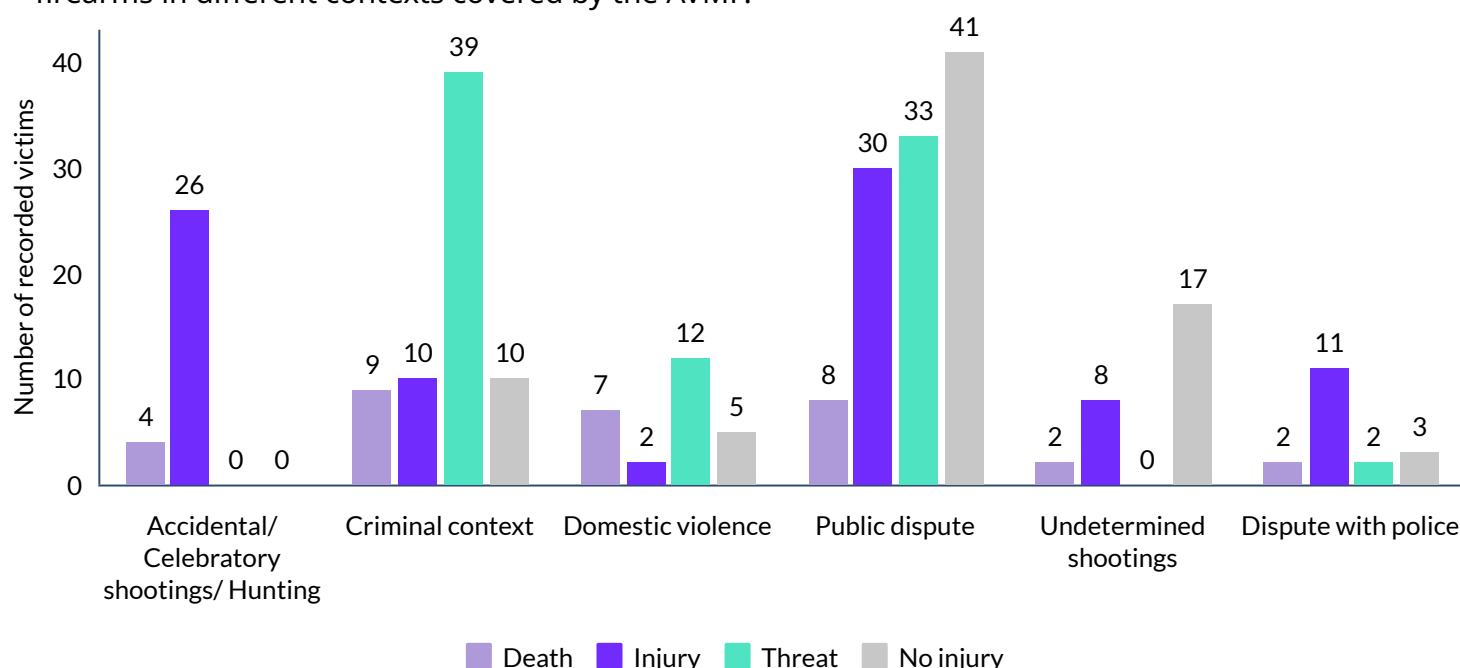
- **Firearm-related fatalities increased** in the second quarter of 2026, rising from 20 to **32 victims**. The **increase was driven** by a **rise in men victims**, from **15 to 27**, while the number of women victims (**5**) remained the same. The **highest number of fatalities** was recorded in **Albania** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, with **10 victims** each, followed by **Serbia** with **6**. The most notable decreases were observed in Kosovo, where fatalities fell from 6 to 2. No fatalities were reported in Montenegro, the same as in the previous quarter.
- **Firearm-related suicides declined** from 12 to 11 cases, primarily **affecting men (10)**. **Kosovo (5)** reported the **highest number of cases**, an increase from one reported case in the previous quarter. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** followed with **3 cases**, while Serbia, Moldova, and Albania reported one case each.
- The number of **injured victims decreased** from 100 in the previous quarter to **88**. **Injuries among men increased** from 61 to **72**, while the number of injured women **declined** from 7 to 6. Following the increase recorded in the previous quarter, the number of injured **victims whose sex was not reported** fell sharply from 32 to 10. The **highest number of injuries** was recorded in **Albania (31)**, followed by **Kosovo (18)** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina (16)**.
- **Threats with firearms declined** from 129 to **95 victims**. The decrease was driven by a **decline among both men victims**, from 73 to **56**, and **women victims**, from 35 to **19**. The **majority of victims** were recorded in **Kosovo (28)**, **Serbia (22)**, and **Bosnia and Herzegovina (17)**.
- A total of **73 victims** were reported in incidents involving firearm discharge **without injury**, a **rise** from 60 in the previous period. Most victims were **men (72)**. The victims were mainly recorded in **Kosovo (20)**, **Albania (15)**, **Serbia (13)**, and **Bosnia and Herzegovina (12)**.



Most reported outcomes of firearm incidents by jurisdiction from April to June 2026

Outcomes for victims and context

The below overview offers an insight into the outcomes for victims resulting from the use of firearms in different contexts covered by the AVMP.



Most reported outcomes of firearm incidents by type from April to June 2026

Firearm-related deaths

- **Firearm-related fatalities** in the **criminal context** accounted for the **largest share**, with **9 deaths** involving **8 men** and **1 woman**. This represented a **sharp increase** from **1 fatality** recorded in the previous quarter.
- **Public disputes** involving firearms **led to 8 fatalities**, all **men**.
- Firearm-related fatalities in the **domestic setting** remained **the same** as in the previous quarter, with a total of **7 victims**. These included **4 women** and **3 men**.
- **Accidental shootings resulted in 4 fatalities**, all **men**, marking a **decline** compared to the previous period, when 2 deaths were recorded. **Undetermined** shootings accounted for **2 deaths**, all **men**.
- Incidents stemming from **disputes with police** resulted in **2 fatalities**, both **men**.

Firearm-related injuries

- **Public disputes** involving firearms accounted for **the largest share of injured victims**, with **30 victims**, **29 men** and **1 woman**.
- **Accidental/Celebratory shootings/Hunting** led to **26 injuries** (**22 men** and **3 women**, when the sex was indicated), while **disputes with police** caused **11 injuries**, primarily to **men (8)**.
- A total of **10 victims**, **9** of whom were **men**, were **injured** in the incidents in the **criminal context**. In addition, **8 men** were injured in **undetermined shootings**.
- **Domestic violence incidents** resulted in **2 injured women**.

Firearm-related threats

- **Threats** involving firearms were most frequently reported in the context of **public disputes**, with **41 victims**, including **35 men** and **2 women**, when the sex was known. A total of **39 threatened** victims were reported in cases linked to the **criminal context**, affecting **18 men** and **9 women**.
- **Domestic violence incidents** led to **12 threatened victims**, i.e. **7 women** and **3 men**, a decline from the 22 victims in the previous quarter.

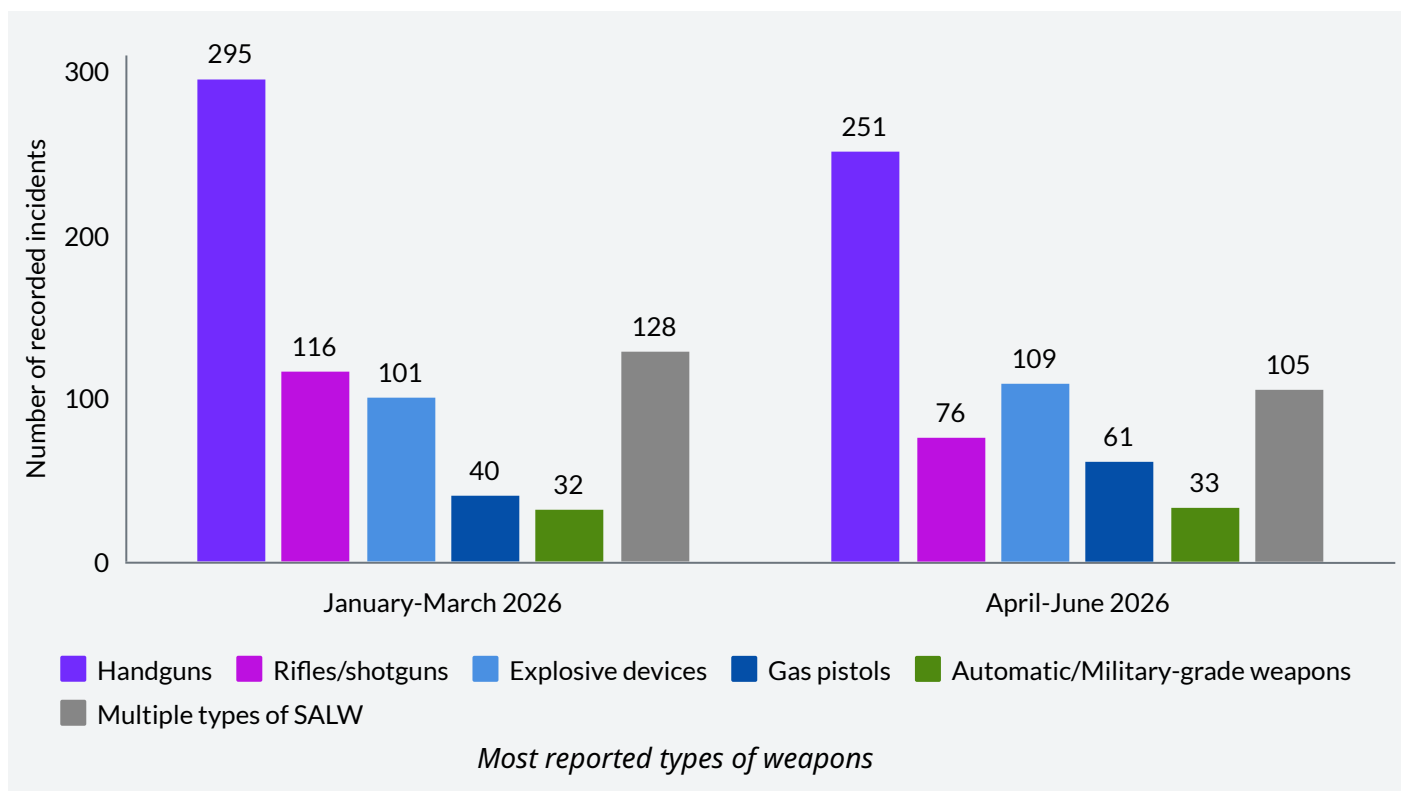
TYPES OF WEAPONS



- In **565 (67%) incidents**, the firearms used were in **illegal possession**, while in **53 (6%) cases**, they were in **legal possession**. In 231 (27%) incidents, the status of possession was not reported.

Being documented in **251 cases** between April and June 2026, **handguns** remained the **most reported type of weapon**, a **15% decline** compared to the previous quarter. Nearly half of the cases involving **handguns** were **weapon seizures (124 cases)**. Handguns were also documented in incidents in the **criminal context (43 cases)** and **public disputes (38 cases)**, among others.

Explosive devices were the **second most reported type of weapon**, with **109 cases**, representing an **8% increase** from the prior quarter. More than **half of these incidents** were related to **seizures**, including **36 incidents** involving the **accidental discovery of explosive devices** by civilians, an increase compared to the previous quarter. Additionally, **25 cases** involved **undetermined explosions**.



With **76 cases** recorded in the second quarter of 2026, the use of **rifles/shotguns** continued a **downward trend**, marking a **34% drop** from the previous quarter. In **64% of these incidents**, the weapons were **seized**.

Gas pistols were reported in **61 cases**, a **sharp increase** from 40 cases in the previous quarter. In nearly **half of these incidents (29 cases)**, the gas pistols were **seized**, while in **20%** they were used in **celebratory shootings (13 cases)**.

Incidents involving **automatic/military-grade weapons** marked a marginal increase, from 32 to **33 cases**. **Almost half of these incidents** occurred in the **criminal context (15 cases)**, while **8 cases were weapon seizures**.

Incidents involving **multiple types of SALW declined by 18%**, reaching a total of **105 cases**. **Most of these incidents** were linked to **weapon seizures (63%)**, while **24%** occurred in a **criminal context**.

MACRO AND MICROLOCATION

From April to June 2026

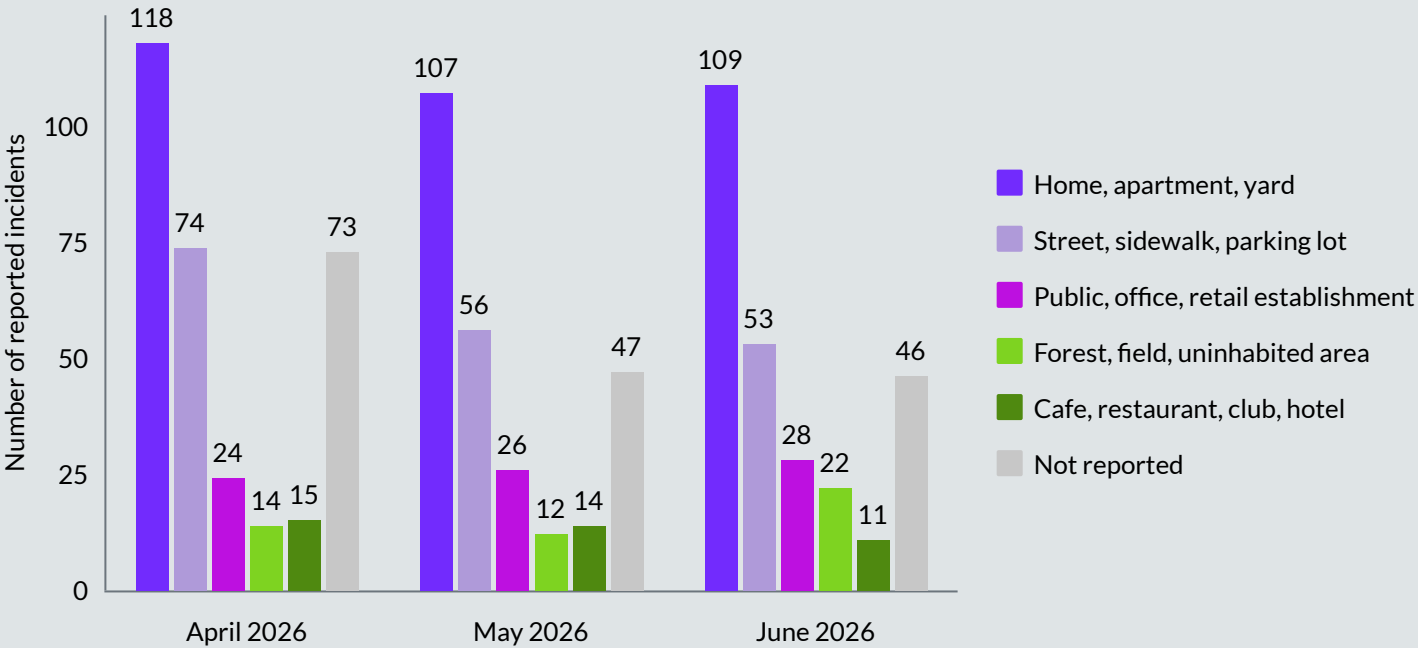


554 (65%) incidents
occurred in urban areas.



295 (35%) incidents
occurred in rural areas.

Microlocation



When reported, the majority of incidents occurred



at homes / yards

334 incidents

- Weapon seizures (185 cases)
- Criminal context (64 cases)
- Undetermined shootings (21 cases)
- Domestic violence (16 cases)
- Public disputes (12 cases)



in streets

183 incidents

- Weapon seizures (92 cases)
- Public disputes (27 cases)
- Undetermined shootings (23 cases)
- Criminal context (22 cases)



public buildings

78 incidents

- Criminal context (26 cases)
- Weapon seizures (19 cases)



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