

South East Europe

ARMED VIOLENCE MONITOR

July - September 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 **July** and **September 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 reports.

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 30 October 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

1,142

firearm incidents were **reported**, a 33% increase from the previous quarter, with **weapon seizures** accounting for **44% of all incidents.**

417

victims were reported**, a 30% increase** from the previous quarter.

35

people were **killed** in firearm incidents, a **9% increase** from the previous quarter.

108

celebratory shootings, up from 22 in the previous quarter, indicating a **seasonal pattern.**

117

undetermined shootings, a 56% increase from the previous quarter.

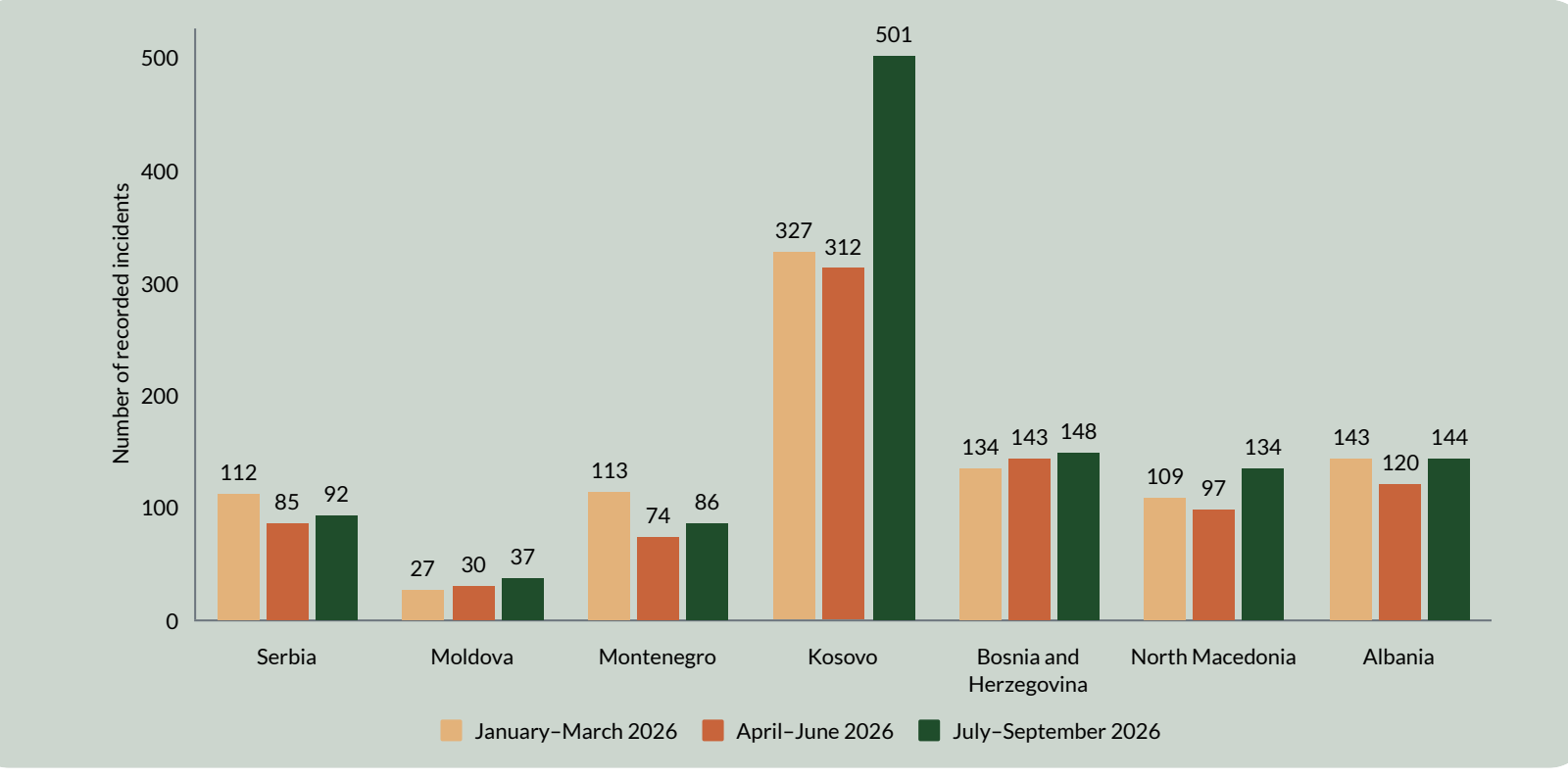
140

incidents involving **gas pistols**, **more than double** the previous quarter, mainly reported in **celebratory shootings**.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

- A total of **1,142 firearm incidents** were recorded in the third quarter of 2026, a **33% increase** from the previous quarter (861 incidents) and **29% higher** than the same period in 2025 (883 incidents).

  August recorded the highest monthly number of incidents (**441**). Compared with the same months in 2025, incidents increased by **53% in August** (289) and **35% in July** (294),

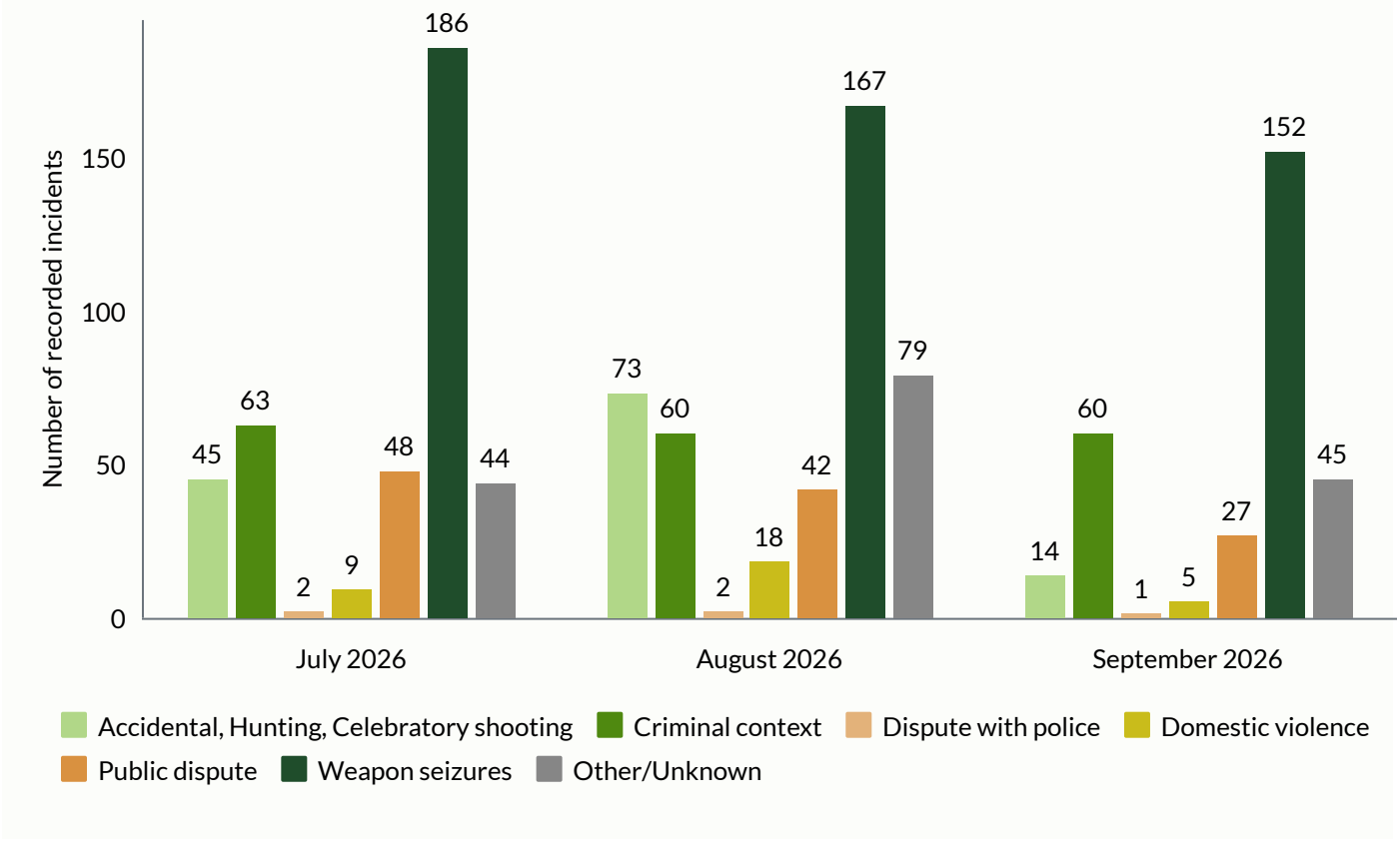


- Incidents **increased** in **all seven jurisdictions**, although to varying degrees.
- Kosovo recorded the most incidents (**501**),[3] a **61% increase** from the previous quarter (312), mainly due to an increase in weapon seizures and a seasonal rise in celebratory shootings.
- Incidents in **North Macedonia** rose by **38%**, from 97 to **134**, while Albania recorded a **20% increase**, from 120 to **144**.
- **Smaller increases** were recorded in Serbia (92), Montenegro (86) and Moldova (37), while Bosnia and Herzegovina (148) remained relatively stable.

[3] The year-on-year increase in firearm incidents recorded in Kosovo may be partly attributed to the temporary interruption in the receipt of daily Kosovo Police reports, the primary source of AVMP data for Kosovo, from late July to mid-September 2025, which affected the number of incidents recorded in Q3 2025.

TYPES OF INCIDENTS

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

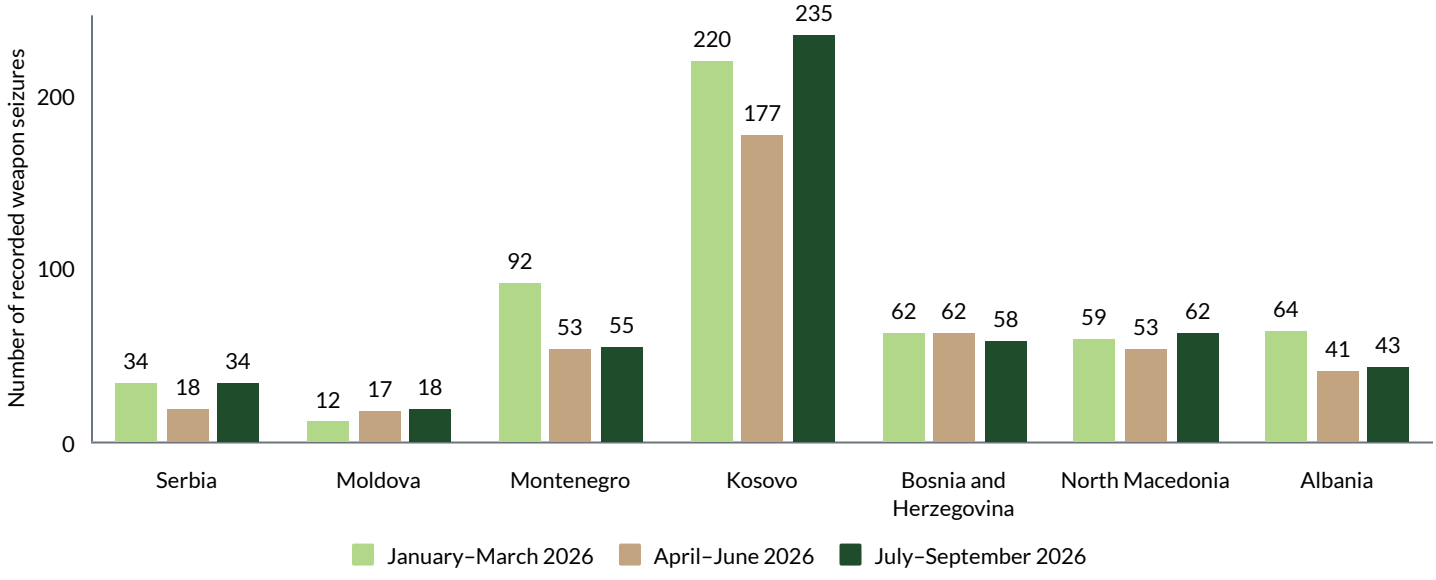


- **Weapon seizures** continued to account for the largest share of firearm incidents, with **505** cases, representing **44% of all incidents** recorded in the reporting period. Monthly figures followed a downward pattern, decreasing by 18% from July to September 2026.
- Incidents in the **criminal context** accounted for **183 cases**, with little variation between the reporting months.
- **A total of 117 public disputes** involving firearms were reported. Nearly **77% of these incidents occurred in July and August**.
- **Accidental, celebratory shootings and hunting incidents** totalled **132 cases**, with more than half occurring in August (73).
- **Domestic violence incidents** amounted to **32 cases**, more than half of which were recorded in **August (18)**.
- **Disputes with police** remained the **least frequently recorded** category, with **5 incidents** distributed across the three months.
- The **Other/Unknown category accounted for 168 incidents**, peaking in August (79).

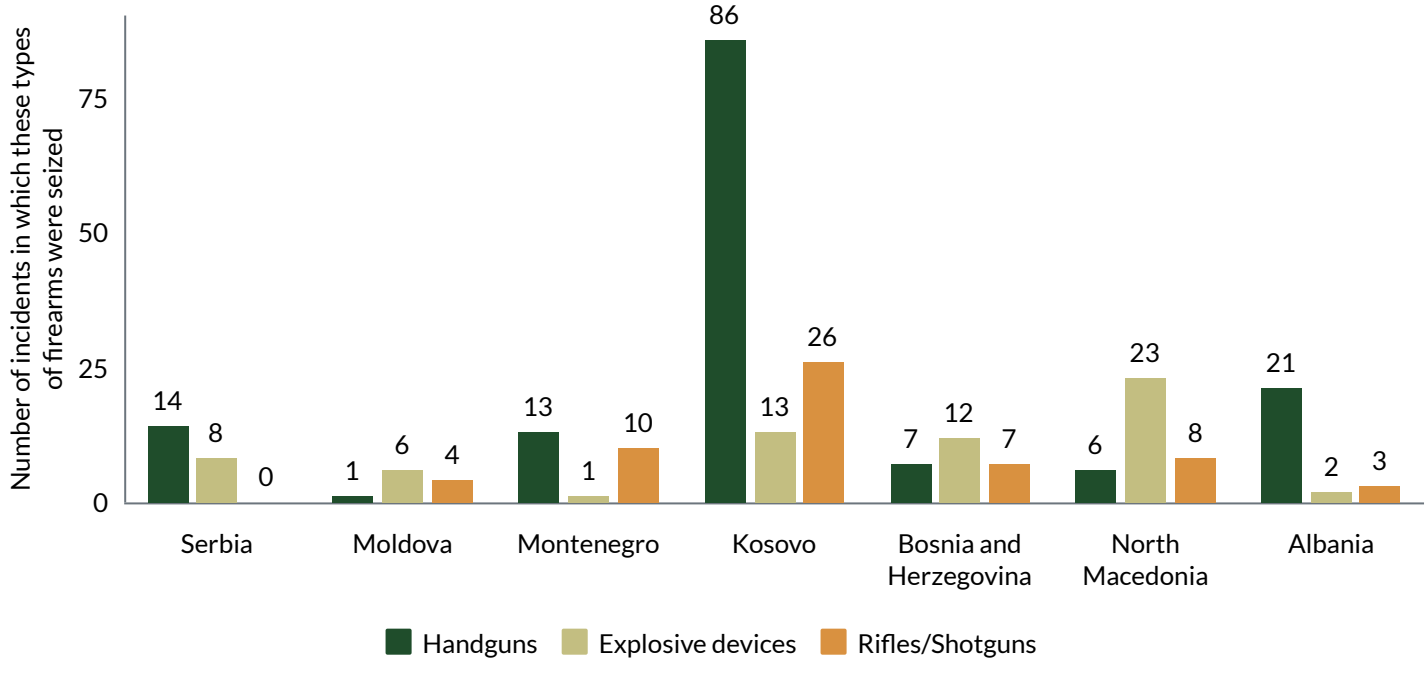
MOST REPORTED INCIDENTS

Weapon seizures

A total of **505 weapon seizures** were recorded in the third quarter of 2026, a **20% increase** from the previous quarter (421 cases) and a **22% increase** from the same period in 2025 (413 cases).



With **235 cases**, Kosovo accounted for nearly half (**47%**) of all weapon seizures recorded in the reporting period. Compared with the previous quarter, weapon seizures increased in **six of the seven jurisdictions**, with Bosnia and Herzegovina recording the only decline.



Three most seized types of weapons in July-September 2026

Handguns remained the most frequently seized weapon type, with **148 cases**, a **17% rise** compared with the previous quarter (126). The increase was largely driven by Kosovo, where seizures of handguns rose from 76 to 86 cases, and Serbia, where they increased from 9 to 14.

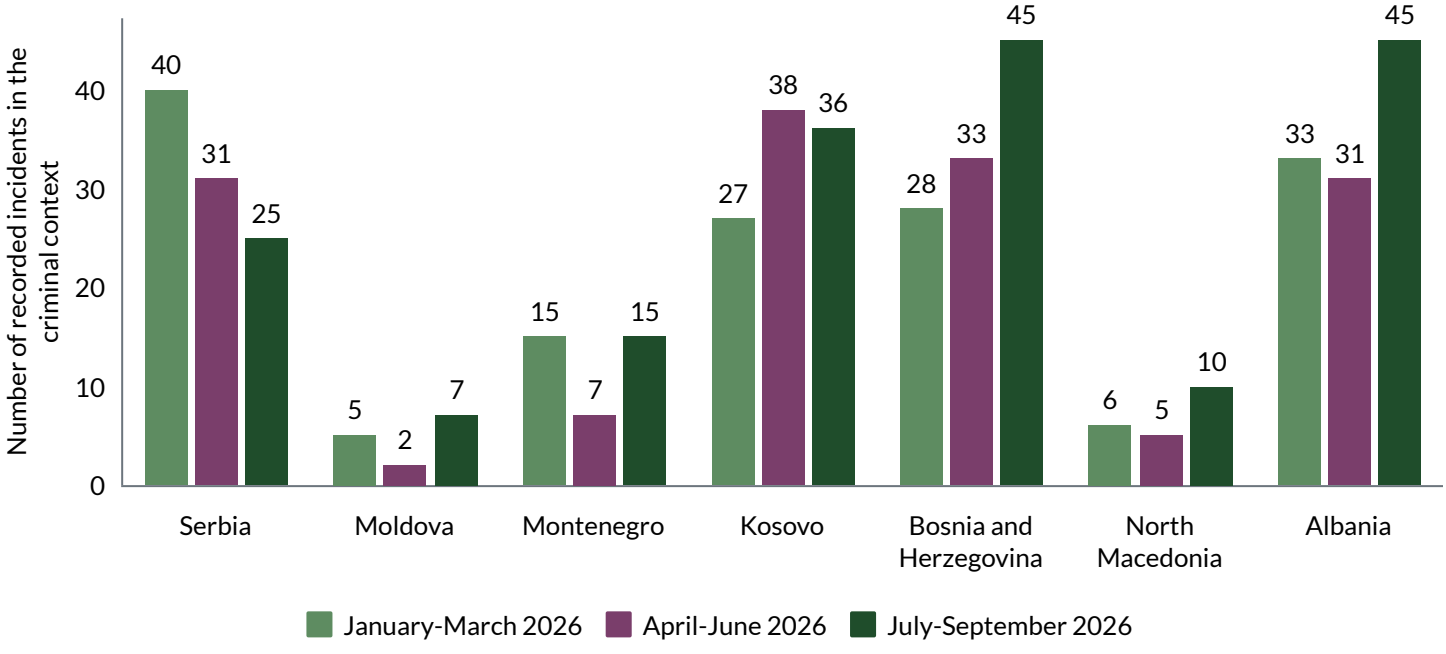
Seizures of explosive devices increased by 16%, from 56 to **65 cases**. Modest increases were reported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Moldova. **North Macedonia**, despite recording the **highest number of cases (23)**, registered a slight decrease from the previous quarter (25).

Rifles/shotguns were seized in **58 cases**, compared with 50 in the previous quarter. Kosovo accounted for 26 of these cases, followed by Montenegro (10) and North Macedonia (8).

Criminal context

Incidents in a **criminal context** reached **183 cases**, a **24% increase** compared with the previous quarter (**147 cases**) and a **54% increase** compared with the same period in 2025 (**119 cases**).

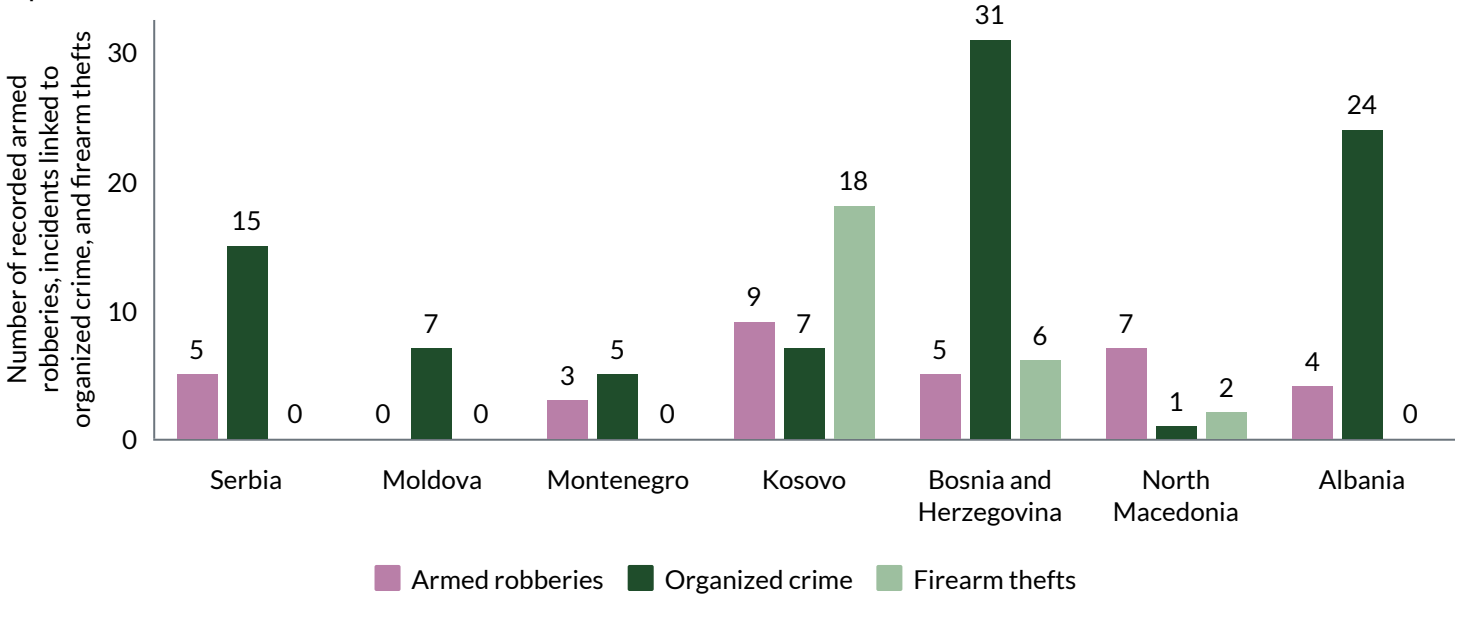
Incidents increased in **five of the seven jurisdictions**, with the highest numbers recorded in Albania (45) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (45), which registered quarterly increases of **45% and 36%**, respectively. In contrast, Serbia and Kosovo recorded declines of **19% and 5%**, respectively.



Armed robberies increased from 28 cases in the second quarter of 2026 to **33 cases** in the third. **Kosovo** recorded **the highest number (9),** rising from 2 cases in the previous quarter. **North Macedonia (7)** and **Montenegro (3)** also reported **increases**. In contrast, armed robberies halved in Serbia from 10 to 5, and in Albania from 8 to 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina remained unchanged, while Moldova again reported none.

Incidents linked to **organised crime increased from 63 cases in the previous quarter to 90 cases** in the reporting period. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** recorded the **highest number** (**31**), rising from 21 cases, followed by Albania (**24**), up from 15. Increases were also recorded in Serbia (15), Moldova (7) and Kosovo (7). **Montenegro** recorded a marginal decline, while **North Macedonia** remained unchanged from the second quarter.

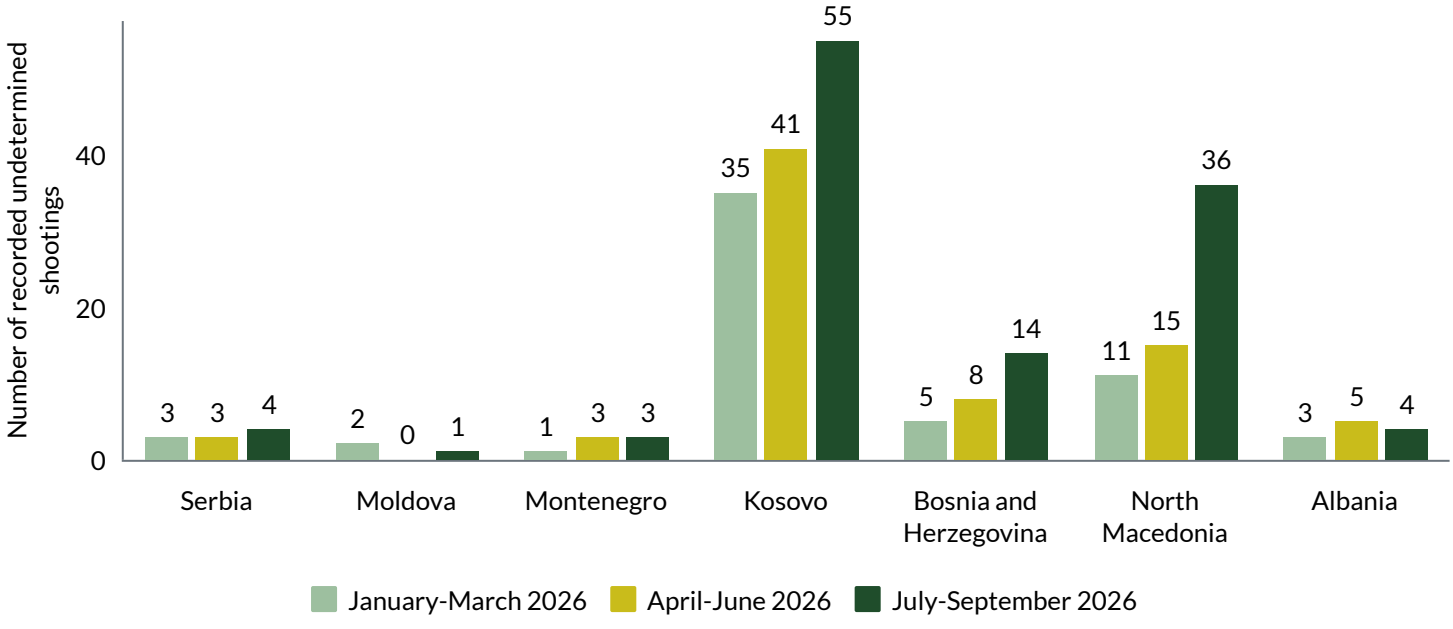
Firearm thefts **increased slightly from 25 to 26 cases**. **Kosovo** continued to account for the **highest number** (**18**), despite a decline from **20** in the previous quarter. **Bosnia and Herzegovina (6)** recorded an increase, while North Macedonia reported two cases after recording none in the previous quarter. Albania, Serbia and Montenegro each reported a decline from one case to none, while Moldova again reported no cases.



Undetermined shootings

A total of **117 undetermined shootings**[4] were recorded in the third quarter of 2026, representing a **56% increase** compared with the previous quarter (75).

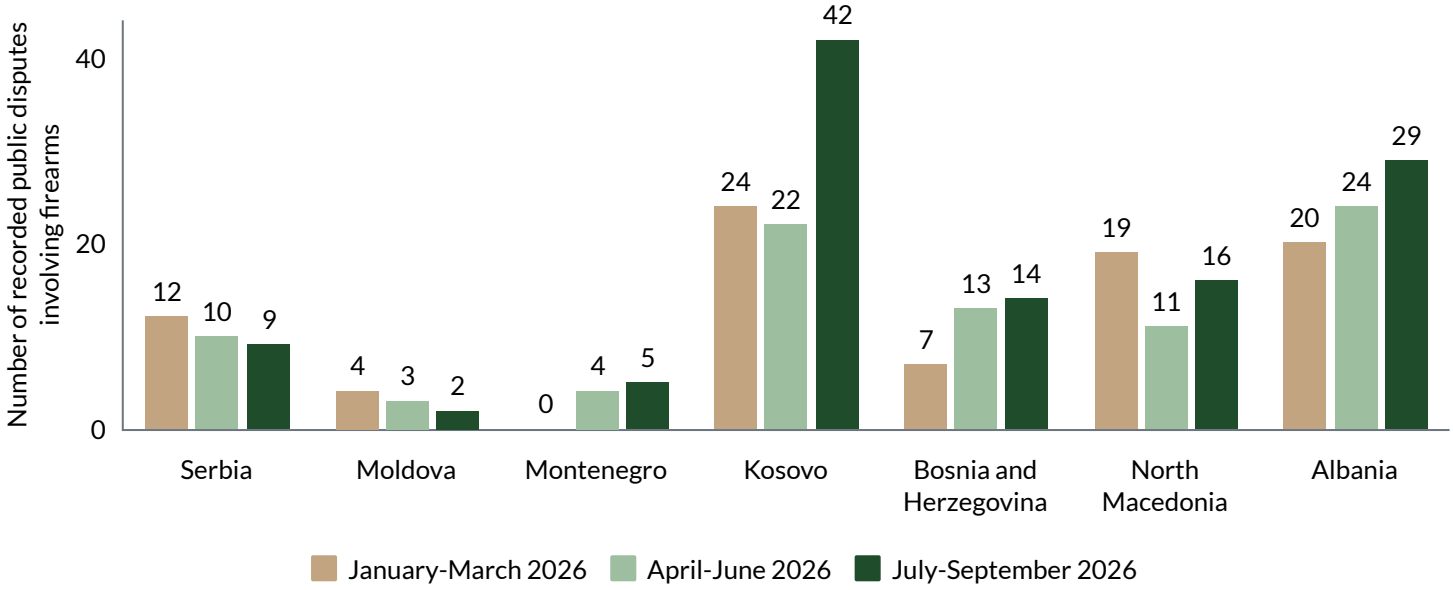
The highest number of incidents was reported in **Kosovo (55)**, while **North Macedonia (36)** saw the **most pronounced increase,** with incidents more than **doubling**. Together, **these two jurisdictions accounted for 78% of all** recorded undetermined shootings during the reporting period. **Bosnia and Herzegovina (14)** also registered an increase, while figures in the remaining jurisdictions remained relatively low, with only minor fluctuations.



Public disputes

A total of **117** firearm incidents arising from **public disputes** involving firearms were recorded during the reporting period, marking a **34% increase** from the previous quarter (87 incidents).

The **highest number** was reported in **Kosovo** (42), nearly double its **previous quarter figure (22**). **Albania (29)** and **North Macedonia (16)** also registered increases. In the remaining jurisdictions, figures were relatively stable, with only minor fluctuations.



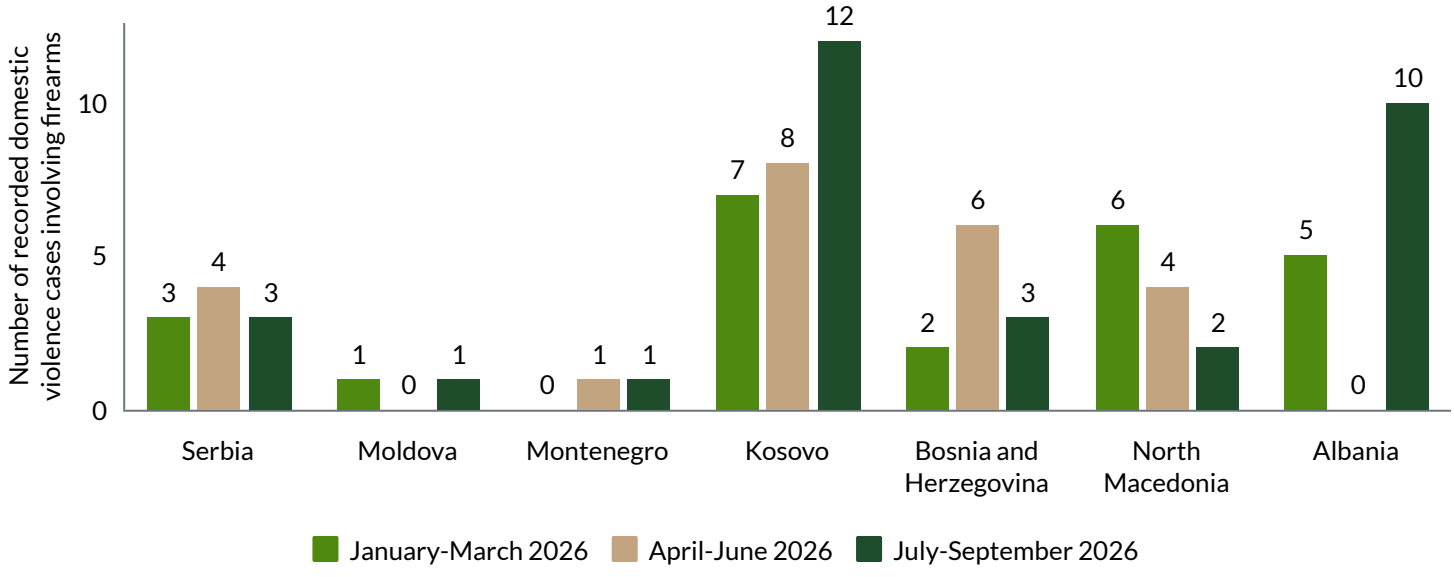
4 Undetermined shooting refers to any firearm discharge under unknown circumstances and motives, regardless of whether or not such an incident caused a fatality, injury, or damage.

Domestic violence

Firearm incidents in the context of domestic violence accounted for **32 incidents** in the third quarter of 2026, a **39% increase** compared with the previous quarter (23 incidents).

The **highest number** of incidents was reported in **Kosovo (12)**, a rise from the 8 cases in the previous quarter, followed by **Albania**, where **10 incidents** were reported after none had been recorded in the second quarter. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **North Macedonia** each recorded a decrease, while figures in the remaining jurisdictions remained low and relatively stable.

Of the 32 incidents, **12** were committed by **intimate partners**, an increase from 10 in the previous reporting period. Firearm-related violence **by other family members also increased**, from **13 to 20 cases**.

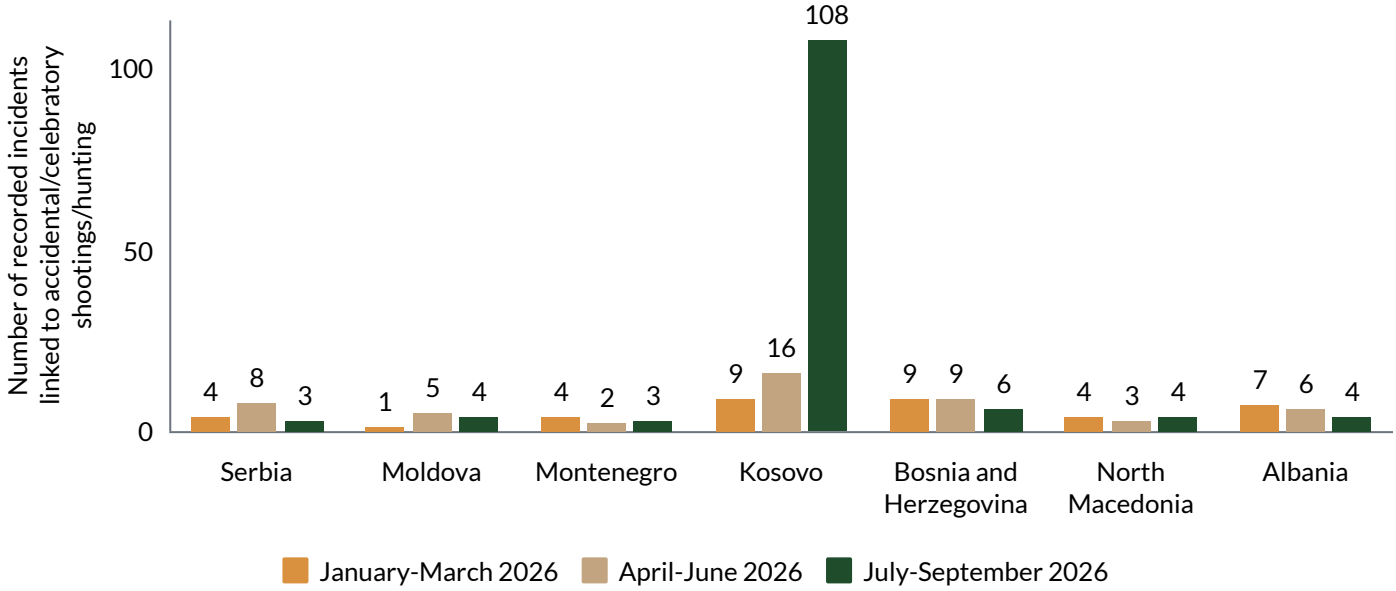


Accidental/Celebratory shootings/ Hunting

A total of **132 incidents involving accidental shootings, celebratory shootings and hunting** were recorded, nearly **three times the number** recorded in the previous quarter (49 incidents).

The increase was largely driven by **celebratory shootings**, which accounted for **108 incidents**. With **98 celebratory shootings recorded**, **Kosovo** accounted for **91% of all such incidents** in the region. This increase reflects the **seasonal pattern** of celebratory shootings, which typically become more frequent during the summer months, particularly in **August**.

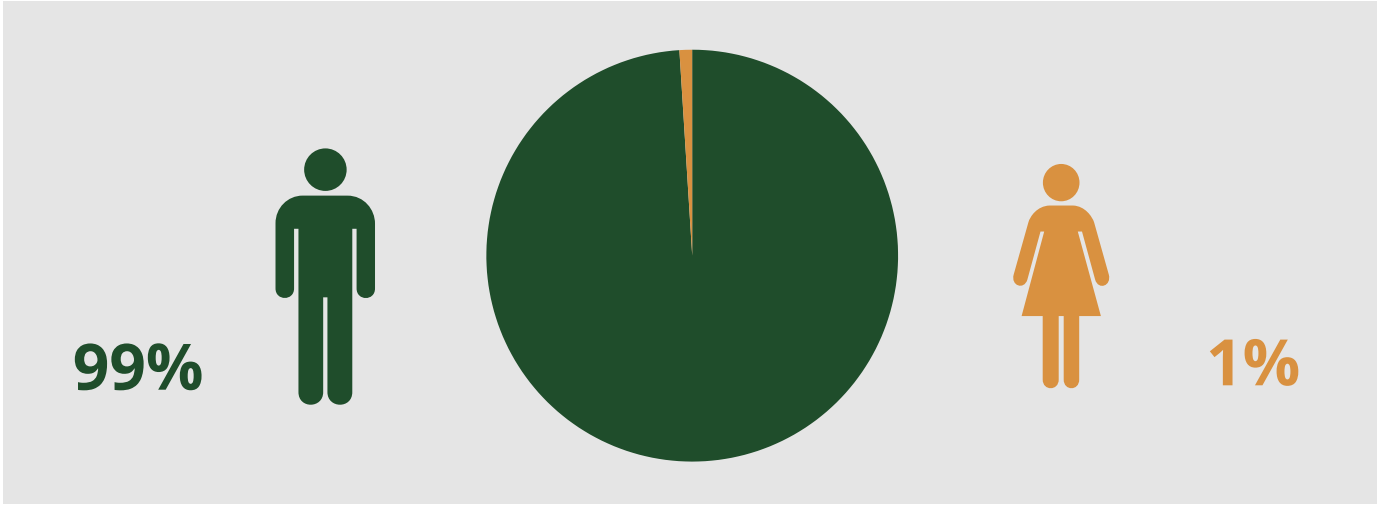
Accidental shootings accounted for **22 incidents**, and **hunting** incidents for **2 cases**.



PERPETRATORS

A total of **1,371 perpetrators**[5] were recorded in firearm incidents during the reporting period. The majority were **men (1,200), while 16 were women**, and sex was not indicated for 155 individuals.

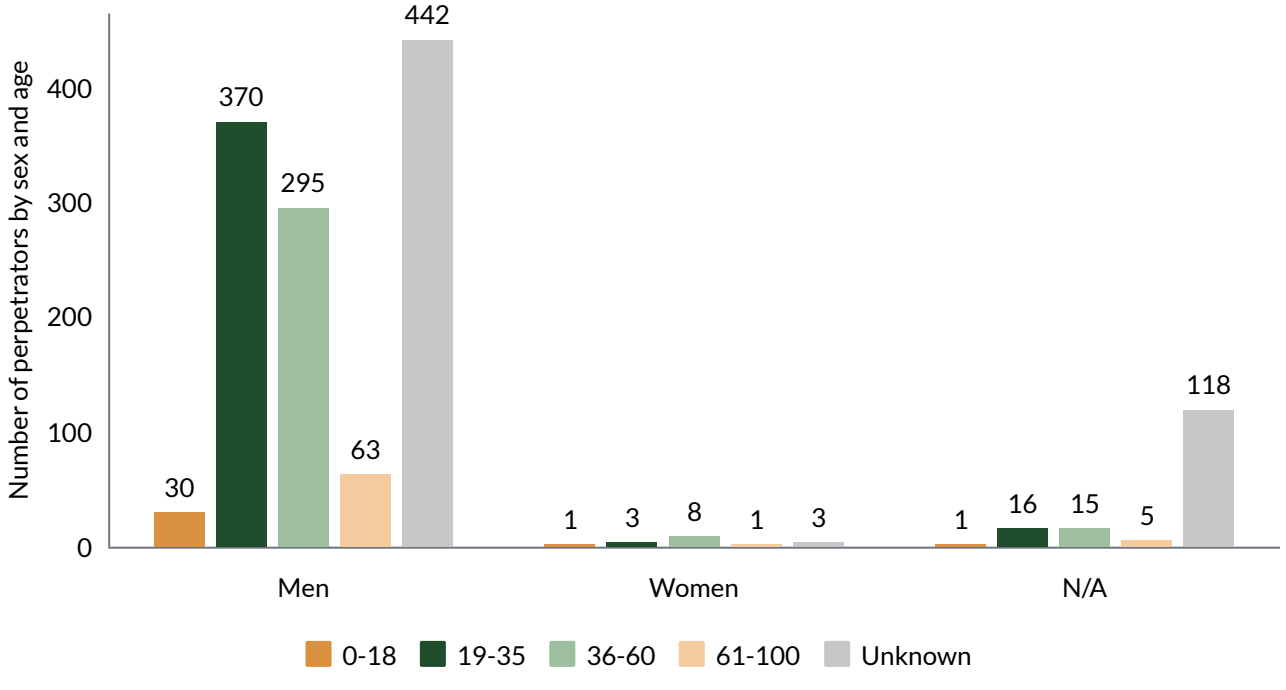
In cases when the sex was known, men accounted for 99% and women for 1% of perpetrators.



Men **were identified as perpetrators** mostly in incidents related to **weapon seizures (40%)**, **criminal context (22%), public disputes (14%), and accidental, celebratory shootings and hunting incidents (13%).**

Women were identified as perpetrators mainly in incidents related to **weapon seizures (44%)** and **criminal context (44%).**

The **most common age group** among perpetrators was **19-35 (389)**, followed by **36-60 years** (**318**). A total of **69** perpetrators were **61 and older**. There were also **32 perpetrators** aged **18 and younger.** However, age was unknown for **563 perpetrators**, and for 118, neither age nor sex was reported.

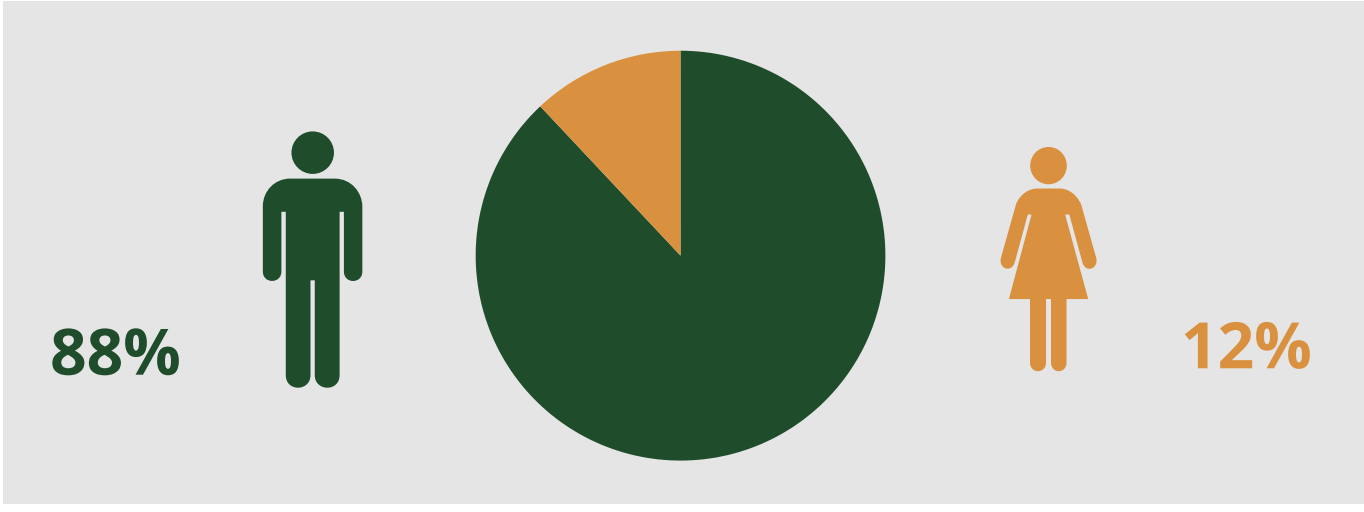


5 Perpetrator refers to any individual who has used a firearm/ammunition/explosive to commit any of the types of incidents covered by the AVMP.

VICTIMS

A total of **417 victims** [6] were recorded in firearm incidents. This marks a **30% increase** compared to 321 in the previous quarter. **Men accounted for the majority** of victims (**328 men**), while **46 were women,** and for **43 individuals,** the information on sex was not reported.

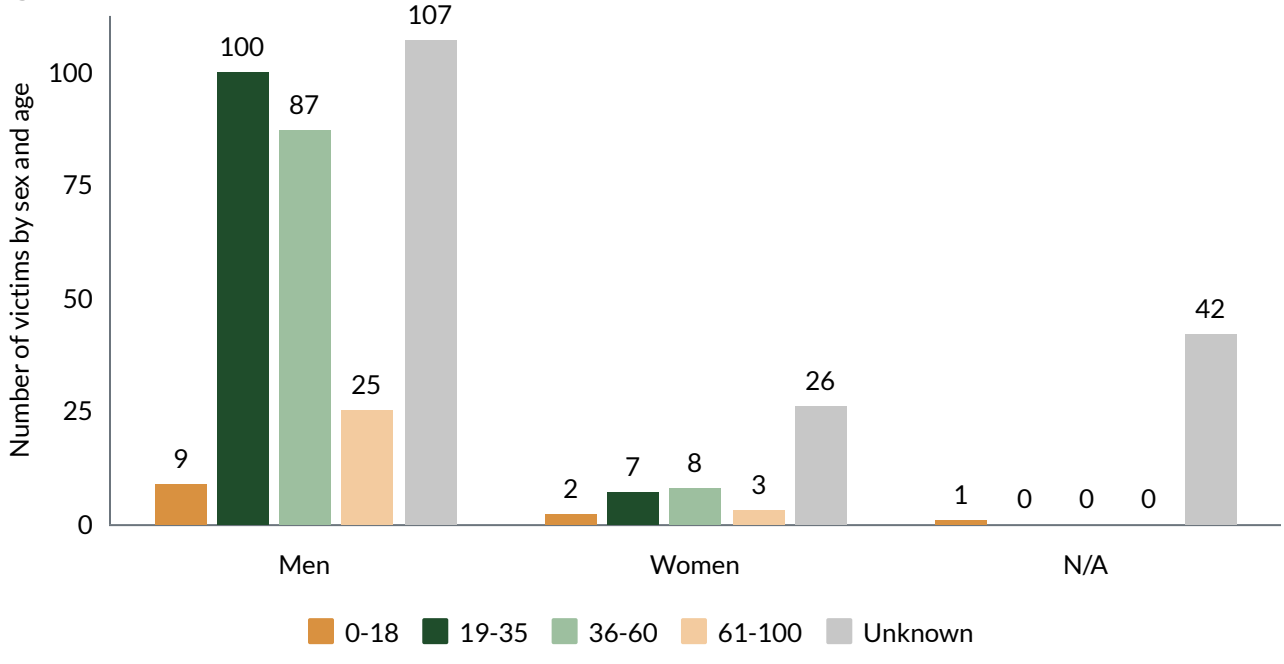
In cases when the sex was known, **men accounted for 88%** and women for **12% of victims**.



Men **were identified as victims** mostly in incidents related to **public disputes (41%), criminal context (26%), undetermined shootings (10%)** and **domestic violence (9%).**

Women were identified as victims mainly in incidents related to **domestic violence (43%)**, and **the criminal context (35%), specifically in armed robberies.**

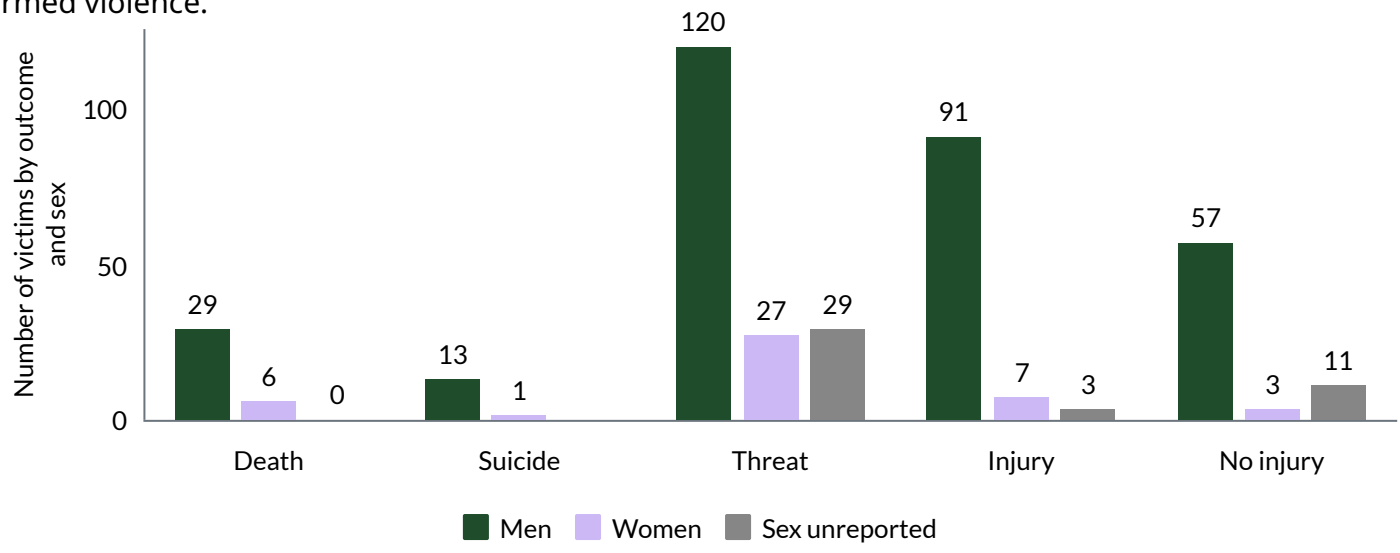
When the age was known, the **19-35 age group** was the **most affected** among victims, with **107 victims.** This was also the age group with the highest number of men victims. Those aged **36-60-** closely followed (**95 victims**). This was also the group with the highest number of women victims. A total of **12 victims** were aged **18 and younger.** There were **28 victims aged 61 and older**, while the **age remained unknown for 175 victims**.



[6] 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 third quarter of 2026 reflect different levels of impact of armed violence.



Most reported outcomes of firearm incidents by sex from July to September 2026

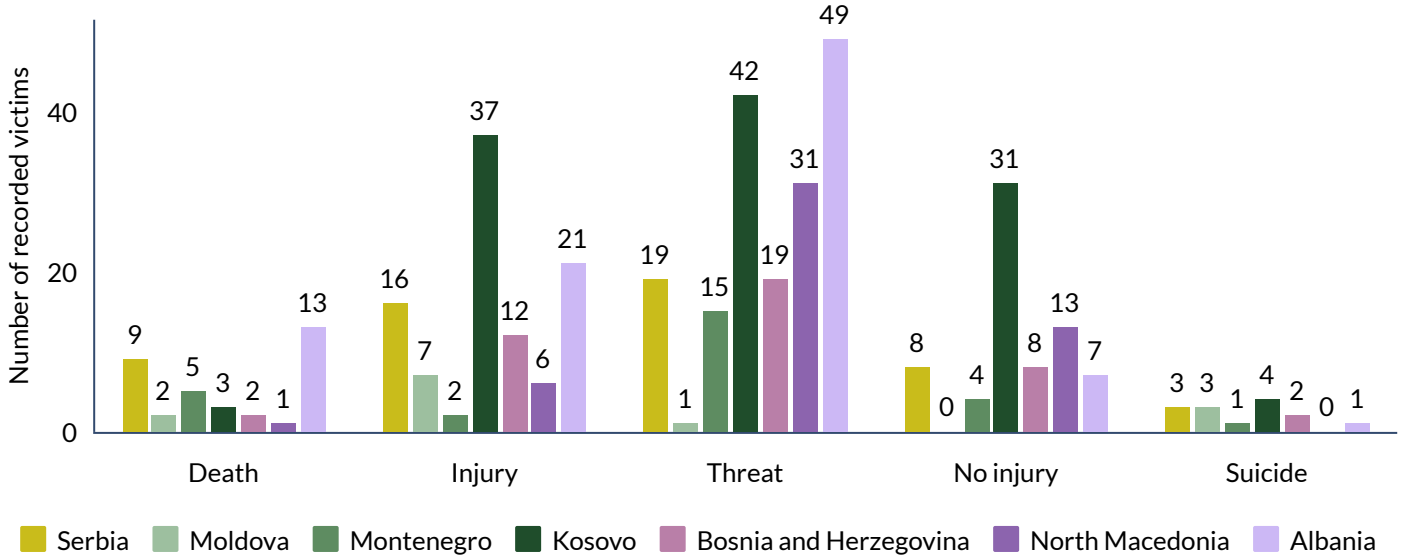
- **Firearm-related fatalities** increased in the third quarter of 2026, rising from 32 to **35 victims**. The number of **men** victims rose from 27 to **29** and the number of **women** victims from 5 to **6.** The **highest number of fatalities** was recorded in **Albania (13)**, followed by **Serbia (9)** and **Montenegro (5)**. Montenegro reported **five** fatalities after none in the second and first quarters. The most notable **decrease** was in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, where fatalities **fell from 10 to 2**.

- **Firearm-related suicides increased** from 11 to **14 cases**, primarily affecting men **(13). Kosovo** reported the **highest number of cases (4),** down from 5 in the previous quarter. **Serbia and Moldova** followed with **3 cases each**; Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 2, and Albania and Montenegro reported one case each.

- The number of **injured victims increased** by 15%, from 88 in the previous quarter to **101**. **Injuries among men rose** from 72 to **91**, and **among women** from 6 to **7**. The number of injured victims whose sex was not reported fell from 10 to 3. The **highest number of injuries** was recorded in **Kosovo (37)**, more than double the previous quarter's figure (18). Albania (21) and Serbia (16) followed.

- The number of people threatened with firearms rose from 97 to **176 victims**, affecting mainly **men** (from 58 to 120), while **women** victims **rose** from 19 to **27**. Most were recorded in **Albania (49, a rise from 13), Kosovo (42) and North Macedonia (31)**.

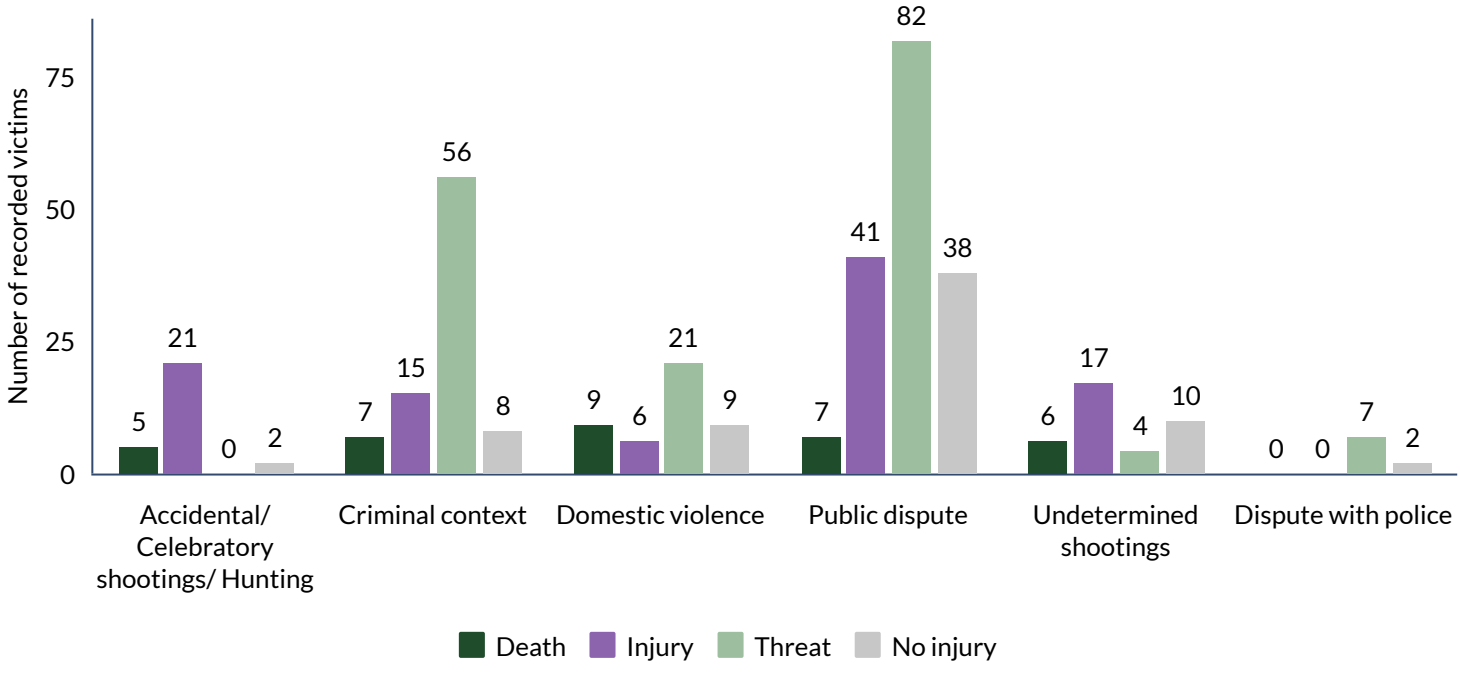
- A total of **71 victims** were reported in incidents involving firearm discharge **without injury**, a slight drop from 73 in the previous quarter. Most victims were **men (57).** The victims were mainly recorded in **Kosovo (31) and North Macedonia (13).**



Most reported outcomes of firearm incidents by jurisdiction from July to September 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 July to September 2026

Firearm-related deaths

- **Domestic violence** accounted for the **largest share of fatalities,** with **9 deaths (6 women, 3 men)**, an increase from 7 fatalities in the previous quarter.
- Incidents in the **criminal context** and **public disputes** each led to **7 fatalities**, **all men**, a **drop** from 9 and 8, respectively.
- **Undetermined shootings** caused **6 deaths**, a rise from 2, and **accidental shootings 5,** a rise from 4, **all men**.

Firearm-related injuries

- **Public disputes** involving firearms accounted for the **largest share of injured victims**, with **41 victims**, a rise from 30 in the previous quarter. Of these, **40 were men** when the sex was reported.
- **Accidental/Celebratory shootings/Hunting** led to **21 injuries (17 men and 3 women,** when the sex was indicated), a decline from 26.
- **Undetermined shootings** resulted in **17 injured victims** (**14 men and 2 women**, when the sex was indicated), a rise from 8. A total of **15 victims**, **14 of whom were men**, were injured in incidents in the **criminal context**, an increase from 10.
- **Domestic violence incidents** resulted in **6 injured victims, 5 men and 1 woman**, an increase from 2 in the previous quarter. No injuries were recorded in disputes with police, compared with 11 in the previous quarter.

Firearm-related threats

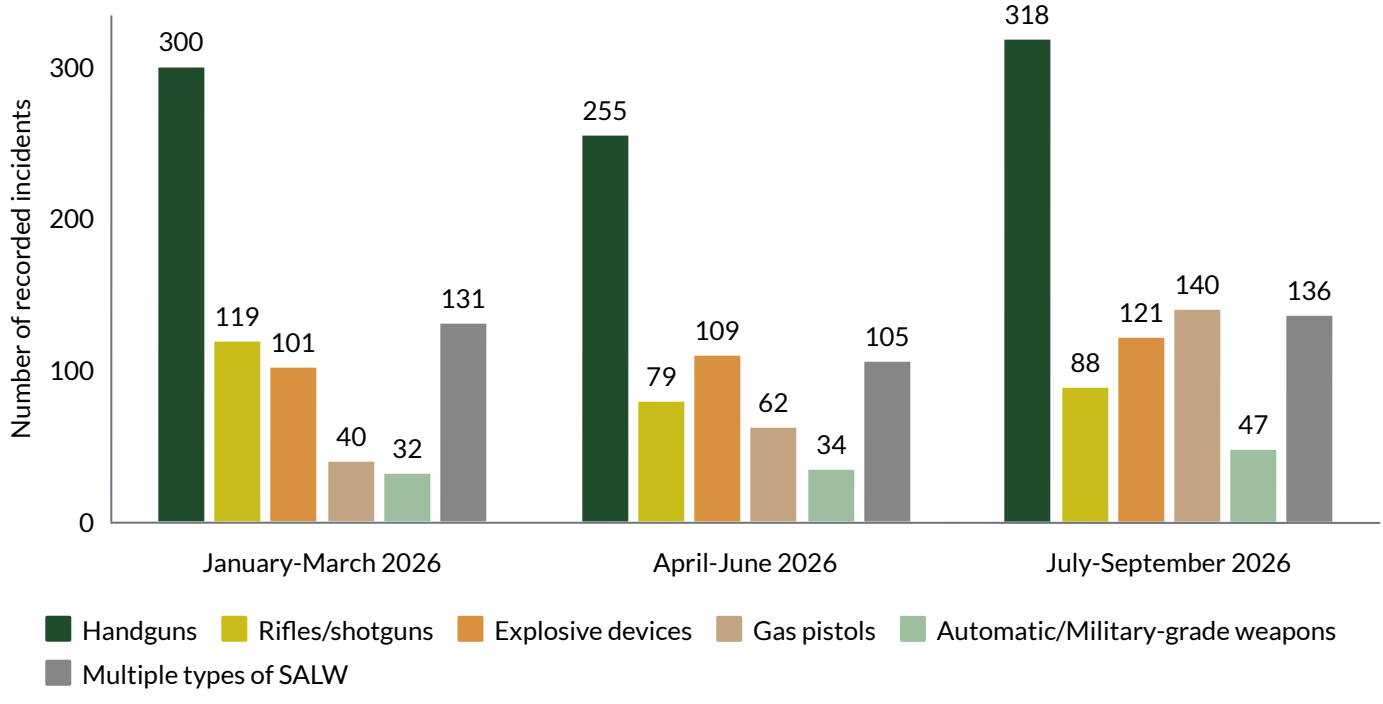
- **Public disputes** accounted for **most threatened victims**, with **82** (**58 men, 2 women,** when the sex was known), an increase from 43. Incidents in the c**riminal context** followed, with **56** (**40 men, 13 women**), an increase from 39.
- **Domestic violence** resulted in **21 threatened victims** (**12 women, 9 men**), a rise from 12.

TYPES OF WEAPONS

- In **792** (69%) **incidents**, the firearms used were in **illegal possession**, while in **68** (6%) cases, they were in **legal possession**. In 280 (25%) incidents, the status of possession was not reported.

Incidents involving **handguns** remained the **most reported**, accounting for **318 cases** between July and September 2026, a 25% increase compared to the previous quarter. Nearly half of the cases involving handguns were **weapon seizures (148 cases).** Handguns were also documented in incidents in the **criminal context (56 cases)** and **public disputes (52 cases)**, among others.

Incidents involving **gas pistols** were the **second most reported type of weapon**, with **140 cases**, more than **double** the previous quarter (62). The increase was driven by celebratory shootings (61 cases, an increase from 13 cases). Gas pistols were also documented in **weapon seizures (37 cases)** and **undetermined shootings (19 cases)**.



Multiple types of SALW were documented in **136 cases**, a **30% increase** compared to the previous quarter. **More than half** of these cases were **weapon seizures (79 cases).** Multiple types of SALW were also recorded in incidents in the **criminal context (23 cases**, **21** of them linked to **organised crime)** and in celebratory shootings (15 cases, an increase from 2).

There were **88** cases reported involving **rifles/shotguns**, an **11% increase** from the prior quarter. **Two-thirds of these cases** were **weapon seizures (58 cases)**. A total of **16 cases in the criminal contex**t involved rifles/shotguns.

Automatic/military-grade weapons were reported in **47** incidents, a **38% increase** compared to the previous quarter. **Weapon seizures** accounted for **15 cases**, followed by **public disputes** (9 cases) and by **celebratory shootings** and incidents in the **criminal context**, with 7 cases each.

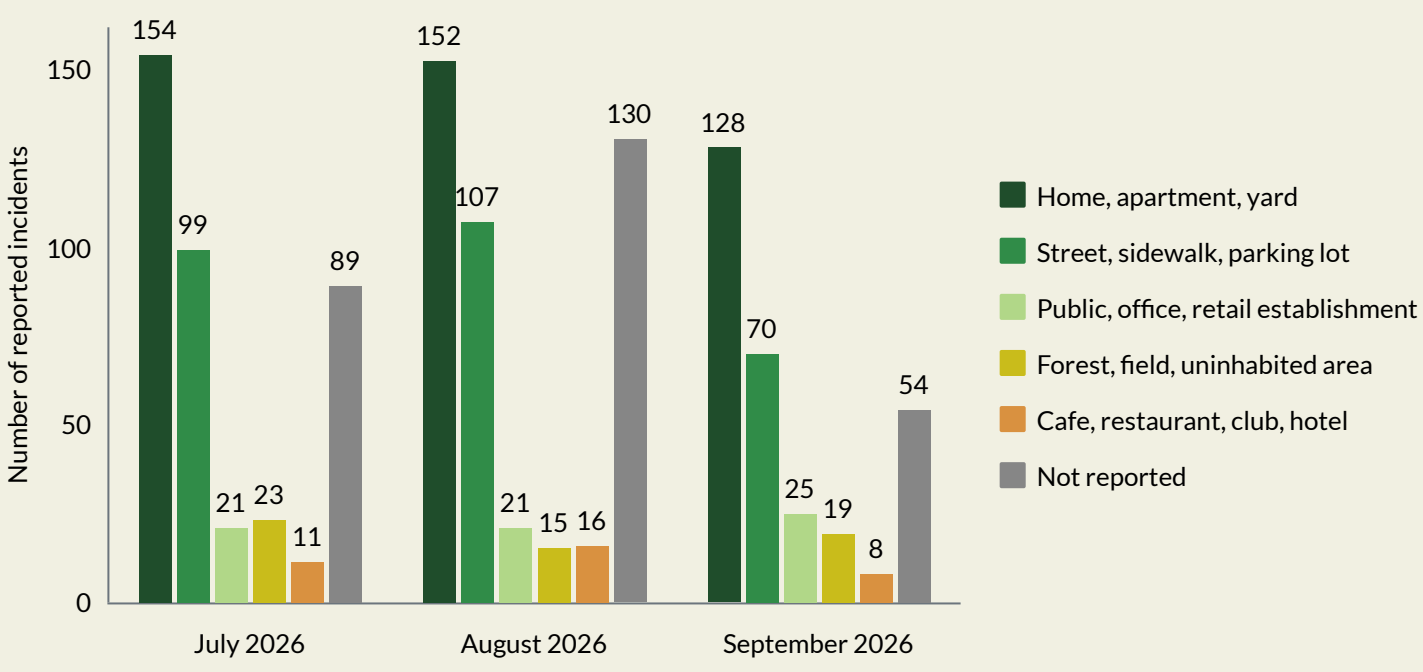
MACRO AND MICROLOCATION

From July to September 2026

690 (60%) incidents
occurred in urban areas.

452 (40%) incidents
occurred in rural areas.

Microlocation



When reported, the majority of incidents occurred

at homes / yards

434 incidents

- Weapon seizures (232 cases)
- Criminal context (89 cases)
- Undetermined shootings (28 cases)
- Domestic violence (21 cases)
- Public disputes (19 cases)

in streets

276 incidents

- Weapon seizures (137 cases)
- Public disputes (49 cases)
- Undetermined shootings (39 cases)
- Criminal context (28 cases)

public buildings

67 incidents

- Criminal context (29 cases)
- Weapon seizures (21 cases)

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