



GHANA PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME REPORT

THIRD QUARTER REPORT 2019



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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

BPS WATCH broadly categorizes public safety issues into ten categories namely Crime, Violent Crime, Fire and Industrial/Workplace related incidents, Transportation related incidents, Civil Disturbances, Police Officer Casualties, Police Brutalities, Police Arrests, Natural Disasters and General Incidents. It also takes into consideration the casualties that occur under each case by recording injuries and deaths where they arise. All data is sourced from ten news portals associated with popular radio and television stations operating within Ghana, and under the operational guidelines of the National Media Commission. All data gathered are subjected to a 72-hour validation period involving, but not limited to multiple reporting on other portals and official confirmation of events by an officer(s) of a State agency.

DEFINITIONS

Below are the BPS' definition for events that featured in the top three cases review:

Violent Crime

Violent Crime as defined by the Bureau involves the use of force by a perpetrator on a victim. murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, sexual assault, among others. In our definition however, the phenomenon of "mob justice" has been isolated as a crime on its own rather than incorporating it in aggravated assault; this is to enable the BPS adequately track the phenomenon.

Crime

Crime events refer to action(s) or omission(s) or illegal activities which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law. Under this section, crimes captured included impersonation, fraud, burglary, prostitution and other illegal acts in which offenders did not have to employ the use of force against another human, etc.

Civil Disturbance

Civil Disturbances refers to events occurring within a community, usually spontaneous such as activities of rampaging political groupings, community members in issues of interest protests, public or private facility seizures, and religious, ethnic and chieftaincy motivated incidents, all of which may lead to a certain disruption of legitimate public activities, thereby requiring direct intervention of law enforcement agencies, and in some cases State emergency services.

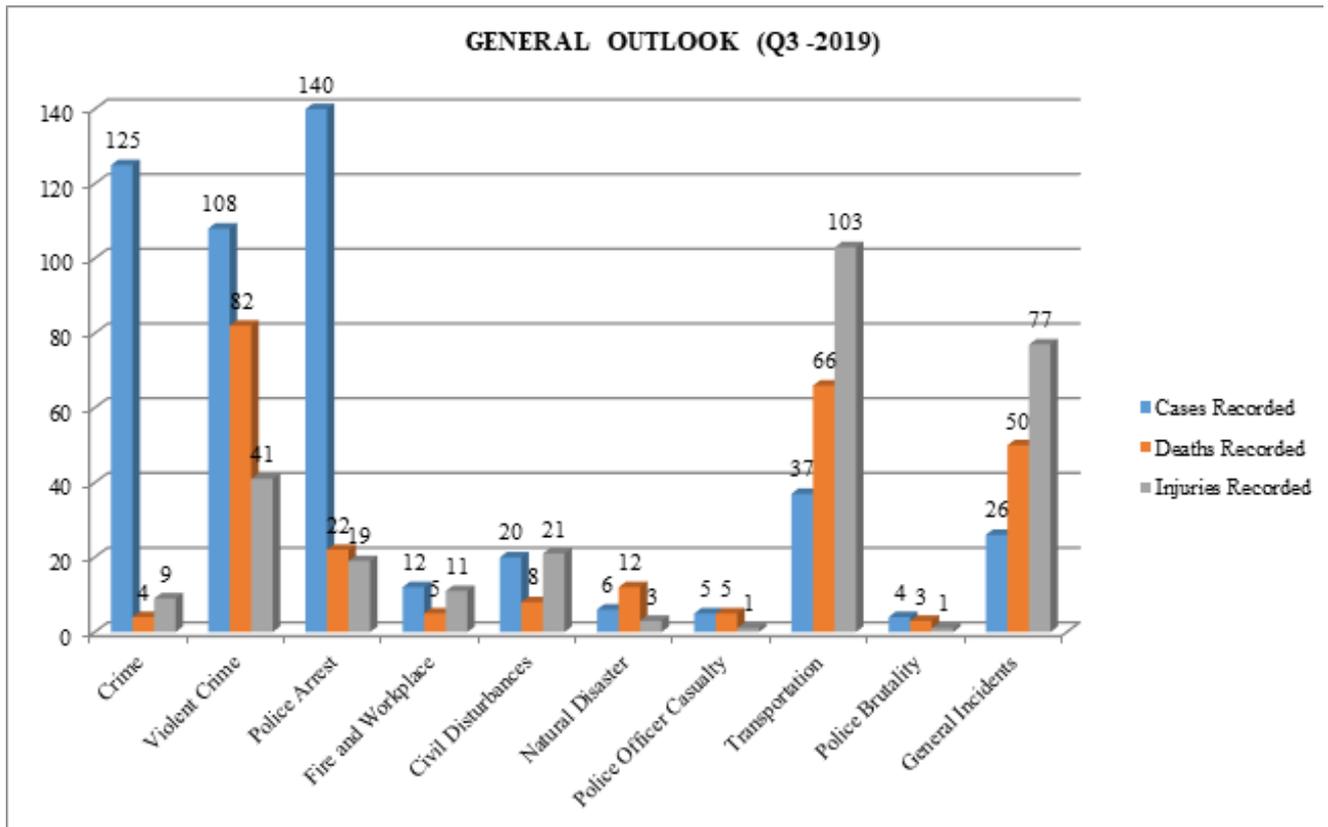
Transportation

Transportation is a means of conveyance or travel from one place to another by the use road, rails, marine and aviation. It takes into consideration motor vehicle crashes, pedestrian knockdowns, marine and aviation incidents.

Natural Disaster

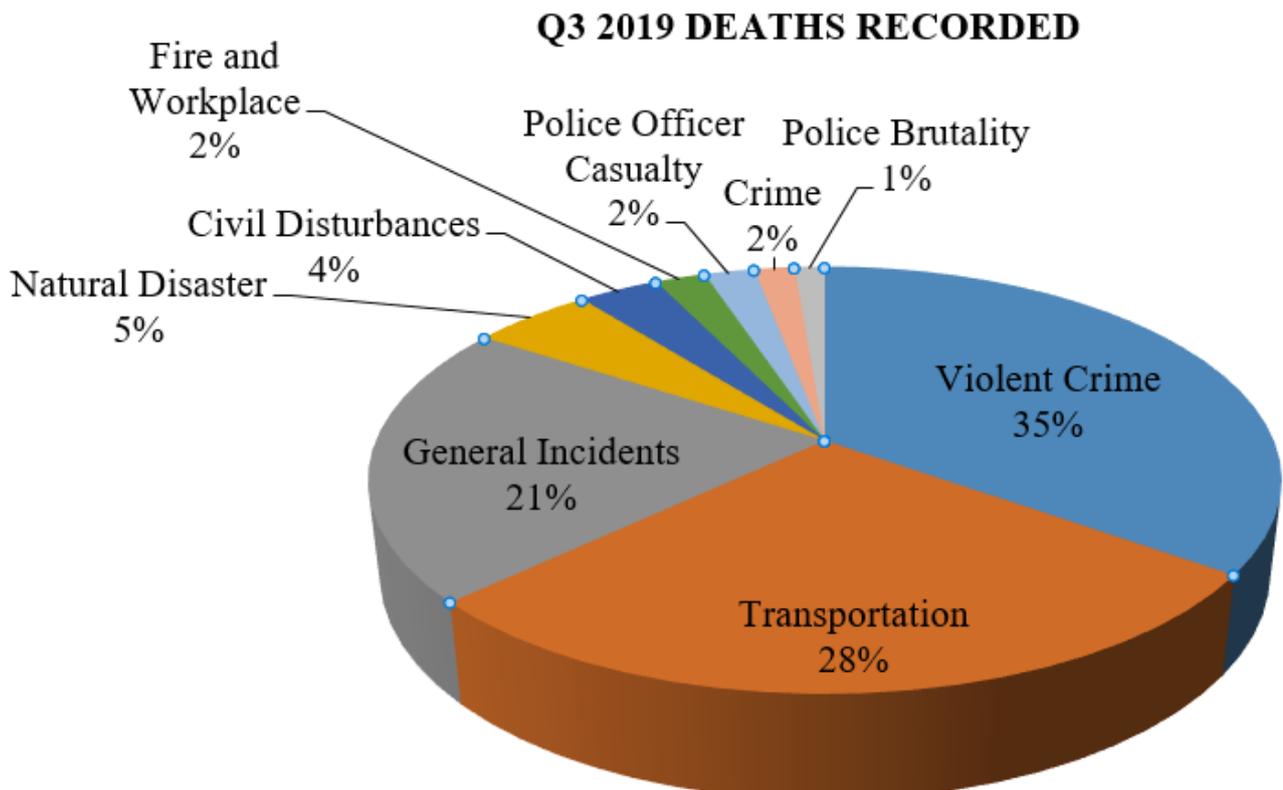
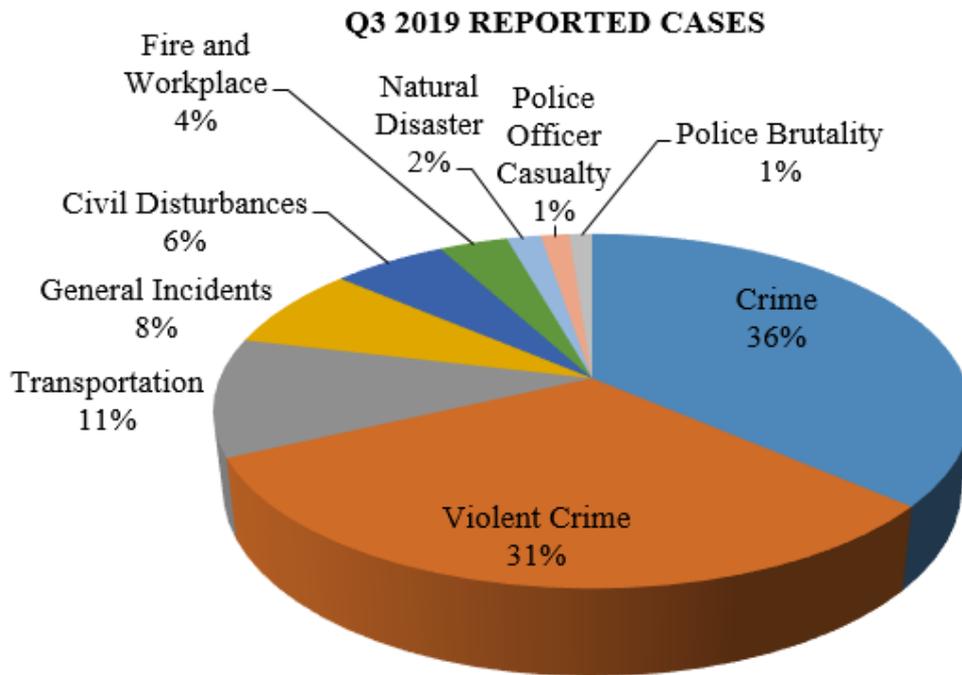
Natural disasters refer to events occasioned as a matter of natural course/cause, often referred to as 'act of God'. These include, but not limited to floods arising out of heavy rainfalls, etc, water bodies breaking banks, earthquakes and tremors, lightening, etc.

THIRD QUARTER – 2019 OUTLOOK

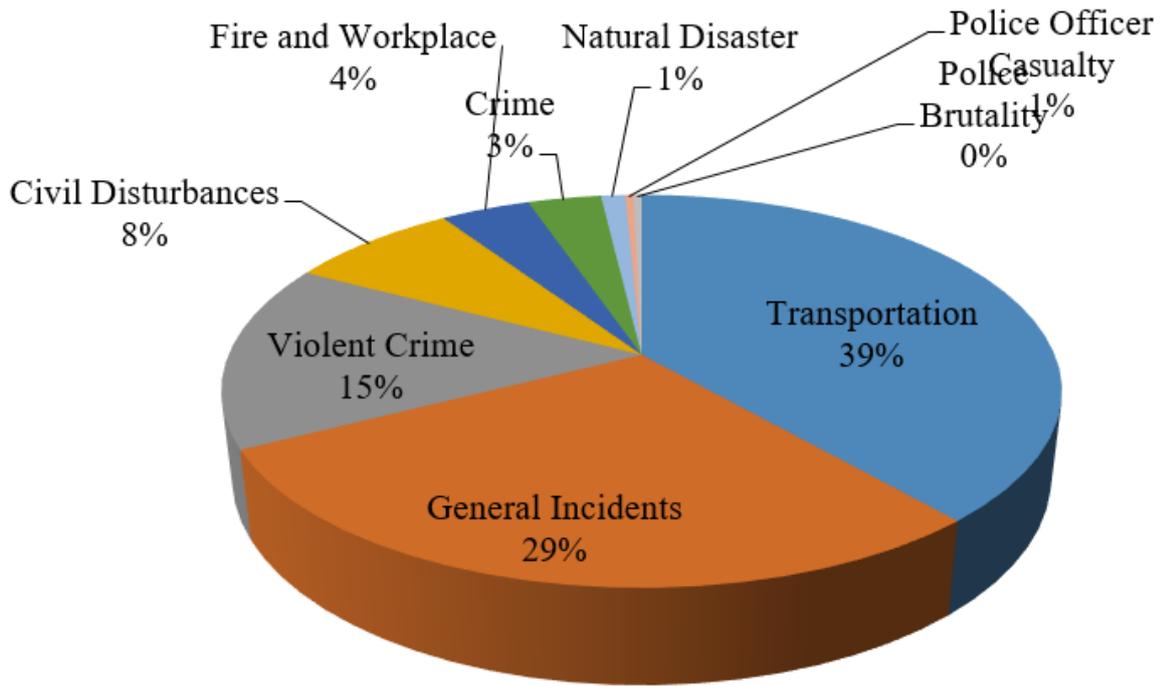


The top three frequently reported public safety events/cases were Crime, Violent Crime, and Transportation with 36%, 31% and 11% respectively, out of the 343 cases reported within the third quarter of 2019 (Q3 2019). Violent crime and transportation related events were the leading contributors to deaths and injuries within the same period - at 35% and 28% respectively. Police efforts (arrests) events were also largely reported within the same period.

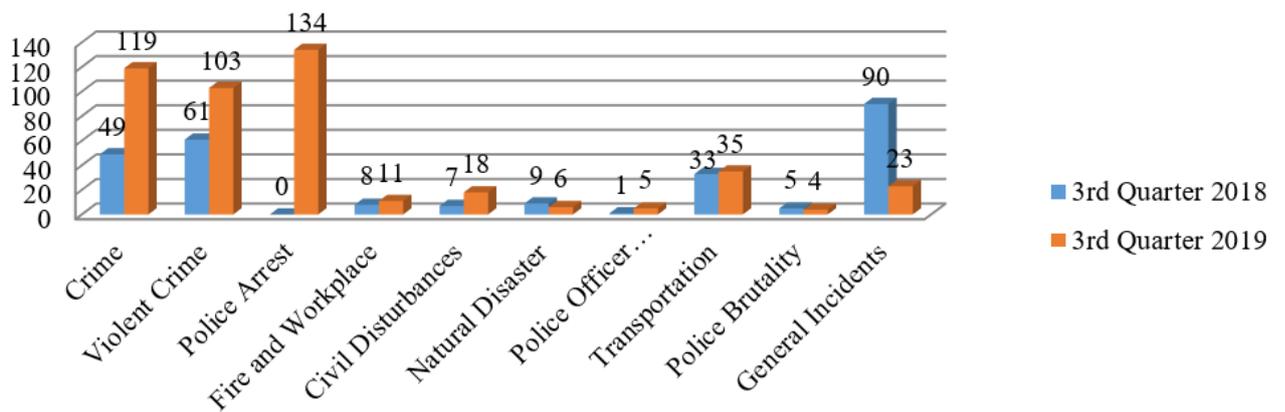
Transportation related events was the leading contributor of casualties, accounting for 28% of deaths and 39% all injuries captured for the period, while violent crime contributed more deaths than any other public safety event at 35% of all deaths reported.



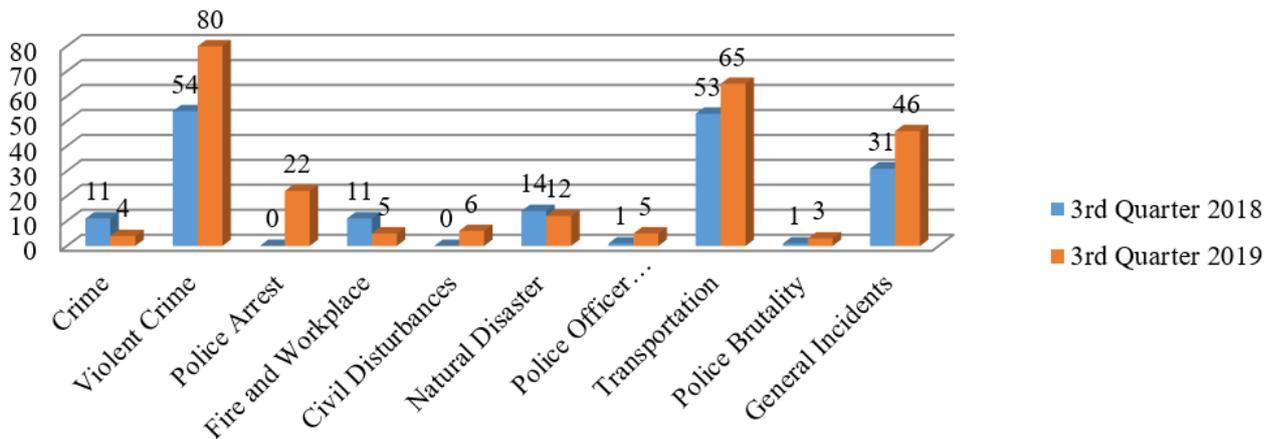
Q3 2019 INJURIES RECORDED



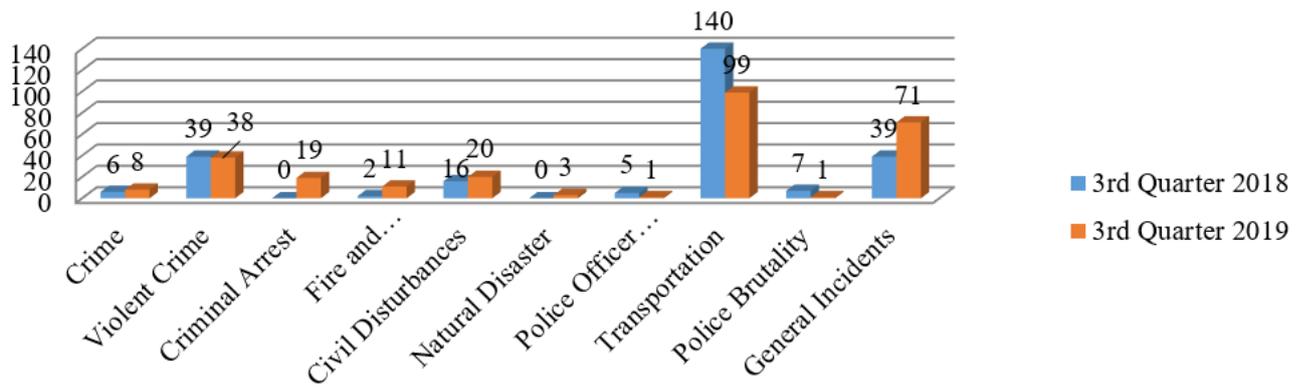
2018/2019 3RD QUARTER CASES COMPARED



2018/2019 3RD QUARTER DEATHS COMPARED



2018/2019 3RD QUARTER INJURIES COMPARED



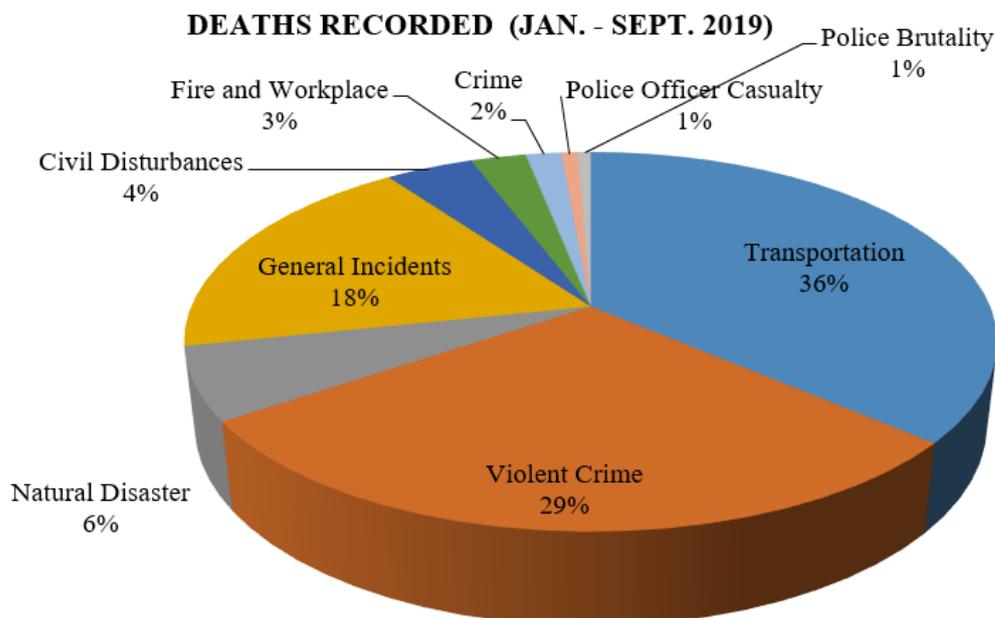
1. Comparing 2019 third quarter (Q3) data to available data from previous year i.e. Q3 of 2018, indicates that Violent crime has increased by 77% and associated deaths also increased by 54%. There is however, a relative marginal decline of 14% in reported cases between the second and the third quarter of 2019, but associated deaths and injuries went up by 22% and 41% respectively.

2. Transportation incidents, especially road crashes, remain the single most dangerous aspect of public safety in Ghana. Between Q2 and Q3 2019, deaths related to transportation events increased by 47% while reported injuries soared to a record 72% of all casualties (deaths and injuries) captured within the period. Reported cases continue to rise. Q3 2019 recorded a 12% increase in reported cases over Q3 2018; and a 23% increase in reported cases over Q2 2019. Associated deaths and injuries reported for Q3 2019 as compared to Q3 2018 also showed an increased by 25% while injuries reduced by 26%.

TOP THREE PUBLIC SAFETY EVENTS – JAN –SEPT. 2019

Deaths

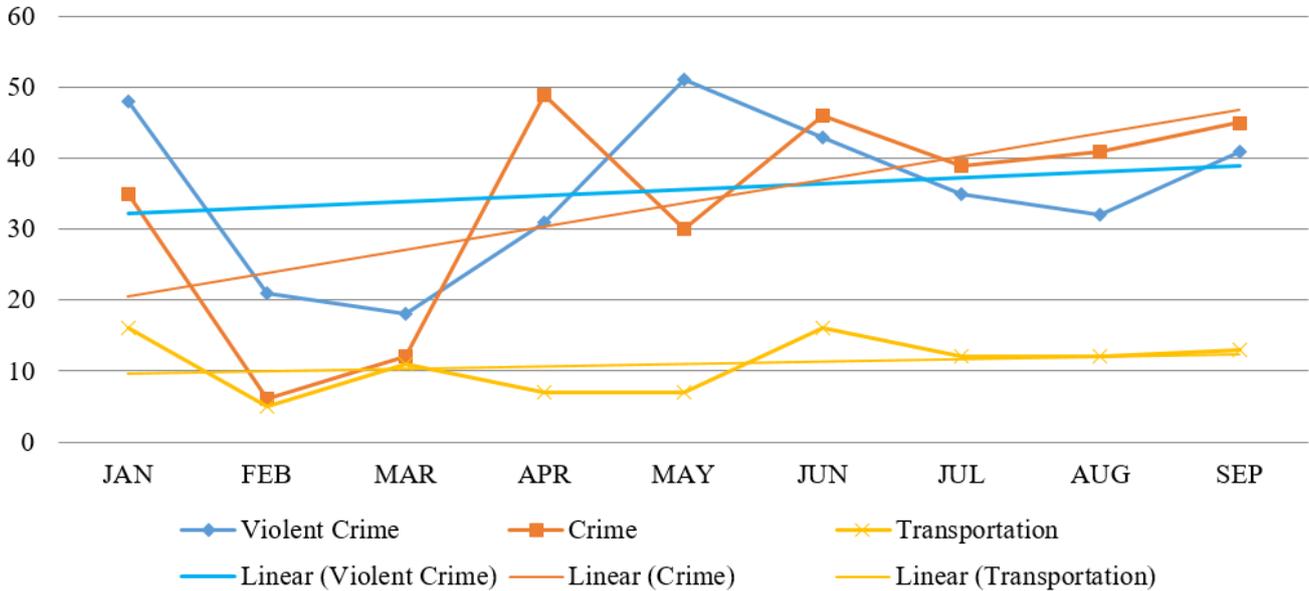
Over 646 deaths were reported for the period. Transportation related cases accounted for 235 deaths representing 36% of the deaths followed by Violent Crime with 188 deaths accounting for 29% while Natural disasters recorded 40 deaths representing 6% of total deaths reported.



Events/Cases

992 total cases were reported between January and September 2019. Violent Crime, Crime and Transportation accounts for 73% of all reported cases. Violent crime was the most reported event with 320 cases representing 32%, followed by crime with 303 cases representing 30% and 99 cases for Transportation related events representing 10% of all cases reported. Reported incidents of violent crime, crime and transportation continue to rise since January, 2019.

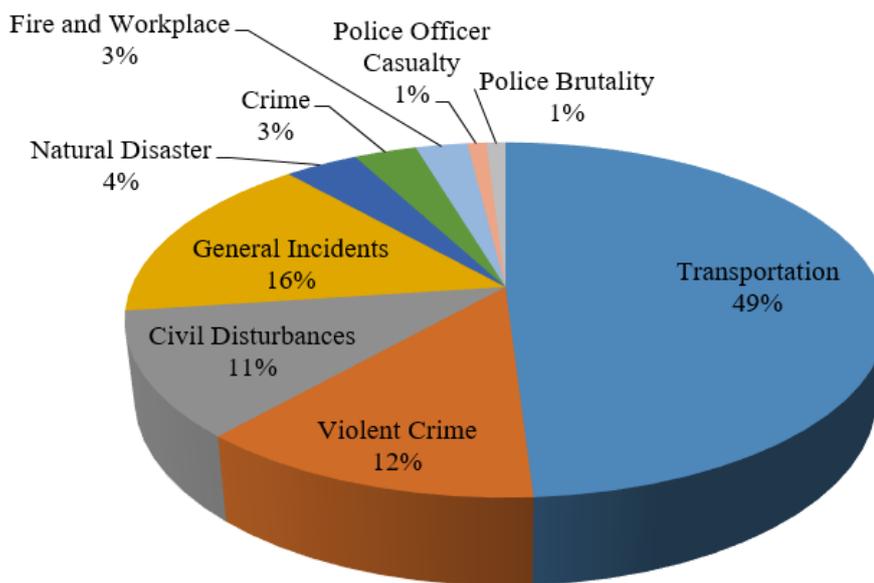
TOP THREE EVENTS TREND (JAN. - SEPT. 2019)



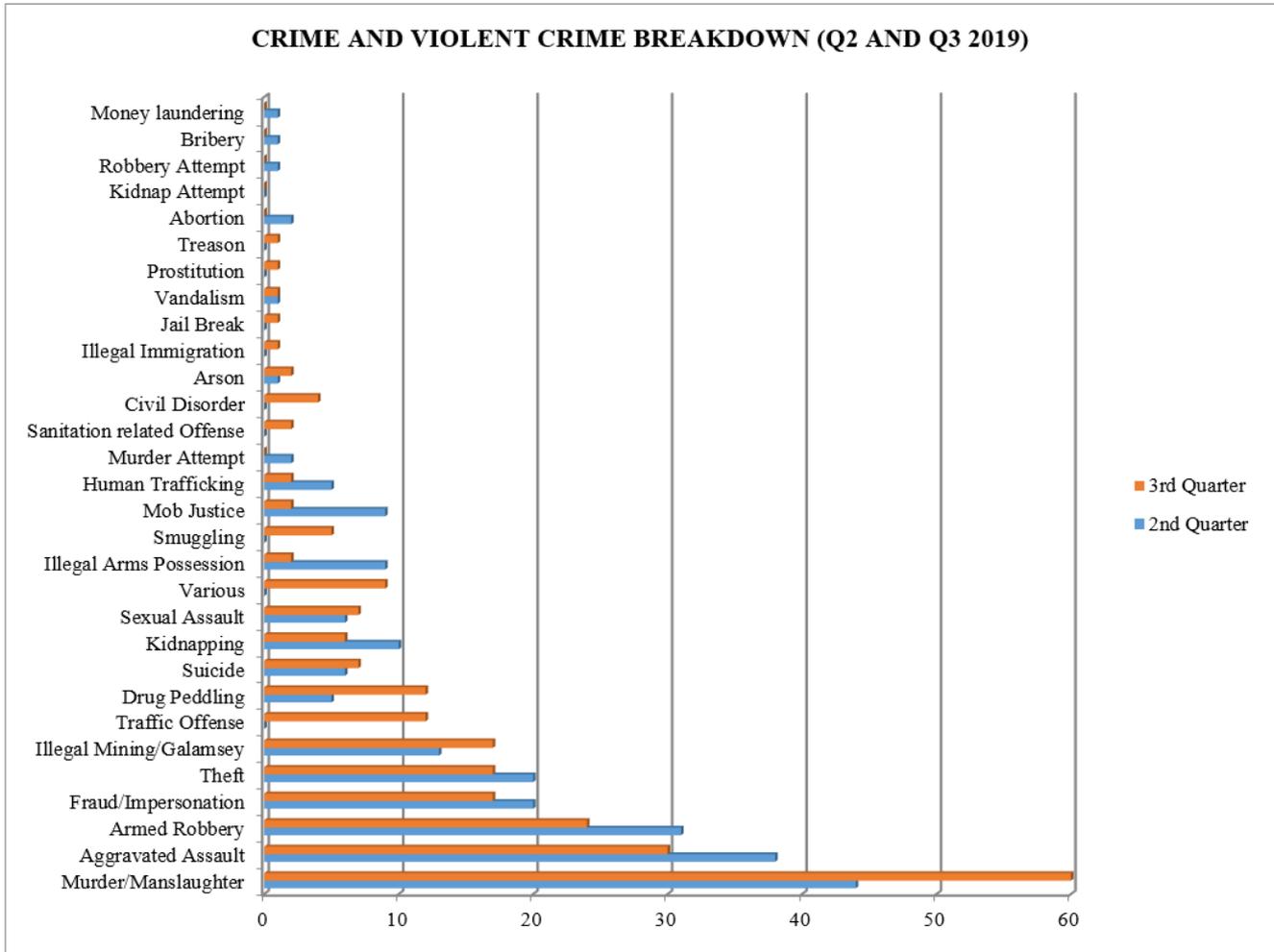
Injuries

722 injuries were captured within the period. Transportation related incidents accounted for the highest injuries at 354 injuries representing 49%, followed by Violent crime and Civil disturbances.

INJURIES RECORDED (JAN. - SEPT. 2019)



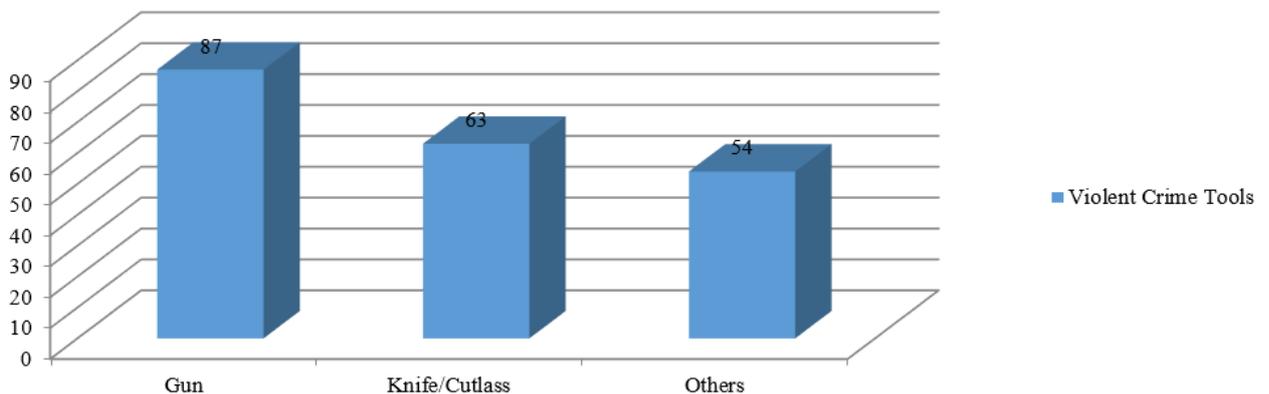
CRIME AND VIOLENT CRIME BREAKDOWN (Q2 AND Q3 2019)



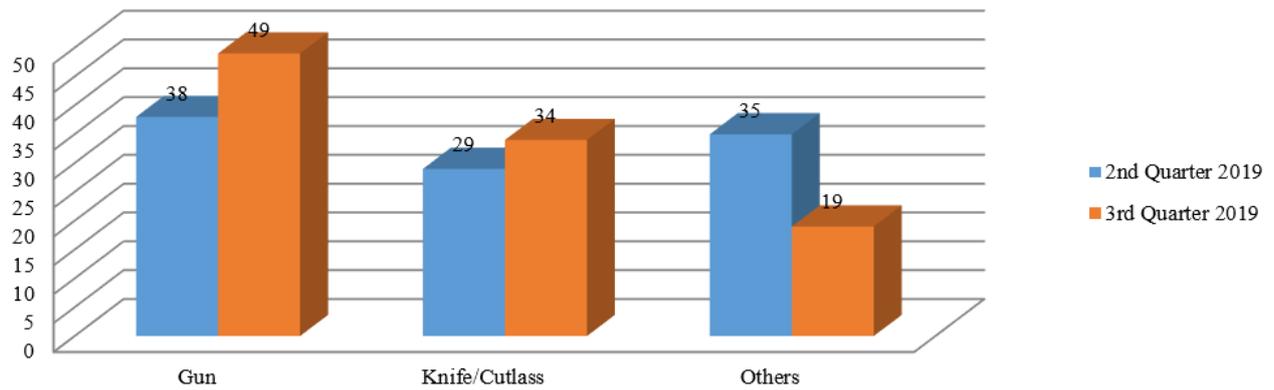
Top three most reported violent crimes over the previous quarter (Q2 2019) i.e. murder/manslaughter, aggravated assault and armed robbery maintained their spots in the third quarter (Q3 2019). However, murder/manslaughter cases reported increased by 36%, while aggravated assault and armed robbery decreased by 27% and 29% respectively.

The Bureau further observed that the use of guns in the commission of crime is becoming increasingly pervasive. The use of guns in the commission of crime increased by 29% in Q3 2019 over Q2 2019. Out of 204 reports of violent crimes monitored between January and September 2019 (where specific mentions of offensive tools and weapons of opportunity are stated), 43% involved the use of guns.

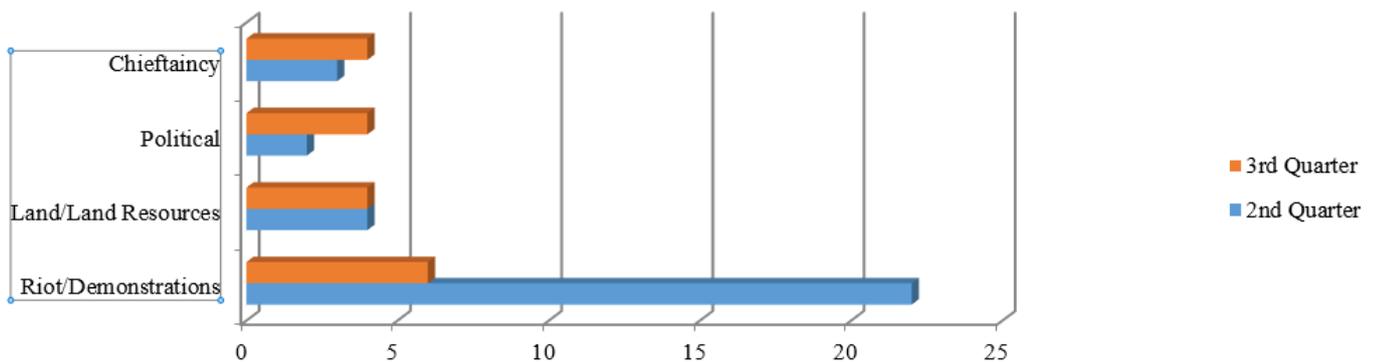
OFFENSIVE WEAPONS/TOOLS USED IN THE COMMISSION OF VIOLENT CRIME (JAN -SEPT. 2019)



OFFENSIVE WEAPONS/TOOLS USED DURING THE COMMISSION OF VIOLENT CRIME (JAN - SEPT. 2019)



CIVIL DISTURBANCE Q2-Q3 2019



Generally, incidence of civil disturbances reduced by 39% in Q3 2019 as compared to Q2 2019. However, there was marginal increase in chieftaincy and political related disturbances in Q3 2019.

APPENDIX

REPORTED CASES

DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	TOTAL
Violent Crime	48	21	18	31	51	43	35	32	41	320
Crime	35	6	12	49	30	46	39	41	45	303
Transportation	16	5	11	7	7	16	12	12	13	99
General Incidents	24	10	5	13	5	15	9	5	12	98
Civil Disturbances	14	6	6	16	7	10	5	6	9	79
Fire and Workplace	6	3	3	7	4	5	5	5	2	40
Natural Disaster	1	2	4	5	9	1	1	3	2	28
Police Officer Casualty	0	0	2	0	3	6	0	5		16
Police Brutality	1	1	1	1	0	1	2		2	9
TOTAL	145	54	62	129	116	143	108	109	126	992

REPORTED DEATHS

DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	TOTAL
Transportation	33	10	81	7	10	28	14	29	23	235
Violent Crime	18	10	11	14	25	28	29	21	32	188
Natural Disaster	0	4	0	11	8	5		8	4	40
General Incidents	26	5	5	14	6	13	22	8	20	119
Civil Disturbances	8	3	2	2	1	3	3	2	3	27
Fire and Workplace	0	0	1	4	4	3	3	2		17
Crime	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	11
Police Officer Casualty	0	0	0	0	0			5		5
Police Brutality	1	0	0	0	0		1		2	4
TOTAL	88	33	101	54	54	81	73	77	85	646

REPORTED INJURIES

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DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	TOTAL
Transportation	49	66	76	4	1	55	49	22	32	354
Violent Crime	10	7	3	12	7	10	19	9	13	90
Civil Disturbances	20	5	2	13	8	13	8	4	9	82
General Incidents	22	10	0	4	0		70	1	6	113
Natural Disaster	0	16	0	3	4	1			3	27
Crime	6	0	2	3	1	2	1	5	3	23
Fire and Workplace	1	4	0	0	3		7	4		19
Police Officer Casualty	0	0	3	0	3	0		1		7
Police Brutality	0	2	3	1	0		1			7
TOTAL	108	110	89	40	27	81	155	46	66	722

