



Ghana Public Safety and Crime Report *Highlights, January-June 2020*

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

The Ghana Public Safety and Crime Report (BPS WATCH) broadly categorizes public safety issues into ten categories (index) namely Crime, Violent Crime, Fires/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 (casualties index) where they arise.

The first half report comprises of data collected from January 1st to June 30th 2020, including weekends and public holidays. Data was sourced primarily from ten portals associated with major television and radio stations in Ghana, and operating under the authority and guidelines of the National Media Commission (NMC) of Ghana.

**Considering that COVID-19 restrictions were imposed on selected areas across three regions, leaving a greater part of the country unaffected, data monitored did not show any significant impact on public safety and crime indexes except for a surge in suicide cases.*

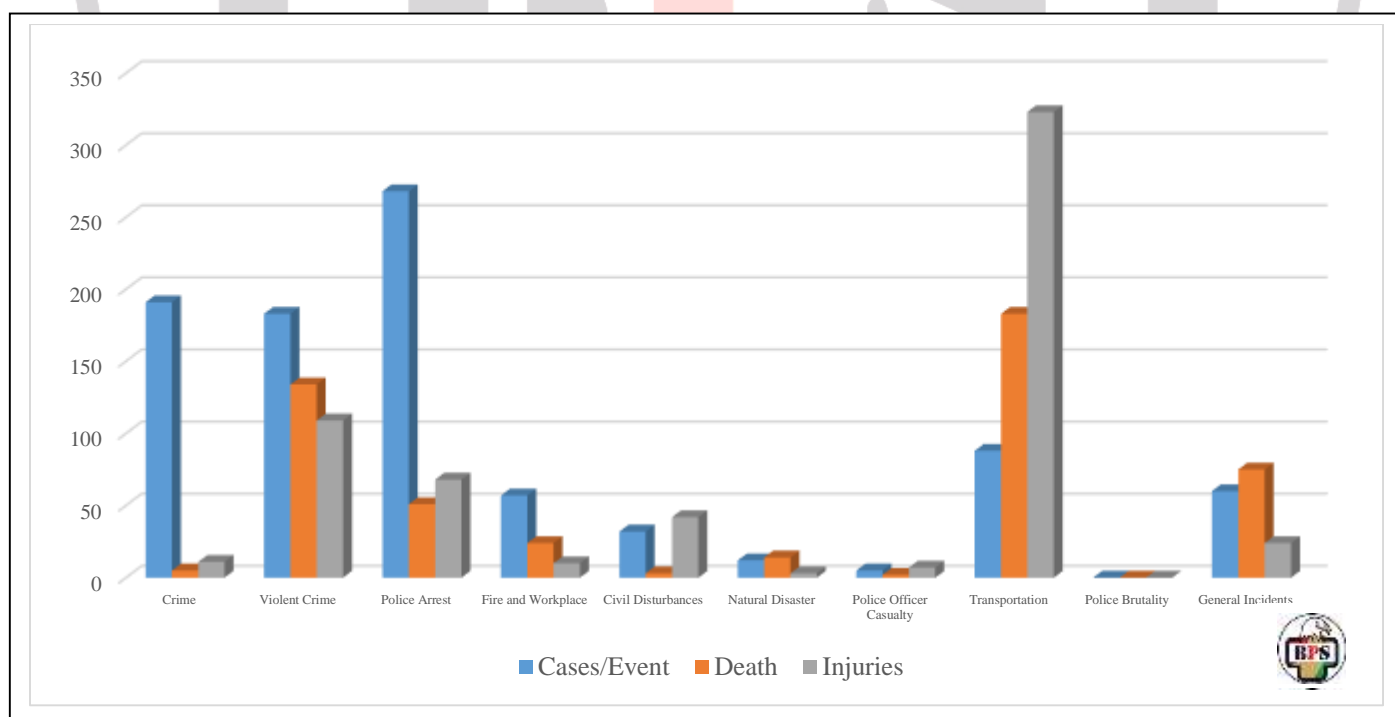
Highlights: - January to June 2020

1. Total public safety incidents reported decreased by 3% over the same period in Y2019, being a total of 649 events for Y2019 as against 628 events for Y2020.
2. Total deaths monitored increased by 7%, from 411 total deaths in 2019 to 440 deaths in Y2020.
3. Total injuries monitored for the period increased by over 16% compared to the same period in Y2019.
4. Preventable deaths¹ (also referred to as accidental/unintentional deaths) recorded in the first half of Y2020 increased by 12% over the same period in Y2019. Approximately two (2) persons are accidentally killed each day in a preventable occurrence.
5. The top three causes of accidental deaths in Ghana over the period are road crashes, drowning, and mine pit collapses, mainly from illegal mining activities
6. Reported transportation related events (dominated by road crashes) increased by 42% with a 20% increase in overall casualties compared to the same period in Y2019.

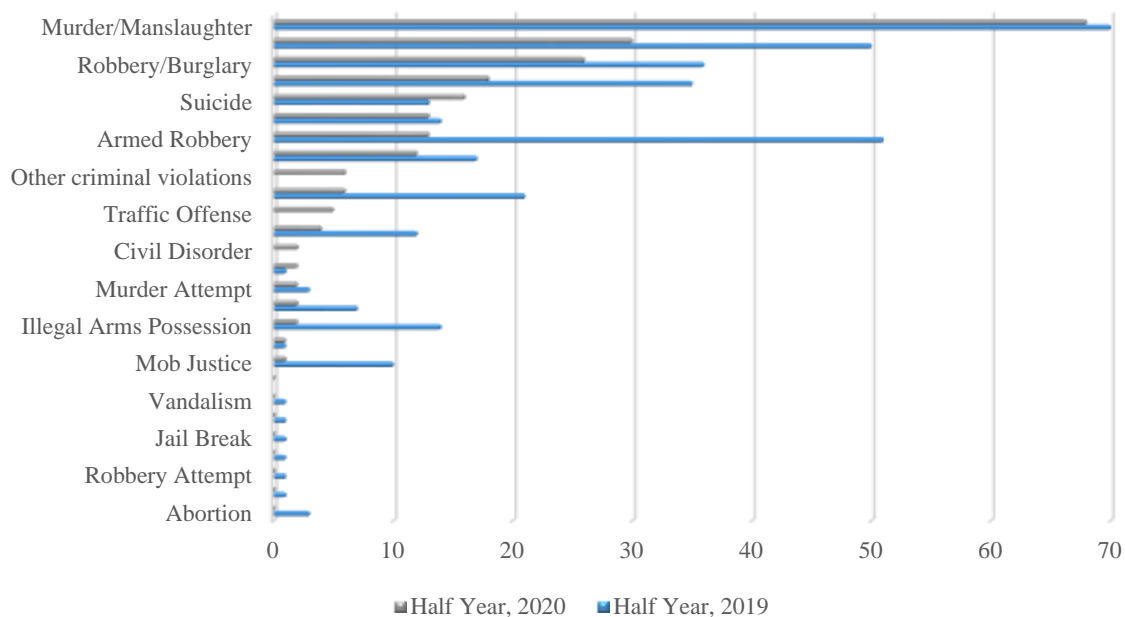
¹ Deaths arising out of preventable events. Preventable deaths and injuries do not include natural causes of death, such as illnesses, or deaths arising from violent crimes.

7. Road crashes remain the leading cause of accidental deaths in Ghana; it accounts for over 52% of total casualties monitored for the period January to June 2020. Ghana suffers approximately three (3) persons to casualty loss in transportation incidents each day.
8. Murder/manslaughter incidents continue to dominate reported violent crime activities in Ghana, increasing from 19% to 30% for the same period in Y2019.
9. More people continue to fall victim to murder/manslaughter events. Death counts increased by over 26% compared to the same period in Y2019, though reported cases decreased by 3% for the same period.
10. More than 70% of murder/manslaughter cases occurred outside of the home or workplace.
11. Gun use in the commission of violent crime increased by more than 21% over the same period in Y2019.
12. Suicide cases increased by more than 66% in Y2020 compared to the same period in Y2019.
13. Approximately three (3) out of every four (4) suicide events occurred within or near the victims' places of abode.
14. Reports of armed robbery incidents monitored decreased significantly (by more than 70%) compared to the same period in Y2019.
15. Data monitored showed a 35% increase in police arrest efforts for the first half of Y2020 compared to the same period in Y2019

General Outlook : Jan – Jun. 2020



**VIOLENT CRIME AND CRIME BREAKDOWN
HALF YEAR, 2019-2020**



Access the full report at www.ghanasafety.com from the 18th of September 2020.

Authorized for immediate release

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