**Patterns of Violent Events and Fatalities in Nigeria : Nigerian Crime dataset**

Violence remains one of the most pressing challenges confronting Nigeria, with far-reaching implications for governance, development, and social stability. An analysis of the available dataset reveals not only the magnitude of violent events but also their geographical and temporal patterns, offering a clearer understanding of the dynamics of insecurity in the country.

Across the observation period, a total of 18,290 violent events were recorded nationwide, resulting in approximately 39,000 fatalities. These figures alone underscore the severity of insecurity, reflecting how deeply violence has shaped the Nigerian socio-political landscape. Yet, the burden of this violence is not evenly distributed; certain regions and states emerge as hotspots while others experience comparatively less intensity.

The North East region, long recognized as the epicenter of Boko Haram insurgency, remains the most affected, with over 14,000 fatalities, representing 36.6 percent of all deaths in the dataset. Closely following is the North West, which recorded 13,000 fatalities (32.23 percent), a grim testament to the scourge of armed banditry and rural violence plaguing that zone. By contrast, the South West witnessed the least number of fatalities, with 2,000 deaths or 5.55 percent of the national total, illustrating the region’s relative stability compared to the North.

When viewed over time, the data suggests noticeable fluctuations in the frequency of violent events. January emerges as the most violent month, with 1,871 events, while April records the lowest count, at 1,396 events. Such seasonal variations may be tied to political cycles, farming seasons, or other socio-economic triggers. This temporal unevenness emphasizes the need for proactive monitoring systems that anticipate potential surges, particularly at the beginning of the year.

A closer look at the types of violence reveals that political violence dominates, constituting nearly three-quarters (74.66 percent) of all incidents, with 13,660 events attributed to political causes. This finding is particularly striking, as it highlights the profound link between governance and insecurity. In Nigeria, political competition, electoral disputes, and struggles for power frequently translate into violent confrontations, destabilizing communities and undermining national cohesion.

At the state level, Borno State remains the most tragic example, recording 12,129 deaths, far surpassing other states. Its prolonged exposure to insurgency has made it a focal point of fatalities. The second most affected state, Zamfara, with 4,443 deaths, reflects a different but equally devastating pattern.rural banditry, mass abductions, and communal clashes. These figures point to the fact that while the drivers of violence differ across states, the outcomes remain uniformly destructive.

Looking at year-by-year patterns, 2021 stands out with the highest fatalities (10,880 deaths), followed closely by 2022 (10,754 deaths). Interestingly, the dataset shows that 2024 records the lowest fatalities (532 deaths), though this is largely due to incomplete data, as only January was captured, accounting for 304 violent events. This incomplete picture serves as a reminder of the importance of robust, continuous data collection for tracking violence trends and informing responsive interventions.

Taken together, these findings paint a stark picture of Nigeria’s violent landscape. The concentration of fatalities in the North East and North West underscores the urgent need for region-specific counterinsurgency and anti-banditry strategies, while the overwhelming share of political violence points to deeper structural problems in governance and democracy. From a policy standpoint, addressing insecurity will therefore require not only military responses but also political reforms, conflict resolution mechanisms, and socio-economic development initiatives tailored to vulnerable regions.

In conclusion, the dataset reinforces a sobering reality: violence in Nigeria is both widespread and unevenly distributed, shaped by regional dynamics, political conditions, and temporal cycles. Borno and Zamfara exemplify the extreme toll of insecurity, while the seasonal and annual patterns highlight opportunities for proactive intervention. Ultimately, reducing violence will depend on a multidimensional approach that combines security measures with institutional reforms and community resilience, guided by continuous monitoring of data such as the one analyzed in this report.