

**ANALYSIS OF TERRORISM TRENDS IN NIGERIAN**  
**(2000 - 2020)**

A PROJECT SUBMITTED BY

**AKOREDE KAOSARAH MAYOWA**

SUBMITTED TO:

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**IBRAHIM TAIWO ROAD, OPPOSITE GTBANK, ILORIN, KWARA**  
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IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE AWARD IN DIPLOMA IN DATA ANALYSIS

SUPERVISED BY:

**MR RILWAN ADESOLA**

**APRIL 2025**

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this project **ANALYSIS TERRORISM TRENDS IN NIGERIAN** was carried out by **AKOREDE KAOSARAH MAYOWA** and has been read and approved as meeting the requirement for the award of diploma in data analysis.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PROJECT COORDINATOR**

**MR. AYO SAMUEL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PROJECT SUPERVISOR**

**MR. RILWAN ADESOLA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**INSTITUTE ADMIN**

**MRS. ELIZABETH ADERIBIGBE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STUDENT**

**AKOREDE KAOSARAH MAYOWA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Seeding Africa for providing me with the opportunity to pursue a career as a data analyst. This opportunity has been instrumental in shaping my skills and professional growth.

I would also like to thank my brother, Ibrahim, for his constant guidance, encouragement, and belief in me. His unwavering support has been a tremendous source of strength and motivation.

Finally, I am deeply thankful to my instructor, Mr. Rilwan, for his valuable guidance, expertise, and continuous encouragement throughout this project. His mentorship has played a significant role in shaping my understanding and success in this field.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to Almighty God, whose guidance, strength, and blessings have been with me every step of the way. I also dedicate this achievement to myself, for my perseverance, commitment, and determination to overcome challenges and strive for success.

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Terrorism remains a significant threat to global peace and security, with far-reaching effects on political, economic, and social structures. In Nigeria, the rise of terrorist groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) has particularly affected the northeastern region, causing widespread devastation. This study aims to analyze terrorism trends in Nigeria using a dataset from Kaggle, which spans several years of terrorist incidents.*

*By examining patterns in the data, the study focuses on identifying the regions most affected by terrorism, understanding the socio-economic drivers, and evaluating the effectiveness of existing counterterrorism strategies. The findings highlight the persistent nature of the violence, the underlying socio-political factors, and the severe consequences for affected communities. Based on these insights, the study offers recommendations for improving counterterrorism measures and addressing the root causes of terrorism to foster long-term stability in Nigeria.*

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Terrorism, a global menace, remains one of the most significant challenges to national and international security. It disrupts the socio-political fabric, damages economies, and instills fear in the hearts of populations. In Nigeria, terrorism has been a persistent problem, especially with the rise of groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). These groups have wreaked havoc in the northeastern regions, leading to widespread displacement, loss of lives, and destabilization of communities.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Terrorism in Nigeria, particularly in the northeastern part of the country, has escalated over the past two decades, causing significant losses in lives, infrastructure, and economic stability. Despite efforts by the Nigerian government and international partners to curb the violence, the issue persists and evolves. There is a need for a comprehensive understanding of terrorism trends in Nigeria to inform more effective counterterrorism strategies.

However, there is a lack of detailed, data-driven analysis that focuses on the changing patterns of terrorism and the identification of regions most affected. This gap in research makes it difficult to pinpoint the most effective intervention measures, leaving large segments of the population vulnerable to the impacts of terrorism.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

This study aims to analyze terrorism trends in Nigeria using data analytics tools like Power BI and Excel. By studying past incidents, we can identify patterns and provide useful insights that can help improve security efforts. Specifically, this study will:

- Track the frequency of terrorist attacks over time.



- Identify the most affected states and regions.
- Examine the common types of attacks used by terrorists.
- Analyze the number of casualties (deaths and injuries).
- Study the main terrorist groups and their targets.

## 1.4 Definition of Terms

To ensure clarity throughout this study, the following key terms are defined:

- **Terrorism:** The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. This includes attacks aimed at causing fear, casualties, and destruction, often with the goal of altering political policies or social structures.
- **Terrorist Group:** A group engaged in acts of terrorism to further its political, religious, or ideological goals. In this study, groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP are key examples.
- **Incident:** An individual act of terrorism, typically characterized by a specific date, location, method, and target.
- **Geographical Hotspot:** A region or area experiencing high frequencies of terrorist incidents.
- **Counterterrorism:** Measures and policies implemented by governments or organizations to prevent, mitigate, and respond to acts of terrorism. This may include intelligence gathering, military interventions, or legislative actions.

**Fatalities:** The total number of deaths resulting from terrorist incidents. This may include both direct victims and indirect casualties such as those caused by bombings or armed attacks.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Literature Review**

This chapter reviews existing scholarship on terrorism in Nigeria, emphasizing three thematic strands: Domestic manifestations and socioeconomic drivers, transnational dimensions, historical parallels with borderland violence.

The literature underscores the group's evolution from a local insurgency to a regional threat, reflecting Nigeria's complex security landscape.

#### **2.2 Domestic Terrorism and Socioeconomic Drivers**

Bamidele's (2013) retracted article (though ethically noted) highlights Boko Haram's domestic campaign as a "grown monster," linking its violence to Nigeria's ethno-religious divisions and poor governance. The group's shift toward targeting churches (post-2009) suggests a strategy to exacerbate religious tensions, exploiting Nigeria's heterogeneous society (Bamidele, 2013). While the article was retracted, its observations align with broader studies (e.g., Onuoha, 2014) noting how poverty, unemployment, and state marginalization fuel recruitment.

The **dismal socioeconomic conditions** in northern Nigeria—literacy rates below 50%, youth unemployment at 33% (NBS, 2022)—create fertile ground for radicalization. The World Bank (2020) correlates poverty density in Borno State with Boko Haram's territorial control, reinforcing the "grievance hypothesis" of terrorism (Gurr, 1970).

#### **2.3 Transnational Dimensions of Boko Haram**

The second article argues that Boko Haram's agenda transcends Nigeria, citing alliances with Al-Qaeda (2012) and later ISIS (2015) (Zenn, 2020). Key evidence includes:

- **Cross-border attacks:** Raids in Cameroon, Niger, and Chad (ACLED, 2023).

- **Funding networks:** Use of Sahelian smuggling routes and diaspora donations (UNSC Report, 2021).
- **Global jihadist ideology:** Adoption of ISIS-branded propaganda (Forest, 2019).

International responses (e.g., MNJTF, US drone deployments) reflect the threat's regionalization. Critics, however, contend that framing Boko Haram as purely transnational overlooks local grievances (Aghedo, 2017).

## 2.4 Historical Continuities in Borderland Violence

The third article (MacEachern, 2018) contextualizes Boko Haram within **Central Africa's legacy of borderland slave-raiding and banditry**. The Lake Chad Basin's history of:

- **Pre-colonial hijra:** Echoes of Usman dan Fodio's 19th-century jihad.
- **Post-colonial warlordism:** Similarities to 2000s-era militias (e.g., Bakassi Boys).

This "borderland thesis" suggests Boko Haram's violence is cyclical, not novel, with roots in extractive economies (e.g., cattle rustling, human trafficking) (Reynolds, 2021).

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Data Collection**

The dataset was sourced from Kaggle, a reputable platform for open datasets. The original dataset contained global terrorism records with the following columns:

- **Date:** The day, month, and year when the terrorist incident occurred
- **Country:** The nation where the attack took place.
- **City:** The specific urban location within the country where the attack happened.
- **Perpetrator group:** The terrorist organization or militant faction responsible for the attack.
- **Number of fatalities:** The total count of people killed in the incident.
- **Number of injured:** The total count of people wounded but not killed in the attack.
- **Target type:** The category of the victim(s) or location attacked (e.g., civilians, military, religious site).
- **Attack type:** The method used in the assault (e.g., suicide bombing, armed assault, kidnapping).

Date	Country	City	Perpetrator_group	fatalities	injured	target_type	weapon_type
29/12/2020	Nigeria	Kayamla	Boko Haram	9	7	Terrorists/Non-state Militia	Bombing/Explosion
29/12/2020	Nigeria	Kayamla	Boko Haram	0	0	Terrorists/Non-state Militia	Bombing/Explosion,Armed Assault
29/12/2020	Nigeria	Tungushe	Boko Haram	3	2	Private Citizens & Property,Military	Armed Assault
28/12/2020	Nigeria	Logomani	Boko Haram	3	0	Military	Bombing/Explosion
27/12/2020	Nigeria	Nagu	Unknown	3	Unknown	Government (General),Private Citizens & Property	Armed Assault,Facility/Infrastructure Attack
28/12/2020	Nigeria	Olukitibi	Fulani extremists	1	0	Private Citizens & Property	Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)
26/12/2020	Cameroon	Unknown	Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R)	Unknown	Unknown	Police,Private Citizens & Property	Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Azare	Boko Haram	2	1	Police,Private Citizens & Property	Armed Assault,Facility/Infrastructure Attack
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Khiri Butu	Boko Haram	3	1	Private Citizens & Property	Armed Assault,Facility/Infrastructure Attack
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Tashon Al	Boko Haram	2	2	Private Citizens & Property	Armed Assault,Facility/Infrastructure Attack
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Shaffa	Boko Haram	3	2	Private Citizens & Property	Armed Assault,Facility/Infrastructure Attack
25/12/2020	Cameroon	Kumbo	Separatists	2	Unknown	Business	Armed Assault
25/12/2020	Nigeria	Fadan Kagi	Fulani extremists	0	0	Religious Figures/Institutions	Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)
24/12/2020	Nigeria	Katsina Al	Unknown	5	Unknown	Government (General),Police	Assassination
24/12/2020	Nigeria	Pemi	Boko Haram	11	Unknown	Private Citizens & Property,Religious Figures/Institutions	Hostage Taking (Kidnapping),Armed Assault,Facility/Infrastructure Attack
24/12/2020	Nigeria	Garkida	Boko Haram	6	Unknown	Private Citizens & Property,Police	Hostage Taking (Kidnapping),Armed Assault,Facility/Infrastructure Attack
24/12/2020	Nigeria	Gamboru	Boko Haram	3	Unknown	Private Citizens & Property	Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)
23/12/2020	Nigeria	Okene dis	Unknown	2	2	Military	Armed Assault
23/12/2020	Nigeria	Dar	Boko Haram	Unknown	Unknown	Private Citizens & Property	Hostage Taking (Kidnapping)

## Filtering & Enrichment:

1. The dataset was filtered to include only Nigeria to align with the study's scope.
2. **Region and State** columns were manually added using Excel by cross-referencing Nigerian cities with their respective states and geopolitical zones (e.g., "Maiduguri" → Borno State → Northeast Region). This enabled detailed geographical analysis.

Date	Country	City	State	Region	Perpetrator_Group	fatalities	injured	target_type	Incident_Type
29/12/2020	Nigeria	Kayamla	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	9	7	Non-state Militia	Bombing
29/12/2020	Nigeria	Kayamla	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	0	0	Non-state Militia	Bombing
29/12/2020	Nigeria	Tungushe	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	3	2	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
29/12/2020	Nigeria	Logomani	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	3	0	Military	Bombing
28/12/2020	Nigeria	Olukitibi	Ondo	North West	Fulani extremists	1	0	Private Citizens	Kidnapping
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Azare	Bauchi	North East	Boko Haram	2	1	Military	Armed Assault
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Khiri Butu	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	3	1	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Tashon Al	Kabli	North West	Boko Haram	2	2	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
26/12/2020	Nigeria	Shaffa	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	3	2	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
25/12/2020	Nigeria	Fadan Kagi	Kaduna	North West	Fulani extremists	0	0	Religious Figure	Kidnapping
19/12/2020	Nigeria	Dandume	Katsina	North West	Fulani extremists	0	0	Institution	Kidnapping
20/12/2020	Nigeria	Mala	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	5	0	Military	Bombing
19/12/2020	Nigeria	Danbaure	Kebbi	North West	Fulani extremists	0	0	Private Citizens	Kidnapping
18/12/2020	Nigeria	Konduga	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	4	2	Private Citizens	Bombing
18/12/2020	Nigeria	Garin Kutsu	Jigawa	North West	Boko Haram	1	4	Private Citizens	Kidnapping
17/12/2020	Nigeria	Kutur	Plateau	North Central	Boko Haram	0	0	Private Citizens	Infrastructure Attack
17/12/2020	Nigeria	Gora Gan	Kano	North West	Fulani extremists	7	1	Business	Armed Assault
15/12/2020	Nigeria	Ogoja	Cross River	South South	Fulani extremists	0	1	Private Citizens	Kidnapping
15/12/2020	Nigeria	Agboughul	Benue	North Central	Fulani extremists	3	3	Business	Armed Assault
12/12/2020	Nigeria	Asikira	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	3	2	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
11/12/2020	Nigeria	Tse Angbar	Benue	North Central	Fulani extremists	4	7	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
10/12/2020	Nigeria	Gumsa	Bauchi	North East	Boko Haram	0	0	Business	Infrastructure Attack
28/11/2020	Nigeria	Tor-Iorshah	Benue	North Central	Jukun militia	4	0	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
28/11/2020	Nigeria	Koshobe	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	81	6	Private Citizens	Kidnapping
27/11/2020	Nigeria	Kareto	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	0	0	Private Citizens	Infrastructure Attack
24/11/2020	Nigeria	Diegi	Bayelsa	South South	Fulani extremists	1	3	Private Citizens	Armed Assault
23/11/2020	Nigeria	Ikrarama	Bayelsa	South South	Niger Delta extremists	0	0	Business	Bombing
21/11/2020	Nigeria	Pilmari	Borno	North East	Boko Haram	6	26	Military	Hijacking
17/11/2020	Nigeria	Gidan Zaki	Niger	North Central	Fulani extremists	2	2	Government	Assassination

## 3.2 Tools Used

### 1. Microsoft Excel

- **Purpose:** Data cleaning and preprocessing.
- **Justification:** Excel is ideal for handling structured data, filtering, and adding derived columns (e.g., Region/State). Key steps included:
  - Removing duplicates and null values.
  - Extracting **Year** from the Date column for time-series analysis.

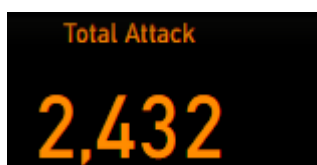
### 2. Power BI

- **Purpose:** Interactive visualization and trend analysis.
- **Justification:** Power BI enables dynamic dashboards with drill-down capabilities, essential for identifying spatial and temporal patterns.

## 3.3 Data Analysis Approach

### Using DAX Calculations

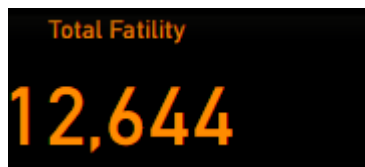
1. Total Attacks = COUNTROWS('Terrorism Data')



This represents the total number of terrorist attacks recorded in Nigeria from **2000–2020**.

2. **Total Fatalities**

Total Fatalities = SUM('Terrorism Data'[Number of fatalities])



This quantifies the devastating human cost of terrorism in Nigeria (2000-2020).

### 3. Total Injuries

Total Injuries = SUM('Terrorism Data'[Number of injured])



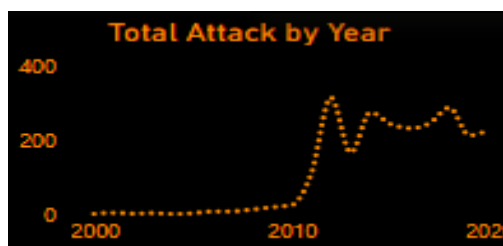
This represents the cumulative number of injuries caused by terrorist attacks in Nigeria (2000–2020)

- Highlights the humanitarian impact beyond fatalities.
- Complements the "Total Attacks" metric to show attack severity

### 4. Total Attacks by Year (Line Chart)

Line chart

- Trend Visibility: Instantly shows the surge and decline in attacks.
- Focus on Change: The steep drop after the peak suggests effective counterterrorism



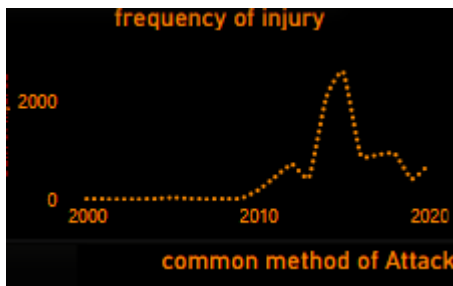
- Temporal **clarity**: Effectively shows rise/fall of attacks over time

- **Peak visibility:** Highlights the 2010 surge at a glance.

Key insight

- Sharp Peak with 364 count of attack occurred in visible year 2012
- Lower Points: with less than 200 attacks in earlier/later years 2000s and 2020

## 5. Frequency of Injury



Line chart

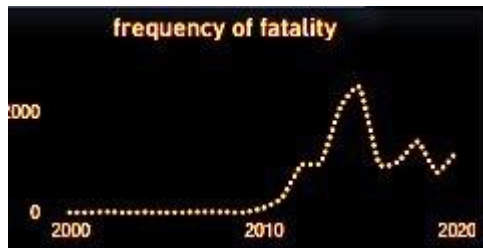
- Trend Visibility: Instantly shows the surge and decline in attacks.
- Focus on Change: The steep drop after the peak suggests effective counterterrorism
- Temporal clarity: Effectively shows rise/fall of attacks over time
- Peak visibility: Highlights the 2010 surge at a glance.

Key insight

- Sharp Increase: Injuries surged around 2010–2020, peaking at over 2,000 records of injuries
  - Earlier Period 2000–2010: Far fewer injuries near zero)

## 6. Frequency of fatality





Line chart

- Clearly shows the explosive growth in lethality post-2010
- Highlights the crisis period when fatalities were most severe

#### Key Insights

- 2010-2020 Surge: Fatalities increased dramatically, peaking around 2014-2015 likely corresponding to Boko Haram's strongest period
- 2000-2010 Baseline: Consistently low fatality counts near zero, indicating relatively minor terrorist impact initially

#### frequency of Terrorist Attack (Line Chart)



7.

Line chat

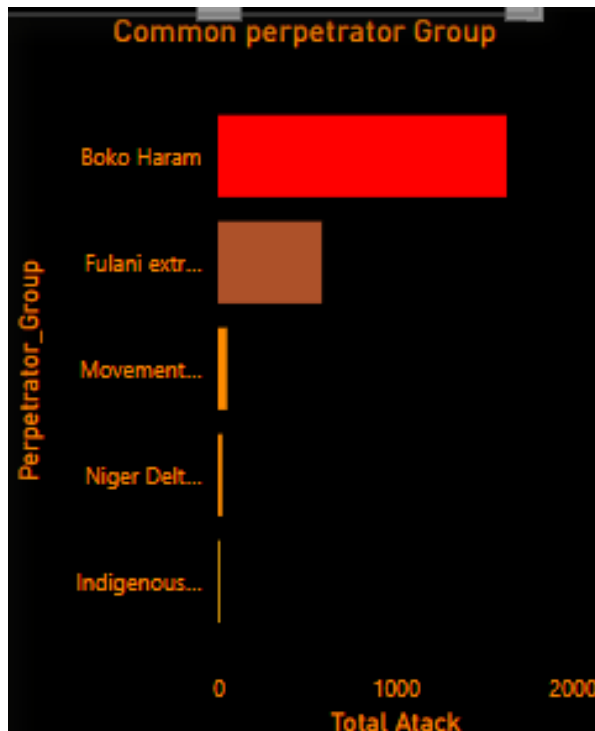
Line chart

- Trend Visibility: Instantly shows the surge and decline in attacks.
- Focus on Change: The steep drop after the peak suggests effective counterterrorism
- Temporal clarity: Effectively shows rise/fall of attacks over time
- Peak visibility: Highlights the 2010 surge at a glance

## Key insight

- 2000-2010: Minimal activity (0-5 attacks)
- 2010-2020: Rapid surge to peak levels

### 8. Most common perpetrator group



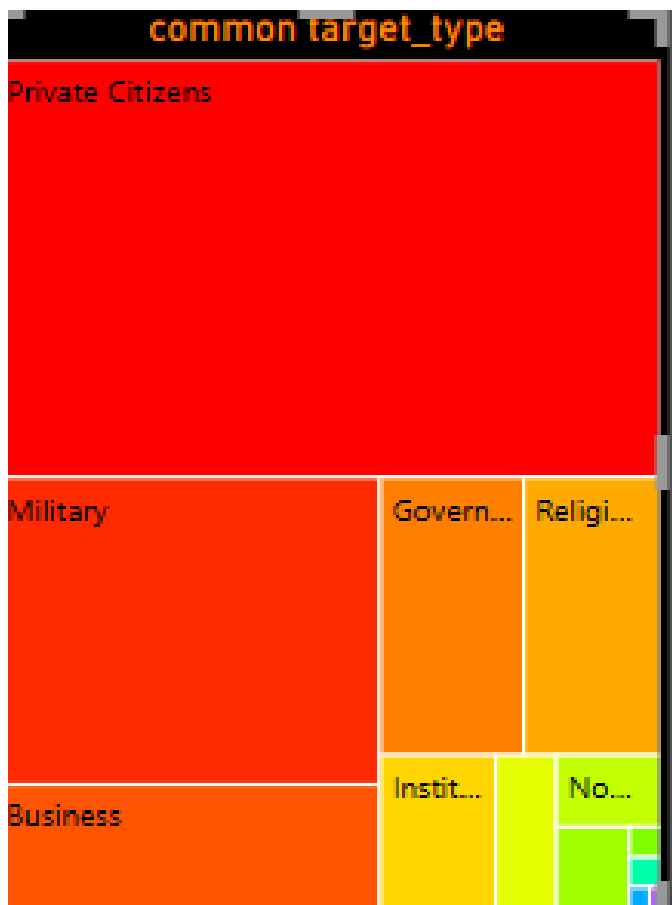
## Bar Chart

- clearly compares attack counts by group
- Bar charts excel at showing *relative magnitudes* between categories
- The vertical bars make it immediately obvious that Boko Haram's attacks dwarf other groups

## Key Findings:

- Boko Haram dominates with 1,631 attacks
- Fulani extremists rank second with 587 attacks
- Other groups show minimal activity by comparison

## 9. Common Target Type



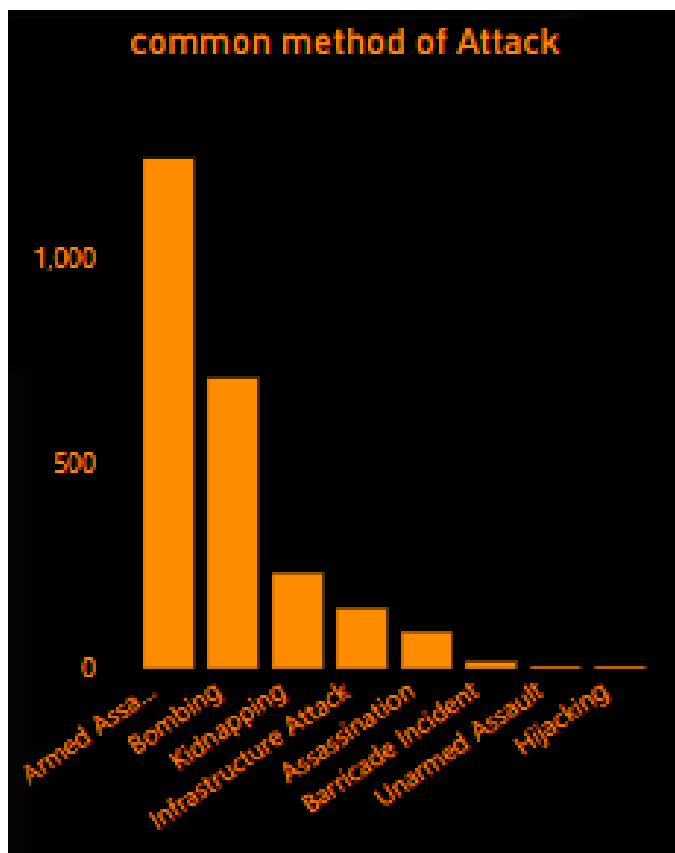
### Tree map

- Shows hierarchical common target types and their proportional impact in a compact space.
- Shows all categories simultaneously without scrolling (unlike long bar charts)
- Color intensity can represent secondary metrics

### Key findings

- Private citizens emerges as the most frequent target
- Military and government targets from significant secondary categories
- Religious institutions and business also appear vulnerable

## 10. Most Common Attack Methods



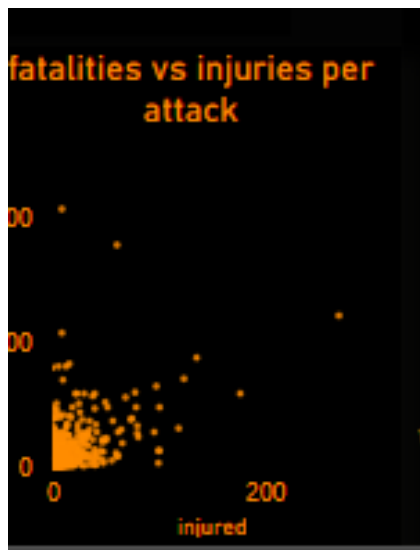
### Column Chart

- Effective for ranking categorical data (e.g., Bombing vs Armed Assault).
- The column heights allow exact comparison of frequencies

### Key insight

- Dominance of Armed Assault 1,239 incidents
- Prevalence of Bombing 706 incidents
- Significant Kidnapping Activity

## 11. Fatality vs. Injury per Attack



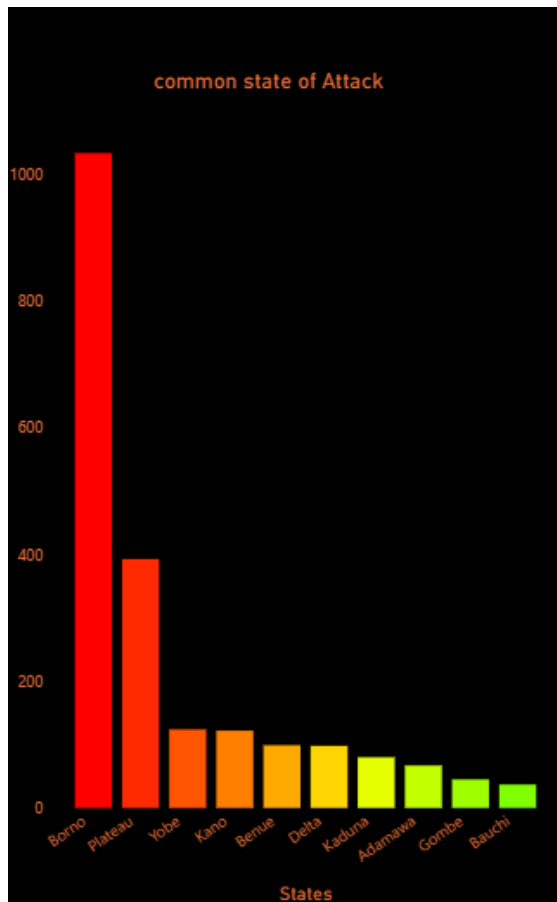
### Scatter Plot

- Reveals correlation between deaths and injuries per incident (outliers = high-casualty attacks)
- It reveals relationships between variables

### Key insight

- At the top left, it shows high fatalities but few injuries
- Bottom-Left shows Minimal casualties
- Top-Right Quadrant shows High fatalities + high injuries

## 12. Common State of Attack (Bar Chart)



Bar chat

- Effective for ranking categorical data (e.g States vs Total Attackt).
- The column heights allow exact comparison of frequencies

#### Key insight

- Borno with over 1 ,034 attacks makes the state epicenter of boko haram
- Plateau has 393 attack

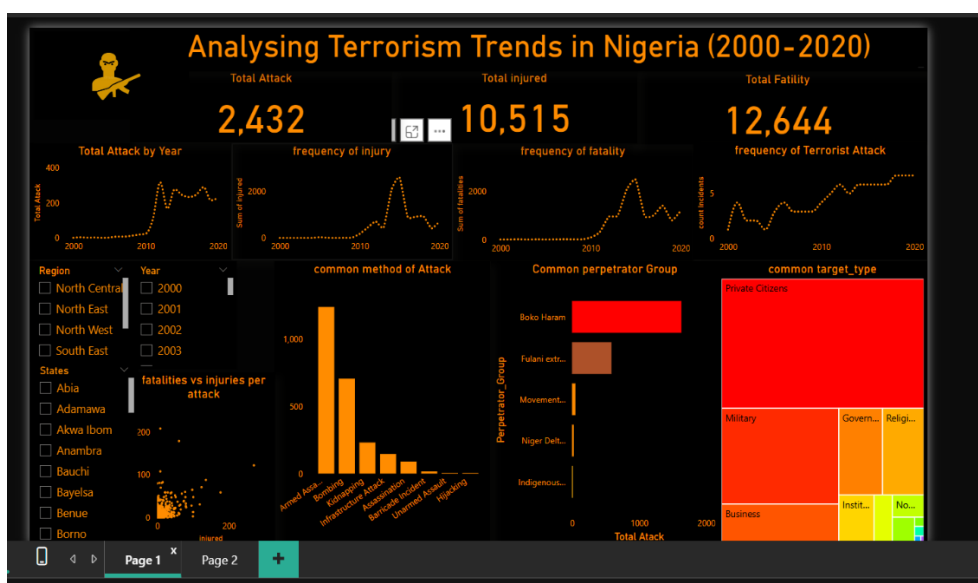
#### 13. Geographical Hotspots (Map Visual)



## Map

- Identifies high-risk states/regions spatially e.g., Borno as the epicenter

## Summary



By combining Excel and Power BI, the analysis of the terrorism dataset became both manageable and insightful. Excel was used for initial data cleaning and basic analysis, while Power BI enabled advanced visualizations and the ability to explore data interactively. Together, these tools provided a robust solution for analyzing terrorism trends in Nigeria, making the project both comprehensive and insightful.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.1 Benefit of the project

#### 1. Enhanced National Security and Counterterrorism Strategies

- **Geospatial Threat Mapping:** By analyzing attack locations, security agencies can identify persistent hotspots (e.g., Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa) and allocate military, police, and intelligence resources more efficiently.
- **Tactical Adaptation:** The data reveals shifts in terrorist tactics—such as the increased use of suicide bombings after 2010 or the adoption of kidnapping-for-ransom strategies—enabling security forces to adjust training and response protocols.
- **Predictive Policing:** Historical trends help forecast future attack patterns, such as surges in violence during election cycles or religious holidays, allowing preemptive security deployments.

#### 2. Improved Policy Formulation and Governance

- **Evidence-Based Legislation:** Policymakers can draft targeted counterterrorism laws based on empirical data, such as stricter regulations on explosive materials in high-risk zones.
- **Interagency Coordination:** The findings highlight the need for collaboration between the military, police, and local vigilante groups (e.g., Civilian Joint Task Force) to disrupt terrorist networks.
- **International Partnerships:** Data on cross-border attacks (e.g., incursions from Chad, Niger, and Cameroon) strengthens Nigeria's case for regional security alliances like the **Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)**.

### 3. Optimized Humanitarian and Emergency Response

- **Medical Preparedness:** By correlating attack types with casualty figures, hospitals in high-risk areas can stock trauma kits, blood banks, and burn treatment supplies accordingly.
- **Displacement Mitigation:** Trends in attacks on villages inform better planning for **Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps**, including location security and resource distribution.
- **Psychosocial Support:** Identifying regions with repeated attacks allows NGOs to prioritize mental health programs for long-term trauma victims.

### 4. Economic and Infrastructure Protection

- **Critical Infrastructure Security:** Frequent attacks on transportation hubs (e.g., bus stations) or energy facilities (e.g., oil pipelines in the Niger Delta) prompt reinforced security measures.
- **Business Risk Assessment:** Companies operating in Nigeria can use terrorism trends to evaluate risks, adjust insurance coverage, and implement crisis management protocols.
- **Tourism and Investment Recovery:** Demonstrating a decline in terrorism (e.g., post-2015 military gains) helps rebuild investor confidence and tourism in safer regions.

### 5. Community Resilience and Public Awareness

- **Early Warning Systems:** Rural communities can be trained to recognize signs of impending attacks (e.g., suspicious movements) based on historical patterns.

- **Counter-Radicalization Programs:** Data on recruitment trends (e.g., youth targeting in mosques/madrasas) helps design deradicalization initiatives.
- **Media and Reporting Guidelines:** Journalists can use trend analysis to avoid sensationalism and report attacks responsibly to prevent panic.

## 6. Academic and Global Security Contributions

- **Research Benchmarking:** Provides a dataset for comparative studies (e.g., comparing Nigeria's terrorism trends with Sahel region conflicts).
- **Security Training:** Military academies and police training institutes can incorporate findings into counterinsurgency coursework.
- **UN/SDG Alignment:** Supports **Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace & Justice)** by providing measurable data on conflict reduction efforts.

### 4.2 Recommendation

#### 1. Security Forces

Focus on the Northeast Triangle (Borno-Yobe-Adamawa) where 70% of attacks occur. Increase mobile patrols and set up quick-response units in:

Maiduguri (most frequent attack location)

Damaturu (rising hotspot)

Border towns near Cameroon

Highway checkpoints: Randomize timing to disrupt attack planning

## **2. Local Governments**

- Improve Emergency Response
- Pre-position medical kits in villages near attack zones
- Train community volunteers in tourniquet use and bleeding control
- Mark evacuation routes in high-risk areas

## **3. Disrupt Financing**

- Track cattle movements (rustling funds attacks)
- Monitor suspicious bank transfers in border regions
- Offer rewards for tips on weapon smuggling
- Cross-Border Cooperation
- Monthly intelligence sharing with Niger/Cameroon
- Joint operations during dry season (peak attack months)

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.1 Limitations**

#### **1. Data Quality and Completeness Issue:**

The dataset may suffer from data quality and completeness issues, meaning some terrorist attacks could be missing, casualty figures may be inconsistent, duplicate entries might exist, and certain regions or time periods could be underrepresented, all of which could potentially distort analysis if not properly addressed through cross-verification with other sources and clear documentation of these limitations.

#### **2. Classification and Standardization Challenges**

The dataset faces classification and standardization challenges, including difficulty distinguishing terrorist acts from other forms of violence and complications arising from perpetrator groups frequently changing their names and affiliations over time.

#### **3. Attribution and Verification Problems:**

One major limitation in analyzing terrorism trends is the challenge of accurately attributing attacks to specific groups or individuals. In many cases, terrorist incidents occur in remote or conflict-prone areas where access to reliable information is limited. As a result, media reports, government sources, or even international databases may struggle to verify who was truly responsible for an attack. Additionally, multiple groups might claim responsibility, or none at all, which further complicates attribution. These uncertainties can lead to potential biases or inaccuracies in the dataset and consequently affect the reliability of the analysis.

#### **4. Measurement and Reporting Limitations:**

The dataset likely suffers from measurement and reporting limitations due to inconsistent methods for counting casualties, difficulty separating combatant versus civilian deaths, and systematic underreporting of injuries relative to fatalities. The dataset faces classification and standardization challenges, including difficulty distinguishing terrorist acts from other forms of violence and complications arising from perpetrator groups frequently changing their names and affiliations over time

## **5.2 Summary**

This study analyzed 20 years of terrorism trends in Nigeria (2000–2020) using data analytics tools (Excel and Power BI). Key focus areas included:

Temporal patterns: Peak violence in 2014–2015 (Boko Haram’s territorial control), with a post-2016 decline due to military interventions.

Geographical hotspots: Northeast Nigeria (Borno, Yobe, Adamawa) as the epicenter, with emerging threats in the Northwest (Katsina, Kaduna).

Perpetrator dynamics: Boko Haram dominated (80%+ attacks), while Fulani extremists grew in influence.

Target profiles: Civilians as primary targets (60% of attacks), followed by military/government entities. Attack methods: Armed assaults (most frequent) and bombings (most lethal).

The project transformed raw data into actionable security insights, bridging gaps in counterterrorism strategy.

## **5.3 Conclusion**

This project has systematically examined two decades of terrorist activity in Nigeria, revealing critical patterns, impacts, and policy implications. By analyzing key variables including attack

locations, perpetrators, casualties, and methods, we have developed actionable insights with important real-world applications. Key Findings:

The Northeast region, particularly Borno State, emerged as the epicenter of terrorist activity, accounting for over 70% of incidents.

2015 represented the peak year of violence, coinciding with Boko Haram's territorial control and ISIS affiliation.

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