## **Table of Contents**

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Methodology
4. Detailed Findings
   * 4.1 Fragmentation of Armed Actors
   * 4.2 Firearms and Lethality Profile
   * 4.3 Temporal Patterns: Weekend & Seasonal Spikes
   * 4.4 Geographic Epicenter: Borno State
   * 4.5 Decade‐Long Rise in Attack Frequency
5. Strategic Recommendations
6. Conclusion
7. Appendices

### 

### **1. Executive Summary**

This report synthesizes comprehensive analysis of violent incidents in Nigeria from 2011 to 2024. By integrating geographic, temporal, weapon, and perpetrator data, we uncover ten critical insights and distill them into five thematic observations. Key revelations include the rise of diverse non‐state armed groups, the dominant role of firearms in casualties, pronounced weekend and seasonal attack spikes, Borno State’s status as a mass‐violence epicenter, and the steady increase in overall incident frequency. The report concludes with actionable recommendations for security deployment, arms control, intelligence broadening, and community resilience.

### **2. Introduction**

Nigeria’s security environment has been shaped by insurgency, communal violence, and criminality. Accurate, data‐driven insights are essential to inform policy and resource allocation. This report combines the results of previous stakeholder briefs and targeted analyses to create a unified, in‐depth narrative of evolving violence trends, providing stakeholders with the context and guidance needed for strategic decision‐making.

### 

### **3. Methodology**

* **Data Scope**: Recorded violent incidents across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory from January 2011 to December 2024.
* **Variables**: Location (state, LGA), date, perpetrator category (State Actors, Boko Haram, Other Armed Actors), weapon type, target infrastructure, casualty counts.
* **Analytical Techniques:**
  + Geospatial Aggregation: Mapping fatalities and attack counts at state and LGA levels.
  + Temporal Analysis: Yearly, monthly, and weekday breakdowns to detect cyclical patterns.
  + Categorical Aggregation: Ranking weapons and perpetrators by incident frequency and fatalities.
  + Trend Modelling: Plotting annual attack counts to identify growth trajectories.

### **4. Detailed Findings**

#### **4.1 Fragmentation of Armed Actors**

Non‐state groups beyond Boko Haram—collectively labeled “Other Armed Actors”—executed 4,257 attacks had the highest number of attacks following Boko Haram (2,300 attacks) and State Actors (3,296 attacks). This fragmentation signals a proliferation of localized militias, splinter cells, and criminal gangs exploiting governance gaps. Traditional counter‐insurgency strategies focused solely on high‐profile groups are insufficient; adaptive intelligence gathering must include grassroots informant networks and open‐source social‐media monitoring to intercept emerging threats before escalation.

#### **4.2 Firearms and Lethality Profile**

Firearms account for 53,059 fatalities, representing 58% of total deaths, with improvised explosive devices and melee weapons trailing far behind. The accessibility of small arms—smuggled across porous borders or diverted from security stockpiles—drives this disproportion. A targeted firearms reduction campaign, comprising border‐control enhancements, amnesty buybacks, and local cash‐for‐guns incentives, could significantly decrease the national death toll by disrupting supply chains.

#### **4.3 Temporal Patterns: Weekend & Seasonal Spikes**

* **Weekend Peaks**: Sundays record the highest single‐day fatalities (15,468), followed by Saturdays (14,880) and Tuesdays (14,293). These spikes correlate with major religious gatherings and market days, where civilian concentration offers high‐impact targets.
* **Seasonal Surge**: March sees the greatest monthly deaths (12,106), likely tied to improved dry‐season mobility and climatic conditions favoring armed group maneuvers. Proactive alerts, weekend security surges during dry months, and community awareness campaigns timed for February–April can preempt these cyclical escalations.

#### **4.4 Geographic Epicenter**: Borno State

Borno State endures the highest burden: 38,245 deaths, including 917 high‐casualty (≥10 deaths) attacks—far above any other state. Within Borno, Maiduguri LGA leads with 6,632 fatalities, followed by Gwoza and Bama. Contributing factors include insurgent safe havens in border forests, under‐resourced local defenses, and civilian displacement disrupting social cohesion. Deploying rapid‐response brigades, fortified civilian shelters, and targeted humanitarian aid in these LGAs will mitigate mass‐casualty risks.

#### **4.5 Decade‐Long Rise in Attack Frequency**

Annual incident counts surged from 203 attacks in 2011 to a peak of 2,276 in 2021, even as average fatalities per incident fluctuated. This growth underscores expanding conflict zones and underscores the need for scalable monitoring. Investing in a centralized command‐and‐control dashboard with real‐time data feeds will empower security agencies to anticipate new hotspots and reallocate resources dynamically.

### **5. Strategic Recommendations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme** | **Action Item** | **Expected Impact** |
| Broadening Intelligence | Establish community informant networks and social‐media analysis teams. | Early detection of emerging armed factions. |
| Arms Control | Implement cross‐border patrols, weapons amnesty, and buyback programs. | Reduce civilian access to lethal small arms. |
| Adaptive Deployment | Increase patrols on weekends and in March; set temporary curfews in high‐risk LGAs. | Lower casualties during known peak periods. |
| Borno Crisis Response | Deploy rapid‐response units, secure civilian safe zones, and enhance local defense. | Mitigate high‐casualty incidents in the epicenter. |
| Data‐Driven Operations | Launch a real‐time incident dashboard; conduct quarterly heat‐map reviews. | Optimize resource allocation; anticipate trends. |

### **6. Conclusion**

Nigeria’s violence landscape is evolving: a mosaic of armed actors, firearm‐driven lethality, and finely timed attacks concentrated in entrenched hotspots. This report’s multidimensional insights and targeted recommendations provide a roadmap for stakeholders to disrupt violent cycles, strengthen community resilience, and restore security. Collaborative implementation—with federal, state, and local partners—will be pivotal to translating data into decisive action.

### 

### 7. Appendices

**Appendix A: Data Definitions**

* *Other Armed Actors:* Non‐state groups not linked to Boko Haram.
* *High‐Casualty Attack:* Incident causing ≥10 fatalities.

**Appendix B: Summary Tables**

Top 5 State Level Fatality Rankings

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| State | Deaths |
| Borno | 38245 |
| Zamfara | 6803 |
| Kaduna | 6195 |
| Benue | 4391 |
| Adamawa | 4127 |

Weapon Fatality Rankings

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weapon | Fatalities |
| Firearms | 53059 |
| Bombs | 20000 |
| Unknown | 14930 |

Monthly Fatality Distribution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Month | Deaths |
| Jan | 7776 |
| Feb | 8629 |
| Mar | 12106 |
| Apr | 8584 |
| May | 8422 |
| Jun | 9263 |
| Jul | 6042 |
| Aug | 5805 |
| Sep | 6486 |
| Oct | 6217 |
| Nov | 6499 |
| Dec | 6267 |

Weekday Fatality Distribution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weekday | Deaths |
| Monday | 13841 |
| Tuesday | 14293 |
| Wednesday | 11448 |
| Thursday | 10523 |
| Friday | 11653 |
| Saturday | 14880 |
| Sunday | 15468 |

LGA-level Fatalities (Top 3)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| LGA | Deaths |
| Maiduguri | 6632 |
| Gwoza | 3500 |
| Bama | 3200 |

**Appendix C: Visualizations**









