

Cover Page	Conflict Overview	Timeline	Conflict Events-1	Conflict Events-2	Major Departments Caption	Major Departments	Actors in Departments	References
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A Glimpse of the National Conflicts in Colombia From 2018 to Present

Background

In Colombia, the conflicts among the government, far-left guerrillas, and far-right paramilitaries are deeply rooted in the country’s modern history. [7] The three sides, each representing the state authority, the rural classes, and the business owners and cartels, frequently clashed due to social inequality and their diverged political ideologies. The long-lasting sporadic conflicts over half century has led to one of the longest and deadliest domestic conflicts in the world.

Introduction

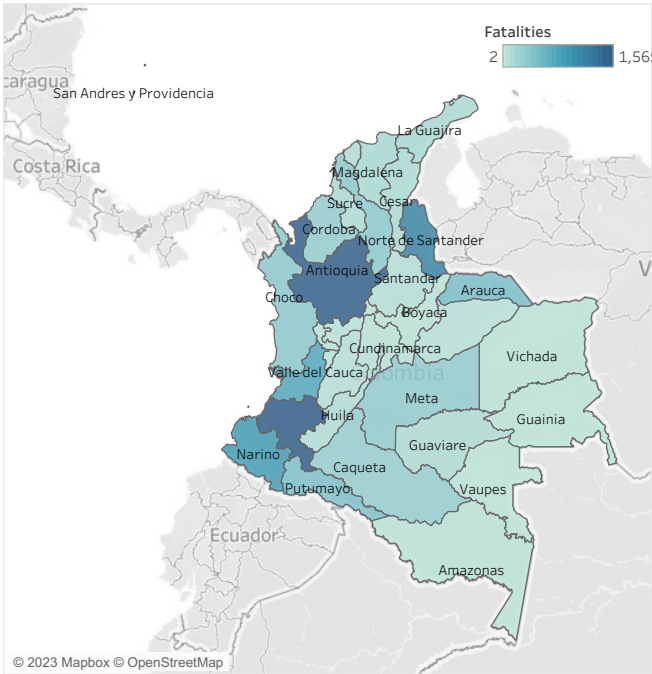
In 2016, after years of multi-lateral negotiations, Colombian then-President Santos reached a peace deal with Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to promise ceasefire with the long standing far-left guerilla group. However, due to the failure of the later peace referendum and more importantly the deeply rooted social inequality, the country merely caught a breath before entering another period of instability until today.

Data

Since 2018, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) has been collecting data on conflicts and violence occurred in Colombia. Based on the Project’s collections from 2018 to today, this data story presents an overview of the current situation of the Colombian Conflict, an anlysis of conflicts in specific departments, and a comparison of conflict status quos among other unstable Latin countries.

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Colombia Fatalities Map



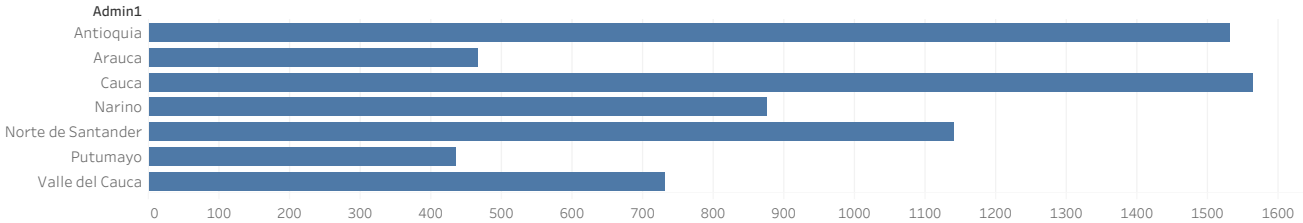
Fatalities by Events



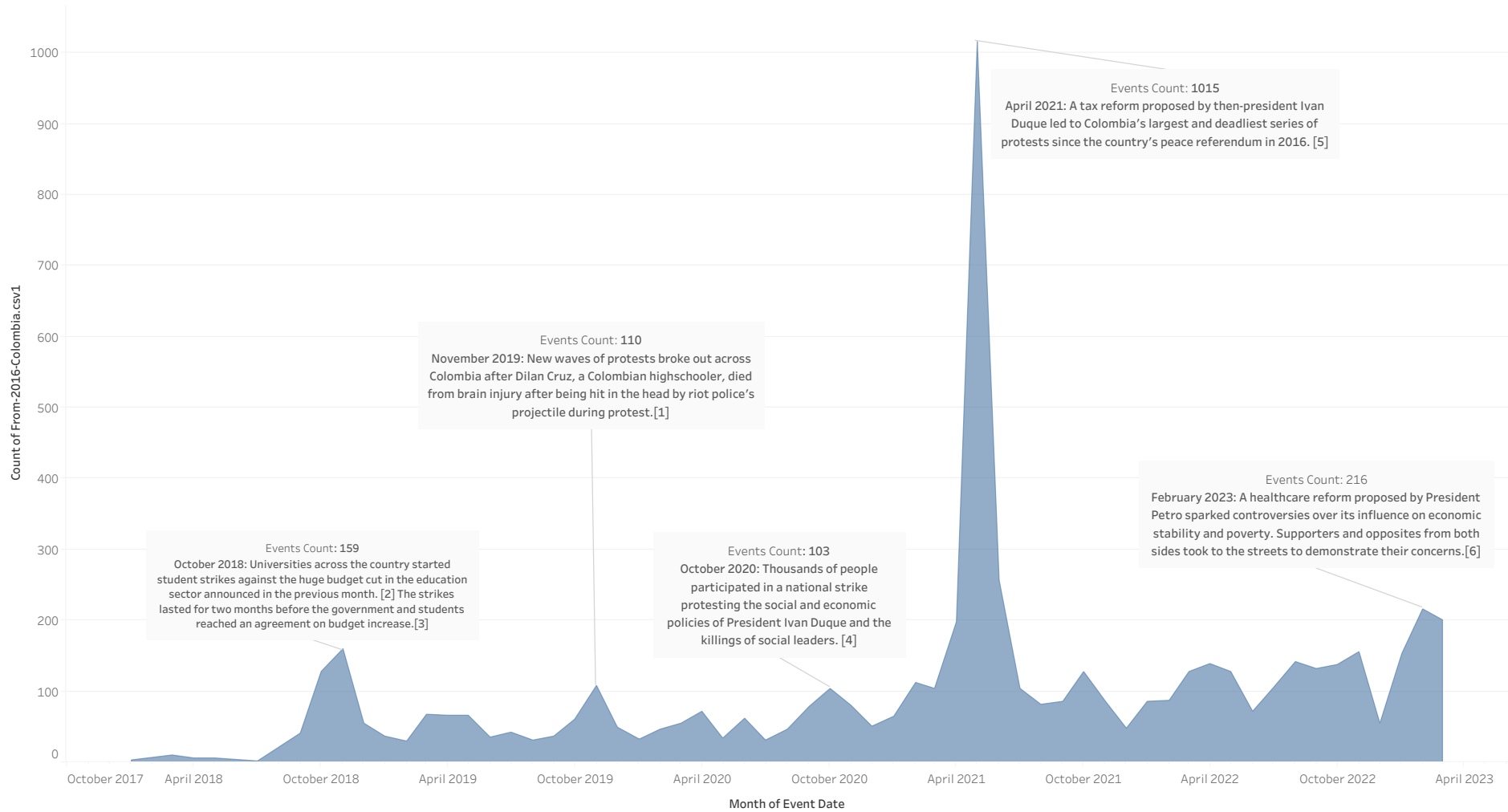
Conflicts events mostly occurs in western regions such as **Antioquia, North Santander, Cauca, Valle de Cauca, and Narino**. Among them, Cauca, Antioquia and Santander all have over **1100** casualties respectively in the time period of 2018-2023.

The fatal consequences of conflicts disproportionately fell on the civilians, with more than **60%** of fatalities being **Civilian** casualties, followed by battles, which takes up about 20% of the fatalities. Other reasons include explosions, remote violence, riots, and even peaceful protests.

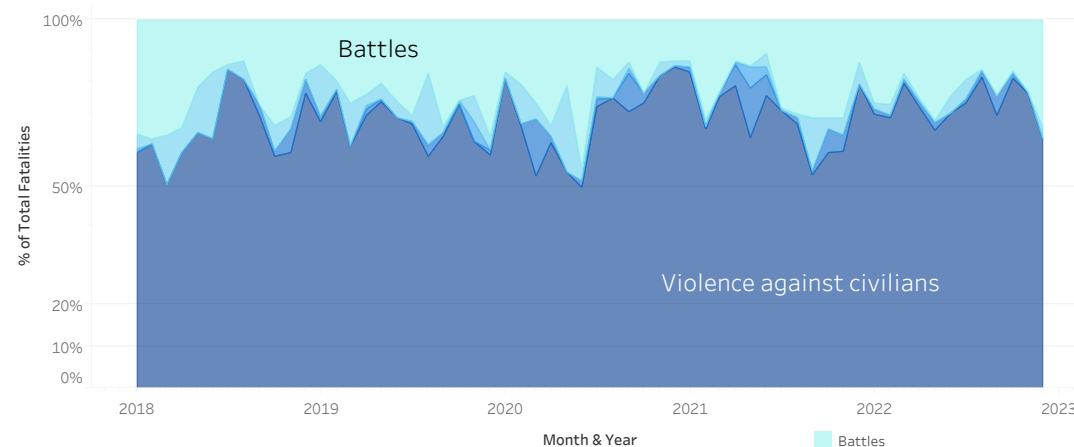
Departments with Major Fatalities



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Fatalities by Conflict Events %

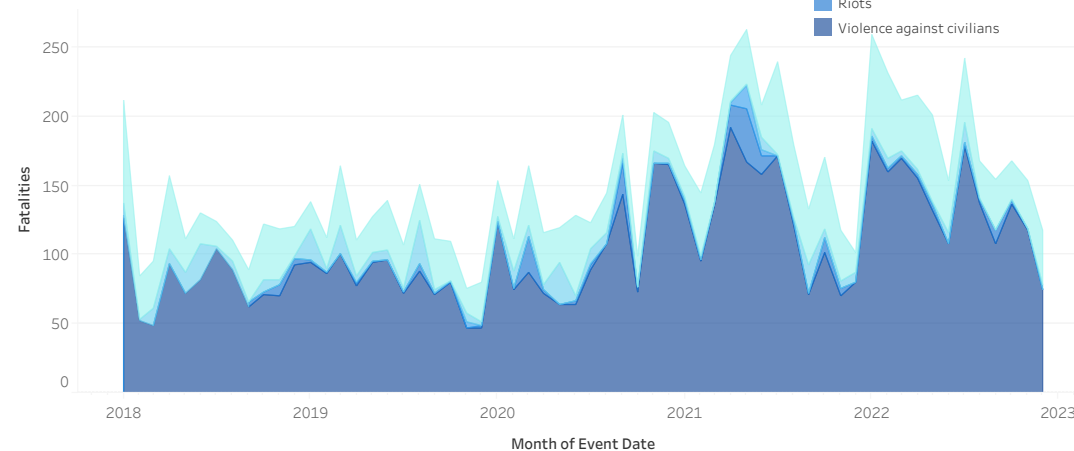


The high number of violence against civilians is not a result of a single event, but a long-unsolved issue over time. Since 2018, even the months with least civvy casualties have at least **50%** of fatal incidents attributable to civilian violence, and the percentage can reach as high as **80%** in certain months.

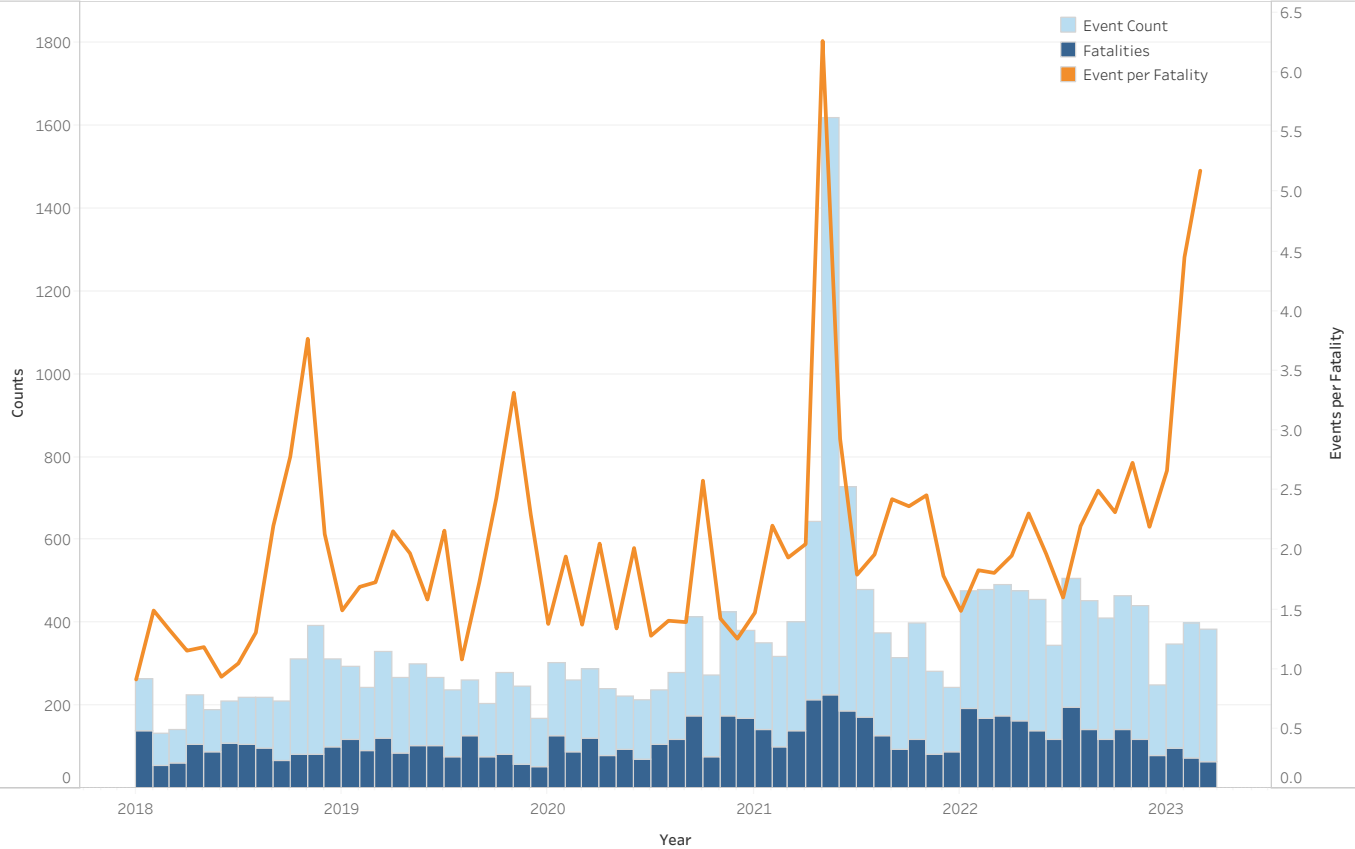
From 2018 to the first half of 2020, the monthly fatalities averaged at **50-100**. Starting from the latter half of the 2020, the number went up again likely due to stronger resistance towards to President Duque and his policies. In **Mid-2021** the resistance reached its climax, which was responded by greater oppression and brutality.

In May 2021, **10** peaceful protestors in **Cali, Valle de Cauca** has been killed unarmed during the city's demonstrations, part of the national conflict provoked by the proposed tax reform.

Fatalities by Conflict Events



Fatalities vs. Events



The number of conflicts events fluctuated around 400 until 2021, when the Duque’s tax reform provoked national strikes with more than **1600 events** happened in the single month of May 2021. Hence we can see a huge spike in the month.

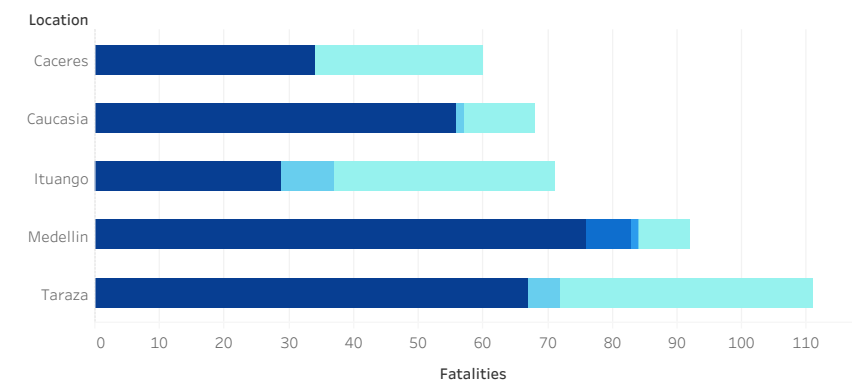
In addition, it is noteworthy that over the half decade, about **1.5-4 conflicts** are associated with one death, implicating the precarious state of Colombia’s peace process.

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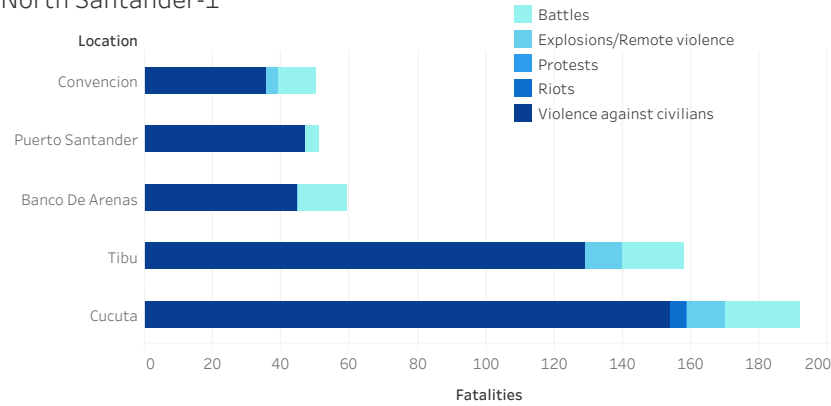
Three departments, Antioquia, North Santander, and Cauca have experienced the highest fatalities over the recent years in the national conflict. Some areas such as Caceres, Taraza, and Ituango of Antioquia have suffered majority of their fatalities from battles. Apart from those regions, most areas suffer major fatalities from violence towards civilians. In North Santander, Mob violence and Remote Violence / Explosives also takes up a certain portion of the casualties.

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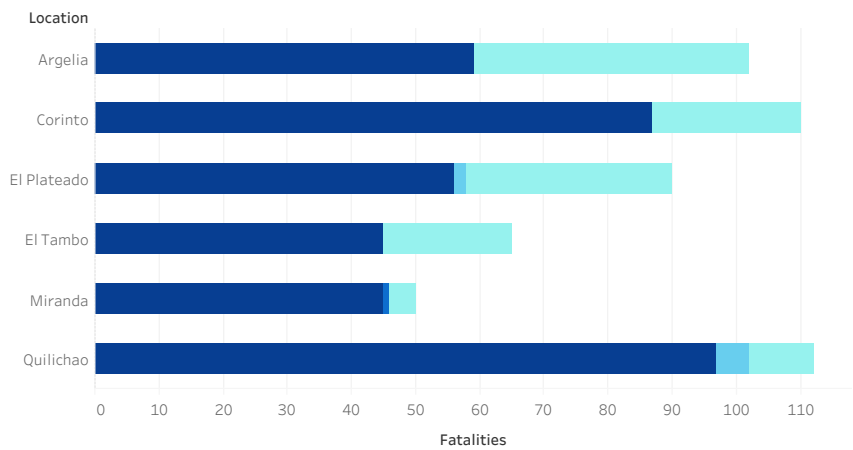
Antioquia



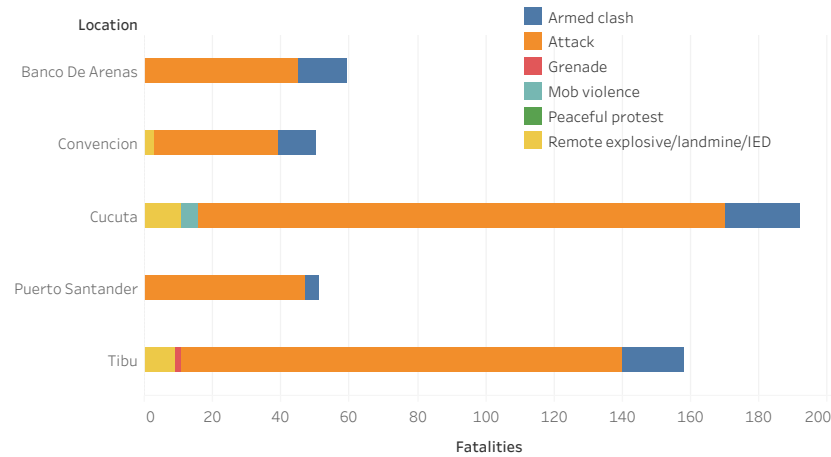
North Santander-1



Cauca

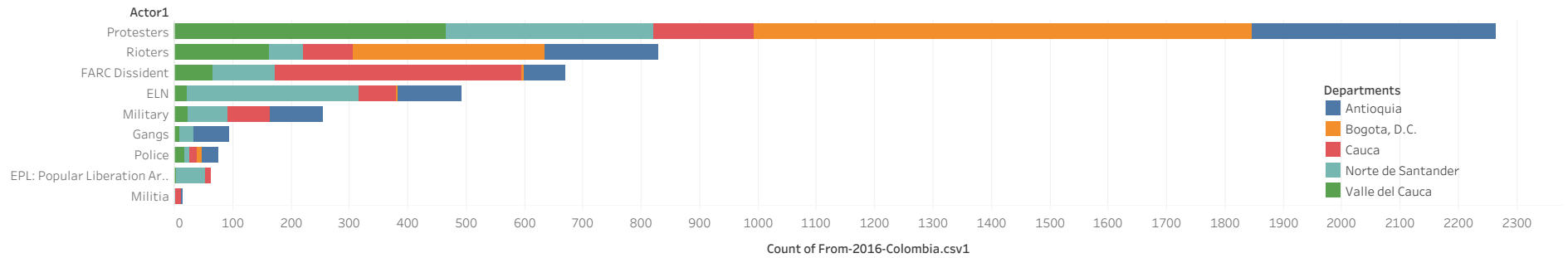


North Santander-2



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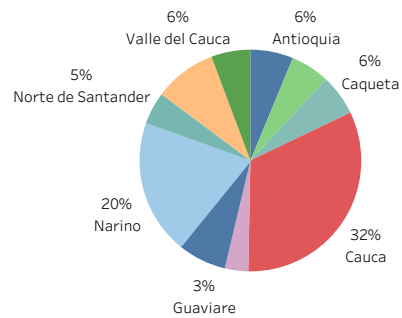
Actor-Dept.



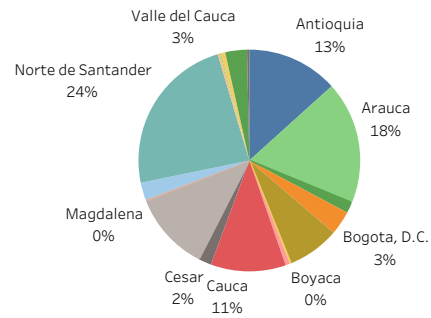
Above it's a breakdown of the events number by the major actor and region. The majority of protests and riots happened in Bogota and Valle de Cauca, however for armed conflicts that involves FARC dissident, ELN, and governmental military, etc., the regions such as Cauca or North Santander are more affected.

Below is a breakdown of regions by the three major armed groups: FARC dissident, ELN (National Liberation Army), and Military.

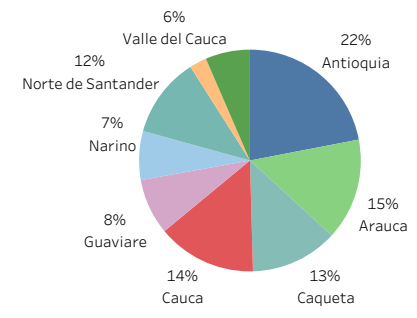
Actor: FARC dissident



Actor: ELN - National Liberation Army



Actor: Military



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References

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Data Source

[The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\).](#)