

MEASURING PROTEST ACTION AS A FORM OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

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Institute for Security Studies

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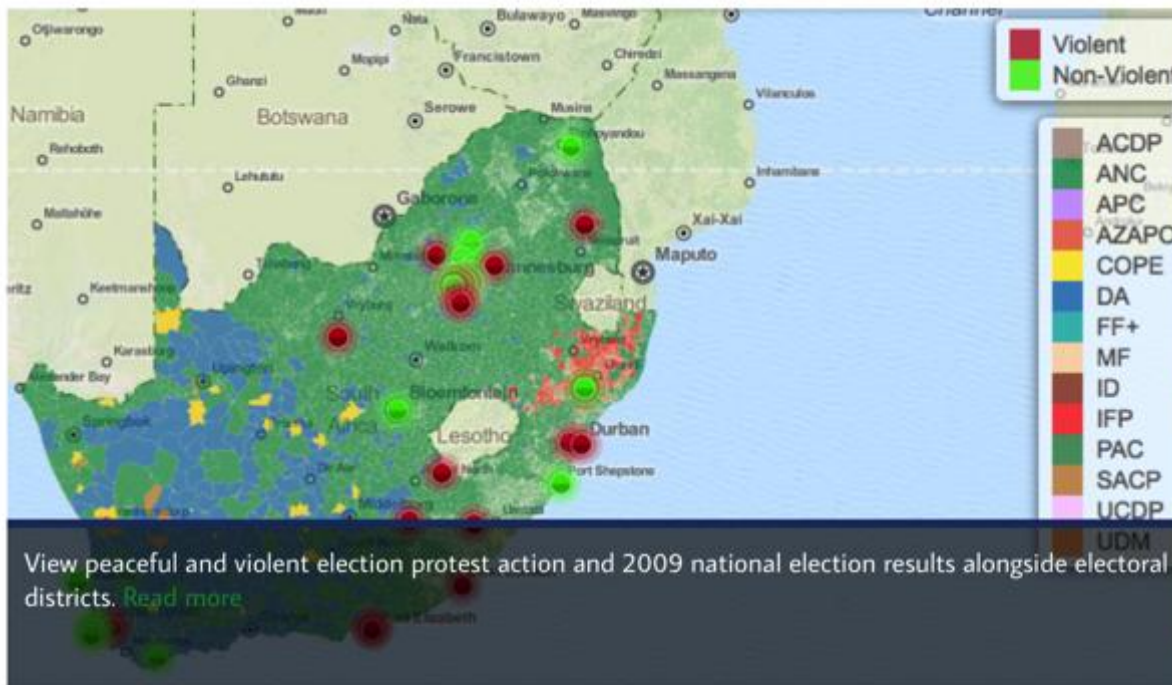
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Seminar
A tale of two elections:
behind the data of SA's
2014 polls

Mapping
Elections violence map

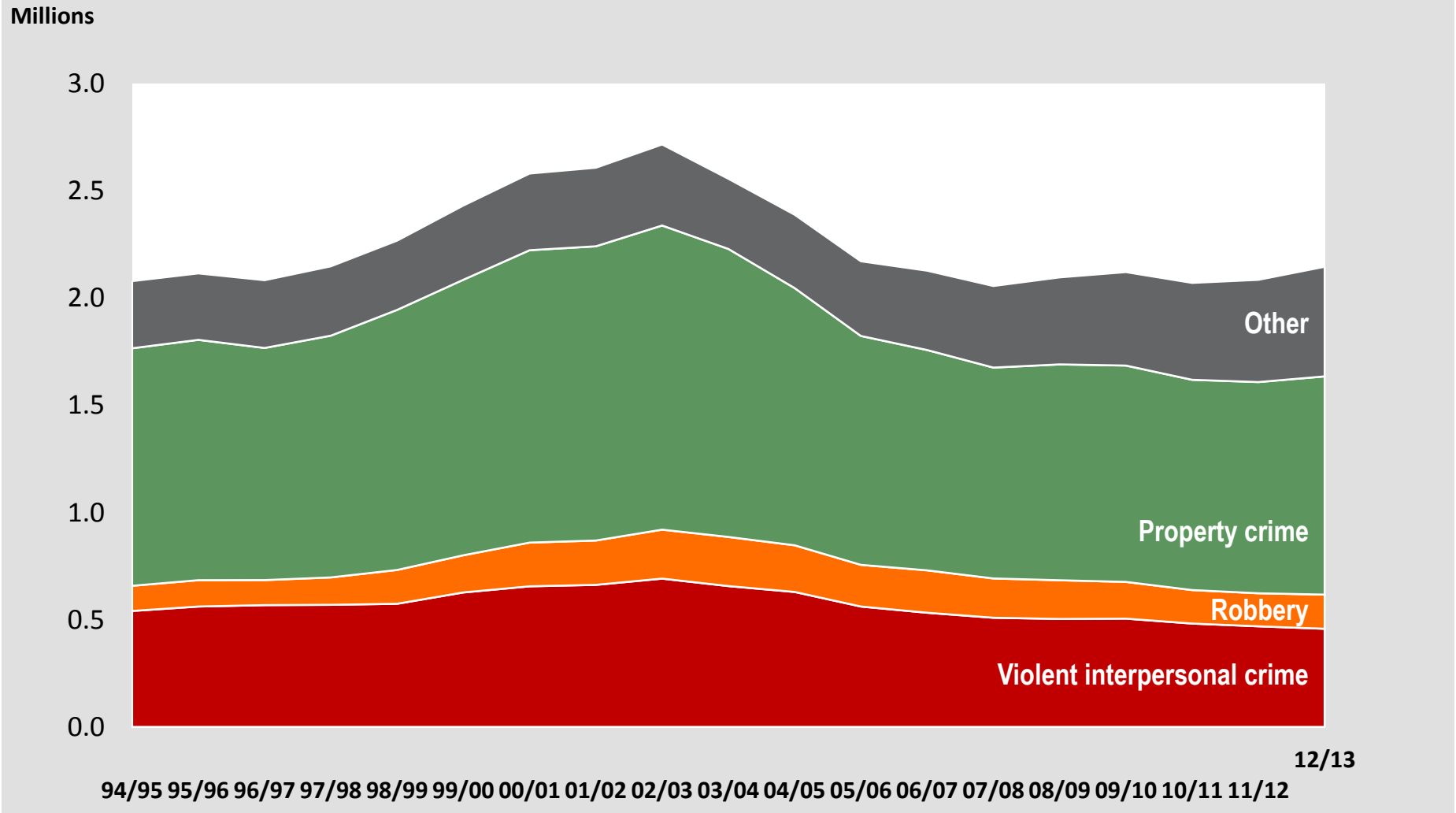
News
SA elections results:
from the polls to
Parliament

Mapping
Crime map

The CrimeHub is South Africa's most complete source for ready-to-use information, statistics and analysis on crime and safety. [Read more...](#)



MONITORING SA CRIME TREND



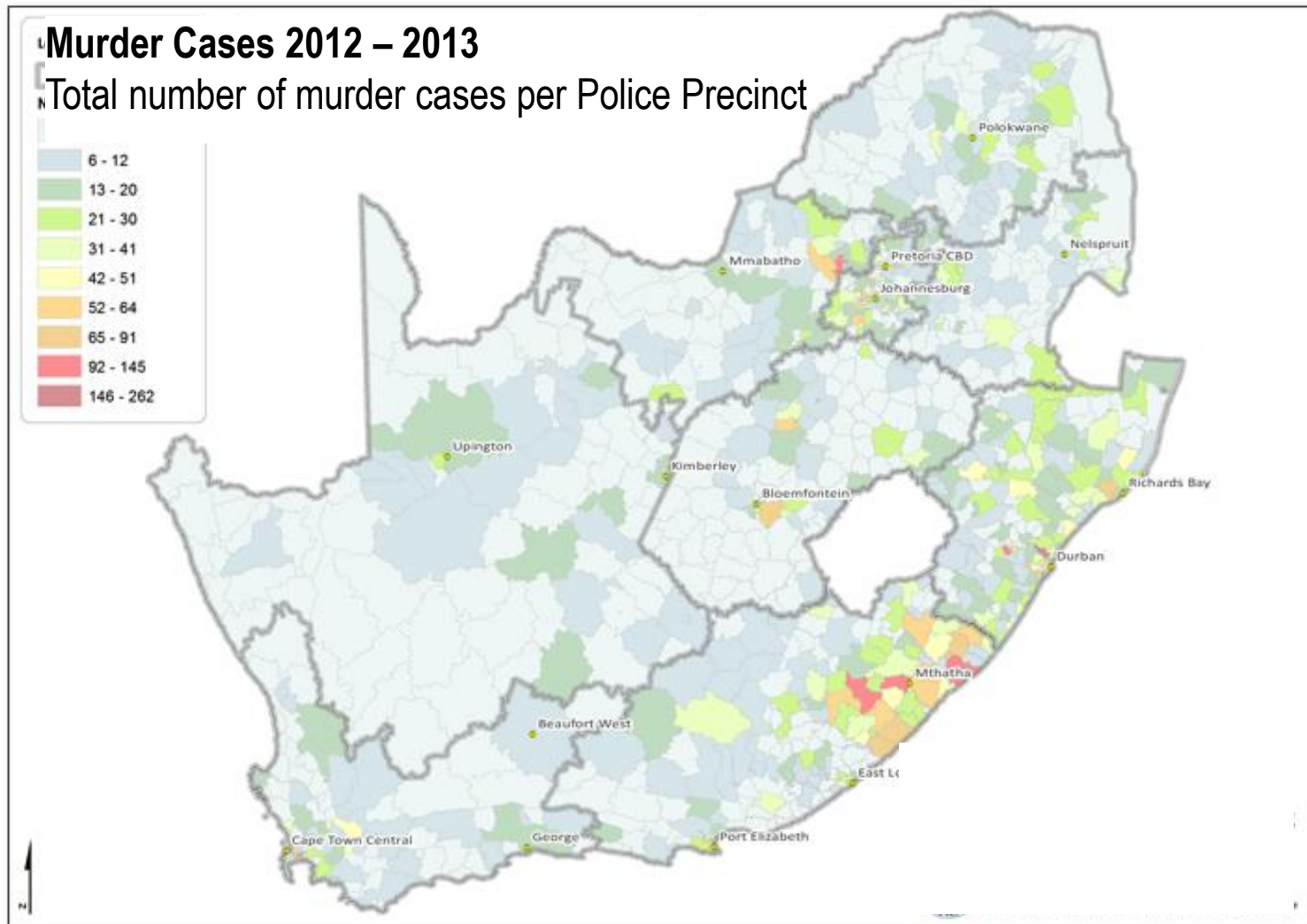
TOTALS
16 259 murders

Calculation	2012/2013
Murders (M)	16 259
Population (P)	52 300 000
$M \div P \times 100\,000$	31.1

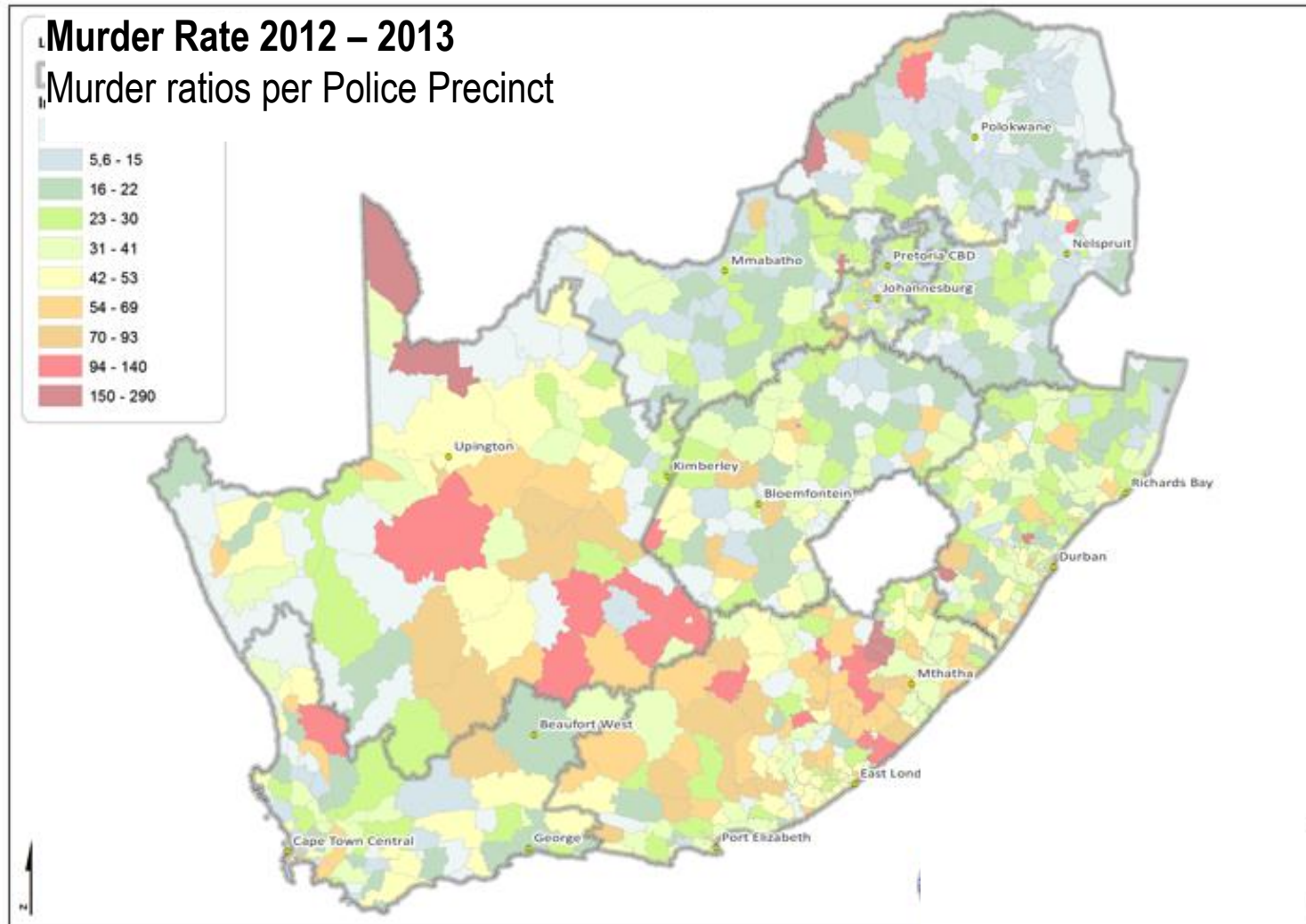
RATIOS
31.1 murders
per 100 000
people

- Provides the total incidents recorded
- An indicator of the workload facing the police at a particular area
- Crimes per 100 000 of the population
- Provides a better risk assessment across locations & time frames

SA MURDER CASES DISTRIBUTION



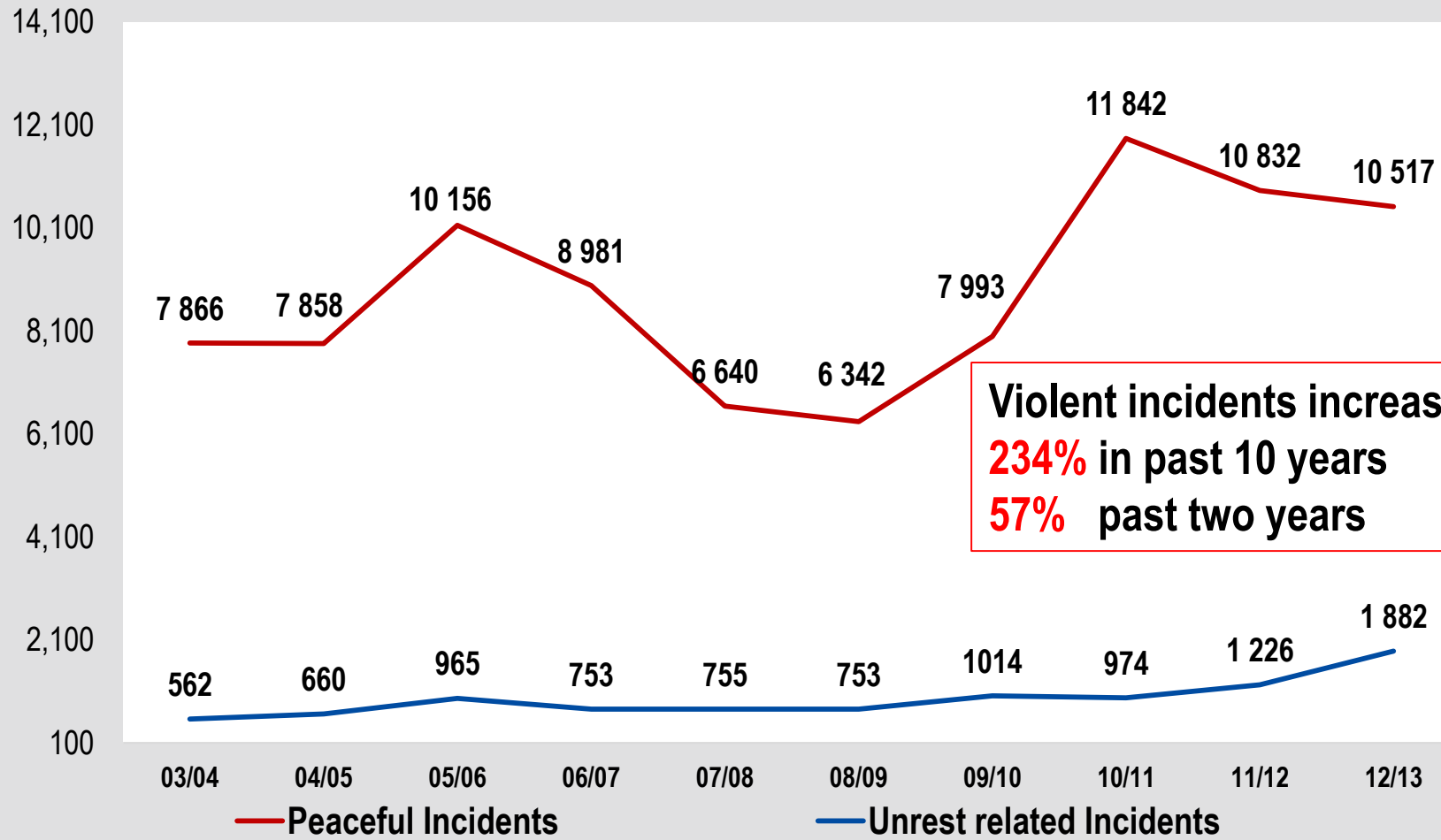
SA MURDER RATIOS DISTRIBUTION



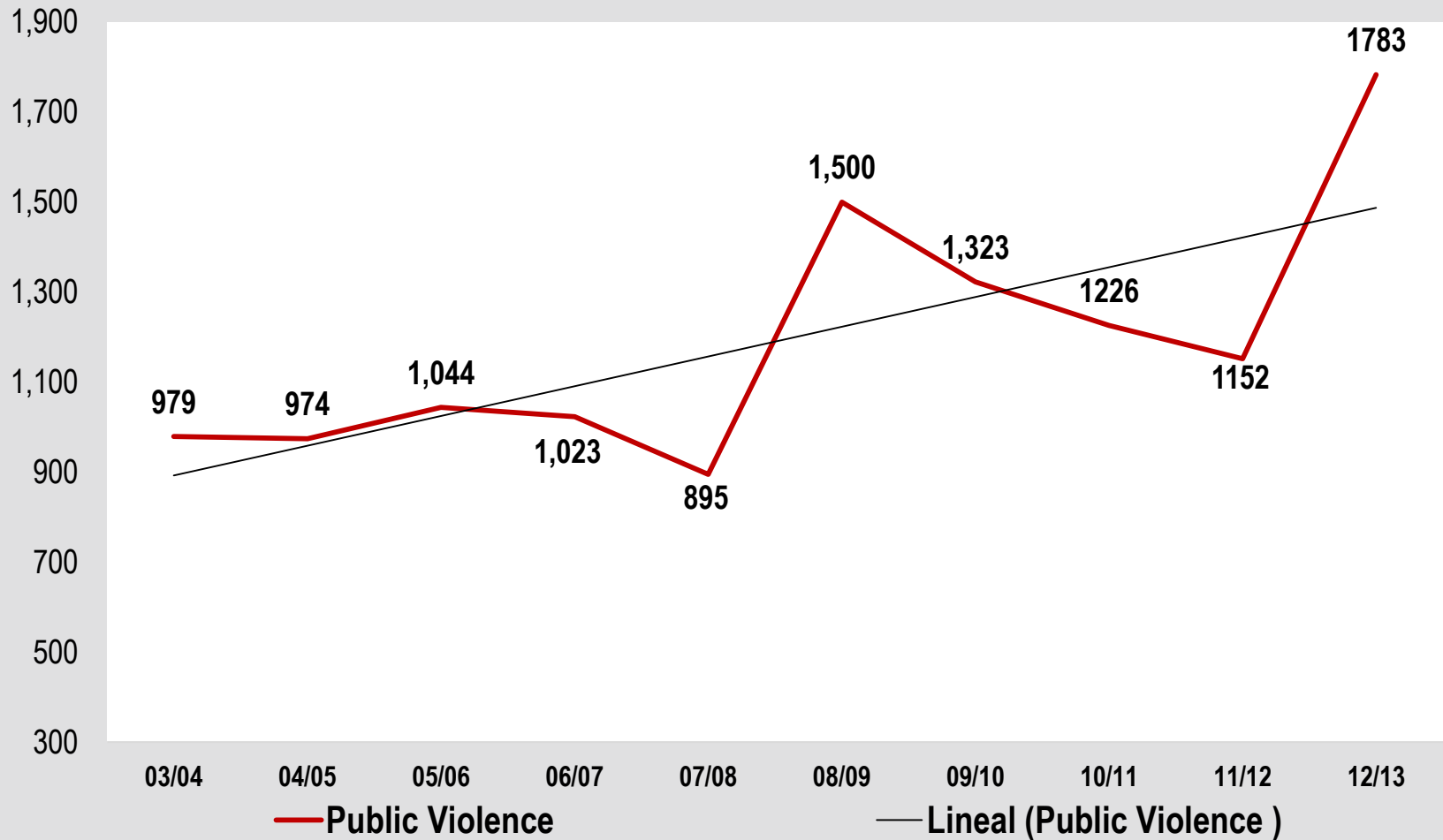
POLICE STATISTICS: PUBLIC ORDER INCIDENTS

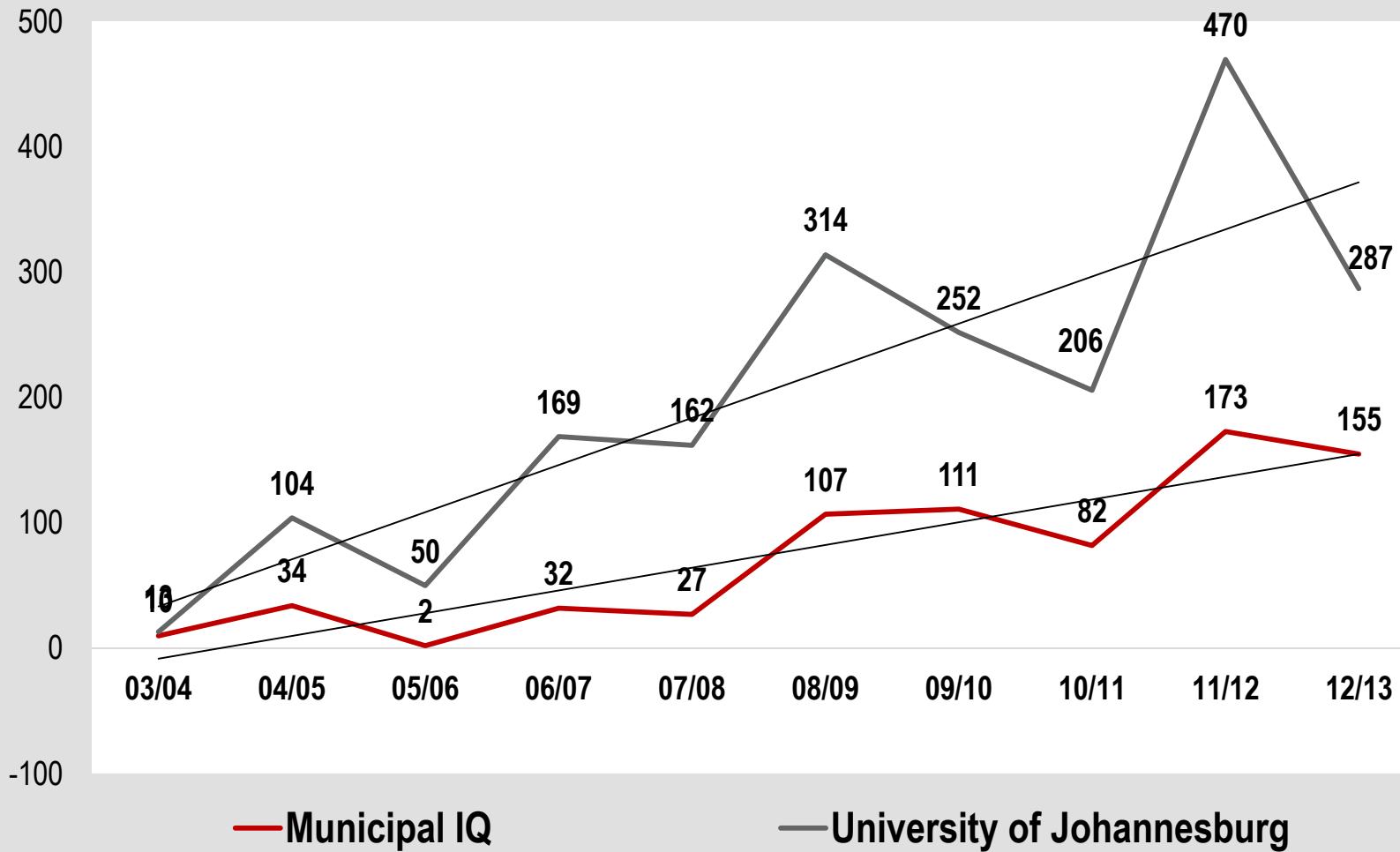
Peaceful incidents: Crowd related assemblies, gatherings that are peaceful

Violent incidents: Crowd situations resulting in violence & require police intervention



CRIMINAL CASES RELATING TO PUBLIC VIOLENCE





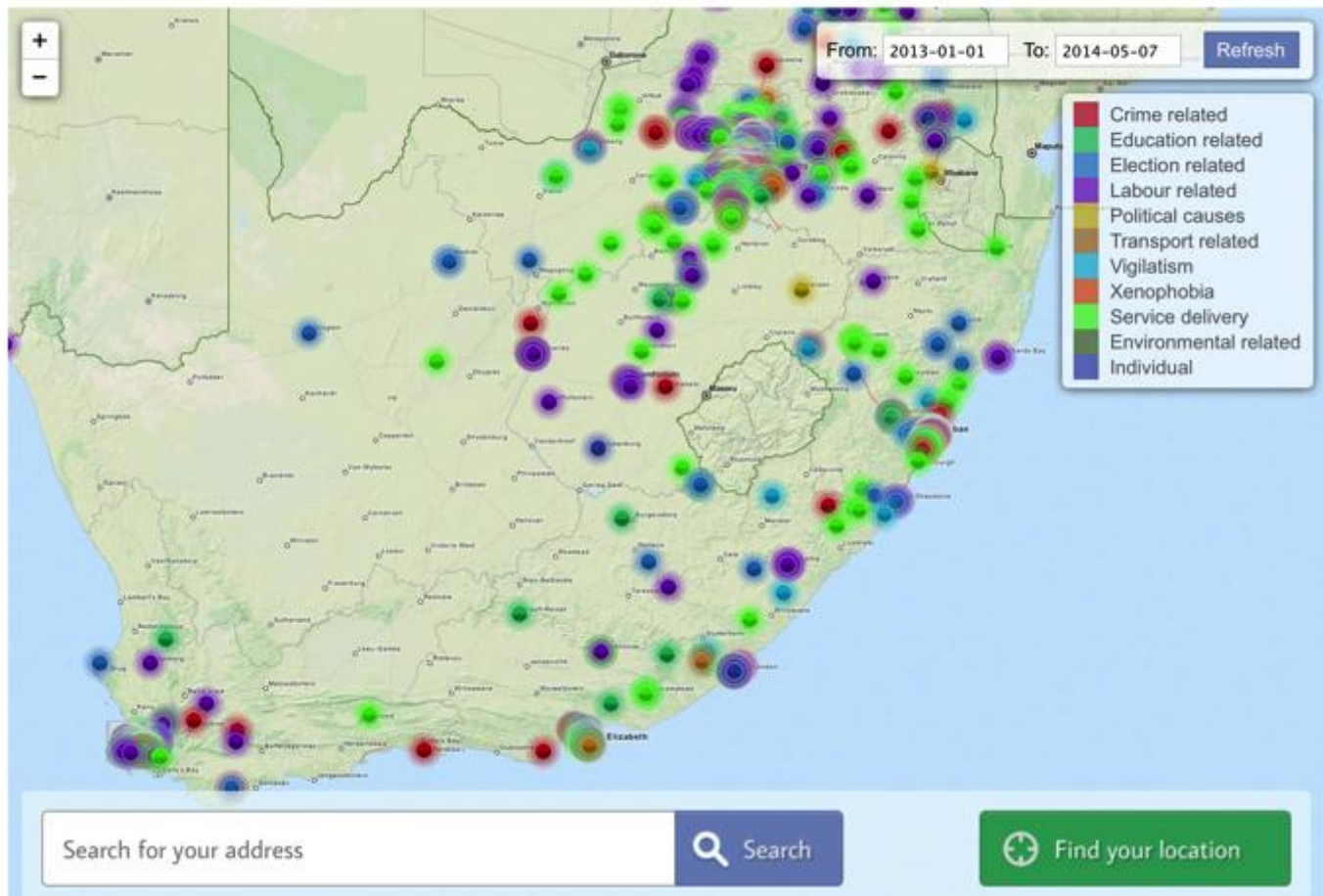
Publicly
available,
interactive
online
public
violence
mapping

Public protest and violence map

View peaceful and violent protest action online

All

Report here



To systematically track the nature and extent of violence resulting from public or inter-group activity.

It is a long-term project aim to support a better understanding of various types of public violence so as to support the development of appropriate responses that reduce and prevent these forms of violence

The challenges

- Data on and research into public violence has been *ad hoc*
- Not often publicly available,
- Varies in scope, quality, credibility and reliability

The need

- A publicly available, comprehensive & continually updated database of various types of public or inter-group violence

The benefits

- Allow for a better understanding of patterns, trends & possible correlations between various forms of public violence and other variables
- This would enable all role players, including state organs, to design multi-faceted and appropriate responses to better manage & prevent such incidents

1. Tracking of media & other sources online
2. Development of a comprehensive database
3. Coding of information
4. Capturing of information in the database
5. Geocoding of all incidents (GPS coordinates)
6. Verification of information
7. Validation of database
8. Mapping of incidents based on geocodes
9. Analysis of data and refinement of database



Limitations



- Not all incidents are reported in the media
- Media bias creeps in e.g.
 - Urban/ metro vs rural
 - More violent incidents are reported
 - English vs other languages
- Issues are complex – drivers may be multiple
- Independent verification of incidents

Challenges



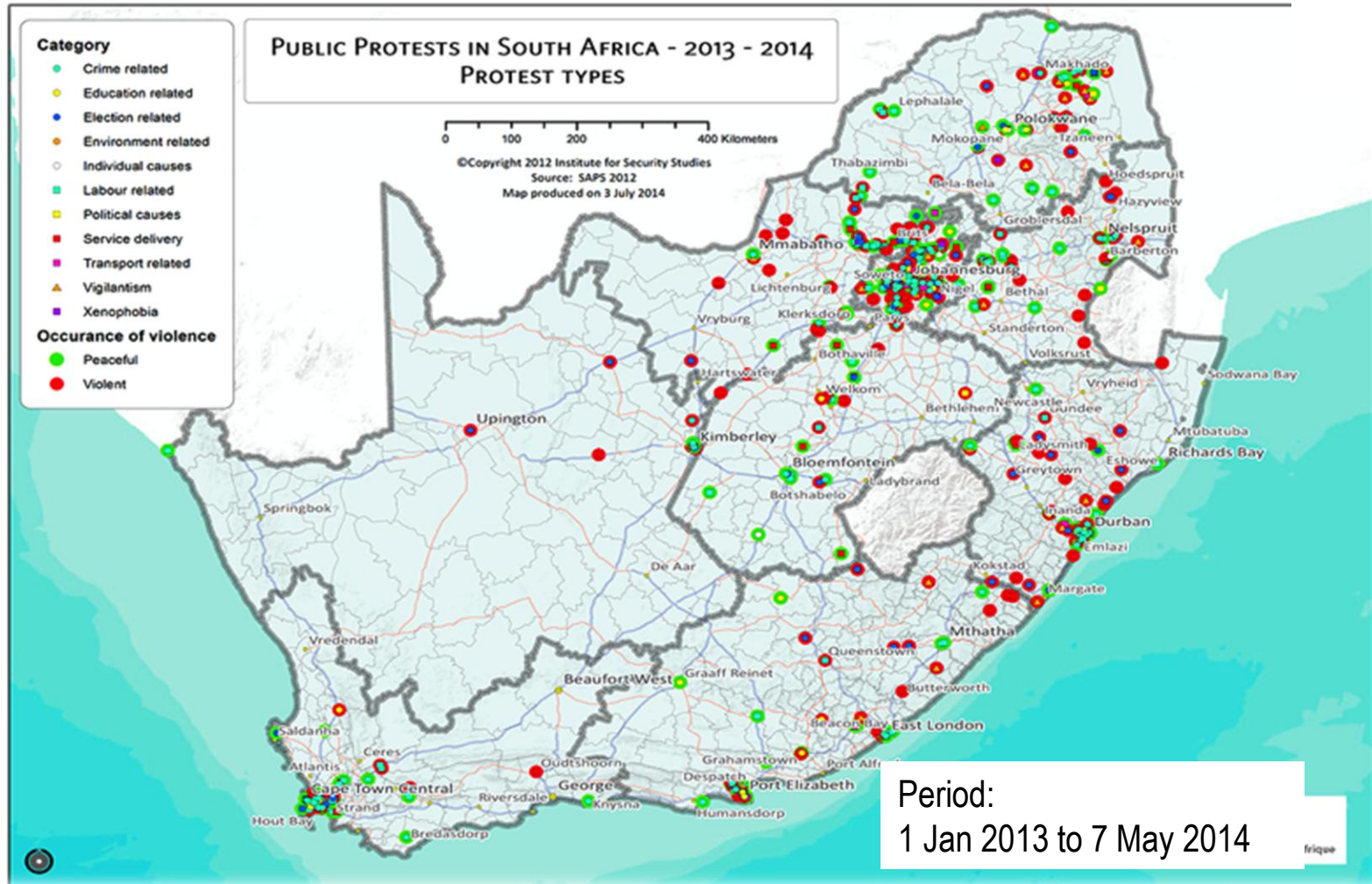
- Definitions
- Indicators
- Automation of event data
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Developing monitoring network

PUBLIC INCIDENTS & VIOLENCE MONITORED

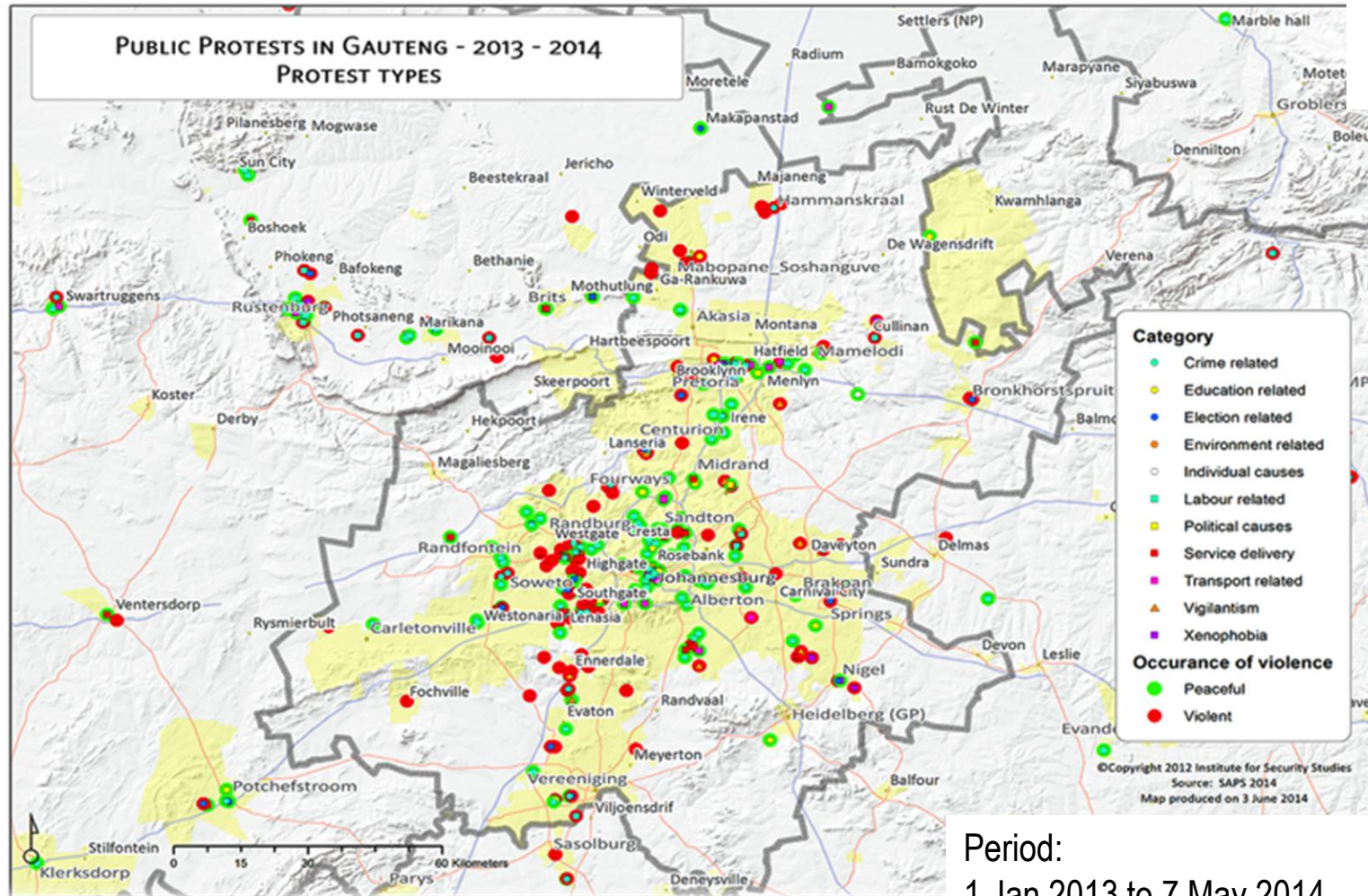
Category	Number	% Peaceful	% Violent
Labour related strikes and marches	281	79%	21%
Community protests about govt 'service delivery'	277	24%	76%
Crime/ police related protests (high profile incidents)	121	75%	25%
Election related incidents (campaign events & marches)	97	30%	70%
Education related protests (e.g. admission to schools)	55	53%	47%
Vigilantism	52	10%	90%
Transport related protests (e.g. toll road, taxi protests)	39	92%	8%
Political causes (e.g. challenges to politicians)	38	82%	18%
Private/ Sectoral interests(e.g. telecoms costs)	19	84%	16%
Xenophobia	16	12,5%	87,5%
Environmental related protests (e.g. fracking)	5	100%	0%
Total	1000	53%	47%

- Internationally, protest is an increasing form of political participation
- In South Africa, violent protests are often preceded by peaceful protests & attempts to engage with government
- Usually, failure of government to respond appropriately or to fulfil earlier promises can be a trigger for violent protests.
- Evidence that local government & police are preventing legal protests (failure to give permission). Can result in sporadic protests which are more likely to become violent.
- Heavy handed policing against protestors provokes or escalates violence
- Many of these protests involve the unemployed who cannot go on strike like employed workers to voice their grievances.

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DISTRIBUTION: GAUTENG PROVINCE



1. Building of closer relationships with various stakeholders
1. Further in-depth analysis of the nature of forms and drivers of public violence
1. Development of appropriate responses to public violence in partnership with government and other stakeholders
1. Comprehensive tracking of protests and election-related violence during the 2016 local government elections



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