

# MEASURING PROTEST ACTION AS A FORM OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

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Institute for Security Studies

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**Institute for Security Studies (ISS)** is an independent African policy research institute. Our work is aimed at contributing to a stable and peaceful Africa characterised by sustainable development, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and collaborative security.

**The Governance, Crime and Justice Division** of the ISS works to inform and improve policy and public discourse on crime, corruption, its prevention and the functioning of the criminal justice system. We do this by conducting research, analysing policy, disseminating information and providing expertise as a contribution towards a safer and secure society.

**Our Vision:** A safe and prosperous Africa for all its people.

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Read more'. To the right of the map, there are three promotional tiles: 1. 'Seminar: A tale of two elections: behind the data of SA's 2014 polls' with a photo of a seminar. 2. 'Mapping: Elections violence map' with a photo of a person in a red shirt. 3. 'News: SA elections results: from the polls to Parliament' with a photo of a person in a red shirt. Below these tiles is another 'Mapping: Crime map' tile with a small map thumbnail." data-bbox="60 365 895 842"/>

View peaceful and violent election protest action and 2009 national election results alongside electoral districts. [Read more](#)

**Violent**  
**Non-Violent**

- ACDP
- ANC
- APC
- AZAPO
- COPE
- DA
- FF+
- MF
- ID
- IFP
- PAC
- SACP
- UCDP
- UDM

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

**Mapping**  
Elections violence map

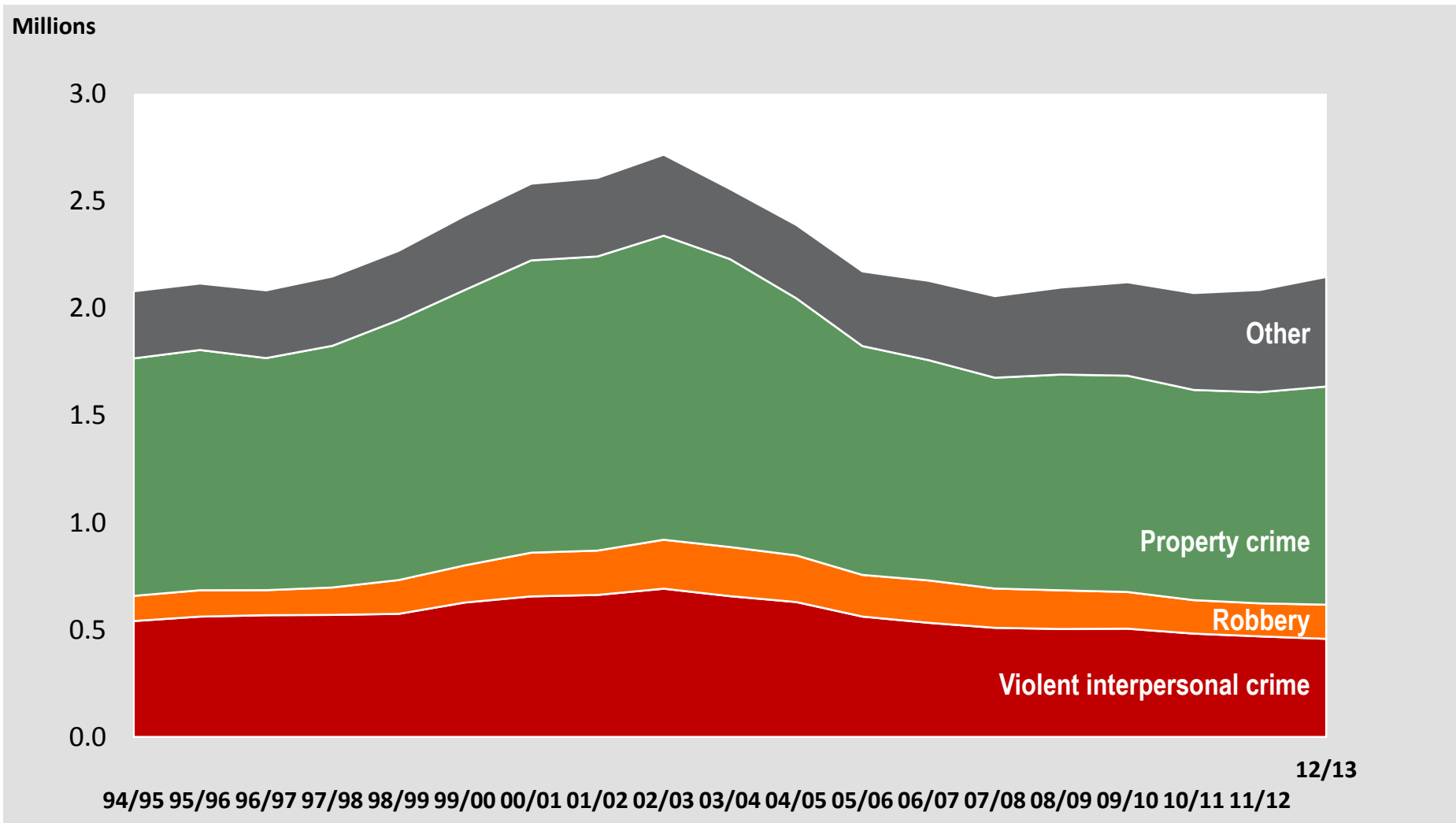
**News**  
SA elections results: from the polls to Parliament

**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



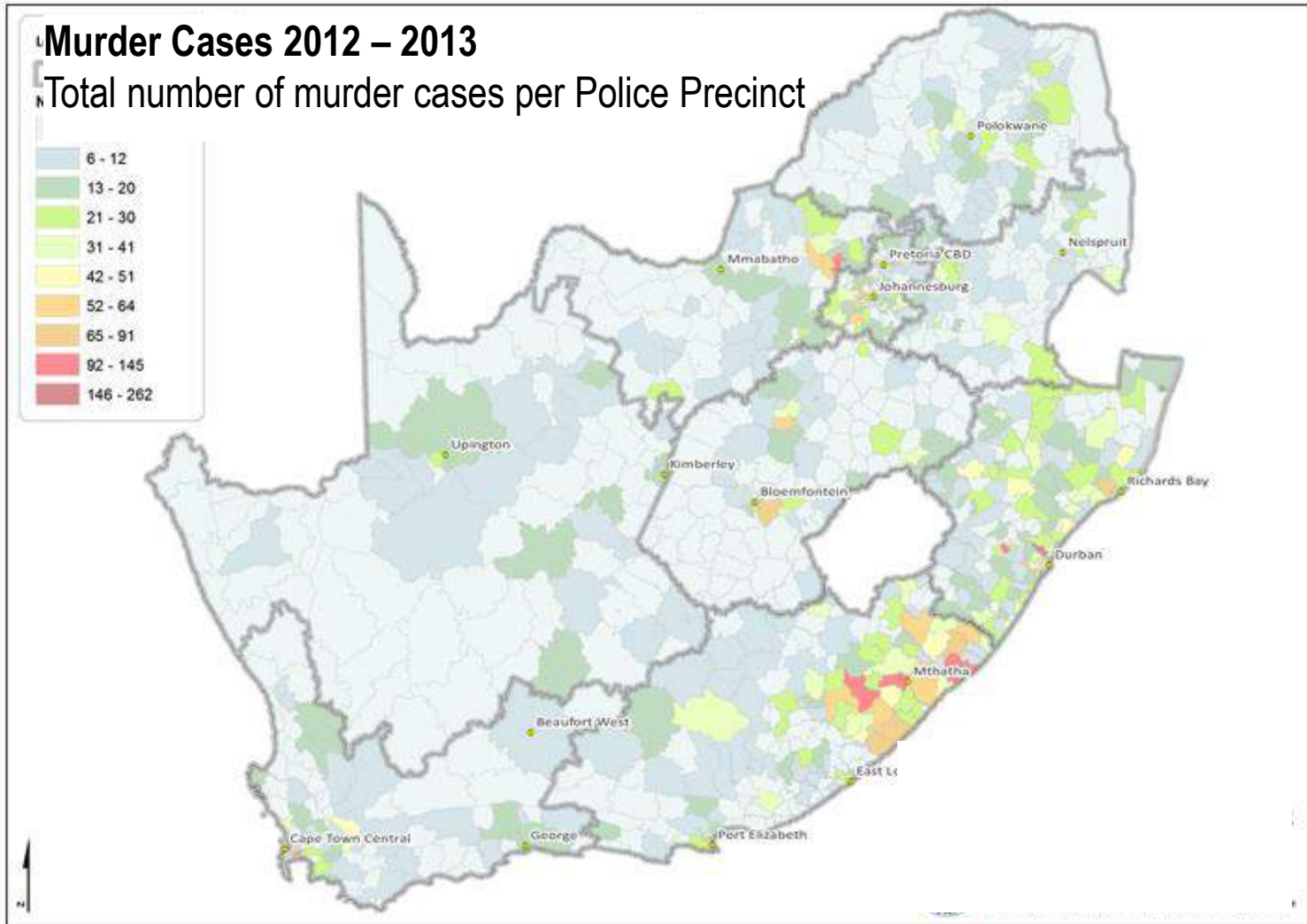
**TOTALS**  
**16 259 murders**

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

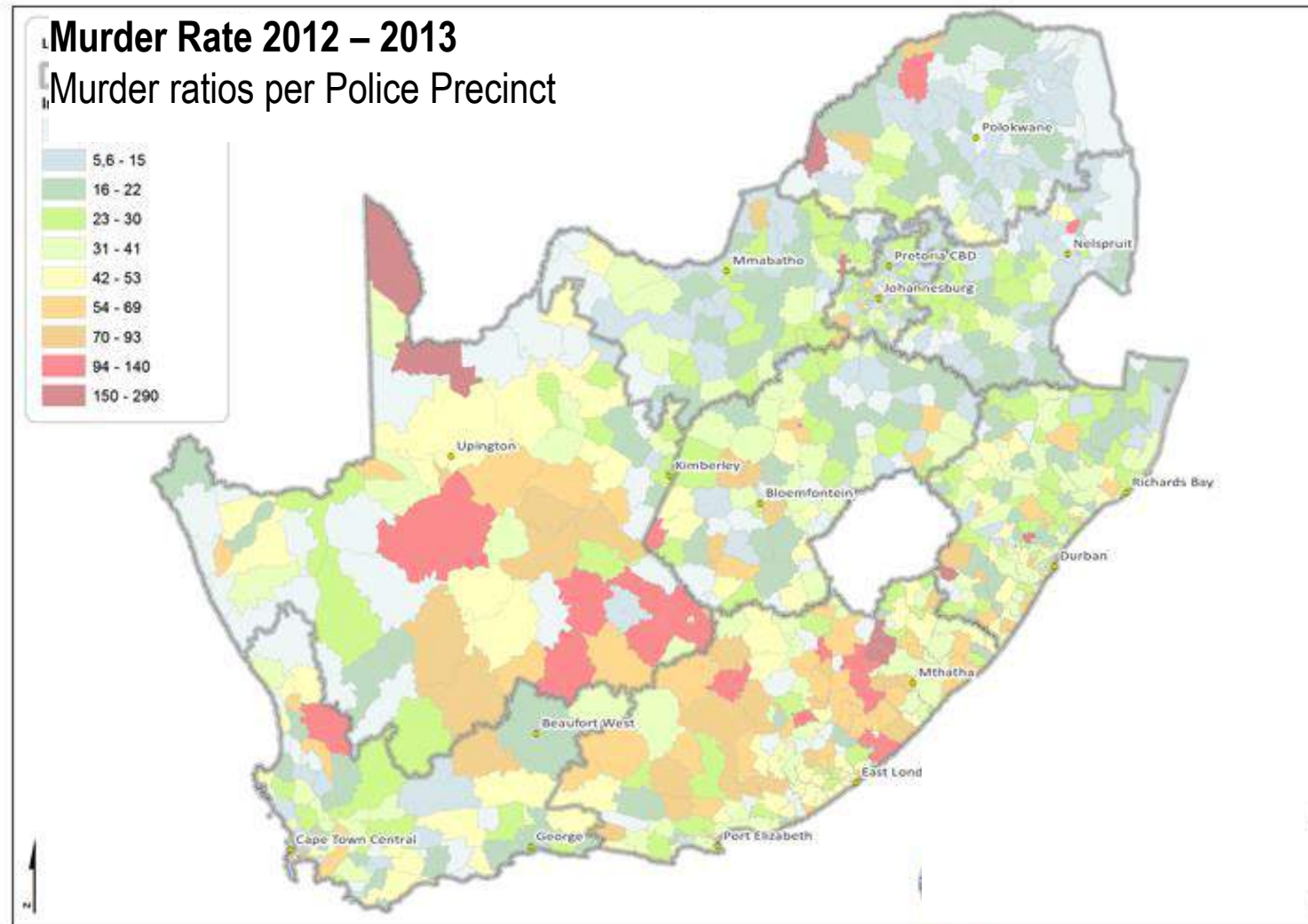
**RATIOS**  
**31.1 murders**  
**per 100 000**  
**people**

- 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

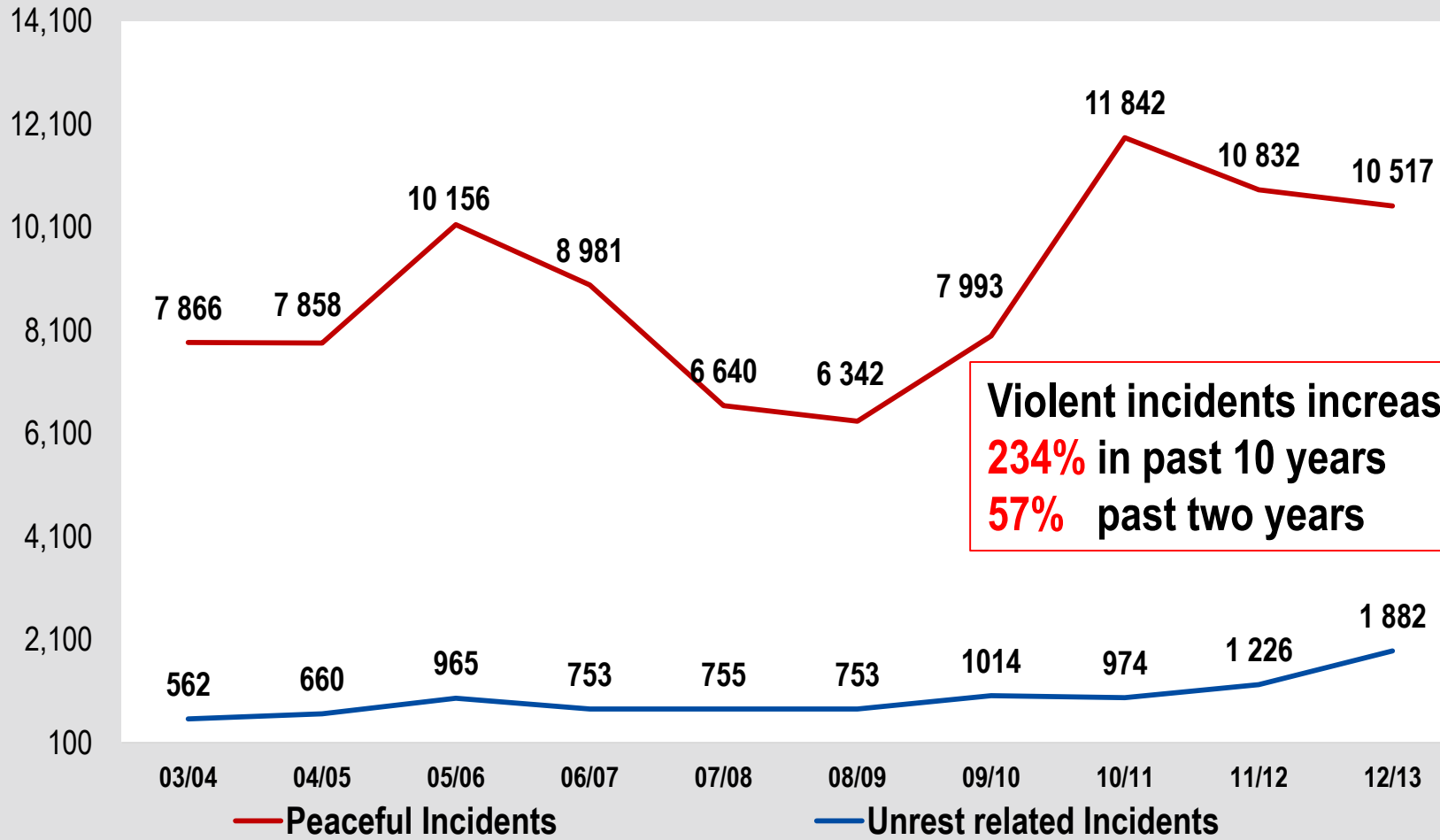




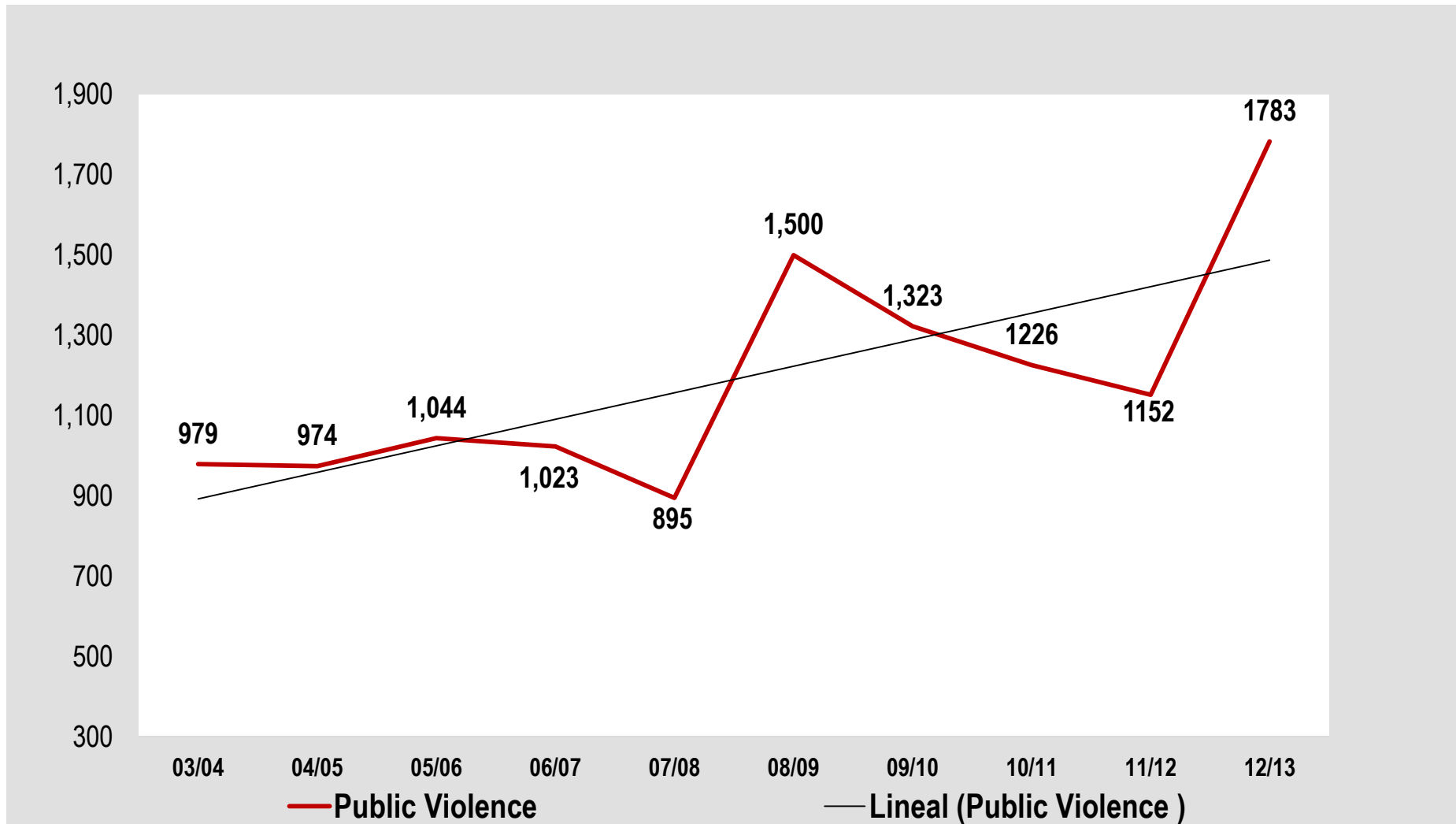
# POLICE STATISTICS: PUBLIC ORDER INCIDENTS

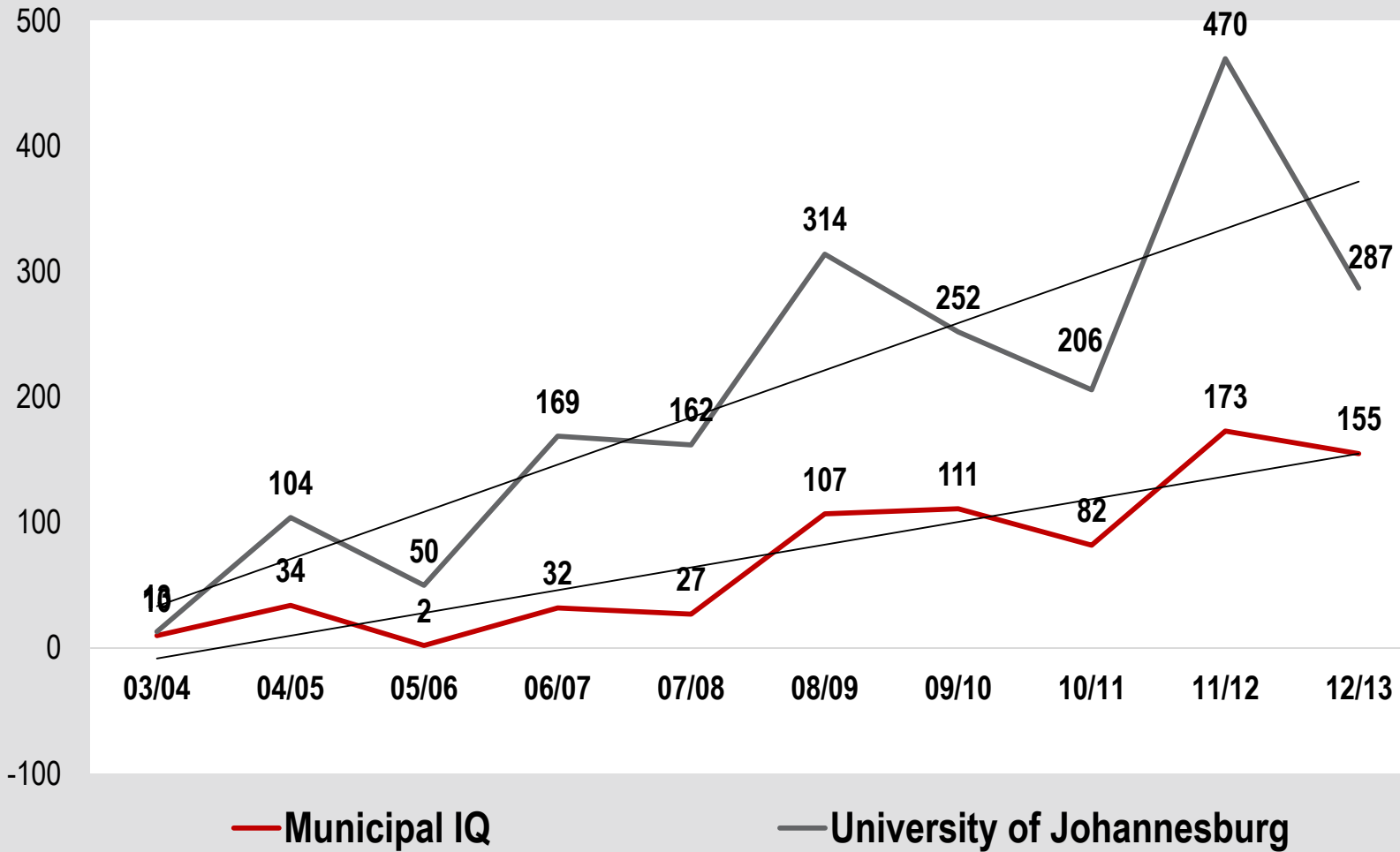
**Peaceful incidents:** Crowd related assemblies, gatherings that are peaceful

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



# CRIMINAL CASES RELATING TO PUBLIC VIOLENCE





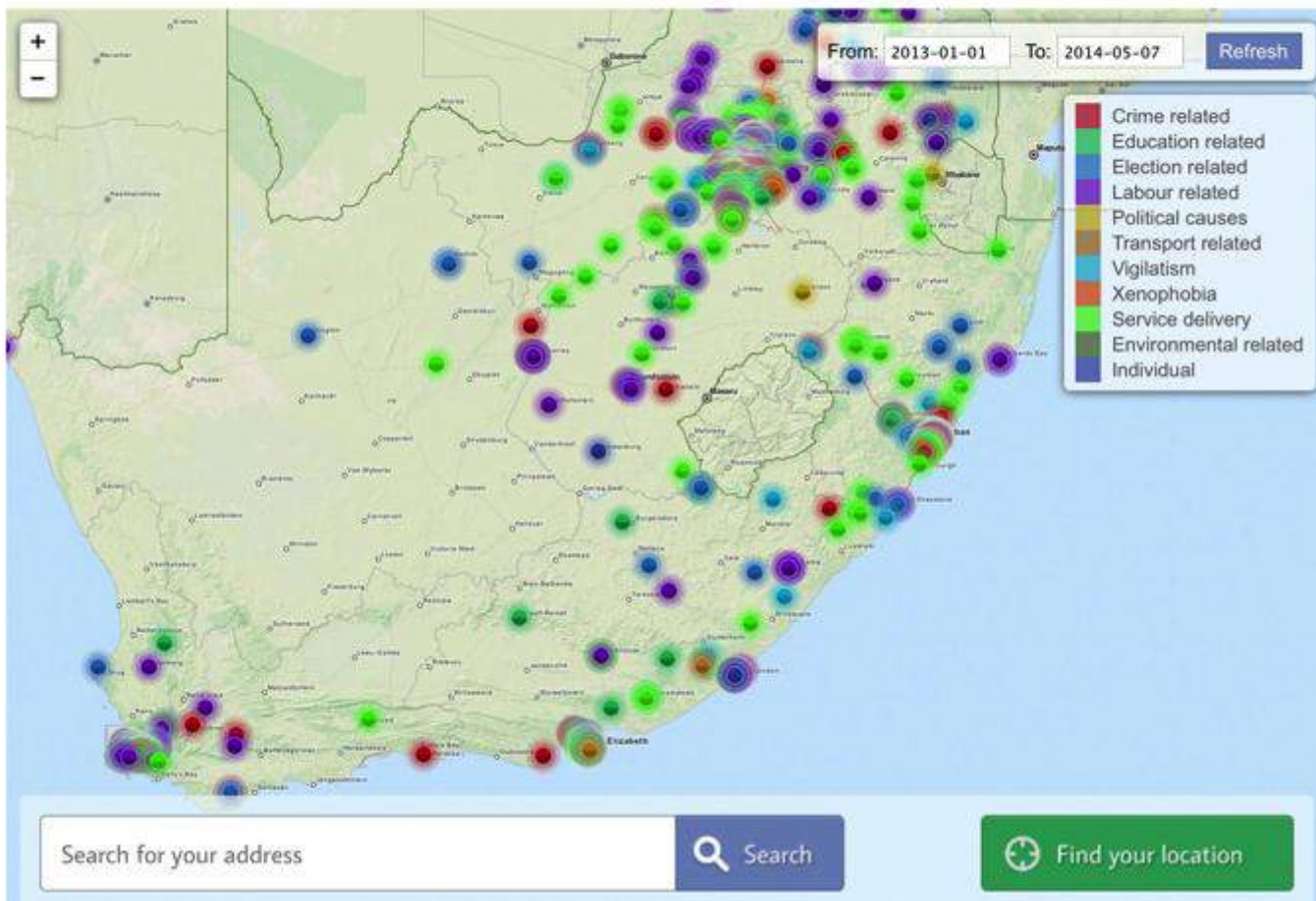
Publicly available, interactive online public violence mapping

## 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

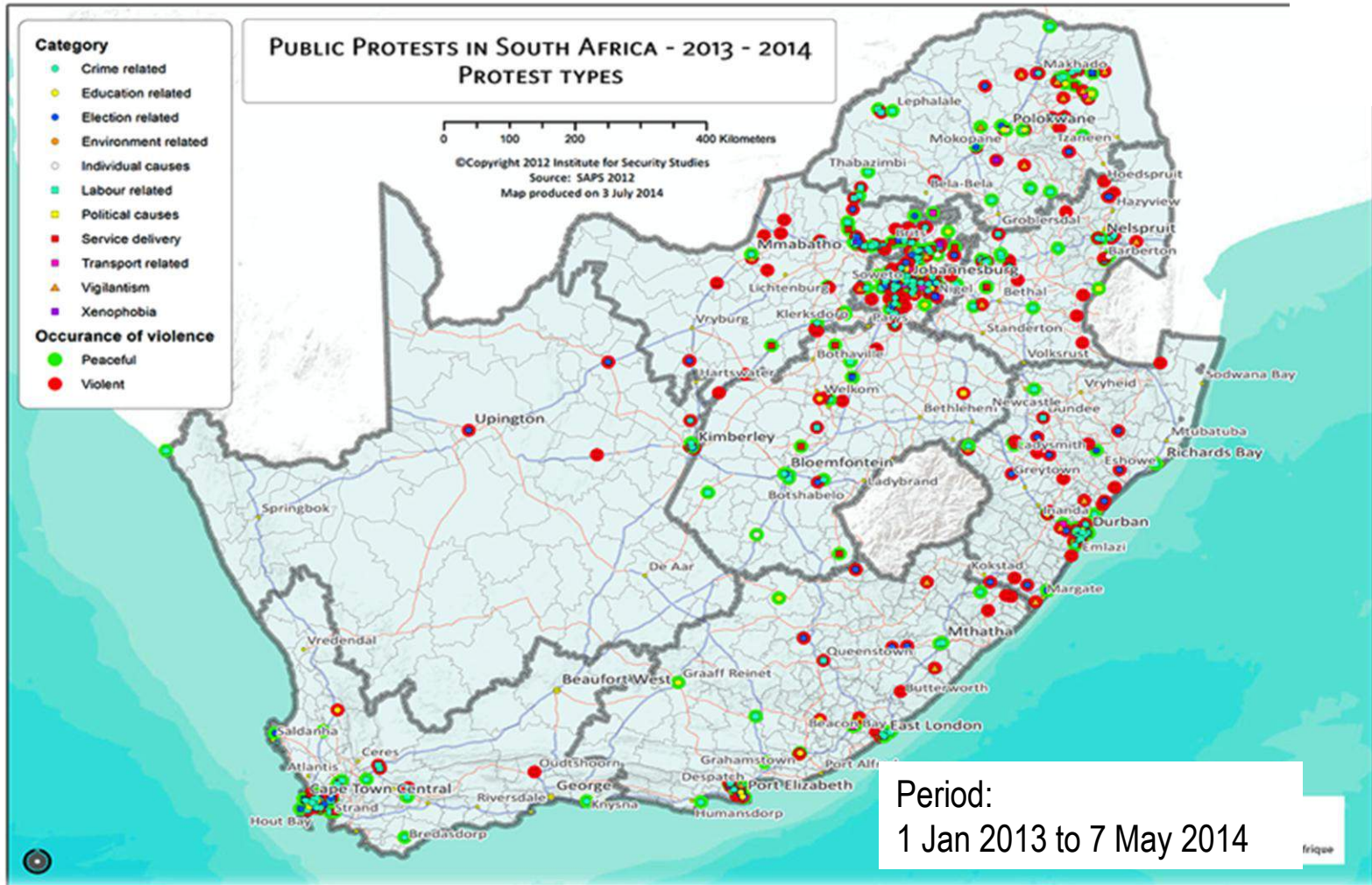


# PUBLIC INCIDENTS & VIOLENCE MONITORED

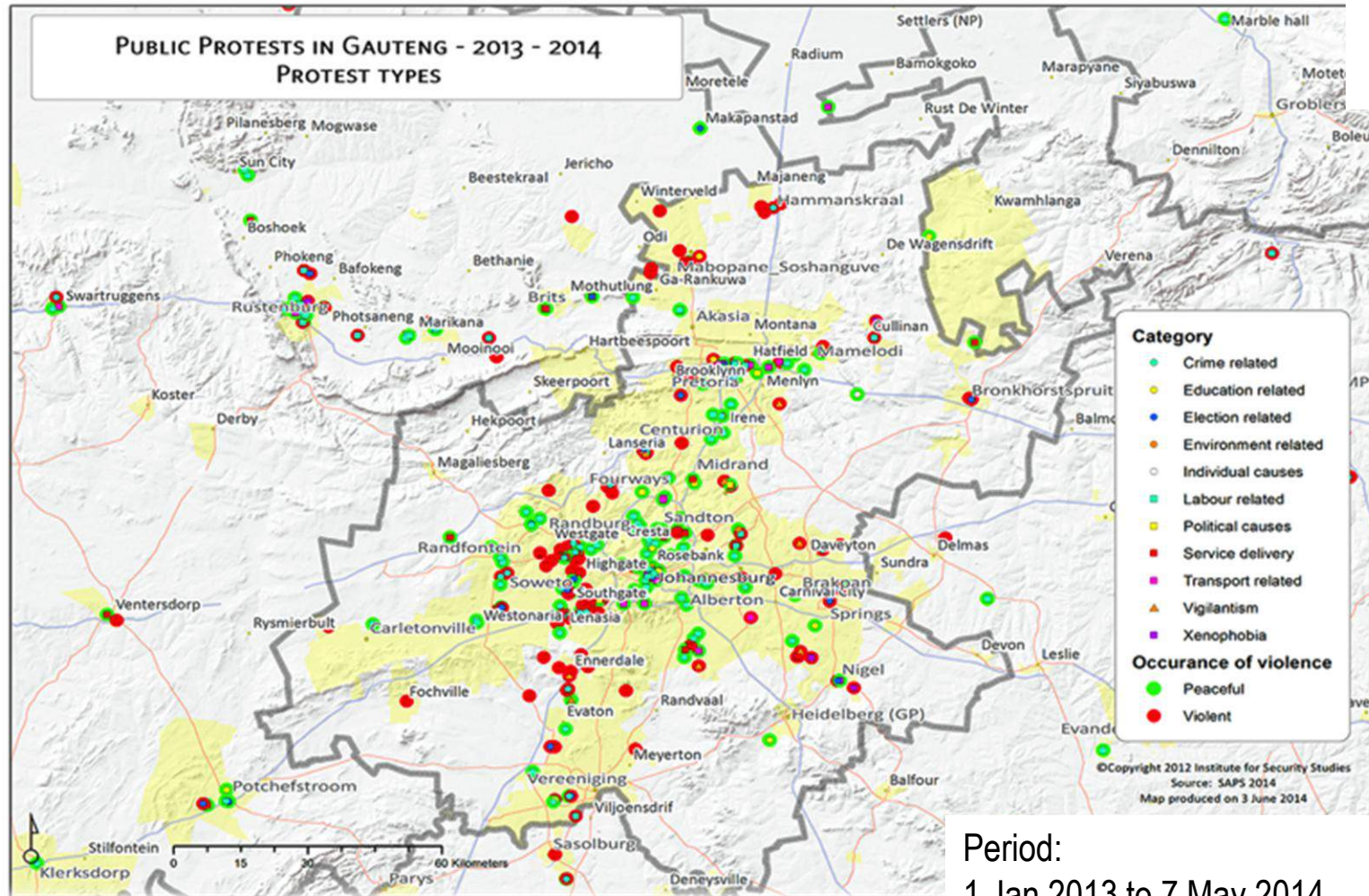
Category	Number	% Peaceful	% Violent
Labour related strikes and marches	281	79%	21%
Community protests about govt 'service delivery'	277	24%	76%
Crime/ police related protests (high profile incidents)	121	75%	25%
Election related incidents (campaign events & marches)	97	30%	70%
Education related protests (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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>

- 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.

# DISTRIBUTION: SOUTH AFRICA



# DISTRIBUTION: GAUTENG PROVINCE



Period:  
1 Jan 2013 to 7 May 2014

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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