



## **OPEN-SOURCE GUN INCIDENTS (OGI) IN GHANA**

**1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER, JANUARY - MARCH 2025**

**FROM RESEARCH TEAM**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From the Ghana Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons' first quarter 2025 monitoring of violent incidents in Ghana, the number of gun violence incidents tracked amounted to fifty-three (53). This marks a rise by 38 incidents representing 72% when compared to the first quarter of 2024 which recorded 15 gun violence incidents. When the data is compared to the last quarter of 2024, there is an increase, albeit slow in gun violent incidents as 47 gun violence incidents were recorded in the last quarter of 2024 compared to the 53 incidents recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

The report highlights a **dramatic 253.3% increase** in gun violence incidents, rising from **15 in first quarter of 2024 to 53 in first quarter of 2025**, with the Ashanti, North East, and Northern regions recording the highest surges. Gun violence was heavily concentrated in the **Middle Zone**, contributing 45% of total cases, followed by the Northern (38%) and Coastal zones (17%). Armed robbery, violent confrontations, and chieftaincy disputes were the leading causes of incidents, collectively accounting for over 60% of reported cases.

The report also indicates that **males were both the primary perpetrators (59%) and victims (67%)** of gun violence, with **64 out of 72 deaths** occurring among men. A significant number of weapons (54%) found at crime scenes were unidentified, posing a major challenge for tracing and controlling arms proliferation. Gun-related crimes extended to **15 out of 16 regions** in 2025, compared to just 9 in 2024, demonstrating a widening geographic spread and intensifying national security concern.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The open source report provides data for the first quarter of 2025 spanning from January to March 2025. A total of 53 gun related incidents were reported by various media outlets, mostly online such as citinewsroom.com, myjoyonline.com, 3news.com etc., along with information from the commission's regional officers and further investigation from the various regional Police Commands. The report makes comparison of the first quarter of 2024 and same period in 2025 with a focus on monthly gun incidents, types of gun violence incidents and regional distribution of gun related incidents.

The report addresses the five thematic areas; monthly gun incidents, comparison between 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025, weapons at scene, regional distribution, suspects and victims involved, and the casualties (injuries and fatalities) resulting from these crimes.

### 1.1 Monthly Gun Violence incidents for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025

*Table 1: Monthly incidents 2025*

<b>Months</b>	<b>No. of Incidents 2025</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
January	14	26
February	17	32
March	22	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above table, the data shows that the month of January recorded 14 incidents representing 26% while the month of February recorded 17 incidents representing 32%. The month of March saw a 10% increase in gun violence incidents as 22 cases were recorded representing 42%. The analysis of the data indicates that, on average, Ghana recorded 17.6 (18) issues of gun violence in the period under review.

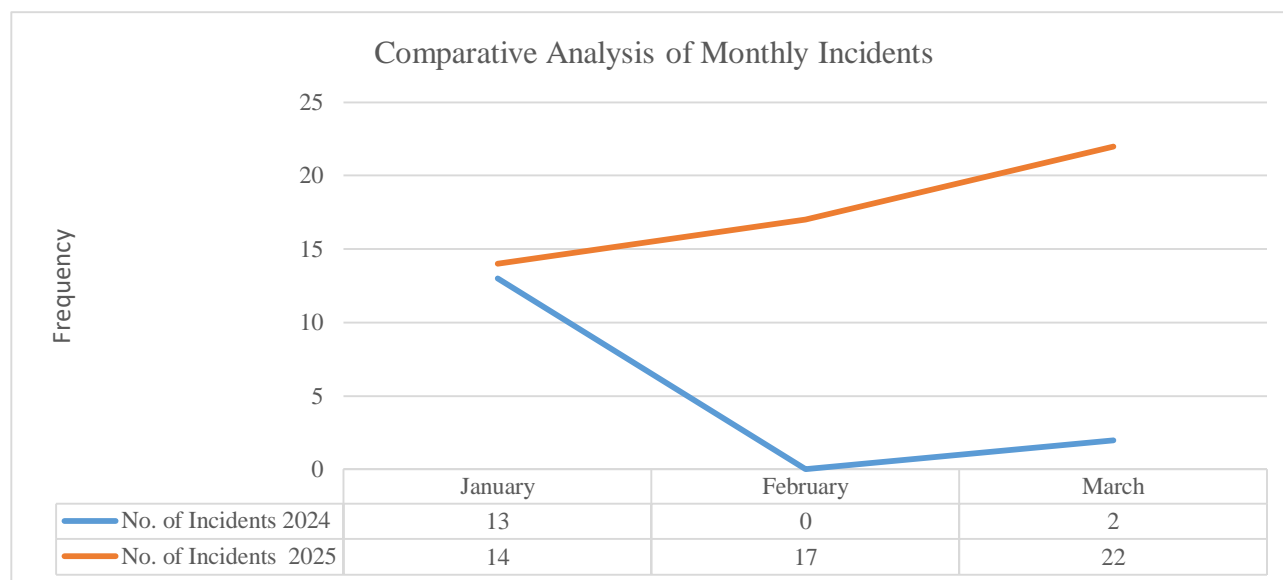
## 1.2 Comparative Analysis of Gun Violence First Quarter 2024 and 2025

*Table 2: Comparative Analysis of Gun Violence (first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2025)*

Months	No. of Incidents 2024	PERCENTAGE (%)	No. of Incidents 2025	PERCENTAGE (%)
January	13	86.7%	14	26%
February	0	0%	17	32%
March	2	13.3%	22	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>

When the first quarter of 2025 is compared to the first quarter of 2024, the data points to a sharp increase in gun violence in the country with the first quarter of 2024 recording 15 cases. However, the data shows that the first quarter of 2025 recorded 38 cases representing a 55.8% rise in gun violence in the country when compared to same period in 2024. This sharp escalation underscores a growing concern regarding gun violence year-over-year.

**Figure 1**



*Figure 1: Comparative Analysis of Gun Violence (first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2025)*

The data shows a significant rise in gun-related incidents in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. In January, the number of incidents increased from 13 in 2024 to 14 in 2025, representing a 7.7% increase. In February, the increase is stark, from 0 incidents in 2024 to 17 in 2025, marking a 100% increase, since there were no reported incidents the previous year. March saw an even more dramatic rise, with incidents jumping from 2 in 2024 to 22 in 2025, translating to a 1000% increase. Overall, the total number of gun incidents for the first quarter surged from 15 in 2024 to 53 in 2025, reflecting a 253.3% increase across the quarter. This sharp escalation underscores a growing concern regarding gun violence year-over-year.

### 1.3 Types of Crime Indicators

*Table 3: Types of Crime Indicators first quarter 2025*

Types of incidents	Frequency	Percentage
Armed Robbery	17	32
Violent Confrontation	12	23
Chieftaincy	7	13
Land Dispute	5	9
Indiscriminate Shooting	4	7
Murder	4	8
Firearms possession	2	4
Celebratory shooting	1	2
Ambush	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 4: Comparative Analysis of Types of Crime Indicators (first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2025)*

Types of incidents	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025
Armed Robbery	4	17
Violent Confrontation	0	12
Chieftaincy	0	7
Land Dispute	0	5
Indiscriminate Shooting	6	4
Murder	5	4
Firearms possession	0	2
Celebratory shooting	0	1
Ambush	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>53</b>

The comparative data reveals a significant increase in the frequency and diversity of gun-related incidents in the first quarter of 2025 compared to first quarter of 2024. In the first quarter of 2024, only **15 incidents** were reported across a limited range of incident types, while **2025 first quarter recorded 53 incidents**, with a broader spectrum of crimes involving firearms.

**Armed robbery** saw a sharp increase from 4 cases in first quarter of 2024 to 17 in first quarter of 2025, indicating a 325% rise. This suggests a growing use of firearms in criminal activity, particularly theft and robbery. **Violent confrontations, chieftaincy-related disputes, and land disputes** had **no recorded cases in the first quarter of 2024**, but surged in the first quarter of 2025 with **12, 7, and 5 cases** respectively. This demonstrates the emergence of new or escalating conflict types involving firearms.

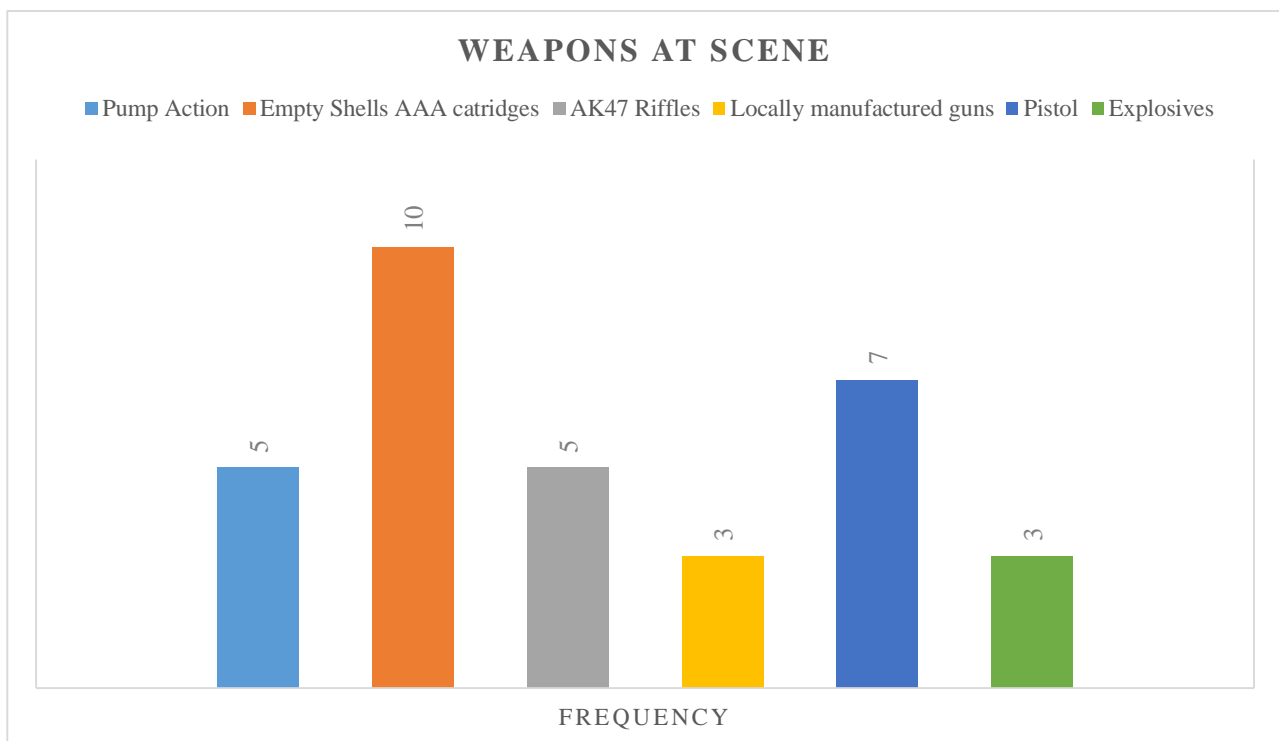
**Indiscriminate shootings** decreased slightly from 6 to 4 cases, and **murder cases** also dropped from 5 to 4, suggesting that while lethal intent remains, its share among incident types may have diminished. Other categories such as **firearms possession, celebratory shooting, and ambush**, which were not reported in the first quarter of 2024, appeared in the first quarter of 2025, showing a diversification in how guns are being used or misused.

### 1.3 Types of Weapons at Scene

*Table 5: Types of weapons at scene*

Weapons at scene	Frequency	Percentage
Pump Action	5	7
Empty Shells AAA cartridge	10	14
AK47 Rifles	5	7
Locally manufactured gun	3	4
Pistol	7	10
Explosives	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

*Figure 2*



*Figure 2: Types of weapons at scene*

The data collected so far reveals that between January and March 2025, 33 guns were found at crime scenes. Of these, 10 Empty shells AAA cartridges were recovered, accounting for 14%, 7 pistols accounting for 10%, 5 pump actions guns accounting for 7%, while locally manufactured guns and explosives made up 4% each. However, 39 unidentified weapons were found at crime scenes, making 54%. This presents a significant challenge, as it complicates efforts to determine the true number of illegal firearms circulating throughout the country.

#### 1.4 Regional Distribution of Gun Violence Incidents (*first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2025*)

Gun-related incidents in Ghana increased sharply from **15 cases in 9 regions** in the first quarter of 2024 to 53 cases across 16 regions in first quarter 2025, representing a **253.3% overall rise**. The **Ashanti Region** saw the highest jump (from 3 to 12 cases), while several regions, including **North East, Northern, Volta, and Greater Accra** reported incidents for the first time. Only **Upper East, Central, and Western** regions recorded no change, and **Upper West** remained incident-free. This surge indicates both a rise in frequency and wider geographic spread, signaling an urgent need for targeted national intervention. The Western region, Bono East region, and Eastern recorded 1 incident each making 2% respectively. The Upper West region reported no incidents. *See table 6 below*

*Table 6: Regional Distribution of Gun Incidents (first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2025)*

Region of Incidents	2024 Count of Incidents	2025 Count of Incidents
Ashanti	3	12
North East	0	7
Northern	0	6
Upper East	5	5
Volta	0	4
Bono	1	3
Oti	2	3
Central	2	2
Greater Accra	0	2
Western North	0	2
Savannah	0	2
Ahafo	0	2
Western	1	1
Eastern	0	1
Bono East	0	1
Upper West	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>53</b>

In the 1st quarter of 2024, gun related incidents were recorded in 9 administrative regions of the country as compared to 15 regions in first quarter of 2025. The comparative regional data on gun-related incidents between the first quarters of 2024 and 2025 reveals a widespread and alarming increase in cases across most parts of the country.

The Ashanti Region recorded the highest rise, from 3 incidents in 2024 first quarter to 12 in 2025 first quarter—a 300% increase. The North East and Northern Regions, which had no incidents in first quarter of 2024, recorded 7 and 6 incidents respectively in first quarter of 2025, representing a 100% increase from a zero baseline. Similarly, the Volta Region rose from 0 to 4 incidents, Bono from 1 to 3 (200%), and Oti from 2 to 3 (50%). The Central and Western Regions showed no change, maintaining 2 and 1 incidents respectively. Meanwhile, the Upper East Region remained constant at 5 incidents, reflecting stability in that area.

Additional increases were observed in Greater Accra, Western North, Savannah, and Ahafo Regions, all of which recorded 2 incidents in 2025 first quarter after having none in 2024 first quarter—a 100% increase each. The Eastern and Bono East Regions also moved from 0 to 1 incident, while the Upper West Region saw no change, maintaining 0 incidents in first quarter of both years. Overall, the national count surged from 15 incidents in the first quarter of 2024 to 53 in the same period of 2025, representing a 253.3% increase. This dramatic rise suggests a growing concern with the proliferation and misuse of firearms, calling for urgent, coordinated security interventions and policy responses at both local and national levels.

In the 1st quarter of 2025, gun related incidents were recorded in 15 administrative regions of Ghana with the exception of Upper West region which had no incident. This clearly highlight an increase in gun related incidents across regions, compared to the 14 regions that recorded such incidents in the 4th quarter of 2024.

Three (3) out of the 16 regions recorded gun incidents above 5 in 2025. Together they contribute 47% of the total cases. Ashanti region leads the incident count after recording 12 incidents. This is 5 times more than the North East and Greater Accra region cases and 6 times more than Northern region.

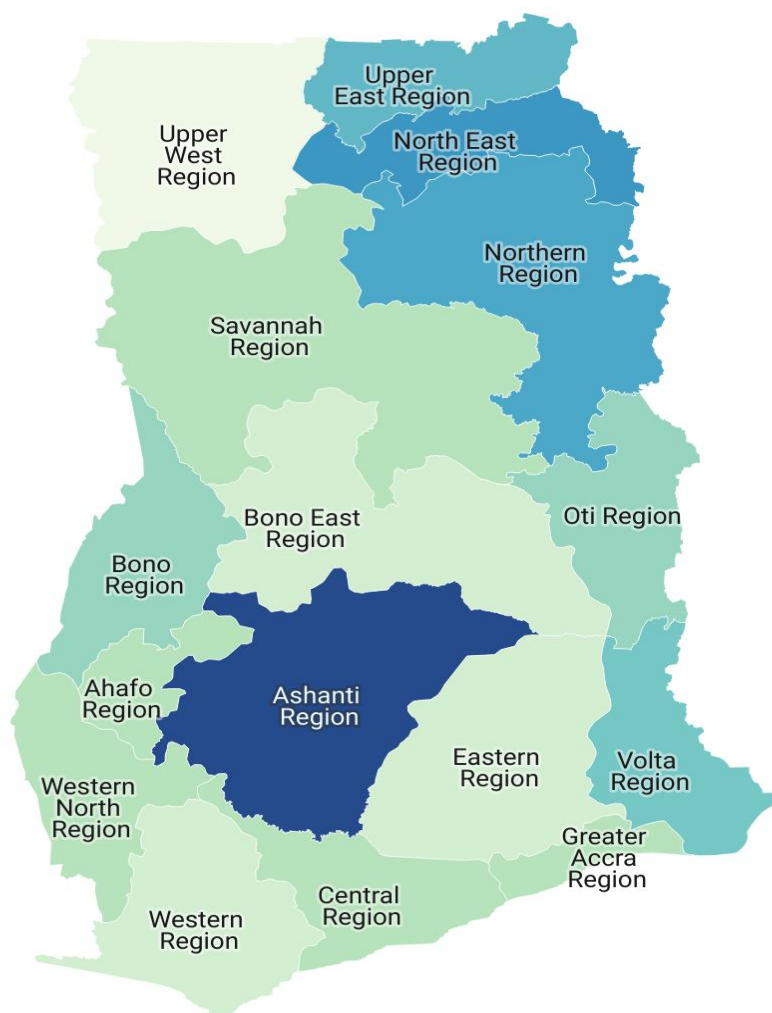
At the zonal level, the middle zone (Ashanti, Eastern, Oti, Western North, Bono, Bono East and Ahafo) recorded the highest counts with 24 incidents representing 45% followed with the Northern zone (Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah and Northern) recorded 20 incidents

representing 38%. The Coastal regions (Greater Accra, Central, Western and Volta) contributed 9 incidents representing 17%. From this point of view, it can be observed that gun incidents in Ghana is distributed more in the middle zones in Ghana compared to the Northern and Coastal zones. The **Map** below shows the regional distribution of the incidents recorded.

## Regional Distribution of Gun Incidents

January - March 2025

VALUE



Map: NACSA Research Team • Map data: © OSM • Created with Datawrapper

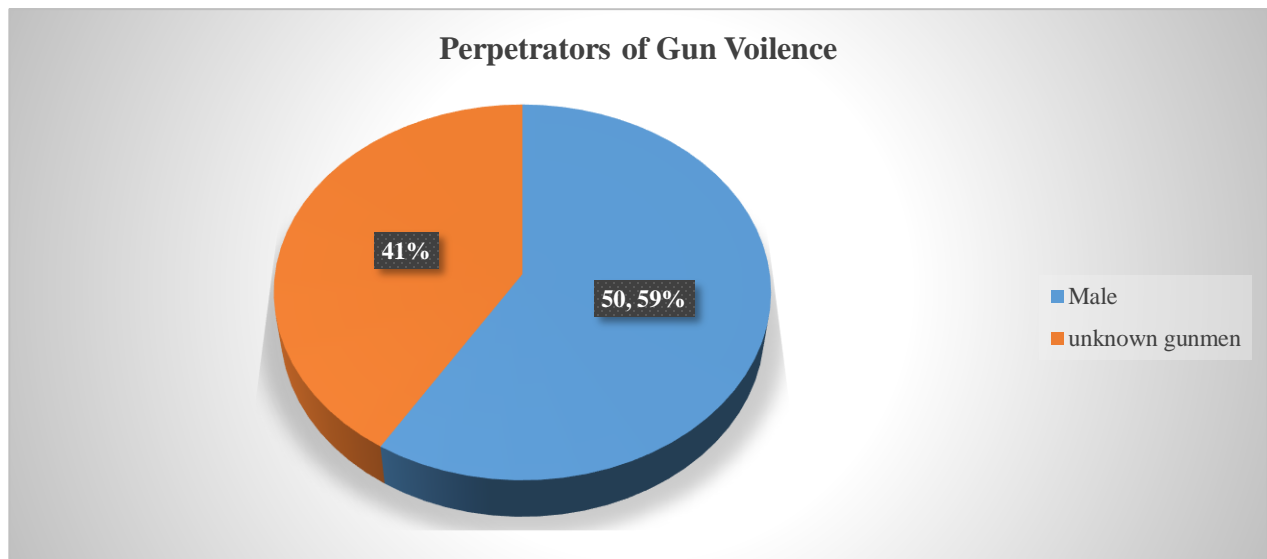
*Figure 3: Regional distribution of gun incidents (first quarter 2025)*

### 1.5 Perpetrators of Gun Violence Incidents (*first quarter 2025*)

*Table 7: Perpetrators of Gun Incidents*

Perpetrators	Frequency	Percentage
Male	50	59
Unknown	35	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

*Figure 4*



*Figure 4: Perpetrators of gun violence*

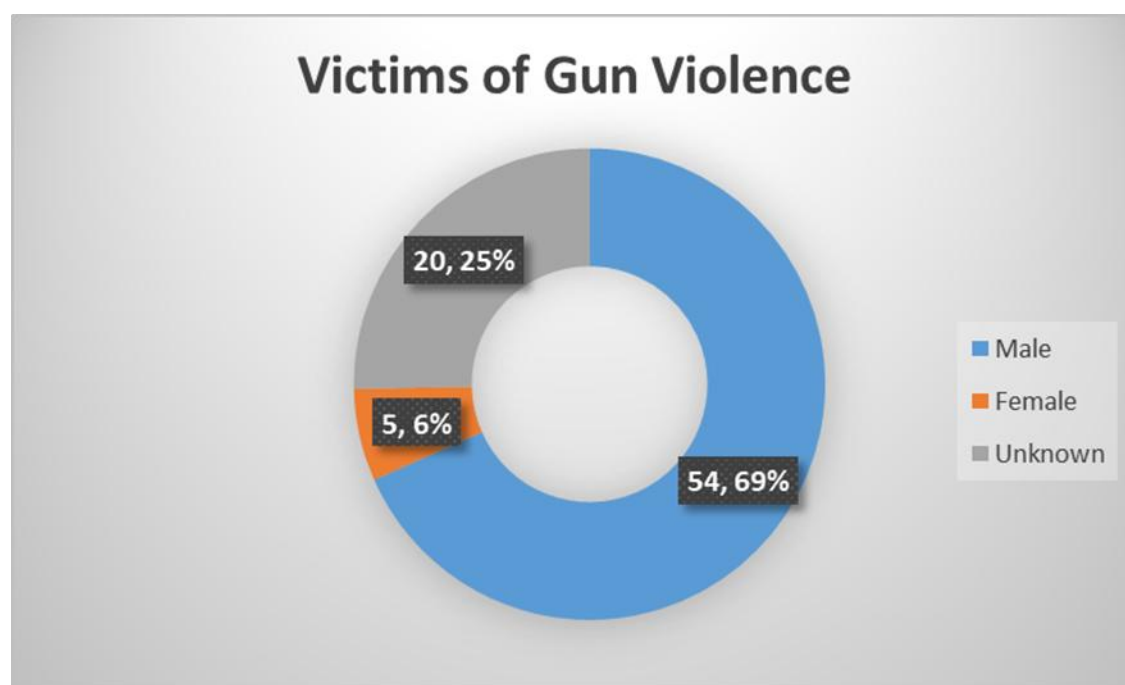
In the first quarter of 2025, a total of 85 individuals were involved in gun related incidents under the perpetrators category. This includes 50 males, accounting for 59%, and 35 unknown accounting for 41% with the gender being undetermined in the case. There was no record of a female perpetrator. This could be an indication of a general pattern in society that men are more likely to engage in gun related activities such as armed robbery among other violent interaction.

## 1.6 Victims of Gun Violence Incidents (first quarter 2025)

*Table 8: Victims of Gun Incidents*

Victim of Gun violence	Frequency	Percentage
Men	56	69
Women	5	6
Unknown	20	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>

*Figure 5*



*Figure 5: Victims of gun violence*

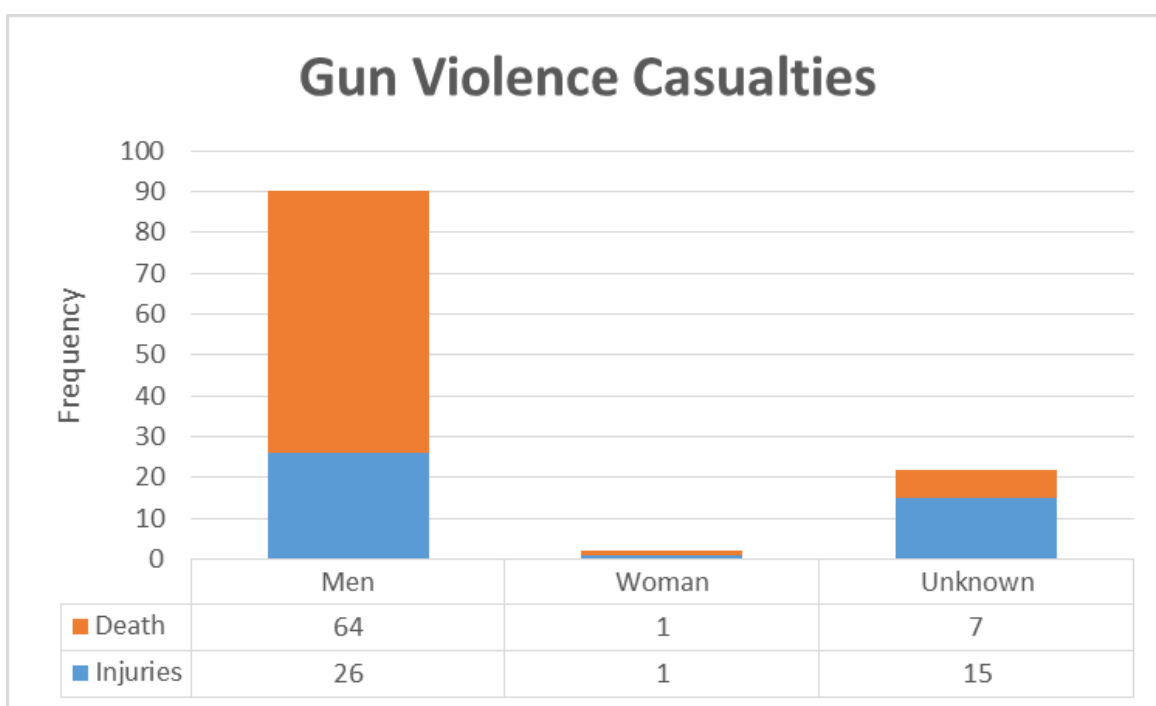
In the victim category, a total of 81 individuals were affected by gun related incidents during the first quarter of 2025. This includes 56 males, making up 67%, 5 females, representing 6%, and 20 individuals whose gender identities were unknown, accounting for 25%. This data emphasizes the rate at which men could be at the receiving end of gun violence.

## 1.7 Gun-Violence Casualties (first quarter 2025)

*Table 9: Gun-violence Casualties, first quarter 2025*

Gender	Injuries	Death
Men	26	64
Women	1	1
Unknown	15	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>72</b>

*Figure 6*



*Figure 6: Gun-violence Casualties, first quarter 2025*

Out of 114 total casualties, 90 were men, including 64 deaths. Men make up 88.9% of all recorded deaths and 61.9% of injuries, confirming their disproportionate vulnerability or exposure to gun violence.

Only 1 death and 1 injury were reported among women, representing just 1.75% of total casualties. This may reflect the societal trend where men are more often involved in violent encounters and activities.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the data from the first quarter of 2025 highlights a concerning rise in the gun related incidents across various regions in Ghana. The majority of those involved in these incidents are men, both as perpetrators and victims, with a significant number of cases where the gender remains undetermined. The report also reveals a troubling number of unidentified weapons at crime scenes, making it difficult to assess the full extent of illegal firearms in circulation in the country. The findings underscore the urgent need for enhanced public awareness, stricter control of firearms, and more effective measures to address gun violence and its impact on national security and public safety.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgement of Media Portals where Monitoring was conducted.

1. [Www.citinewsroom.com](http://www.citinewsroom.com)
2. [Www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com)
3. [Www.3news.com](http://www.3news.com)
4. [Www.dailyguidenetwork.com](http://www.dailyguidenetwork.com)
5. [Www.ghanaweb.com](http://www.ghanaweb.com)
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9. [Www.peacefmonline.com](http://www.peacefmonline.com)
10. [Www.starrfm.com](http://www.starrfm.com)

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