

Nigeria Social Violence Project: Data Displays

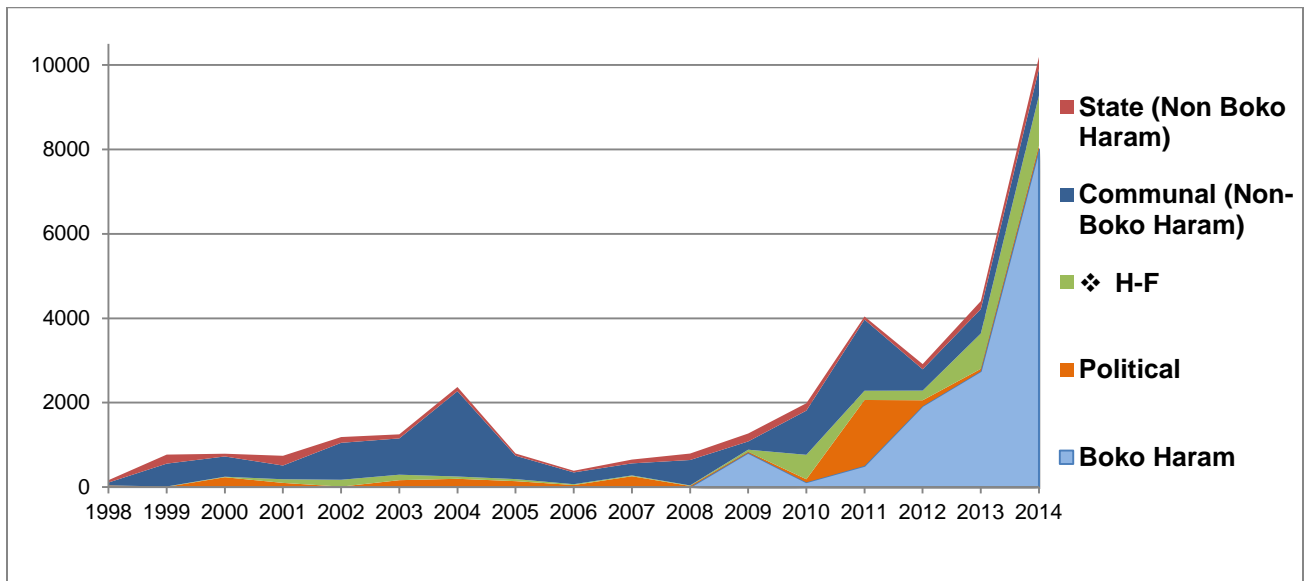
The Nigeria Social Violence Project is based in the African Studies Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) to document social violence in Nigeria from 1998-present. Working from a database of local and international news sources, researchers documented all reported incidents of non-criminal violence in the country, including dates, locations, key actors or divisions, and numbers of casualties.

From January 1998 – December 2014, the dataset records 32,943 deaths from various forms of social violence in Nigeria. Here, we present how violence has evolved over time in Nigeria on both a categorical and regional basis. Overall, our data show two distinct periods in the post-democratic history of social violence in Nigeria. During one period, from 1998-2008, most social violence in Nigeria occurred in the central, southwestern and northwestern states. Casualties resulted from a number of conflicts, such as the one in the Niger Delta, which here is coded as “communal” in nature. From 2009-present, social violence has been concentrated in the northeast, growing substantially and increasingly dominated by the Boko Haram insurgency. In recent years, violence has reached levels unprecedented in Nigeria’s democratic history.

Peter Lewis directs the program. Nate Allen and Hilary Matfess are principal researchers. Thanks also to Nadia van de Walle and Cassady Walters.

Violence by Category

Figure 1: Fatalities in Nigeria from Social Violence, by Category, 1998-2014



- ❖ Herder-Farmer violence. We have distinguished a separate category of violence between herders (pastoralists) and farmers, which is analytically distinct from other types of communal violence and separate from the Boko Haram insurgency. Other categories include: State-related violence apart from the Boko Haram insurgency; Communal conflict (between ethnic/religious/local groups) apart from the insurgency; Political violence (i.e. attributed to partisan actors); Boko Haram, violence by militants or state actors linked to the insurgency.

Figure 2: Evolution of the Boko Haram Insurgency

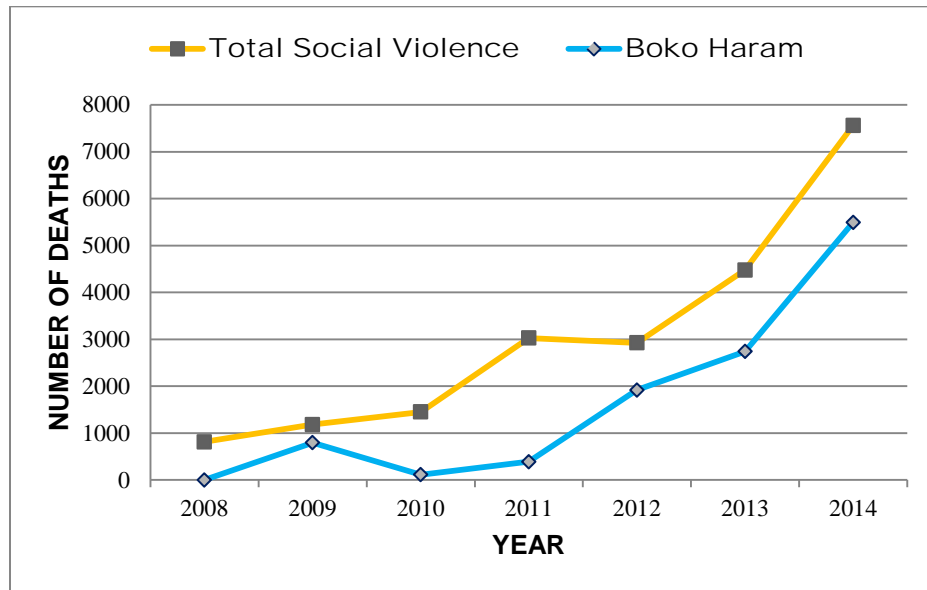
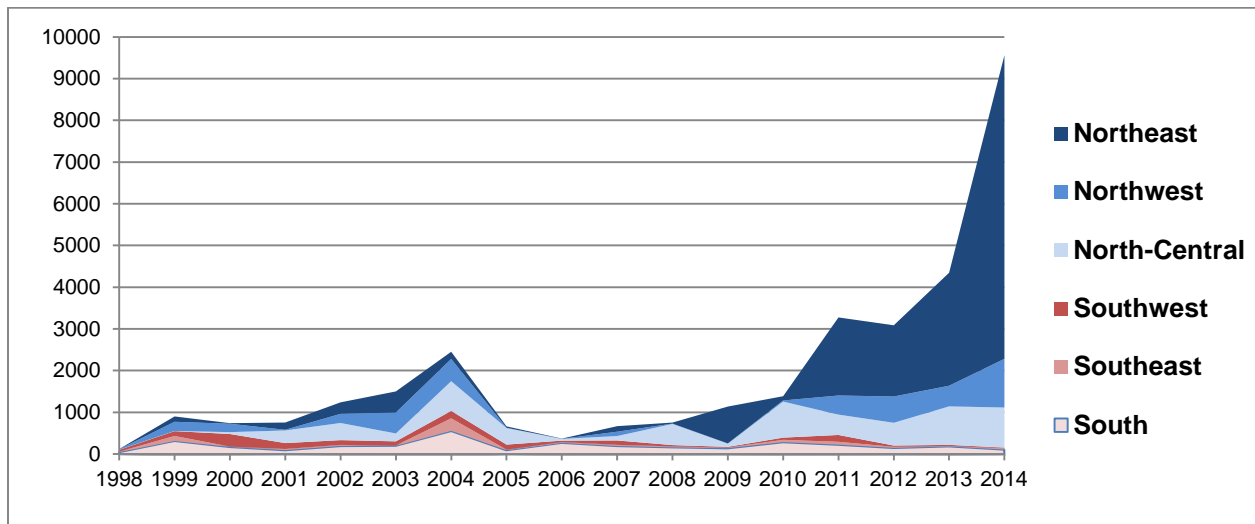


Figure 3: Fatalities in Nigeria from Social Violence, by Region, 1998-2014



Figures 4 & 5: Cumulative Fatalities in Nigeria from Social Violence, by Region, 1998-2008 and 2009-2014

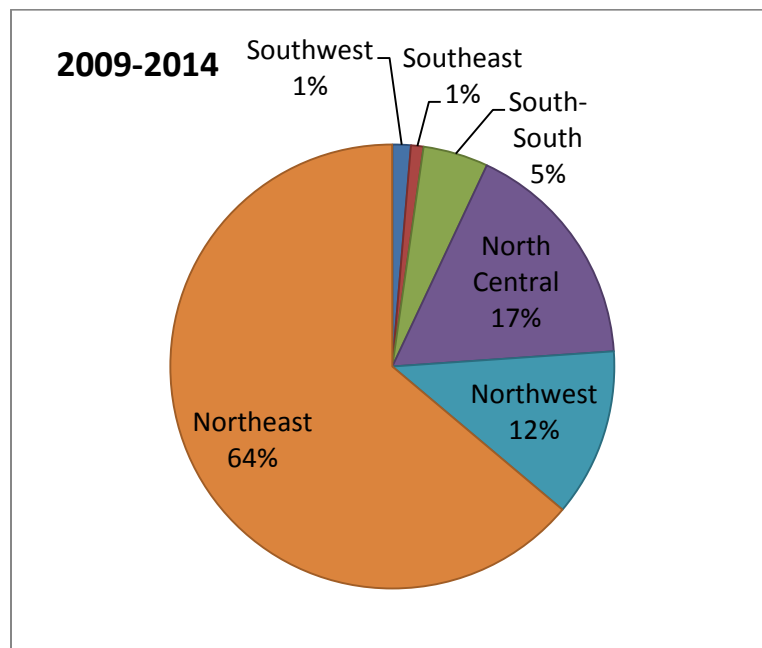
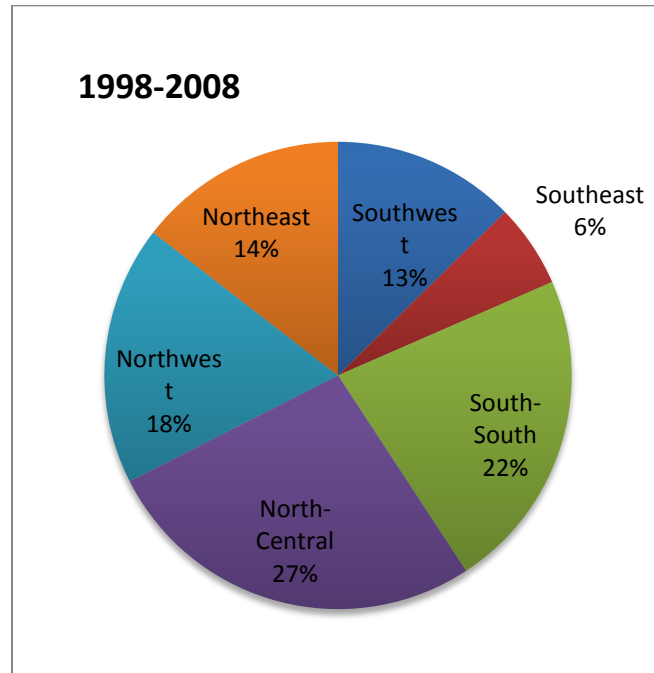


Figure 6: Fatalities from Social Violence in Nigeria, by State, 1998-2008

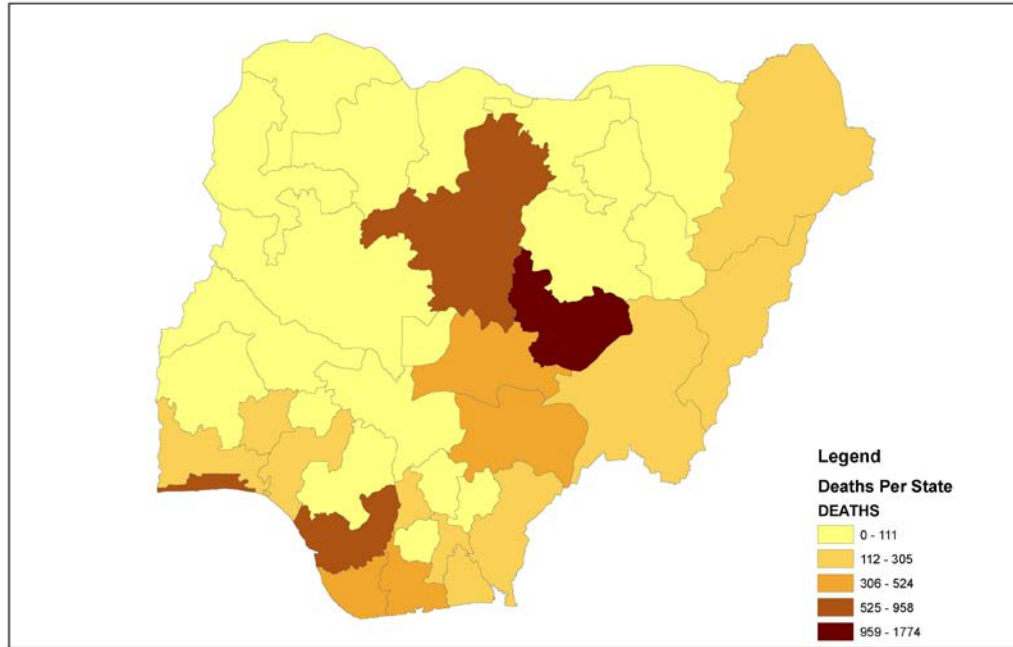


Figure 7: Fatalities from Social Violence in Nigeria, by State, 2009-2015

