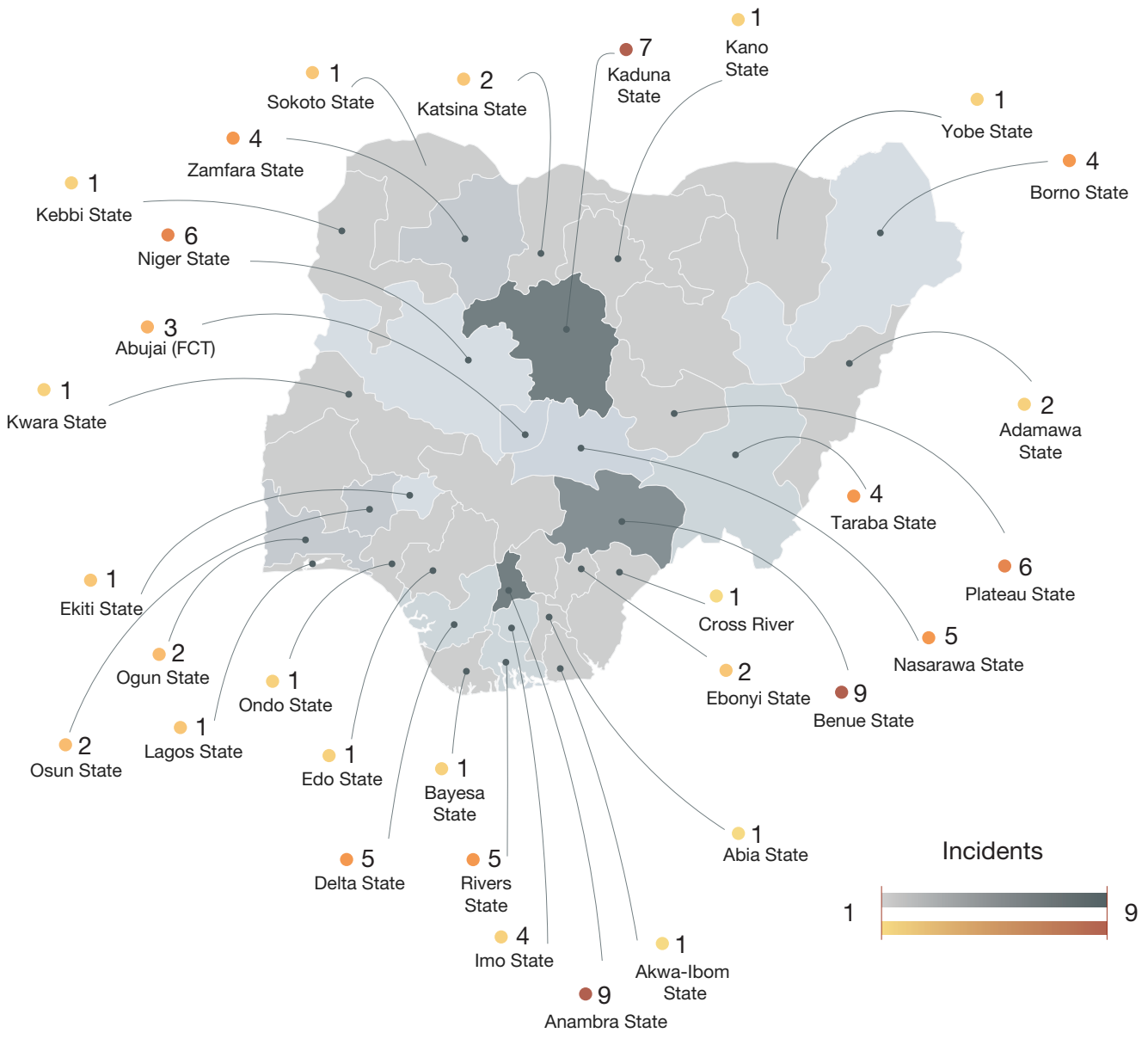
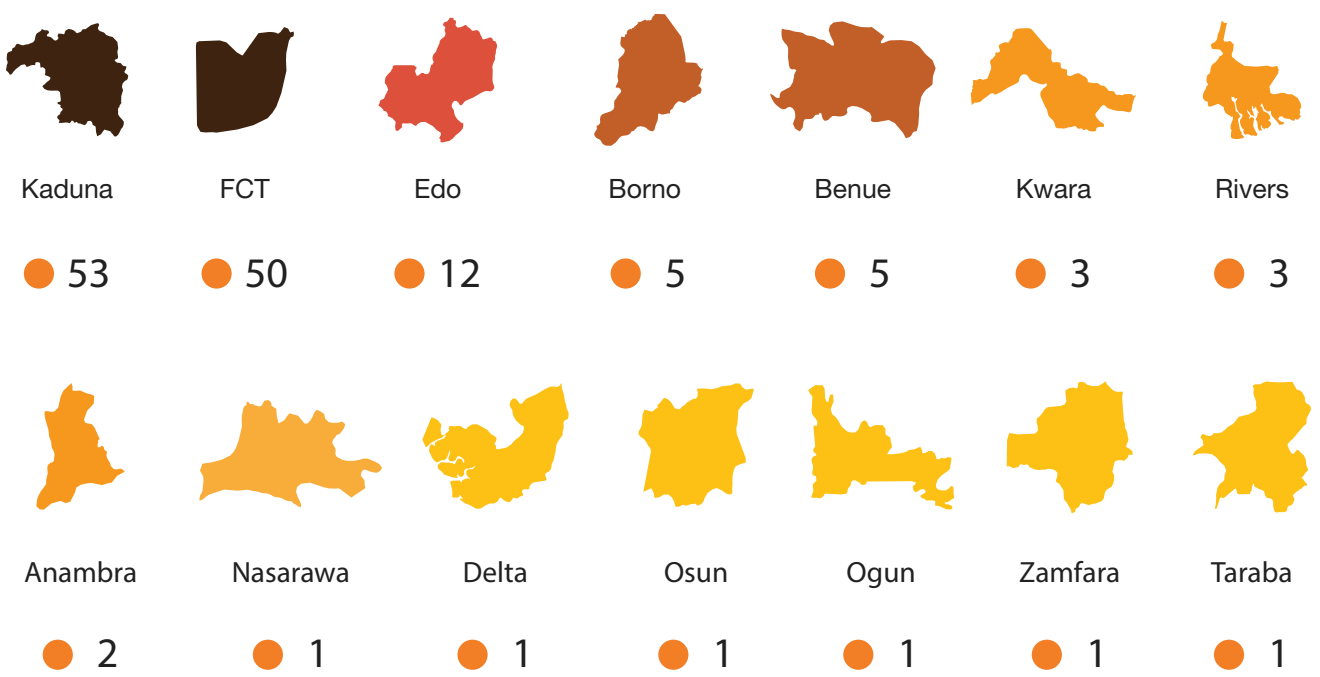


Violent Conflict Incidents Across Nigeria

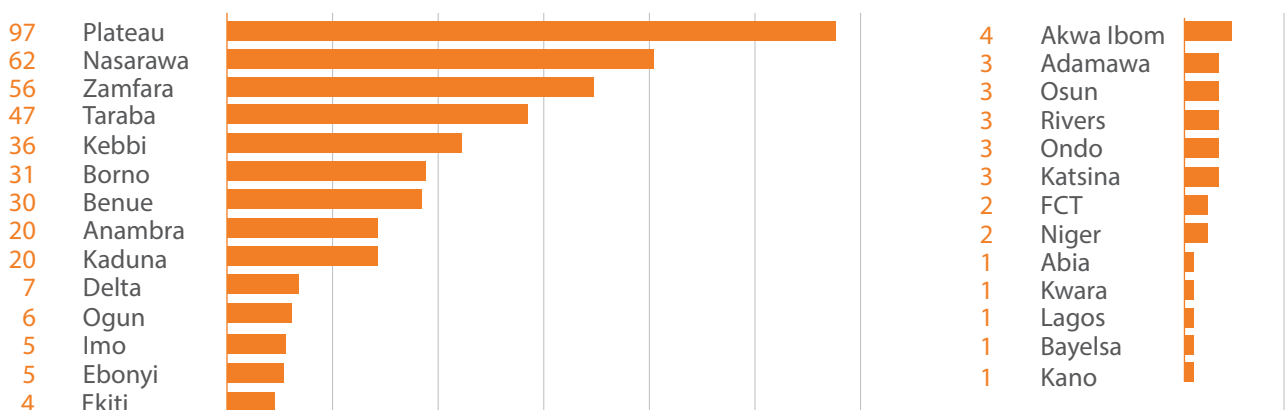


Kidnap Victims by State

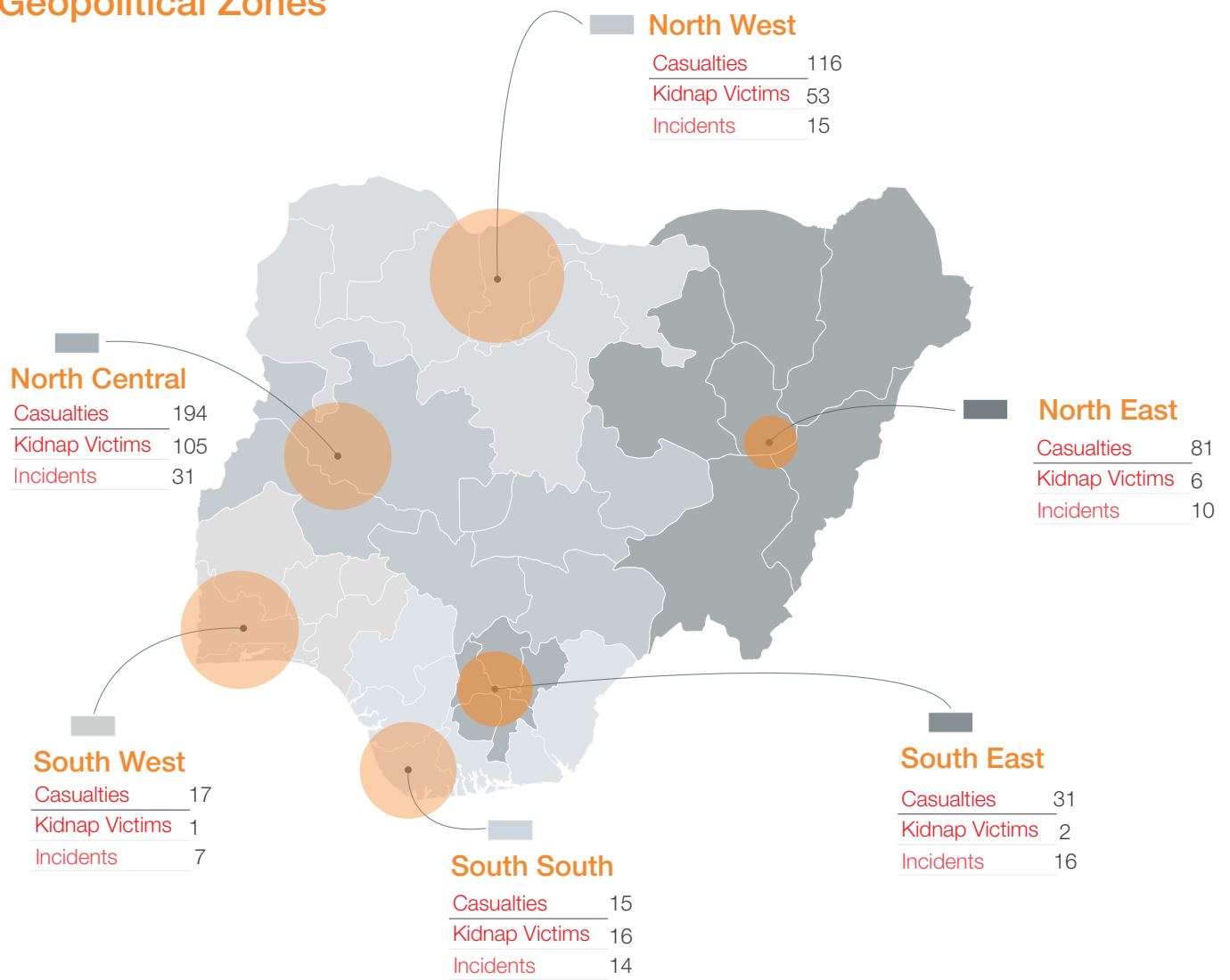
Kidnaped



Casualty Count by State



Regional Data Geopolitical Zones



Incidents by Conflict Types



Context

Violent occurrences perpetrated by non-state actors continually threaten Nigeria's stability. During the review period, banditry was the most overriding security challenge. The government and traditional authorities seem to be replaced by bandits as the [de facto leadership](#) in the affected regions. These young males, [usually in their 30s, use violence hastily and assert political affiliation](#) with pastoralists. The most dreaded bandit leaders collect taxes, arbitrate local conflicts, and are cheered on by praise singers. When not at odds, they work together in varying coalitions and engage in a never-ending arms race for more lethal weapons. As the May 29th 2023 inauguration of a new administration draws nearer, scholars argue that the incoming administration will [be confronted by internal and regional security challenges](#) threatening the stability of the Nigerian state. In addition to this scenario, post-election tensions have grown as people wait for court judgements while communal clashes persist.

The Key Issues

Between April 25th and May 24th, banditry was the prevalent crisis type recording 25 violent incidents, 155 casualties and 134 kidnap victims across five Nigerian states. Banditry is peculiar to northern Nigeria, predominantly in the Northwest, Northcentral and pockets in the Northeast. These non-state actors kidnap for ransom, kill civilians, impose levies on rural communities and rustle cattle.

North Central region is in the most trouble with incidents of banditry, gunmen, kidnapping, communal clashes, farmer-herder conflicts and armed robbery, all amounting to 31 incidents, the highest of the six regions in the country. These incidents led to 194 casualties and 105 kidnap victims within the review period. [The clash between herders and farmers](#) in Mangu Local government area of Plateau, which recorded 85 deaths, contributed to a high casualty figure in the North Central.

Recommendations

1. Peace should be promoted and entrenched through dialogue with key stakeholders in affected communities.
2. The incoming administration should leverage the available early warning systems.
3. Security forces should be provided with adequate training and sophisticated weapons.
4. People-government trust should be built by the government through transparency and accountability.