



VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

2009: A Bloody Year

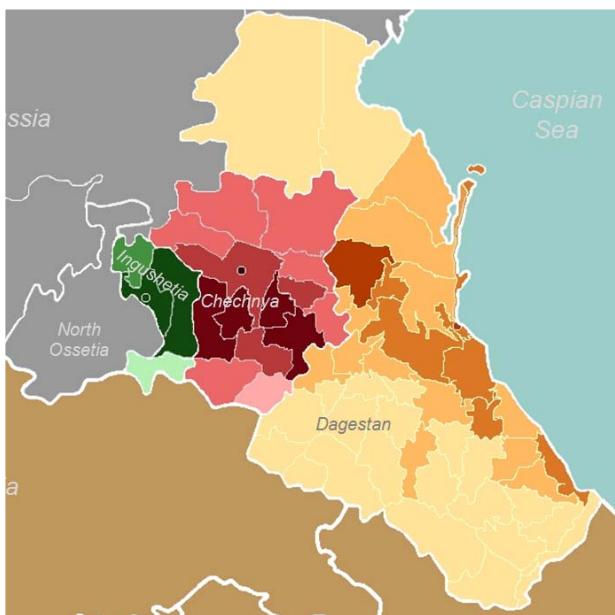
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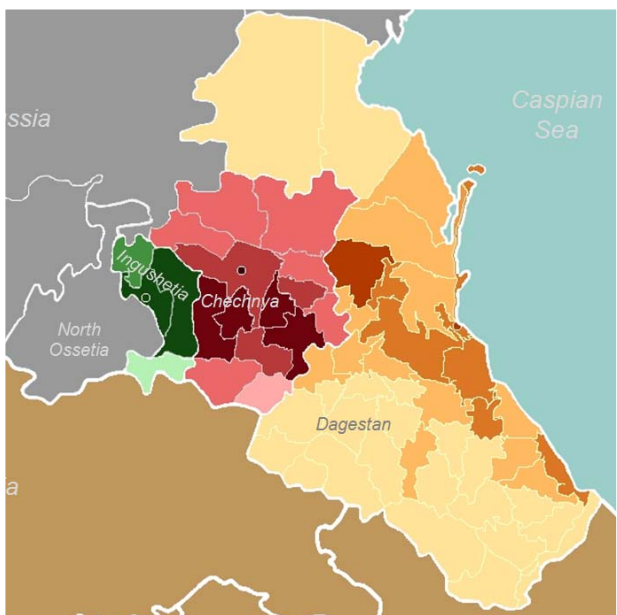


2009: An Uptick in Lethal Force

CSIS staff track, on a daily basis, incidents of violence occurring in the North Caucasus. Our previous reports have focused on four month periods, the last of which illustrated the region's violent summer months.

In this report, we present our data from the entire year 2009, a year of escalating violence, and we provide a comparison with data from 2008.

Definition of Terms



“Incidents of Violence”:

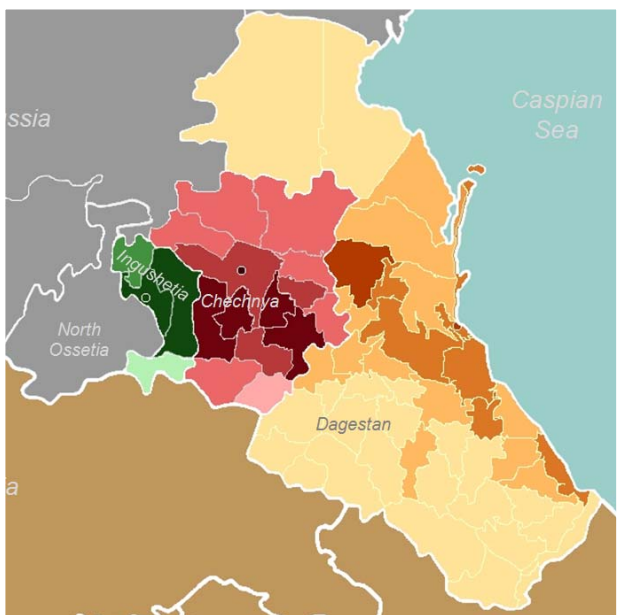
Incidents of violence include abductions of military personnel and civilians, bombings*, assassinations of key civilian and military leaders**, rebel attacks, police or military operations against suspected militants, destruction of property by militants, and the discovery of weapons.

“North Caucasus”:

The database primarily tracks incidents occurring in Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, and Dagestan.

* Includes failed detonations

** Includes unsuccessful assassination attempts

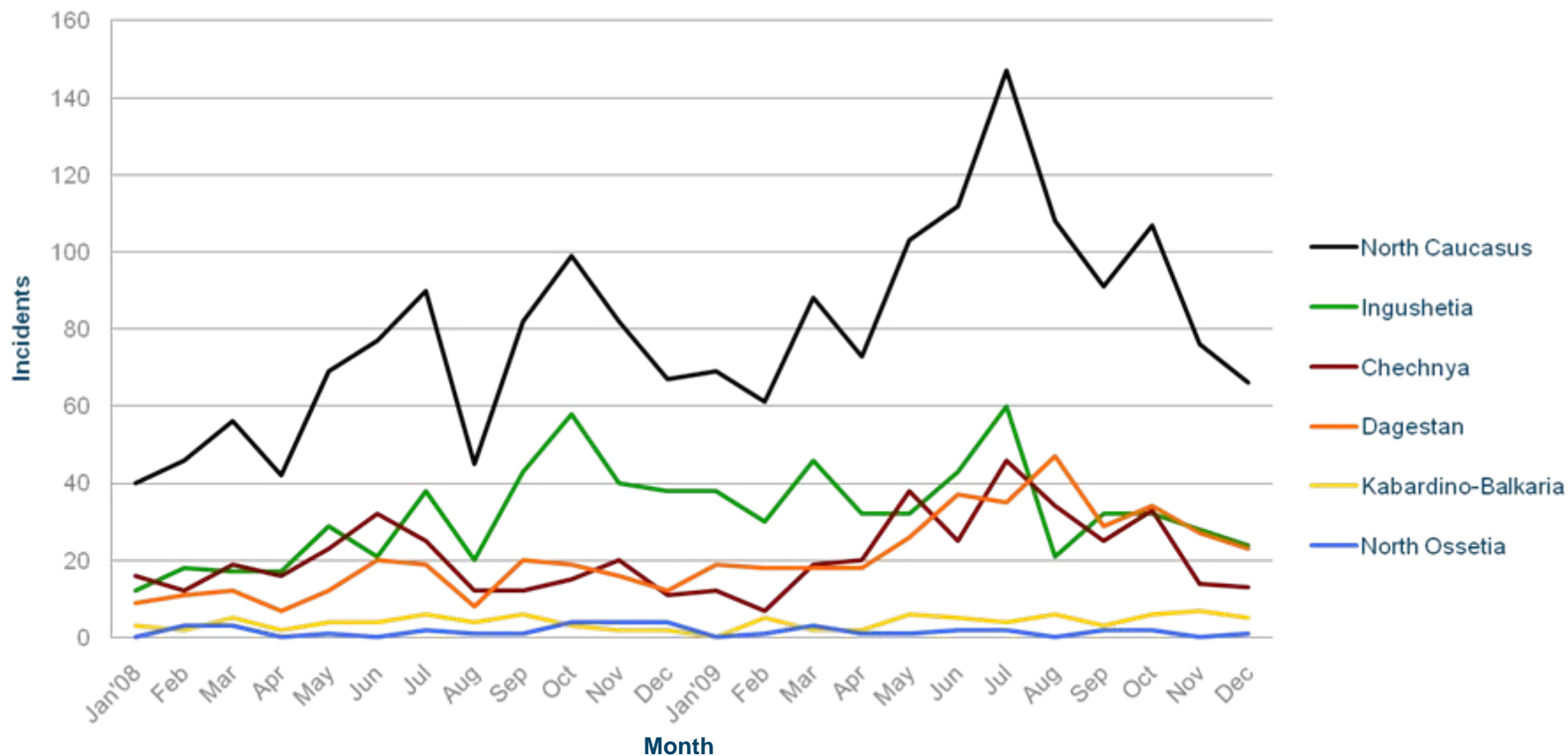


Main Findings

In 2009:

- There were more than 1100 incidents of violence compared to 795 the previous year;
- Many of these incidents were deadly, with over 900 fatalities compared to 586 in 2008;
- One third of all incidents in the North Caucasus occurred in the Nazranovskii and Sunzhenskii districts of Ingushetia;
- The number of suicide bombings in the North Caucasus nearly quadrupled from 2008, with the majority occurring in Chechnya.

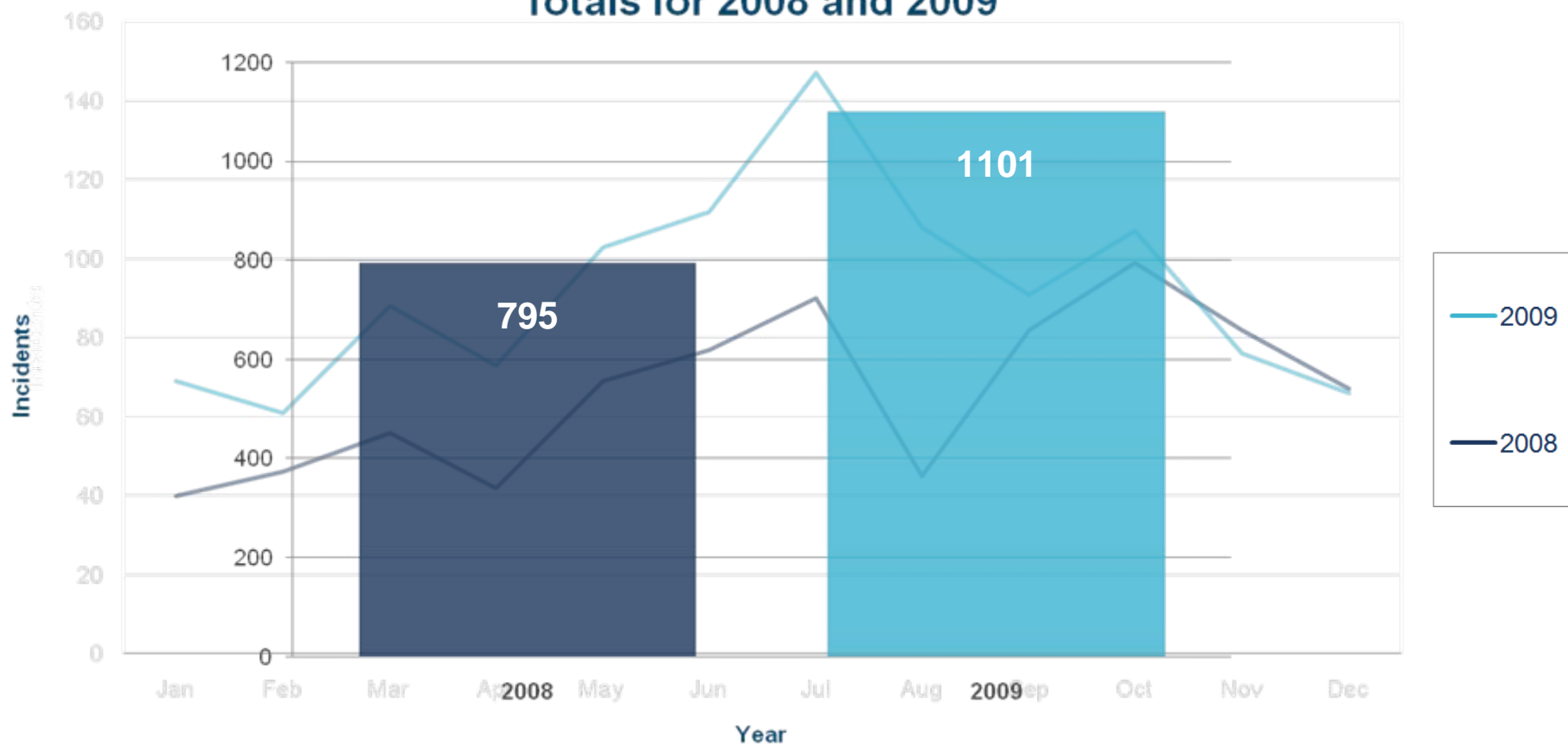
Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus 2008 and 2009



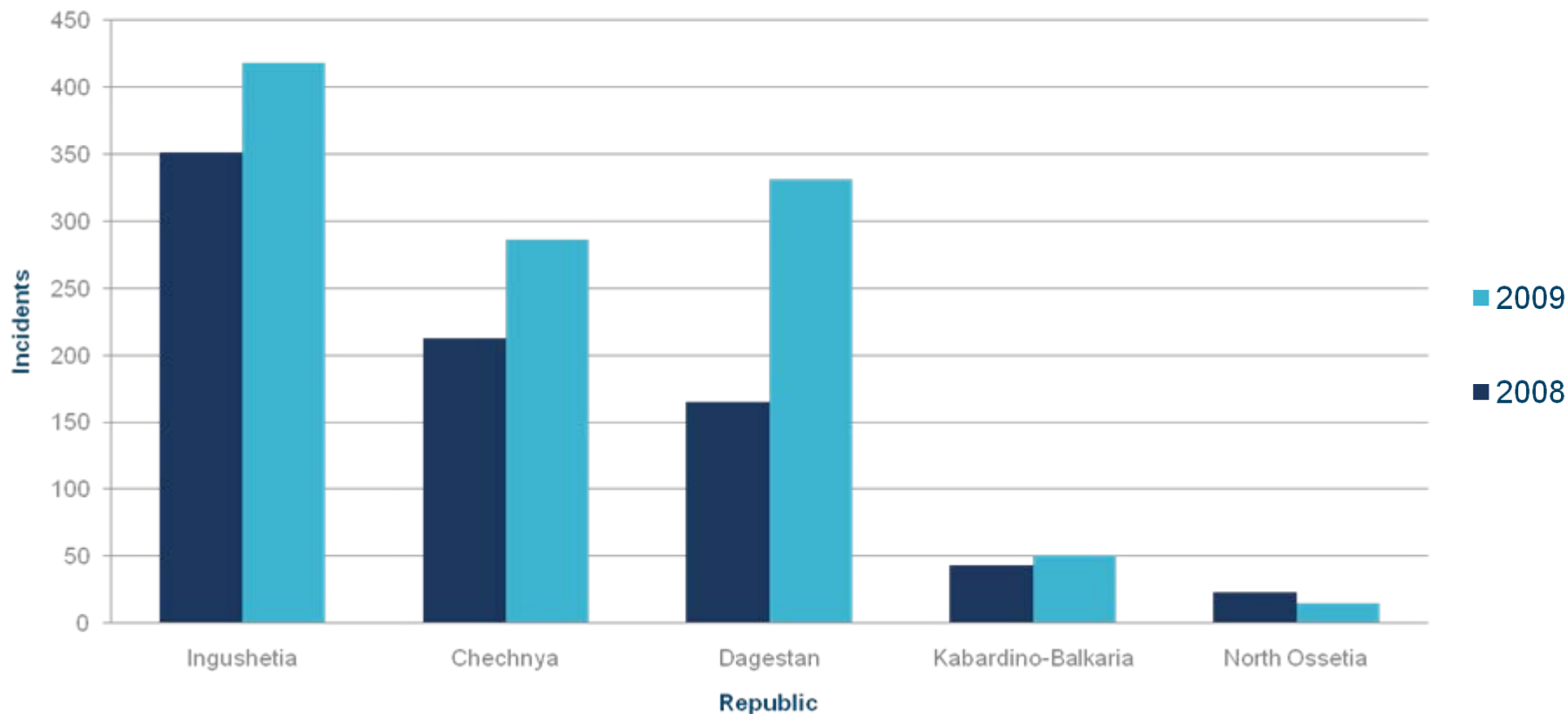
Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus 2008 compared with 2009



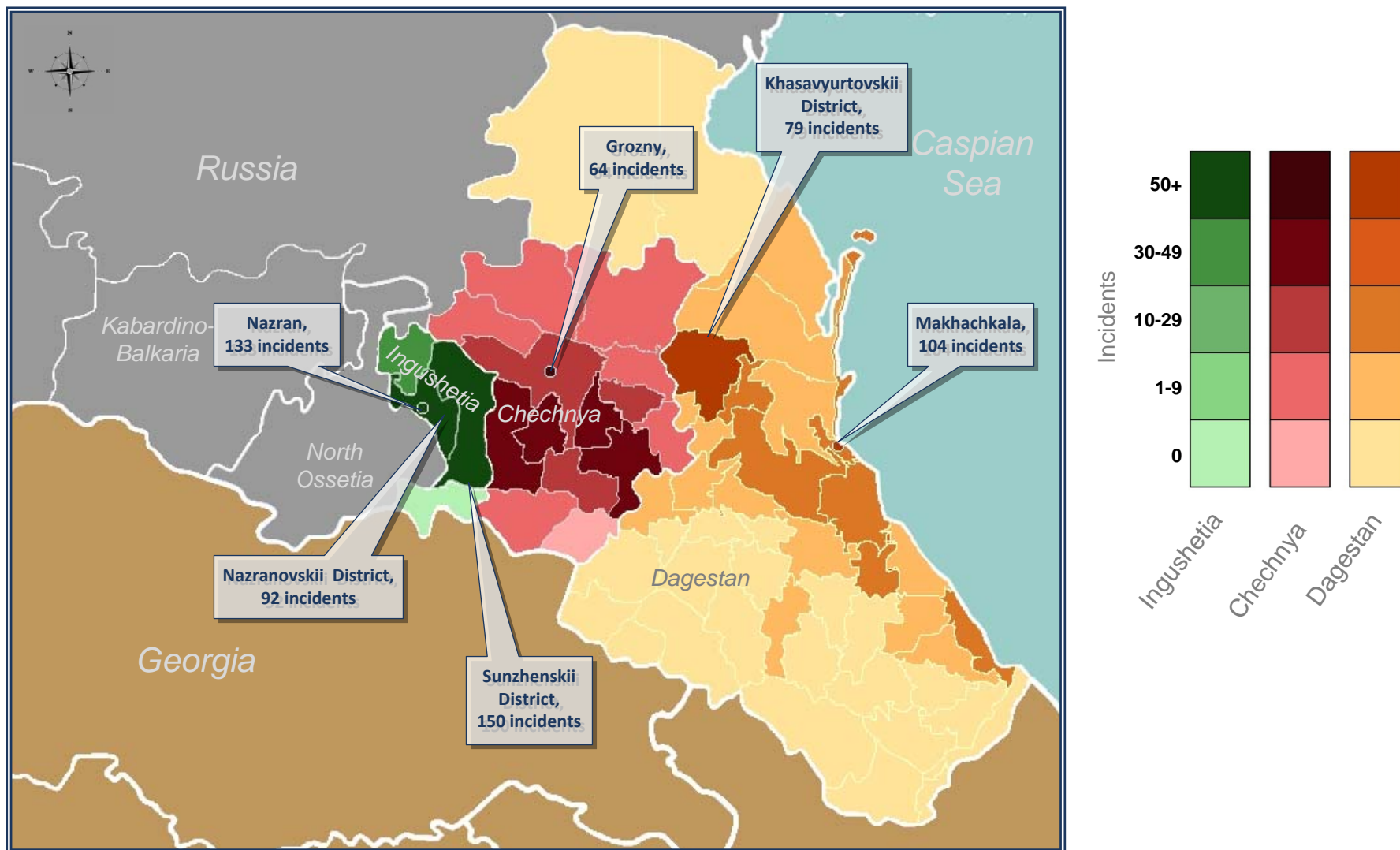
Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus Totals for 2008 and 2009



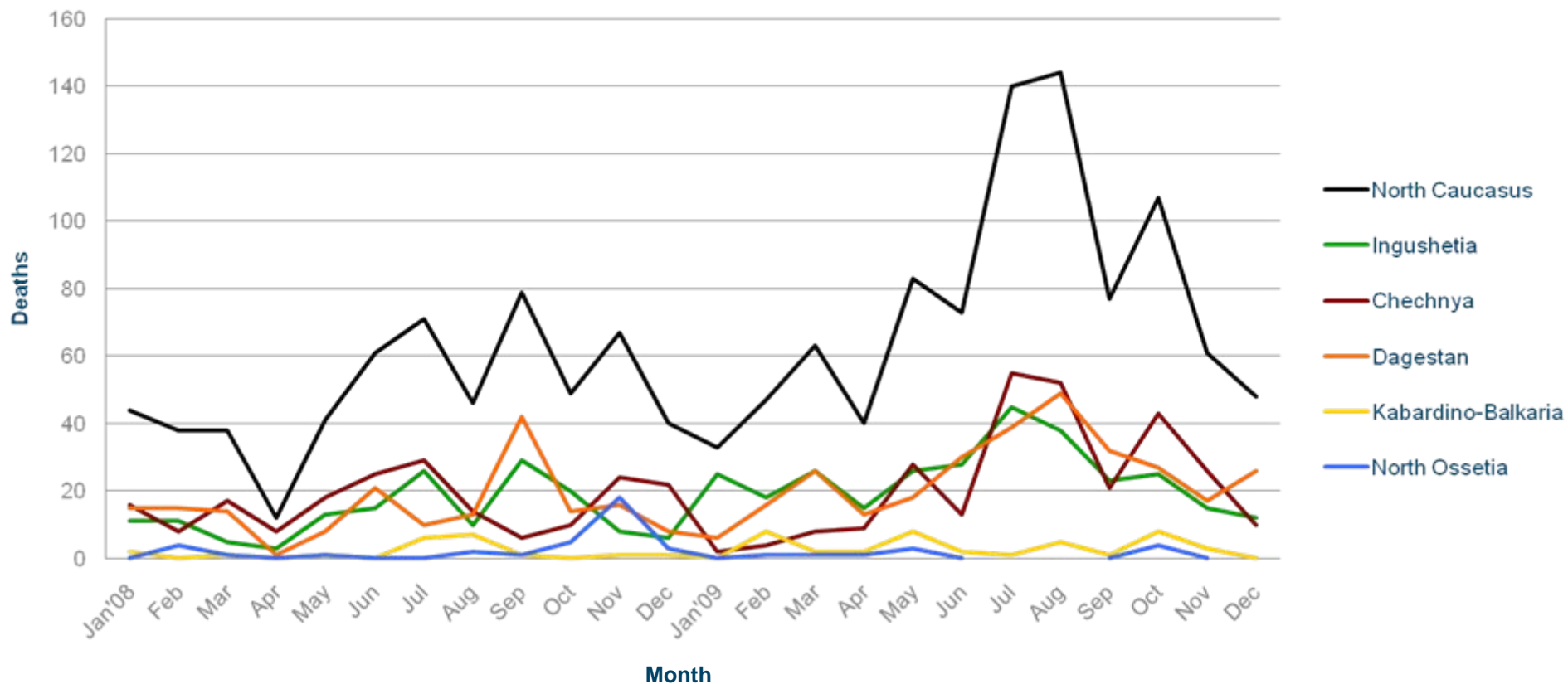
Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus by Republic 2008 and 2009



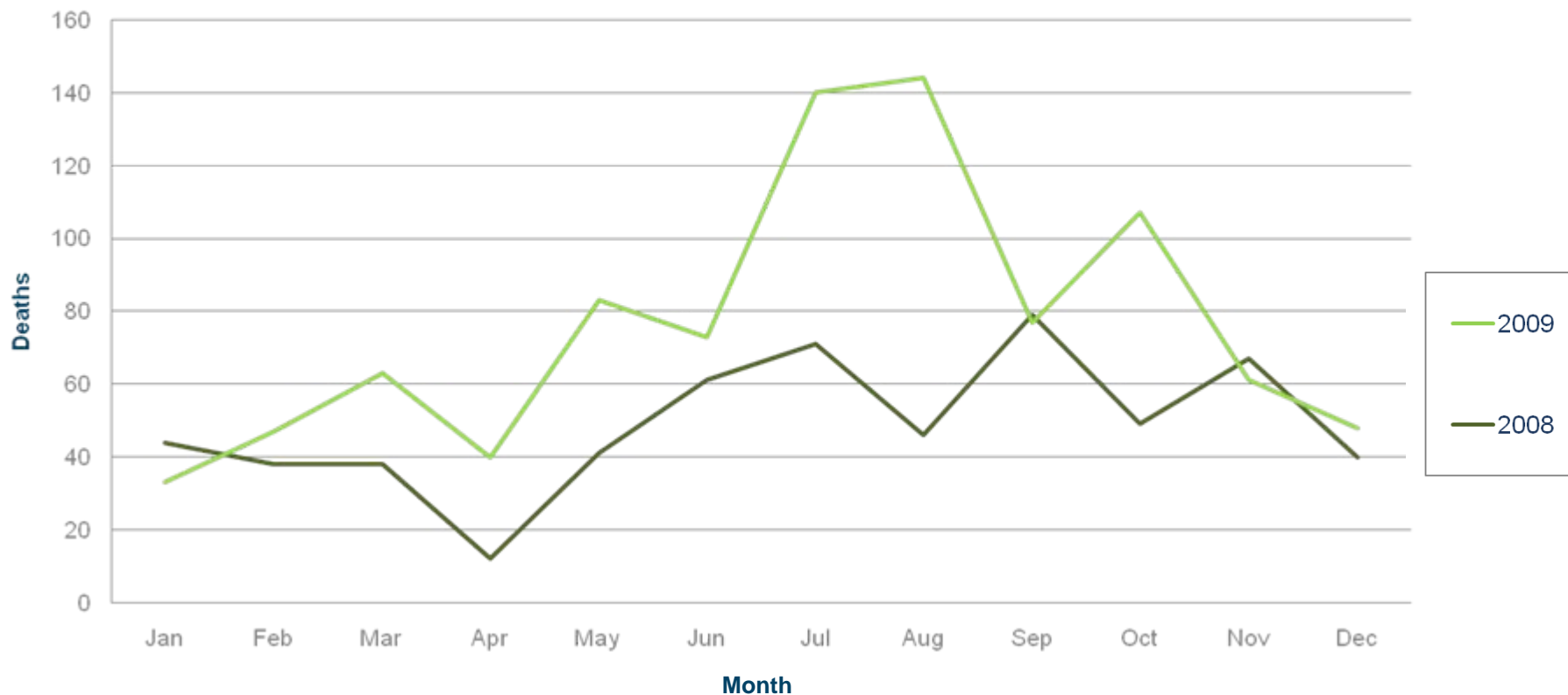
Incidents of Violence by District in Ingushetia, Chechnya, and Dagestan 2009



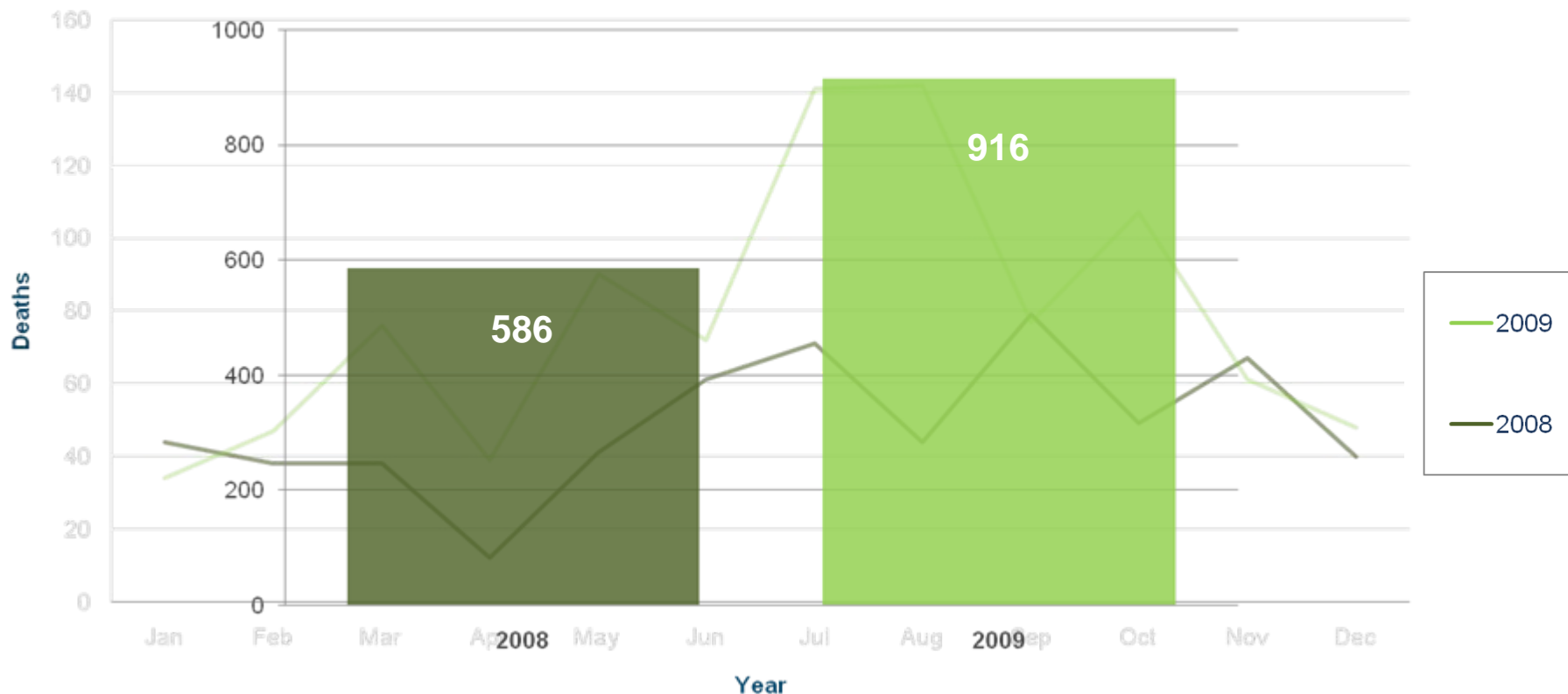
Deaths due to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus 2008 and 2009



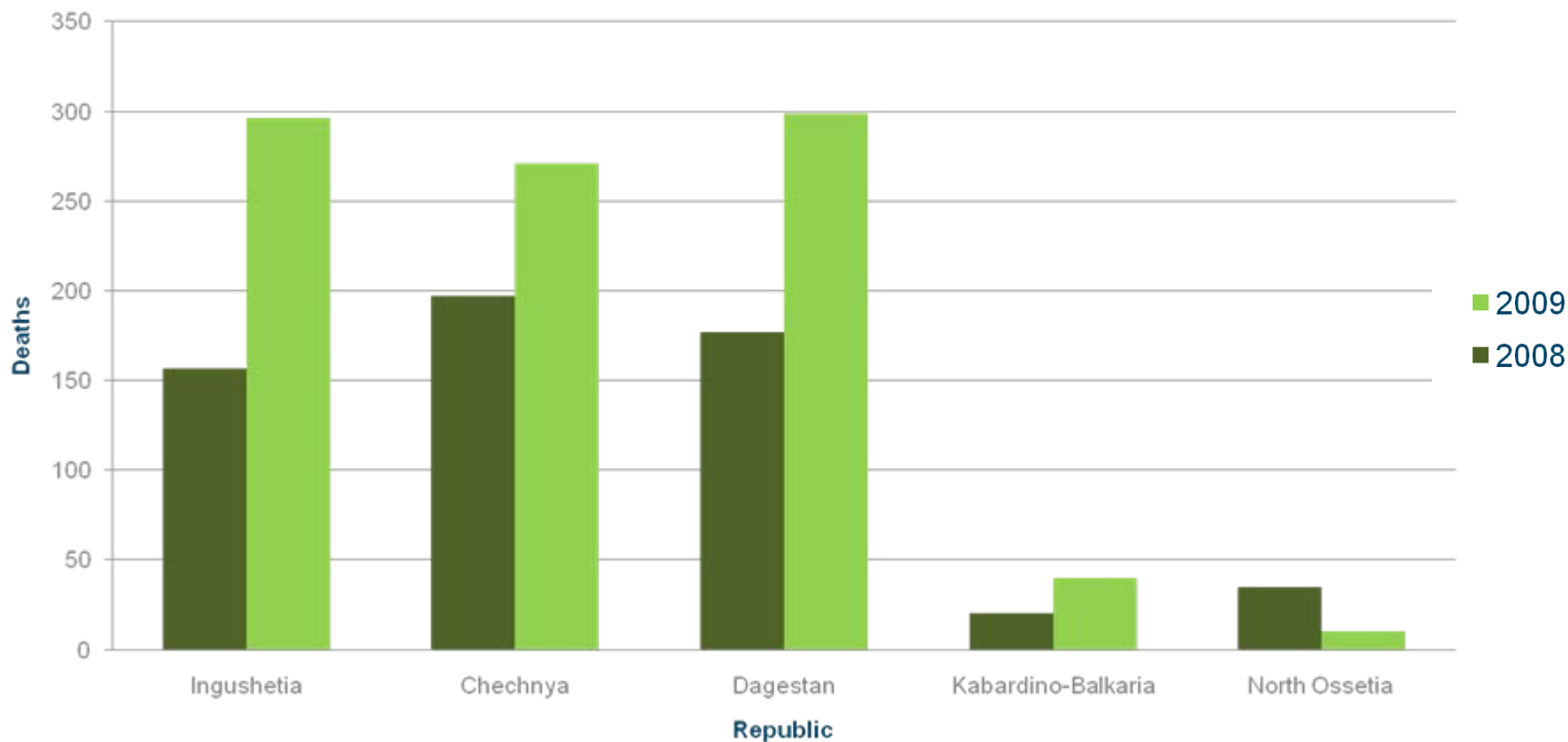
Deaths due to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus 2008 compared with 2009



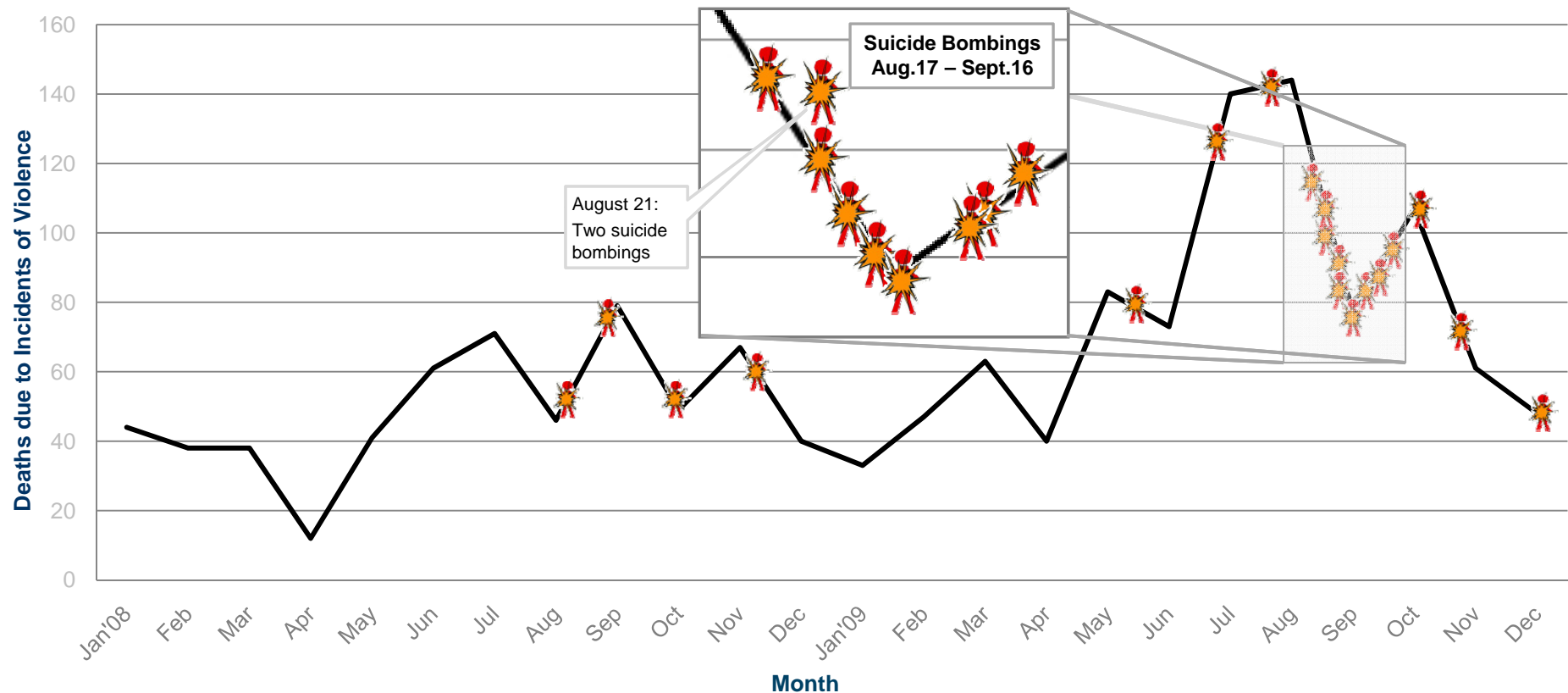
Deaths due to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus Totals for 2008 and 2009



Deaths due to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus by Republic 2008 and 2009

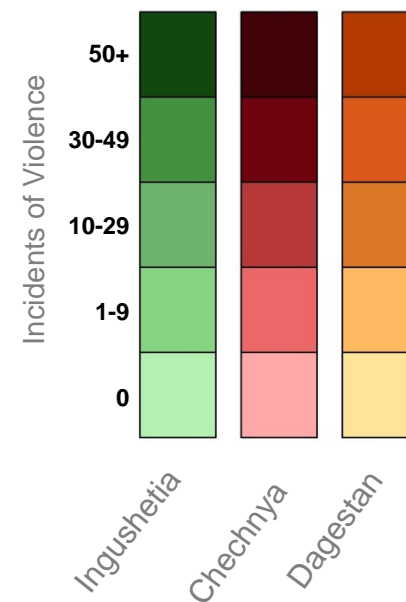
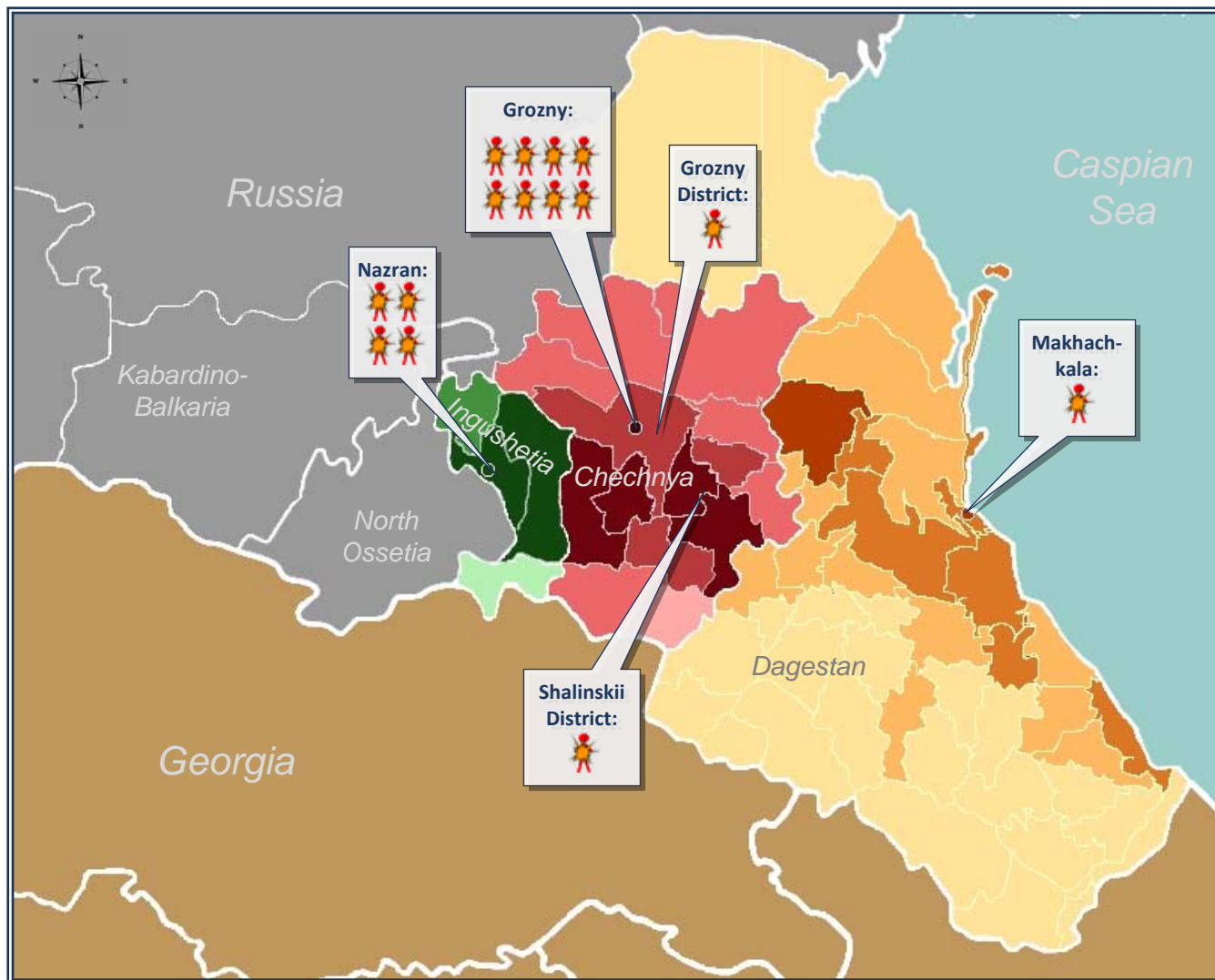


Suicide Bombings in the North Caucasus 2008 and 2009



"Suicide bombings" include all suicide bombing attempts in which the individual detonated their explosive device, resulting in at least their death.

Suicide Bombings in the North Caucasus 2009



Here the color gradient is reflective of all incidents of violence in each district. Each suicide bombing is represented by .

Average Cost of Crude Oil Compared to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus 2008 and 2009

CSIS is tracking the level of violence in the North Caucasus and the price of crude oil. Here we offer a comparison of incidents of violence and the price of crude. Although it is too soon to offer any conclusions, we will continue to track the data and present our findings in future reports.



Sources

Main:

- Caucasian Knot (<http://kavkaz-uzel.ru/>)
- Ria Novosti (<http://en.rian.ru/>)

Additional:

- ITAR-TASS (<http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/>)
- North Caucasus Weekly, The Jamestown Foundation
(<http://www.jamestown.org/programs/ncw/>)
- RFE/RL (<http://www.rferl.org/>)
- The Moscow Times (<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/index.htm>)
- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>)
- Maps: <http://www.unhcr.org/3ae6baeb10.html>;

<http://map-site.narod.ru/dagestan-1.jpg>;

http://ufo.gov.ru/region/respublika_ingushetiya/1012.html

Further Reading:

- For more on the impact that this mounting violence has had on Russia's human rights community and what the international community ought to be doing about it, see Sarah Mendelson's August 12th *Foreign Policy* article "(Un)civil Society in the North Caucasus."
- For a survey-based assessment of factors contributing to the region's volatility, see Professor Theodore Gerber's and Sarah Mendelson's article "Security through Sociology: The North Caucasus and the Global Counterinsurgency Paradigm," in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Volume 32, Issue 9, September 2009.
- For recommendations on ways in which the international community can address issues facing the North Caucasus, see "49 Steps To Improve Human Rights and Security in the North Caucasus," a 2007 report by the CSIS Human Rights and Security Initiative and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

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