



# VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

## FOCUS: FALL/WINTER 2008

Human Rights and Security Initiative

<http://www.csis.org/hrs/>

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CENTER FOR STRATEGIC &  
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### FOCUS: FALL/WINTER 2008

Since January 2004, CSIS staff have been compiling, almost daily, a database that tracks violent incidents occurring in the North Caucasus. This report highlights data for the period September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

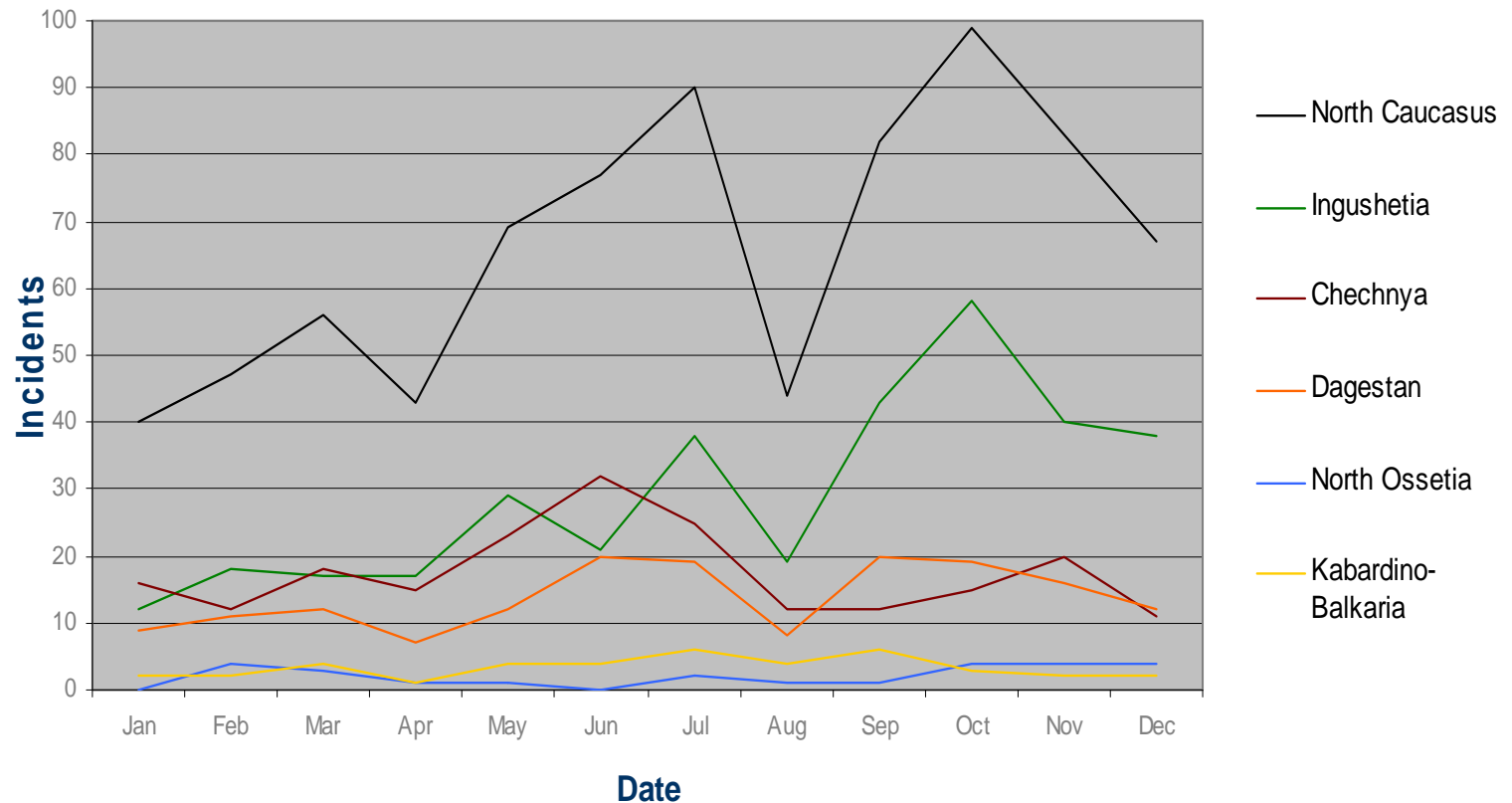
**“Violent Incidents”:**

Violent incidents 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.

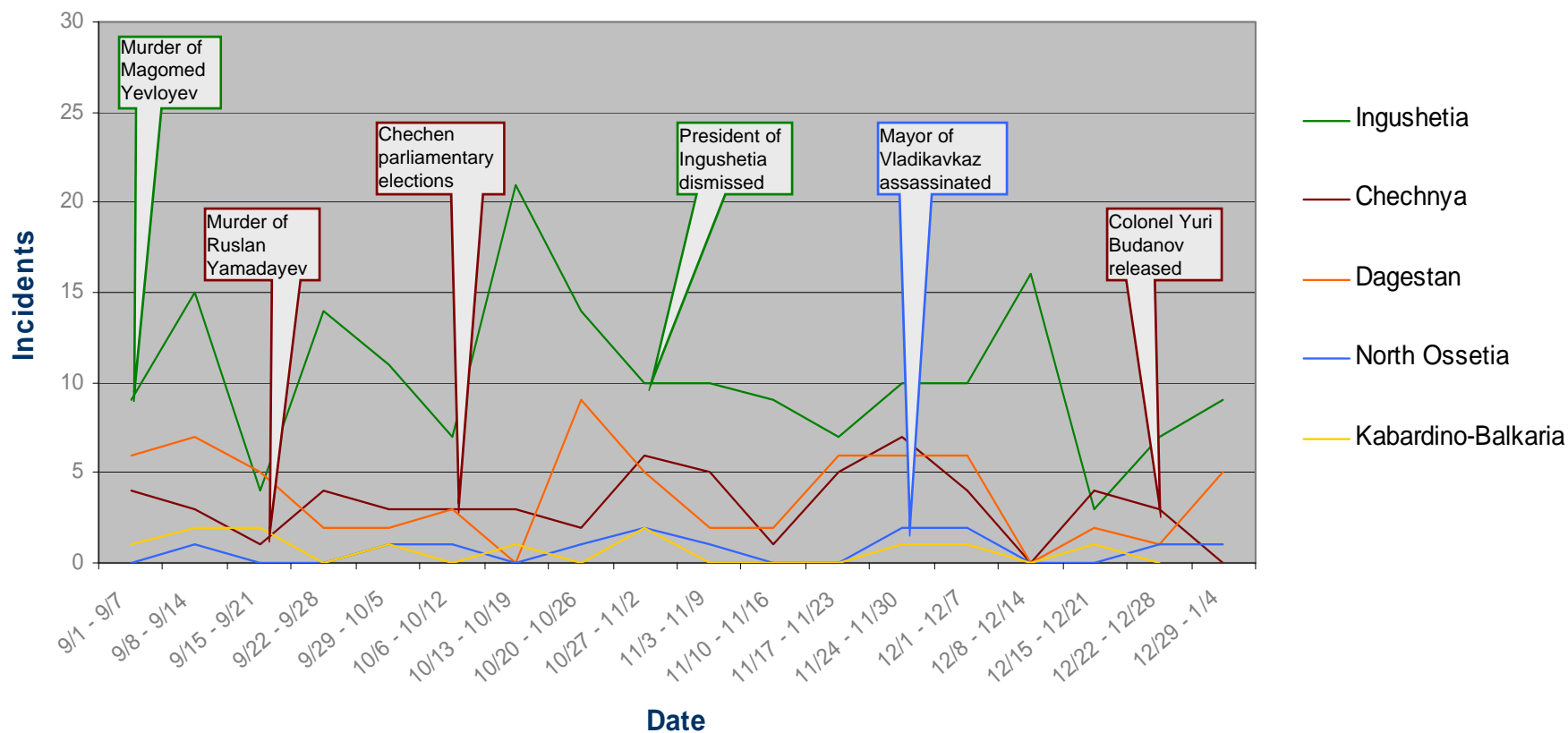
**“North Caucasus”:**

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

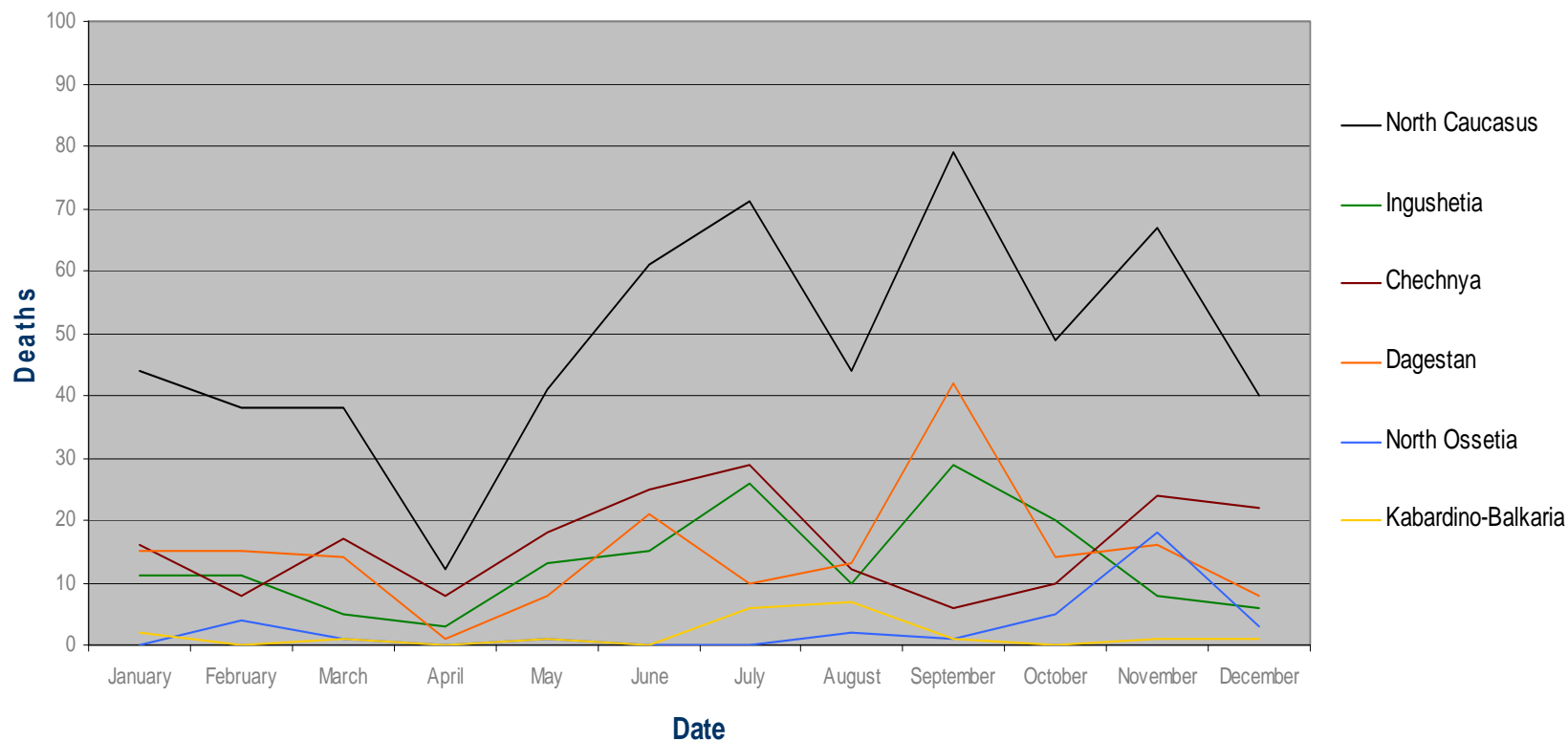
## Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus 2008



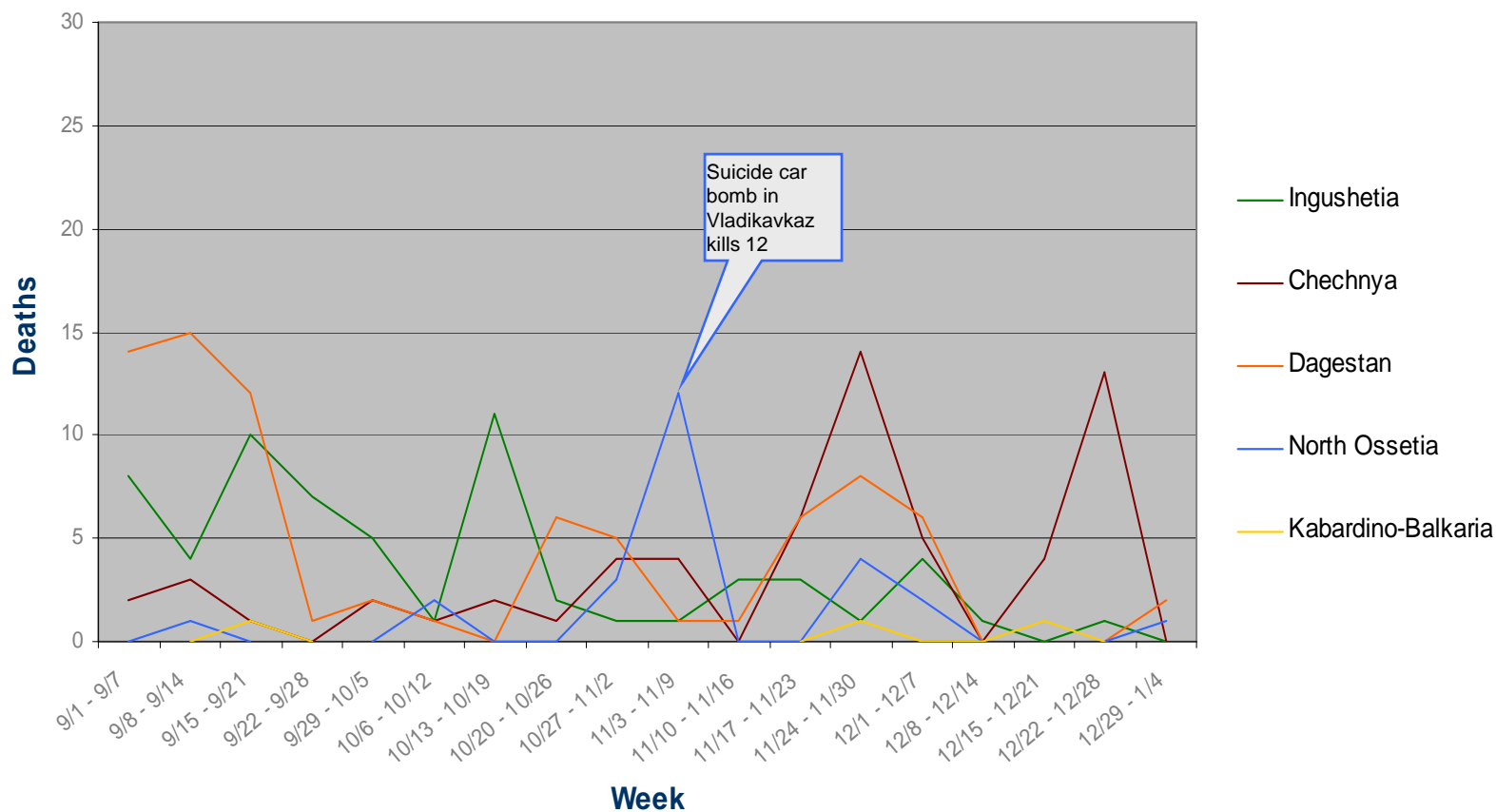
## Violent Incidents and Notable Events North Caucasus Fall/Winter 2008



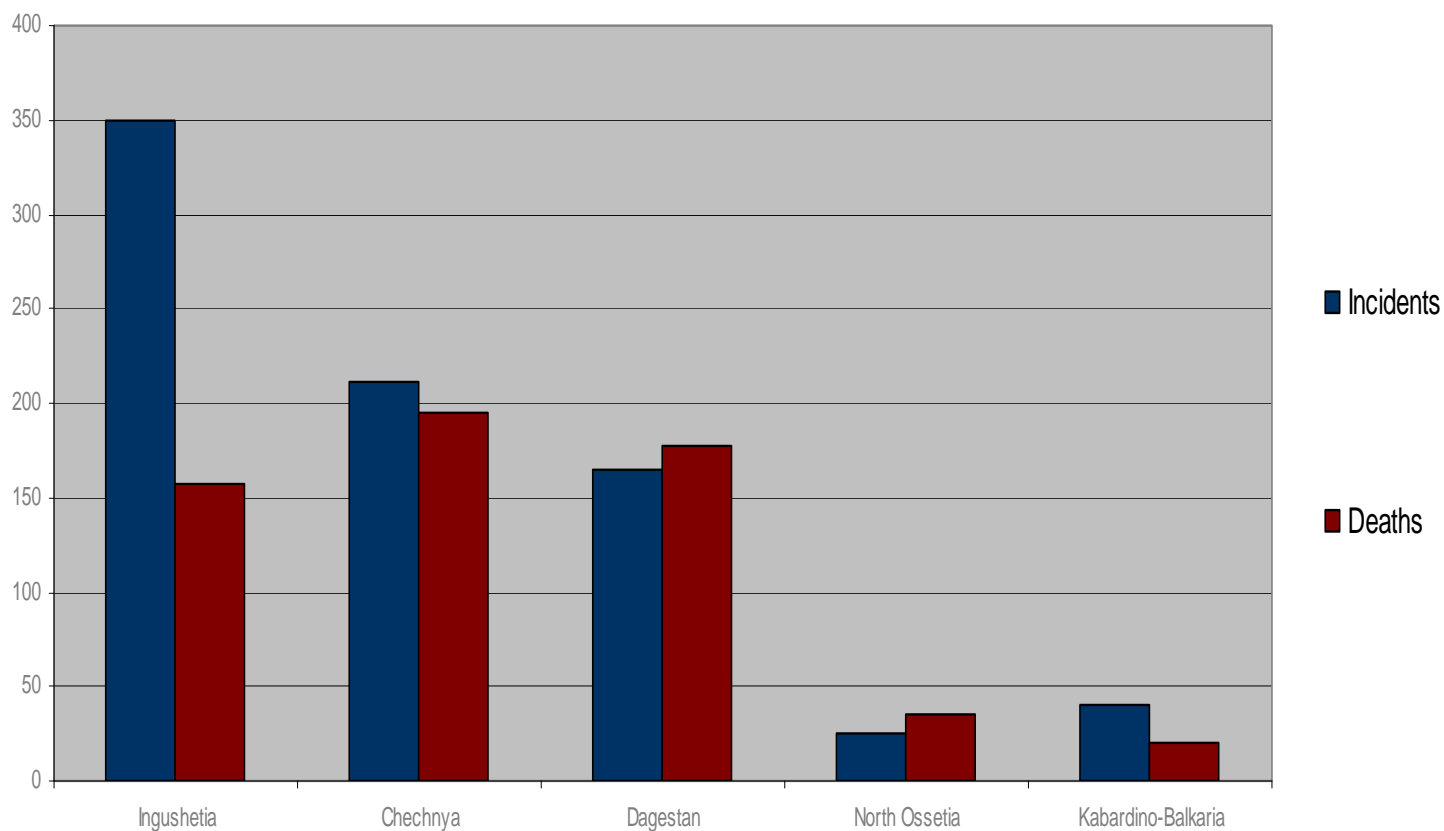
## Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus 2008



## Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus Fall/Winter 2008

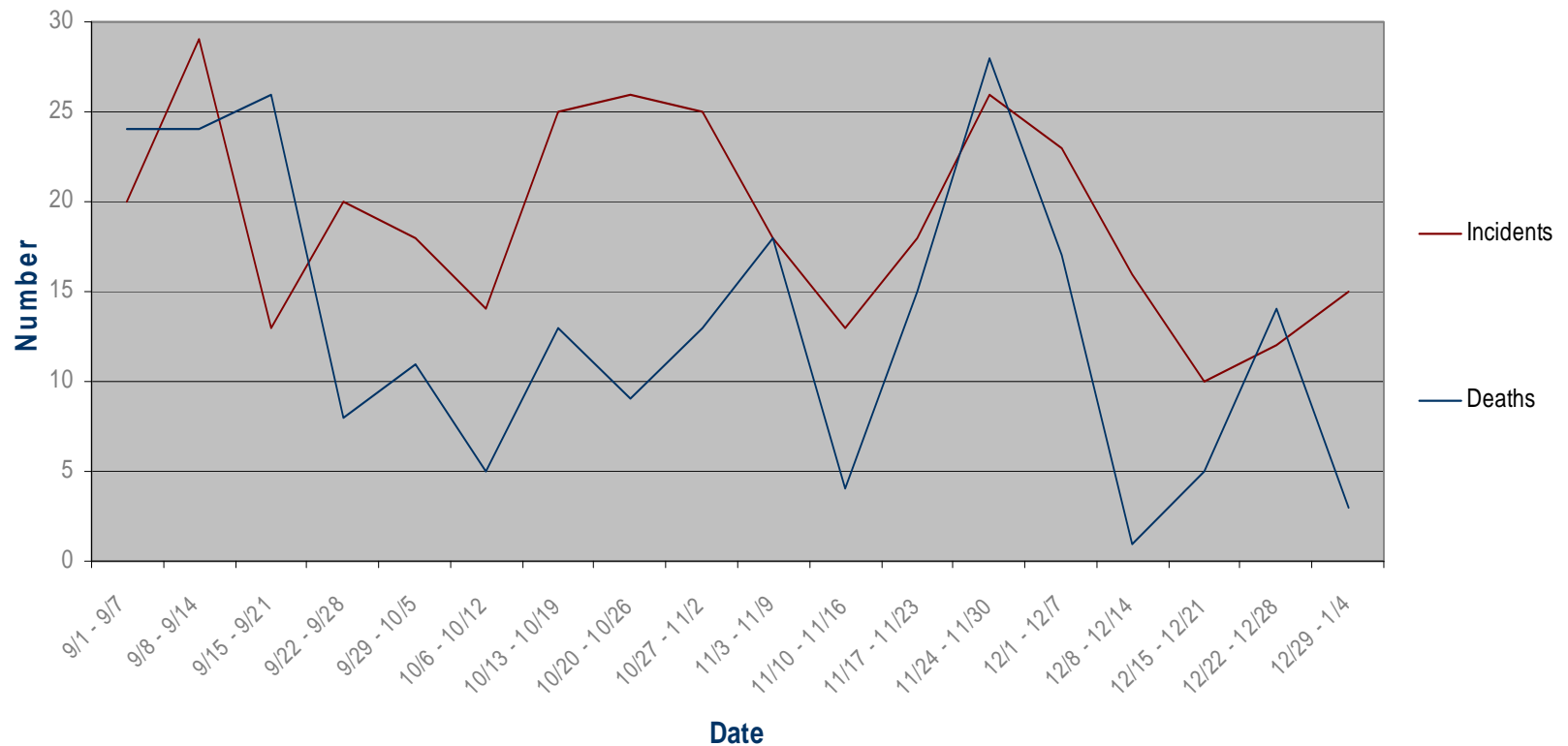


### Violent Incidents and Related Deaths 2008



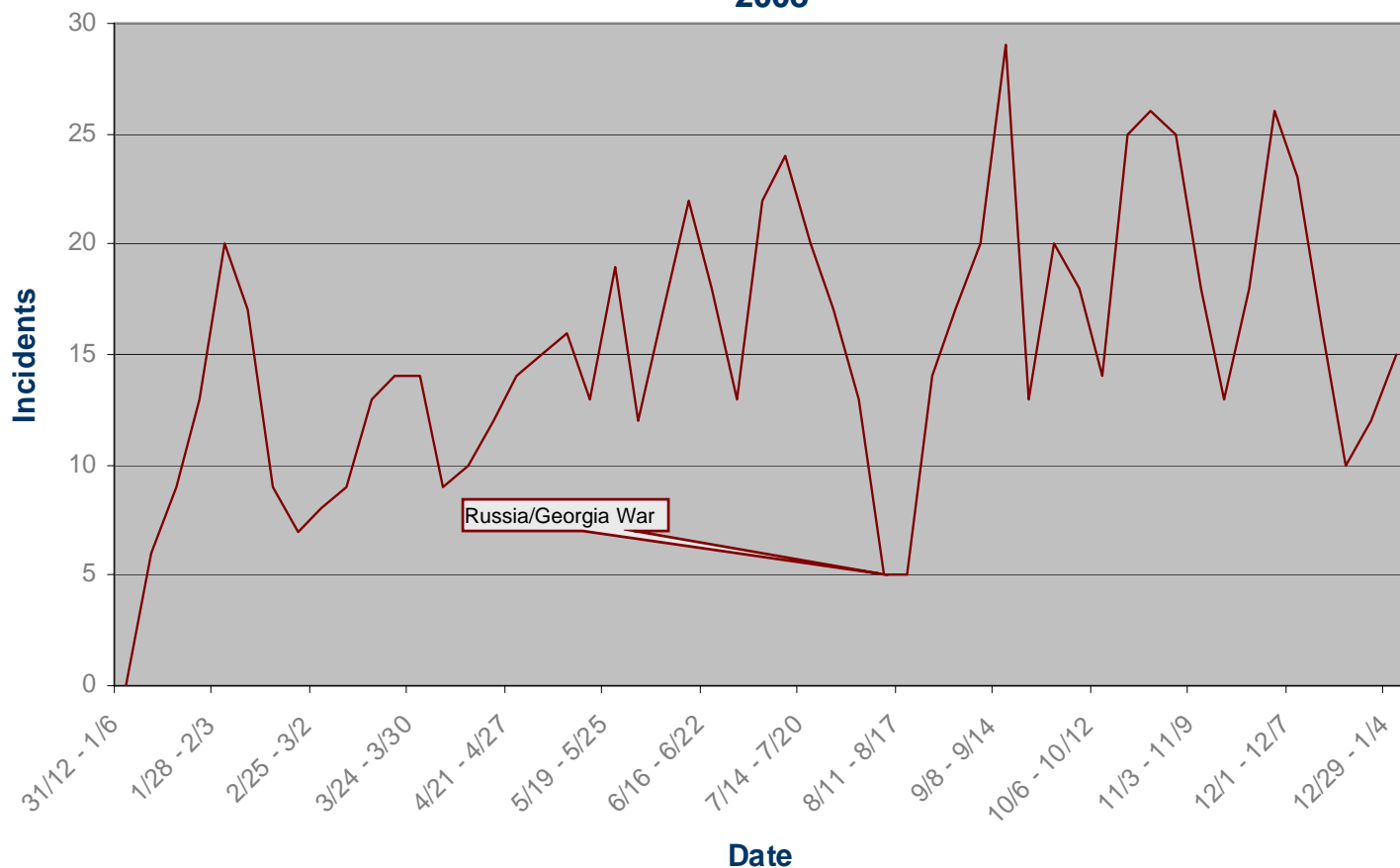


## Violent Incidents and Related Deaths in the North Caucasus Fall/Winter 2008



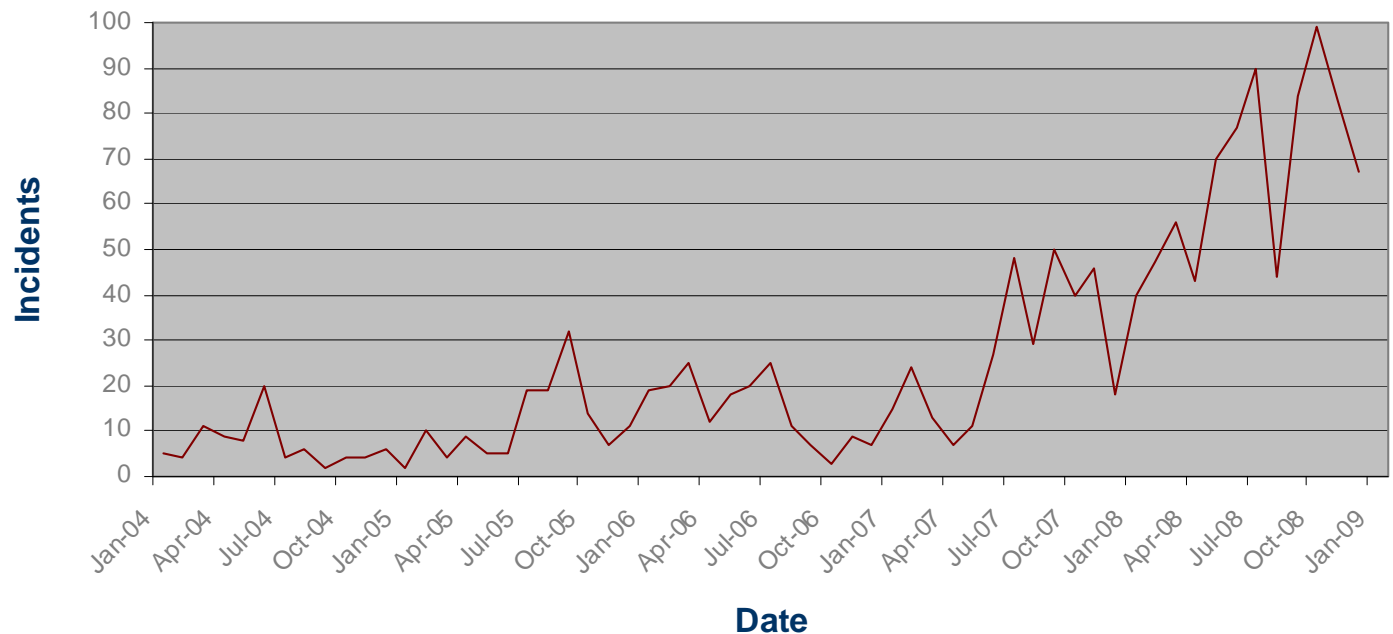
## Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus 2008

The lull in violence that takes place in mid-August coincides with the war between Russia and Georgia in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Following the conflict, the level of violence in the North Caucasus rose sharply, particularly in Ingushetia.



The majority of incidents in our database were reported by mainstream news media. However, we have found that these sources are less thorough in their coverage of regional violence, particularly in comparison to Kavkaz-uzel.ru (Caucasian Knot). CSIS staff have consulted numerous independent experts, all of whom separately agreed on the importance and reliability of Kavkaz-uzel's reporting. In turn, we rely heavily on Kavkaz-uzel for the period January 2008 – December 2008.

## Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2004 - December 2008



CSIS staff have been following events in the North Caucasus for years, but the region's escalating violence has received little international media attention. This figure contextualizes the death toll in the North Caucasus with that of Colombia for the year 2008.

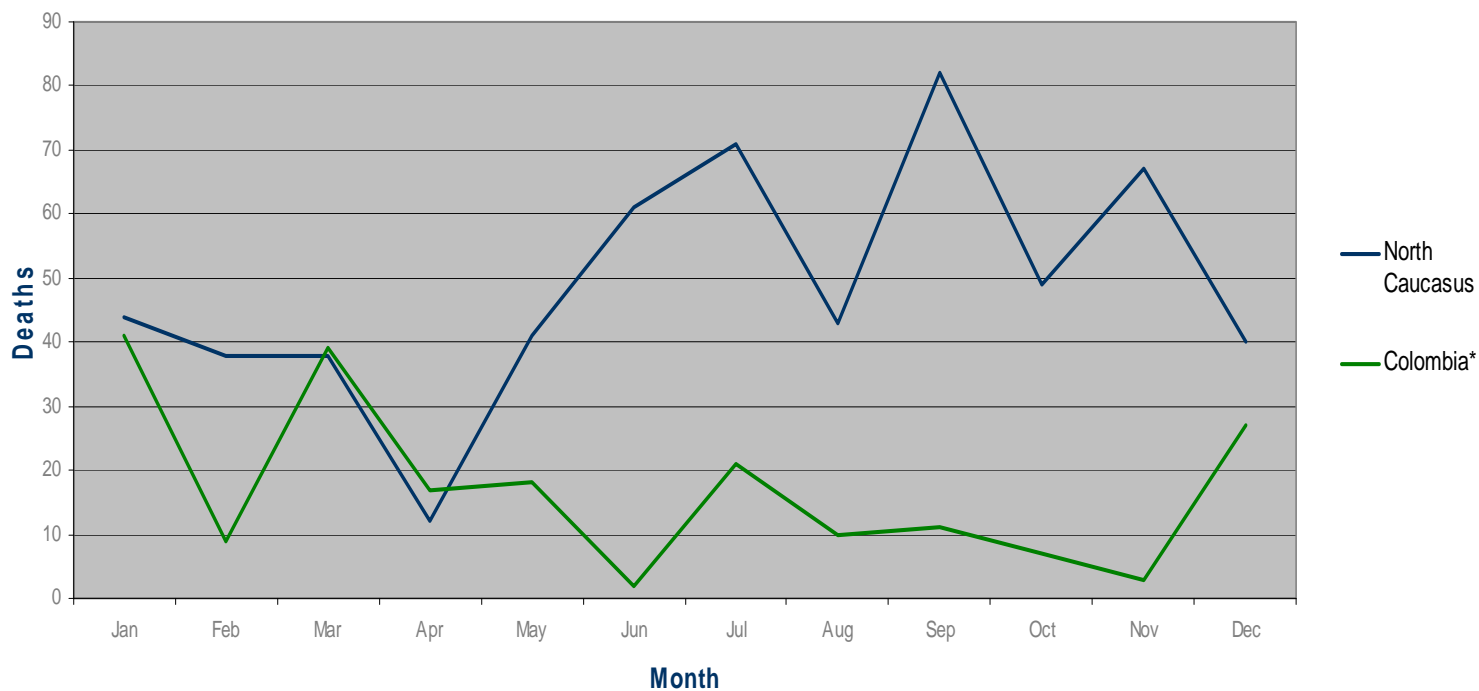
Population of North  
Caucasus °:

6,198,750

Population of North  
Colombia °°:

42,090,503

## Deaths from Violent Incidents North Caucasus and Colombia 2008



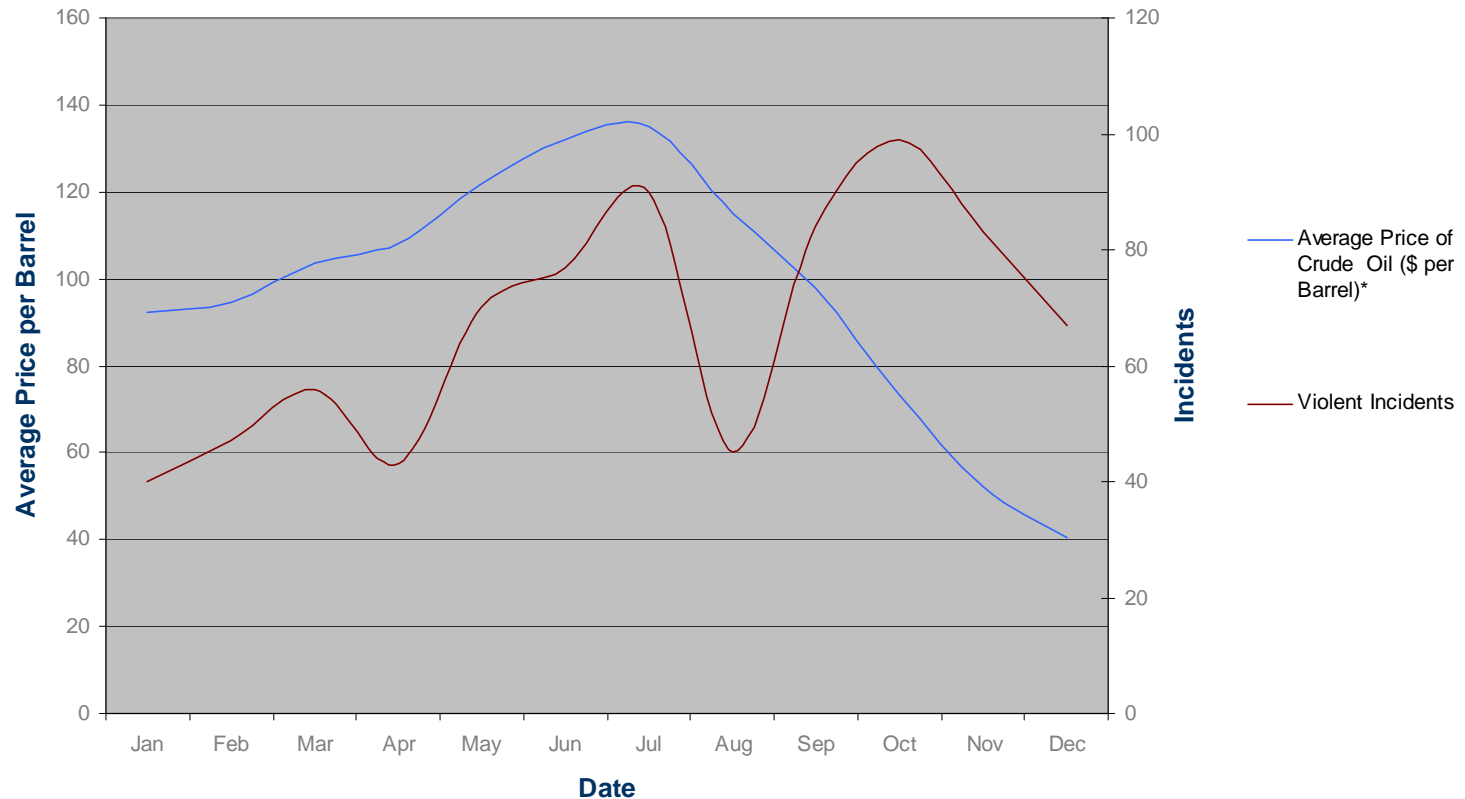
° source: American Committee for Peace in the Caucasus, Freedom House

\* source: IISS Armed Conflict Database

°° source: Foreign & Commonwealth Office

## Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus and the Price of Crude Oil 2008

CSIS is tracking the level of violence in the North Caucasus and the price of crude oil. Here we offer a first 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.



\* Price of oil according to Energy Information Administration

## Sources

### Main:

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

### Additional:

- ITAR-TASS (<http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/>)
- Chechnya Weekly, The Jamestown Foundation  
([http://www.jamestown.org/chechnya\\_weekly/archives.php](http://www.jamestown.org/chechnya_weekly/archives.php))
- RFE/RL (<http://www.rferl.org/>)
- The Moscow Times (<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/index.htm>)
- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>)
- Reuters (<http://www.reuters.com>)
- USA Today (<http://www.usatoday.com>)
- International Institute for Strategic Studies (<http://www.iiss.org>)

This report has been made possible by a grant from the Open Society Institute.

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 report of the CSIS Human Rights and Security Initiative and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

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