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The role of the police in the provision of safety in rural communities

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Crime is a major concern in many countries. Consequently, a new branch of criminology has developed - rural criminology - which focuses on the study of crime in rural environments and the testing, verification, and revision of classical criminological theories in these environments. Rural areas are characterised by a higher degree of social cohesion and informal control, and there is also less physical disorder.

Key words: rural crime, police, rural communities, protection

The role of the police in the provision of safety in rural communities

The main differences between the populations of urban and rural communities are most apparent in

- 1) inter-personal interactions (frequency and trust),
- 2) common interests,
- 3) feelings of belongingness,
- 4) the knowledge of other inhabitants in the community.

Unemployment, housing problems, and crime and cultural frictions are generally more pronounced in urban areas, and numerous differences between urban and rural communities are also reflected in the criminological literature.

Law enforcement in Montenegro is only part of policing activity. Policing has included an array of activities in different situations, but the predominant ones are concerned with the preservation of order.

The role of the police in the provision of safety in rural communities

- ▶ Law enforcement in Montenegro is primarily the responsibility of the Police Administration (Uprava Policije).
- ▶ All units of the Police Administration report to the Police Director. Police Administration of Montenegro was formally under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Interior, but became fully independent government body in 2019.
- ▶ Ministry retains control over internal affairs, issuance of personal documents for Montenegrin citizens (ID, drivers licence and passport), emergency situations management, and financial and budgetary oversight of Police Administration.
- ▶ The role of the Minister of the Interior is supervisory, and he has no operational authority over police officers.

On a national level, Police Administration organized into 7 sectors, which are main operational units of police, each headed by Deputy Police Director, while 4 departments and 4 other units serve in a support and administrative tasks:

Sectors:

General Authority Police Sector

Criminal Police Sector

Organized Crime and Corruption Suppression Sector

Border Police Sector

Persons and Objects Protection Sector

Special Police Units Sector

Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Suppression Sector

Departments and units:

International Police Cooperation and Public Relations Department

Analytics and Police Activities Development Department

Forensic Center

Internal Financial Revision Department

Telecommunication and Electronics Department

Information Security and Data Processing Center

Human Resources and Legal Affairs Unit

Financial, General and Auxiliary Affairs Unit

Teritorial Units

- Podgorica Regional Police Unit (with Police Outposts in Tuzi, Danilovgrad, Cetinje and Kolašin)
- Nikšić Regional Police Unit (with Police Outposts in Plužine and Šavnik)
- Bar Regional Police Unit (with Police Outpost in Ulcinj)
- Herceg Novi Regional Police Unit (with Police Outposts in Kotor and Tivat)
- Berane Regional Police Unit (with Police Outposts in Rožaje, Plav, Gusinje, Petnjica and Andrijevica)
- Bijelo Polje Regional Police Unit (with Police Outpost in Mojkovac)
- Pljevlja Regional Police Unit (with Police Outpost in Žabljak)
- Budva Regional Police Unit

Police of Montenegro is legally governed by Law on Internal Affairs of Montenegro (Zakon o unutrašnjim poslovima).

In criminal matters, Police is also bound to adhere to Criminal procedure law of Montenegro (Zakonik o krivičnom postupku), and its officers are required to conduct criminal investigations per instructions of Montenegrin public prosecutors.

Resources and Equipment

The Police Administration had 4,106 employees in 2019



Police Headquarters building is located on 22 Svetog Petra Cetinjskog Boulevard, in central Podgorica.

Montenegro's Civil Police Aviation Unit forms part of the Montenegro Government Aviation Unit, and purchased its first aircraft in 1972, with three more SA341 Gazelles transferred from the military air force in the 1990s. Aviation unit also operates two Augusta-Bell AB412. All helicopters are based at Golubovci Airport, Podgorica.

The Police Academy is located in Danilovgrad, and provides both basic police education, and professional and specialized training. Forensic Center is also located in Danilovgrad.

CRIMINAL ACTS IN MNE IN PERIOD OF 2015 TO 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Podgorica	1.532	1507	1648	1932	1806
Bar	733	776	782	759	742
Budva	614	456	372	321	336
Herceg Novi	588	517	508	625	548
Nikšić	604	602	606	521	552
Berane	742	526	488	471	517
Bijelo Polje	265	232	246	261	238
Pljevlja	169	206	186	204	214
Total	5427	4821	4836	5094	4953

In the last year of the report, the increase in the volume of crime, by security centers, is registered in Berane (9.7%), Budva (4.6%), Nikšić (5.9%) and Pljevlja (4.9). In the security centers: Herceg Novi (12.3%), Podgorica (6.3%) and Bijelo Polje (8.8%), Bar (2.2%) a decrease in criminality is registered.

Types of criminal acts

Homicide

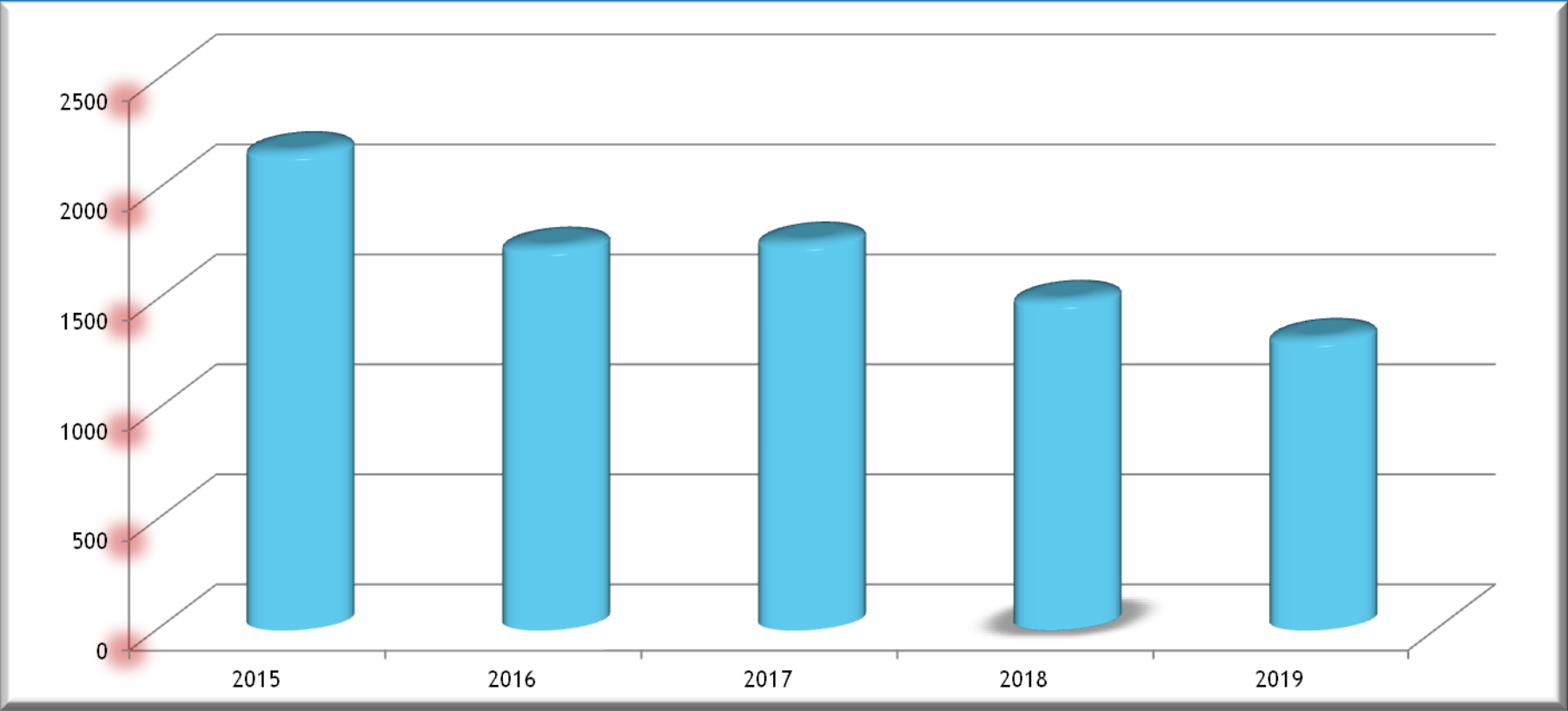
Under the Criminal Code of Montenegro, homicide is defined as taking the life of another person which shall be punished by prison sentence for a term from five to fifteen years. This criminal offence is included in the section of criminal code which name is “Criminal offences against life and limb”.

Criminal offences against life and limb and sexual freedom

Structure	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Homicide and aggravated homicide	27	24	11	11	21
Attempted homicide	40	59	51	37	42
Serious bodily injury	140	128	147	153	115
Minory bodily injury	187	197	174	183	/
Rape	5	3	10	8	4
Attempted rape	2	1	1	1	2

Criminal acts against property

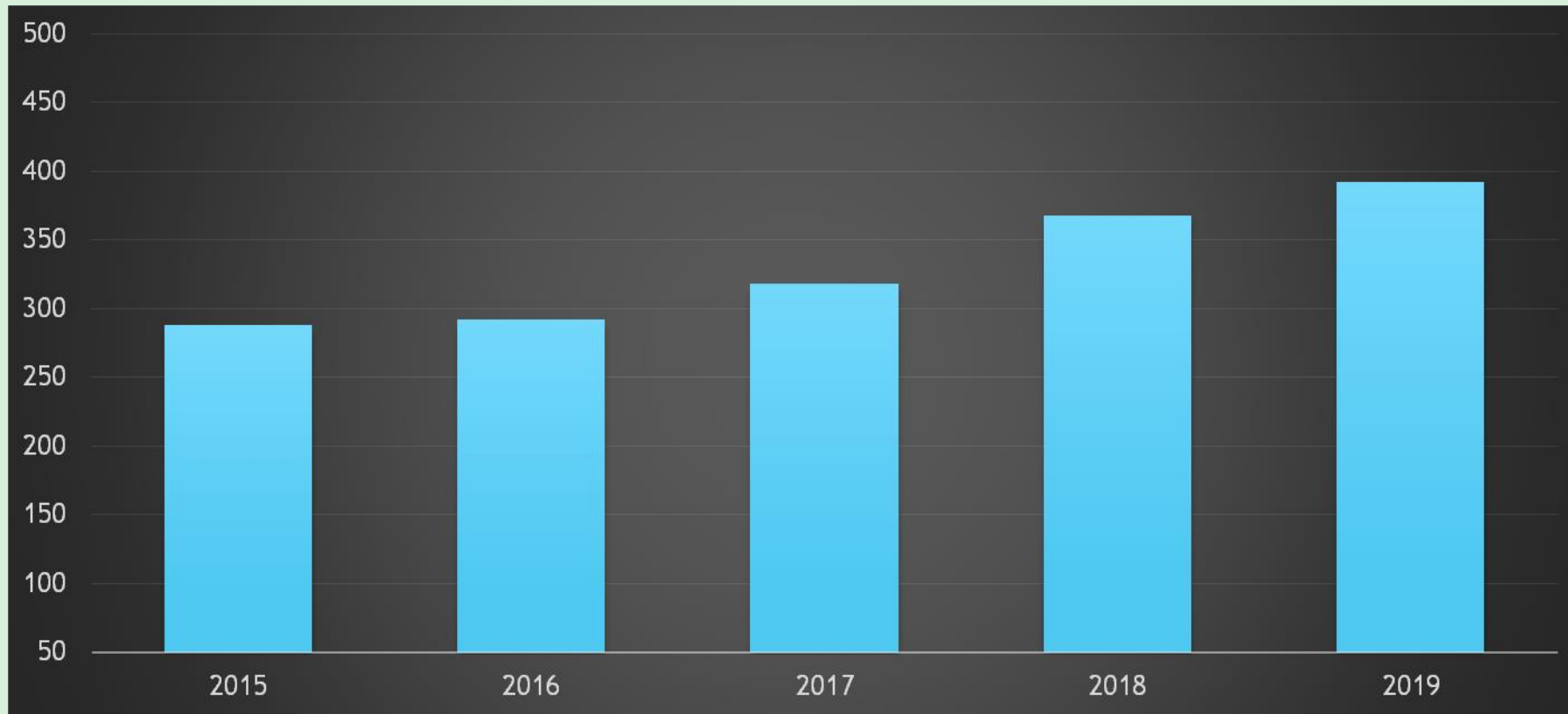
Property crime is a category of crime, usually involving private property, that includes, among other crimes, burglary, larceny, theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, shoplifting, and vandalism.



Criminal acts against property (2015-2019)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
21701	1763	1759	1494	1321

Juvenile delinquency



Juvenile delinquency in period of 2015-2019

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
287	291	317	367	391

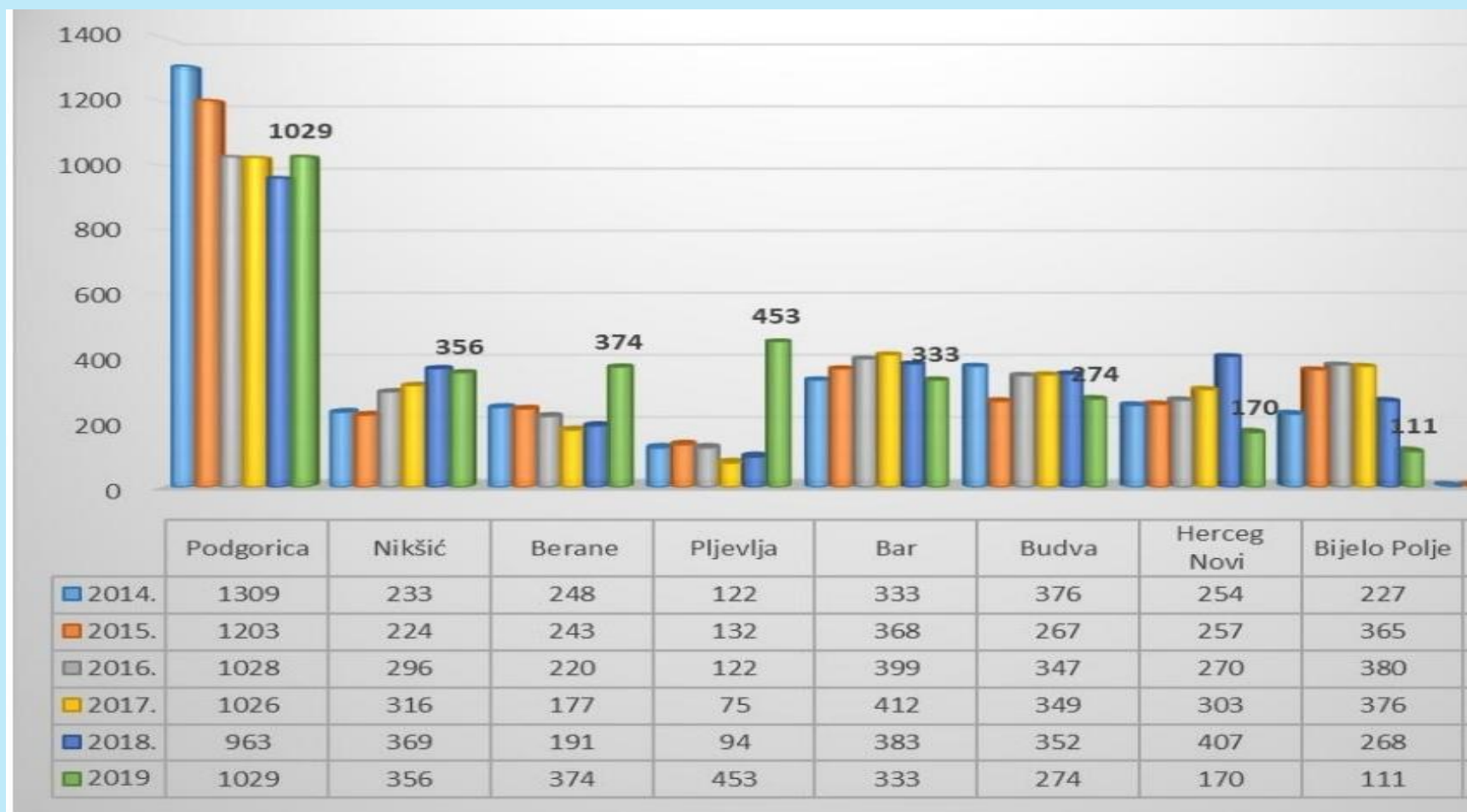
Drug-Related crimes

TYPES AND QUANTITY OF TAKEN DRUGS

Type	2018	2019
Marijuana	3203420,06g	2290600,9g
Hasish	8146,05g	39,8g
Cocaine	34897,927g	93242g
Syntethic drugs		
Probibited pharmaceutical products		
	15,5g	1460,1g
Heroine	1782,423g	23319,66g
Total	3 248 498,96g	2 408 933,81g

Activities on prevention of drug abuse and smuggling were aimed at organized and international groups, operating at the international and national level, as well as prevention of drug abuse and smuggling on the Montenegrin market.

State of public order and peace



Registered misdemeanors in period of 2014 to 2019

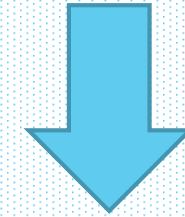
Interview with Montenegrin police officer

”Special role of police officers in rural areas in Montenegro is in preventive role in order to combat all forms of crime (property offenses, crimes against life and limb, crimes in the field of economy, and crimes in the field of environmental protection and other crimes).

When there are industrial facilities (factories, small processing plants) in rural areas, police officers intensify cooperation with the relevant services and collect operational information that points to possible abuses in business, as well as other security-interesting data, about which they make official notes.”



CONCLUSION



Analyses of rural crime and other forms of deviance should be studied carefully, utilising official crime statistics as well as other sources of data. With the future possibility of the Schengen border moving to the South, a situation will not change as borders of Croatia with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia are also in rural settings. Cross border security, and police and prosecutorial cooperation require the cooperation of institutions on the state as well as local levels.

THANKS FOR PAYING ATTENTION!