

Effect of COVID-19 on Care Provided by Police Medics

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1. INTRODUCTION

Police Officers in Specialist Roles deliver immediate life-saving medical care when first on scene to incidents.¹

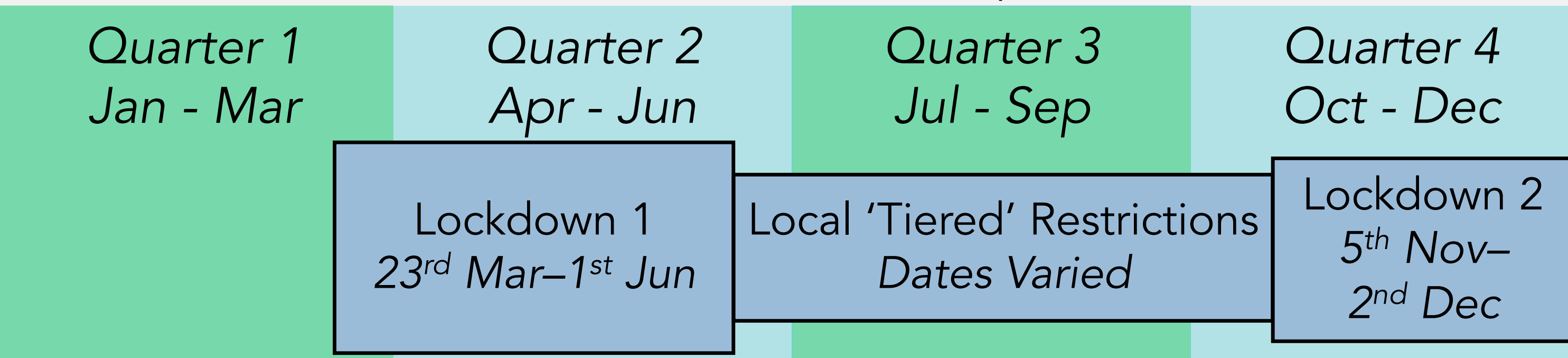
Medical care is documented post-incident on Patient Report Forms (PRFs) to quality assure care and audit.¹

During 2020, COVID-19 restrictions impacted the behavior of the public and the activity of emergency forces, including Police Officers in Specialist Roles.^{2,3}

2. AIM

To quantify and explore if COVID-19 restrictions impacted the number and type of incidents attended compared to 2019.⁴

Figure 1: National Lockdown Restrictions compared to Annual Quarters



3. METHODS

1. PRFs completed in 2019 and 2020 from four police forces (two urban, two semi-rural) were collated⁴
2. Incident type extracted; inter-personal Assault, road traffic collisions (RTCs), Mental Health, Medical
3. 2019 and 2020 data was analysed by Quarter (Figure 1) to assess the impact of COVID-19 restrictions

4. KEY FINDINGS

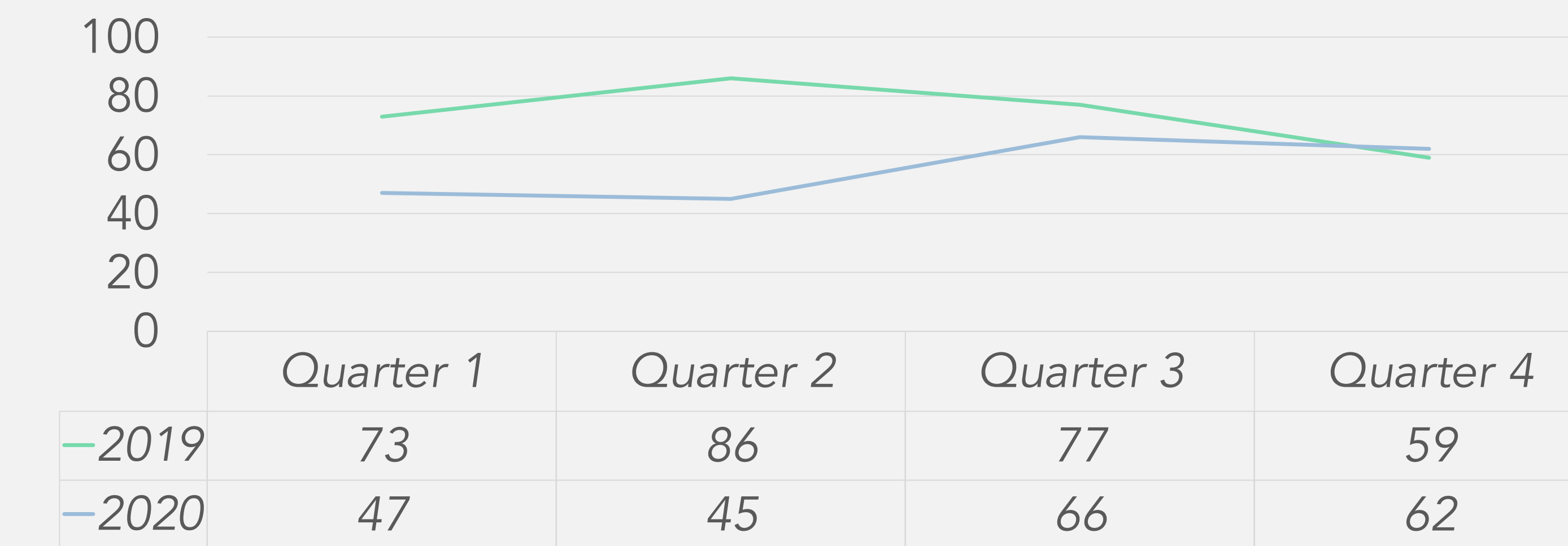


Figure 2: Graph displaying total number of incidents attended by all police forces per quarter.

Figure 3: Number and Proportion of incidents attended in 2019 (left) versus 2020 (right). In red: Change in Total between Years: Change in Proportion between Years

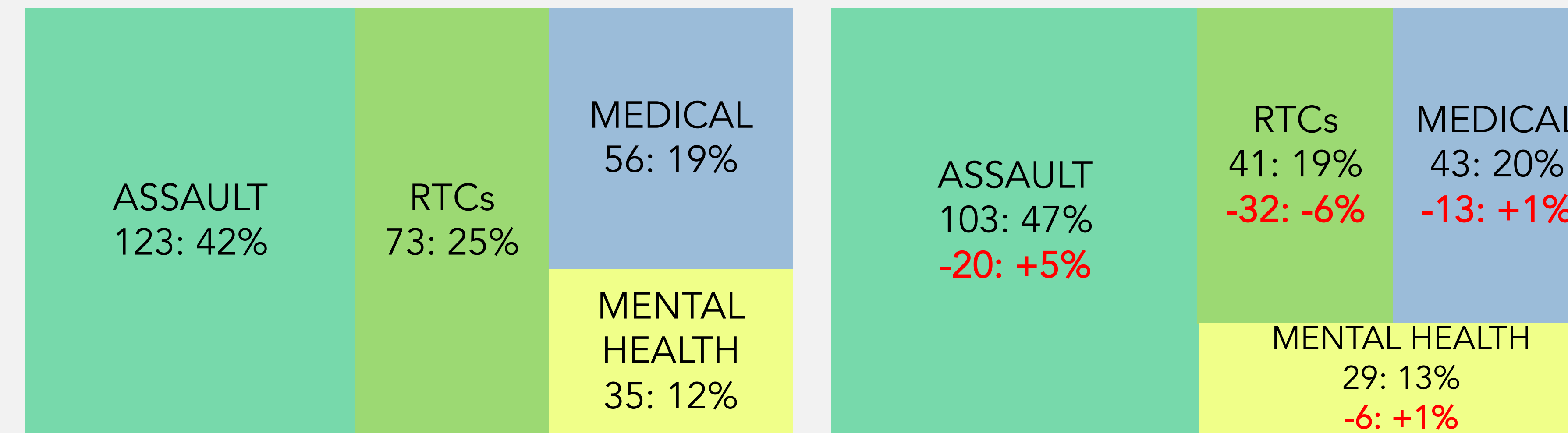
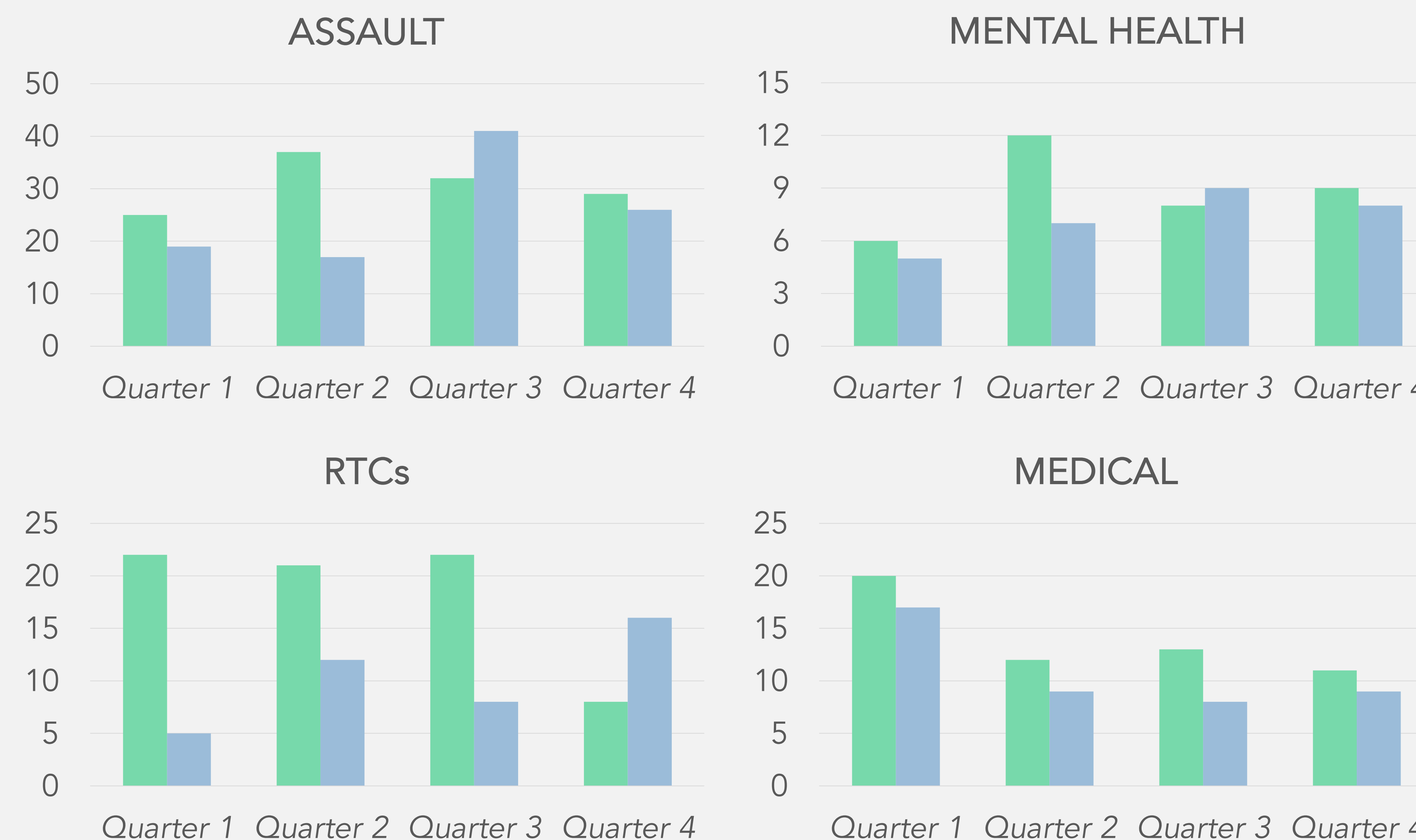


Figure 4: Graph's displaying number of each incident type attended by all police forces per quarter.



5. RESULTS

25% decrease in call-outs in 2020 (220) compared to 2019 (295), significantly in Quarters 1 and 2 (Figure 2).

Proportions of incident type attended were similar except RTC (-6%) and Assault (+5%) (Figure 3).

Most significant decreases in 2020: RTCs incidents in Quarters 1, 2 and 3, Assault and Mental Health in Quarter 2. Assault increased above 2019 in Quarter 3.

6. DISCUSSION

- It is unclear if there were differences in incidents attended between urban and rural police forces.
- Results may reflect changes in emergency resource allocation as opposed to changes in incidence.²
- Results were analysed to quarters which do not exactly correlate with COVID-19 restrictions.
- Further research with more police forces PRFs required to quantify impact of COVID-19 restrictions

7. CONCLUSION

There was a significant decrease in the number of incidents attended by Police Officers in Specialist Roles in 2020. Research is required to explore relationships between COVID-19 restrictions and incidents attended.

REFERENCES

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