

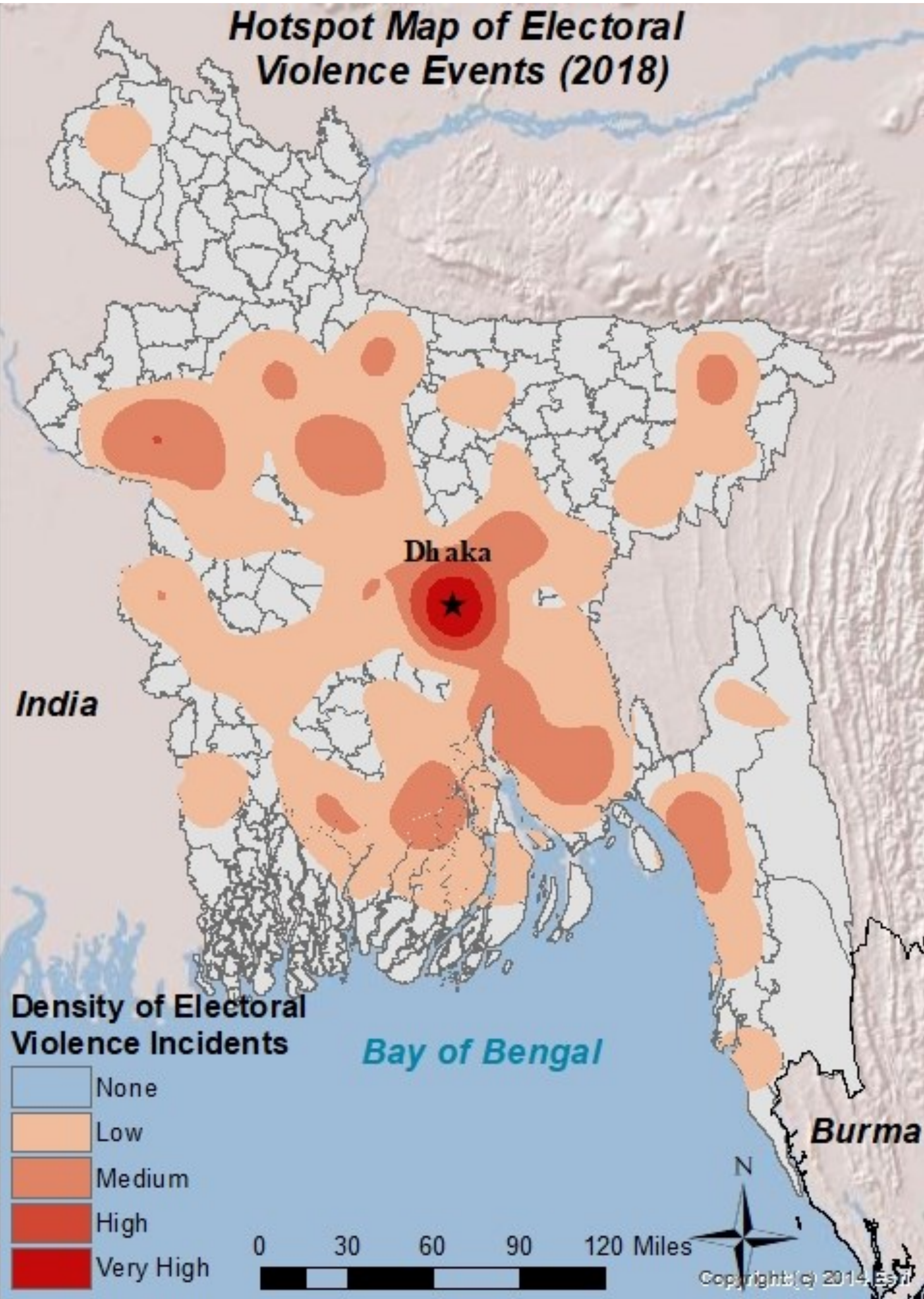
# Electoral Violence in Bangladesh: Where do Political Parties Choose to Commit Electoral Violence? A Study of the 2018 Elections

## Introduction

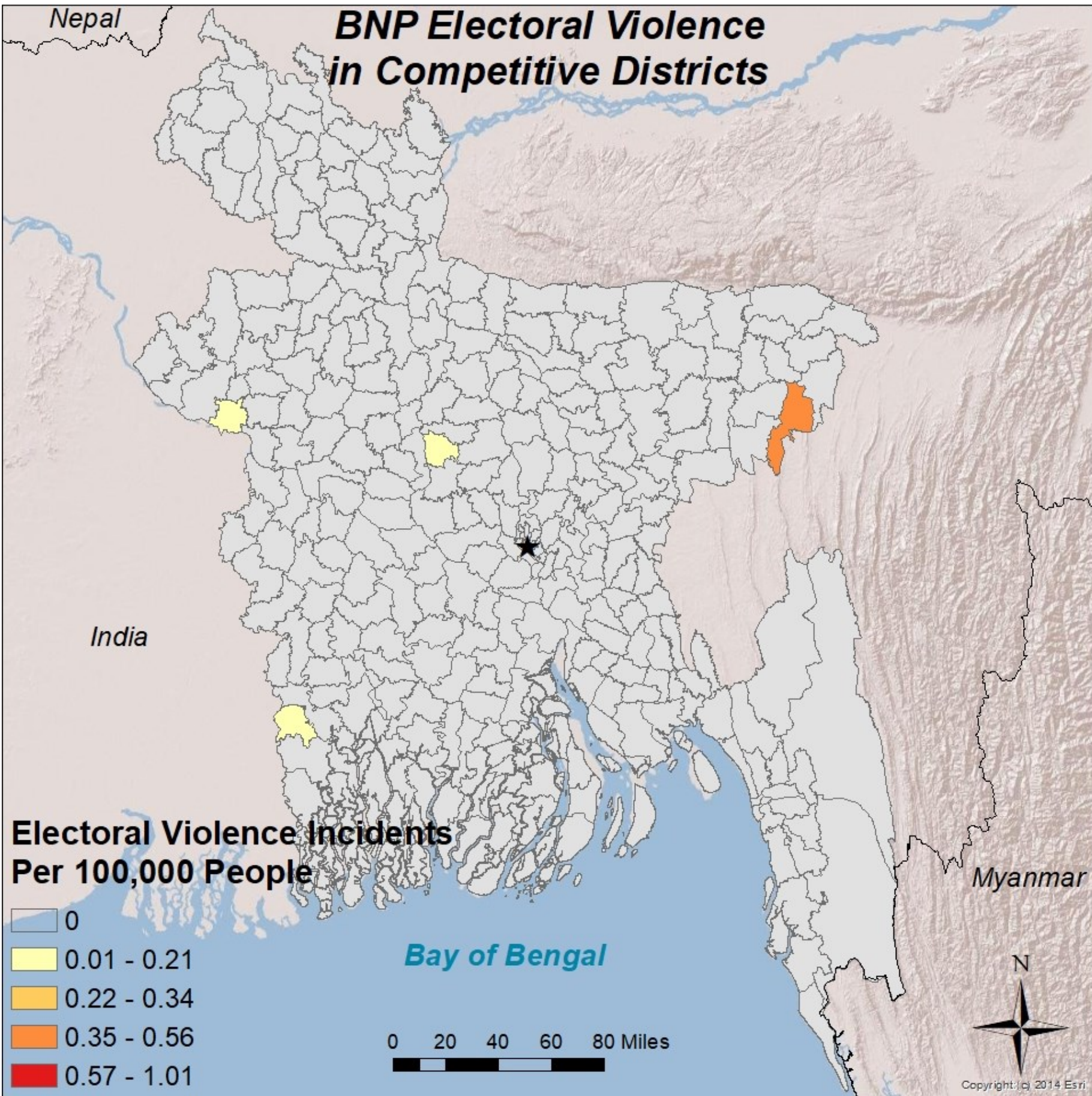
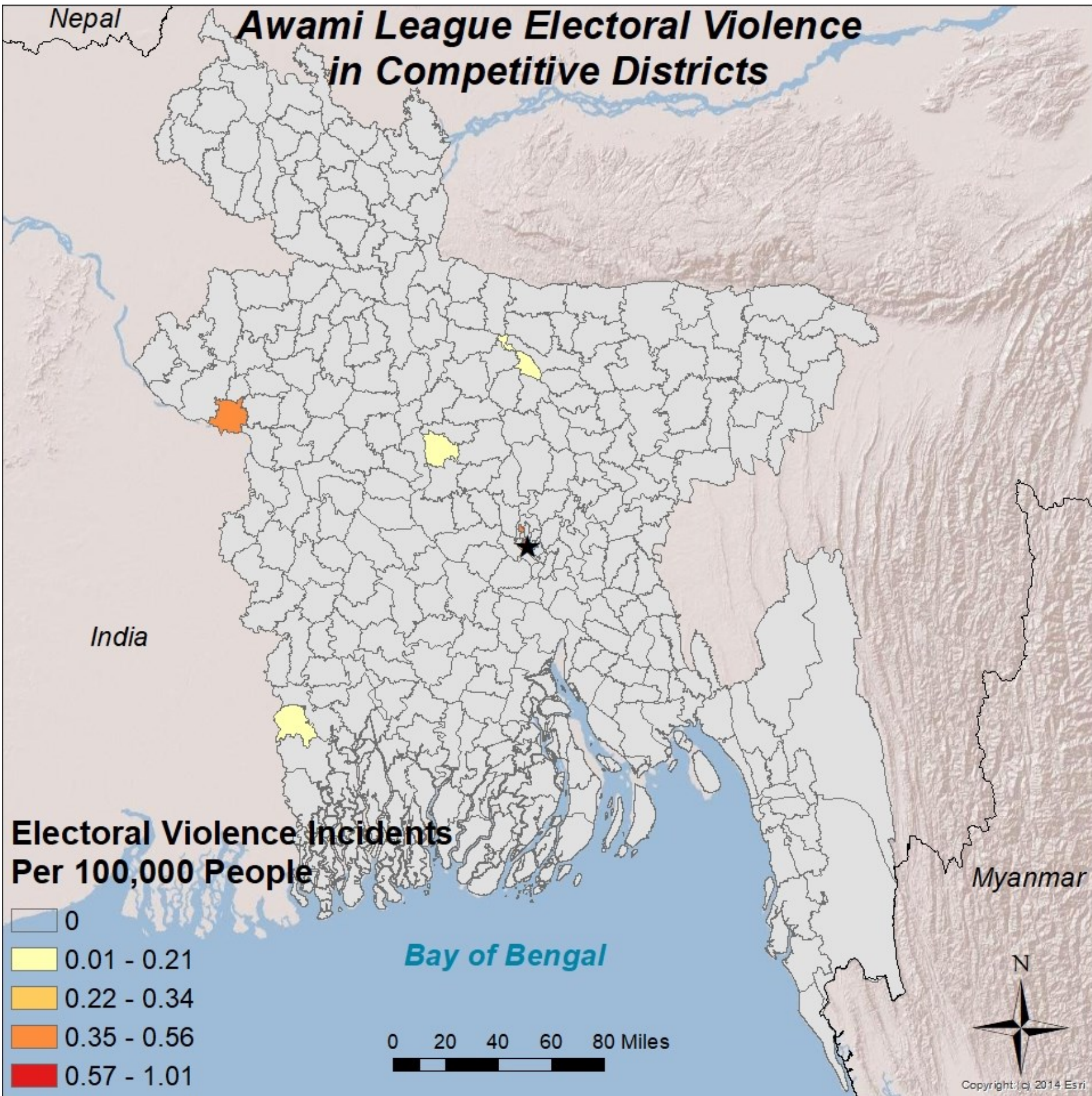
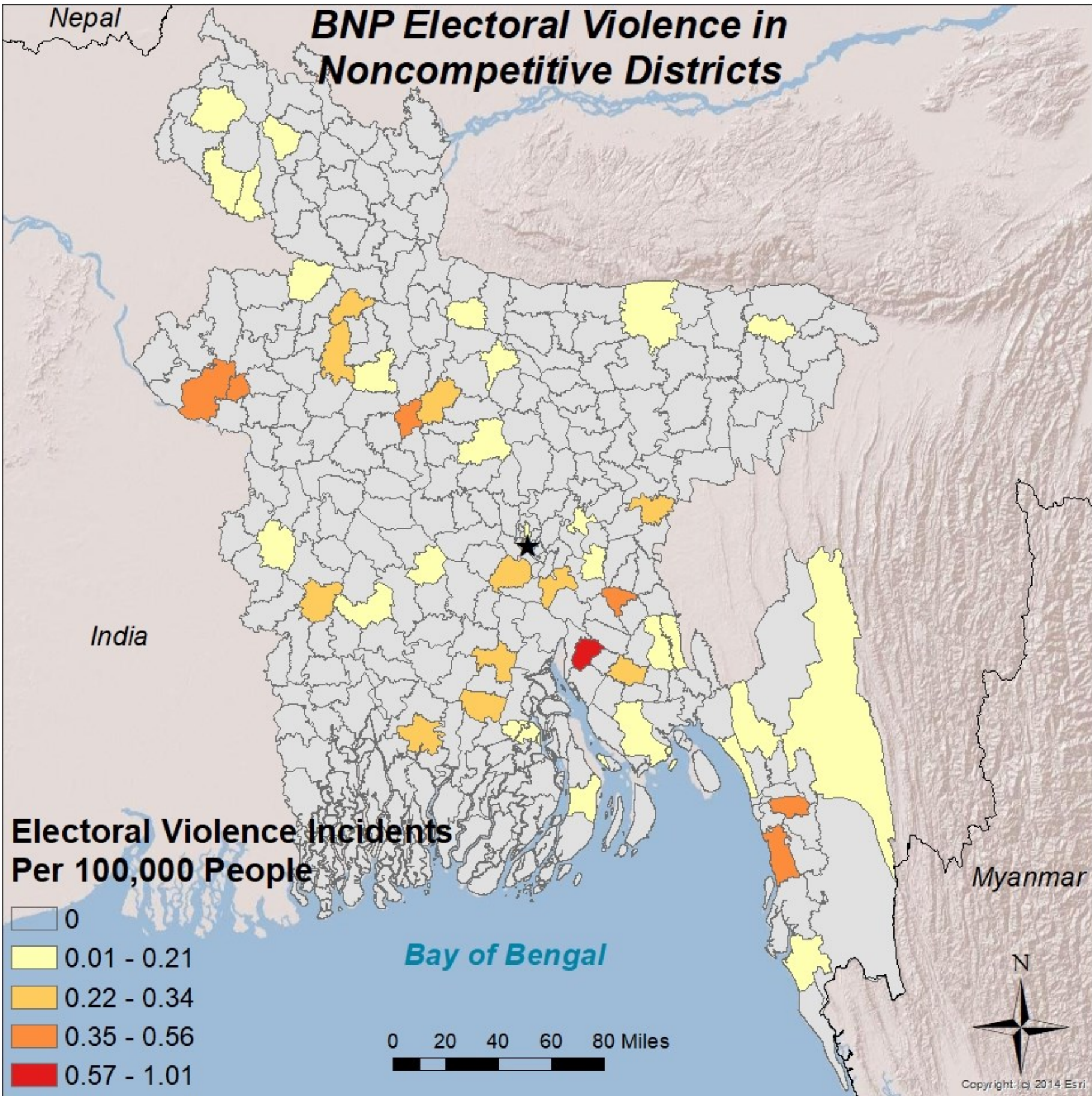
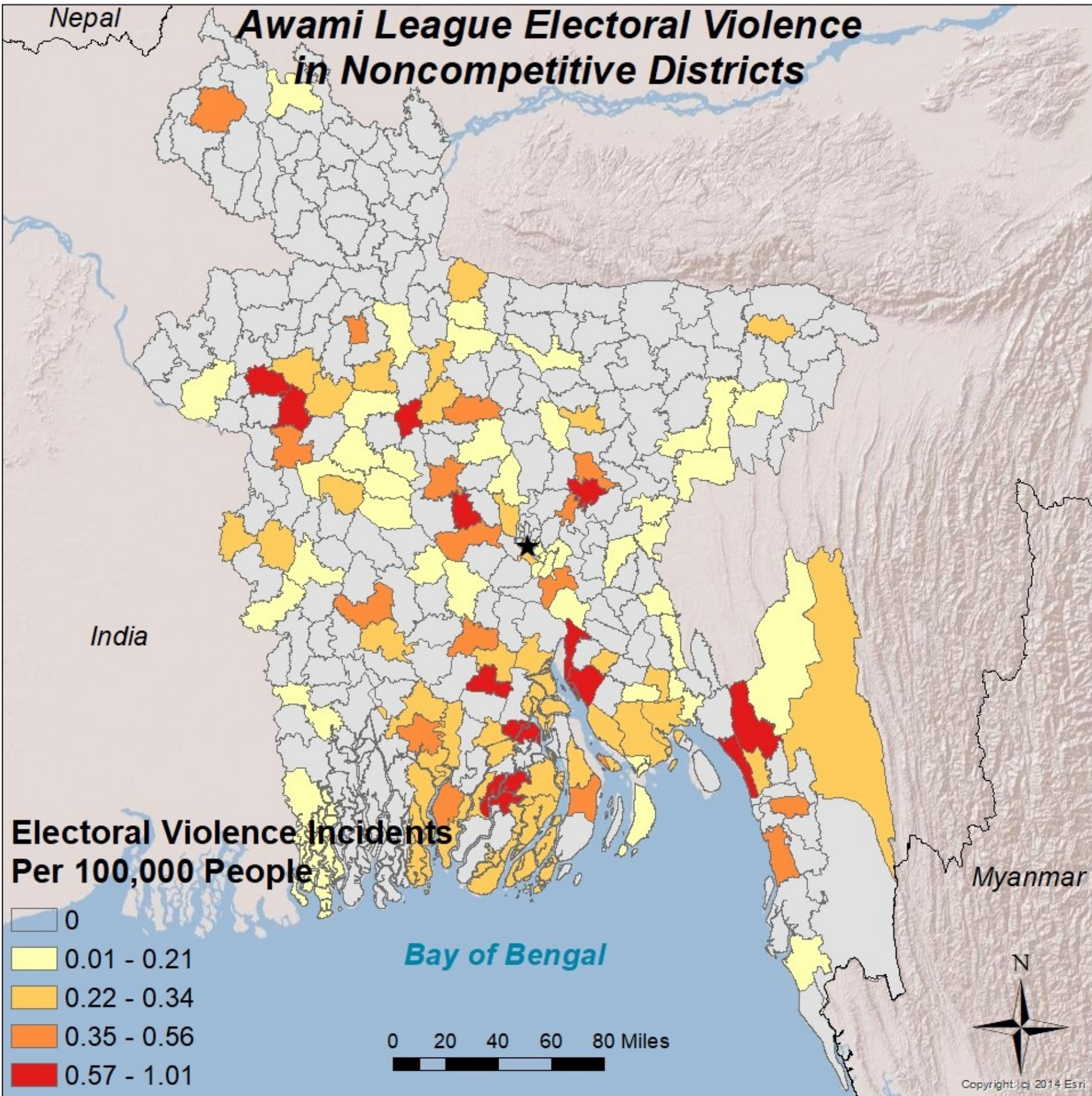
This study will attempt to identify where political parties chose to commit electoral violence during Bangladesh's 2018 parliamentary elections. We will examine if the two major parties in Bangladesh (The Awami League and the BNP) specifically engaged in acts of political violence during contested elections, or were less strategic and utilized violence as a signaling tactic to society more broadly. We will attempt to answer the following spatial question:



Where did political parties in Bangladesh choose to commit electoral violence in 2018? Were areas of contested and competitive elections emphasized, or was violence more diffused?



## Analysis

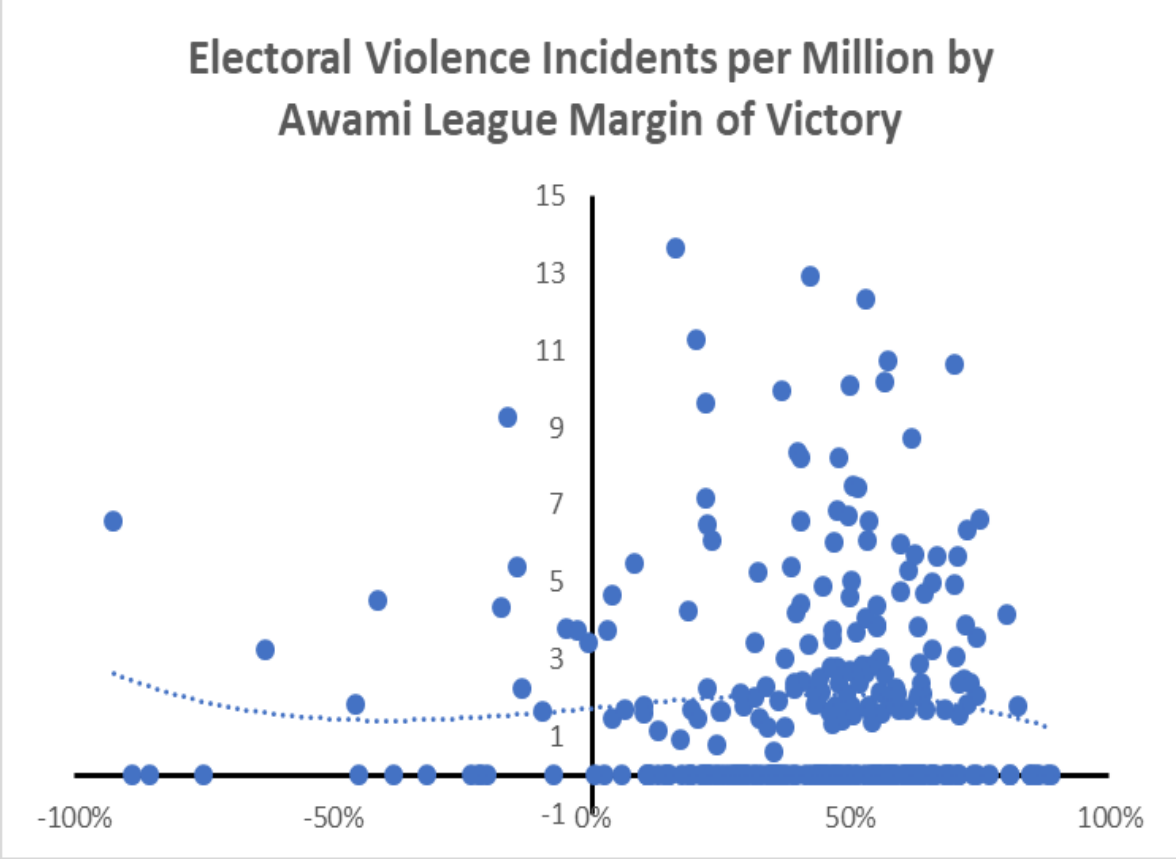


## Methodology

This project uses a density analysis to identify where political violence was concentrated in the run-up to the 2018 elections. To calculate conflict density, we spatially joined ACLED conflict data for the BNP and Awami league to polygons for individual constituencies, and then normalized them by their population to generate a conflict density score. We coded all constituencies with a margin of victory of 10 percentage points or less as “competitive”, and calculated conflict density for competitive and non-competitive races and compared the two.

## Findings

Overall, the data indicate that both the Awami League and the BNP did not intentionally target their electoral violence in competitive districts. Both in terms of intensity and location, parties engaged in electoral violence more often and more intensely in electoral constituencies that were not closely contested. This may reflect a variety of factors, including a lack of constituent relations capacity by parties, lack of control over violence perpetrators by parties, or a restrictive political environment obscuring which districts were truly competitive.



## Limitations

A key limitation of this study was data quality. ACLED data relies heavily on secondary sources and media reporting, and many entries provided incomplete or unclear attribution to specific parties. Furthermore, the political context offers numerous challenges, as a restrictive political climate and credible allegations of voter fraud may impede our identification of truly competitive constituencies.

Date: May 4, 2020  
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Projected Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 46N

Data Sources:

- Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) Conflict Data
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
- Bangladesh Daily Star
- Bangladesh Election Commission