

Ukraine: protection of civilians in armed conflict April 2024 update



HRMMU staff visits impact site in Kharkiv on 6 April.

Date: 10 May 2024

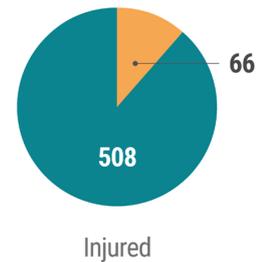
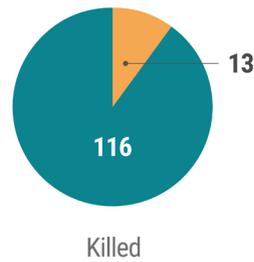
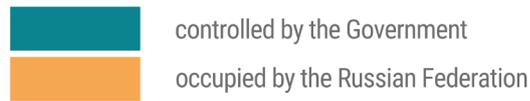
Summary

- The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) documented a **continued high level of civilian casualties due to intense hostilities near the frontline** in April, while Russian armed forces also launched coordinated large-scale attacks on energy infrastructure, which threatened Ukraine's power and transportation systems.
- At least **129 civilians were killed and 574 were injured** in Ukraine in April 2024. While April saw a slight increase in the number of killed compared with the previous month, the number of injured civilians increased significantly for the second month in a row.
- Targeted attacks against **energy-related infrastructure** – which started in March – continued in April, destroying or damaging power generation plants and electricity substations and temporarily disrupting access to electricity, gas and water. In April, HRMMU documented **34 attacks** on energy infrastructure facilities in Government-controlled territory and **13 incidents** in territory occupied by the Russian Federation, including three related to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.
- Most civilian casualties (**89 per cent**), and damage to educational and health facilities (**86 per cent**) continued to occur in Government-controlled territory.

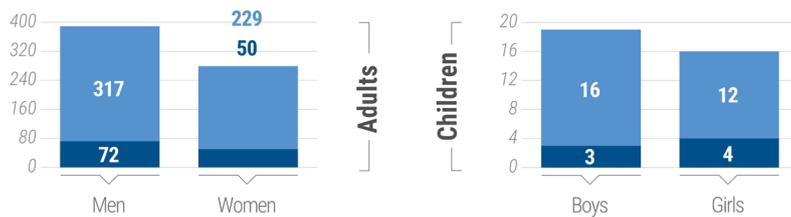
Civilian casualties April 2024¹

Total civilian casualties **703** { **129** Killed **574** Injured

1. By territory where casualties occurred



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident

Explosive weapons² with wide area effects 127 Killed, 545 Injured

Mines and explosive remnants of war 2 Killed, 29 Injured

Damage to educational and medical facilities April 2024



HRMMU staff visits the impact site in Pokrovsk on 5 April.

Representative incidents³

- On 5 April, 4 civilians (2 women and 2 men) were killed and 27 civilians (14 women, 11 men and 2 boys) injured in Zaporizhzhia as a result of consecutive missile strikes. Journalists were among the injured.
- On 19 April, missiles and loitering munitions struck railway infrastructure and its vicinity in Dnipropetrovsk region, including in Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih and Synelnykove, killing 8 civilians (4 women, 2 men, 1 girl and 1 boy) and injuring 22 (14 women, 7 men and 1 boy). One strike killed four members of one family, including two children, leaving an injured 6-year-old boy an orphan.
- On 29 April, what appears to have been a cluster munition struck a seafront promenade in Odesa city in the evening hours, killing 7 civilians (4 men and 3 women) and injuring dozens, including a 4-year-old girl.

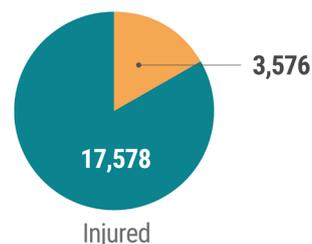
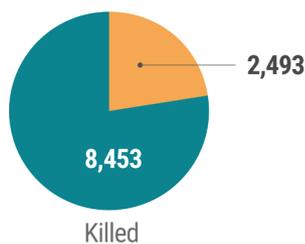
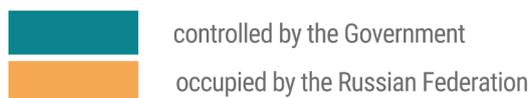
“Blood covered my whole face, so I don’t know if anything was left in the apartment. The scotch tape on our windows did not help at all.”

- A 66-year-old woman from Lukiantsi, Kharkiv region.

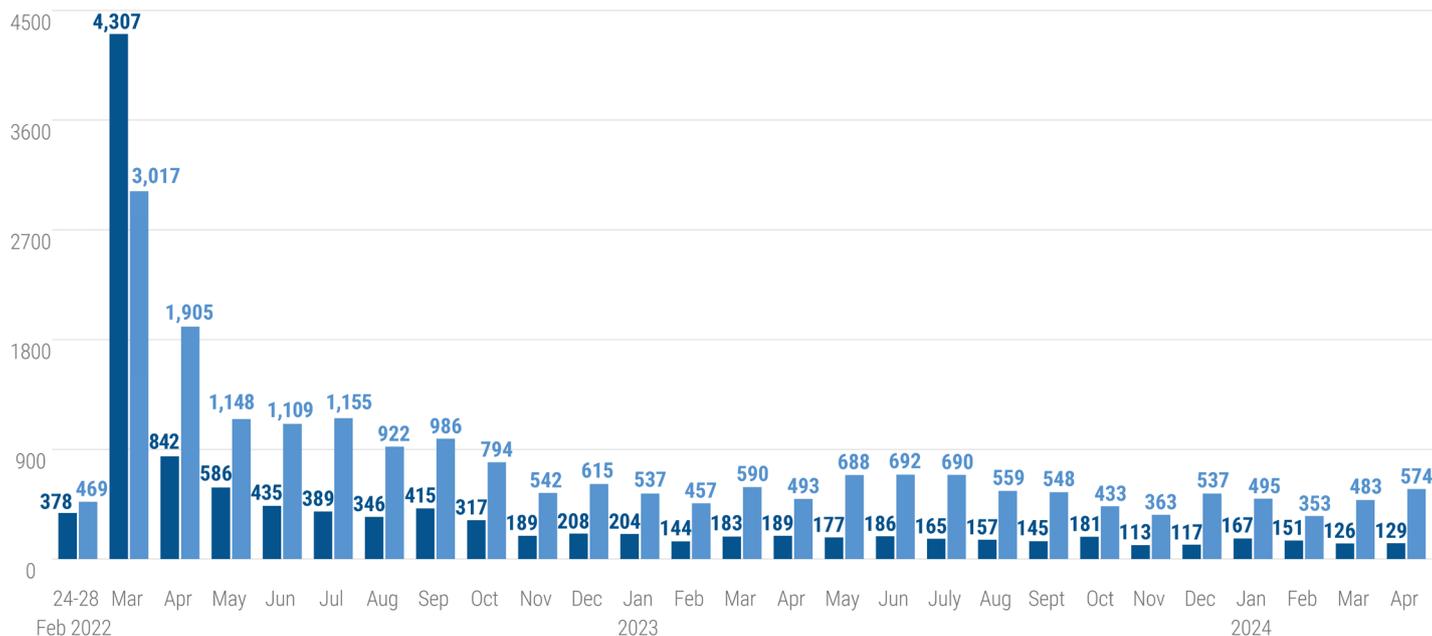
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁴

Total civilian casualties **32,100** { **10,946** Killed **21,154** Injured

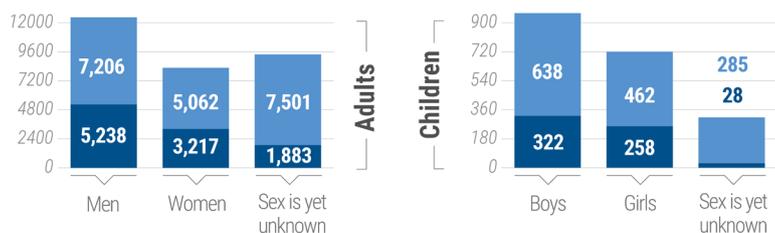
1. By territory where casualties occurred



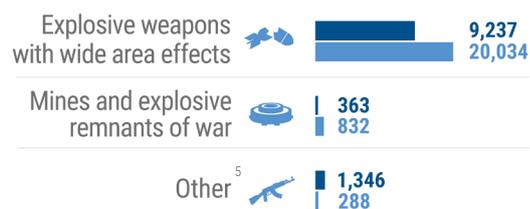
2. By month



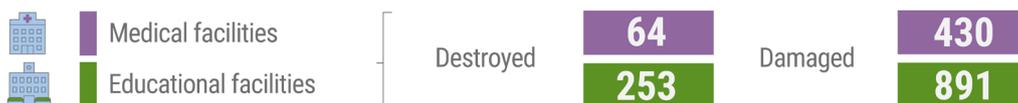
3. By age and sex



4. By type of weapon/incident



Damage to educational and medical facilities since 24 February 2022



Civilians killed since 2014





The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

HRMMU collects information about civilian harm from conflict-related violence from a wide range of sources, including through interviews with victims, their relatives, and witnesses; open-source information, including photo and video material; forensic records and reports; criminal investigation materials; court documents; reports by international and national non-governmental organisations; public reports by law enforcement and military actors; data from medical facilities and local authorities.

All sources and information are assessed for their relevance and credibility and cross-checked against other information. In some instances, corroboration takes time. This means that conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised as more information becomes available and numbers may change as new information emerges over time.

Statistics presented in the current update are based on individual records of civilian harm where the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard of proof was met, namely where, based on a body of verified information, an ordinarily prudent observer would

have reasonable grounds to believe that the harm took place as described. HRMMU refers to information that meets this criteria as “verified.” When HRMMU has not yet verified a casualty or reported an individual case of death or injury, it does not necessarily mean that HRMMU has established the individual as an active member of an armed group or as someone who directly participated in hostilities. In many cases, the non-designation of an individual as a civilian reflects a lack of information, rather than confirming the individual’s status as a combatant.

The actual extent of civilian harm – both casualties and infrastructure damage – is likely considerably higher as many reports of civilian harm, particularly from the period immediately after the full-scale armed attack, have not been possible to verify due to the large number of reports and the lack of access to relevant areas. The number of civilian casualties is likely particularly undercounted in cities such as Mariupol (Donetsk region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), where there was protracted intensive fighting at the start of the armed attack in 2022.

¹ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

² Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by shelling from artillery, tanks and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), by cruise and ballistic missiles (air, sea and land-based), and by air strikes, including loitering munitions and other unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

³ Several additional attacks reportedly resulted in multiple casualties. For example, an attack on 12 April in the occupied town of Tokmak, Zaporizhzhia region, reportedly killed 16 people and injured 28 injured. While HRMMU has been able to verify that several civilians were killed or injured in the attack, the majority of individual cases of death and injury are still pending verification. On 17 April, an attack in Chernihiv reportedly killed 18 people and injured 61. HRMMU has verified that 2 civilians were among the killed and 7 among the injured.

⁴ HRMMU believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, as many reports, particularly from certain locations and from the immediate period after 24 February 2022, are still pending corroboration. This concerns, for example, Mariupol (Donetsk region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), where there were allegations of high civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. An increase in total figures in this update compared with the previous update is not only due to casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure that occurred in the reporting period as HRMMU also continues to corroborate cases that occurred before the reporting period.

⁵ Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by fire from small arms and light weapons, including as a result of crossfire, sniper fire, escalation of force incidents (cases in which military opened fire on civilians whom they perceived as a threat), and wilful killings, as well as road accidents involving either military vehicles or civilian vehicles driven by military in the area of hostilities.