

Ukraine: protection of civilians in armed conflict

August 2024 update



The remnants of a hotel in Kryvyi Rih struck by an attack on 26 August 2024.

Date: 6 September 2024

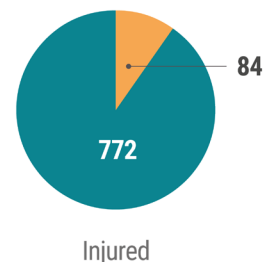
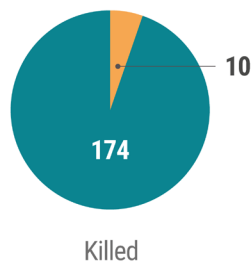
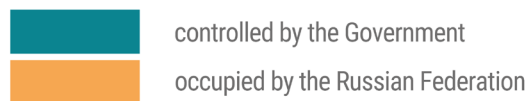
Summary

- **At least 184 civilians were killed and 856 injured in Ukraine in August**, making it the month with the second highest number of civilian casualties in 2024, after July.
- Multiple **mass casualty events**, including in Kostiantynivka (Donetsk region) and Kharkiv, and **daily attacks near the frontline**, particularly in Donetsk region, contributed to the high civilian casualty number.
- On 26 August, a large-scale **coordinated attack on energy infrastructure** across Ukraine by Russian armed forces, resulted in significant damage to energy infrastructure in 15 regions, and civilians killed and injured in 10 regions of Ukraine and Kyiv City. This was the ninth such wave of attacks since 22 March 2024. In August, energy infrastructure was damaged or destroyed in 37 attacks in Government-controlled territory and five attacks in occupied territory.
- Local Russian authorities reported civilian casualties **in Kursk region in the Russian Federation** in connection with the incursion of the Ukrainian armed forces that started on 6 August. HRMMU has not yet been able to verify the circumstances of those casualties according to its standard methodology.
- The vast majority of civilian casualties (**91 per cent**) and damage to educational and health facilities (**95 per cent**) in August continued to occur in Government-controlled territory.

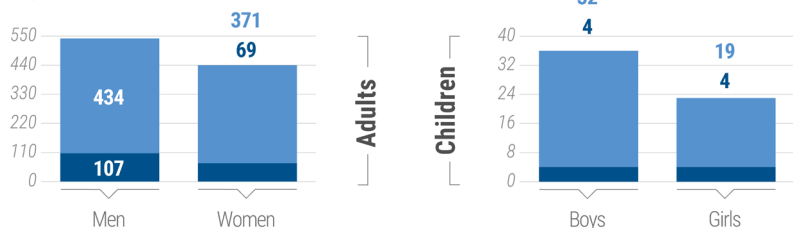
Civilian casualties August 2024¹

Total civilian casualties **1,040** { **184** Killed **856** Injured

1. By territory where they occurred



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Attacks damaging educational and health facilities August 2024



A residential building in Kharkiv city damaged in an attack on 30 August 2024.

Representative incidents

- On 9 August, a missile hit a supermarket in Government-controlled Kostiantynivka (Donetsk region), killing 14 civilians (6 men, 5 women and 3 girls) and injuring 44 (24 women and 20 men).
- A large-scale attack on 26 August damaged at least 25 energy facilities in 15 regions. The attack also resulted in 8 civilians (7 men and 1 woman) killed and at least 23 injured (13 men, 7 women, 2 boys and 1 girl), nation-wide power outages, and damage to housing and property.
- On 30 August, aerial bombs struck four districts of Kharkiv city, killing 6 civilians (3 women, 2 men and 1 girl) and injuring at least 44 (26 women, 10 men, 5 boys and 3 girls).
- On 30 August, an attack on Belgorod city in the Russian Federation killed 5 and injured 46 civilians, including 7 children, according to Russian authorities. HRMMU has not yet been able to verify these casualties in line with its standard of verification.

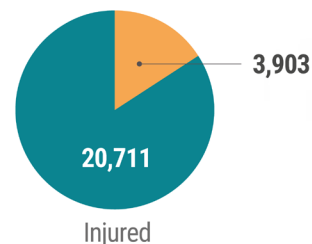
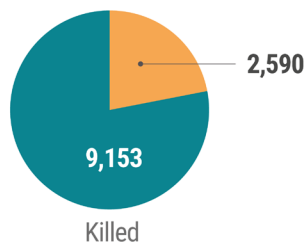
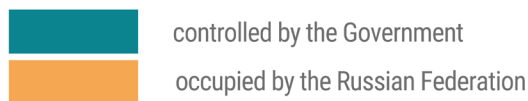
"When the blast happened, shrapnel struck the terrace of our restaurant. When I went outside, I saw people running in panic in the park, taking their children and leaving the strollers. [...] In the playground, one seriously injured young girl was immediately placed in a vehicle and rushed to a hospital. Later, I heard she passed away".

- a restaurant employee in his 20s describing the immediate aftermath of the attack in Kharkiv on 30 August 2024.

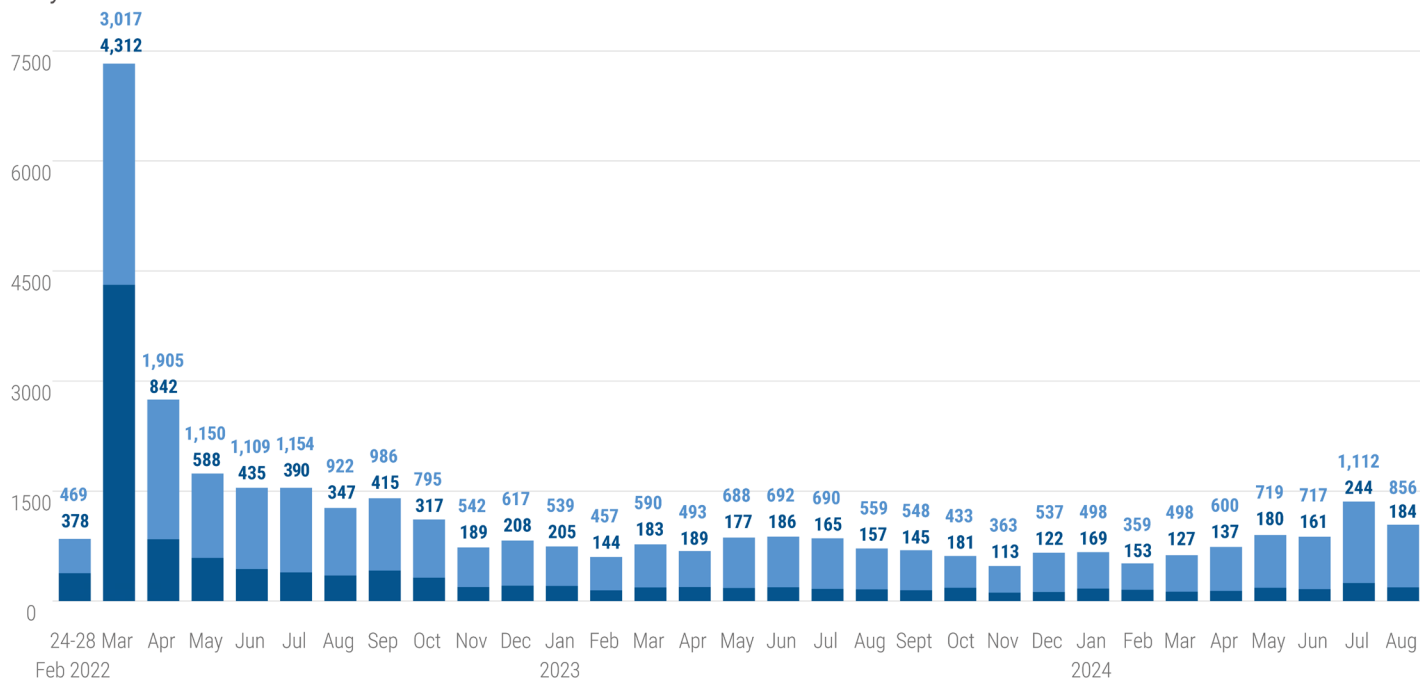
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022³

Total civilian casualties **36,357** { **11,743** Killed **24,614** Injured

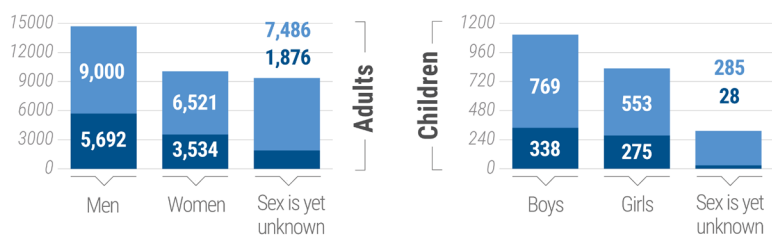
1. By territory where they occurred



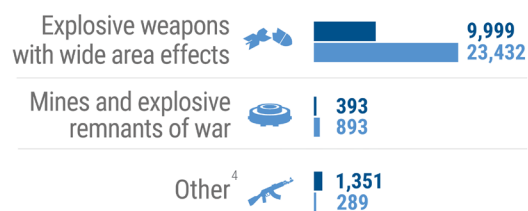
2. By month



3. By age and sex



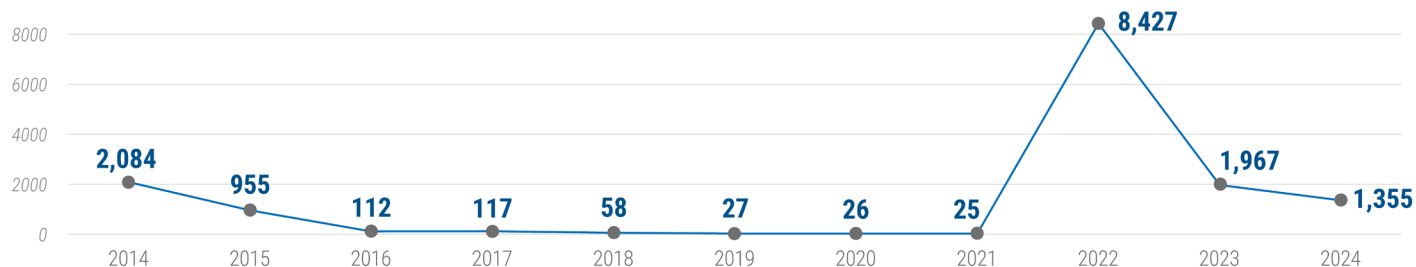
4. By type of weapon/incident



Attacks damaging educational and health 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 as more information becomes available, conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised and numbers may change.

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 criterion 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 a confirmation of 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 of 24 February 2022, 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 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.

⁴ 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.