

# Ukraine: protection of civilians in armed conflict

## July 2024 update



Ongoing rescue efforts after an attack on the Okhmatdyt National Children's Hospital in Kyiv City on 8 July.

Date: 9 August 2024

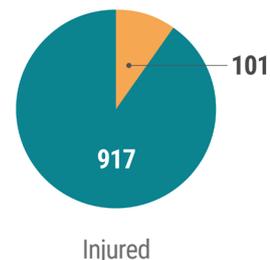
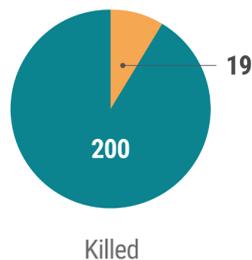
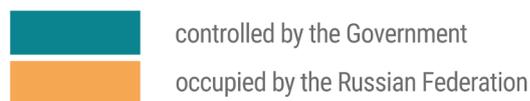
## Summary

- **At least 219 civilians were killed and 1,018 injured in Ukraine in July**, which makes it the deadliest month for civilians since October 2022. The high number of casualties in July continues a trend of increasing civilian casualties since March 2024.
- A large-scale coordinated attack launched by the Russian armed forces across Ukraine **on 8 July killed at least 43 civilians, including 5 children, and injured 147, including 7 children, in Kyiv City, Dnipro City, Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region) and Kyiv region**. One missile in the 8 July attack also struck a hospital complex in Kyiv City, completely destroying the toxicology department of the Okhmatdyt National Children's Hospital and significantly damaging the Center for Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery.
- In June and July, the most intensive offensive military operations by the Russian armed forces shifted from northern Kharkiv region to the Donetsk region. As a result, **verified civilian casualties in Donetsk region increased from 125 civilians killed or injured in May to 224 in June and 269 in July 2024**.
- The vast majority of civilian casualties (**90 per cent**) and damage to educational and health facilities (**86 per cent**) continued to occur in Government-controlled territory.

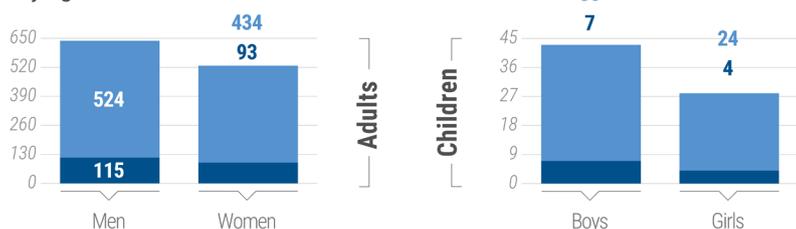
# Civilian casualties July 2024<sup>1</sup>

Total civilian casualties **1,237** [ **219** Killed **1,018** Injured ]

## 1. By territory where casualties occurred



## 2. By age and sex



## 3. By type of weapon/incident



# Attacks damaging educational and health facilities July 2024



HRMMU staff documenting the civilian harm of an attack in a residential area on 31 July 2024 in Chornobaivka, Kherson region.

# Representative incidents

- On 3 July, missiles and loitering munitions struck Dnipro city, killing 10 civilians (6 men and 4 women) and injuring 49 (25 men, 23 women and 1 girl).
- On 5 July, aerial bombardment killed 5 civilian men and injured 15 civilians (10 men and 5 women) in Government-controlled Selydove (Donetsk region).
- On 8 July, a large-scale coordinated attack launched by the Russian armed forces killed at least 43 civilians, including 5 children, and injured 147, including 7 children in Kyiv City, Dnipro City, Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region) and Kyiv region. Most of the civilian casualties occurred in Kyiv City.
- On 13 July, two consecutive missiles struck railway infrastructure in Budy (Kharkiv region), killing an emergency worker and a police worker, and injuring 25 civilians (17 men, 6 women, 1 boy and 1 girl).

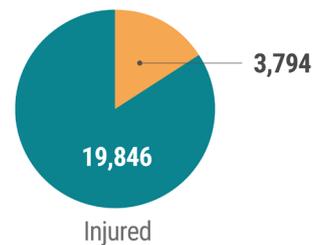
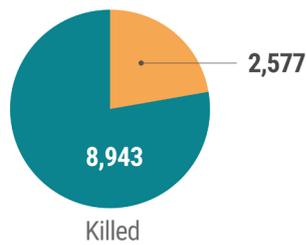
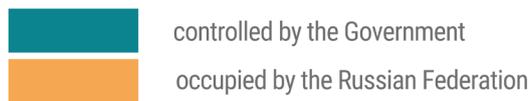
*“Right after the explosion it was dark around as everything was covered in dust. People were screaming. Parents with children who were in the toxicology department building were evacuated through the windows”.*

- Witness present at the Okhmatdyt Children’s Hospital, attacked on 8 July 2024.

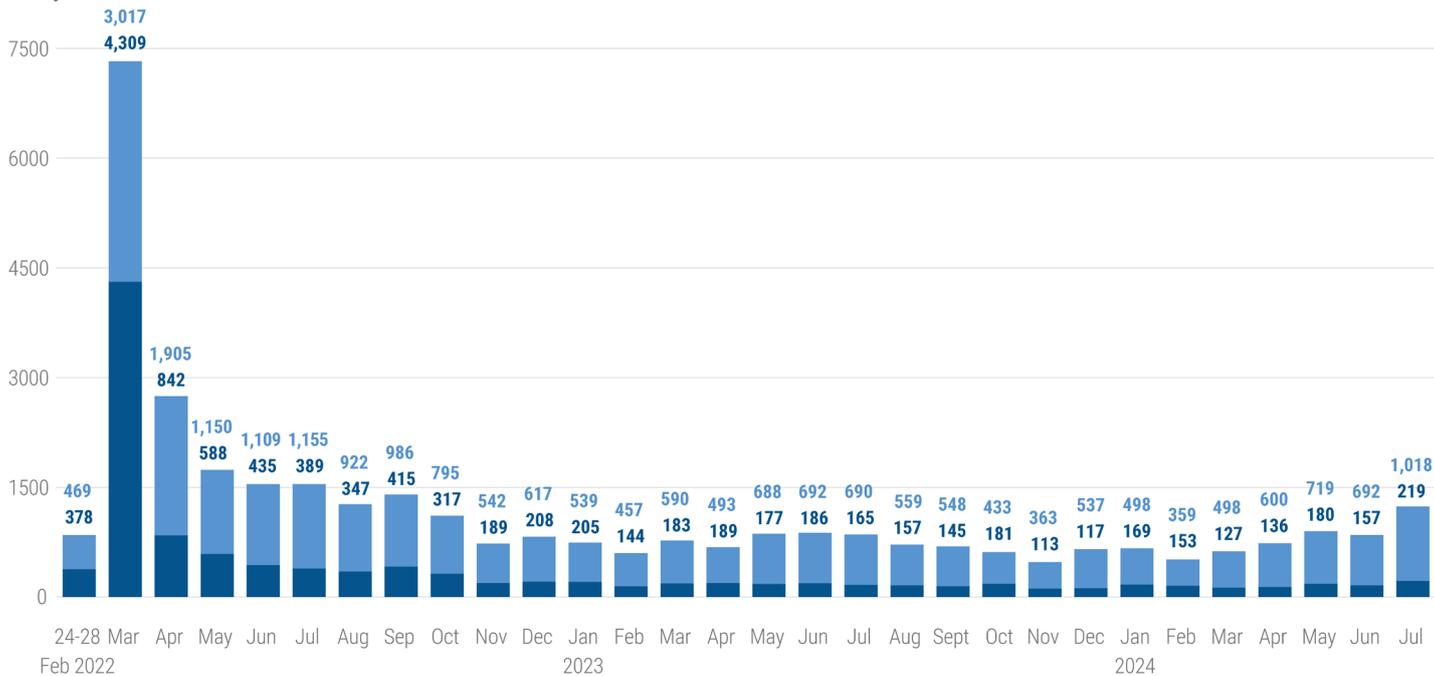
# Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022<sup>3</sup>

Total civilian casualties **35,160** [ **11,520** Killed **23,640** Injured ]

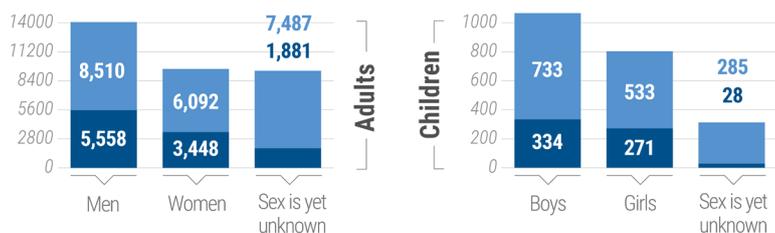
## 1. By territory where casualties occurred



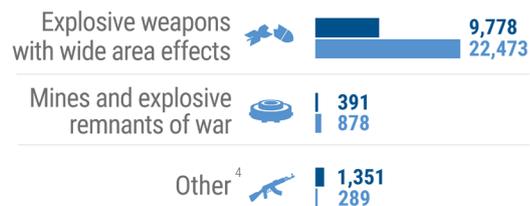
## 2. By month



## 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 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.