



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

UKRAINE

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT • MAY 2026 UPDATE

SUMMARY



At least **274 civilians were killed and 1,763 injured** in Ukraine **in May 2026**, marking the **highest total number of civilians killed and injured since April 2022**.¹ This is a 93 per cent increase compared with May 2025 (191 killed; 865 injured) and a 23 per cent increase compared with April 2026 (240 killed; 1,422 injured).



Attacks **with long-range weapons** (missiles and drones) were **the primary cause of civilian casualties**, accounting for **45 per cent** of the total (115 killed; 803 injured), with most casualties occurring in urban centres, such as Kyiv and Dnipro, far from the frontline.



Short-range drones were the primary cause of civilian casualties near the frontline, killing 64 civilians and injuring 539. **More civilians were killed and injured** by this type of weapon **in May than in any other month since 24 February 2022**.



Other civilian **casualties near the frontline** resulted from aerial bombardments (57 killed and 179 injured), artillery shelling and MLRS attacks (28 killed and 208 injured). In addition, 10 civilians were killed and 34 injured in incidents involving explosive remnants of war (ERW) and mines.



The vast majority of civilian casualties² occurred in areas under the control of the Government of Ukraine. Civilians were killed or injured across **20 regions of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv**.

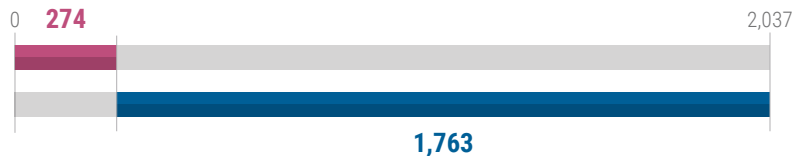


The highest numbers of killed and injured occurred **in Kyiv** (26 killed and 102 injured), **Zaporizhzhia** (15 killed and 91 injured), **Kherson** (14 killed and 221 injured), and **Dnipro** (8 killed and 83 injured).

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES MAY 2026³

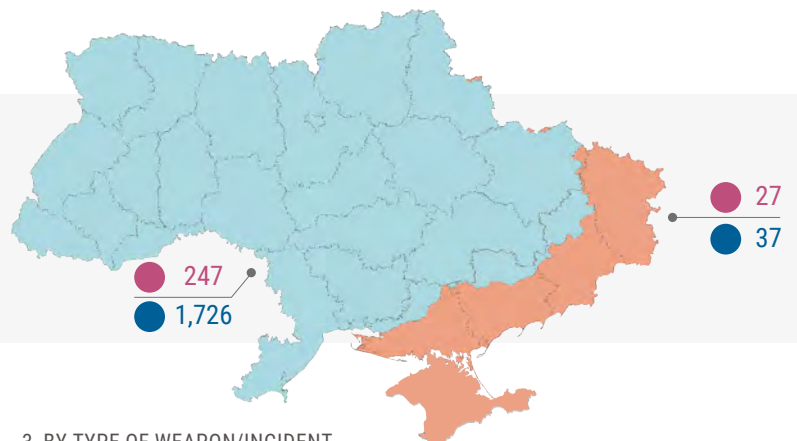
2,037
total civilian casualties

● killed
● injured

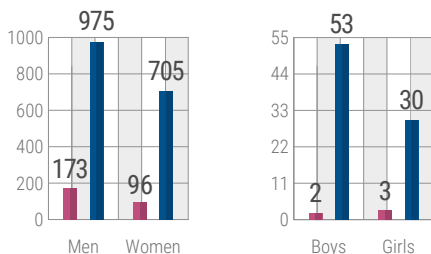


1. BY TERRITORY WHERE THEY OCCURRED

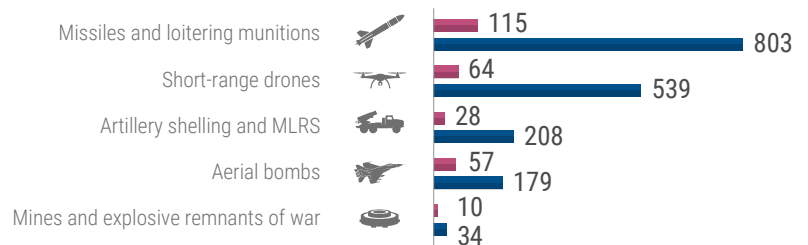
■ controlled by the Government of Ukraine
■ occupied by the Russian Federation



2. BY AGE AND SEX



3. BY TYPE OF WEAPON/INCIDENT



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES: REPRESENTATIVE INCIDENTS

“The blast threw me against a fence. I saw smoke and felt severe pain in my right leg. When I looked down, I saw that my leg had been almost completely torn off.”

– Elderly woman whose leg was amputated following a missile attack in Pryluky, Chernihiv region, on 19 May.



On 4 May, a missile attack in Merefa, Kharkiv region, struck residential areas, killing 9 civilians (6 men and 3 women) and injuring 28 (13 women, 12 men, and 3 boys).



On 5 May, in Poltava region, missiles and loitering munitions struck a gas production facility. A second strike on the same location killed and injured emergency responders who had arrived at the scene. In total, 5 civilians, including 2 emergency workers, were killed, and 32 civilians, including 23 emergency workers, were injured.



On 5 May, aerial bombs struck industrial areas of Zaporizhzhia, significantly damaging a car repair shop and surrounding buildings. 12 civilians (10 men and 2 women) were killed and 42 (28 men and 14 women) were injured.



On 5 May, aerial bombs hit the centre of Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, killing 7 civilians (4 women and 3 men) and injuring 19 (10 men and 9 women).



On 5 May, a missile attack in Dnipro struck a warehouse belonging to a supermarket chain, killing 4 men and injuring 19 civilians (15 men and 4 women).



On 14 May, a missile and loitering munition attack on Kyiv killed 24 civilians (11 men, 10 women, and 3 girls) and injured at least 32 (20 men, 10 women, 1 boy, and 1 girl). All of those killed and some of those injured were residents of a multi-storey building, one entrance of which collapsed following a missile strike.



On 19 May, a missile struck an area near a supermarket in Pryluky, Chernihiv region, during the day, killing 4 civilians (2 men, 1 woman, and 1 boy) and injuring 26 (13 men and 13 women).

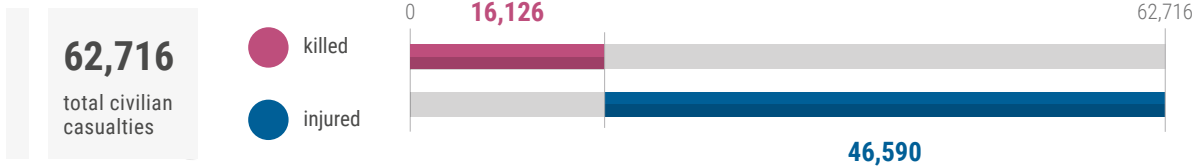


During the night of 21-22 May, one or more weapons struck an educational complex in occupied Starobilsk, Luhansk region. The strike killed 21 civilians (18 women, 3 men), many of them adult students, and injured at least 4 civilians (2 women and 2 men).⁴

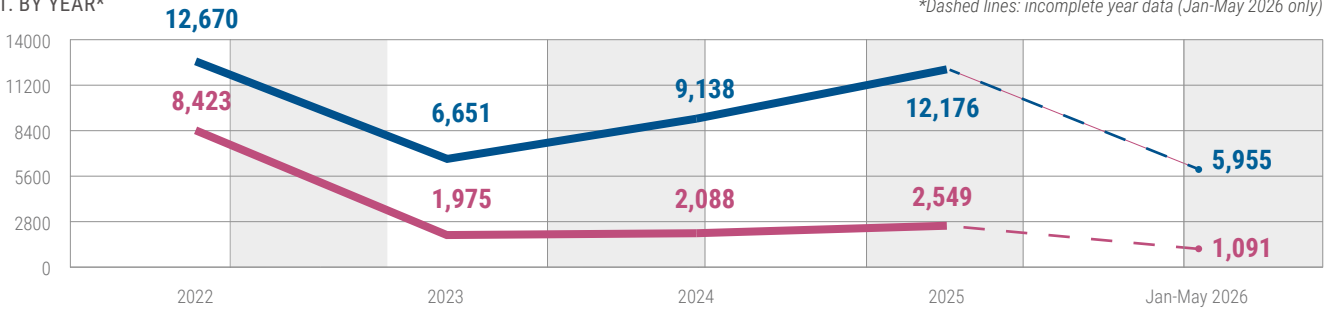


On 24 May, a missile and loitering munition attack on Kyiv killed 2 women and injured at least 70 civilians (35 men, 32 women, 2 girls, and 1 boy).

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES SINCE 24 FEBRUARY 2022



1. BY YEAR*



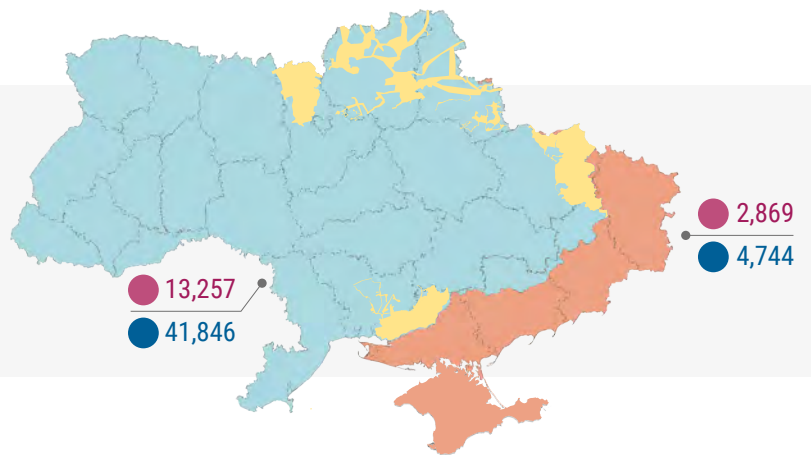
2. BY MONTHS**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	378*	469	4,313	842	589	435	390	347	415	317	189	208
2023	205	144	183	189	178	186	166	158	145	181	113	127
2024	169	156	130	141	182	162	248	204	215	198	174	109
2025	149	131	179	223	191	249	312	260	249	183	242	181
2026	167	194	216	240	274							

**The data on killed and injured civilians in this update is presented for the period since 24 February 2022.

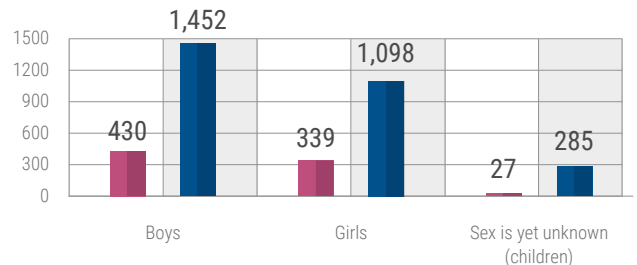
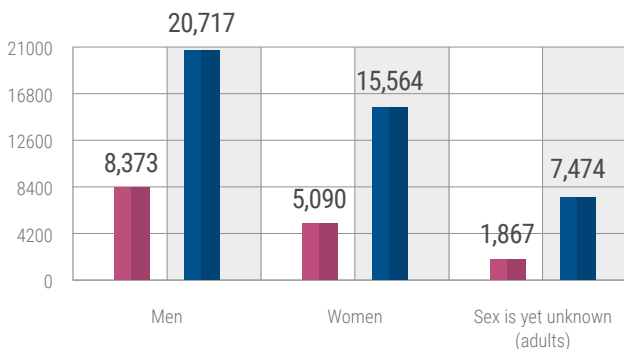
3. BY TERRITORY WHERE THEY OCCURRED***

- controlled by the Government
- occupied by the Russian Federation
- areas over which Ukraine has regained control since 24 February 2022



***Civilian casualty data on this map is presented by territory of control at the time of death or injury. Control of these areas may have changed since the incident occurred.

4. BY AGE AND SEX





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 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. 842 killed and 1,905 injured.
2. 1,973 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 64 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.
3. The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.
4. A total of 44 people were reported injured. HRMMU continues the work to verify the number of injured.
5. In comparison with the previous update, an increase in total figures in this update is not only due to casualties that occurred in the reporting period, but also to the corroboration by OHCHR of cases that occurred before the reporting period.