

Ukraine: protection of civilians in armed conflict

September 2024 update



A residential building in Kharkiv city damaged in an attack on 24 September 2024.

Date: 11 October 2024

Summary

- **At least 208 civilians were killed and 1,220 injured in Ukraine in September**, making it the month with the highest number of civilian casualties (killed and injured) in 2024, **continuing a trend of higher civilian casualties** that started in July. Nine children were killed and 76 injured. Forty-six per cent of those killed were older than 60 years.
- Attacks using missiles across the country and aerial glide bombs, particularly against the cities of Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia, contributed to the high casualty numbers.
- Near the frontline, attacks with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) accounted for a large portion of the casualties. In the part of Kherson region controlled by the Government of Ukraine, half of civilian casualties were caused by UAV attacks. UAVs also caused civilian harm in occupied Donetsk and Horlivka (Donetsk region).
- The vast majority of civilian casualties (**92 per cent**)¹ and damage to educational and health facilities (**96 per cent**)² in September continued to occur in territory controlled by Ukraine.
- At least **30 attacks damaged or destroyed energy infrastructure** (25 in territory controlled by Ukraine and 5 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation).

Civilian casualties September 2024³

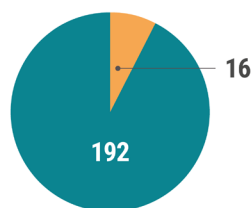
Total civilian casualties **1,428** [**208** Killed **1,220** Injured]

1. By territory where they occurred

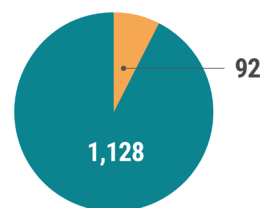


controlled by the Government

occupied by the Russian Federation

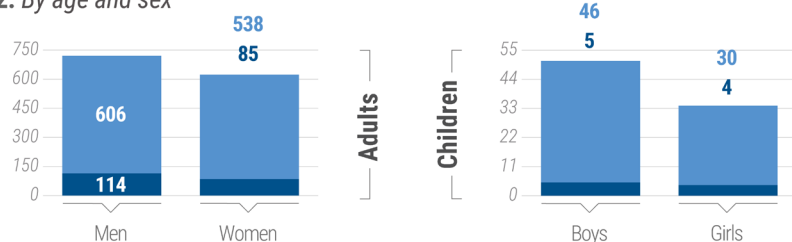


Killed



Injured

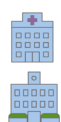
2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Attacks damaging educational and health facilities September 2024



Medical facilities

Educational facilities

Destruction

4

10

Damage

32

54

Representative incidents

- On 1 September, a missile strike in Kharkiv city killed a medical worker and injured 38 civilians (17 women, 16 men, 3 boys and 2 girls). Multiple subsequent attacks with aerial glide bombs throughout the month killed 6 civilians (all women) and injured 98 civilians (48 men, 43 women, 4 boys and 3 girls) more.
- On 4 September, a combined missiles and loitering munitions attack on Lviv killed 8 civilians (4 women, 3 men and 1 girl) and injured 61 (28 men, 24 women, 8 boys and 1 girl).
- On 6 September, a missile attack on Pavlohrad (Dnipropetrovsk region), killed 1 man and injured 64 civilians (43 women, 15 men, 5 boys and 1 girl).
- Attacks on 19 and 28 September struck medical facilities in Sumy city, including a Geriatric Boarding House for War and Labor Veterans and a Saint Panteleimon Clinical Hospital, killing at least 7 civilians (5 women and 2 men) and injuring 31 (18 men and 13 women). Medical workers were among the killed and injured.
- Since 22 September, when aerial glide bombs struck Zaporizhzhia city for the first time, similar attacks have killed one civilian man and injured at least 50 civilians (30 women, 16 men, 3 boys and 1 girl).

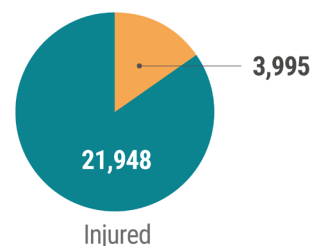
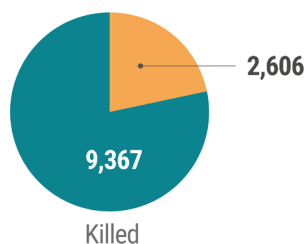
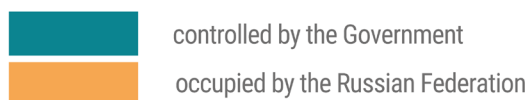
"If I had been lying on the sofa, I might be dead right now. I was standing by the cooker and the wall saved me."

- a woman whose apartment was damaged during one of the attacks in Kharkiv city.

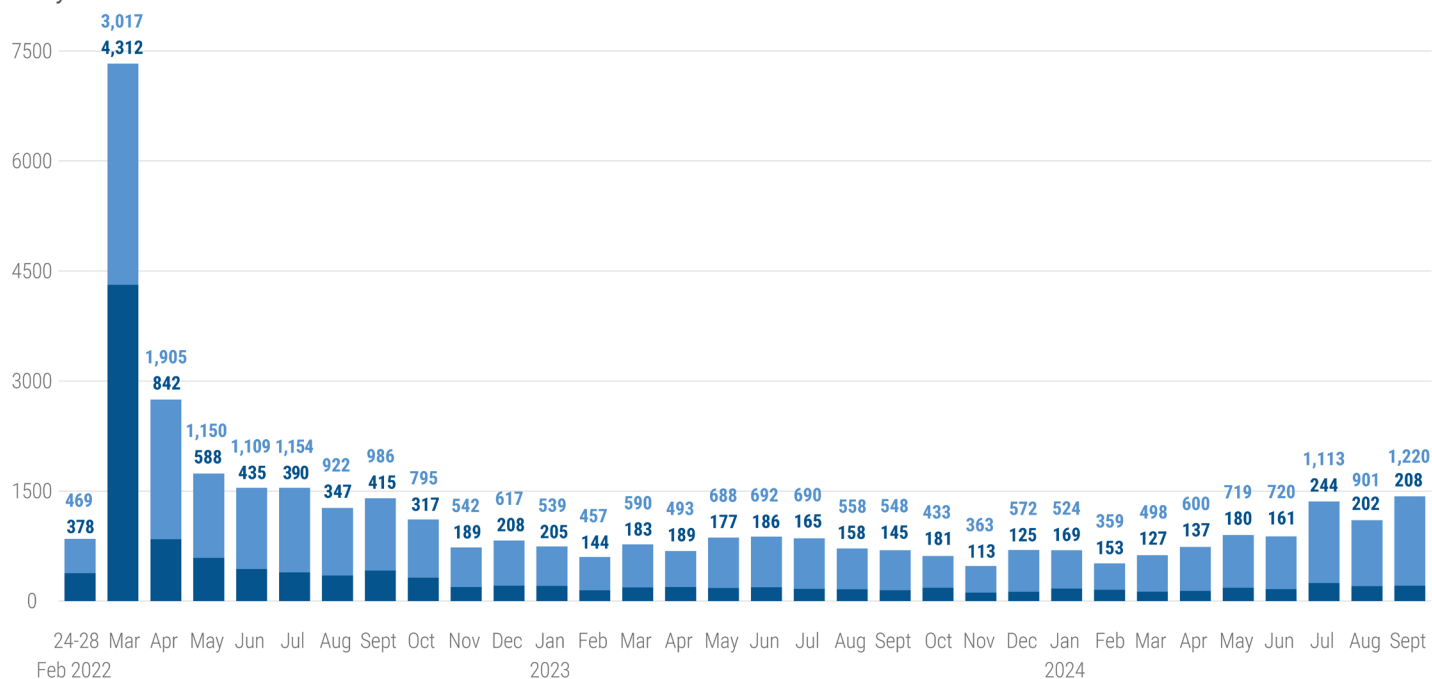
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁵

Total civilian casualties **37,916** { **11,973** Killed **25,943** Injured

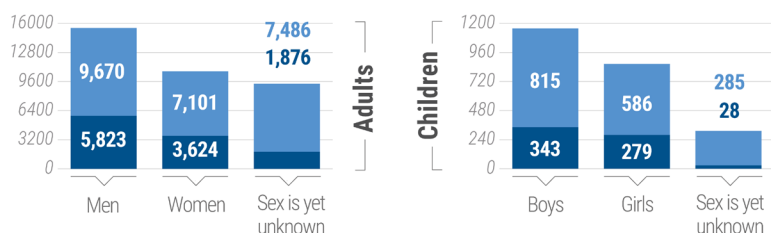
1. By territory where they occurred



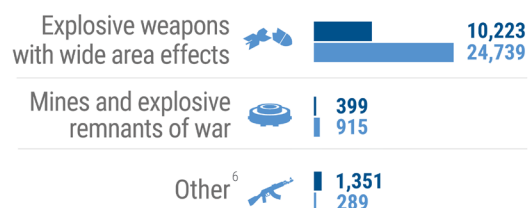
2. By month



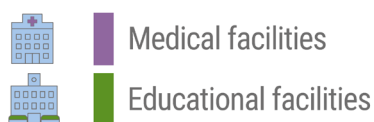
3. By age and sex



4. By type of weapon/incident



Attacks damaging educational and health facilities since 24 February 2022



Destruction

74

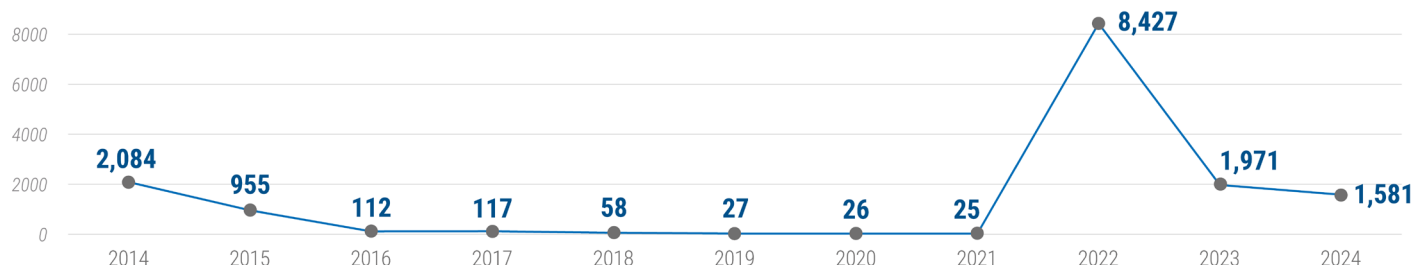
318

Damage

543

1,112

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 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 1,320 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 108 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

² 96 in territory controlled by Ukraine and 4 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

³ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

⁴ 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).

⁵ 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 OHCHR also continues to corroborate cases that occurred before the reporting period.

⁶ 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.