

Geneva Declaration

On Armed Violence and Development



IPPNW, 31.05.2013

TODAY'S TALK

- **The Geneva Declaration** on Armed Violence and Development;
- **What is armed violence** and why it matters;
- **Small Arms** and armed violence
- **What has been done** about armed violence reduction and prevention



THE GENEVA DECLARATION AND ITS AIM

The GD is a **diplomatic initiative** with the aim to achieve “**measurable reductions in the global burden of armed violence and tangible improvements in human security by 2015**”

Geneva Declaration

*Launched in 2006. As of today, **112** states have endorsed the Geneva Declaration*

UNPACKING KEY GD COMMITMENTS

- Stem the proliferation, illegal trafficking and misuse of **small arms and light weapons and ammunition**;
- Foster effective and accountable **public security institutions**;
- Promote a **comprehensive approach** to armed violence reduction issues, recognizing the **different situations, needs and resources of men and women**, boys and girls;
- Ensure that armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives **target specific risk factors and groups**, and are **linked to programmes providing non-violent alternative livelihoods** for individuals and communities.
- **Monitor and measure** the scope, scale and distribution of armed violence at national and sub-national levels, and establish national armed violence **monitoring and reporting mechanisms**;

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WHAT IS ARMED VIOLENCE?

“Armed violence is the intentional use of **illegitimate force** (actual or threatened) **with arms or explosives**, against a person, group, community, or state, that **undermines people-centered security and sustainable development**”

Geneva Declaration on Armed
Violence and Development

GLOBAL BURDEN OF ARMED VIOLENCE 2011



AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LETHAL VIOLENCE

CONFLICT DEATHS

Battle-related deaths
Civilian deaths
Victims of terrorism

Victims of extrajudicial killings

NON-CONFLICT DEATHS

INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

UNINTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

Victims of legal interventions

Direct conflict deaths:
deaths as a result of armed conflicts, political violence, and terrorism—55,000 deaths per year

Unintentional homicides:
deaths as a result of 'accidental' killings—54,000 deaths per year

Intentional homicides:
deaths as a result of interpersonal violence, gang violence, economically motivated crime—396,000 deaths per year

Victims of legal interventions:
violent deaths of civilians by law enforcement and state security forces during legal interventions—21,000 deaths per year

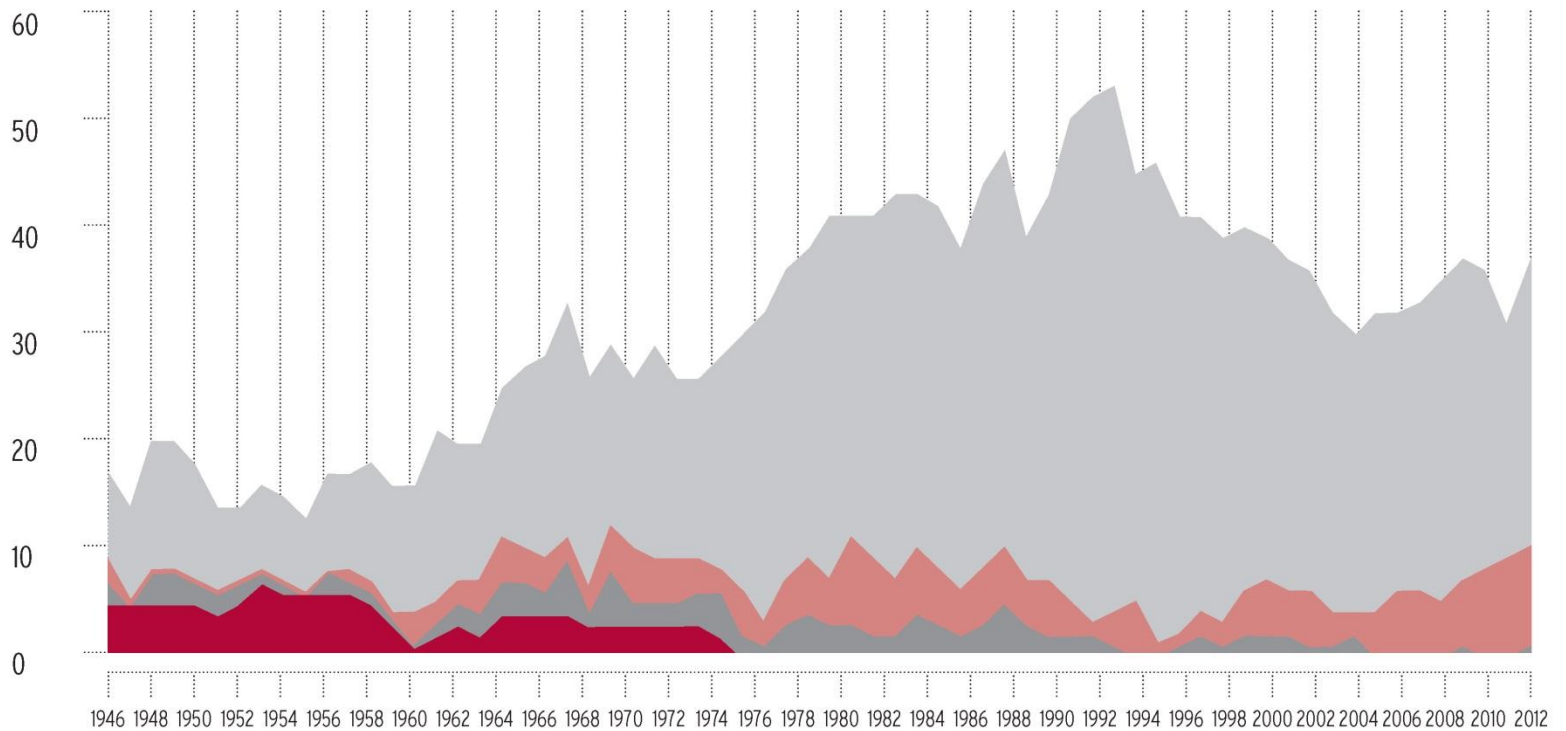
NOTE: The circles only approximately reflect the proportions of violent deaths in each category.

THE EVOLUTION OF ARMED CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

Figure 1.1 **Number of armed conflicts per year, 1946-2011**

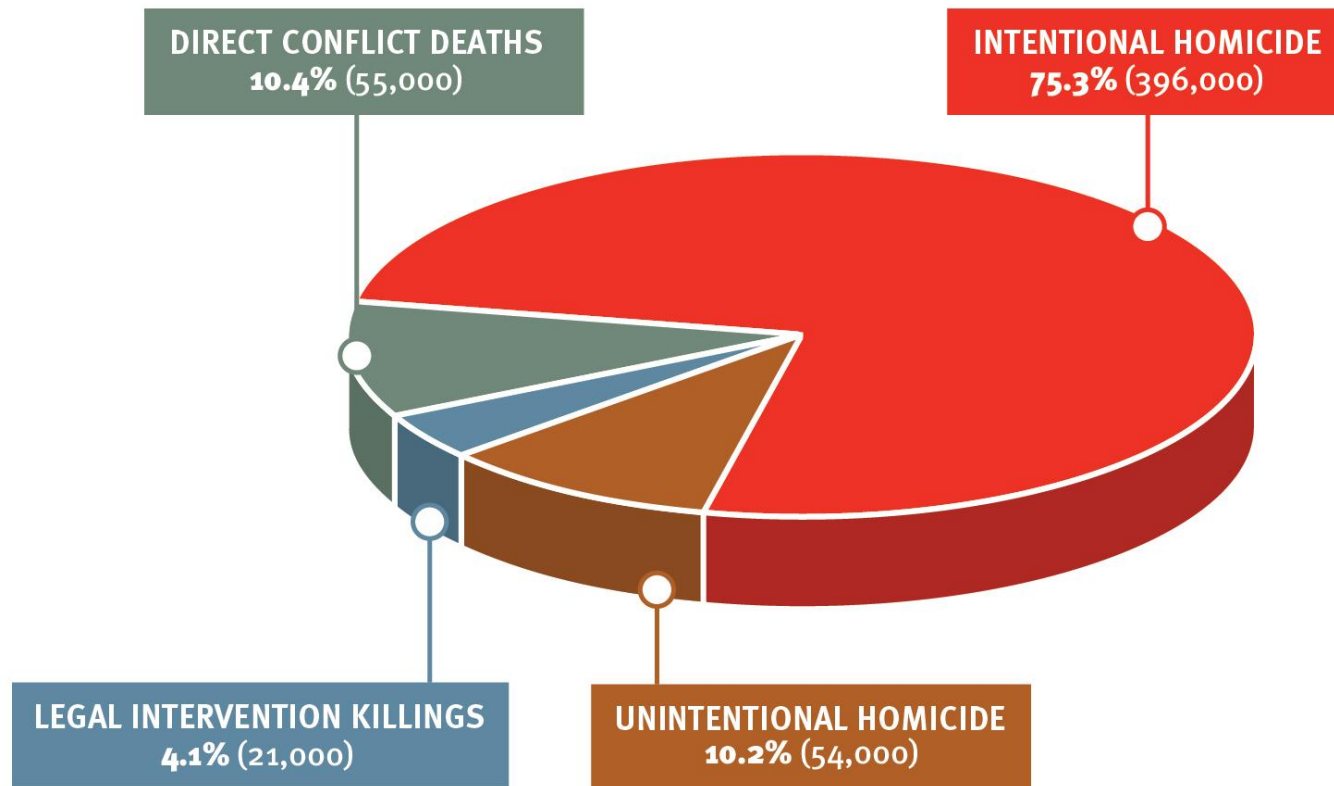
■ Extra-systemic (colonial) ■ Interstate ■ International intrastate ■ Intrastate

NUMBER OF CONFLICTS

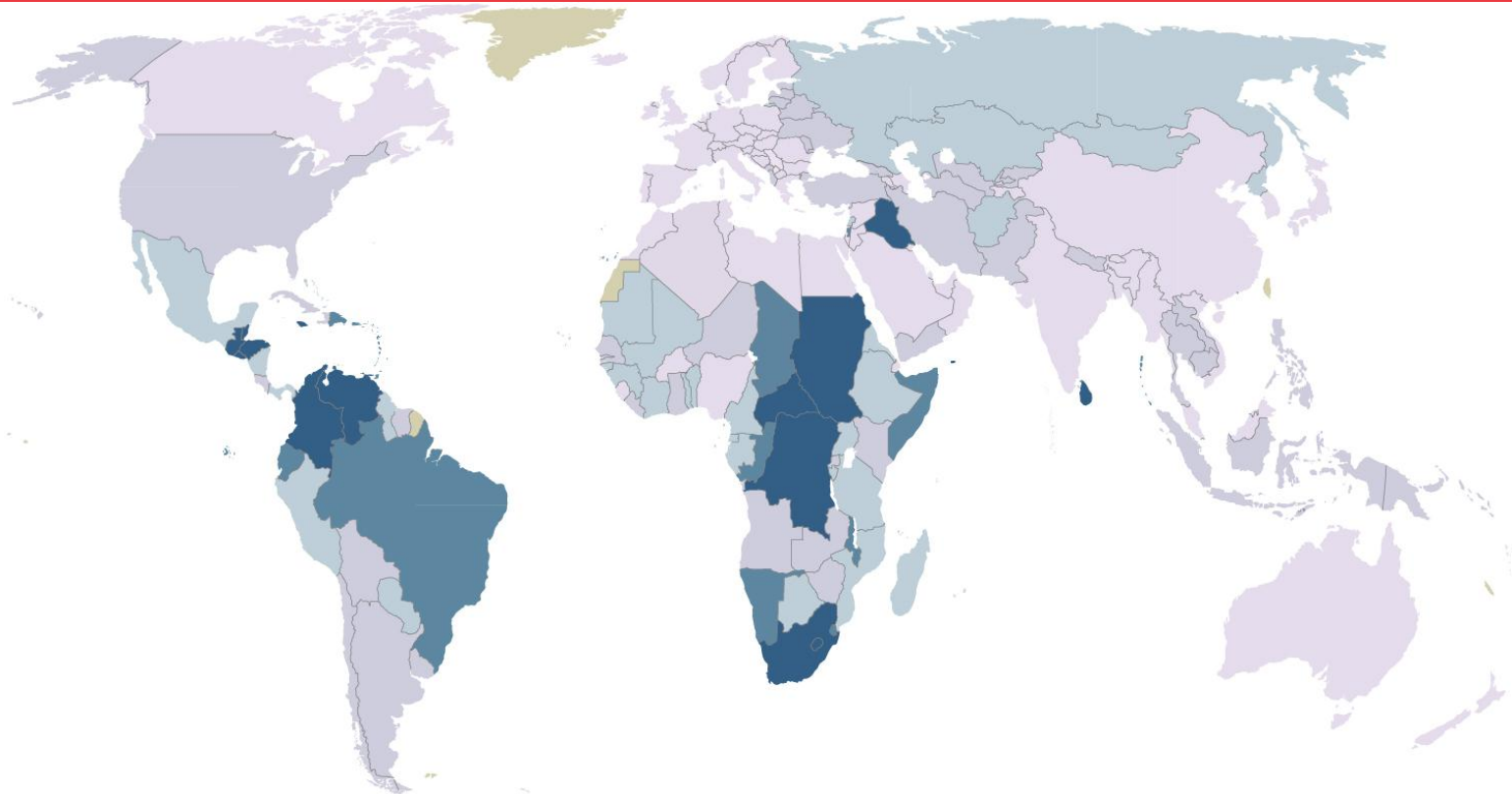


Source: Themnér and Wallensteen (2012, p. 568)

90% OF THE VICTIMS DIE IN 'NON CONFLICT' SETTINGS



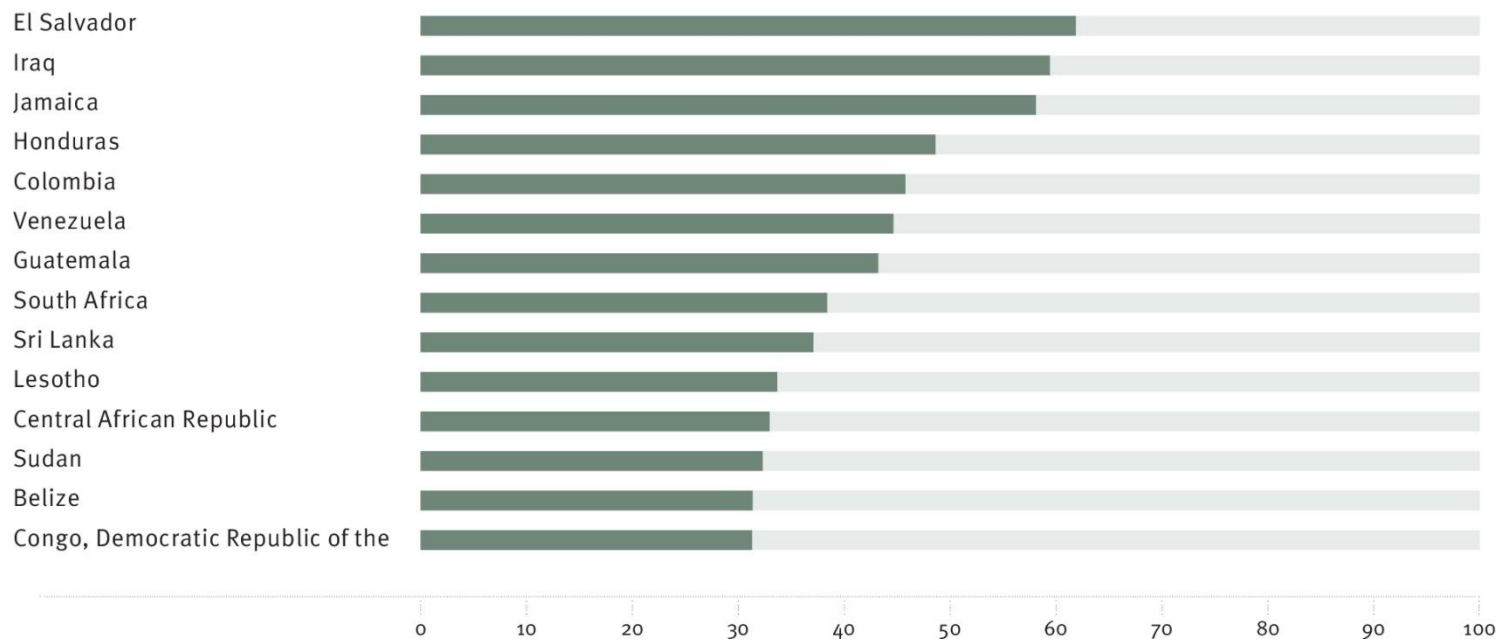
AN ESTIMATED 526,000 PEOPLE DIE VIOLENTLY EVERY YEAR ...



LEGEND ■ >30 ■ 20-30 ■ 10-20 ■ 3-10 ■ <3 ■ No data

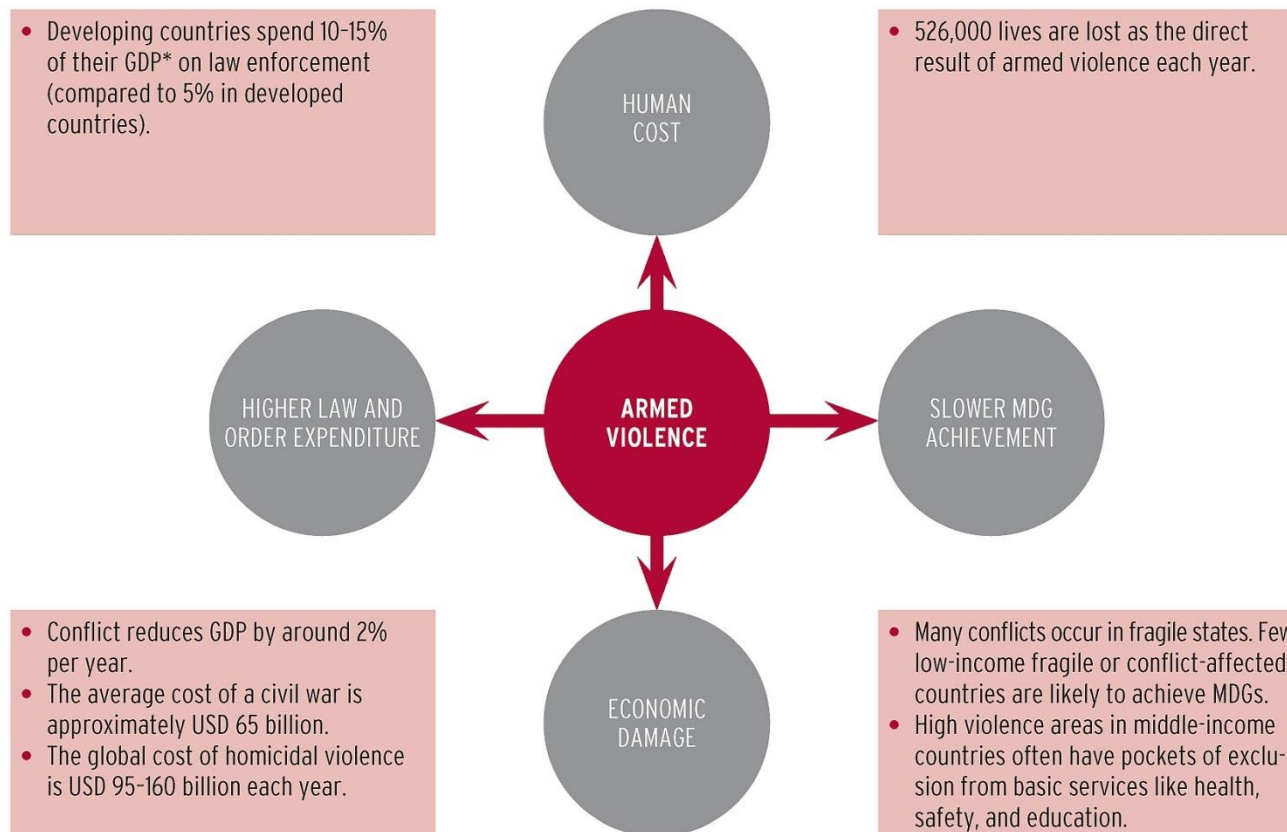
Average annual deaths rates per 100,000, 2004-2009, GBAV 2011

COUNTRIES WITH AVERAGE ANNUAL VIOLENT DEATH RATES OF MORE THAN 30 PER 100,000 POPULATION 2004–09



ARMED VIOLENCE IMPOSES A HEAVY BURDEN TO SOCIETIES

Figure 1 **Overview of the costs of armed violence**

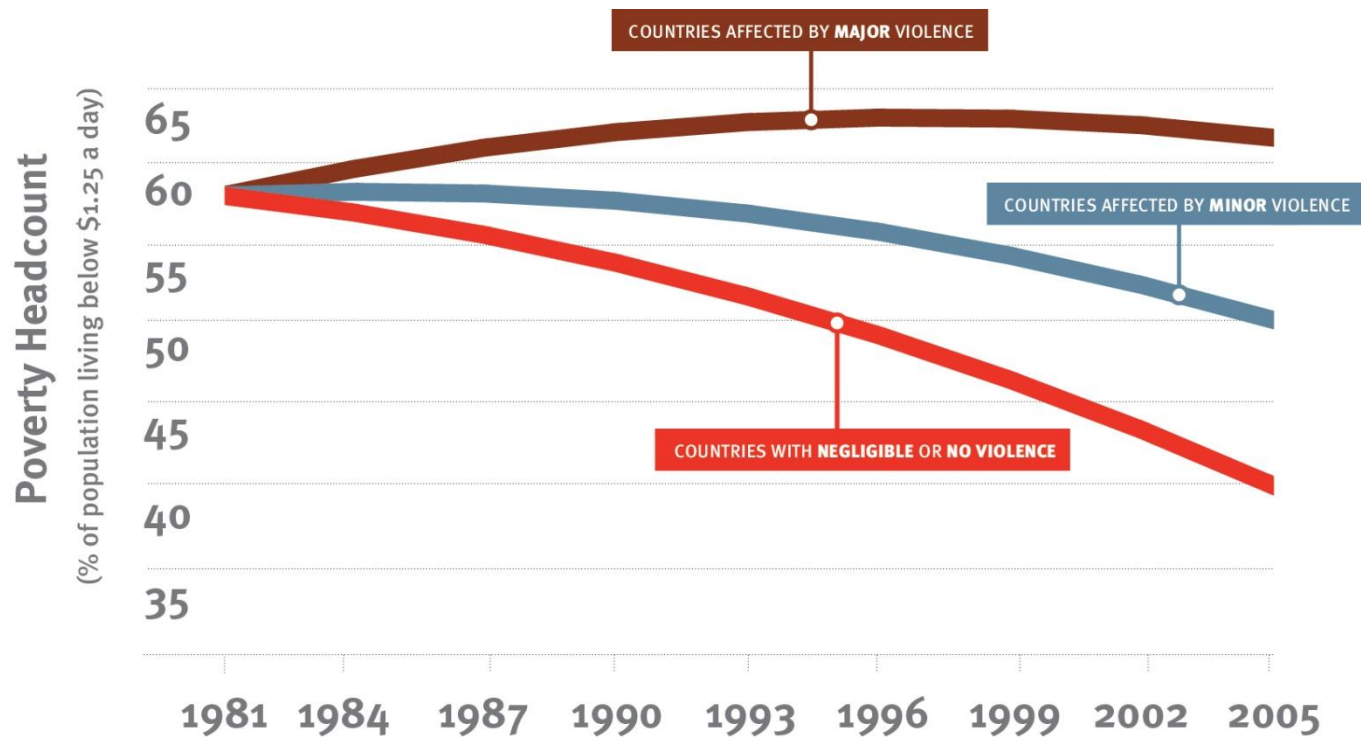


* Gross domestic product

Source: OECD (2011)

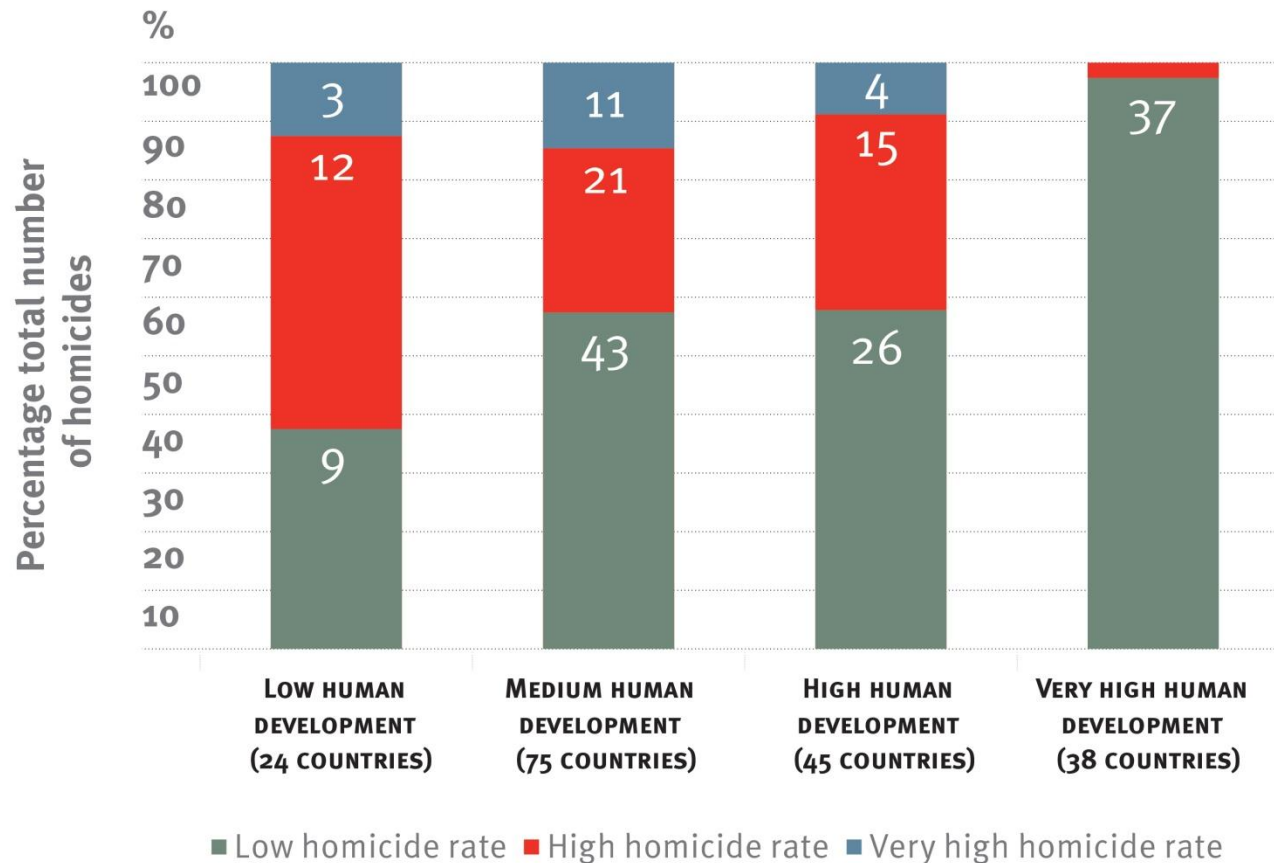
HOW VIOLENCE DISRUPTS DEVELOPMENT

The gap in poverty is widening between countries affected by violence and others



Source: World Bank, World Development Report 2011

LEVELS OF LETHAL VIOLENCE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 1986-2009

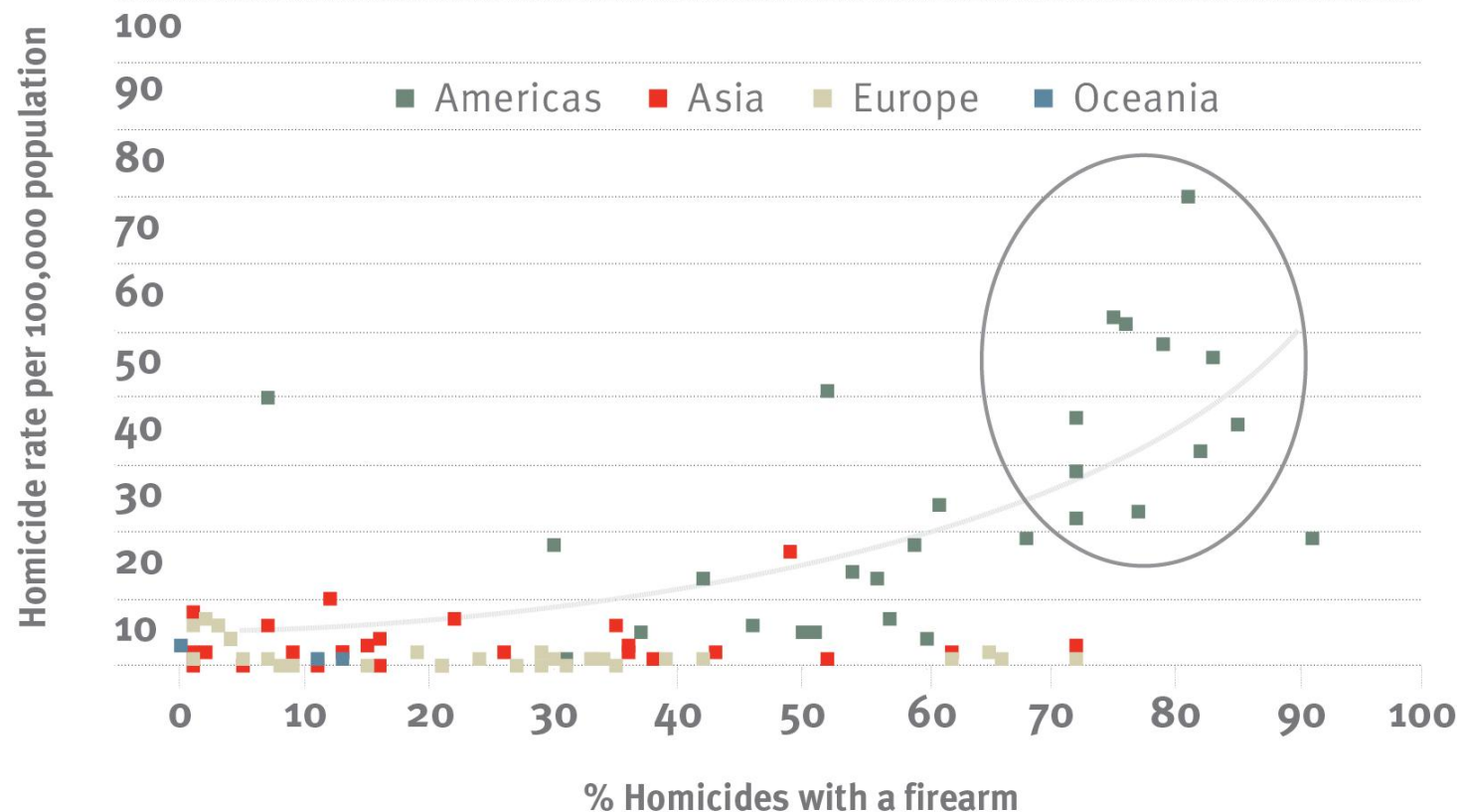


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BETWEEN 42 (LOW ESTIMATE) AND 60 PERCENT (HIGH ESTIMATE) OF ALL HOMICIDES ARE COMMITTED WITH FIREARMS



Proportion of homicides committed with firearms, 2009 OR LATEST AVAILABLE YEAR, unodc



IF BETWEEN 166,000 AND 237,000 PEOPLE
LOOSE THEIR LIVES IN GUN-RELATED HOMICIDES
EVERY YEAR ...

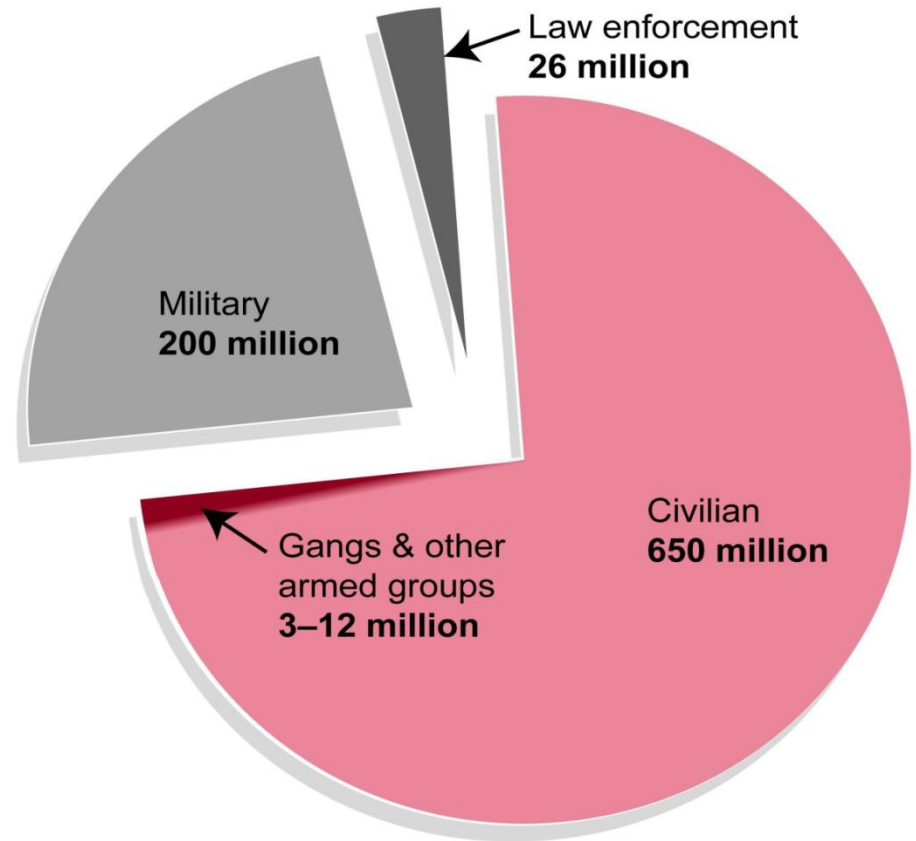
... MANY MORE BEAR THE PHYSICAL OR
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS OF VIOLENCE.

FOR EACH PERSON KILLED AT LEAST THREE MORE
SURVIVE GUNSHOT INJURIES

EVERY YEAR AT LEAST 498,000 ARE INJURED BY
GUNS

AT LEAST 875 MILLION FIREARMS WORLDWIDE

- **civilian (74%)**
- armed forces (23%)
- police forces (3%)
- gangs & other armed groups (1%)



Source: Small Arms Survey

SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION

Major sources:

- **State collapse** during war
- Weapons recycled from **past wars**
- **Arming of civilians** in response to threats
- **Support to foreign armed groups**
- **Loss and theft** from national stockpiles
- **State transfers** to non-state actors and militias
- Regional support for “**proxy wars**”

THE COMPLEX RELATION BETWEEN SMALL ARMS AND ARMED VIOLENCE OR WHAT TO DO ABOUT ARMED VIOLENCE...

- There is **no clear link between access to firearms and overall levels of armed violence** in a country.
- **Firearms remain a key risk factor** in specific forms of violence (for ex. suicides, domestic violence).
- High economic **inequality**, a **history of conflict**, **cross-border** and **transnational risk factors** (trafficking, transnational organised crime);
- The relations of armed groups with **legal and illegal economic resources**;
- **The role of the state** and its institutions

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Responses to armed violence

- Solutions dealing only with the availability of small arms (**supply**) are important but not enough as they don't address the drivers of violence
- Need to **address both the supply and the demand** of small arms and violence.

Thank you



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