



ATTACKING HEALTH: UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS AND IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTHCARE

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OUTLINE

Why is it important to understand attacks on healthcare?

Immediate consequences

- Definitions
- Data

Longer-term consequences

- Methodological and conceptual challenges
- Evidence of impact
- What this tells us about conflict dynamics



RIAH RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Researching the Impact of Attacks on Healthcare (RIAH), funded by UK FCDO (2019-2026)

Multi-institution and interdisciplinary research programme to improve our understanding of the immediate, long-term, and wider impacts of attacks on healthcare on populations in contexts that have experienced armed conflict

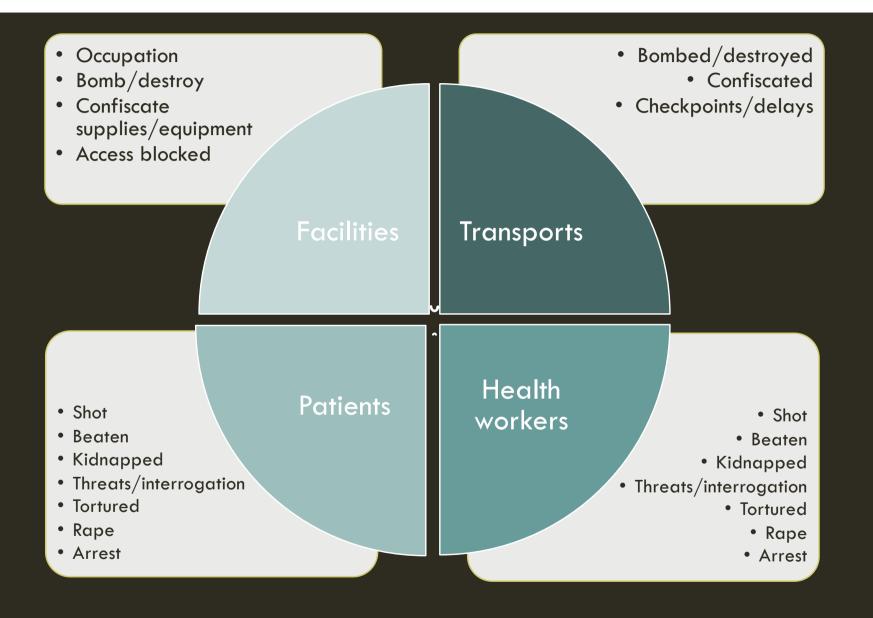
Collecting and collating data on instances of attacks as well as developing methods and documenting evidence of their impact

https://riah.manchester.ac.uk



DEFINITIONS







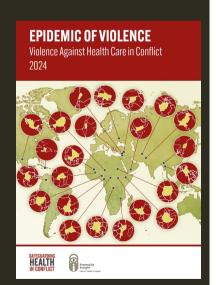
DEFINING ATTACKS ON HEALTHCARE

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

any act of verbal or physical violence or obstruction or threat of violence that interferes with the availability, access and delivery of curative and/or preventive health services during emergencies

SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT COALITION (SHCC)

incidents of violence against health care in the context of conflict or in situations of severe political volatility and public health programmes, including emergency responses

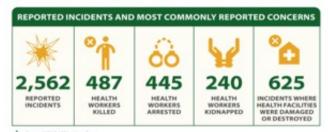


DATA

A RISING CONCERN

2024 REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES HEALTH WORKERS HEALTH WORKERS INCIDENTS WORKERS WERE DAMAGED! KIDNAPPED 3,623 927 473 1,111 140

2023





2022 REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS



704 INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES

WERE DAMAGED

OR DESTROYED

WORKERS

KILLED

298 WORKERS

WORKERS

2021

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS



1,458 WORKERS



AFFECTING HEALTH FACILITIES TRANSPORT AFFECTED





2024: 36 COUNTRIES

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS



REPORTED

3,623



INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED/ DESTROYED

1,111



HEALTH WORKERS KILLED

927



HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED

473



HEALTH WORKERS KIDNAPPED

140



Reported incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in 2024	
AFRICA	
Sudan	276
DRC	84
Cameroon	48
Ethiopia	59
Mali	36
Nigeria	32
Burkina Faso	222
CAR	16
Niger	15
Mozambique	12
South Sudan	8
ASIA	
Myanmar	308
Pakistan	39
Afghanistan	27
India's Manipur state	8
MIDDLE EAST and EUROPI	E
OPT	1,361
Lebanon	485
Ukraine	544
Syria	62
Yemen	52
The AMERICAS	
Haiti	39
Mexico	28
Colombia	18
	47

Coronavirus

Spat at, abused, attacked: healthcare staff face rising violence during Covid

Data shows increased danger for those on the frontline in the pandemic, with misinformation, scarce vaccines and fragile health systems blamed

• 'They stormed the ICU and beat the doctor': health workers under attack



A health worker wearing PPE walks past a mural outside Clinic Ajwa in Shah Alam, Malaysia. Photograph: Annice Lyn/SOPA/REX/Shutterstock

Hundreds of healthcare workers treating Covid patients around the world have experienced verbal, physical, and sometimes life-threatening attacks



https://www.theguardian.com/globaldevelopment/2021/jun/07/spat-atabused-attacked-healthcare-staff-facerising-violence-during-covid

In the UK, NHS staff were spat at, patients verbally abused staff who asked them to wear masks in hospital settings, and GP surgeries reported unprecedented abuse and aggression from patients.

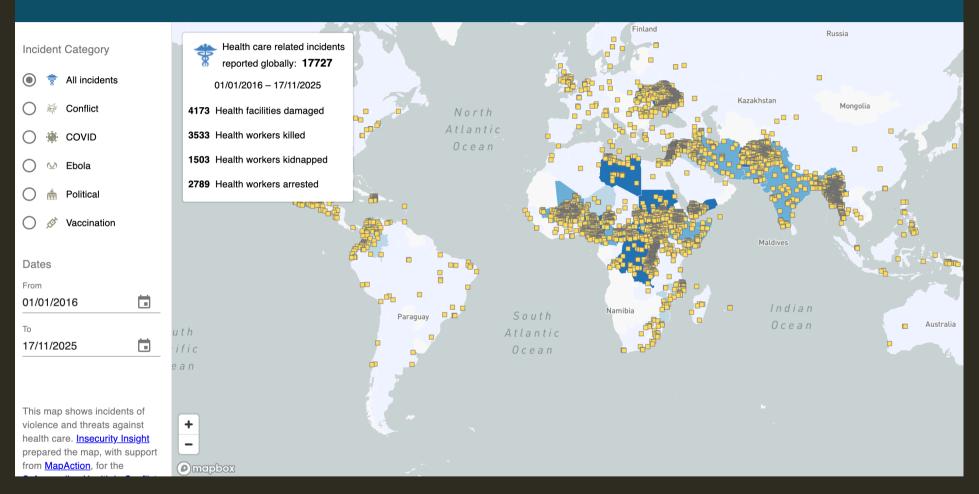


Attacked and Threatened: Health Care at Risk













SOURCES AND CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES

Data sources

- Field reports
- Media reports
- Social media
- Other public sources

Conceptual challenges

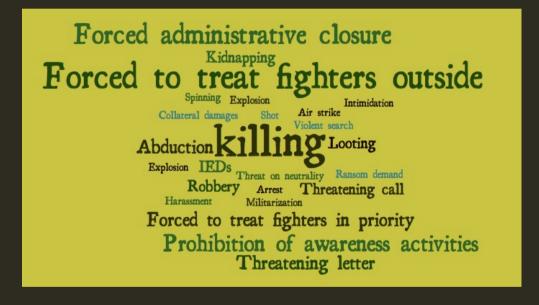
- Definitions determine what to include or exclude
- Consistency of information
- Biases
- Verification



DATA: AFGHANISTAN



Attacks recorded in datasets



Types of attacks reported in interviews



SCALE OF ATTACKS AND UNDERREPORTING

Common dataset of 287 events from 2017, of which only 33 appeared in both datasets

12.9% (n = 254) overlap

Significant underreporting of attacks

Dataset definitions and parameters affect data collection

Research Open Access | Published: 30 January 2023

Underestimating attacks: comparing two sources of publicly-available data about attacks on health care in 2017

Vanessa Parada, Larissa Fast ☑. Carolyn Briody, Christina Wille & Rudi Coninx

Conflict and Health 17, Article number: 3 (2023) Cite this article



SOURCES AND CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES

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METHODOLOGICAL AND CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES

DOCUMENTING IMPACT



Context



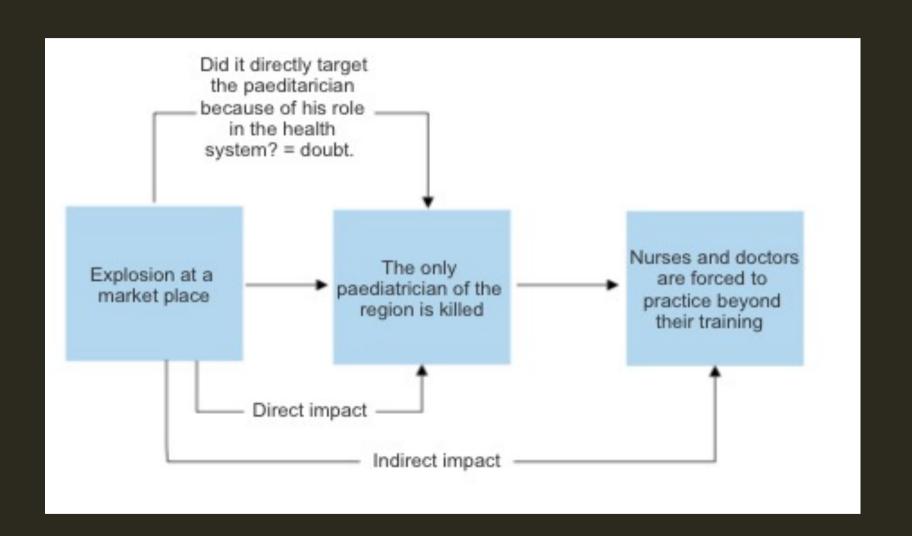
Data



Cumulative impacts



Adaptation over time





RIAH KEY INSIGHTS

Differentiating impact of war/conflict from the impact of attacks on health in conflict contexts

Impact is contextual

Reporting attacks, and therefore impact: What isn't counted

Compounding nature of impact

Adaptation under adversity



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CTS

Accounting for gender when it is not counted

Highlighting the importance of sex-disaggregated data in understanding the impacts of attacks on healthcare

Róisín Read, University of Manchester

ANALYTICAL ESSAY

International Studies Review (2022), viac026

Using Data to Create Change? Interrogating the Role of Data in Ending Attacks on Healthcare

LARISSA FAST AND RÓISÍN READ The University of Manchester, UK

Conflict and Health

Conflict and Health



of violence on medical services in facilities supported by International Medical Corps in three prefectures of Central African Republic, 2016–2020

Natalya Kostandova^{1,2†}, Jennifer OKeeffe^{3†}, Audrey Mahieu⁴, Blaise Bienvenu Ali⁵, Christian Mulamba^{6,9}, Pierre Somsé⁷, Odilon Guesset Bingou IV⁵, Sebastien Dackpa⁵, Gerard Mbonimpa⁶, Thierry Fikiri⁶, Larissa Fast^{8*} and

Haar et al. Conflict and Health (2021) 15:37 https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-021-00372-7

Conflict and Health

Check for

REVIEW **Open Access**

Violence against healthcare in conflict: a systematic review of the literature and agenda for future research

Rohini J. Haar^{1*†}, Róisín Read^{2†}, Larissa Fast², Karl Blanchet³, Stephanie Rinaldi², Bertrand Taithe², Christina Wille4 and Leonard S. Rubenstein5

Research Open access Published: 24 October 2023

"There is a fear that you will be attacked just for the act of working in health": a survey of experiences of violence against healthcare in Colombia

Katerina Crawford†, Tatiana Florez†, Mario Rodriguez, Lendy Cirado, Róisín Read & Rohini Haar 🖾

Conflict and Health 17, Article number: 51 (2023) | Cite this article

2632 Accesses | 6 Citations | 8 Altmetric | Metrics

Conceptual issues and methodological approaches to evaluating the wider and longer-term impact of attacks on healthcare in conflict

RIAH Working Paper v 1.0 (December 2020)

Audrey Mahieu, Karl Blanchet, Rohini Haar, Larissa Fast, Leonard Rubenstein and Natalya Kostandova on behalf of and with input from the RIAH Consortium

"Like a Yam Between Two Stones": Remembering Healthcare at War in Nepal (1996â€"2006)

Bertrand Taithe, Bhimsen Devl Download Lillywhite

Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development, Volume 14, Number 3, Winter 2023, pp. 448-470 (Article)

Haar et al. Conflict and Health (2024) 18:52 https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-024-00611-7

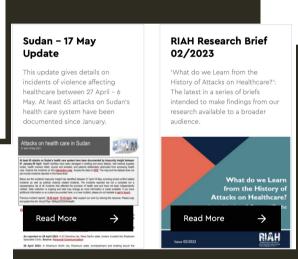
"I will take part in the revolution with our people": a qualitative study of healthcare workers' experiences of violence and resistance after the 2021 Myanmar coup d'etat

Rohini J. Haar^{1,3*}

O. Katerina Crawford², Larissa Fast³

O. Than Htut Win⁴, Leonard Rubenstein⁵

O. Karl Blanchet⁶ Louis Lillywhite 70, Nicholus Tint-Zaw8 and Myo-Myo Mon90





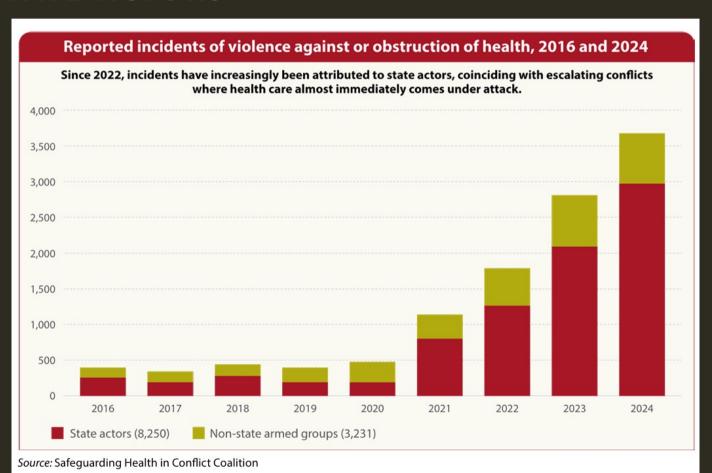


KEY INSIGHT

Analyses of attacks on healthcare to be understood in light of broader conflict dynamics

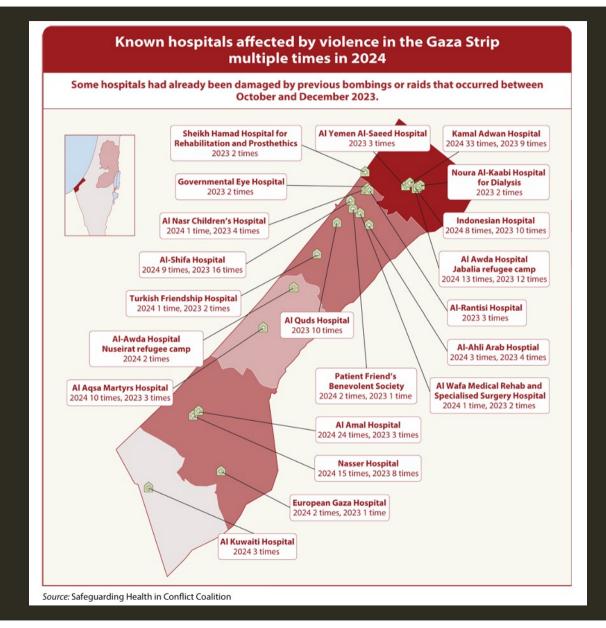
- Strategic logic of violence
- Perpetrators
- Targeting and intentionality

VIOLENCE BY STATE ACTORS



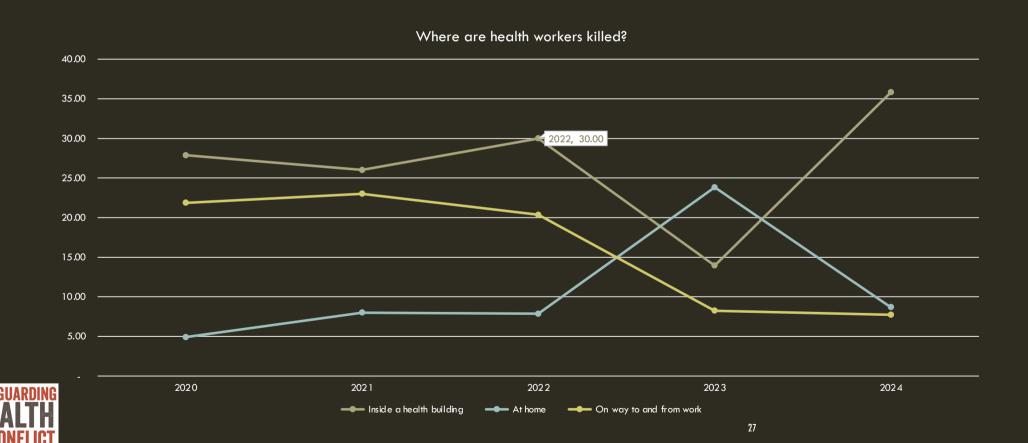


MULTIPLE ATTACKS





CHANGES IN LOCATION OF HEALTH WORKER DEATHS





THANK YOU!

https://riah.manchester.ac.uk/

