

Chapter 1 : Small Arms Survey - Humanitarian Data Exchange

The Small Arms Survey Rights at Risk provides original research and updated information on small arms production, stockpiles, and trade. In focusing on the links between small arms and the abuse of human rights, this edition explores the impact of arms exports to areas of conflict, the role of weapons in global violence and crime, and the.

Never as easy as it seems Is the post-Cold War world really a more dangerous place for civilians? With the limited data available, can policy-makers, aid agencies, or the public fully appreciate the scale and costs of fatalities and injuries caused by small arms, let alone their long-term consequences on families and communities and the social and economic environment at large? Central to the development of basic indicators is reliable and verified data on the number, profile and types of injuries and their causes, and on risk factors associated with small arms and their distribution. There are many challenges associated with collecting statistics on the humanitarian impacts of small arms, not the least of which relate to the lack of humanitarian agency and donor engagement in research itself. Other obstacles include the absence of standardized or comparable definitions and methods for collecting and collating data, logistical barriers and threats to data gatherers, limitations in geographic coverage and consistency among existing surveillance systems, and attitudinal and cultural issues that lead to under and over-reporting. Some specific challenges include: A recurring problem for relief agencies and donors relates to the inability of governments and NGOs to determine systematically what is taking place at the global level. On the one hand, firearm-related deaths and injuries often appear to be seriously under-reported where they are caused by warfare or repression. On the other hand, many aid institutions indirectly contribute to the problem by awarding low priority to intelligenceâ€”data-collection and evaluationâ€”and limiting their focus only to those areas that are easily accessed. Where research is carried out, it is often tainted by selection bias and poor research methods that favour existing programmes and activities. Furthermore, data is rarely effectively processed or properly maintained and institutional memory is concomitantly limited. The relief and development communities frequently generate inaccurate and inflated numbers, whether out of ignorance or intentionally, to justify programmatic interventions and to mobilize public opinion. Figures are often cited without any empirical foundation. For example, are 90 per cent of small arms-related casualties in conflict really civilians, as many UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs claim? Are 80 per cent of these really women and children? Do we have sufficient or verified data to validate these figures or are they politically expedient estimations? Though potentially useful for advocacy purposes, loose approximations can unintentionally and detrimentally reorient debates from substance to credibility. Confidentiality and neutrality are regarded as mainstays of humanitarian legitimacy. Even where agencies accumulate large reservoirs of data relating to small arms, they are frequently left unused or considered too sensitive because they relate to ostensibly political issues such as military action or human rights violations. Though attitudes are rapidly changing, concerns with the politics of information have led many agencies to withhold data for fear of it being manipulated or abused by other actors. Many humanitarian agencies are reluctant to reveal data on patient injuries or deaths. Rigorous data collection and common definitions are a priority for sound evidence-based policy. Appropriate methods need to be developed and epidemiological surveys administered in order to collect data on the type of deaths and injuries and their causes, and the risk factors and distribution of such deaths and injuries within communities. In this way a baseline for trend analysis and future comparisons can be established. Emergency preparedness and conflict monitoring systems can be developed and improved where they consider small arms. Furthermore, researchers and policy-makers need to be properly trained to generate and assess data on the humanitarian impacts of small arms in order to improve interventions designed to reduce armed violence. This definition suggests that the humanitarian impacts of small arms are inextricably tied to the human costs. It is less concerned with the policy or distinctly economic consequences of small arms proliferation than with the individual victims and widespread fear made possible by small arms availability. These impacts commonly, but not exclusively, take place during armed conflict and extend to all manner of human rights abuses, including death, torture, rape, recruitment of child soldiers, kidnapping, and forced disappearances see Table 4.

44 SMALL ARMS SURVEY Iraq may be an extreme case of gun chaos, but it is special only in its scale and suddenness. The catastrophic loss of major arsenals has occurred elsewhere before.

A Global Problem About 66, women and girls are violently killed every year, accounting for approximately 17 per cent of all victims of intentional homicides. While the data on which these conservative estimates are based is incomplete, it does reveal certain patterns with respect to the male v. This Research Note examines lethal forms of violence against women. Data collection on femicideâ€”in its broader senseâ€”is increasingly taking place at the national and sub-national levels. Still, information on many countries is missing and challenges to comprehensive data collection persist, including definitions discrepancies, limited capacity and resources, and a lack of detail in statistical records. Global patterns of femicide The gendered dimension of homicide When it was coined by the feminist movement in the s, the term femicide referred exclusively to the gender-based killing of women by men. Since then, however, its definition has broadened to encompass any killing of a woman see Box 1. Box 1 Defining femicide Diana Russel, an architect of the term femicide, indicates that the concept has been in use for centuries. The feminist movement politicized the use of the word femicide in the s, restricting its meaning to the killing of a woman or a girl based on her sex Bloom, , p. With time, this definition has expanded to refer to any killing of a woman. While such an approach dilutes the political connotation of violence against women based on their sex, it facilitates the comparability of cross-national data on lethal violence against women. A number of recent studies and data collection exercises focus on the issue of femicide in a stricter sense. Qualitative studies of the killing of women in Latin America, for example, seek to assess the intent of the perpetrator. Furthermore, some countries in Latin America have implemented specific laws on femicide in recent years, such as Guatemala in and Chile in Guatemala, ; Chile, These laws take into consideration the targeting of a woman for misogynous or gender-based reasons and foresee stricter penalties if there is evidence of such circumstances. Alvazzi del Frate , p. Map 1 reveals the global distribution of femicides, expressed as a rate per , female population for an average year between and The regions with the highest femicide levels largely correspond to the regions with the highest overall rates of lethal violence Alvazzi del Frate, , p. Indeed, four out of five regions with the highest homicide rates also feature at the top of the femicide ranking, namelyâ€”in descending orderâ€”Southern Africa, South America, the Caribbean, and Central America. Meanwhile, femicide rates in Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation appear disproportionately high with respect to homicides in general. Regional and country-level femicide rates can obscure significant variations at the subnational level. In Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, for example, the femicide rate was Similarly, Brazil records a national rate of 4.

Chapter 3 : Small Arms Survey - Wikipedia

Small Arms Survey provides new and updated information and research on all aspects of small arms production, stockpiles, and trade. It contains vital information on issues such as weapons collection in post-conflict environments and the effects of small arms availability and misuse on human development.

Malaria, whooping cough, and malnutrition spread unchecked, tuberculosis and leprosy made a comeback, and immunization, medicines, and health care were simply not available. In central and southern Bougainville, , people lived from to without access to a doctor. Armed conflict forced thousands of civilians into the bush, where many hid for months, even years. By mid, some 64, displaced Bougainvilleans population approximately , had taken refuge in 39 such centres. As many as 9, fled as refugees to the neighbouring Solomon Islands. For many families in Bougainville, the war has not ended. One of the most common forms of human rights abuse was gender-based violence, and many cases of sexual violation and abuse are only now coming to light as women and children report events long suppressed by fear. Prior to , Bougainville had one of the highest rates of literacy in the Pacific. Armed conflict collapsed the best-achieving primary and secondary school system in Papua New Guinea, and 15,â€™20, young people were denied the opportunity of learning. Recovery is slow, and young men in particular have difficulty resuming normal life, their memory of atrocities never far from the surface. Funds allocated to the Bougainville peace process and associated weapon-disposal efforts represent an opportu- Bougainvilleans nity cost to donor partners, who might otherwise have spent them on ongoing development assistance. In â€™02, see the destruction New Zealand spent more than a fifth of its entire Bougainville assistance budget of USD 1. During the five years following the start of formal peace talks in mid, Australia spent at least USD Of the firearm-related deaths recorded during in Australia, 73 per cent were suicides, 45 15 per cent were homicides, 31 ten per cent were unintentional, and six two per cent were law enforcement shootings Bell, In the five years to June , handgun homicide as a proportion of firearm homicide grew from 13 per cent to 50 per cent. Handgun violence has emerged as a serious problem in some suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne, and public concern at the level of illicit firearm trafficking in Australiaâ€™particularly the trade in handguns, which were used in 67 per cent of all armed robberies in â€™has risen accordingly. In , New Zealand recorded 53 murders. Firearms were used in six of these, one of which involved a handgun. In the period â€™98, there were 1, gun-related deaths, an average of 95 per year. Of these, 76 per cent were suicides, 13 per cent homicides, and seven per cent unintentional shootings. Violent robberies totalled 1, in â€™1, of which involved firearms. In Papua New Guinea, although figures are scarce and unreliable, firearm-related violence has by all accounts reached epidemic proportions. In the rural highlands, where guns are rapidly replacing traditional weapons, tribal fighting claims an average of lives per year. Alpers and Twyford , pp.

Chapter 4 : Small Arms Survey: Biased Reporting, Anti-Freedom Goals

With an estimated 30 million small arms (a mere 5 per cent of the global stockpile), about 80 per cent of which are in civilian hands (Small Arms Survey, , pp.), however, Africa is not as awash with small arms as commonly believed.

What is the Small Arms Survey? It claims it is an independent, impartial source of information on small arms and armed violence. According to its website one of its objectives is to "act as a resource for governments, policy-makers, researchers, and activists in terms of information and research on small arms and armed violence issues. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons represents a grave threat to human security. The unchecked spread of these weapons has exacerbated inter- and intra-state conflicts, contributed to human rights violations, undermined political and economic development, destabilized communities, and devastated the lives of millions of people. The future success of efforts to deal with small arms and light weapons depends in large part on the development of accurate information concerning the global flow of these weapons and on reliable analyses of the causes and consequences of their proliferation. The Small Arms Survey aims to provide said information and analysis. The code is not complicated. So just how "impartial" is the Small Arms Survey research? Much of the debate is focused on gun ownership rate data for countries from the Small Arms Survey. There are real problems with this survey. For example, the rates of gun ownership for Switzerland supposedly 47 guns per people and Israel 7 per people are ridiculously low. This survey excludes all the military weapons kept in Swiss homes in because they were technically owned by the government. At that time, all able bodied males between the age of 18 and 42 would keep their military weapons in their homes. After age 42, they could apply for permission to continue to keep their military weapons. Israeli guns are also excluded for the same reason. The vast majority of guns in Israel are technically owned by the government, but if people have possession of guns in their homes for decades, the issue should be that public possession, not who technically owned the guns. The Small Arms Survey claims that the United States has by far the highest level of gun ownership, with Both Israel and Switzerland probably have much higher gun ownership rates, but including them the way the Small Arms Survey does biases the results to The US gun ownership is so high compared to other countries that it drives any regression results. There are also other problems with the survey. For example, a much better measure of gun ownership would be the percentage of the population owning guns, and not the number of guns per people as used by the Small Arms Survey. Presumably the issue is whether people have access to guns, not the number of guns greater than one that an individual has access to. If we had to wager an educated guess, it would be because including nations such as Switzerland and Israel, as well as Mexico, with its tragically high homicide rates, would show results contrary to those the Small Arms Survey wants to demonstrate. Of course, this data alone will not prove the point that more guns actually lead to fewer homicides. It is simply a statistical cross section, and does not take into consideration other factors that may lead to a higher homicide rate, how the presence of firearms changes over time, who owns firearms, how controls were implemented and the resulting effects of said controls. The Small Arms Survey does not examine these factors. It merely shows gun ownership - in the most disingenuous way it can - and makes the claim that proliferation of firearms is the cause of human misery worldwide. You are only as objective as the political goals of those who fund you, and the U. For the "common good," of course.

Chapter 5 : Small Arms Survey - racedaydvl.com

Small Arms Survey Massacres in schools and high suicide rates in developed countries .. including 'income levels, agricultural production, foreign trade and so forth' are so hopelessly .. violence may perform poorly in school (Morrison and Orlando,).

Chapter 6 : Small Arms Survey Staff (Editor of Small Arms Survey)

'The Small Arms Survey' is a principal international source of impartial and reliable information on all aspects of small

arms. Its blend of information and analysis makes it a useful resource for.

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