

# Violence Against or Obstruction of Health Care in Ukraine

25 March 2022



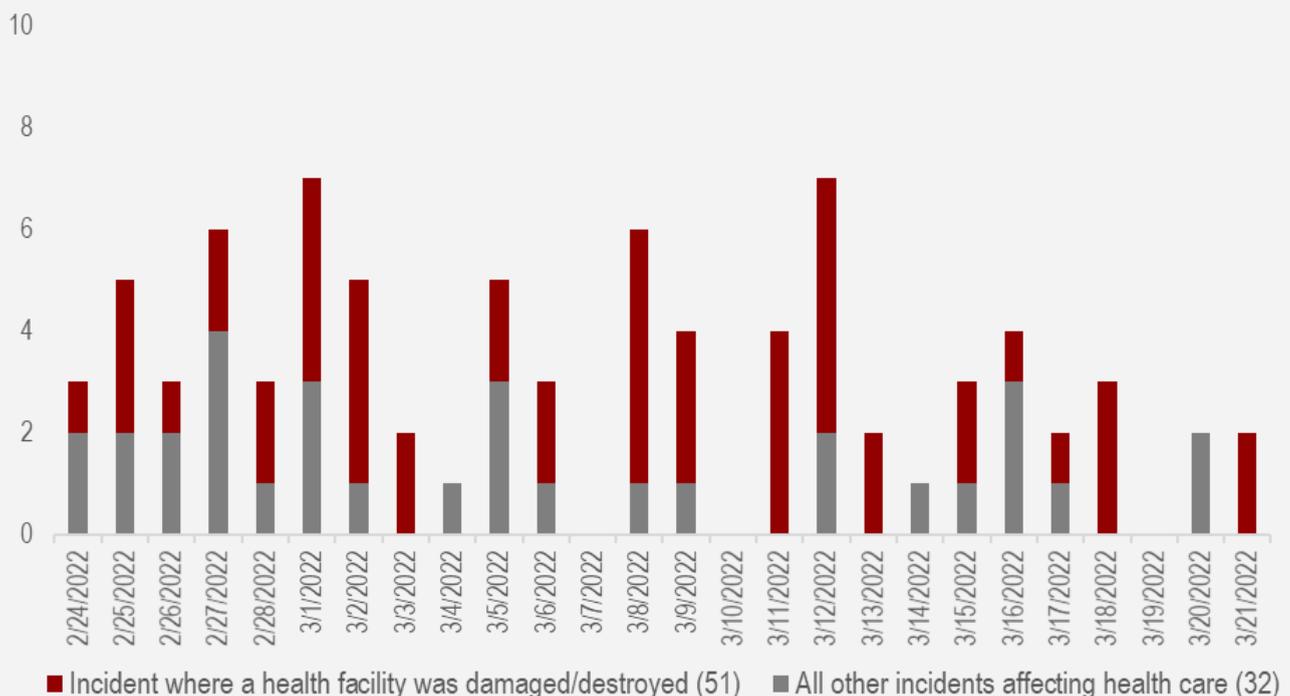
## Total Incidents: 24 February-21 March 2022

Total Incidents	Incidents Where Health Facilities Were Damaged/ Destroyed	Health Workers Injured	Health Workers Killed
			
<b>83</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>

Source: Dataset available by request on [HDX](#).

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on 24 February, Insecurity Insight has documented 83 incidents of violence against health care, including 51 against health facilities and the deaths of 12 health workers. According to reporting on 17 March by [Kyiv Independent](#), Russian troops have reportedly destroyed seven hospitals and damaged 104 since the start of the Russian invasion. Six medical workers were killed in the shelling. As of 25 March, the [WHO](#) has verified 72 attacks on health care between 24 February and 25 March. **This report analyses 83 reported incidents for which we have details to provide analysis.** According to our monitoring, all but one incident was perpetrated by Russian forces. Only one month into the war, Russian forces have consistently failed to distinguish between military and civilian targets, including hospitals. Taken together, these attacks represent a flagrant disregard for the protected status of health care in conflict.

## Reported incidents, 24 February to 21 March 2022



Reported incidents during the first month of the conflict reflect the ongoing military efforts to seize Kharkiv and Kyiv, as well as the efforts to advance westward from the Russian-controlled territories of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast. Incidents in Kyiv oblast, primarily in the outskirts of Kyiv city, and in Kharkiv account for over a third of attacks recorded throughout the country.

Explosive weapons have been consistently used against civilian populations throughout the conflict, including against hospitals and health workers. We have documented 52 cases of explosive weapons use against health, including 32 artillery strikes, six missile attacks, five rocket attacks, four airstrikes and two instances of banned cluster munition use. At least one of these strikes appeared to be deliberate. Sergey Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Russia, has **confirmed** that the 09 March airstrike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol which killed four civilians and injured a further 17, was intentional and accused the hospital of sheltering Ukrainian military forces, a claim that has been refuted by health workers and journalists at the hospital.

Airstrikes and missiles damaged eight health facilities in the first two weeks of the conflict, including two children's hospitals and a maternity hospital, while artillery use against health facilities has remained constant. There have been 32 documented incidents on medical targets with artillery, representing 28% of total incidents. These artillery strikes have killed at least four health workers..

Nearly a quarter of documented incidents have occurred in Donetsk and Luhansk where Russian forces have made **slow territorial gains**. Civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, are increasingly caught in the crossfire and medical neutrality is ignored. On 14 March, Russian soldiers forcibly detained approximately 400 civilians in the Mariupol Regional Intensive Care Hospital and occupied the facility. This is the first documented instance of Russian forces forcibly entering a civilian healthcare facility. Intense, near-continuous shelling has left the population with **limited access to food, medication, and aid**. According to the Deputy Mayor of Mariupol, over 90% of the civilian infrastructure of the city has been **destroyed**. The lack of water and electricity is likely to also affect the functioning of the hospitals in Mariupol. Given the continued lack of electricity and communication blackout in Mariupol, the attacks we have documented on health care via open-sources is likely a significant undercount.

## Health Facilities

At least three hospitals have been destroyed. The hospitals in Izyum city, Kharkiv oblast and Makariv town, Kyiv oblast which were destroyed by Russian shelling. An additional hospital in Volnovakha city, Donetsk oblast which had been damaged on February 27 was destroyed during active fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces. In addition, at least 47 other incidents reported damage to hospitals, including seven children's hospitals or clinics, three psychiatric hospitals or mental health treatment centres and three maternity hospitals.

## Health Workers

At least twelve health workers have been killed since the conflict began. Half were killed by explosive weapons use, including artillery fire and rocket attacks. The exact weapon which killed the remaining six is unclear. Three health workers have been killed in Kyiv and another three in Kharkiv, including an anesthesiologist, a doctor, a nurse, a Syrian female gynaecologist, an Indian medical student, and a female military medic. In addition, two ambulance drivers have been killed in Kherson, a female military medic in Lviv, a psychologist in Chernihiv oblast, a female field medic in Sumy. The location of a Polish health worker killed on March 6 is unclear.

26 health workers have been reported injured in four events. 17 of these injuries occurred during the 09 March airstrike on the Mariupol Children's Hospital, and six injuries were reported during the 24 February cluster munition strike outside the Vuhledar Central City Hospital. Two paramedics

were injured while transporting patients or responding to calls, and a health worker at a Mariupol hospital was shot by a sniper. All injured workers were at a hospital or engaged in patient care at the time of their injuries.

A volunteer paramedic and ambulance driver were detained on March 16 in Mariupol by Russian forces. This is the first documented incident of a health worker arrest in Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion.

## Emergency Care

Ambulances have also been attacked by Russian forces. On eight occasions, ambulances were fired upon while transporting patients, medication, or supplies, or while responding to an emergency call. In these instances, three medics were killed, including a Polish health worker and two ambulance drivers. Twice stationary ambulances were hit and damaged by artillery fire. A paramedic was injured by shrapnel while responding to a call in Kharviv. At least eight other civilians were reported killed in these attacks and an additional three injured.

The information below lists specific incidents with sources for incidents reported between 13 and 21 March 2022. Reported incidents have been included in this list, after careful examination of sources that they appear to be reliable. However, none of these reported incidents could be independently verified. The total count is updated as new information becomes available.

Previous editions: [03-12 March](#); [24 February-02 March](#).

If you have additional information on an incident documented here, or a new incident, please get in [touch](#). Join our [Ukraine mailing list](#) for future updates. Visit our [website](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

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## Country-wide

**16 March 2022:** The Ukrainian Red Cross reported a cyber attack on its website. No personal data of beneficiaries was stored on the site, and only the information component of the website was affected. **Source:** [Ukrainian Red Cross](#)

## Donetsk oblast

**13 March 2022:** In Volnovakha city, Volnovakha raion, Donetsk oblast, Ukrainian forces allegedly launched an artillery strike from the building of the central district hospital, whilst approximately 500 patients were inside. As a result of the shelling, six civilians died and the hospital building was seriously damaged. This report could not be independently verified. **Source:** [Russian News Agency](#)

**14 to 15 March 2022:** In Mariupol city and raion, Donetsk oblast, Russian troops forced 400 civilians into the Mariupol Regional Intensive Care Hospital and occupied the facility whilst preventing everyone, including staff and patients, from leaving. Those who tried to escape were shot. From the windows of the facility, they started firing towards the positions of the Ukrainian army, reportedly in an attempt to provoke a response. **Sources:** [BBC](#) and [The Kyiv Independent](#) and [Twitter](#)

**Reported on 16 March 2022:** In Mariupol city and raion, Donetsk oblast, Russian forces captured and are detaining a volunteer paramedic and ambulance driver. **Sources:** [Facebook](#) and [Hromadske Radio](#)

Watch this latest short film by [Center for Strategic & International Studies](#) featuring Insecurity Insight's Director Chrisina Wille: Ukraine: [The Human Price of War Part 2](#)

## Chernihiv oblast

**13 March 2022:** In Chernihiv city, raion and oblast, a shell hit and damaged the Chernihiv City Hospital No. 3. The roof of one of the wards was destroyed and windows blown out. **Source:** [Suspilne Chernihiv](#)

**17 March 2022:** In Chernihiv city and oblast, a psychologist was killed by Russian forces when they opened fire on people standing in a bread line. He was gathering food for patients in Ukrainian hospitals. **Sources:** [StarTribune](#) and [Twitter](#)

On Thursday 24 March, 24 major professional health associations, NGOs, and academic centres urged the WHO to take additional steps to increase pressure to stop attacks on health care in Ukraine and in other countries and territories. Read the full [letter](#).

## Kharkiv oblast

**15 March 2022:** In Kharkiv city, Kharkiv oblast, a clinic was hit and damaged by rockets fired by Russian Forces. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

**15 March 2022:** In Zolochiv town, Bohudukhiv raion, Kharkiv oblast, Russian forces reportedly fired artillery shots at the town, killing five civilians including a nurse who worked at the Kharkiv Regional Children's Hospital No.1. **Sources:** [Facebook](#) and [Interfax Ukraine](#)

## Kyiv oblast

**16 March 2022:** In Moshchun village, Kyiv oblast, a doctor was shot and killed by Russian sniper fire while providing medical care to civilians fleeing the village. **Source:** [Pereyaslav City](#)

**16 March 2022:** In Kyiv city and oblast, Russian artillery fire hit and damaged the Mediland Medical centre. During the attack, care was disrupted for critically ill and postoperative patients. **Source:** [EspressoTV](#)

## Luhansk oblast

**15 March 2022:** In Rubizhne city, Sievierodonetsk raion, Luhansk oblast, Russian forces shelled the Rubizhne City Multidisciplinary Hospital, destroying the obstetrics and gynaecology department, amid a wider assault that also destroyed three school buildings and a boarding school for visually-impaired children. **Sources:** [The Kyiv Independent](#), [Twitter](#) and [Ukrinform](#)

**As reported on 17 March 2022:** In Severodonetsk city and raion, Luhansk oblast, a hospital was reportedly shelled and damaged by Russian forces. No injuries were reported. **Source:** [Telegram](#)

**18 March 2022:** In Pryvillia city, Sievierodonetsk raion, Luhansk oblast, a hospital was hit and damaged by rockets. **Sources:** [SES](#) and [News 24](#)

**18 March 2022:** In Lysychansk city, Sievierodonetsk raion, Luhansk oblast, Russian forces reportedly fired artillery shells near a hospital, damaging the facility, destroying approximately twenty houses and other civilian infrastructure. **Source:** [Facebook](#) and [Suspilne](#)

**20 March 2022:** In Kreminna, Luhansk oblast, Russian forces attacked a care home for the elderly. At least 56 people were killed. It is unclear if all 56 were care home residents. **Source:** [Horizon Intelligence](#)

**21 March 2022:** In Severodonetsk city, Luhansk oblast, Russian forces opened fire on a children's hospital. Patients and staff were evacuated. **Sources:** [Ukrinform](#) and [Twitter](#)

## Mykolaiv oblast

**20 March 2022:** In Mykolaiv oblast, Russian forces reportedly shot at a vehicle belonging to a local orphanage that was marked with a Red Cross emblem. Three educators were reportedly killed.

**Source:** [Twitter](#)

**21 March 2022:** In Mykolaiv city, raion, and oblast, artillery fired by Russian forces damaged a psychiatric hospital. **Source:** [Telegram](#)

## Sumy oblast

**18 March 2022:** In Trostyanets city and raion, Sumy oblast, Russian forces reportedly shelled and damaged a hospital amidst a wider assault on the city. No deaths were reported at the hospital.

**Sources:** [Telegram](#) and [Pravda](#)

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This document comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care. It is part of the [Attacks on Health Care](#) project by [Insecurity Insight](#). It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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**Insecurity Insight. 2022. Violence Against or Obstruction of Health Care in Ukraine 25 March 2022. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight.**

**Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) definition of an attack on health care:** Any act of verbal or physical violence, obstruction, or threat of violence that interferes with the availability, access, and delivery of curative and/or preventive health services in countries experiencing conflict if they are perpetrated by an actor in a conflict.

Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 22 March 2022.

