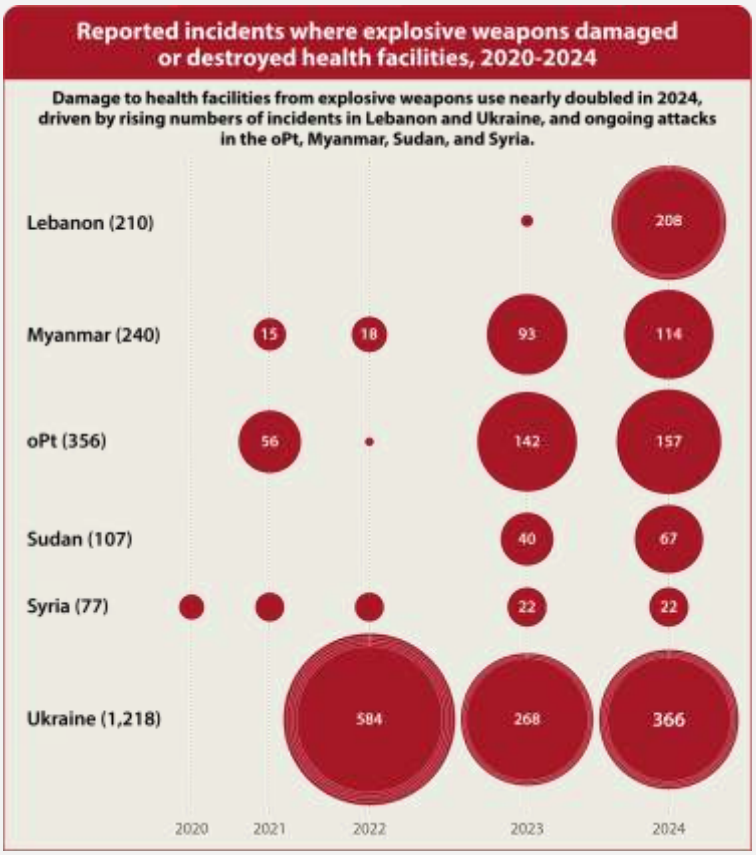
Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

14-27 May 2025

From Gaza to Sudan, Children's Hospitals Damaged by Airstrikes in 2024's Record Violence Against Health Care

Over 1,100 incidents of violence inflicted on health facilities causing damage or destruction occurred in 2024, nearly double the 2023 total - according to the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition's (SHCC) latest annual report - Epidemic of Violence.



This increase was driven by large numbers of incidents in Lebanon, Myanmar, the oPt, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine, with most attributed to the use of explosive weapons. Facilities that were damaged or destroyed included children's hospitals, dental clinics, field hospitals, health clinics, hospitals, medical storage facilities, pharmacies and women's health centers.

In Lebanon and the oPt, several hospitals were hit multiple times by IDF airstrikes, missiles, and shelling. In Syria, just before the Assad regime's fall in early December, Russian forces airstrikes in opposition-held areas in Aleppo and Idlib governorates damaged multiple health facilities. In Myanmar, health care facilities were hit and damaged by numerous air-delivered explosive weapons launched by conflict parties. In Sudan, during the RSF siege of El Fasher (April-August), health facilities were repeatedly damaged by RSF shelling and SAF airstrikes.

The looting of clinics, hospitals, and health transport vehicles was prevalent in Cameroon, the CAR, the DRC, Haiti, Mozambique, Niger, and Nigeria. In these incidents, perpetrators took medicine and nutritional supplies from health centers, hospitals and pharmacies, sometimes as part of broader assaults on towns and villages. In some incidents where medical supplies were taken, health workers were also attacked. Read the full report. Download the data.

SHCC reports: 2024; 2023; 2022; 2021.

Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: https://bit.ly/14-27May2024Health

Past editions: 30 April-13 May; 16-29 April; 02-15 April; 19 March-01 April; 05-18 March; 19 February-04 March; 05-18 February; 22 January-04 February; 08-21 January; 25 December-07 January 2025; 11-24 December; All

Please get in touch if you are interested in curated datasets, if you have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our Bi Monthly News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Join our mailing list.

SHCC Attacks on Health Care

The section aligns with the **definition** of attacks on health care used by the **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition** (SHCC).

Africa

Central African Republic

16 May 2025: In Banangui village, Haut-Mbomou prefecture, a hospital was looted by Wagner Group members who seized medical supplies, solar panels and batteries. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Around 15 May 2025: In Goma city, North Kivu province, 60 patients were abducted from Virunga Hospital by an unidentified perpetrator over alleged links with government security forces. The patients remained missing as of 29 May. **Source: UNHCR**

Ethiopia

09 May 2025: In Delesa and Gabla kebeles, Tach-Armachiho woreda, Amhara region, a pharmacy was looted and homes destroyed by ENDF forces. **Source: Amhara War Updates**

12 May 2025: In South Wollo zone, Amhara region, doctors at Boru Meda Hospital were detained by ENDF forces for demanding living wages, disrupting medical services for patients. **Source: Personal Communication**

13 May 2025: In Dessie city, South Wollo zone, Amhara region, at least three nurses and three doctors, from Dessie Referral Hospital were arrested and harassed by the ENDF after exposing financial mismanagement of aid by the hospital's CEO. Health workers were also reportedly subjected to harassment and intimidation. **Sources: Amhara Association of America and Amhara War Updates**

13-14 May 2025: In Addis Ababa city, three medical students were detained at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College and taken to Lazarist police station following a coordinated strike by health professionals and students demanding better wages and working conditions. **Sources: Addis Standard, Amhara Association of America, Amhara War Update I and Amhara War Updates II**

13 May 2025: In Takusa district, East Gondar zone, Amhara region, the Outpatient Department Manager, and a nurse and coordinator of the outpatient department, at Delgi Primary Hospital were arrested from the facility between 12-12:30 pm by ten security personnel. **Source: Addis Standard**

13-14 May 2025: In Addis Ababa city, an orthopaedic doctor was taken from his home by unidentified perpetrators following a coordinated strike by health professionals and students demanding better wages and working conditions. **Sources: Addis Standard, Amhara War Update I and Amhara War Updates II**

14 May 2025: In Gondor city, North Gondar zone, Amhara region, a male surgical specialist at Gondar Ayra Hospital was arrested by the ENDF. **Source: Personal Communication**

14 May 2025: In Gonder city, North Gondar zone, Amhara region, at least one doctor and a nurse of Gondar Referral Hospital were detained by the ENDF on accusations of links to political parties over demands for a living wage. **Sources: Amhara Association of America and Amhara War Updates**

14 May 2025: In Addis Ababa city, two doctors were arrested by police from St. Paul's Hospital as they entered the facility. They were taken to New Market Police Station on accusations of having a political agenda. **Source: BBC**

14 May 2025: In Leku city, Sidama region, a gynecologist and obstetrician was arrested by police from Leku General Hospital around 11am after performing surgery. **Sources: BBC and Personal Communication**

15 May 2025: In Addis Ababa city, the president of the Orthopedics Department at Black Lion Hospital was arrested from the hospital by police. **Source: BBC**

15 May 2025: In Metemma town, North Gondar zone, Amhara Region, an unspecified number of health workers were arrested by the ENDF. **Source: Amhara Association of America**

15 May 2025: In Nefas-Mewcha town, Lay-Gayint woreda, South Gondar zone, Amhara region, an unspecified number of health workers were arrested by the ENDF. **Source: Amhara Association of America**

15 May 2025: In Addis-Zemen town, Libo-Kemkem woreda, South Gondor zone, Amhara Region, an unspecified number of health workers were arrested by the ENDF. **Source: Amhara Association of America**

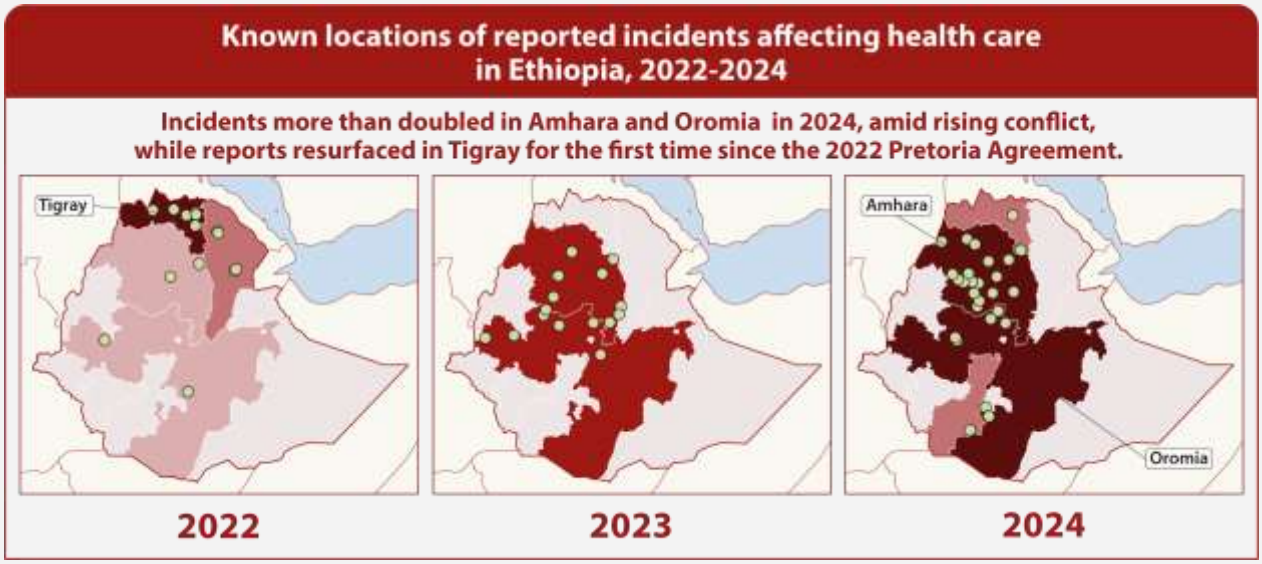
15 May 2025: In Gonder city, North Gondar zone, Amhara region, up to 25 doctors and specialists from the Gondar Referral Hospital residence were arrested by the ENDF around midnight. **Sources: Amhara Association of America, Personal Communication I and Personal Communication II**

16 May 2025: In Bahir Dar City, Amhara Region, in Ethiopia, the president of the Amhara Health Professionals Association was detained. **Source: Amhara Association of America**

17 May 2025: In Debark woreda, North Gondar zone, Amhara region, eight health workers were arrested from Debark General Hospital by the ENDF. **Source: Amhara Association of America**

Violence Against Health Care in Ethiopia Nearly Quadrupled in 2024, SHCC Reports

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 59 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ethiopia in 2024, compared to 15 in 2023 and 13 in 2022. In these incidents, health facilities were damaged or destroyed on 26 occasions and 24 health workers were killed. Ethiopia's Amhara region faced escalating violence and a humanitarian crisis amid an extended state of emergency, leaving the health care system on the verge of collapse. Health worker killings in Amhara and the damaging or destruction of health care facilities in Oromia increased amid the escalating conflict. In Tigray region, blockades have led to critical shortages of oxygen, antibiotics and other life-saving resources. Read the full factsheet. Download the data.



Nigeria

14 May 2025: In Sabuwa local government area, Katsina state, a laboratory technician and a security guard were shot and killed by a Katsina militia at the General Hospital. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Sudan

RSF Offensives in Darfur and Gezira Drive Spike in Attacks on Health Care in 2024, SHCC reports

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 244 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Sudan in 2024, compared to 271 in 2023. Health facilities were damaged 79 times, medical supplies were looted and 66 health workers were killed. Conflict-related and displacement factors have increased demand for health care provision, including to treat wounds sustained from violence, and the spread of conflict-related diseases such as cholera. Attacks on health care increased during RSF military offensives in North Darfur between April and August and in Gezira in late October and November. Some health workers were forced to conduct surgery under dim light in shipping containers buried underground to reduce the likelihood of being violently attacked. Read the full factsheet in English. Factsheet coming soon in Arabic. Download the data.

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS			
REPORTED INCIDENTS	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED/ DESTROYED	HEALTH WORKERS KILLED	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH SUPPLIES WERE LOOTED
2024			
244	79	66	42
2023			
271	68	55	60

Past incident briefs: 14-27 May; 30 April-13 May; 16-29 April; 02-15 April; 19 March-01 April; 05-18 March; 19 February-04 March; 05-18 February; 22 January-04 February; 08-21 January; All

SHCC factsheets (EN): 2024; 2023; 2022; 2021. (AR): 2023; 2022; 2021

Asia

Afghanistan

As reported on 20 May 2025: In Kandahar province, a new directive issued by the Taliban ordered female health workers employed by the provincial health department to be accompanied by a male guardian (mahram) at all times during working hours—from arrival to departure. Female health workers must also obtain a travel permit from the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice to travel to other districts. Female health workers reported this as a deliberate effort to pressure them into resigning and remaining at home. **Source: ACLED**[1]

As reported on 22 May 2025: Across the country, OCHA warned that the suspension of U.S. funding has had devastating consequences for humanitarian operations in the country, leaving over 1.6 million people without access to essential healthcare services. 188 health centers across Afghanistan were forced to shut down by the end of February 2025 due to funding shortages. This

closure has deprived more than 1.6 million individuals of crucial health services, particularly in remote and underserved areas. **Source: Khaama Press**

Myanmar

Myanmar Conflict Continues to Endanger Health Workers and Facilities, SHCC Reports

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 308 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar in 2024, compared to 420 in 2023, 290 in 2022 and 491 in 2021. Health facilities were damaged 135 times and occupied on 67 occasions. In addition, 91 health workers were arrested and 31 killed.

Fighting between conflict parties since the 2021 military coup has left an estimated 3.3 million people internally displaced and crippled Myanmar's health care system amid profound insecurity. Damage to health facilities by military aircraft strikes almost doubled in 2024 compared to 2023, as government forces lost more territory. Travel restrictions and administrative barriers have drastically reduced emergency referrals, with maternal and neonatal mortality rates sharply increasing as a result. Read the full factsheet in **Burmese** **and** **English**. Download the **data**

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS

	REPORTED INCIDENTS	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED/ DESTROYED	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE OCCUPIED	HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED	HEALTH WORKERS KILLED
2024	308	135	67	91	31
2023	420	133	55	102	37
2022	290	54	16	104	31
2021	491	30	65	567	36

Past incident briefs: **14-27 May**; **30 April-13 May**; **16-29 April**; **02-15 April**; **19 March-01 April**; **05-18 March**; **19 February-04 March**; **05-18 February**; **22 January-04 February**; **08-21 January**; **25 December-07 January**; **All**

SHCC Factsheets: Burmese: **2024**; **2023**. English: **2024**; **2023**: **2022**; **2021**; **2020**

Pakistan

16 May 2025: In Sargodha city, central Punjab, an Ahmadi doctor at a private hospital was shot and killed by unidentified armed men, likely Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) supporters. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Europe

Russia

30 May 2025: In Kursk city and oblast, a hospital and apartment buildings were damaged as a result of a drone attack by the Ukrainian forces. The attack damaged windows at the hospital, and a fire broke out after debris fell on the hospital grounds. **Sources: InKorr**, **Reuters and Vgolos**

Ukraine

14 May 2025: Near Ivanivka village, Synelnykove raion, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, a military medic was killed during fighting. **Sources: 0342, Dolyna Mayor**, **Firtka**, **Galka**, **GK**, **Informator I**, **Informator II**, **Obozrevatel**, **PIK**, **Ratusha and Versii**

14 May 2025: In Kozacha Lopan, Kharkiv raion and oblast, an ambulance was damaged in a 'double tap' attack by Russian forces drones in the evening. **Sources: Ukrinform and UNN**

14 May 2025: In Kupiansk city, urban hromada and raion, Kharkiv oblast, a hospital suspended its services due to constant Russian forces airstrikes on the city. **Sources: UA Varta and Ukrinform**

16 May 2025: In Nikopol city, urban hromada and raion, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, a hospital was damaged by Grad missiles from the Russian forces. **Sources: Dnipropetrovsk Regional Military Administration**, **General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Krivbass**

17 May 2025: In Kostiantynivka city, Kramatorsk raion, Donetsk oblast, the facade of the administrative building of a health facility was damaged when Russian forces shelled the city. **Source: UA Varta**

18 May 2024: In Fastiv raion, Kyiv oblast, a fire broke out at a medical facility following a Russian forces drone attack overnight. **Sources: DW and State Emergency Services**

20 May 2025: In Shostka city, urban hromada and raion, Sumy oblast, a hospital was left without electricity and local authorities were forced to activate a backup power system for hospitals, water supply, and purification facilities following a Russian forces missile attack on the city. **Source: UA Varta**

22-23 May 2025: In Kostiantynivka city, Kramatorsk raion, Donetsk oblast, a hospital and an educational facility were damaged when Russian forces attacked the city with 7 GAB-250 bombs, two drones and Smerch MLRSs. **Source: UA Varta**

23 May 2025: In Bilozerka city, Kherson raion and oblast, an ambulance driver was injured in a Russian forces artillery attack while he was on the street. **Source: Kherson Regional State Administration**

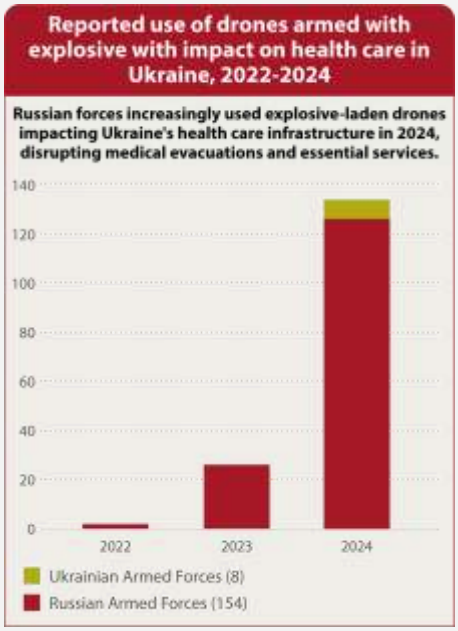
25 May 2025: In Kostiantynivka city, Kramatorsk raion, Donetsk oblast, a health facility was damaged when Russian forces shelled the city. **Source: Kostiantynivka City Military Administration**

25 May 2025: In Chernihiv city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, a hospital, a school, 70 homes and a business were damaged by Russian forces shelling. **Sources: CHE**, **Novyny Live**, **Press service of Chernihiv City Council**, **UA Varta and Ukrinform**

27 May 2025: In Nikopol urban hromada and raion, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, an ambulance and a private car were damaged due to Russian forces UAVs and artillery shelling. **Sources: Dnepr Info**, **Interfax**, **Lyubyme Misto**, **Nashe Misto**, **PravdaTUT**, **Rubryka**, **TrueUA, UA Varta and Vidomo**

Hospitals Bombed, Emergency Services Hit, Health Workers Killed in 2024, SHCC reports

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 544 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ukraine in 2024, compared to 478 in 2023 and 922 in 2022. In these incidents, health facilities were damaged at least 359 times. Emergency medical services were attacked on at least 74 occasions and 78 health workers were killed.



Russian forces regularly launched attacks on Ukraine's energy system, affecting health services. The use of drones armed with explosives that impacted health care surged in 2024. Quick hospital repairs, temporary service relocations, and 12,000 generators kept some health facilities operational despite damage and power outages. Read the full factsheet in English and Ukrainian. Download the data.

SHCC factsheets: English: 2024; 2023; 2022. Ukrainian: 2024; 2023.

Explore this interactive map (available in English and Ukrainian) to see where incidents took place between 24 February 2022-15 February 2025.

Middle East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Health Care in the oPt Faced Unprecedented Levels of Violence in 2024, SHCC reports

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 1,361 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2024, compared to 1,170 in 2023. In the Gaza Strip, where 940 incidents were recorded, there was a 22% increase from 2023, when 770 incidents were recorded. In these incidents, at least 218 health workers were killed and 192 arrested. Health facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 192 times and raided or occupied multiple times. Using different methods, other sources report far higher numbers of health workers killed. According to Healthcare Workers Watch, 1,200 health workers have been killed since October 2023.

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the recorded incidents doubled to 418 incidents in 2024, compared to 208 in 2023. In these incidents, 80 health workers were arrested, 75 injured and eight killed, and health facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 13 times and raided 21 times. Access to health care was blocked or delayed at least 272 times, which left patients without access to medical treatment, proving fatal in some circumstances. Read the full factsheet in English. Factsheet coming soon in Arabic. Download the data.

Past incident briefs:: 14-27 May; 30 April-13 May; 16-29 April; 02-15 April; 19 March-01 April; 05-18 March; 19 February-04 March; 05-18 February; 22 January-04 February; 08-21 January; 25 December-07 January; All

SHCC Factsheets (EN): 2024; 2023; 2022; 2021. (AR): 2023; 2022; 2021.

Yemen

18 May 2025: In Bir Ayed area, Jabal Ayyal Yazid district, Amran governorate, a pharmacist was shot dead by gunmen whilst workingt. **Source:** Khabar Agency

22 May 2025: In Khamer town, Amran governorate, an employee of Doctors Without Borders working in the health education department at Al-Salam Hospital was arrested by Houthi militia members on accusations of him sharing a video depicting a military maneuver, although it was later revealed that this was a fabricated pretext. This incident occurred just days after MSF resumed

operations at the hospital following a temporary suspension caused by an armed attack several weeks earlier. **Source: Khabar Agency**

The Americas

Mexico

20 May 2025: In Tijuana city and municipality, Baja California state, a woman was shot and killed in a hospital by men wearing medical clothes. The previous day she had been admitted to hospital after being shot and injured and it is suspected that the perpetrators are the same ones that killed her. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Global Health Insecurity

These events go beyond the definition used by the SHCC to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of health care including events perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Africa

Ghana

19 May 2025: In Nangodi traditional area, Nabdam district, Upper East region, the District Director of the Bongo National Health Insurance Authority was ambushed and fatally shot by unidentified armed individuals. Following the attack, his vehicle was set on fire, resulting in his body being burned. The motive behind the incident remains unknown, but it is believed to be connected to the ongoing Bawku chieftaincy conflict. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Senegal

20-21 May 2025: In Arafat village, Missira Wadène commune, Koungheul department, Kaffrine region, the head nurse of Arafat health centre was killed in his home overnight by armed men who also stole the nurse's sheep. Four young men were arrested. **Sources: LaNouvelle Tribune, SeneNews and Soleil**

South Africa

18 November 2024: Near Qumbu town, Mhlontlo local municipality, O.R. Tambo district municipality, Eastern Cape province, an ambulance was hijacked at gunpoint in the evening by unidentified perpetrators while travelling to Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital in Mthatha. The two paramedics and eight-year-old patient inside the ambulance were threatened and left on the road. **Sources: Juta Medical Brief and Sunday World**

18 May 2025: In Jansenville town, Ikwezi local municipality, Sarah Baartman district municipality, Eastern Cape province, a paramedic was shot and killed in a shop by gunmen at 7:40 pm. The paramedic had just finished a shift and was still wearing his uniform. **Sources: Algoa FM, Mthatha Express and Sunday World**

22 May 2025: In Palmerton village, O.R. Tambo district municipality, Eastern Cape province, a nurse and human resources manager, who were married and both worked at St Elizabeth Hospital, were shot and killed in their home by two masked gunmen in the morning. **Sources: Mthatha Express, SABC and SABC News**

The Americas

United States of America

14 May 2025: In Decatur city, Morgan county, Alabama state, an emergency centre was hit by a cyberattack, leaving the system down for a few days. The emergency centre answers and dispatches emergency and non-emergency calls for all of the county. **Source: WHNT**

This Bi-Monthly News Brief 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. This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is funded and supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester and the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the UK government or the Tides Foundation who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

Insecurity Insight. 2025. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 14-27 May 2025. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. https://bit.ly/14-27May2024Health

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**. Accessed 29 May 2025.