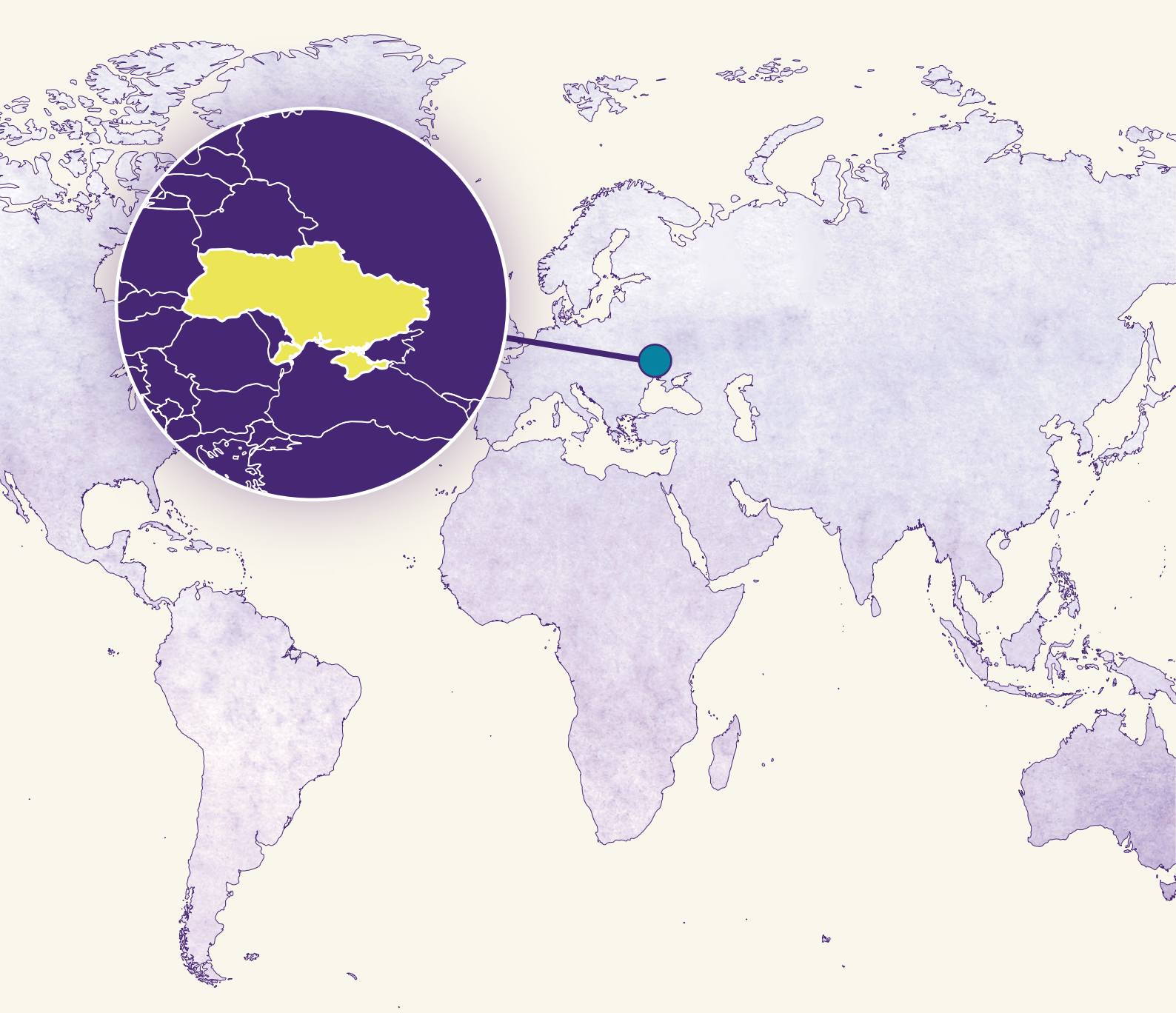
UKRAINE

Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

2025



SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT

Insecurity Insight
Data on People in Danger

Ukraine

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS				
REPORTED INCIDENTS	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED/ DESTROYED	ATTACKS ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	HEALTH WORKERS KILLED	HEALTH WORKERS INJURED
2025				
613	382	110	87	140
2024				
569	367	81	102	96
2023				
483	271	47	134	74
2022				
969	628	107	95	63

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

OVERVIEW

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 613 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ukraine in 2025, compared to 569 in 2024, 483 in 2023 and 969 in 2022.[1] Among incidents reported in 2025, 87 health workers were killed, 140 were injured, and health facilities were damaged or destroyed on at least 382 occasions. Emergency medical services (EMS) were attacked on at least 110 occasions.

Methodology and sources
Information on incidents of violence against health care in Ukraine is compiled from open sources, aid agency data-sharing mechanisms, information projects and private sources. Data is continuously updated and numbers may change if new information is made publicly available. For the latest available figures, see this interactive map. See Methodology for further information.

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THE CONTEXT

As of the end of 2025, four years after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, Russia occupied about 20% of Ukraine's territory, imposing repressive measures, targeting civilians in the unoccupied parts of the country through attacks on energy infrastructure in winter, and driving a sharp rise in civilian casualties, in part due to the widespread use of first person view (FPV) drones, while North Korea officially confirmed that its troops had fought alongside Russian forces in the Kursk region.

By October 2025, over 137,000 square miles of Ukrainian territory were contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance, and amid ongoing hostilities that increased the risk of further contamination, Ukraine withdrew from the 1997 Ottawa Convention in July 2025, a move that critics warned could have serious humanitarian and legal consequences.

By late 2025, millions of Ukrainians were displaced or in need of humanitarian aid. Children remained particularly vulnerable, with reports from occupied areas of deportations and indications of a broader campaign involving their forced transfer to Russia and adoption by Russian families.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding freeze and subsequent delays in 2025-2026 reduced aid to Ukraine by USD 1.4 billion and significantly reduced energy-related assistance. These funds had been intended not only for general recovery, but specifically to support urgent winter energy needs, including the import of liquefied natural gas and the repair and reconstruction of electricity infrastructure damaged by Russian strikes on the power grid. While the Ukrainian government increased domestic budget allocations for grid rehabilitation and emergency energy support, efforts were reportedly limited due to a failure to effectively prioritize services during funding allocations.

VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN 2025

In 2025, violence against or obstruction of health care was reported in 19 oblasts (regions) and Crimea – the same as in 2024, but with cases surging in Chernihivska oblast. High numbers continued to be reported in Dnipropetrovska, Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska and Sumska oblasts. Damage to or the destruction of health facilities increased in 2025, along with attacks on EMS and health worker injuries.

Health worker killings persisted, with military medics frequently among the casualties, while the number of injuries rose, particularly among emergency responders to Russian missile, drone, and artillery attacks, including in "double taps" strikes. Damage to or the destruction of health facilities increased by over 10% in 2025.

Over 95% of attacks on health care were linked to Russian forces. Their use of explosives-armed drones continued to impact health care in 2025, accounting for nearly 50% of all incidents attributed to Russian forces, surging from 127 in 2024 to 296 in 2025. Particularly high numbers of incidents occurred between June and September, coinciding with multiple Russian offensives across Ukraine.

Debris from a Ukrainian Armed Forces missile intercepted by Russian missiles damaged one health facility and nearby homes in Donetska oblast.[2] Ukrainian authorities detained, arrested, and in some cases imprisoned health workers for alleged collaboration with Russian forces, including sharing military locations, aiding Russian forces, and acts deemed to be treason or desertion. Other attacks had unidentified perpetrators.

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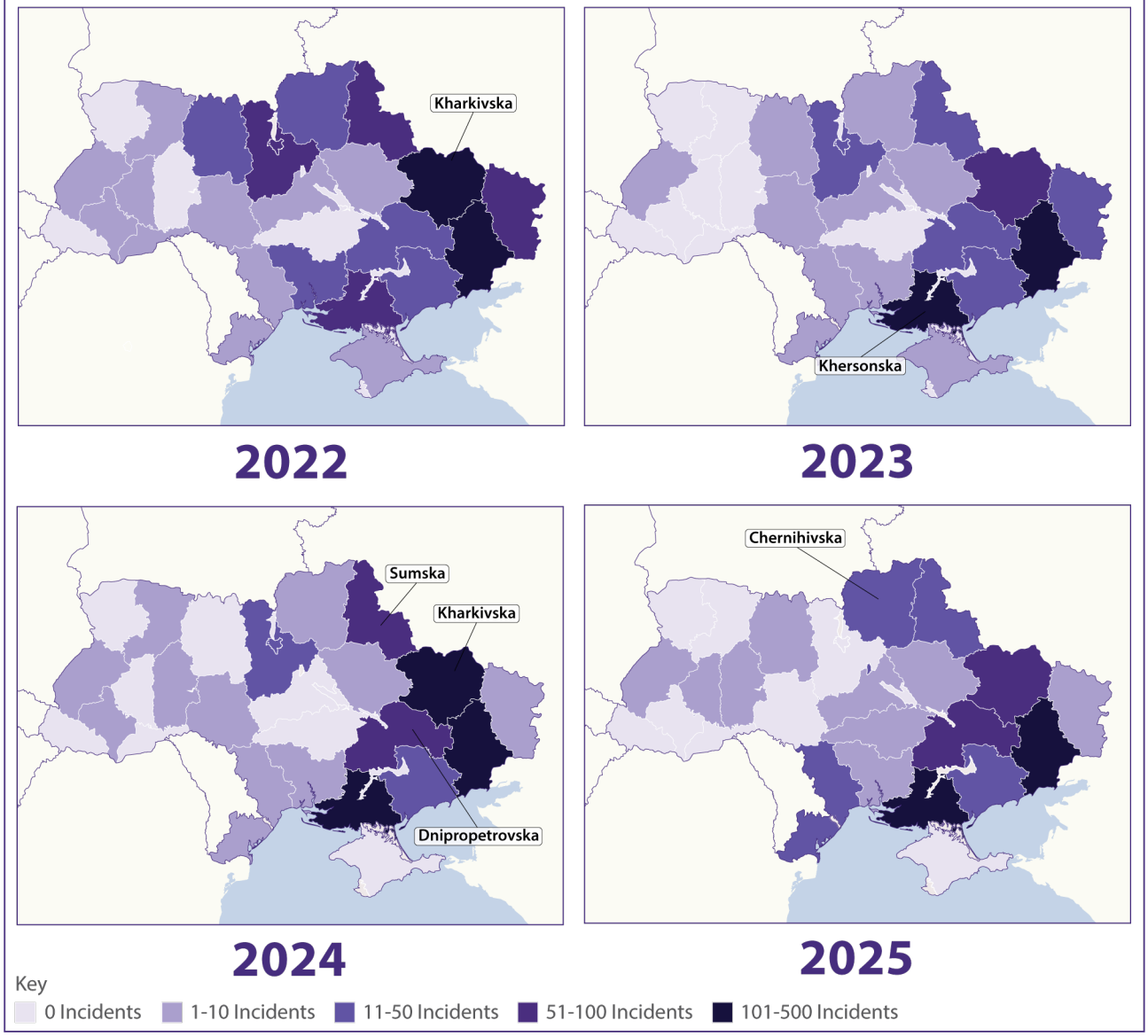
Known locations of reported incidents affecting health care in Ukraine 2022-2025

High numbers continued to be recorded in Dnipropetrovska, Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska and Sumska oblasts in 2025. Incidents increased in Chernihivska oblast.



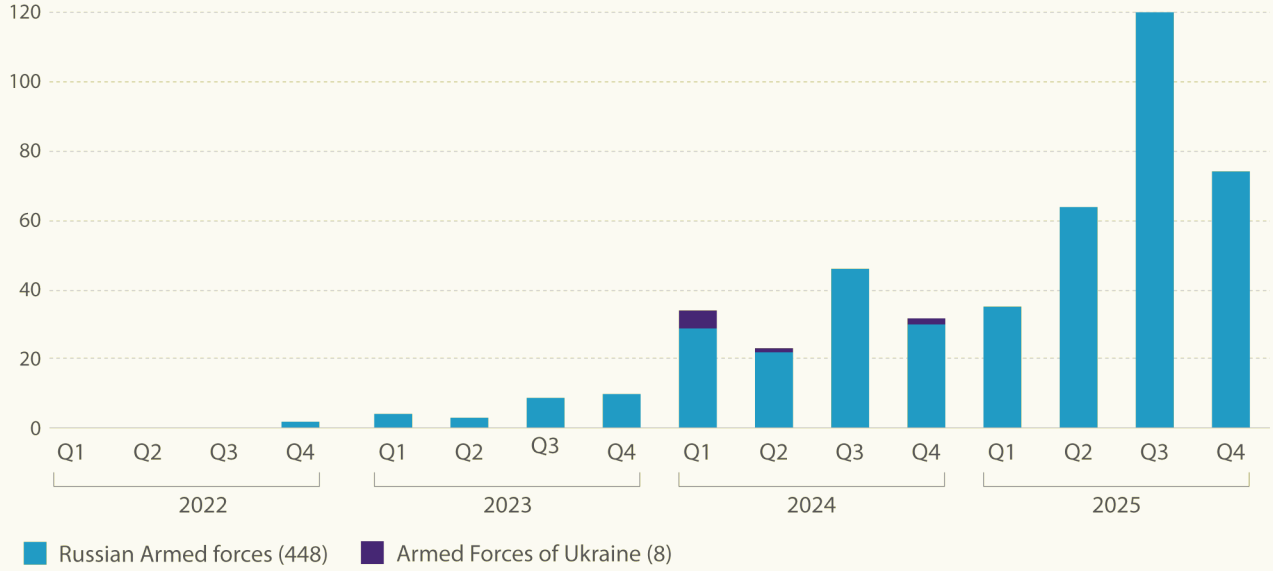
Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

As in previous years, most incidents affected health care providers working for national health structures, with NGOs and private health care organizations directly affected in eight incidents each. The Ukrainian Red Cross was affected in two incidents and a UN agency in one.[3]

Ukraine

Reported use of explosives-armed drones that impacted health care in Ukraine, by conflict party, 2022-2025

Russian forces continued to use armed drones impacting Ukraine's health system in 2025, with high numbers between June and September, coinciding with multiple Russian offensives across Ukraine.



Short-range drones were the most frequently reported type of drone used in Russian-linked drone incidents impacting health care in Ukraine in 2025. Their use was most frequent in Donetska and Khersonska oblasts, and nearly a fifth were of the first-person view (FPV) type: i.e. cheap, easy-to-modify, highly precise, remotely piloted drones that give the operator a live camera feed to guide them to targets. Other short-range drones used against health care in Ukraine in 2025 included "kamikaze drones" that exploded when they hit their targets. These drones were produced by various countries, and were repeatedly used against health care in Ukraine in 2025, including short-range drones, like the Russian-made Molniya-1, and long-range drones, such as the Geran-2, Geran-3, and Iranian Shahed variants, which particularly affected health care in Kharkivska oblast.

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Health facilities damaged or destroyed

Hospitals, including maternity and children's facilities, pharmacies, and warehouses, were damaged or destroyed by explosive weapons use on 382 separate occasions in 2025, an increase from 367 in 2024. Most of these incidents impacted children's and maternity hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies in Khersonska oblast, with the second-highest number of incidents occurring in Donetska oblast. Hospital bombings took place during broader assaults on villages and towns in which civilians were killed or injured, and civilian infrastructure, including energy supplies, was hit.

There is strong evidence of cluster munitions having damaged hospitals in at least two cases in Sumska oblast in May and June 2025.[4] For example, on May 12, at around 2 a.m., four Russian Tornado missiles armed with cluster munitions struck and damaged a paramedic and obstetrics center, a school, a cultural center, a gas pipeline, and power lines in Mykolaiv settlement.[5]

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Between October and December 2025, a series of Russian attacks targeted key pharmaceutical and civilian supply infrastructure, including a missile strike in Kyiv, which destroyed the warehouse and office of Optima-Farm (one of the country's largest pharmaceutical distributors), disrupting medicine supplies to central regions.[6]

Attacks on emergency medical services

EMS were affected by violence at least 110 times in 2025, compared to 81 times in 2024. The majority of incidents happened while emergency personnel were conducting recovery and rescue operations and in "double-tap" strikes. Other attacks took place at health facilities or ambulance stations that were hit by Russian bombs or shelling.

These attacks, often carried out by Russian forces using armed drones, missile strikes, and artillery in Kharkivska and Khersonska oblasts, killed two first responders, injured 51 others, and damaged or destroyed at least 114 ambulances.

Health workers killed and injured

In total, 87 health workers were killed in 82 incidents in 2025, similar to previous years. At least 67 were military medics, with high casualty numbers recorded on the front lines in Donetska and Kharkivska oblasts.

In 2025, 20 health workers, including ambulance drivers, doctors, nurses, paramedics, and volunteer health workers, were killed by Russian missile strikes, drone attacks, and artillery fire while in health facilities, at their homes, while going about their everyday activities, or in "double-tap" attacks while providing medical care to civilians injured in previous Russian attacks. These health worker killings occurred across multiple oblasts, with higher concentrations in front line oblasts, especially Donetska and Khersonska. Urban centers away from the front lines, including Kyiv and Ternopil, were also locations of health worker killings.

In 2025, at least 140 health workers were reported to have been injured in 74 incidents, compared to 96 in 62 incidents in 2024. Nearly a third of those injured were emergency medical personnel.

Health workers, including first responders, were also targeted in a broader pattern of drone warfare described by observers as a "human safari," in which civilians were deliberately hunted with drones. In some cases, footage of these strikes was circulated on social media.

This interactive map – a joint undertaking by Insecurity Insight, eyeWitness to Atrocities (eyeWitness), Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), Truth Hounds, and the Ukrainian Healthcare Center (UHC) – documents attacks on health care in Ukraine since the full-scale Russian invasion on February 24, 2022. It is available in English and Ukrainian, and allows viewers to explore where incidents took place and what happened; in some cases, this information is accompanied by photos. Incidents can be filtered by categories, including attacks on child health care and hospital energy systems. Insecurity Insight updates data continuously and numbers may change if new information is made publicly available.

This SHCC chapter reflects data for 2025 current as of January 15, 2026, but the map and dataset are continuously updated. The map includes events where preventive measures were taken to protect staff and programs, which are not counted as incidents in the chapter. This SHCC chapter is based on 2023-2025 UKR SHCC Health Care Data. Download this data on the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX).

Ukraine

THE IMPACT OF ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE

Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure had widespread health impacts, disrupting health facilities' heating, water, electricity, and communications systems, hindering medical care, and increasing risks for vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

Four years of war have severely strained the physical and mental health of Ukrainians, with front-line populations reporting poorer health, restricted access to medicines, and high levels of stress among health workers. Surveys found that over 70% of adults experienced anxiety, depression or severe stress, emphasizing the urgent need for ongoing mental health support, particularly for women.

Attacks on Ukraine's health infrastructure had a profound impact on maternal health, disrupting access to prenatal care, safe delivery services, and emergency obstetric treatment. Power outages, damaged water and sanitation systems, and the limited availability of medicines and medical equipment increased risks of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, while the strain on health workers and heightened stress among expectant mothers further exacerbated these challenges. These disruptions were reflected in national health trends: although the overall number of births declined, pregnancy complications increased, including a 44% increase in uterine ruptures and a 12% rise in hypertensive disorders. Cesarean section rates – such as 46% in Kherson – far exceeding the WHO's recommended 15%, putting women and newborns at even greater risk and underscoring the urgent need for targeted maternal health support. Many Ukrainian women delayed having children due to ongoing insecurity, economic instability and uncertainty about the future.

Increased displacement put further strain on Ukraine's already overburdened health system, intensifying demand for medical care, disrupting continuity of treatment, and heightening the risk of disease outbreaks, particularly in overcrowded shelters and areas with limited access to clean water, sanitation, and essential medicines.

Ukraine's health care workforce declined by 16.98% in 2025 compared to January 2022, falling from 559,153 to 464,218 staff. All major occupational groups saw reductions, with the steepest decline among junior medical staff, signalling a significant contraction in the future clinical workforce pipeline.

Access to health care in Ukraine was constrained by widespread contamination caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance, which obstructed the safe movement of patients, ambulances, and medical supplies, particularly in rural and front-line areas.

> *Power outages, damaged water and sanitation systems, and the limited availability of medicines and medical equipment increased risks of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, while the strain on health workers and heightened stress among expectant mothers further exacerbated these challenges.*

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1 The SHCC's 2024 Annual Report cited 544 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ukraine in 2024, 478 in 2023 and 922 in 2022. Data is continuously updated and numbers can change if new information is made publicly available.
2 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2022-2025 UKR SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 123661.
3 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2022-2025 UKR SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 99348; 117324; 119102.
4 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2022-2025 UKR SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 98742; 100779.
5 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2022-2025 UKR SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 98742.
6 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2022-2025 UKR SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 119992.

SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition is a group of more than 40 organizations working to protect health workers and services threatened by war or civil unrest. We have raised awareness of global attacks on health and pressed United Nations agencies for greater global action to protect the security of health care. We monitor attacks, strengthen universal norms of respect for the right to health, and demand accountability for perpetrators. Suggested citation: Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalititon (SHCC) 2026. Care in the Crosshairs: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict, May 2026. https://shcc.pub/SHCCAnnualReport2025
https://safeguarding-health.com

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