

INDICATOR ANALYSIS

HOMICIDES

ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY FRANCOIS DAUDELIN & VAL PERCIVAL
FOR THE LANCET-SIGHT COMMISSION ON PEACEFUL SOCIETIES THROUGH HEALTH AND GENDER EQUALITY

How is the indicator calculated?	<p>Homicide data published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes' definition of intentional homicide: An “unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury” (1).</p> <p>Three criteria are used to define an act of killing as an intentional homicide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Causing the death of a person (objective criterion) 2. Intentionality (subjective criterion) 3. Unlawfulness (legal criterion) <p>Data from the UNODC dataset is sourced from criminal justice and public health systems. "In the former, data are generated by law enforcement or criminal justice authorities in the process of recording and investigating a crime event, whereas in the latter, data are produced by health authorities certifying the cause of death of an individual" [2, p. i] . A coding system is used to classify the quality of source data (Low, Fair, Good) by country or territory in the Methodological Annex to The Global Study on Homicide 2019 (2).</p>
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GLOBAL TRENDS	
What are the global trends for the indicator?	<p>Homicide rates in the Americas have been high for three decades, consistently averaging more than twice the global rate while fluctuating between 14.5 and 16.6 per 100 000 people between 1990 and 2016. However, figures at this scale should be interpreted with caution as rates vary significantly between countries (3).</p> <p>Homicide rates in Europe saw a large increase from 4.8 in 1990 to 8.8 in 1994 followed by stagnation at elevated levels until 2002 and a steady decrease to 2.8 in 2018 (4).</p> <p>In Asia, rates have followed a steady decrease from 3.6 in 1990 to 2.1 in 2018 (4).</p> <p>Data in African countries is limited and as such, makes the study of historical trends more challenging. The UNDC's partially modelled data shows a fluctuation of rates between 13.4 and 12.7 from 2003 to 2018 (4).</p> <p>Globally, femicides represent a very small share of homicides (3).</p>

UTILITY

What does the indicator measure?	The indicator measures the number of intentional homicides as a proportion of the population.
What does it NOT measure - what does it miss?	LGBTQI+ data as well as breakdown beyond gender, citizenship (citizen or not citizen) and city. The indicator does not offer information regarding the number of legal killings.
If and how does the indicator relate to interface/relationship among health, gender and fragility/stability;	Homicides against men, women, and LGBTQI+ are different. Men tend to experience homicide broadly, whereas homicide against women tends to be committed by partners or family members. Although not included in this dataset, and lacking in data generally, homicide against LGBTQI+ appears to be targeted and often hate crime related. In fragile states homicide can be more easily accomplished with impunity.

AVAILABILITY

Sources for indicator (CRVS, DHS etc - include links);	UN Crime Trends Survey and publicly available sources and produced by national governmental institutions (2). Indicator available in UNODC dataset: https://dataunodc.un.org/content/data/homicide/homicide-rate
Dates available;	1990-2018.
Availability across geographic areas;	Data is available for 202 countries with more limited availability in Africa.
Availability in conflict affected settings;	Availability varies by country: Yemen (1998-200 and 2003-2013); Afghanistan (2009-2012 and 2015-2018); South Sudan (2012); Venezuela (1990-2012 and 2014-2018); Syria (1997-2010 and 2018), DRC (No data).

GRANULARITY	
<i>Disaggregation at national level</i>	
Data disaggregated by sex;	Yes.
Data disaggregated by identity group (race, ethnicity);	No.
Data disaggregated by income	No.
Data disaggregated by citizenship;	Yes (citizen vs foreign victim).
Data disaggregated by migration background;	No.
<i>Disaggregation at sub-national level</i>	
Data disaggregated by geographic region;	Yes (by city - only using the three most populous cities of each country since 2005).
Data disaggregated by identity group (race, ethnicity);	No.
Data disaggregated by income.	No.

SOURCES OF BIAS	
What bias can exist with this data?	Omissions: The methodological annex discusses multiple missing countries (mainly in Africa) as well as usage of public health data (compared to criminal justice data) for certain others. Although mostly reliable sources, there may be issues in terms of consistency across countries.iiiiii

VALIDITY	
Clear and accepted international standards for indicator;	Yes, as the indicator's definition relies on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

Validity of measurement of indicator generally accepted;	Yes.
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RELIABILITY

Reliability of indicator generally accepted;	Yes, UNODC data is frequently used for analysis.
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COMPLEXITY

Enables analysis across time and location.	Yes.
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OTHER REFLECTIONS

Are indicator values modelled/imputed?	<p>At the country level, the UNODC Homicide Statistics (2019) Dataset does not include any modelled estimates. In a limited number of countries, time series adjustments are applied to maintain consistency while combining older time series (pre-2000) with more recent data. In such cases, the data source is labelled as "adjusted" (1) .</p> <p>At the sub-national level, values are not modelled but are adjusted to ensure their sum equates the national estimate.</p> <p>To produce estimates at the global, regional and sub-regional levels, country level data is required. As such, missing country level statistics are estimated using moving average models and other imputation methods based on data availability. <i>Uncertainty estimates are not provided on the online dataset but are presented through confidence intervals in the second Booklet of the report and should be consulted prior to analysis (5).</i></p> <p><i>The Methodological Annex to The Global Study on Homicide 2019 provides information regarding the quality of the data used to develop estimates for each country and should be consulted prior to use of indicator data.</i></p>
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References

1. UNODC. International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, Version 1.0. UNODC Vienna; 2015.
2. UNODC. Global study on homicide 2019: Methodological Annex. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2019;
3. UNODC. Global study on homicide 2019: Executive Summary. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2019;
4. UNODC. Homicide rates [Internet]. DATA UNODC. [cited 2021 Sep 30]. Available from: https://public.tableau.com/views/Homiciderates_15826327950430/Homicide-rates?:embed=y&:showVizHome=no&:host_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublic.tableau.com%2F&:embed_code_version=3&:tabs=no&:toolbar=yes&:animate_transition=yes&:display_static_image=no&:display_spinner=no&:display_overlay=yes&:display_count=yes&:loadOrderID=0
5. UNODC. Global study on homicide 2019: Homicide: extent, patterns, trends and criminal justice response. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2019.