

## Notes on five sources of the world conflict death rate since 1989

- **'UCDP state-based'**

**Construction:** This refers to the UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset. The data is presented annually, by conflict. We take the 'best estimate' of battle deaths (*bdbest* variable) and aggregate across all conflicts for each year.

**Concept of 'conflict':** 'Contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory or government)' between at two formally organized armed groups, of which at least one is the government of a state.

**Concept of 'deaths':** 'Battle-related' deaths only: "Those deaths caused by the warring parties that can be directly related to combat."

**Deaths threshold:** To be included, conflicts must cause 25 battle-related deaths per year.

**Underlying sources:** global newswire reporting; global monitoring and translation of local news performed by the BBC; secondary sources such as local media, NGO and IGO reports, field reports, books etc.

**Other comments:** "Due to the lack of available information, it is possible that there are more fatalities than the UCDP high estimate, but it is very unlikely that there is fewer than the UCDP best estimate" – Codebook to BRD 18.1

**Download:** [ucdp.uu.se](http://ucdp.uu.se)

### **References:**

Pettersson, Therése and Kristine Eck (2018) Organized violence, 1989-2017. *Journal of Peace Research* 55(4).

- **'UCDP all'**

**Construction:** This is the conjunction of three UCDP datasets: the Battle-Related Deaths Dataset (as above), the Non-state Conflict Dataset and the One-sided Violence Dataset (both also available at [ucdp.uu.se](http://ucdp.uu.se)). The combination of the three is done by Our World In Data, and is not released as a single dataset by UCDP. The data is presented annually, by conflict (or violent event). We take the 'best estimate' of deaths in each case, and aggregate across all conflict for each year

**Concept of 'conflict':** BRD Dataset as above.

Non-state Conflict Dataset – Similar to BRD Dataset above, but restricted to conflicts with no state participants.

One-sided Violence Dataset – armed use of force by a government or formally organized group against civilians (excludes extrajudicial killings in custody).

**Concept of ‘deaths’:** BRD and Non-state Datasets use battle-related as defined above. One-sided Violence Dataset only includes *intentional* killings: “direct and deliberate killings of civilians.” (See Eck, Kristine & Lisa Hultman (2007) [Violence Against Civilians in War](#). Journal of Peace Research 44(2).)

**Deaths threshold:** To be included, episodes of violence must cause 25 deaths (of the types described above) per year.

**Underlying sources/Other Comments:** The codebooks for the One-sided Violence and Non-state conflict datasets are shorter than for BRD. We assume that many of the comments relating to the underlying sources and how these get translated into a ‘best estimate’ for fatalities is the same as outlined above.

**Download:** [ucdp.uu.se](http://ucdp.uu.se)

#### **References:**

Pettersson, Therése and Kristine Eck (2018) Organized violence, 1989-2017. Journal of Peace Research 55(4).

Sundberg, Ralph, Kristine Eck and Joakim Kreutz (2012) Introducing the UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset, Journal of Peace Research 49(2).

Eck, Kristine & Lisa Hultman (2007) Violence Against Civilians in War. Journal of Peace Research 44(2).

- **‘Correlates of War’**

**Construction:** The conjunction of the most recent Inter-, Intra-, Extra- and Non-state war datasets (v4.0/4.1). The datasets do not provide annual data, but rather report deaths attributed to each war. To make the annual series we distribute the deaths evenly across all years in which the war occurred, counting partial years fully. We then aggregate across all wars for each year.

**Concept of ‘conflict’:** “Sustained combat, involving organized armed forces, resulting in a minimum of 1,000 battle related fatalities.” (COW Typology)

**Concept of ‘deaths’:** “Battle-deaths include not only those armed personnel killed in combat but also those who subsequently died from combat wounds or from diseases contracted in the war theatre” (COW Typology). This applies equally to all four war datasets.

**Deaths threshold:** To be included, wars must cause 1,000 battle-deaths per year

**Other comments:** “There are a couple of reasons for including deaths by wounds and disease. Deaths due to disease in the combat zone are an integral repercussion of a state’s war participation, and they can be significantly higher than the deaths caused directly by the enemy. Furthermore, it may not be recorded whether a combatant died during actual battle or later from a bullet wound, or the virus that swept through the army hospital, for instance. Most fatality records do not report separately on deaths by disease; thus it would be easier and more consistent to include them in the battle-related fatalities rather than to try to disaggregate them.” (COW Typology)

**Download:** [correlatesofwar.org](http://correlatesofwar.org)

#### **References:**

*Sarkees, Meredith Reid and Frank Wayman (2010). Resort to War: 1816 - 2007. Washington DC: CQ Press.*

The COW Typology of War: Defining and Categorizing Wars (Version 4 of the Data) by Meredith Reid Sarkees

- **‘Conflict Catalogue’**

**Construction:** We take the ‘Total’ deaths figures. Data is presented by conflict. To make the annual series we distribute the deaths evenly across all years in which the conflict occurred, counting partial years fully. We then aggregate across all conflicts for each year.

**Concept of ‘conflict’:** “...an occurrence of purposive and lethal violence among two or more social groups pursuing conflicting political goals that results in fatalities, with at least one belligerent group organized under the command of authoritative leadership.” (Brecke, 1999)

**Concept of ‘deaths’:** “‘Total fatalities’ encompasses everyone.... The total fatalities estimates, I am sure, vary significantly in terms of the degree to which they include disease, starvation, etc.” (Brecke, 2012)

**Deaths threshold:** To be included, conflicts must have generated 32 deaths in the span of a year.

**Download:** <http://www.cgeh.nl/data>

**References:**

Brecke, 1999. Violent Conflicts 1400 A.D. to the Present in Different Regions of the World (Paper prepared for the 1999 Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International) on October 8-10, 1999 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.)

Brecke, 2012. Notes regarding the Conflict Catalog. Available at: <http://www.cgeh.nl/data>

- **'IHME'**

**Construction:** We use the global figures listed under the 'Conflict and Terror' cause of death. The source provides three estimates: 'upper', 'lower' and 'val'. The concept behind these upper and lower bounds is not clear. We take the 'val' figures, which are very close to, but not precisely, the midpoint of the upper and lower estimates.

**Concept of conflict and conflict deaths:** No documentation information could be found. The IHME data does however make extensive use of the three UCDP datasets described above. Indeed up until 2003, the series is almost identical to that of *UCDP all*. For this reason we take the definitions to be roughly the same. Whilst it is easier to pinpoint the conflicts in which IHME subsequently departs from the UCDP data, the theoretical justification for this is unclear.

**Download:** <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool>

**References:**

Global Burden of Disease Collaborative Network.  
Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 (GBD 2016) Results.  
Seattle, United States: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), 2017.