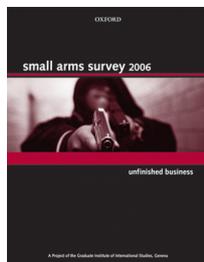


Small Arms Survey 2006

UNFINISHED BUSINESS



The *Small Arms Survey 2006: Unfinished Business* offers new and updated information on small arms production, stockpiles, transfers, and measures, including a review of the *International Tracing Instrument*. This year's thematic chapters examine issues such as the demand for weapons, small arms and security sector reform, and the economic costs of small arms use. This edition also features case studies on small arms violence in Papua New Guinea and Colombia, armed groups in West Africa, and the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda. The final chapter—Angry Young Men—considers why young men account for the lion's share of global small arms violence.

The *Small Arms Survey* is produced annually by a team of researchers based in Geneva, Switzerland, and a worldwide network of local researchers. Its blend of information and analysis makes it an indispensable resource for diplomats, policy-makers, and non-governmental organizations.

Praise for the *Survey* from Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia:

'Matching relevant theory with facts from the field, this book advances our understanding of the small arms issue and offers crucial insight for policy-makers and other stakeholders. I invite you to join me in using the *Small Arms Survey 2006* as a vital resource, and as an essential tool in navigating the future of the international small arms process.'

Key findings

Production, stockpiles, transfers, and transparency

- The world's militaries procure around 1 million units annually, though not all are newly produced.
- The annual production of military small arms and light weapons averages 0.7–0.9 million.
- Some of the world's largest procurers will launch major procurement programmes in the next 10–15 years, increasing the potential for transfers of surplus small arms and light weapons to poorer states.
- More than 26 million law enforcement firearms exist worldwide.
- Government armed forces own approximately 200 million modern firearms.
- The top exporters of small arms and light weapons by value in 2003 were the Russian Federation, the United States, Italy, Germany, Brazil, and China.
- The top importers for 2003 were the United States, Cyprus, and Germany.
- The 2006 Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer indicates that among the major exporters of small arms and light weapons, the most transparent are the United States and Germany. The least transparent are Bulgaria, Iran, Israel, and North Korea, all scoring zero.

Young men

- Young men represent a disproportionately high share of the perpetrators and victims of gun-related, lethal violence.
- Boys are two to three times more likely than girls to get involved in fighting.
- Young men—those aged 15 to 29—account for half of the world's firearm homicide victims, or 70,000 to 100,000 deaths annually.
- Curbing young men's access to firearms has proved an effective component of short-term strategies to reduce the number of deaths arising from youth violence.
- Countering socially constructed associations between guns, violence, power, and masculinity is a key component of any effective, long-term violence prevention strategy.
- Men suffer more than 90 per cent of all gun deaths in Colombia. More than one-third of all firearm deaths are concentrated among men aged 20–29, with more than 342,000 years of productive life lost from firearm deaths since 1979.

Lessons from field research

- Every year, small arms violence leads to productivity losses that amount to USD 10 billion in Brazil and USD 4 billion in Colombia.
- In low-income countries where spending on the treatment of firearm injuries is limited, gun wounds are less likely to be treated and more likely to be lethal.
- In Papua New Guinea, the demand for firearms is robust in both the National Capital District and the Southern Highlands while ammunition prices appear to be declining.
- Firearms currently account for more than 80 per cent of all homicides in Colombia, 36 per cent of all suicides, and more than 2 per cent of all accidents.
- There have been more than 475,000 firearm-related deaths in Colombia as a result of crime and conflict violence since 1979, averaging 17,600 per year, with most deaths concentrated in urban centres.
- In West Africa, a lack of alternative employment opportunities may drive demobilized ex-fighters to return to fighting in an armed group.
- In northern Uganda, small arms facilitate the Lord's Resistance Army's deliberate policy of terrorizing the civilian population. The LRA acquires small arms constantly, keeps them in good repair, and has cached them throughout northern Uganda and southern Sudan.
- In Cambodia, the reduction in the number of small arms and light weapons has had a positive impact on human security in Cambodia, where the use of firearms in all acts of reported violence declined from 80 per cent in 1994 to 30 per cent in 2004.
- Programmes that remove civil war guns from uncontrolled circulation are a precondition for security sector reform.
- To reduce small arms demand, the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of small arms reduction interventions must adopt a demand-sensitive perspective.

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