GLOBAL VIOLENT DEATHS IN 2018

596,000 PEOPLE DIED VIOLENTLY IN 2018

Global Violent Deaths in 2018: Women

84% (502,300) of victims were men; 16% (93,700) were women

18% of female victims of lethal violence were killed by a firearm

Global Violent Deaths in 2018: Firearms

38% (223,300) of violent deaths in 2018 were committed by firearm*

Of these, 92% (206,100) of victims were men; 8% (17,200) were women

Regions** with the highest proportion of firearms-related deaths
(Percentage of violent deaths inflicted by firearms)

North America (62%)
Central America (61%)
South America (57%)
The Caribbean (54%)
South-East Asia (40%)
Western Africa (39%)
Western Asia (38%)
Middle Africa (32%)
Southern Europe (30%)
Northern Africa (29%)

** The database refers to UN Statistics Division (UNSD)-designated subregions.

Rates of deaths by firearm, 2004–18

8.06 7.55 7.68 7.50 7.51 7.77 7.43 7.51 7.96 8.03 8.47 8.02 7.97 8.11 7.80


positive scenario: concerted efforts that would lead to a reduction of as much as 1.43 million violent deaths over the period until 2030;
“business-as-usual”: international efforts continue as at present, resulting in a slight but steady increase in numbers of violent deaths;

negative scenario: inaction causes further increases in violent deaths.

Note: The COVID-19 pandemic may markedly affect these scenarios as people and communities change their lifestyles, a major crisis looms over the global economy, and public spending allocations shift. The pandemic is already having an impact on conflicts and peace processes, with the Secretary-General of the UN and others with him calling for ceasefires and, for example, warring parties in Yemen agreeing to the first nationwide ceasefire since 2016. As such, there is a likely need to revisit and redefine these scenarios when we have a better sense of what the world will look like in a year.