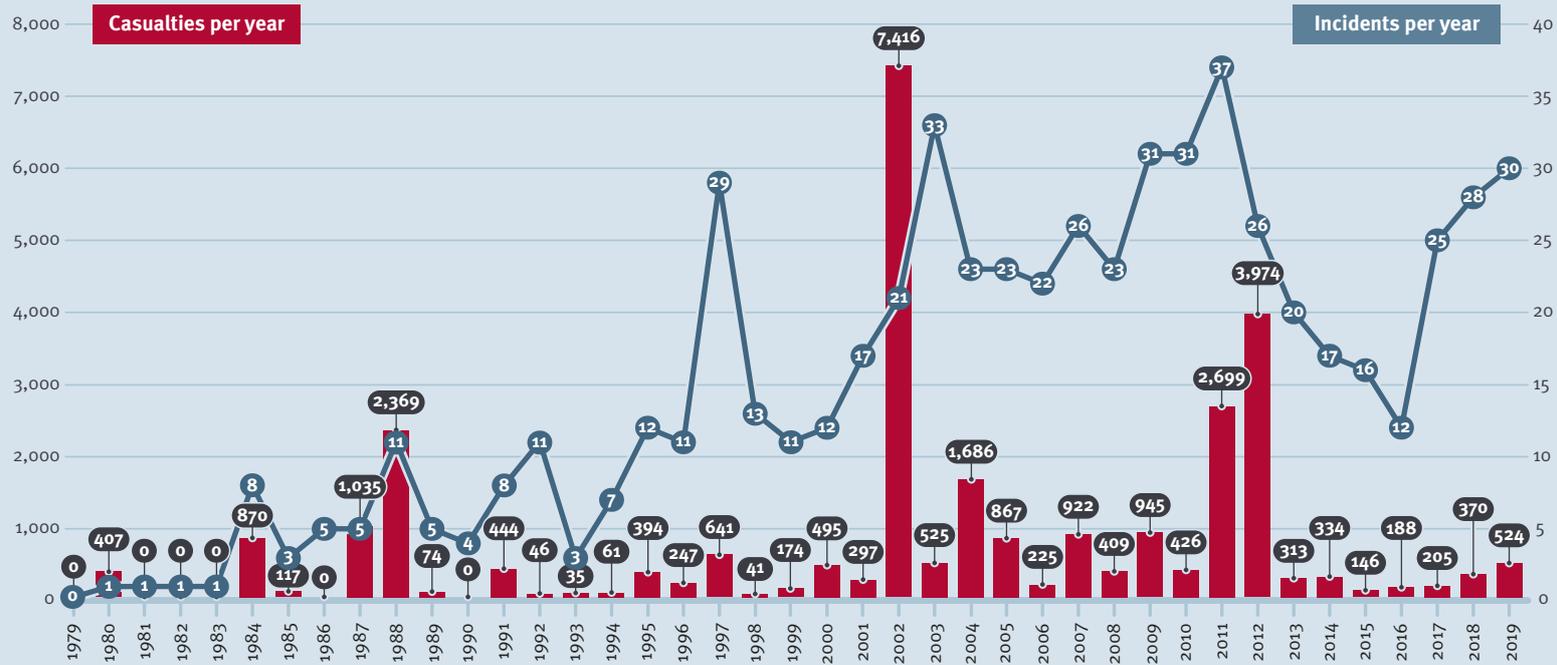


Quick facts on unplanned explosions at munitions sites (UEMS)*

UEMS: Incidents and consequences

Casualties of UEMS, 1979–2019: During the period January 1979 to December 2019 almost 30,000 casualties resulting from UEMS incidents were recorded. The highest number of casualties was recorded in 2002, mainly due to the devastating UEMS incident that occurred in Lagos, Nigeria. Similarly, the incident in Abadan, Turkmenistan, in 2011 and the one in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, in 2012 contributed strongly to the spikes in 2011 and 2012.



Casualties per year vs. incidents per year:** The main goal of dealing with UEMS is not to prevent incidents altogether—which is impossible—but to mitigate the consequences for the victims of these incidents.

** Comparing casualties per year with incidents per year shows that the numbers do not always correlate.

*** The change to prior updates in casualty numbers for the 1980s and 1990s comes mainly from the redating of incident no. 107 in Arzamas, USSR, where 91 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured during the accidental explosion of ammunition loaded onto a train, which had been wrongly recorded as occurring in 1998 instead of 1988.

Total casualties of all UEMS incidents from January 1979 to December 2019

29,932



Number of casualties per decade***

1980s	4,872	2000s	13,787
1990s	2,083	2010s	9,190

UEMS incidents with the largest number of casualties:****



- 1st 27/01/2002 Lagos, Nigeria 6,500
- 2nd 04/03/2012 Brazzaville, Republic of Congo 3,777
- 3rd 22/04/2004 Ryongchon, North Korea 1,460
- 4th 07/07/2011 Abadan, Turkmenistan 1,428
- 5th 10/04/1988 Rawalpindi, Pakistan 1,193
- 6th 04/06/1988 Arzamas, NIZ, Russian Federation 1,091
- 7th 21/12/1987 Alexandria, Egypt 1,006
- 8th 29/04/2009 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 726
- 9th 22/03/2007 Malhazine, Mozambique 622
- 10th 20/11/2002 Riobamba, Ecuador 548

Number of UEMS incidents from January 1979 to December 2019

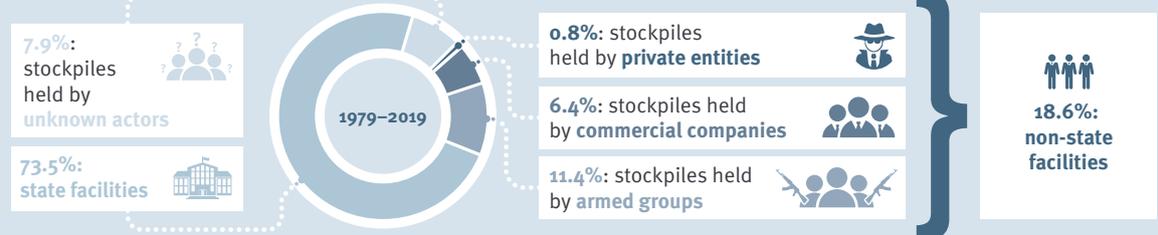
623

Average yearly incidents per decade

1980s	4	2000s	23
1990s	11	2010s	23

**** Sex-disaggregated numbers are not available for most of the incidents, although it is clear that women, men, boys, and girls were equally among the victims in most cases, given the fact that all of the incidents happened in heavily populated residential areas.

Percentage of UEMS incidents occurring in:



AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 748 DEATHS AND INJURIES PER YEAR HAVE BEEN RECORDED 1979–2019

UEMS: Main causes

Improper physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) practices increase the probability of UEMS occurring. During the period examined (1979–2019) the main causes behind UEMS incidents were:

