



Global Study on Homicide

[The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's](#) (UNODC) report "Global Study on Homicide" has revealed that people killed in **homicides** (act of one human killing another) across the world are **five times** higher than those killed in **armed conflicts**.

- Although the number of homicides has increased (from 400,000 in 1992 to more than 460,000 in 2017), the actual global rate has declined (from 7.2 in 1992, to 6.1 in 2017) when measured against population growth.

Key Findings

- The largest share of homicide (37%) was registered in the **Americas** region, followed by **Africa** (35%).
 - In Africa, two countries **Nigeria** (terror group boko haram played a significant role) and **South Africa** saw almost half of the entire continent's homicides.
- Despite its large population, **Asia** accounted for **less than a quarter** of the total (23%), while **Europe** (4.7%) and **Oceania** (0.2%) accounted for by far the smallest shares.
- The safest locations are in **Asia, Europe and Oceania** (Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia), where murder rates (2.3, 3.0 and 2.8 respectively) are well below the **global average** of **6.1**.
- It has been found that for **19%** of homicides, were related to **organised crime** and gangs.
 - About 95% of victims killed in organised crimes are **men**.
 - The countries which have the highest rate of homicides due to organised crime include **Bahamas, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Jamaica** and **Panama**.
- Homicides linked to **intimate partner** account for **one quarter** of all homicides worldwide.
 - About **64%** of victims of killings by intimate partners are **women**.
- Globally, young men aged **15-29** years face the **highest risk** of homicide, while men aged **30-44** years face the **second-highest risk**.
 - The homicide risk **decreases** for men aged 45-59 years and **60+** years and is **lowest for boys** under 15 years of age.
 - **Women** face a much **lower homicide** risk across all age groups.
- **Environment** (particularly conflict over resources and changes associated with increasing temperatures) has played an important role in **increased homicides**.

India Specific Findings

- In India, the overall homicide rate **decreased** by **10%** over the period 2009 -2015.
- At the same time, the spatial (geographical) variation in the homicide rate shifted noticeably, with some states in the **north** registering an **increase** in the homicide rate, while some large states in the **south** (e.g. Andhra Pradesh) experienced a **decrease**.
- There is also a **slight increase** in '**intimate partner**' violence in India.
- Firearms have a limited impact on overall suicide levels as compared to countries like Colombia and Mexico, countries with high homicides rates and organized crimes.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/global-study-on-homicide>