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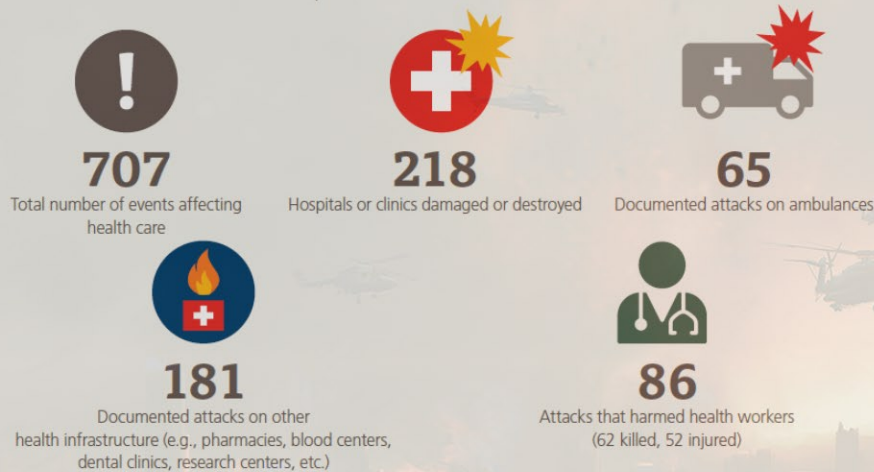
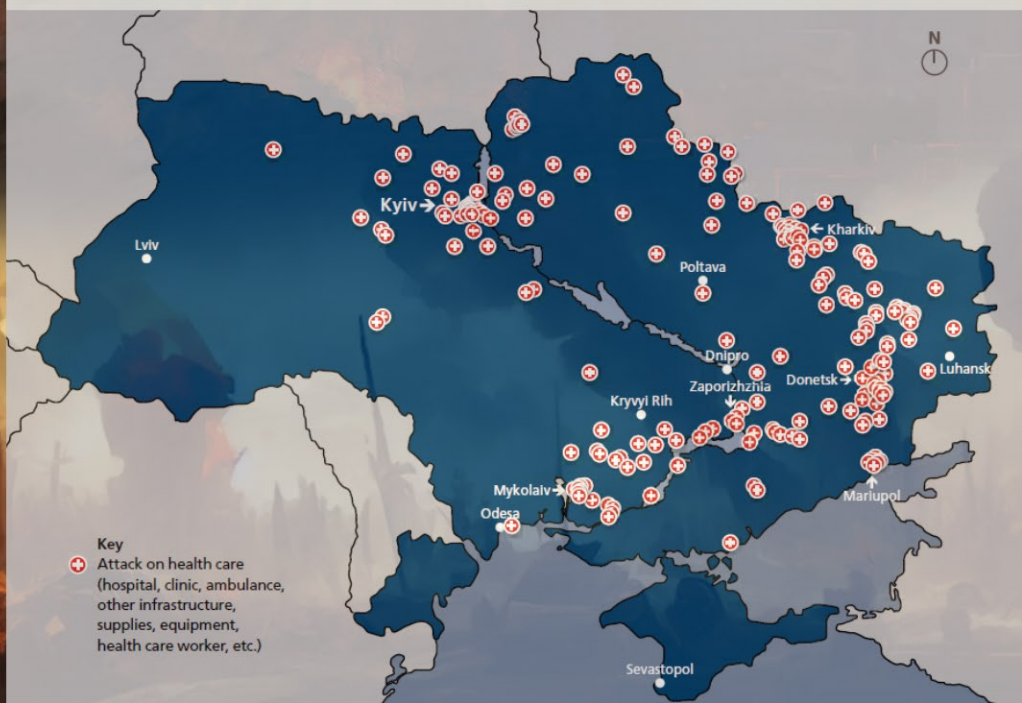www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre

March 2023

HEALTH SECURITY
Compiled by Margareth Sembiring

Ukraine's Health Care System under Assault

Attacks on health care were a daily feature during the first weeks of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine starting on February 24, 2022. For 35 days, health care was attacked every single day. Attacks continued throughout 2022, with an average of 47 events recorded each month between April and December 2022.
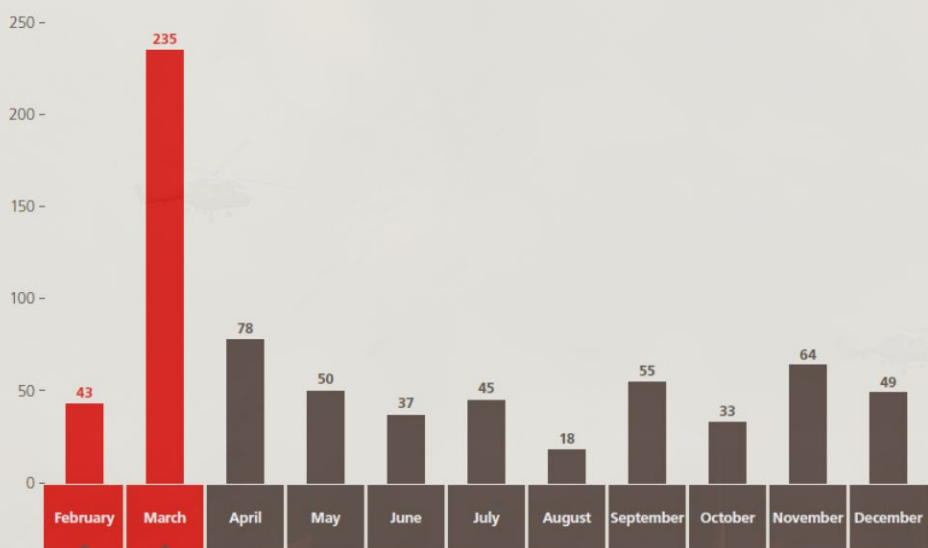
707
Total number of events affecting health care

218
Hospitals or clinics damaged or destroyed

65
Documented attacks on ambulances

181
Documented attacks on other health infrastructure (e.g., pharmacies, blood centers, dental clinics, research centers, etc.)

86
Attacks that harmed health workers (62 killed, 52 injured)

Damage and Destruction of Ukraine's Health Care System, February 24 to December 31, 2022

Key
⊕ Attack on health care (hospital, clinic, ambulance, other infrastructure, supplies, equipment, health care worker, etc.)

Map labels: Lviv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Poltava, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kryvyi Rih, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Mariupol, Sevastopol

Source: Attacks on Health Care in Ukraine, Security in Numbers Database. Data as of December 31, 2022 as quoted in "eyeWitness to Atrocities, Insecurity Insight (II), Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), and the Ukrainian Healthcare Center (UHC), 2023, Destruction and Devastation: One Year of Russia's Assault on Ukraine's Health Care System, https://phr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/REPORT-Destruction-and-Devastation-Ukraine-Feb-21-2023-ENG-WebOptimized.pdf "

Damage and Destruction to Ukraine's Health Care System, by Month, February 24 to December 31, 2022

Monthly incidents:
- February: 43
- March: 235
- April: 78
- May: 50
- June: 37
- July: 45
- August: 18
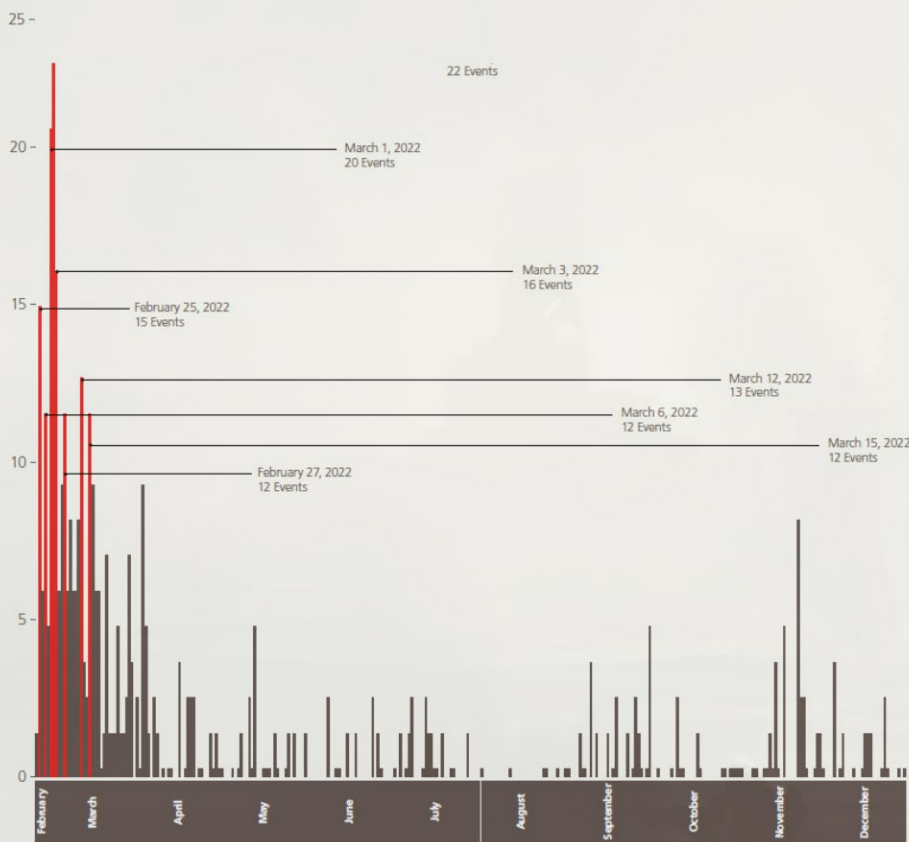- September: 55
- October: 33
- November: 64
- December: 49

In the first week of the conflict, between February 24 and March 2, there were at least 85 reported incidents affecting health care.

Between March 1 and 2, there were 42 attacks on health care, where at least 14 hospitals were damaged or destroyed.

Damage and Destruction to Ukraine's Health Care System, by Day, February 24 to December 31, 2022

In the first two weeks of March, there was an average of 10 attacks on Ukrainian health care ever day. 65 of them damaged or destroyed hospitals. Nine health workers were killed and 17 others injured.

Daily event highlights:
- 22 Events
- March 1, 2022: 20 Events
- March 3, 2022: 16 Events
- February 25, 2022: 15 Events
- March 12, 2022: 13 Events
- March 6, 2022: 12 Events
- March 15, 2022: 12 Events
- February 27, 2022: 12 Events