

Introducing GReVD

WHAT GREVD DOES

The Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD) is a single catalog of every violent death coded by time and location.

The GReVD mission is born out of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, Target 1, which commits to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” in order “to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.” If rates of violence and death are accurately recorded, then resources can be targeted at priority areas to reduce violence and death rates and improve quality of life.

Existing systems to report violence and death rates capture some types of violence and gather simple estimates, but are wholly insufficient to count all violent deaths. Some violent deaths are not coded/counted as intentional homicides or conflict-related deaths, others are intentionally miscoded for political reasons or are not coded at all, and yet others are counted multiple times across sources.

Through the unified efforts of a growing consortium, GReVD will connect every entry to time and location markers—essential for resolving duplication issues and ensuring accurate counts.

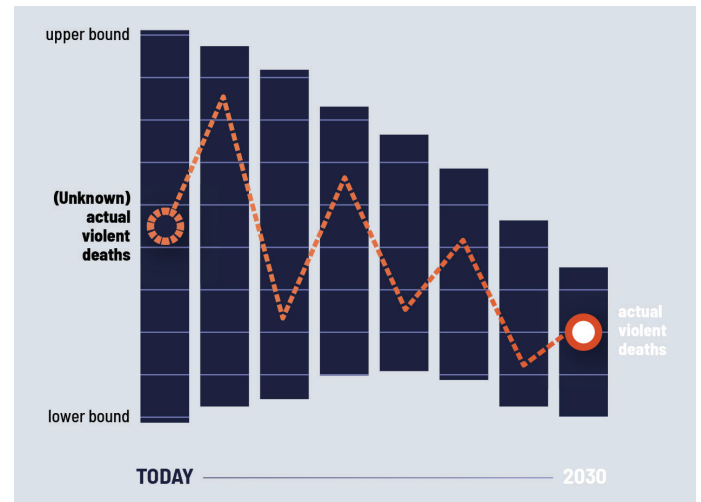


FIGURE 1

Current approaches use estimation techniques to assess number of violent deaths, leaving wide uncertainty. The GReVD consortium will work together to reduce uncertainty (lower and upper bounds in figure) and build the data structures necessary to record every violent death by time and location.

TIMELINE, CHALLENGES, AND MILESTONES

	NOW	MID-TERM	BY 2030
CODING	Improving Human and Machine Methods Global Standard Setting Common Ontology	Machine Reading Automated Coding Capacity Building	Administrative Data Coding Back-Dated Data
PRECISION	Estimating Lower/Upper Bounds Estimating Known Unknowns	Point Estimates of Global Violent Deaths Estimates of Missing Data	Indirect Deaths Coding Other Forms of Violence
REGISTRY	Database Design APIs to Load Known Data	Extending the Consortium Crowdsourcing and Funding	Registry Monitoring Progress from 2015–2030 Validation/Verification

HOW GREVD WILL IMPROVE DATA ON VIOLENT DEATHS BY 2030

The global consortium is applying new technologies to counting deaths over the next decade. GReVD is establishing standards and a common ontology to support better CODING to improve human and machine methods. The consortium will provide lower and upper bound estimates (see Figure 1) to increase PRECISION. Meanwhile, the REGISTRY is being built as a database, with missing data for incomplete entries and “known unknowns,” so that data challenges can be identified and solved by the community. As methods improve, so will coding and precision, leading to better point estimates.

GReVD IS SUPPORTED BY:

Research for and development of GReVD are supported by funding from the Swedish Postcode Foundation
Research on the Gaps Report was funded with UK aid from the UK government

FOCAL POINT
Gary Milante
milante@sipri.org

What Is the GReVD Consortium?

Lessons learned by the consortium will be used for capacity building to improve global administrative data and inform political challenges to monitoring. This process is complex and dynamic: as GReVD builds the methodology and estimates, reporting and monitoring systems will improve.

CONVENED BY

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) (www.sipri.org) is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.

The Brookings Institution (www.brookings.edu) is a nonprofit organization devoted to independent, in-depth research on foreign policy, economics, development, government, and metropolitan policy.

GREVD CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

- **Armed Conflict and Location Database (ACLED)** (www.acleddata.com) is a disaggregated conflict collection, analysis, and crisis mapping project that collects dates, actors, types of violence, locations, and fatalities of all reported political violence and protest events across Africa, South Asia, South East Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America.
- **The Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM)** at the University of Maryland (www.start.umd.edu) developed the tool, “Matching Event Data by Location, Time and Type” (MELTT) in 2015. MELTT aims to aid in the unbiased understanding of political instability through the integration of event data sets.
- **The Center for Peace and Security Studies (cPASS)** at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) (cpass.ucsd.edu) applies innovative thinking to conduct rigorous, data-driven research on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy using diverse methodologies (experiments, deductive modeling, statistical analysis, case studies, “big data”).
- **Cline Center for Advanced Social Research at University of Illinois** (clinecenter.illinois.edu) connects computational expertise in the data sciences with subject-matter expertise in the social sciences and humanities to address pressing societal problems around the world.
- **The Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment (CREATE) Lab** at Carnegie Mellon University (cmucreatelab.org) explores socially meaningful innovation and deployment of robotic technologies.
- **Global Terrorism Database (GTD)** at START at University of Maryland (www.start.umd.edu/gtd/) is an open-source database including information on more than 180,000 cases of domestic, transnational, and international terrorist incidents around the world from 1970 through 2017.
- **The Igarape Institute** (igarape.org.br/en/) is an independent think and do tank, formed in 2011, integrating security, justice, and development agendas to provide innovative solutions to complex social challenges through research, new technologies, influence in public policies and articulation.
- **The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)** (www.prio.org) is an independent foundation that conducts research on the conditions for peaceful relations between states, groups, and people.
- **Small Arms Survey (SAS)** (www.smallarmssurvey.org) is a global center of excellence whose mandate is to generate impartial, evidence-based, and policy-relevant knowledge on all aspects of small arms and armed violence. The Global Violent Deaths (GVD) project includes data on homicides, direct conflict deaths, and other violent deaths from 223 countries/territories from 2004.
- **Uppsala Conflict Data Programme (UCDP)**, the University of Uppsala (ucdp.uu.se) provides data on organized violence, and houses the oldest ongoing data collection project on civil war (nearly 40 years).

GReVD gratefully acknowledges the following institutions for their generous endorsements:

The Alliance for Peacebuilding, The Center for International Cooperation, The Human Security Project