

How Death Outlives War: The Reverberating Impact of the Post-9/11 Wars on Human Health

Executive Summary

By [Stephanie Savell](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

Global Research, May 16, 2023

[Watson.Brown Edu](#) 15 May 2023

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name.

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

The bottom line: In addition to the many, many people who have died in combat during the post-9/11 wars, more still have died in these same warzones from the indirect, reverberating effects of war.

An important note: This research sheds new light on the devastating indirect toll of war on human health in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. These countries have experienced the most violent wars in which the U.S. government has been involved in the name of counterterrorism since 2001, though many warring parties and many intensifying factors have contributed to these deaths and the report does not attribute direct responsibility to any single combatant, cause, or time period. Additionally, the report points out that the true impacts are so vast and complex that they are unquantifiable and thus does not generate a precise mortality figure, but instead provides a reasonable and conservative estimate.

1. At least 4.5 million people have died in the post-9/11 war zones

There are many reverberating consequences of the post-9/11 wars that have led to indirect deaths, and they often overlap, but four under-appreciated primary ones that this study delineates are:

- Economic collapse, loss of livelihood, and food insecurity;
- Destruction of public services and health infrastructure;
- Environmental contamination; and
- Reverberating trauma and violence.

Other compounding factors like natural disasters, climate chaos, and forced displacement intensify these effects. Again, while this research does not ascribe blame to any single warring party or factor, and neither does it suggest the full death count is quantifiable, a reasonable and conservative estimate suggests that at least 4.5 million people have died in the major post-9/11 war zones.

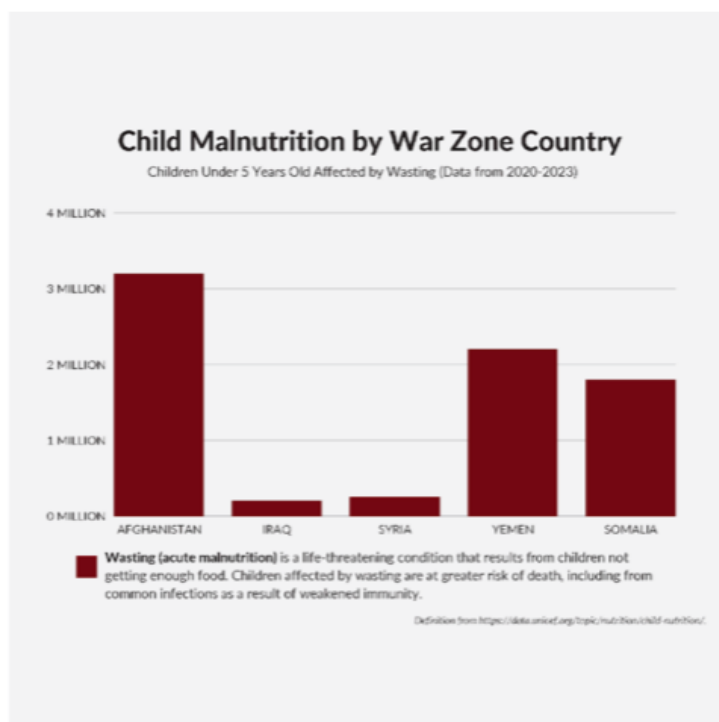


2. Wars often kill far more people indirectly than in direct combat, particularly young children

War's destruction often includes environmental contamination and collapsed economies, public services, and infrastructure. These consequences in turn can lead to mass impoverishment, loss of access to food and clean water, loss of healthcare and medicine, and other essential pathways to preserving health and life. Children under age five are

particularly vulnerable, as demonstrated by high rates of child malnutrition in warzones.

Cumulatively, the report's calculation is that more than 7.6 million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition, also known as wasting, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia.



COSTS OF **WAR**

More than
7.6
MILLION
children under five
in post-9/11 war zones
are suffering from
acute malnutrition.

3. The reverberating impacts of war affect some more intensely than others.

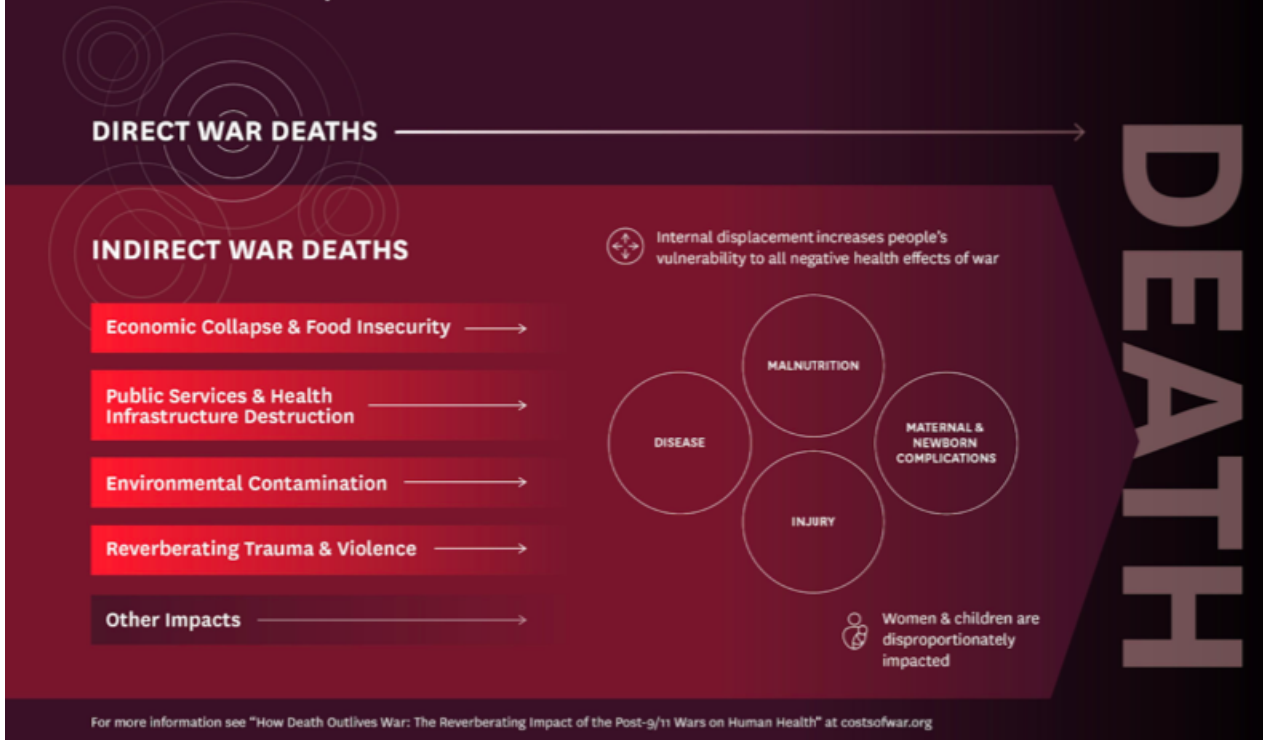
Men are more likely to die in combat, but women and children are more often killed indirectly. Those who live in rural areas are especially vulnerable when public services, especially healthcare, are disrupted or destroyed. And, with or without war, people who suffer from societal injustices due to their poverty, gender, race, ethnicity, and/or colonial legacies have a higher risk of death. Women in particular suffer from gender-based violence, worsened in wartime. The post-9/11 wars have occurred in countries whose populations are largely Black and brown, and are often waged by countries with histories of white supremacy and Islamophobia.

INDIRECT DEATHS

In the Post-9/11 Wars



COSTS OF WAR



[To read the full study click here](#)

here. For more information, please contact costsofwar@brown.edu.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Featured image is from Countercurrents

The original source of this article is [Watson.Brown Edu](#)
Copyright © [Stephanie Savell](#), [Watson.Brown Edu](#), 2023

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Stephanie Savell](#)**

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca