Systematic Review of the Effects of Armed Conflict on Child Health and Development

Search strategy

No restrictions were made for sex, geographic location, or language in which the study was published.

Major databases as well as several geographically-focused online databases were searched for publications, including PubMed, Web of Science, CINAHL, EMBASE, Latin American and Caribbean Health Science (LILACS), IndMED, Africa-Wide Information, Open Grey and the New York Academy of Medicine Grey Literature Report. The searches were performed 8-12 June 2015. The PubMed and EMBASE searches were updated on the 24 and 25 April 2017, respectively.

Search terms included multiple variants of "child and "war." Notably, terms for physical health and child development were not used as they narrowed the search significantly. To verify this, a PubMed search was run with the base search + "injury." This search yielded a fraction of the results of the base search, all of which were manually cross-checked and found to be present in the base search. The broader base search was deemed to be more complete and health and development terms were not used for the base screening. Health and development outcomes were manually screened for during the title/abstract review. Medical Subject Headings terms were used when available, and snowball searching was used to identify additional studies by screening the reference list of retrieved studies. The search terms for each database are listed below:

PubMed (Initial search 8 JULY 15, updated 24 APRIL 2017)

("Child"[MeSH Terms] OR "children" OR "infant"[MeSH Terms] OR "adolescent"[MeSH Terms] OR "teen" OR "teenager" OR "youth" OR "young people") AND ("War"[MeSH Terms] OR "armed conflict"[MeSH Terms] OR "ethnic conflict"[MeSH Terms] OR "violent conflict" OR "armed combat" OR "armed violence" OR "witnessed violence" OR "Terrorism"[MeSH Terms] OR "political violence" OR "Torture"[MeSH Terms] OR "mass casualty incident"[MeSH Terms])

Web of Science (8 JULY 15)

#23#22 AND #15
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#22#21 OR #18 OR #17 OR #16 OR #8
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#21TS=mass casualty incident
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#20TS=torture
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#19TS=political violence
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#18TS=witnessed violence
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#17TS=armed combat
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#16TS=violent conflict
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#15#13 OR #12 OR #11 OR #9
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#14TS=young people
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#13TS=youth
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#12TS=teenager*
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#11TS=teen*
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#10#9 AND #8
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#9#4 OR #3 OR #2
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#8#7 OR #6 OR #5
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#7TS=ethnic conflict
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#6TS=war
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#5TS=armed conflict
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#4TS=Adolescent
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#3TS=Infant
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#2TS=Child
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;#1**TOPIC:** (war AND child*)
DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;

EMBASE (Initial search 8 JULY 15, updated 25 APRIL 2017)

# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type
1	child/	1492066	Advanced
2	infant/	578976	Advanced
3	adolescent/	1304652	Advanced
4	youth.mp. or juvenile/	69091	Advanced
5	young people.mp.	25838	Advanced
6	teen.mp.	5092	Advanced
7	adolescent/	1304652	Advanced
8	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7	2539808	Advanced
9	war/	34245	Advanced
10	armed conflict.mp.	559	Advanced
11	ethnic conflict.mp. or ethnic conflict/	72	Advanced
12	violent conflict.mp.	91	Advanced
13	armed combat.mp.	11	Advanced
14	armed violence.mp.	18	Advanced
15	witnessed violence.mp.	97	Advanced
16	Terrorism.mp. or terrorism/	8579	Advanced
17	political violence.mp.	290	Advanced
18	torture/ or Torture.mp.	2810	Advanced
19	mass casualty incident.mp. or mass disaster/	1487	Advanced
20	9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19	46226	Advanced
21	**8 and 20**	**4587**	**Advanced**

CINAHL (10 JULY 15)

("Child" OR "children" OR "infant" OR "adolescent" OR "teen" OR "teenager" OR "youth" OR "young people") AND ("War" OR "armed conflict" OR "ethnic conflict" OR "violent conflict" OR "armed combat" OR "armed violence" OR "witnessed violence" OR "Terrorism" OR "political violence" OR "Torture" OR "mass casualty incident")

Africa-Wide (11 JULY 15)

("Child" OR "children" OR "infant" OR "adolescent" OR "teen" OR "teenager" OR "youth" OR "young people") AND ("War" OR "armed conflict" OR "ethnic conflict" OR "violent conflict" OR "armed combat" OR "armed violence" OR "witnessed violence" OR "Terrorism" OR "political violence" OR "Torture" OR "mass casualty incident")

Limiters - Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals (after which it went from 6645 to 1029 papers)
Search modes - Boolean/Phrase

INDMED (11 JULY 15)

(Child OR children OR infant) AND (War OR armed conflict OR ethnic conflict)

(Child OR children OR infant) AND (violent conflict OR armed combat OR armed violence)

(Child OR children OR infant) AND (witnessed violence OR Terrorism)

(Child OR children OR infant) AND (political violence OR Torture OR mass casualty incident)

 (adolescent OR teen OR youth OR young people) AND (War OR armed conflict OR ethnic conflict)

(adolescent OR teen OR youth OR young people) AND (violent conflict OR armed combat OR armed violence)

(adolescent OR teen OR youth OR young people) AND (witnessed violence OR Terrorism)

(adolescent OR teen OR youth OR young people) AND (political violence OR Torture OR mass casualty incident)

LILACS (11 JULY 15)

Variations of: ("Child" OR "children" OR "infant" OR "adolescent" OR "teen" OR "teenager" OR "youth" OR "young people") AND ("War" OR "armed conflict" OR "ethnic conflict" OR "violent conflict" OR "armed combat" OR "armed violence" OR "witnessed violence" OR "Terrorism" OR "political violence" OR "Torture" OR "mass casualty incident")

NY Academy of Medicine and Open Grey (11 JULY 15)

("Child" OR "children" OR "infant" OR "adolescent" OR "teen" OR "teenager" OR "youth" OR "young people") AND

("War" OR "armed conflict" OR "ethnic conflict" OR "violent conflict" OR "armed combat" OR "armed violence" OR "witnessed violence" OR "Terrorism" OR "political violence" OR "Torture" OR "mass casualty incident")