

# 1999-2013 CASUALTY TRENDS

## STATES PARTIES WITH SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF SURVIVORS AND NEEDS

### Casualties since 1999

The data collected by the Monitor is the most comprehensive and widely used annual dataset of casualties<sup>1</sup> caused by mines, victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), cluster munition remnants,<sup>2</sup> and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), henceforth: mine/ERW casualties. Data has been collected annually since 2000 (for 1999 data) from a range of sources including national mine action centers, UN agencies, the ICRC, humanitarian clearance operators, medical and rehabilitation centers, and media sources.

While annual totals of new casualties have gone down since 1999, the thousands of casualties that have occurred have meant that the total number of survivors increased. Collectively, the 31 States Parties with significant numbers of mine/ERW survivors had at least 223,345–356,345<sup>3</sup> survivors for all time through 2012, as recorded by the Monitor.<sup>4</sup> In 2013, another 1,481 people were injured in those countries, adding to that total.

What follows is an analysis of casualty trends in these 31 States Parties drawn from Monitor data covering 1999 through 2013. These trends show, among other things, that since the Mine Ban Treaty entered into force in 1999, the number of new casualties each year has decreased dramatically. These same 31 states are also featured in the Monitor's regional summaries on victim assistance for the Mine Ban Treaty's Third Review Conference.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Casualties include persons killed or injured.

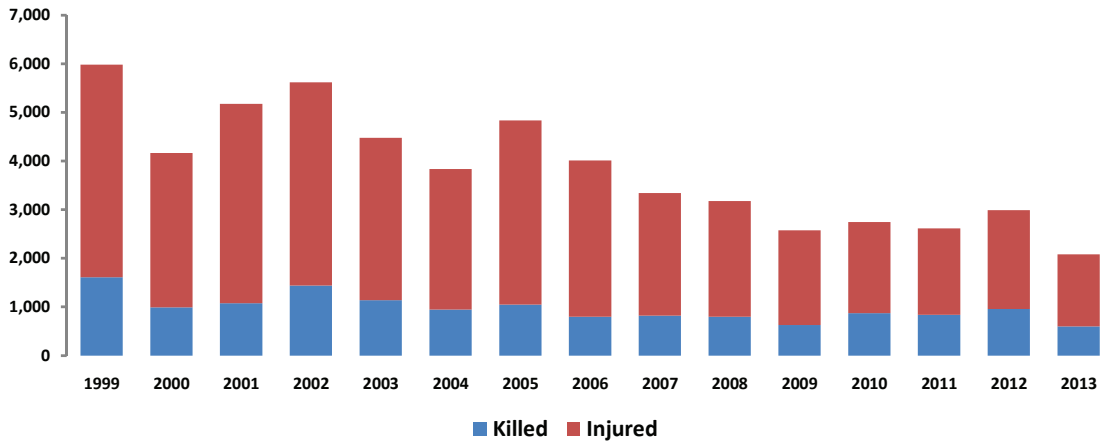
<sup>2</sup> For more information specifically on casualties caused by cluster munitions, see ICBL-CMC, *Cluster Munition Monitor 2013*, [www.the-monitor.org/cmm/2013](http://www.the-monitor.org/cmm/2013).

<sup>3</sup> A range is reported for the number of survivors in several states parties.

<sup>4</sup> See regional summaries for detailed counts and estimates of survivors in each state.

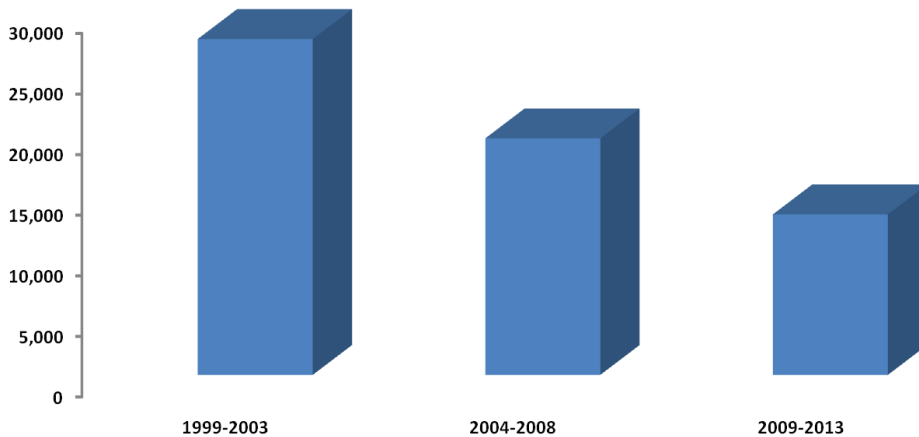
<sup>5</sup> The 31 Mine Ban Treaty States Parties with significant numbers of survivors are: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Croatia, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, South Sudan, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. This includes all of the original 24 States Parties with significant numbers of victims in need of assistance that self-identified during the period around the First Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in 2004 and others that subsequently declared this responsibility; as well as Algeria and Turkey, which both noted similarly high numbers of casualties in reporting to the Mine Ban Treaty. Data related to casualties that were recorded in these States Parties since 1999. The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force for the various countries in different years, depending on their date of ratification or accession. Therefore, the actual number of casualties occurring in states for which the treaty had entered into force in the period 1999-2013 was 40,362, while 20,026 occurred before the treaty entered into force for certain individual states. (Sudan and South Sudan calculated at the time of entry into force for Sudan.)

## Mine/ERW casualties by killed/injured<sup>6</sup> (31 States Parties)



The total number of casualties recorded in the 31 States Parties from 1999 to 2013 was 60,388<sup>7</sup> of which 14,569 people were killed and another 43,069 were injured; for 2,750 people it was not recorded if they survived the injuries.<sup>8</sup> While the overall number of casualties fell, there was a slightly greater decrease in the percentage of people injured compared to those killed since 2009, likely a consequence of the Mine Ban Treaty reducing the number of casualties caused by antipersonnel landmines, which are primarily designed to injure and cause physical impairments rather than kill.

## Mine/ERW casualty totals in 5-year periods, 1999-2013 (31 States Parties)



In the first five years after entry into force, 27,674 casualties were identified in the 31 States Parties. During the following five year period 2004-2008, 19,490 casualties were recorded. In the most recent five-year period, from 2009–2013, the same 31 states registered 13,224 casualties, or less than half of the first five-year period.

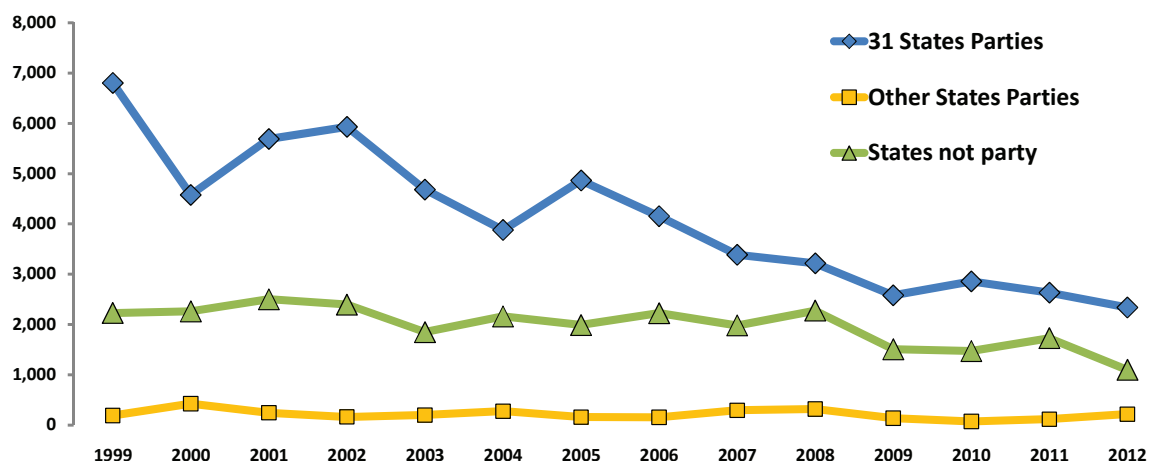
<sup>6</sup> Data in charts does not include unknown outcome.

<sup>7</sup> Figures are likely incomplete because of under-reporting due to inadequate data collection. The actual number of casualties is therefore probably higher, particularly for the period 1999-2009 when estimated totals were much higher than recorded totals. At the time of publication, no casualty data was available for Chad or Eritrea for calendar year 2013. However, this is not believed to have a perceptible influence on overall trends. In 2012, 15 casualties were reported for Chad and 31 for Eritrea.

<sup>8</sup> In data references, casualties for whom their survival outcome is not recorded are referred to as “unknown outcome.”

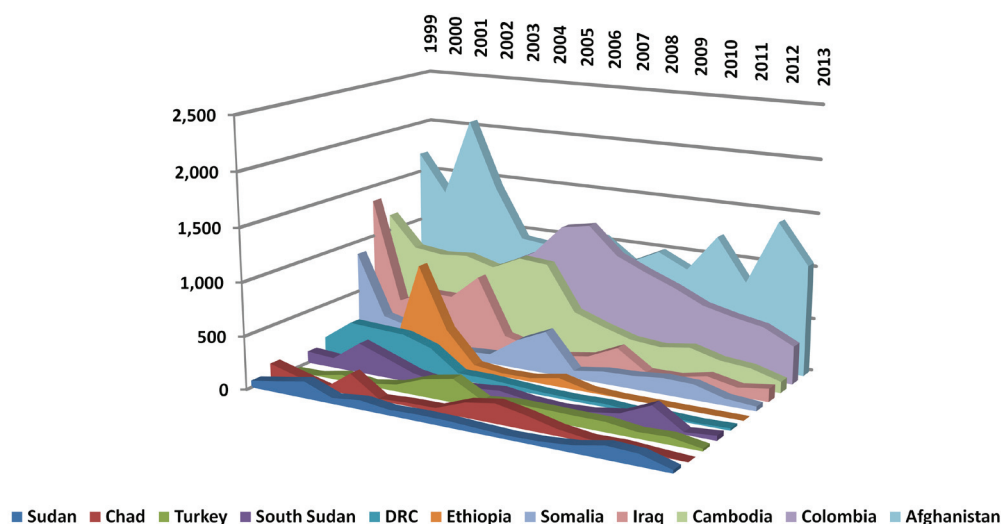
## Mine/ERW casualty totals in 1999-2012

### 31 States Parties, other States Parties and States not party<sup>9</sup>



This matches the global trend of decreasing totals of annually-recorded mine/ERW casualties since 1999; however, by separating out the casualties occurring in the 31 States Parties with the most significant numbers of victims from all other countries and areas, it becomes clear that changes in these 31 states have been driving this trend. Those states where mines and ERW have caused the greatest number of casualties and human suffering, most especially Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Colombia—all States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty—have seen the greatest improvements in terms of reduced numbers of lives lost and people injured.

## States Parties with more than 1,000 mine/ERW casualties during 1999-2013

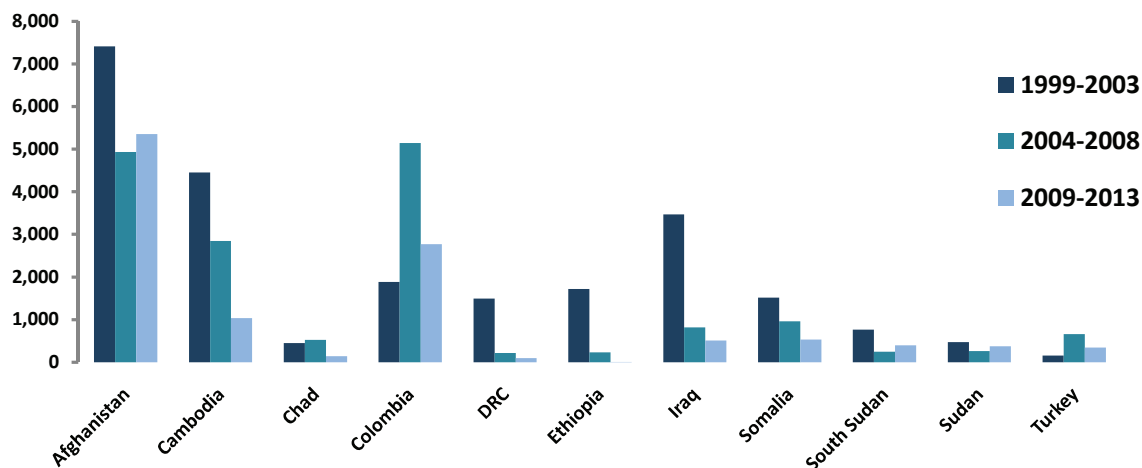


In the subset of 11 states<sup>10</sup> where more than 1,000 total casualties have been identified since 1999, the same downward trend in mine/ERW casualties remains clear. While several states experienced periodic increases due to changing conflict dynamics or rapid large population movements, the overall trend across all of these states is towards smaller annual casualty totals.

<sup>9</sup> Data in this chart is for 1999-2012 as reported in *Landmine Monitor 2013*, November 2013, the latest complete dataset for all countries and areas (2012). Casualty totals for states not party include "other areas" such as disputed territories. Treaty status is defined by 2014 status, so that casualties in all the 31 States Parties up to Somalia, which was the last of this group to become a State Party (in October 2012), are included among those marked "States Party" in this chart as elsewhere in this analysis. As noted above, there is known to be underreporting of casualties due to inadequate data collection. Data collection has, however, improved significantly in many States Parties.

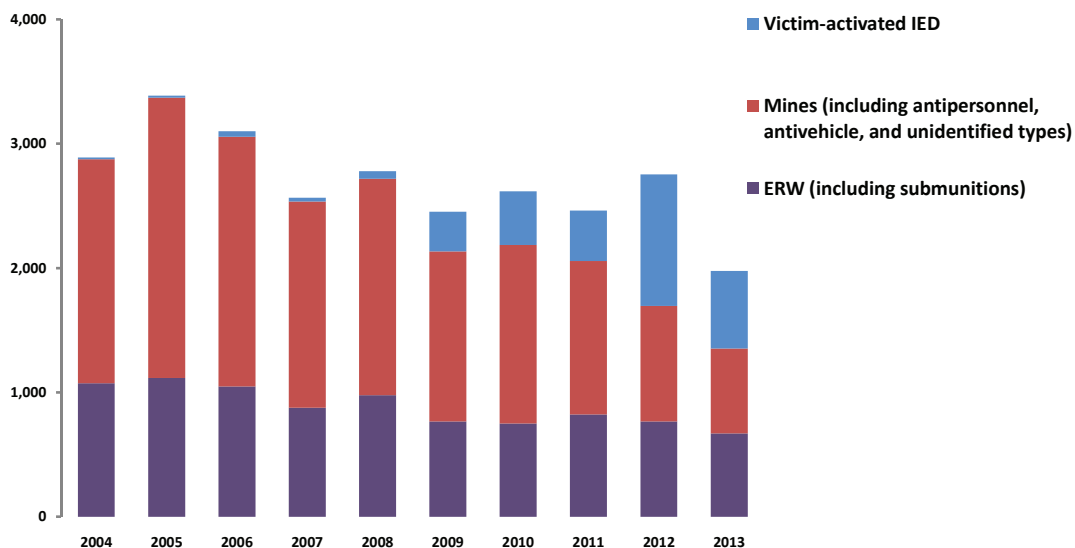
<sup>10</sup> Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Turkey.

## States Parties with more than 1,000 mine/ERW casualties (1999-2013) in 5-year periods



When casualty totals in these 11 states are compared over the five-year review periods of the treaty, in nearly all cases casualty totals were highest from 1999–2003 and lowest from 2009–2013. Aberrations include Afghanistan, where the total number of casualties from 2009-2013 was slightly higher than in the previous period, and Colombia, which saw annual mine/ERW casualty totals peak in 2005 and 2006, before declining since 2009. Turkey also had an increase in reported casualties during the 15-year period. In all three cases (Afghanistan, Colombia, and Turkey) the rises in annual casualty totals was associated with periods of increased conflict and the use of victim-activated IEDs or handcrafted landmines.

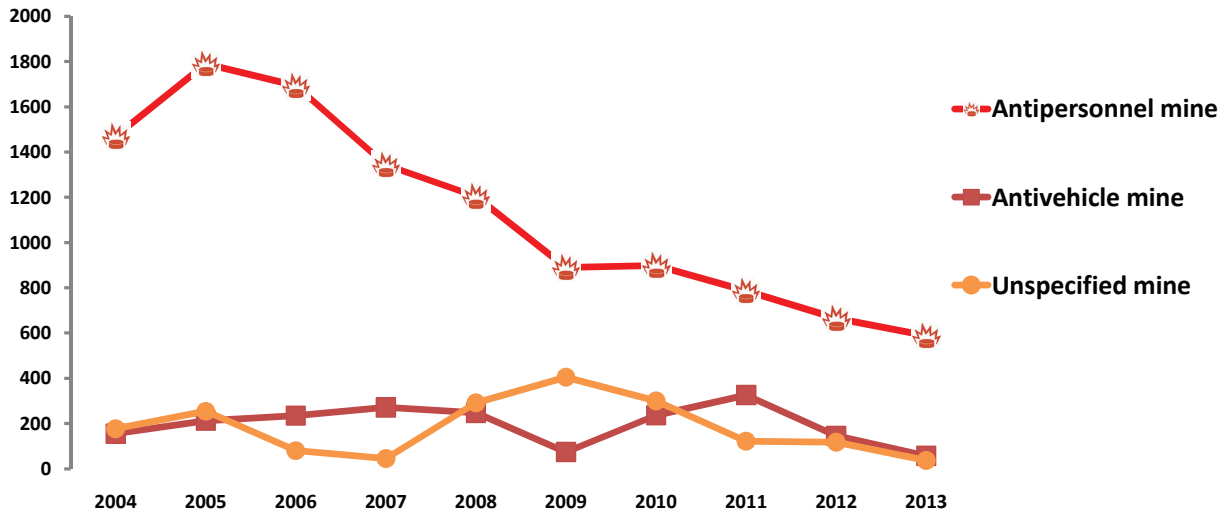
## Casualties by explosive device group<sup>11</sup> (31 States Parties)



Since 2004, when available casualty data in the 31 States Parties became increasingly disaggregated by the type of explosive device, the proportion of all casualties from victim-activated devices that have been caused by landmines has decreased. In 2004, there were 1,802 casualties caused by landmines and this accounted for 64% of all casualties recorded that year. In 2013, there were 682 casualties from landmines in these 31 States Parties, representing one third (34%) of all mine/ERW casualties. Half of all mine casualties in the 31 States Parties occurred in Colombia (359) in 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Not including unknown device types.

## Casualties by type of landmine (31 States Parties)



Since 2004, most landmine casualties were caused by antipersonnel mines and it is the decline of antipersonnel mine casualties over the last 10 years that has caused the total annual number of landmine casualties to decrease. Among all casualties caused by landmines, the number caused by antipersonnel mines fell sharply while casualties of antivehicle mines and unknown mine types remained at similar levels between 2004 and 2013.

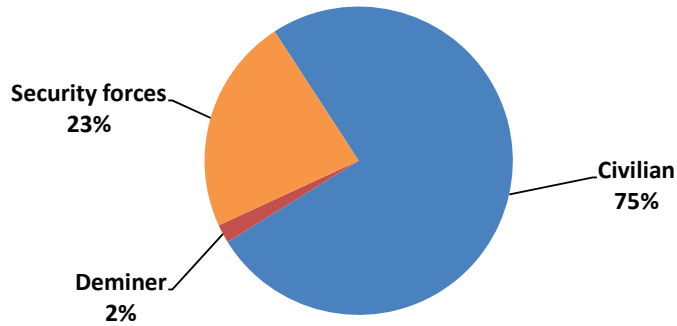
As can be seen in the chart on casualties by explosive device type, aside from the decrease in annual casualties from antipersonnel mines over this 10-year period, the most significant change was the increase in the number of casualties from victim-activated IEDs, most especially since 2009. The vast majority (84%)<sup>12</sup> of all victim-activated IED casualties recorded in the 31 States Parties since 1999 have occurred in Afghanistan. The numbers increased drastically from 26, when IED casualties in Afghanistan were first reported by the Monitor in 2006, to amount to more than 2,600 in the country by the end of 2013. This accounts for the increase in casualties in the 2009–2013 period also noted above.

<sup>12</sup> From 1999–2013, 2,608 victim-activated IED casualties were recorded in Afghanistan of a global total of 3,093.

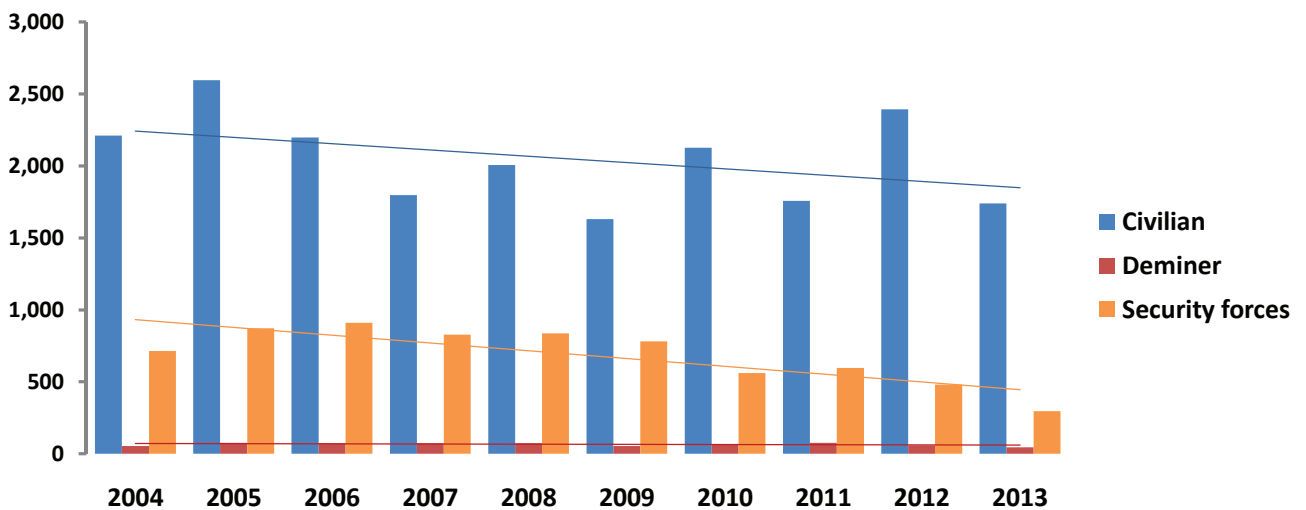
## Casualty demographics

Between 2004 and 2013, civilians represented three-quarters of all casualties from mines and ERW in the 31 States Parties, while security forces and other combatants<sup>13</sup> (henceforth: security forces) represented less than one-quarter.

### Civilian status of mine/ERW casualties 1999-2013<sup>14</sup> (31 States Parties)



### Civilian status of mine/ERW casualties 2004-2013 (31 States Parties)

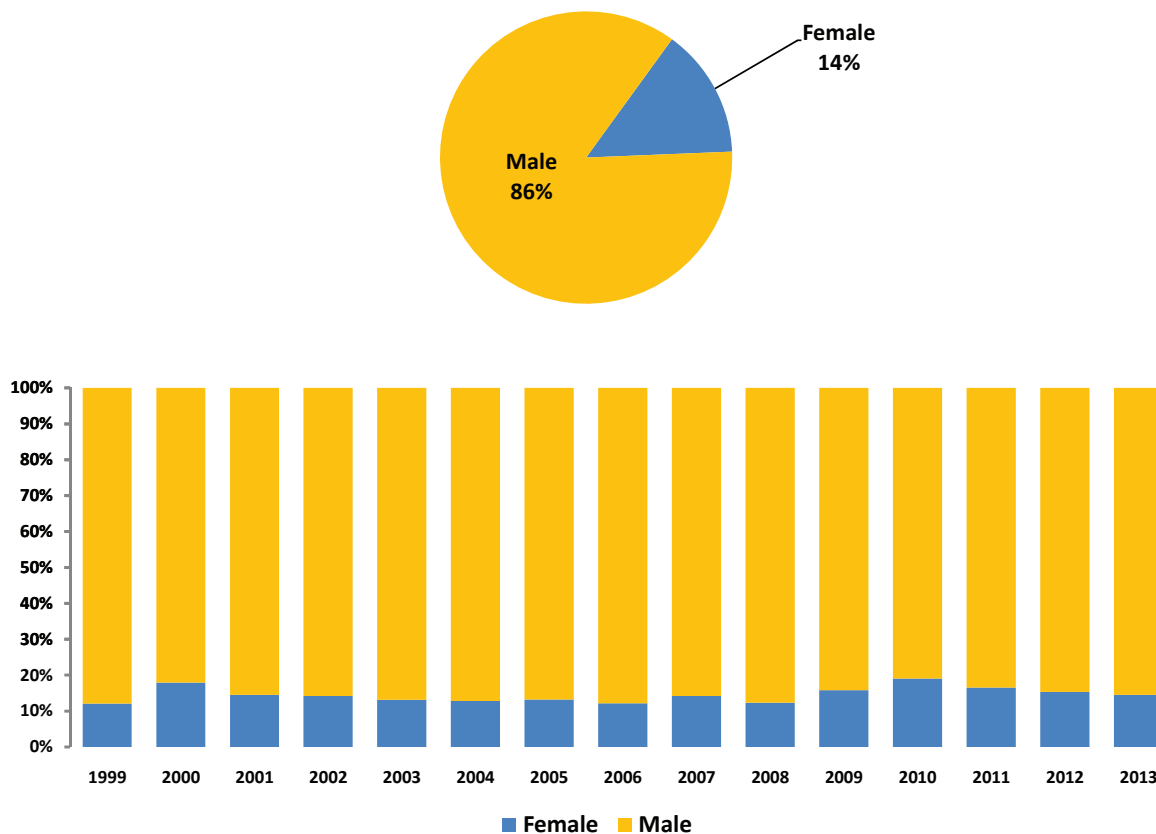


In absolute terms, both civilian and military casualties declined over the 10-year period but military casualties declined more. That sharper decrease in military casualties results in a relative growing percentage of civilian casualties. In 2004, civilians made up 74% of all casualties; by 2006, they were just 69%. However, by 2010, civilians had come to represent 77% of all casualties; by 2013, the percentage had risen to 83%. This was even higher than the 2004 percentage, and despite there being far fewer civilian casualties annually, civilians remain by far the most victimized by mine/ERW. As armed conflicts have ended and combatants have been demobilized, the impact of conflicts continue to be felt as landmines kill and injury civilians. Casualties among deminers in the 31 States Parties have been about 2% of the total annual casualties over the 10-year period, with very minor fluctuations.

<sup>13</sup> Security forces and other combatants include: state military personnel and irregular armed forces, private military security, police (where they are active participants in conflict), and members of non-state armed groups (NSAGs).

<sup>14</sup> This chart does not include casualties of unknown civilian status.

## Females among civilian mine/ERW casualties 1999-2013<sup>15</sup> (31 States Parties)

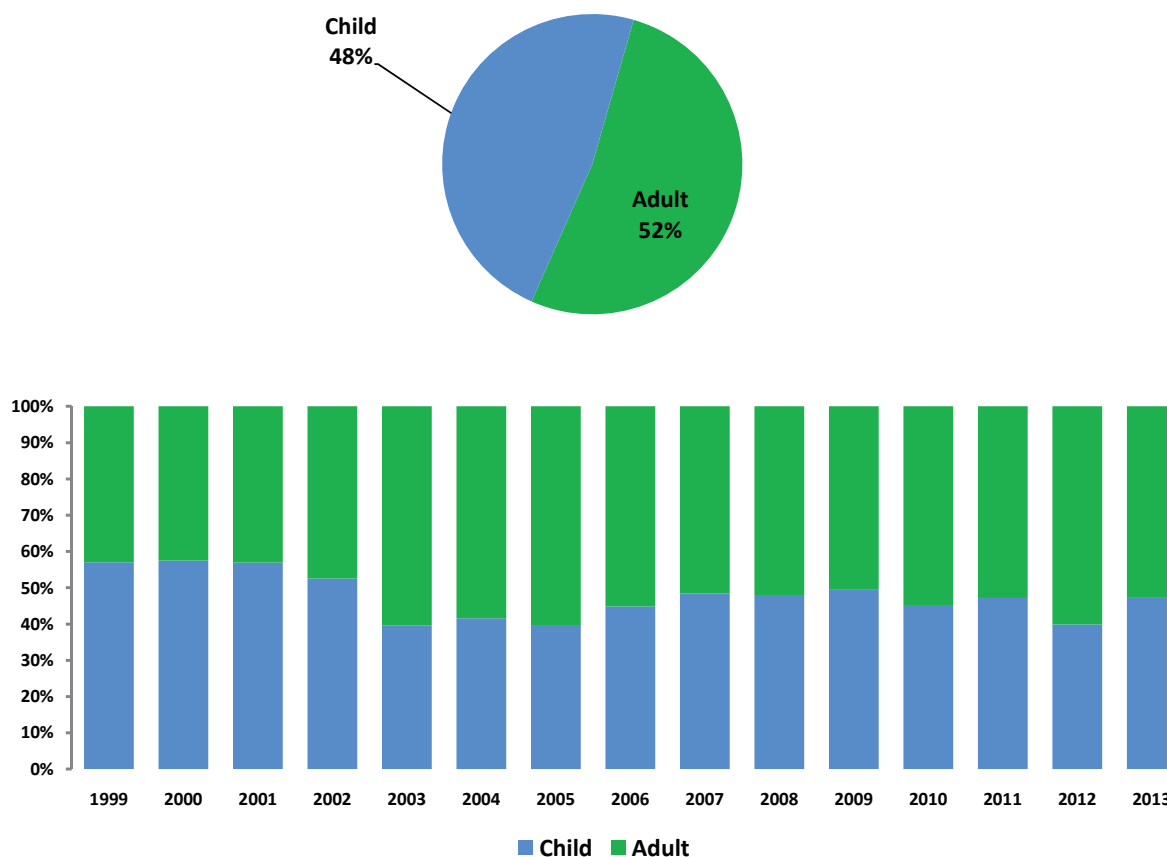


Between 1999 and 2013, in the 31 States Parties, females have represented 14% of all civilian casualties for which the sex was known. This percentage has been fairly consistent over time with just small fluctuations—with a high of 19% in 2010 and a low of 12% in both 2006 and 2008. This is also consistent with the distribution of casualties by sex in the global casualty total from 1999 to 2012, which has averaged 14% female.<sup>16</sup> In the 31 States Parties, as in all mine/ERW-affected states, both men and boys are more likely to be exposed to mines/ERW in the course of their daily activities than are women or girls.

<sup>15</sup> This chart does not include casualties of unknown sex or unknown civilian status.

<sup>16</sup> Females were 5,081 of 36,985 civilian casualties where the sex was known.

## Children among civilian mine/ERW casualties 1999-2013<sup>17</sup> (31 States Parties)



In the 31 States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, children<sup>18</sup> represented 48%, or nearly half, of all civilian casualties occurring between 1999 and 2013 for which the age was known. In some of these States Parties with the greatest numbers of casualties, the percentage of child casualties was even higher. In Afghanistan, Chad, Eritrea, Somalia, Turkey, and Yemen, children made up more than half of all civilian casualties. In Eritrea the percentage of child casualties averaged 86% for this 15-year period. In Afghanistan, where there were nearly 8,000 child casualties, children made up 61% of all civilian casualties.

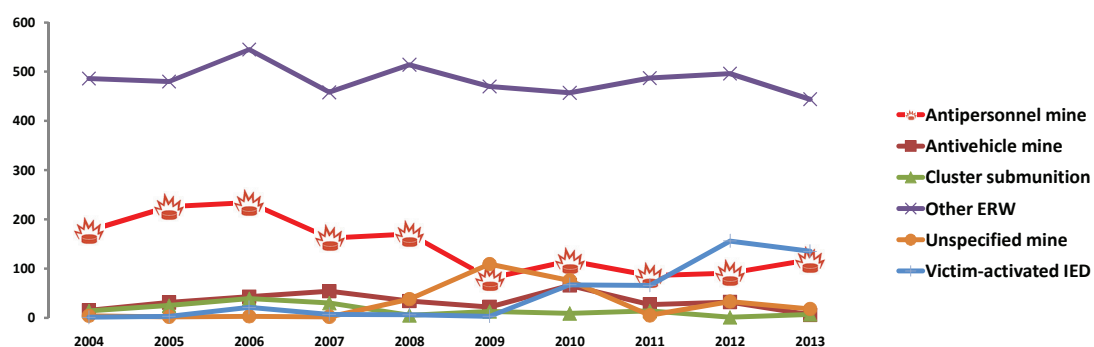
The percentage of child casualties in the 31 States Parties was similar to the average annual rate of child casualties (44%) in all states recording casualties. However, the global average annual rate of child casualties is only available from 2005 since there was not sufficient detailed, disaggregated casualty data across all states prior to that year. Data disaggregated by age has been more widely available, generally speaking, in the 31 States Parties.

<sup>17</sup> This chart does not include casualties of unknown age group or unknown civilian status.

<sup>18</sup> Child casualties are defined as all casualties where the victim is under 18 years of age at the time of the incident.

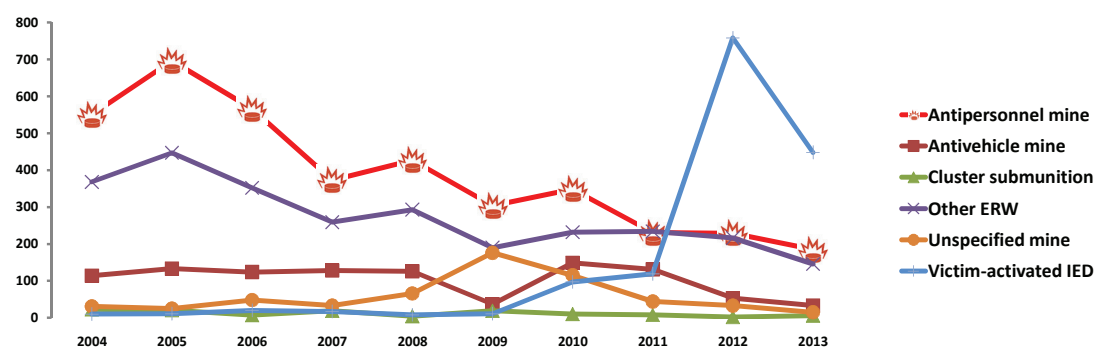


## Child casualties and explosive device types 2004-2013<sup>19</sup> (31 States Parties)



Since 2004, when casualty data became better disaggregated by explosive device type, ERW have been shown to consistently cause the greatest percentage of child casualties in the 31 States Parties (64%), followed by antipersonnel mines (19% of child casualties). In 2012, victim-activated IEDs became the explosive device causing the second greatest percentage of child casualties in the 31 States Parties, after ERW; victim-activated IEDs caused 17% of child casualties in 2012 and 19% in 2013.

## Adult casualties and explosive device types 2004-2013<sup>20</sup> (31 States Parties)



Antipersonnel mines caused the highest percentage of adult casualties in all years until 2012 within the 31 State Parties. In 2012, victim-activated IEDs caused more than half (55%) of all adult casualties from all mines/ERW. This percentage declined only slightly, to 52% in 2013. From 2004 to 2011, ERW caused the second highest percentage of adult casualties in these states.

## Conclusion

In the 31 States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty with significant numbers of survivors, the number of new mine/ERW casualties each year has been dropping since 1999. In particular, casualties caused by antipersonnel mines have declined by about two-thirds (67%) from a peak in 2005, marking an important step towards the States Parties' objective "to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines."<sup>21</sup>

However, three out of every four casualties occurring over the last 15 years have been civilians and the percentage of civilian casualties, as compared to military, has increased in the last five years. Casualties caused by victim-activated IEDs increased during the last five years, somewhat offsetting the overall decline in annual totals of mine/ERW casualties. The percentages of female and child casualties remained consistent over the last 15 years. Children, who represent nearly half of all civilian casualties, have been most affected by ERW, although also significantly by antipersonnel mines.

Above all, despite a decrease in annual mine/ERW casualties and the fact that the number of antipersonnel mine casualties having fallen to a few hundred, the number of mine/ERW survivors, affected families and communities, in need of assistance continues to grow. Thus, states continue to have a responsibility to develop and sustain holistic programs and services.

<sup>19</sup> This chart does not include unknown types of explosive devices.

<sup>20</sup> This chart does not include unknown types of explosive devices.

<sup>21</sup> Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, 18 September 1997 (Mine Ban Treaty).