UCDP One-sided Violence Codebook

Version 18.1
Uppsala Conflict Data Program

Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

This version compiled and updated by Marie Allansson and Mihai Croicu (2017)
Replacing the earlier versions by Therése Pettersson (2012), Joakim Kreutz (2008)
and Joakim Kreutz & Kristine Eck (2005)

Citation for the dataset:

Eck, Kristine and Lisa Hultman, 2007. 'One-sided violence against civilians in war: insights from new fatality data´, *Journal of Peace Research* 44(2): 233-246.
(When appropriate) also cite this codebook. Always include the Version number in analyses using the dataset.

Introduction

This document describes the One-sided Violence Dataset, a project within the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. The UCDP One-sided violence project has been developed with support from the Human Security Report Project, Simon Fraser University, in Vancouver, Canada.

Case-specific information about the cases of one-sided violence is available at www.ucdp.uu.se
Questions regarding the definitions and the content of the dataset can be directed to
Therese.Pettersson@pcr.uu.se

Definition of One-sided violence

One-sided violence is the use of armed force by the government of a state or by a formally organized group against civilians which results in at least 25 deaths. Extrajudicial killings in custody are excluded.

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

(1) *Use of armed force*: use of arms in order to exert violent force, resulting in death
      (1.1) Arms: any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones, fire, water, etc

(2) *25 deaths*: a minimum of 25 civilian deaths per year and per actor

(3) *Government*: the party controlling the capital of the state

(4) *Formally organized group*: any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force

(5) *State*: a state is
      (5.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, *or*
      (5.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

(6) *Extrajudicial killings in custody*: when the government of a state kills a person in its custody
      (5.1) *custody*: when the person is located in a prison or another type of governmental facility

Variables in the One-sided violence dataset

Variable name	Content	Type
ActorID	This is a numerical identifier that describes each individual actor. The dataset makes use of the general actor/side ID employed by UCDP. **Warning**: Unlike the previous versions of the dataset, this variable is NO LONGER the Gleditsch and Ward identifier (GWNo) for the state actors. Use GWNoA below instead! In version 17.1 of the dataset, the ID system for conflicts, actors and dyads was changed in order to make it unique across all UCDP core datasets and all UCDP types of violence. To download a conversion table containing new and old IDs, visit http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/.	Integer
GWNoA	The Gleditsch and Ward country identifier if the actor perpetrating one-sided violence is a state. Empty otherwise.	Integer
CoalitionComponents	If multiple actors are perpetrating violence together as a joint (temporary) coalition, the components of the coalition (in the form of a string of actor IDs) is listed here.	string
ActorName	For one-sided violence with multiple actors fighting together, the actors' separate Actor IDs, taken from the UCDP Actor Dataset, are listed in this variable and separated by a comma (',').	string
Year	The calendar year of observation. UCDP employs a threshold for inclusion of at least 25 deaths caused by one-sided violence for each actor in a calendar year. There are cases when actors are responsible for one-sided violence of a scale that does not meet the threshold. These observations are coded as absence of one-sided violence. Episodes that do not exceed the threshold for actors that have exceeded the threshold at least once during the 1989-2016 period can be traced through the UCDP GED dataset.	Integer

BestFatalityEstimate	The best fatality estimate for the given episode. This is an automatic aggregation (summing) of all the Best figures for all incidents reported for the given dyad-year in the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset.	Integer
LowFatalityEstimate	The low fatality estimate for the given episode. This is an automatic aggregation (summing) of all the Low figures for all incidents reported for the given dyad-year in the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset.	Integer
HighFatalityEstimate	The high fatality estimate for the given episode. This is an automatic aggregation (summing) of all the High figures for all incidents reported for the given dyad-year in the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset.	Integer
IsGovernmentActor	For some purposes it may be necessary to disaggregate between government and non-governmental actors in the dataset. This variable records if the actor is the government of a state and is coded as 1 for government actors and 0 for non-governmental actors.	Integer
Location	The countries where this episode of violence took place. Comma-separated if multiple. **WARNING**: This variable SHOULD NEVER be used for any geographical or spatial analyses of conflict as the distribution of violence as well as the relative magnitude of violence by country is not captured. In effect a country is listed here if even one dead in the given conflict has occurred in that country. In fact, UCDP provides much better geographic coverage of conflict (including distribution of violence for each conflict and each country) in the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED). Like the UCDP One-Sided Violence Dataset, GED is global and covers the same period (1989-2017).	string
GWNOLocation	The Gleditsch and Ward code for the countries where this episode of one-sided violence took place. Comma-separated if multiple. **WARNING**: This variable SHOULD NEVER be used for any geographical or spatial analyses of conflict as the distribution of violence as well as the relative magnitude of violence by country is not captured. In effect a country is listed here if even one dead in the given conflict has occurred in that country. In fact, UCDP provides much better geographic coverage of one-sided violence (including distribution of	string

	violence for each dyad and each country) in the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED). Like the UCDP One-Sided Violence Dataset, GED is global and covers the same period (1989-2017).	
Region	The continents (regions) where violence took place: 1 = Europe (GWNo: 200-399), 2 = Middle East (GWNo: 630-650 and 652-699) 3 = Asia (GWNo: 700-999) 4 = Africa (GWNo: 400-626 and 651) 5 = Americas (GWNo: 2-199).	string
Version	The version of the dataset: 18.1	float

Data Collection Methods:

This dataset is the result of an automatic filtering and aggregation of the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset from incident/event level to the actor-year level.

The original reporting underlying the dataset is collected from three sets of sources:

1. global newswire reporting
2. global monitoring and translation of local news performed by the BBC
3. secondary sources such as local media, NGO and IGO reports, field reports, books etc.

The process is done in a "two-pass" system, first by consulting newswire sources for the entire globe then by consulting local/specialized sources based on information obtained from the first pass.

A detailed description of the process including a detailed description of the passes and the search-strings employed is provided in the UCDP GED Codebook version 18.1, Section 4.

Version name convention

In 2017, the version name convention was changed, giving all UCDP datasets the same version number across the board. This was done so that users more easily can see which UCDP dataset corresponds with which.

This codebook corresponds to Version 18.1 of the UCDP One-sided Violence Dataset. For every new release, substantial changes will be documented in a separate document. This should be

helpful to researchers trying to replicate a particular study. We recommend that whenever this dataset is used, the version number should be cited.

The version number is a combination of a year and a number. The year refers to when the dataset is updated with new observations. If there are changes in the data between yearly updates, or if there are substantial changes in the structure of the dataset, the number behind the year is incremented.

Format availability:

The data is available in CSV (respecting the RFC 4180 specification), Excel (XLSX), Rdata (3.x version) and STATA 14 format.

The data is available for machine-to-machine interaction through a public API. Documentation for how to use the API is available at http://ucdp.uu.se/apidocs.

A note on UCDP ID changes

In version 17.1 of all UCDP datasets, the ID system for conflicts, actors and dyads was changed in order to make them unique across all UCDP core datasets and all UCDP types of violence. This allows easier aggregation and disaggregation of data as well as simplify data management for users, especially when combining multiple UCDP products together.

For example, a non-state conflict ID will no longer be able to have the same ID as a (different) state-based conflict ID or as a case of one-sided violence (which was possible before).

Further, actor/side IDs representing a government have been decoupled from their corresponding Gleditsch and Ward country codes (GWNo). This will allow, in the future, the identification of regime changes within a country etc. Gleditsch and Ward country codes for state sides/actors will continue to be provided in separate columns from their sides ID (i.e. side_a_id is different from gwno_a but represents the same entity).

This means all IDs used in this version of the dataset are no longer compatible with those in older versions of UCDP products. Further, this means that external products relying on UCDP IDs for data management tasks will have to be adapted to work with the new ID systems.

A conversion table between the new and old ID systems is available here: http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/.