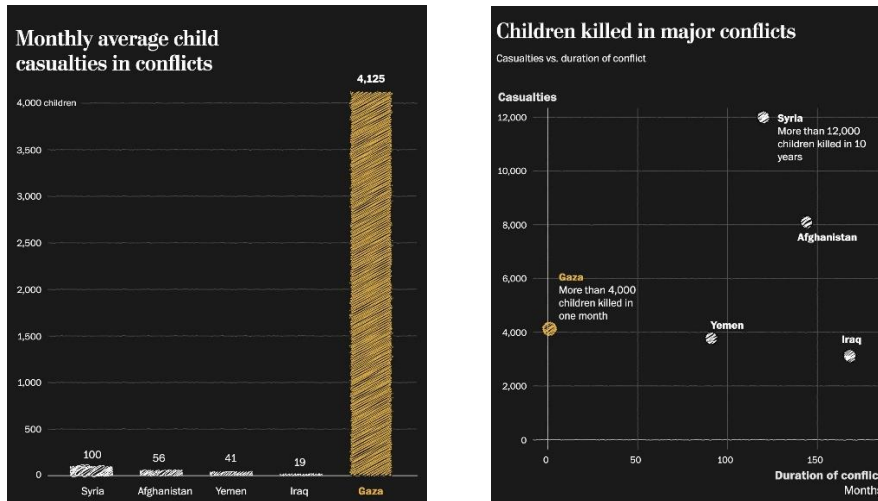


The Washington Post irresponsible reporting on Gaza

The Washington Post [published](#) (November 13th) an article with two graphs that compare the amount of children that died in the war compared to other conflicts -



What's happening in Gaza to civilians is horrible, but the numbers The Washington Post is quoting, are seriously misleading by comparing child deaths **reported** by Gaza Ministry of Health to child deaths **verified** by the UN elsewhere. It's very important to note, **in other major conflicts the UN can verify only a tiny fraction** of the total.

This is evidence of the hugely misleading and out of context numbers -

- **Syria –**

The Washington Post puts the number of **deaths of Syrian children at 12,000, the number is tragically much higher.** If you only look at the UN number of civilian deaths as a direct result of the war (not counting people who died from disease and starvation that are probably also in the hundreds of thousand) the number is estimated as at least 306,887 civilians that means the children death toll is a lot more higher and is probably in the tens of thousands.

[UNICEF](#)'s Representative in Syria, Bo Viktor Nylund, said in 2021 **"Since 2011, nearly 12,000 children were verified as killed or injured in Syria...these are children that the UN was able to verify as having been killed or injured, and the actual numbers are likely to be much higher."**

[The United Nations Human Rights Office estimated in 2022 that at least 27,126 of those estimated to have been killed](#) (again only as a direct result of the conflict, the entire amount of children who died is sadly much higher) **were children.**

- **Yemen –**

The Washington Post states the numbers of Yemeni children who died as a result of the war **is less than 4000**, the UN themselves say this number is surely

far higher, **with the death toll** (direct and indirect) **in Yemen is estimated at 377,000 deaths** with UNDP estimating that [70 percent](#) of those killed are under the age of five.

- **Afghanistan –**

The Washington Post states that **around 8000 children have died** in the Afghanistan War, the only source that's reporting this number is [Al Jazeera](#) based on a UN report¹. First off **the time frame that is shown in the graph is far less than the length of the actual war** that started in 2001, **it seems they just took numbers from the UN from 2009**, because until then civilian casualties aren't well recorded, **meaning The Washington Post just skipped the first 8 years of the war.**

But just to give an estimation of deaths from the few months of the war, In 2002 [The Guardian reported](#) that as of February of that year there were between 1,300 and 8,000 deaths as a direct result US air strikes **and as many as 20,000 Afghan fatalities** as an indirect result of the war.

The Cost of War project [states](#) that since the U.S led invasion of Afghanistan, **more than 70,000 Afghan and Pakistani civilians are estimated to have died as a direct result of the war**, with many more dying is an indirect result of the war, Many more have been killed as an indirect result of the wars.

From these numbers I think it's safe to assume that again sadly, a lot more than 8000 children died as a result (directly or indirectly) **of this conflict.**

- **Iraq –**

The Washington Post puts the number of children who died in the Iraq "major conflict" **at about 3000**. The graph shows the length of this conflictual as far shorter than it actually is, the war in Iraq started in 2003 but the graph shows only about 13 – 14 years, It seems that they just took their information from when UNICEF started tracking children casualties in 2008, meaning **The Washington Post just skipped the death toll of the first five years of the war**. Not only that, **UNICEF Says that in that time period 3,119 children** have been verified killed **but also clearly [states](#) that "these are just the cases that have been verified, the true toll is likely to be far higher"**.

We don't have an exact estimation of children that died but The Cost of War project [states](#) that **at least 186,694 civilians died since 2003** and **"the actual number of civilians killed by direct and indirect war violence is unknown but likely much higher"**. Now again these are all civilian deaths and not specifically children, but it's safe to say that again sadly, **many more children died in the last twenty years than 3,119.**

Bottom Line - When you put all this irresponsible gathering of information by The Washington Post, it seems that the post reporters might have just trusted [Al Jazeera](#) (a

I didn't find this number in the report, but again it's 129 pages long.¹

Qatari state owned media channel that's famously biased against Israel) for the information for their article. Regardless, of from where they took the information **an organization as respected and important as The Washington Post shouldn't show information that is totally out of context and inaccurate in the extreme.**



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