

The Effects of War and Conflict on Health

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Health Effects of War

- Death
- Violence
- Malnutrition/starvation
- Loss of limbs
- Shrapnel injuries
- Burns
- Cancers
- Extensive rehabilitation
- Extended hospital stays
- Amputations
- Sensory disorders
- Nervous disorders
- Blood disorders
- Choking disorders
- Bacterial, viral and fungi infections
- Mental disorders.

Death and Violence

- Women and children mostly affected
- International criminal court proceedings
- 80% of all refugees are women and children
- Complications arising from childbirth a leading cause of death
- Difficulty reintegrating into post-war society

Small Arms

- 600 million circulate in global markets
- Exacerbate conflict and violence
- Over 300,000 people are shot dead every year
- Over 1,000,000 injured every year
- 60-90,000 people killed every year in war

Landmines and cluster weapons

- Claim 15,000- 20,000 casualties each year
- Failure of bomblets to explode on impact
- Blindness, burns, destroyed limbs and shrapnel wounds, hypovolaemic shock and death
- Amputations, extensive rehab and hospital stays

Chemical Weapons

- Liquid, gas or solid form
- Blister: sulphur mustard, lewisite, nitrogen mustard, mustard lewisite, phosgene-oxime
- Choke: Chlorine, phosgene, diphosgene, chloropicrin
- Affect the nerves: VX, sarin, soma, tabun, novichole agents
- Blood: herygen, cyanide, cynaogen chlorine

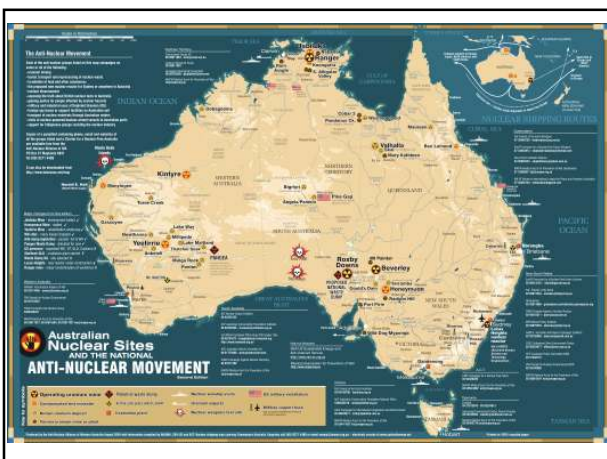
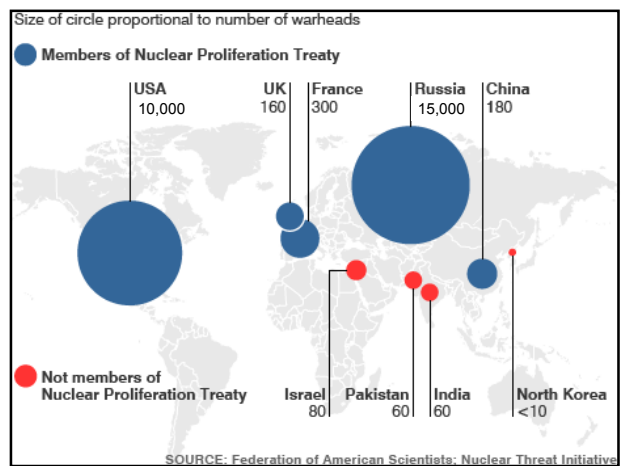
White Phosphorus

- Results in severe chemical, infiltrating burns
- Used as smokescreen, not illegal
- Current international moves for its use to be recognized as a criminal offence under international law.
- Used in WWII, Iraq, Russia in Chechnya, US in Fallujah, 2004

Biological weapons

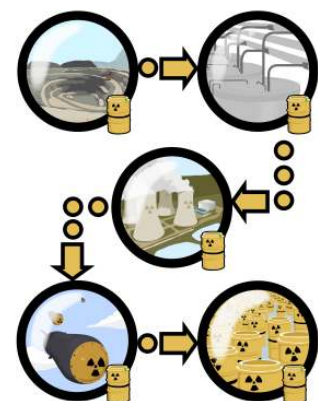
- Bacteria: Anthrax; Botulinum toxin, Bubonic plague; Brucellosis
- Virus : Smallpox; Ebolum; Marburg; Viral encephalitis
- Rickettsiae : Typhus
- Fungi : Histoplasmosis; Coccidioidomycosis
- Biological Weapons Convention , March 1975

How many nuclear weapons are there in the world?



Nuclear Fuel Chain

1. Uranium mining
2. Uranium enrichment
3. Uranium reactors
4. Nuclear weapons
5. Nuclear waste



www.icanw.org



Health Effects of Radiation

- background ionizing radiation approximately 2.4 mSv
- chest X-rays (0.04mSv per test)
- **there is no level of radiation exposure below which we are at zero risk**
 - 1 mSv/year for the general public
 - 20 mSv/year for workers in the nuclear industry
- cell death at higher levels of radiation exposure
- ionizing radiation causes damage to DNA
- germ cell mutations



But What Can WE Do?

By Catriona Standfield
President, United Nations Youth
Association of SA.

The Political Side of Nukes

- Non-proliferation and disarmament treaties.
- Export control groups and treaties.
- Nuclear weapon-free zones (Rarotonga Treaty).
- International organisations like the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Conference on Disarmament.



The Non-Proliferation Treaty

- THE nuclear weapons treaty.
- All nuclear weapon states except for India, Pakistan and Israel are parties to the NPT.
- Review conferences every five years.
- How is this relevant to nuclear weapons and health?

Civil Society and Nuclear Weapons

- The five-yearly Review Conferences of the NPT are pivotal events that civil society can use to build momentum and awareness of the issue.
- Civil society (especially in nuclear weapons states) exerts a lot of pressure on states to disarm.

Inform yourself!

- Knowledge is power.
- Civil society (i.e. you) can only exert pressure when it is informed and well organised.
- There are several civil society groups concerned with nuclear weapons.

Getting Involved: Civil Society Groups



Getting Involved

- www.unya.org.au
- www.mapw.org.au
- www.unaa.org.au
- www.icanw.org.au/ican_australia