



UNLIREC

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Women and Children First:

**Armed Violence Analysis of Media Reporting of
Deaths and Injuries Caused by Stray Bullets in
Latin America and the Caribbean (2009 – 2013)**



This publication was developed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) based in Lima, Peru. The sole purpose of this paper is to contribute to regional and international debates in the fields of international security and disarmament. The views presented here do not necessarily reflect the view of the UN Secretariat or the UN system in general.

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About UNLIREC

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), headquartered in Lima, Peru, was created by a UN General Assembly resolution in 1986. The Regional Disarmament Branch (RDB), one of five branches of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in New York, oversees and coordinates the activities of UNLIREC and the other two regional disarmament centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, and Asia and the Pacific.

UNLIREC is the only UN regional entity specialized in disarmament and non-proliferation in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Its main function is to translate the decisions, instruments and commitments of Member States in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation into action, at national, sub-regional and regional levels. In short, UNLIREC supports Latin American and Caribbean States in achieving and maintaining peace and security through disarmament.

UNLIREC has established itself as a centre specialized in assisting States in combating illicit trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives. It is increasingly being called upon to apply its human and technical resources for institutional capacity-building, legal assistance and advocacy in a range of peace and security matters relevant to the region. These issues include, but are not limited to, arms control, armed violence reduction, the privatization of security, confidence-building measures, and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

UNLIREC addresses pressing regional challenges in three main areas:

- Public Security (conventional arms, including small arms)
- Disarmament Advocacy (non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction)
- Confidence-building (transparency in military spending, Defence White Papers)

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Resumen Ejecutivo (en español)

Una niña de once años de edad murió por una bala perdida en el interior de su casa mientras pasaba con su familia la víspera de Año Nuevo. Los disparos provinieron de tiros al aire hechos durante la celebración de fin de año en la ciudad de Medellín. Nadie fue arrestado en el incidente. La Policía de Colombia reportó que el año anterior, 57 personas murieron por balas perdidas como consecuencia de los disparos al aire que se dan como parte de las celebraciones de fin de año (1 de enero de 2012).¹

La trágica muerte de esta niña a causa de una bala perdida es una noticia muy común en los periódicos de América Latina y el Caribe en el transcurso de la última década. Este incidente también ilustra cómo la violencia armada a causa de las balas perdidas tiene un impacto directo más significativo en niños y en la población femenina que aquel que tiene la violencia armada en general. A nivel mundial, las mujeres representan sólo el 17% de las víctimas de homicidio, y en menor porcentaje, las víctimas de homicidios cometidos con armas de fuego. El monitoreo de medios de comunicación realizado para este estudio demuestra mayores niveles de victimización entre mujeres, tanto menores y jóvenes, como adultas.²

La proliferación excesiva de armas pequeñas - combinada con una serie de variables políticas, sociales y demográficas - ha dado lugar a niveles inaceptables de violencia armada en América Latina y el Caribe en las últimas décadas. En la región, se concentra el 27% de todos los homicidios a nivel global, teniendo únicamente el 9% de la población mundial. Las armas de fuego están presentes en aproximadamente el 75% de todos los homicidios en América Latina y el Caribe.³ Con tales niveles de violencia armada resulta comprensible que muchas balas disparadas no impacten su destino previsto y terminen hiriendo y matando a personas inocentes. Este fenómeno se conoce comúnmente como “balas perdidas”.

¹ <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12489544>>

² *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011, p. 2.

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Study on Homicide 2011*, Vienna: UNODC, 2012, p. 20.

El Centro Regional de las Naciones Unidas para la Paz, el Desarme y el Desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe (UNLIREC) realizó un proyecto exploratorio de investigación sobre la violencia armada a causa de balas perdidas como parte de su mandato de vincular medidas de control de armas – previstas en el Programa de Acción de las Naciones Unidas de 2001 para Prevenir, Combatir y Eliminar el Tráfico Ilícito de Armas Pequeñas y Ligeras en Todos sus Aspectos - con otros marcos políticos, de incidencia y de asistencia técnica, a nivel internacional como la Declaración de Ginebra sobre Violencia Armada y Desarrollo.⁴

Un equipo de investigadores de UNLIREC documentó 550 casos de violencia armada a causa de balas perdidas - con 617 víctimas como resultado - reportados en medios de comunicación de 27 países de América Latina y el Caribe durante un período de cuatro años (1 de enero de 2009 – 31 de diciembre de 2013). Los casos fueron clasificados en las siguientes categorías: (a) lesión o muerte; (b) género; (c) edad; y (d) tipología de la violencia armada (definida en la publicación de la Declaración de Ginebra '*Carga Global de la Violencia Armada 2011: Encuentros Letales*').⁵

Las principales conclusiones del estudio son las siguientes:

- De las 617 víctimas de balas perdidas, 325 (53%) sufrieron lesiones y 292 (47%) resultaron muertas;
- El 53% de las víctimas fueron hombres mientras que el **43% de las víctimas fueron mujeres**. En el 4% de los casos documentados el sexo de la víctima no fue especificado. Las mujeres representan un porcentaje mucho mayor de las víctimas de balas perdidas en comparación con el de la violencia armada en general;
- **Los menores de edad (menores de 18) representan el 45% de las víctimas de balas perdidas**, mientras que los adultos jóvenes (entre 18-29 años) representaron el 21% de las víctimas. Esto significa que el 66% de todas las víctimas de balas perdidas fueron jóvenes menores de 30 años;

⁴ <<http://www.genevadeclaration.org/>>

⁵ The typology of armed violence utilized in this paper is derived from the framework established in *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011, p. 14.

- En cuanto al tipo de violencia armada que produjo víctimas como consecuencia de balas perdidas, **la violencia de pandillas fue identificada en el 26% de los casos**, representando así la categoría más importante seguida de robo a mano armada/delincuencia común (14%); violencia social/comunal/interpersonal (11%); disparos al aire/tiros alegres (5%); crimen organizado (6%); enfermedad/inestabilidad mental (1%); y conflicto armado/terrorismo (1%);
- En el 14% de los casos hubo operaciones policiales; y
- La fuente de las balas perdidas fue desconocida en el 36% de todos los casos documentados, lo cual concuerda por un lado con los altos niveles de impunidad para los causantes de la violencia armada a causa de balas perdidas, y por otro lado, con bajos niveles de investigación penal y enjuiciamiento de estos actos.

En el estudio completo, se incluyen desgloses específicos por género, edad y tipo de violencia armada para cada uno de los 27 países de América Latina y el Caribe donde se documentaron casos de balas perdidas.

Previendo más casos de balas perdidas en América Latina y el Caribe: el camino a seguir

Sobre la base de años de experiencia brindando asistencia técnica en control de armas a los Estados Miembros, UNLIREC considera que la mejor manera de hacer frente a la violencia armada en general, y a las balas perdidas en particular, es integrar las medidas de control de armas y de reducción y prevención de la violencia armada como parte integral de políticas de seguridad ciudadana y marcos de prevención del crimen y de la delincuencia. Esto es de sentido común en un contexto donde la mayoría de los homicidios, lesiones y delitos son cometidos con armas de fuego.

En cuanto al control de armas de fuego, estas medidas incluyen: (a) establecer controles razonables sobre el comercio legal de armas y municiones; (b) equipar y entrenar a la Policía para intervenir e investigar de mejor manera los casos de tráfico ilícito de armas y de violencia armada; (c) asegurar los arsenales y depósitos de armas de fuego y municiones, tanto nacionales como privados, con el fin de evitar robos y desvíos de armas; y (d) establecer leyes y políticas claras y

aplicables con respecto a la tenencia y al uso de armas de fuego. En cuanto a las medidas de reducción de la violencia armada, los Estados y los gobiernos locales deben tener en cuenta las medidas para prevenir la convergencia de múltiples factores de riesgo (armas de fuego, drogas, alcohol y jóvenes), los programas voluntarios de recolección de armas, zonas libres de armas y mecanismos de resolución de conflictos a nivel local.

Adicionalmente se podrían adoptar medidas específicas para abordar directamente el 19% de los casos de balas perdidas. Esto, con base en los datos documentados en este estudio, podría haber salvado a 100 personas de la muerte, lesiones y/o trauma psicológico. Los casos de muertes y lesiones más evitables son aquellos causados por disparos al aire o disparos alegres, lo que representó el 5% de los casos documentados en este estudio. Muchos países de América Latina y el Caribe no cuentan con leyes que penalicen este comportamiento. **UNLIREC recomienda que los Estados que no cuenten con leyes que penalizan los disparos al aire, consideren, particularmente en contextos urbanos, adoptar pronto medidas legislativas en estos temas. Igualmente es recomendable que dicha legislación vaya acompañada de campañas públicas de sensibilización y educación y se centre en las épocas de festejo y celebración, así como en eventos deportivos para hacer frente a los aspectos culturales de este comportamiento.**

Por otra parte, el 14% de los casos de balas perdidas de este estudio estuvieron relacionados con operaciones policiales. Si bien no es posible ni sería apropiado cuestionar las acciones de los policías, quienes tienen que tomar decisiones en fracciones minutos y en circunstancias difíciles, también es claro que las doctrinas obsoletas del uso de la fuerza, el entrenamiento y la práctica insuficientes, y la falta de opciones de armas menos letales, pueden llevar a tiroteos que a menudo dejan víctimas inocentes por balas perdidas. Algunos de estos casos de balas perdidas podrían potencialmente prevenirse mediante:

- La actualización de doctrinas sobre el uso de la fuerza para enfrentar mejor las realidades existentes y aprovechar las lecciones aprendidas en este ámbito de fuerzas policiales en otros lugares del mundo;

- Invertir más recursos en la preparación de policías sobre temas relacionados con el uso de la fuerza más allá del entrenamiento táctico, con el fin de incluir en la formación policial parámetros de legalidad, necesidad y proporcionalidad; y
- El análisis de la legalidad, viabilidad y conveniencia de incorporar armas intermedias o menos letales en el kit de herramientas de las Policías con el propósito de proveer a los oficiales con todas las opciones necesarias para preservar el orden, combatir el delito y proteger a la población en general.

Los autores esperan que este estudio arroje luz sobre el tema de las balas perdidas y el papel que pueden jugar el control de armas de fuego, la reducción de la violencia armada y otras medidas específicas en la prevención de más balas perdidas y del efecto desproporcionado que éstas tienen en mujeres y jóvenes. Por lo tanto, el estudio pretende brindar una contribución a debates actuales a nivel nacional, regional e internacional en temas de control de armas y seguridad ciudadana. UNLIREC está dispuesto a trabajar con los Estados Miembros, los organismos de las Naciones Unidas y la sociedad civil en la formulación de estrategias para reducir la violencia armada, y la victimización sin sentido como consecuencia de las balas perdidas en América Latina y el Caribe. Los comentarios y opiniones sobre este estudio pueden ser enviados por e-mail a: <programme@unlirec.org>.

Executive Summary

An eleven-year-old girl was killed by stray bullets inside her home with her family on New Year's eve. The shots came from end of year celebratory gun fire in the city of Medellin. No one was arrested in the incident. Colombian police report that 57 people were killed by stray bullets from celebratory fire over the course of the past year (1 January 2012).⁶

The tragic death of a young girl due to stray bullets is an all too common news item in Latin American and Caribbean newspapers over the course of the last decade. The incident shared above also illustrates how stray bullet armed violence has a more significant direct impact on children and the female population than does armed violence in general. Globally, women represent only 17% of homicide victims and a lesser percentage of small arms homicides though the media monitoring exercise employed in this study demonstrates much greater levels of victimization among women and young females.⁷

The excessive proliferation of small arms - in combination with a range of political, social and demographic variables - has led to unacceptable levels of armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean in recent decades. The region concentrates 27% of all homicides globally, yet only contains 9% of the world's population. Small arms are present in approximately 75% of all homicides in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁸ With such high levels of armed violence it is understandable that many bullets fired do not reach their intended target and end up injuring and killing innocent bystanders. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as stray bullets.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) has developed an exploratory research project on stray bullet armed violence as part of its mandate to link small arms control measures called for in the 2001 *UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light*

⁶ <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12489544>>

⁷ *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011, p. 2.

⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Study on Homicide 2011*, Vienna: UNODC, 2012, p. 20.

*weapons in all its aspects*⁹ with other global policy, advocacy and technical assistance frameworks such as the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.¹⁰

A team of UNLIREC researchers documented 550 cases of stray bullet armed violence, resulting in 617 victims, reported in the media in 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries during a four-year period (01 January 2009 – 31 December 2013) and classified them in the following categories: (a) injury or death; (b) gender; (c) age and (d) according to the typology of armed violence set out in the Geneva Declaration's 2011 publication *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*.¹¹

The main findings of the study are:

- Of the 617 victims of stray bullets, 325 (53%) were injuries and 292 (47%) resulted in death;
- 53% of all victims were men, **43% of victims were women** while in 4% of cases documented the gender of the victim was not specified. Women represent a much higher percentage of the victims of stray bullets in comparison with armed violence in general;
- **Minors (under the age of 18) were 45% of all victims of stray bullets**, with young adults (ages 18-29) representing 21% of victims. This means that 66% of all victims of stray bullets documented were young people under the age of 30;
- In terms of the type of armed violence generating victims of stray bullets, **gang violence was identified in 26% of all cases** representing the single most important category followed by armed robbery/common crime (14%); social/community-based/inter-personal violence (11%); celebratory fire (5%); organized crime (6%); mental illness/instability (1%); armed conflict/terrorism(1%);
- In 14% of all cases law enforcement operations were involved;

⁹ <<http://www.poa-iss.org/poa/poahtml.aspx>>

¹⁰ <<http://www.genevadeclaration.org/>>

¹¹ The typology of armed violence utilized in this paper is derived from the framework established in *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011, p. 14.

- The source of the stray bullets were unknown in 36% of all cases documented, consistent with high levels of impunity for perpetrators of stray bullet armed violence, and low levels of criminal investigation and judicial prosecution of such acts.

In the full study, specific breakdowns by gender, age and type of armed violence are included for each of the 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries where incidents of stray bullets were documented.

Preventing More Cases of Stray Bullets in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Way Forward

Based on years of providing technical assistance for small arms control to Member States, UNLIREC believes that the best way of addressing armed violence in general, and stray bullets specifically, is integrating small arms control and armed violence reduction and prevention measures as integral parts of citizen security, crime and violence prevention frameworks. This is common sense in a context where the majority of homicides, injuries and crimes are committed with small arms.

In terms of small arms control these measures include (a) establishing reasonable controls over the legal trade in small arms and ammunition; (b) equipping and training law enforcement to better intervene and investigate cases of illicit arms trafficking and armed violence; (c) securing national and private stockpiles of small arms and ammunition to prevent theft and diversion; and (d) establishing clear and enforceable laws and policies related to small arms possession and use. In terms of armed violence reduction measures, States and local governments should take into consideration implementing measures to prevent the convergence of multiple risk factors (small arms, drugs, alcohol and youth), voluntary weapons collection programmes, gun free zones and conflict resolution mechanisms at the local level.

Additionally, specific measures could be taken to address directly 19% of the cases of stray bullets, which based on the data set documented here could have saved 100 persons from death, injury and/or psychological trauma. The most preventable of deaths and injuries are those caused by celebratory fire, 5% of cases documented in this working paper. Many Latin American and Caribbean countries do not have laws that criminalize this behavior. ***UNLIREC recommends that***

States that do not have laws in place that criminalize celebratory fire consider, particularly in urban contexts, taking prompt legislative action in this direction. It is also recommended that such legislation be accompanied by public awareness and education campaigns, focused on holiday seasons and sporting events, to address the cultural aspects of this behavior.

Furthermore, 14% of the cases of stray bullets were related to law enforcement operations. While it is not possible, nor would it be appropriate, to second guess the actions of law enforcement officers having to make split minute decisions under difficult circumstances it is also clear that outdated use of force doctrines, insufficient training and practice and the lack of less lethal weapons options can lead to shootouts that often leave innocent victims from stray bullet fire. Some of these cases of stray bullets could be potentially prevented by:

- Updating use of force doctrines to better address existing realities and take advantage of lessons learned in this area by police forces worldwide;
- Investing more resources in preparing law enforcement on use of force issues, beyond tactical training, to include training on parameters of legality, necessity and proportionality; and
- Analyzing the legality, feasibility and desirability of incorporating intermediate or less lethal weapons into the law enforcement toolkit to give officers all the options necessary to preserve order, combat crime and protect the population in general.

The authors hope this study sheds additional light on the issue of stray bullets and the potential role that small arms control, armed violence reduction and other targeted measures can play in preventing more stray bullets and the disproportionate effect they have on women and young people. Therewith, this paper seeks to contribute to current national, regional and international debates in the fields of arms control and public security. UNLIREC stands ready to work with Member States, UN agencies and civil society to formulate strategies to reduce armed violence, and senseless victimization by stray bullets in Latin America and the Caribbean. Comments and feedback should be sent by e-mail to: <programme@unlirec.org>.

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*A 24-year-old pregnant woman was injured by a stray bullet while walking home in Santos, **Sao Paulo**, Brazil. She was caught in the crossfire in a shootout between police and local gangs (2 May 2013).¹²*

*An eight-year-old girl in **Bogotá**, Colombia was injured while sleeping in her bed by a stray bullet from celebratory fire that penetrated the roof of her home during New Year celebrations (6 January 2011).¹³*

*A 35-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while playing cards in **Port of Spain**, Trinidad and Tobago when armed attackers fired shots at another man nearby (9 April 2011).¹⁴*

*A two-month-old baby boy was killed by a stray bullet while in his mother's arms on a public bus in **Guatemala City**, Guatemala. Armed men opened fire on the bus killing the driver and injuring his assistant. The incident was likely related to local gang demanding protection payments from local bus companies (26 March 2009).¹⁵*

*A 21-year-old male musician was killed by a stray bullet while performing at a concert at a local celebration at midnight on the outskirts of **Mexico City**, Mexico. The bullet came from a shot to the air taken by a man under the influence of alcohol (23 December 2009).¹⁶*

1. Introduction

The above examples of death and injury caused by stray bullets from small arms fired, together with the analysis provided further in this paper, helps illustrate how this specific type of armed violence has a disproportionate direct impact on women, children and young people in Latin America when compared with armed violence in general. In Section 2 of this working paper the authors examine 550 cases of stray bullets reported in the media in 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries that resulted in death or injury and classifies them by gender, age and type of armed violence (Annex 1 contains the entire data set in the form of a chronology of media abstract summaries by country for researchers to consult and examine further).

¹²<<http://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/noticia/2013/05/jovem-gravida-e-atingida-por-bala-perdida-em-santos-sp.html>>

¹³< <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-8748620>>

¹⁴ <http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Two_men_shot__wounded_while_playing_cards_in_Laventille-119549159.html>
<<http://www.lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/107993-muere-bebe-que-recibio-bala-perdida-en-ataque-a-autobus>>¹⁵

¹⁶ <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elmexicano/notas/n1452890.htm>>

Section 3 provides an overview of specific legal policy measures taken globally and in Latin America and the Caribbean to address the problem of stray bullets, while Section 4, the concluding section, summarizes the findings of the working paper and highlights a series of legal and policy measures, primarily from the field of small arms control that can contribute to reducing the number of victims of stray bullets specifically, and armed violence in general.

This working paper constitutes an exploratory effort and work in progress, and should be read as such. The findings of the media analysis in Section 2 do not constitute a comprehensive scientific baseline of the problem of stray bullets in any of the States covered in this document. UNLIREC and the paper's authors welcome feedback and input from other researchers and practitioners engaged on the issue of stray bullets. Please send comments to <programme@unlirec.org>.

The remainder of this introductory section is devoted to establishing definitions and concepts relevant to stray bullet and armed violence, providing an overview of armed violence in Latin American and Caribbean countries and reviewing the scant literature on the topic of stray bullets.

1.1 Concepts and definitions

Stray bullets themselves are the consequence of acts of armed violence, whereas **armed violence** is defined as 'the intentional use of force, threatened or actual, with arms against oneself, another person, group, community or State that results in loss, injury, death and/or psychosocial harm to an individual or multiple individuals and that can undermine the security and development achievements of individuals, households, communities, countries and entire regions.'¹⁷

The sub-category of armed violence addressed in this paper, **stray bullets**, is defined as 'intentionally fired bullets that cause death and/or injury to a person (or persons) other than the

¹⁷ United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms, *International Small Arms Control Standards, Module 02.10 Small arms and light weapons violence in the context of preventing armed violence, Draft 2.1*, New York and Geneva: United Nations, October 2010.

original intended target.’¹⁸ Bullets, by their definition, are objects fired from small arms, also referred to as small arms. For the purposes of this paper, the terms small arms and small arms are used interchangeably and are defined as:

‘any man-portable lethal weapon designed for individual use that expels or launches, is designed to expel or launch, or may be readily converted to expel or launch a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, including, inter alia, revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and light machine guns, as well as their parts, components and ammunition.’¹⁹

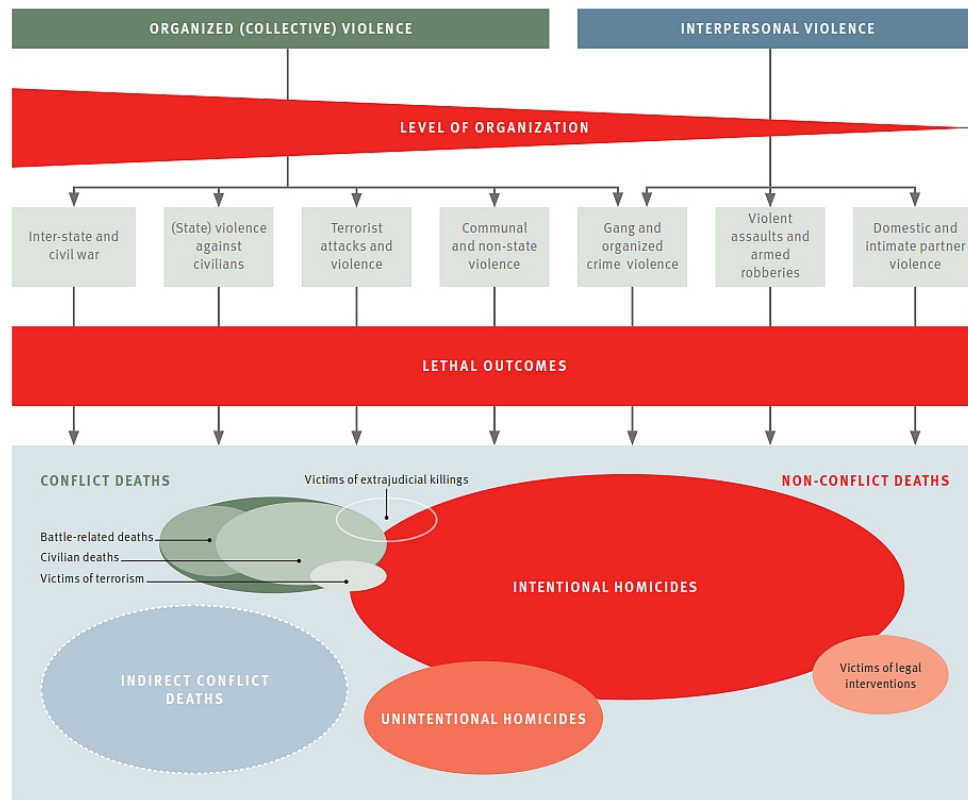
All incidents of stray bullets are indeed acts of armed violence involving small arms and their ammunition. However, there are a range of very different types of armed violence that can cause death and injury by stray bullets. The 2011 report on the *Global Burden of Armed Violence* by the Secretariat of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development has developed a framework of armed violence categories (see graphic 1), a typology that categorizes armed violence on a continuum with armed conflict on one extreme and domestic and intimate partner violence involving small arms on the other.²⁰

¹⁸ Centro de Recursos para el Análisis de Conflictos, *La violencia más injusta: la tragedia de las balas perdidas en Colombia*, Bogotá: CERAC, 2013.

¹⁹ United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms, *International Small Arms Control Standards, Module 01.20 Glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations*, New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2012.

²⁰ *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011, p. 14.

Graphic 1. Armed Violence Typology²¹



The authors of this paper have drawn on the Geneva Declaration typology and adapted it to the realities of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the types of armed violence identified in the media analysis undertaken in Section 2. The types of armed violence documented and the working definitions adopted by the authors in this paper include:

Organized crime – acts of armed violence where a (a) globally or regionally organized criminal entity was explicitly identified; (b) multiple armed individuals were identified using armed violence to eliminate or intimidate individuals participating in either legitimate or illegal economic activity; or (c) armed violence was used by an individual or group that was clearly hired to carry out an assassination hit.

²¹ Source: *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011.

Gang-related – acts of armed violence committed by locally identifiable groups that adopt an explicitly street- and youth-oriented identity and that participate in a variety of illicit and anti-social behaviours.

Armed robbery/common crime – acts of armed violence committed during the robbery of a business, residence or individual or where the specific act demonstrates criminal characteristics, but is not necessarily associated with organized crime or gangs.

Social/community-based/inter-personal – acts of armed violence not associated with criminal activity *per se*. Instead, the incidents of armed violence in this category may include social, political or community disputes that turn violent or domestic disputes involving small arms.

Mental instability – acts of armed violence where the shooter is identified as a mentally ill individual acting out with small arms.

Armed conflict/terrorism – acts of armed violence when the news article specifically referred to (a) violence exercised by an illegal armed group challenging the state over territorial control and governance; (b) confrontation by government security forces and illegal armed groups; or (c) terrorist acts.

Law enforcement operations – acts of armed violence where (a) shots were fired from a police or other law enforcement officer's weapon, or (b) there was an armed confrontation between police and armed criminals. Incidents of armed violence in this category potentially include legal, proportional and necessary use of deadly force with small arms by law enforcement officials as well as illegal, disproportional and unnecessary use of deadly force. The victims of armed violence in the category may be attributable to law enforcement weapons, criminal weapons or both.

Celebratory fire – acts of armed violence that result when individuals or groups fire shots in the air to celebrate holidays, festivities or express (dis)satisfaction at a sporting or cultural event.

1.2 Armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean

Small arms proliferation and misuse outside of the confines of traditional armed conflict are central to understanding contemporary expressions of armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. At present, only Colombia is experiencing internal armed conflict and there are signs of hope that that conflict may be soon coming to a close. Latin America and the Caribbean is host to approximately 9% of the world population, yet according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime concentrates 27% of global homicides.²² Globally, 42% of all homicides are committed with small arms while the incidence of small arms in homicides ranges from 60% to 70% for Latin America and the Caribbean.²³ Pistols and revolvers predominate in small arms homicides in the region though virtually all types of weapons including rifles, sub-machine guns and shotguns are present in acts of violence.²⁴ Logically, with such high quantities of bullets being discharged from small arms in Latin America and the Caribbean some of these do not reach their intended target and end up killing and injuring innocent people in the form of stray bullets.

Table 1: Homicides rates per 100.000 inhabitants in Latin America and the Caribbean²⁵

Country	2010	2011	2012
Antigua and Barbuda	6.9	NA	11.2
Argentina	5.5	NA	NA
Bahamas	26.1	34.7	29.8
Barbados	11.1	9.6	7.4
Belize	41.8	39.2	44.7
Bolivia	10.4	10	12.1
Brazil	22.2	23.4	25.2
Chile	3.2	3.7	3.1
Colombia	32.3	33.6	30.8
Costa Rica	11.3	10	8.5
Dominican Republic	24.7	24.8	22.1
Ecuador	17.6	15.4	12.4
El Salvador	64.1	69.9	41.2
Country	2010	2011	2012

²² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Study on Homicide 2011*, Vienna: UNODC, 2012, p. 20.

²³ Ibid, p. 10.

²⁴ Small Arms Survey, *Small Arms Survey 2012: moving targets*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2012, p. 9.

²⁵ Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2014). *Global Study on Homicide 2013*. Sales No. 14.IV.1, pp. 125 – 127.

Grenada	9.6	3.8	13.3
Guatemala	41.6	38.6	39.9
Guyana	17.8	16.4	17
Haiti	6.8	9.1	10.2
Honduras	81.8	91.4	90.4
Jamaica	52.6	41.1	39.3
Mexico	21.8	22.8	21.5
Nicaragua	13.5	12.5	11.3
Panama	20.6	20.3	17.2
Paraguay	11.5	10	9.7
Peru	9.3	9.6	9.6
St. Kitts and Nevis	40.1	64.2	33.6
St. Lucia	24.8	NA	21.6
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	22.9	19.2	25.6
Suriname			6.1
Trinidad and Tobago	35.6	26.4	28.3
Uruguay	6.1	5.9	7.9
Venezuela	45	47.8	53.7
Total	738.6	693.1	687.5

Of particular note is that of the Latin American and Caribbean countries covered in this paper 23 of 27 show record homicide rates above 10 per 100,000 inhabitants, the threshold at which the World Health Organization considers armed violence to be of epidemic proportions. However, national homicide rates often mask diverse realities, in particular in larger countries. In Mexico, for example, in 2010, Ciudad Juarez reported a homicide rate of 229 per 100,000 inhabitants while Mexico City reported a rate of just 8 per 100,000 for the same time period.²⁶

Illustrative Case 1 (USA/Mexico)

A 48-year-old woman in El Paso, Texas, USA was injured by a stray bullet from a .223 calibre police firearm that came from the other side of the border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Police in Ciudad Juarez were engaged in a shootout with a team of carjackers. Both men were arrested by the police and .25 calibre and 9 mm firearms were confiscated in the incident. (22 February 2012).²⁷

²⁶ *Estudio Comparativo de la incidencia del homicidio doloso en ciudades y jurisdicciones de los países del mundo*, Mexico City: Consejo Ciudadano para la Seguridad Pública y Justicia Social, p. 201.

²⁷ <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elmexicano/notas/n2439575.htm>>

Repeated studies indicate that an overwhelming majority of the direct victims of armed violence in the region are young men between the ages of 15 and 29 (possibly as high as 85%) and that this group represents an even greater percentage of those who pull the trigger against others (in the range of 94%).²⁸ Globally, women represent only 17% of homicide victims and a lesser percentage of small arms homicides.²⁹ Even though countries, such as El Salvador and Jamaica, demonstrate some of the highest female homicide rates in the world at 12 and 10 per 100,000 inhabitants respectively, they constitute less than 10% of all homicides within their national jurisdictions.³⁰ A recent study undertaken by the UN Development Programme covering the year 2011 found at the low end of the range that women were 6% of the direct victims of all reported homicides in Panama, while in Chile this figure reached nearly 20%.³¹ The findings of the media analysis presented in section 2 suggest that stray bullet armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean directly affects women and young people (minors) to a much greater degree than armed violence in general.

1.3 Existing research on stray bullets armed violence

The academic literature on stray bullet armed violence is limited, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean region. One study found the key causes of stray bullets in developing countries to be celebratory gunfire, negligent handling of weapons, sport hunting and aerial shooting by law enforcement authorities during riot and mob control.³² Its main recommendation was to ban aerial firing of live cartridges in situations of riot control. Other academic studies found that women were more likely to be victims of stray bullets than armed

²⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Caribbean Human Development Report 2012: Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security*, New York: UNDP, 2012.

²⁹ *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011, p. 2.

³⁰ *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2008*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2008, p. 81.

³¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Regional Human Development Report 2013-2014 – Seguridad Ciudadana con Rostro Humano: diagnósticos y propuestas para América Latina*, New York: UNDP, 2013, p. 54.

³² Abrar A. Wani et al, 'Stray bullet: An accidental killer during riot control,' *Surgical Neurology International*, Vol. "": 122, September 2011.

violence in general and places where this is a high occurrence of stray bullet victimization demonstrate higher levels of mental health disorders due to psychosocial trauma.³³

To date, the most comprehensive study of stray bullets has been undertaken by the Colombian think tank Conflict Analysis Resource Center (CERAC) in its 2013 study *“La Violencia Más Injusta: la Tragedia de las Balas Perdidas en Colombia”*.³⁴ This study was also carried out through media monitoring documented cases involving 2,969 victims of stray bullet armed violence over a thirteen-year period in Colombia, using a typology of armed violence very similar to that employed in this report. The key findings of CERAC’s study of stray bullets in Colombia are:

- Between 1990 and 2013, 2,969 victims of stray bullets were documented of which 818 (28%) died and 2,148 were injured (72%);
- 61% of all victims were male and 39% were female, while 35% were minors under the age of 18.
- For the year 2013, inter-gang violence was the most frequent cause of stray bullets followed by unknown, assassination attempts, inter-personal violence, celebratory fire, armed robbery, law enforcement operations and social mobilizations. Interestingly, no incident was attributed to the country’s armed conflict.
- The annual number of victims of stray bullets peaked in 2011 with notable reductions in 2012 and 2013; and
- Criminal investigation and judicial prosecution of cases of stray bullets are extremely rare.

This UNLIREC working paper sets out to reduce the gap in information and analysis on the issue of stray bullet armed violence, building on the findings of the CERAC study and others.

³³Garen Wintemute et al, ‘Epidemiology and Clinical Aspects of Stray Bullet Shootings in the United States,’ *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, Vol. 73: 1, July 2012; Wagner Silva Ribeiro et al, ‘The Impact of Epidemic Violence on the Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders in Sao Paolo and Rio de Janeiro,’ *Plos One*, Vol. 8: 5, 2013.

³⁴ Centro de Recursos para el Análisis de Conflictos, *La violencia más injusta: la tragedia de las balas perdidas en Colombia*, Bogotá: CERAC, 2013.

2. Media reported incidents of stray bullets in Latin America and the Caribbean

UNLIREC documented 550 cases of stray bullets in Latin America and the Caribbean as reported in reputable, national online media outlets during the four-year period beginning 1 January 2009 and ending 31 December 2013. Only articles covering incidents specifically referred to as ‘stray bullet(s)’ were included. Cases were excluded when the media coverage placed in doubt whether the incident was in fact a stray bullet or if a stray bullet was just one of two or more potential hypotheses put forth. As mentioned above, it should be clear that the data set analyzed here does not necessarily capture all cases of stray bullets that occurred in each country for the four-year time period, but rather only those reported in national online media and accessible through online search engines. This report does not on its own generate the data necessary to determine the full magnitude of the problem of stray bullets in the individual countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Such an exercise would indeed require a comprehensive analysis and triangulation of national data provided by police, judicial, forensic and public health authorities. Annex 1 contains abstracts of each article identified in chronological order.

Each stray bullet incident abstract summary seeks to identify the following objective information:

- Injury(ies) or death(s)
- Gender of victims
- Age of victims
- Type of armed violence – as per definitions provided in section 1.1

The article abstracts in Annex 1 also include other objective information, as available in specific articles, such as time of incident, place of incident, whether arrests were made and the type of firearm used. This information was not analyzed in detail in this paper, but could most certainly be explored further by interested researchers and analysts. For this reason, web links to each article are also provided.

An example of an article abstract summary included in Annex 1 is provided here for reference:

Colombia

25 July 2011 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking down the street in the city of Cali. She was caught in the crossfire of rival gangs. No one was arrested in relation to the incident.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-4705772>>

The authors of this paper take at face value the journalists' determination of the veracity of incidents of stray bullets. It is possible that in some cases the victims identified as casualties of stray bullets were indeed intended victims of armed attacks. However, it is also possible that some cases of stray bullets were not correctly identified as such, in particular in cases involving young men between the ages of 15 and 29 because of the prevalence of this demographic group's participation in youth gangs and the stigmatization that ensues (this issue will be analyzed further in section 2.2).

Table 2 records the number of incidents of stray bullets identified through media monitoring alongside data on total population and recent available national homicide rates per 100,000 inhabitants to provide the reader with some additional context against which to analyze the phenomenon of stray bullets.

Table 2: Incidents of stray bullets reported in Latin American and Caribbean online media (2009 – 2013)³⁵

Country	Reported incidents	Population	Homicide rate ³⁶
Antigua and Barbuda	6	90,000	11.2
Argentina	24	41,072,000	6
Bahamas	2	377,000	29.8
Belize	11	332,000	44.7
Bolivia	2	10,894,000	12
Brazil	71	198,423,000	25
Chile	11	17,603,000	3
Colombia	57	48,374,000	31
Costa Rica	9	4,860,000	9
Dominican Republic	13	10,291,000	22
Country	Reported incidents	Population	Homicide rate

³⁵ The media monitoring exercise did not identify incidents of stray bullets in Barbados, Dominica, Cuba, Grenada Haiti, nor St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

³⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2014). *Global Study on Homicide 2013*. Sales No. 14.IV.1, pp. 125 – 127. In the majority of the cases the homicide rates are from 2012 with some exceptions where data from that year was not available.

Ecuador	14	15,517,000	12
El Salvador	29	6,288,000	41
Guatemala	22	15,051,000	40
Guyana	4	800,000	17
Honduras	38	7,922,000	90
Jamaica	6	2,827,000	39
Mexico	52	119,321,000	22
Nicaragua	17	6,066,000	11
Panama	6	3,864,000	17
Paraguay	9	6,782,000	10
Peru	47	30,297,000	10
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	54,000	33.6
St. Lucia	4	182,000	21.6
Suriname	2	53,900	6.1
Trinidad and Tobago	17	1,341,000	28
Uruguay	2	3,407,000	8
Venezuela	74	30,390,000	54
Total	550		

In general, the countries with higher homicide rates understandably tend to generate more coverage of incidents of stray bullets in national media. However, cases such as those of Antigua and Barbuda and Belize stand out in that proportionally a significant number of cases were reported in countries with populations of just 90,000 and 332,000 respectively. In the case of Belize, this can be explained in part by the general trends of insecurity and armed violence experienced in the Central American sub-region in recent years. In Antigua and Barbuda, a small Caribbean island state with a relatively low homicide rate, it, unfortunately, just takes a small number of incidents to have a significant impact on crime and violence rates. Also, in countries of smaller size in terms of geographic area and total population incidents of stray bullets tend to draw the attention of the national media.

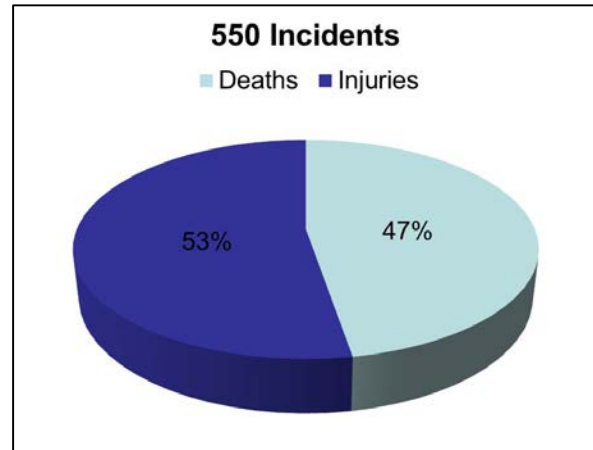
Illustrative Case 2 (Antigua and Barbuda)

Two people were injured by stray bullets from a gang fight that erupted during annual Carnival celebrations. A 23-year-old man was hit by a stray bullet while waiting at a bus station while a 62-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet while sitting inside her home (8 March 2013).³⁷

³⁷ <<http://www.antiguachronicle.net/crime-police/item/623-at-least-three-people-shot-on-carnival-tuesday>>

2.1 Injuries and deaths by stray bullets

The cases of stray bullets documented in this paper resulted in 325 injuries (53%) and 292 deaths (47%). This exceeds the percentage of deaths found in the CERAC study of Colombia. In some reported cases or incidents there were one or more injuries and deaths reported. In general, more injuries were documented in the reported incidents than deaths. However, more deaths than injuries were reported in Chile, Costa Rica, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, St. Lucia and Venezuela. While lethal stray bullet armed violence may have been more prevalent in these specific countries, it is also possible that media outlets found it more compelling and newsworthy to report on cases of deaths than injuries.



Graphic 2: Percentage of injuries and deaths by stray bullets

Illustrative Case 3 (Belize)

Three people were hit by stray bullets when youth began firing weapons indiscriminately into a Belize City neighbourhood. A 19-year-old boy was killed while a 64-year-old man and a seven-year-old girl were injured in the incident (11 February 2010).³⁸

It is also possible that national media under-reported deaths as in some cases those injured later died because of complications related to their bullet wounds. If an article reported that a victim originally reported as injured later died, this incident was reported as a death. At the same time, it is likely that many cases of injuries were not reported because the injuries were only superficial and/or no medical treatment was required. Alternatively, people that distrust the police and government authorities found alternative ways to treat bullet wounds that do not call the attention of the media.

³⁸ <http://www.guardian.bz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1361:youths-arrested-for-deadly-shooting-on-ca-blvd-&catid=39:crime&Itemid=73>

Table 3: Injuries and deaths in media reported incidents of stray bullets in LAC region (2009 – 2013)

Country	Cases	Injuries	Deaths
Antigua and Barbuda	6	10	0
Argentina	24	21	8
Bahamas	2	0	2
Belize	11	14	2
Bolivia	2	2	0
Brazil	71	53	29
Chile	11	4	7
Colombia	57	36	36
Costa Rica	9	2	7
Dominican Republic	13	7	6
Ecuador	14	8	9
El Salvador	29	26	5
Guatemala	22	14	9
Guyana	4	1	3
Honduras	38	25	22
Jamaica	6	1	4
Mexico	52	26	28
Nicaragua	17	5	12
Panama	6	2	3
Paraguay	9	8	1
Peru	47	33	22
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	1	0
St. Lucia	4	4	0
Suriname	2	0	2
Trinidad and Tobago	17	11	7
Uruguay	2	1	1
Venezuela	74	10	67
Total (LAC)	550	325	292

2.2 Gender of victims of stray bullets

Illustrative Case 4 (Honduras)

A five-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in his classroom at 01:30 p.m. in the afternoon in the capital of Tegucigalpa. Outside the school a man injured by a gunshot was observed walking, but no one was arrested in the incident (20 August 2012).³⁹

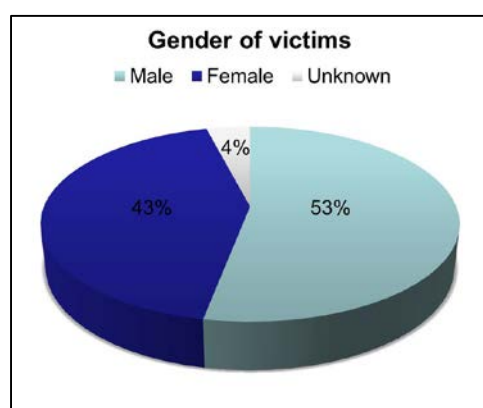
³⁹ <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Bala-perdida-hiere-en-la-cabeza-a-nina-de-5-anos>>

Of the 550 incidents of stray bullets documented in this paper 325 of the victims were men (53%), 265 were women (43%) and 27 (4%) were unknown. These numbers are largely consistent with the findings of the CERAC study in Colombia. Of the countries with populations greater than 1 million inhabitants, Honduras recorded the highest percentage of male victims of stray bullets at 83%. The Dominican Republic reported the highest percentage of female victims of stray bullets at 69%.

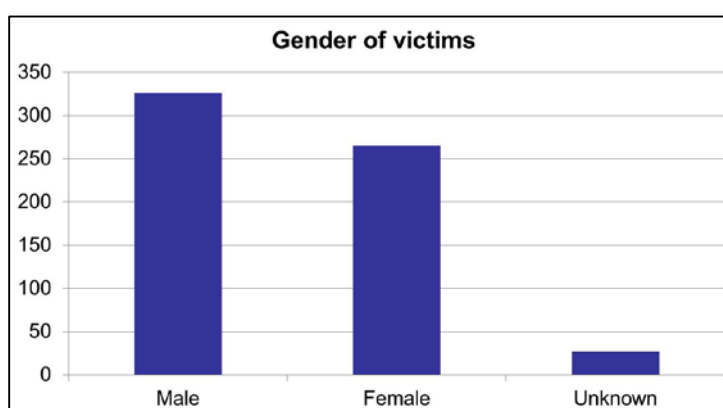
Illustrative Case 5 (Dominican Republic)

A teenage girl was killed by a stray bullet to the head in front of her home in the town of Basima. The bullet came from an armed confrontation between a military official and a group of armed criminals (8 August 2011).⁴⁰

The data generated in this study suggests that women make up a much higher percentage of the victims of stray bullet armed violence than of armed violence in general. Globally, women represent 17% of homicide victims while they make up 43% of the victims of stray bullets documented through media monitoring in this study.⁴¹ In cases of intentional armed violence, males account for the overwhelming majority of both assailants and victims, while in cases of stray bullet armed violence the vulnerability of women to death and injury increases exponentially.



Graphic 3: Percentage of male and female victims



Graphic 4: Absolute numbers of male and female victims

⁴⁰ <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2011/8/7/198793/Fallecio-esta-tarde-adolescente-herida-de-un-balazo-en-la-cabeza-en-Villa>>

⁴¹ *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters*, Geneva: Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence, 2011, p. 2.

Table 4: Gender of victims in media reported incidents of stray bullets in LAC region (2009 – 2013)

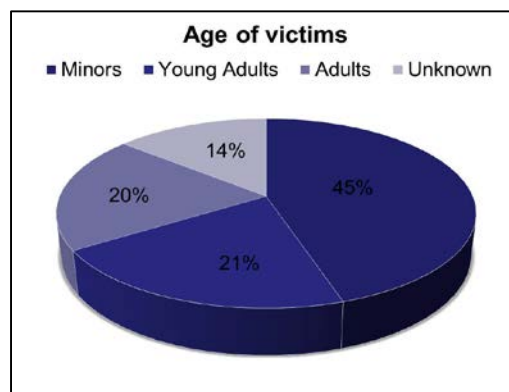
Country	Male	% male	Female	% female	Unknown	% unknown
Antigua and Barbuda	8	80%	2	20%	0	0%
Argentina	11	38%	10	34%	8	28%
Bahamas	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%
Belize	6	38%	10	62%	0	0%
Bolivia	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%
Brazil	36	44%	38	46%	8	10%
Chile	6	55%	5	45%	0	0%
Colombia	29	40%	41	57%	2	3%
Costa Rica	6	67%	3	33%	0	0%
Dominican Republic	4	31%	9	69%	0	0%
Ecuador	8	47%	9	53%	0	0%
El Salvador	14	45%	17	55%	0	0%
Guatemala	13	62%	8	38%	2	0%
Guyana	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Honduras	39	83%	8	17%	0	0%
Jamaica	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%
Mexico	29	55%	23	43%	2	4%
Nicaragua	11	65%	6	35%	0	0%
Panama	2	40%	2	40%	1	20%
Paraguay	3	33%	5	56%	1	11%
Peru	30	55%	23	42%	2	4%
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%
St. Lucia	2	50%	1	25%	1	25%
Suriname	2	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Trinidad and Tobago	9	50%	9	50%	0	0%
Uruguay	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%
Venezuela	47	61%	30	39%	0	0%
Total	325	53%	265	43%	27	4%

2.3 Age of victims of stray bullets

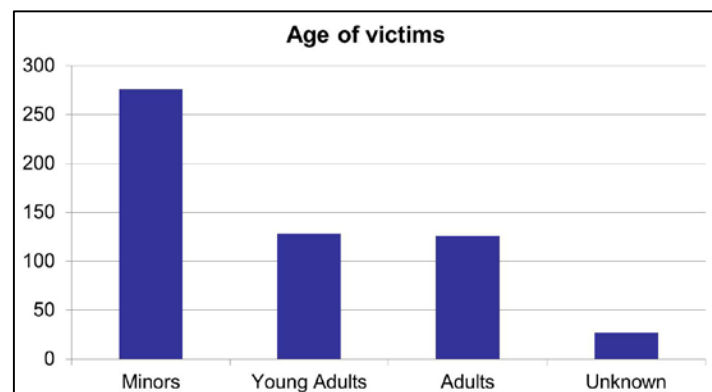
Illustrative Case 6 (Colombia)

A ten-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet when caught in the crossfire between rival gangs in the city of Cali. The mother of the slain minor and her four siblings had to abandon their house under threat from local gang members if they testified about the shooting (9 October 2013).⁴²

Of the incidents of stray bullets documented in this study, 276 (45%) of the victims were minors under the age of 18; 128 (21%) were young adults between the ages of 18 and 29; 126 (20%) were adults ages 30 and older; and in 87 (14%) cases the age of the victim was not identified.⁴³ The proportion of minors victimized is even greater than the proportion found in the CERAC study. These findings are not surprising in that young men ages 15 to 24 have been identified in repeated studies as the majority of aggressors and victims of armed violence in the Latin America and Caribbean region.⁴⁴ However, in this data set of 550 cases of victimization due to stray bullets, the proportion of female minors directly affected was on average much greater than general armed violence-related homicide and injury. When the data for minors is combined with young adults up to the age of 29, these two categories account for 66% of the reported incidents of stray bullets documented in this paper.



Graphic 5: Percentages of age groups



Graphic 6: Absolute numbers of victims by age

⁴² <<http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/judicial/noticias/madre-menor-muerta-por-bala-perdida-cali-tuvo-abandonar-su-barrio>>

⁴³ This paper utilizes the following age categories: minors (ages 17 and under) consistent with the definition of a child in Inter-American Human Rights System; young adults (ages 18 – 29) to cover the bridge between youth and young adulthood; adult (age 30 and over) and unknown.

⁴⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Caribbean Human Development Report 2012: Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security*, New York: UNDP, 2012, p.47.

Illustrative Case 7 (Chile)

A 51-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while cooking in her home in a suburb of Santiago. The bullet came from a shootout between rival gangs in the late evening hours where one gang member was also killed (26 April 2011).⁴⁵

El Salvador and Colombia reported the highest percentage of cases of minors falling victim to stray bullets, 77% and 76% respectively. Of the countries with over 1 million in population, Chile showed the highest percentage of young adult victims with 33% and the highest percentage of victims in the adult category with 49%. This data set reinforces the notion that young people in Latin America and the Caribbean are more vulnerable to being victims of stray bullets than is the general population.

Table 5: Age of victims in media reported incidents of stray bullets in LAC region (2009 – 2013)

Country	Minors	% minors	Young Adults	% young adults	Adults	% adults	Unknown	% unknown
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0%	1	10%	2	20%	7	70%
Argentina	10	34%	4	14%	4	14%	11	38%
Bahamas	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%
Belize	8	50%	3	19%	4	25%	1	6%
Bolivia	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	
Brazil	17	21%	25	30%	23	28%	17	21%
Chile	2	18%	4	33%	5	49%	0	0%
Colombia	55	76%	8	11%	5	7%	4	6%
Costa Rica	3	34%	2	22%	2	22%	2	22%
Dominican Republic	8	62%	2	15%	3	23%	0	0%
Ecuador	7	41%	2	12%	2	12%	6	35%
El Salvador	24	77%	2	6%	4	13%	1	4%
Guatemala	15	65%	3	13%	5	22%	0	0%
Guyana	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%
Honduras	23	47%	8	16%	13	27%	3	10%
Jamaica	3	60%	1	20%	0	0%	1	20%
Mexico	19	36%	15	28%	12	23%	8	15%
Nicaragua	7	41%	5	29%	2	12%	3	18%
Panama	1	20%	1	20%	1	20%	2	40%

⁴⁵ <<http://www.emol.com/noticias/nacional/2011/04/26/478034/con-dos-fallecidos-termina-balacera-por-ajuste-de-cuentas-en-la-comuna-de-conchali.html>>

Country	Minors	% minors	Young Adults	% young adults	Adults	% adults	Unknown	% unknown
Paraguay	4	5%	2	22%	0	0%	3	33%
Peru	25	45%	7	13%	11	20%	12	22%
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%
St. Lucia	1	25%	1	25%	2	50%	0	0%
Suriname	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%
Trinidad and Tobago	4	22%	5	28%	7	39%	2	11%
Uruguay	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%
Venezuela	36	47%	23	30%	17	22%	1	<1%
Total	276	45%	128	21%	126	20%	87	14%

2.4 Types of armed violence associated with stray bullets

This study presents and defines eight types of armed violence, as detailed in section 1.1: organized crime; gang-related; armed robbery/common crime; social/community-based/interpersonal; mental instability; armed conflict/terrorism; law enforcement operations; and celebratory fire. To this should be added a ninth category of ‘unknown’ which represents 36% of all cases documented. The authors did not identify a case as one of the eight types of armed violence if the article did not provide sufficient detail. Similarly, the authors refrained from classifying a case of armed violence as ‘gang-related’ based solely on information regarding the gender and age of a victim to avoid classifying incidents based on stereotypes.

Illustrative Case 8 (Argentina)

A 41 year-old pregnant woman was injured by a stray bullet while waiting to cross the street in the city of Mendoza. The source of the bullet was not identified (17 December 2013).⁴⁶

The authors of this paper recognize that other researchers who may review the data may legitimately come to different conclusions as to the type of armed violence involved. Additionally, it should be noted that single incidents may include more than one type of armed

⁴⁶ <<http://www.losandes.com.ar/notas/2013/12/17/mujeres-ellas-encinta-fueron-baleadas-756828.asp>>

violence, particularly when law enforcement operations involve gangs, organized crime or armed robbers.

Further, the authors recognize that it would be desirable to present incidents per capita of each country. However, considering the same countries of the region as done in this working paper then requires a much larger pool of incidents, which is currently not available. Therefore, the authors strongly encourage the extension of this research.

2.4.1 Organized crime

Cases of organized crime were identified in 6% of the documented incidents of stray bullets. Mexico was the country with a population of greater than 1 million that demonstrated both the highest percentage (22%) and number of cases (11) of stray bullets attributed to armed violence exerted by organized crime. This finding is consistent with the general media characterization of the armed violence that is currently affecting the country, in particular that exerted by the major drug cartels.

Illustrative Case 9 (Mexico)

A 27-year-old female gas station attendant was killed by a stray bullet when armed criminals opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles on a group of police officers pumping gas into their vehicle at 04:00 p.m. in the state of Durango (12 November 2012).⁴⁷

2.4.2 Gang related

Cases of gang-related violence were identified in 26% of the documented incidents of stray bullets, representing the single largest category after 'unknown.' Trinidad and Tobago was the country with a population of greater than 1 million that demonstrated the highest percentage (47%) of cases of stray bullets attributed to armed violence exerted by gangs. Venezuela was the country with the largest number of cases of gang-related stray bullets (24).

Illustrative Case 10 (Trinidad and Tobago)

A 23-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while riding his bicycle at 11:00 a.m. in Port of Spain. The shots were intended for a gang member standing on a street corner nearby who was also shot and injured in the incident (12 September 2013).⁴⁸

⁴⁷ <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldedurango/notas/n2767583.htm>>

⁴⁸ <<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Woman-64-shot-in-head-by-stray-bullet-in-Laventille-223561961.html>>

Illustrative Case 11(Venezuela)

A twelve-year-old girl was killed and her three-year-old cousin was injured by stray bullets while standing on the porch of her home at 03:00 p.m. in Caracas. Gang members were observed running down the street and several gun shots were heard but no one was detained in the incident (9 July 2013).⁴⁹

2.4.3 Armed robbery/common crime

Cases of armed robbery/common crime were identified in 14% of the documented incidents of stray bullets, representing the second most important category of classification. Uruguay was the country with the highest percentage (50%) of cases of stray bullets attributed to armed robbery/common crime but within a very small data set of 2 total stray bullet incidents. Peru was the country with the largest number of stray bullet incidents associated with armed robbery/common crime with 16 (34%) cases documented in that country.

Illustrative Case 12 (Uruguay)

An eight-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet during an armed robbery of a supermarket at 08:30 p.m. in Montevideo. The robbers began firing when confronted by a private security guard who was also injured in the incident (7 September 2013).⁵⁰

2.4.4 Social/community-based/inter-personal

Cases of social/community-based/inter-personal armed violence were identified in 11% of the documented incidents of stray bullets, representing the fifth most important category of classification. The Dominican Republic was the country with the highest percentage (36%) of cases of stray bullets attributed to social/community-based/inter-personal armed violence. Brazil was the country with the largest number of total stray bullet incidents associated with social/community-based/inter-personal with 7 (10%) cases documented in that country.

Illustrative Case 13 (Brazil)

An eleven-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul when two men began fighting over a woman. One man began firing shots at the other, inadvertently killing the boy nearby (27 December 2013).⁵¹

⁴⁹ <<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/matan-a-una-chamita-de-12-anos-y-hieren-a-su-primi.aspx>>

⁵⁰ <<http://www.elpais.com.uy/informacion/nino-ocho-anos-baleado-asalto.html>>

⁵¹ <<http://g1.globo.com/mato-grosso-do-sul/noticia/2013/12/vinganca-motivou-morte-de-crianca-com-bala-perdida-em-ms-diz-policia.html>>

2.4.5 Mental instability

Incidents of stray bullets were codified as ‘mental instability’ when the news article specifically referred to mental illness or instability on the part of the shooter. Cases of mental instability armed violence were identified in less than 1% of all cases of stray bullets documented. One case each of mental instability armed violence causing victims of stray bullets was documented in Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela.

Illustrative Case 14 (Venezuela)

A man with mental illness began firing randomly in a Caracas parking lot. A 38-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in the incident (20 August 2011).⁵²

2.4.6 Armed conflict/terrorism

Only one case of stray bullet violence associated with armed conflict/terrorism was documented in this exercise between Peruvian government forces and the Shining Path guerrillas. Surprisingly, no cases of stray bullets were documented in relation to armed conflict in Colombia, consistent with the findings of the CERAC study.

Illustrative Case 15 (Peru)

An eight-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet during a military operation against the Shining Path guerrilla in the Peruvian Andes (12 September 2012).⁵³

2.4.7 Celebratory fire

Celebratory fire was identified in 5% of the documented incidents of stray bullets, representing the sixth most important category of classification, but the most preventable. Paraguay was the country with a population over 1 million with the highest percentage (44%) of cases of stray bullets attributed to celebratory fire. Honduras was the country with the largest number of total stray bullet incidents associated with celebratory fire with 7 (18%) of all cases documented in that country.

⁵² <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/08/20/vigilante-muere-por-una-bala-perdida-en-caricuao>>

⁵³ <<http://elcomercio.pe/actualidad/1468555/noticia-nina-ocho-anos-murio-operacion-rescate-vraem>>

Illustrative Case 16 (Paraguay)

A three-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet in the capital city of Asunción. The bullets came from a .38 calibre gun fired by a local taxi driver from the terrace of his home to celebrate Christmas. The man was arrested by authorities and charged with manslaughter (25 December 2012).⁵⁴

2.4.8 Law enforcement operations

Given the nature of law enforcement most incidents of stray bullets involving law enforcement operations are double-coded with other types of armed violence (72 out of 79 incidents involving law enforcement). In order to analyze data accurately, when a case of double coding was found, e.g. law enforcement *and* armed robbery/common crime, the case was classified as armed robbery/common crime within the armed violence typology. However, it was also included in the law enforcement table (see table 6 below). Cases that were identified as law enforcement only (without featuring another type of violence) were classified in armed violence typology as “other”.

In 13% of the documented incidents of stray bullets, law enforcement operations were present. Jamaica was the country with a population over 1 million with the highest percentage (50%) of cases of stray bullets attributed law enforcement operations albeit with a very small number of stray bullet victims total (5). Brazil was the country with the largest number of total stray bullet incidents associated with law enforcement operations with 19 (27%) of all cases documented in that country.

Illustrative Case 17 (Jamaica)

A missionary of the Mormon Church was killed by a stray bullet from a police shootout during a law enforcement operation while the man was proselytizing in a Kingston neighborhood (18 January 2011).⁵⁵

⁵⁴ <<http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresa/judiciales-y-policiales/los-casos-impunes-de-balas-perdidas-597957.html>; <http://www.lanacion.com.py/articulo/106615-extrajeron-una-bala-del-cuerpo-de-paz-valentina.html>>

⁵⁵ <<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Mormon-missionary-killed-in-Jamaica>>

Table 6: Types of armed violence associated with stray bullets in LAC region (2009 – 2013)

Country	Organized crime	Gang related	Armed robbery/ common crime	Social/ community/ inter- personal	Mental instability	Armed conflict	Celebra- tory fire	Other	Unknown	Total no. of cases	Law enforce- ment mixed	Law enforce- ment solo
Antigua and Barbuda	0 0%	0 0%	1 17%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	5 83%	6	0 0%	0 0%
Argentina	1 4%	5 21%	3 13%	6 25%	0 0%	0 0%	2 8%	0 0%	7 29%	24	5 21%	0 0%
Bahamas	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%	2	1 50%	0 0%
Belize	0 0%	6 55%	1 9%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4 36%	11	1 9%	0 0%
Bolivia	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%	2	0 0%	0 0%
Brazil	0 0%	17 24%	14 20%	7 10%	0 0%	0 0%	1 1%	3 4%	29 41%	71	16 23%	3 4%
Chile	0 0%	5 45%	1 9%	2 18%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 27%	11	2 18%	0 0%
Colombia	3 5%	14 25%	5 9%	7 12%	1 2%	0 0%	8 14%	0 0%	19 33%	57	1 2%	0 0%
Costa Rica	0 0%	3 33%	1 11%	3 33%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 22%	9	0 0%	0 0%
Dominican Republic	0 0%	2 14%	1 7%	4 36%	0 0%	0 0%	1 7%	0 0%	5 36%	13	2 15%	0 0%
Ecuador	2 14%	6 43%	2 14%	1 7%	0 0%	0 0%	1 7%	0 0%	2 14%	14	2 14%	0 0%
El Salvador	2 7%	9 32%	1 4%	1 4%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	16 53%	29	0 0%	0 0%
Guatemala	3 14%	4 18%	4 18%	4 18%	0 0%	0 0%	1 5%	0 0%	6 27%	22	0 0%	0 0%
Guyana	0 0%	0 0%	3 75%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 25%	4	3 75%	0 0%
Country	Organized crime	Gang related	Armed robbery/ common crime	Social/ community/ inter- personal	Mental instability	Armed conflict	Celebra- tory fire	Other	Unknown	Total no. of cases	Law enforce- ment mixed	Law enforce- ment solo

Honduras	4 11%	12 32%	3 8%	2 5%	0 0%	0 0%	7 18%	0 0%	10 26%	38	3 8%	0 0%
Jamaica	0 0%	2 33%	3 50%	1 17%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	6	3 50%	0 0%
Mexico	11 22%	8 16%	8 16%	4 8%	0 0%	0 0%	3 6%	1 2%	17 33%	52	8 15%	1 2%
Nicaragua	0 0%	7 41%	1 6%	2 12%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	7 41%	17	1 6%	0 0%
Panama	0 0%	1 17%	1 17%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4 67%	6	0 0%	0 0%
Paraguay	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 11%	0 0%	0 0%	4 44%	0 0%	4 44%	9	0 0%	0 0%
Peru	5 11%	5 11%	16 34%	6 13%	0 0%	1 2%	0 0%	1 2%	13 28%	47	17 36%	1 2%
St. Kitts and Nevis	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1	0 0%	0 0%
St. Lucia	0 0%	2 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 50%	4	0 0%	0 0%
Suriname	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	2	1 50%	1 50%
Trinidad y Tobago	0 0%	8 47%	2 12%	2 12%	0 0%	0 0%	1 6%	0 0%	4 24%	17	2 12%	0 0%
Uruguay	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2	0 0%	0 0%
Venezuela	3 4%	24 32%	3 4%	5 7%	1 1%	0 0%	1 1%	0 0%	37 50%	74	4 5%	0 0%
Total	34 6%	143 26%	75 14%	60 11%	2 <1%	1 <1%	30 5%	6 1%	199 36%	550	72 13%	6 1%

3. Legal and policy initiatives to address stray bullet armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean

In broad terms, the armed violence that generates victims due to stray bullets, with a couple of exceptions that will be discussed below, is no different than the general armed violence present in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this sense, a comprehensive approach to address armed violence combines elements of sustainable economic development and citizen security planning with national small arms control frameworks and localized efforts to reduce armed violence with judicial strategies to prosecute cases of illicit possession and use of small arms. The aspects related to sustainable economic development fall outside the mandate of UNLIREC and will not be addressed here in any detail.

A national small arms control framework includes measures a) to control the legal trade in small arms and ammunition; b) equip and train law enforcement to intervene and investigate cases of illicit arms trafficking; c) prevent national and private holdings from falling into the wrong hands; d) establish clear laws related to small arms possession and use. The following table outlines the specific measures in these categories.

Table 7: National small arms control measures framework

Legal Trade	Illicit Trafficking	Stockpiles	Unlawful Use and Possession
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better enforcement of existing laws • Harmonizing laws with neighboring countries. And in accordance with international instruments • Secondary marking, including ammunition • Transparency in manufacture and transfers (e.g. end-user certificates). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving intelligence and information sharing. • Building capacity in institutions and their personnel to combat trafficking • Supplying specialized equipment and technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying national stocks and surplus • Improving stock-pile management • Voluntary weapons surrender programs • Weapons and ammunition destruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting a clear legal basis for possession and use • Suppressing the visibility of weapons in society • Control over product marketing/sales

UNLIREC's experience providing technical assistance to Latin America and Caribbean member states indicates that robust implementation of these measures can make significant inroads to reducing armed violence, especially when it becomes costly to fire ammunition in economic and/or legal terms. In particular, efforts to address the illicit possession of small arms and ammunition in the hands of organized crime and the more formally structured of youth gangs require very specific measures focused on intelligence-led operations, offensive search and seizure, cross border physical controls (including in seaports and airports) combined with aggressive judicial efforts to preserve crime scenes, guarantee small arms and ammunition evidence chain of custody and prosecute in court.

As outlined above, not all armed violence, including that related to stray bullets, is 'criminal' or predatory in nature. For this reason, it is also recommended that states, including provincial and municipal governments, implement a series of armed violence reduction measures some of which overlap with national small arms control frameworks. The table below details the different types of armed violence reduction measures. Included among these measures are efforts to prevent the convergence of multiple risk factors in time and space (small arms, drugs, alcohol, youth, et cetera), voluntary weapons collection programmes, gun free zones and efforts to create conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level.

Table 8: Armed violence reduction measures framework

Formal coercive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seizures/forfeitures ▪ Prevention of convergence of risk factors (weapons, youth, drugs and alcohol at night) ▪ Community Policing ▪ Inspections/ Searches with consent 	Informal coercive (<u>NOT recommended</u>)⁵⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ armed private responses (vigilante justice) ▪ Local/traditional Tribunals
Formal voluntary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amnesties ▪ Registration and Legalization ▪ Voluntary Weapons Collection Programmes ▪ Educational Programmes 	Informal voluntary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood watch groups ▪ Raise awareness via media ▪ Gun Free Zones ▪ Community mediation/arbitration ▪ Health based interventions

However, there are two specific types of armed violence that this working paper documents in relation to stray bullets where additional measures can be and are taken by states: namely, celebratory fire and stray bullets originating from law enforcement operations.

3.1 Initiatives to address celebratory fire

Accidental death and injury caused by irresponsible persons firing shots into the air to celebrate a holiday or the victory of a local sports team is clearly the most tragic and senseless of the types of armed violence that generate victims of stray bullets. Naturally, national and local laws should prohibit and punish such irresponsible behavior and some of the Latin American and Caribbean laws that seek to do so are outlined below. Nonetheless, celebratory fire has been documented as a cultural practice and problem in many regions of the world, in some Latin American countries the practice is more enshrined than others. In this sense, purely legal responses do not suffice, other public policies including public awareness-raising are also required and some of these efforts are also highlighted below.

⁵⁶ UNLIREC does not recommend applying any of these measures because of the risks associated with them.

3.1.1 Legal responses to celebratory fire

Some Latin American countries have passed specific legislation or reformed criminal codes to address the problem of stray bullets while others continue to grapple with legislation in this area. In 2011, the Colombian Congress passed the 'Citizen Security Law' which made very specific reforms to the criminal code, minor protection code and other security-related matters. Within this law, Article 18 specifically addresses stray bullets by taking the following actions against anyone who initiates an act of celebratory fire or shots to the air when not in an act of legitimate defense or the protection of life⁵⁷:

- Automatic arrest;
- Prison sentence of five years;
- Cancellation of small arms possession permit (if the weapon was legally registered);
- Confiscation of weapon; and
- Suspension of the right to own small arms for a period of 20 years.

Of course, these penalties are independent of any additional charges which may be brought against an offender who may have caused death or injury to persons or damage to property.

In Puerto Rico, the legislative assembly reformed the Firearms Act in 2013 to take the following additional measures in relation to persons who commit acts of celebratory fire⁵⁸:

- No possibility of suspended or reduced sentences or bail; and
- Prison sentence of three to six years.

⁵⁷ Congreso de la República de Colombia, *Ley 1453 de 2011*, 24 July 2011.

⁵⁸ Asamblea del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, *Ley No. 141-2013*, 2 December 2013.

In Mexico City, the government of the Federal District proposed prison sentences of two to five years to those who initiate celebratory fire. At present, firing shots into the air is considered an administrative violation which can result in administrative detention of up to 36 hours.⁵⁹

UNLIREC invites government officials and specialists in this field to share information on laws or bills of law addressing celebratory fire via e-mail to: <programme@unlirec.org>.

3.1.2 Policy and educational responses to celebratory fire

Some of the policy and educational responses in the region focus on supporting compliance with the law while others make moral and civic pleas to society to stop the cultural practice of celebratory fire. In Colombia, the police have offered rewards of approximately USD\$ 500 to those who provide tips on cases of celebratory fire and/or stray bullets.⁶⁰ Recently in Honduras, the national director of the police made a moral plea to the population not to undertake celebratory fire in the absence of specific legislation prohibiting the practice.⁶¹ In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, local hospitals have begun building reinforced walls around schools and adding video surveillance to protect patients and medical staff from stray bullets.⁶²

Colombia is one of the countries most affected by stray bullets and celebratory fire in the Latin America and Caribbean region. This has led national and local government institutions and civil society to undertake a number of awareness raising campaigns, including:

- Efforts by the government of the city of Cartagena to discourage celebratory gunfire and irresponsible use of fireworks during Christmas and New Year's holidays;⁶³

⁵⁹ Johana Robles, 'Cárcel por disparar al aire, propone GDF,' *El Universal*, Mexico City, 14 May 2013.

<<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/922835.html>>

⁶⁰ 'Ofrecen compensas a quienes denuncien personas que hagan disparos al aire' *Caracol Noticias*, Bogota, 30 December 2013.

><http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/judiciales/ofrecen-recompensas-a-quienes-denuncien-personas-que-hagan-disparos-al-aire/20131230/nota/2045919.aspx>>

⁶¹ 'No disparar al aire recomienda titular de la Dirección Nacional de la Policía Preventiva, *La Tribuna*, Tegucigalpa, 31 December 2013. <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/12/31/no-disparar-al-aire-recomienda-titular-de-la-dnic/>>

⁶² 'Hospitales a prueba de balas en Rio,' *BBC Mundo*, 18 July 2009.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/america_latina/2009/07/090717_0114_hospitales_blindados_irm.shtml>

⁶³ Juan Castro, 'Campaña por una Navidad sin disparos al aire ni quemados' *El Universal*, Cartagena, 24 December 2011.

<<http://www.eluniversal.com.co/cartagena/bolivar/campana-por-una-navidad-sin-disparos-al-aire-ni-quemados-58526>>

- An artistic campaign launched by the *Red Ciudadana para la Prevención de la Violencia Armada* en Medellín ‘No a las balas perdidas;’⁶⁴
- The 2012-2013 campaign of the Colombian small arms association ‘*Ni un tiro más al aire;*’⁶⁵



Graphic 7: Campaign material from the Colombian small arms owners association

In Guatemala, several campaigns have been launched by civil society groups to discourage celebratory fire. The ‘*Asociación Elisa Reyes contra los disparos al aire*’ was founded after the 2009 death of a Guatemalan educator by a stray bullet, and focuses on prevention during the Christmas and New Year’s holidays when celebratory fire is most common. The association has established its own Facebook page to keep the campaign alive year around.⁶⁶ Additionally, the Guatemalan NGO IEPADES has been running an annual holiday media campaign against celebratory fire since the year 2010.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ ‘No a las balas perdidas, un canto para el respeto a la vida,’ *El Colombiano*, Medellín, 14 December 2013. <http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/N/no_a_las_balas_perdidas_un_canto_por_el_respeto_a_la_vida/no_a_las_balas_perdidas_un_canto_por_el_respeto_a_la_vida.asp>

⁶⁵ <http://www.armascolombia.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50:exitosa-campana-ni-un-tiro-mas-al-aire&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=50>

⁶⁶ Promueven campaña para prevenir más víctimas por disparos al aire,’ *Prensa Libre*, Guatemala City, 21 December 2013 <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/Promueven-campana-evitar-victimas-disparos_0_612539028.html>

⁶⁷ <<http://iepades.com/campaign/campana-contra-disparos-al-aire>>



Graphic 8: Campaign material from Guatemala civil society campaign

In Paraguay, a media campaign using posters and YouTube videos has been implemented to address the problem of stray bullets caused by shots in the air in that country.⁶⁸

Additionally, the growing network of national '24-0' initiatives where civil society encourages collective efforts to focus day by day on getting through a 24 hour period with 0 small arms deaths, includes addressing stray bullets and celebratory fire. This initiative began in Colombia and has since expanded to Guatemala and Mexico.

In summary, the campaigns against celebratory fire are heavily focused on Christmas and end of year holidays and on the use of media campaigns with artistic content. There may be additional campaigns that address violence more broadly, such as those focused on preventing violence at sporting events, but none were identified by the authors as directly addressing stray bullets or celebratory fire.

UNLIREC invites government officials and specialists in this field to share information on public policies and campaigns addressing celebratory fire via e-mail to: <programme@unlirec.org>.

3.2 Initiatives to address use of force and small arms in law enforcement operations

This working paper documented that - of the 550 cases of stray bullets cases examined - 14% involved law enforcement operations, both pure law enforcement operations and those

⁶⁸ < http://www.activism.com/es_AR/peticion/basta-de-disparos-al-aire/43294 >

combined with other categories such as armed robbery, etc. In some cases, police or military officers fired the bullet that went astray, in others, criminals fired and yet in others, the specific source of the bullet was not identified. This study takes at face value the reporting of journalists and does not pass judgment as to whether a specific law enforcement operation was justifiable according to the standards of legality, necessity and proportionality.⁶⁹

However, the authors of this working paper did draw the following general conclusions in relation to the body of cases documented here. First, while most cases of law enforcement small arms use were indeed legal, some potentially did not meet the criteria of necessity and proportionality. Second, in some cases, law enforcement officials could have potentially benefited from access to less lethal weapons, such as tasers to confront criminals. This latter issue is highly controversial and these less lethal weapons have been adopted by some police forces while in some countries the debate and desirability of incorporating these items into the law enforcement toolkit is controversial and ongoing.

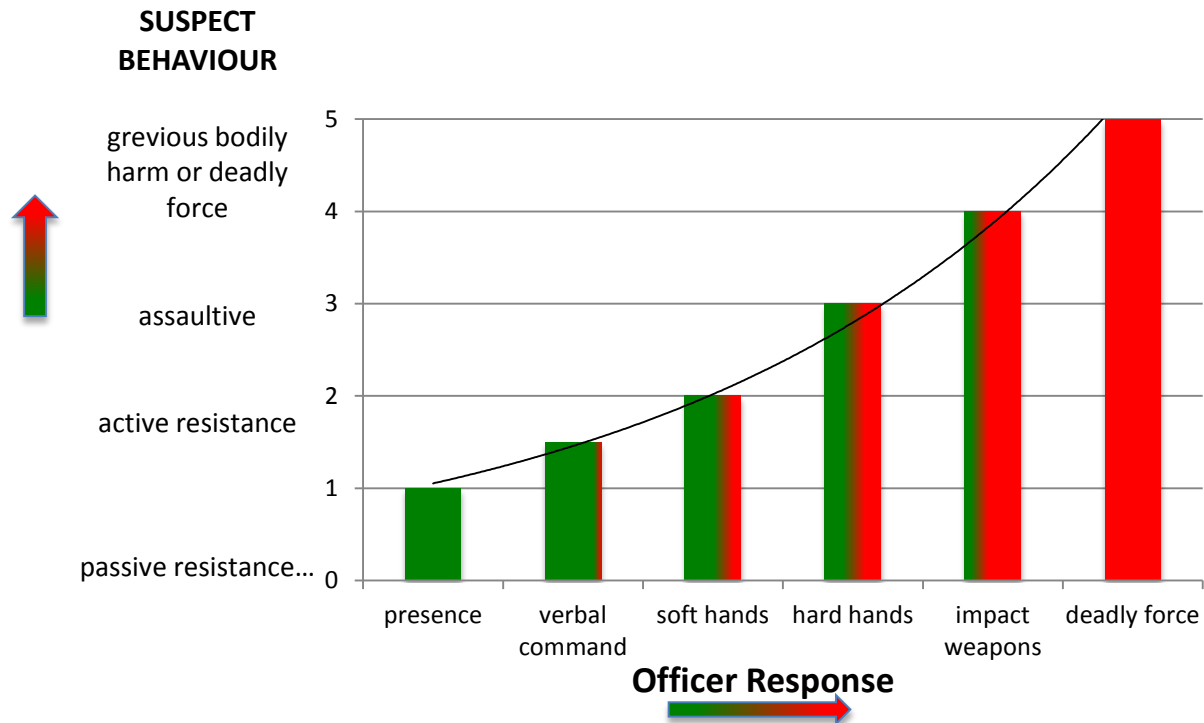
Since 2009, UNLIREC has partnered with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through its flagship *Inter Institutional Training Course for Combating Illicit Small Arms Trafficking* to include specific training on the international instruments related to the use of force and small arms for police and other law enforcement officials.⁷⁰ To date, UNLIREC has trained law enforcement officials from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

In recent years, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Academy has begun training officers and recruits on a new model of use of force called the 'Force Options Model' as a way to move beyond the rigid, linear-progressive decision-making process associated with the traditional 'force continuum model' that tends to prevent officers from taking action or drive them to escalate use of force.

⁶⁹ International Committee of the Red Cross, *Violence and the Use of Force*, Geneva: ICRC, 2011.

⁷⁰ <<http://www.unlirec.org/ourwork/IITC.html>>

Graphic 9: Traditional use of force continuum model



The model on which the Trinidad and Tobago Police have begun to train officers differs from the traditional model in that it allows officers to assess, plan and take action on an ongoing basis moving back and forth from the decision to use of deadly force based on the changing circumstances rather than driving towards escalation.⁷¹ However, this model does require equipping police with additional options, such as the intermediate or less lethal weapons mentioned above.

It is not the purpose of this discussion to go into detail about the Force Options Model, but rather to point out that it exists and that some forces in the region are training on it. UNLIREC believes that further development of both evolved doctrine and training models can help reduce the collateral damage caused in some law enforcement operations.

⁷¹ The Force Options Model is currently being implemented across Canada and more detailed information can be found at: http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=1397&issue_id=102004

Graphic 10: 'Force Options' Model



In summary, many law enforcement actions involving small arms and the use of deadly force are legal, necessary and proportional. However, evidence reviewed here on stray bullets suggests that it is important to re-think the use of small arms in specific situations in efforts to prevent the victimization of innocents. The deployment of intermediate less lethal weapons and the reformulation of the use of force doctrine may be elements of a more comprehensive solution.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

This analysis of 550 cases of stray bullet armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean reported in national online media produces results consistent with other studies, in particular the 2013 CERAC study for Colombia. There is more coverage of stray bullet injuries (53%) than deaths (47%), though many cases of light injuries may go unreported and it is likely that when youth of the same demographic group as most gang members are hit by stray bullets it is frequently classified as an intentional homicide.

Clearly, this study establishes that women are more vulnerable to stray bullet armed violence than they are to armed violence in general as demonstrated by the fact that 43% of all direct victims documented in the data set were female, a rate of victimization much greater than that of all cases of armed violence, which generally does not exceed 20% in any Latin American or Caribbean country. These figures do not take into account how women are also indirect victims of both stray bullets and armed violence as mothers, wives, caregivers, money earners, et cetera. Nor does this analysis take into account how women in many Latin American and Caribbean communities live in fear of armed violence in the streets and domestic violence in the home.

Perhaps the most preoccupying finding of this working paper is the degree to which children and young people are affected by the phenomenon of stray bullets. 45% of all documented victims were minors under the age of 18, while an additional 21% were young adults between the ages of 18 to 29. This means that 66% of the victims of stray bullets are under the age of thirty, thus demonstrating rates even higher than those documented for armed violence in general. This points to two issues. First, it is widely recognized that these age groups, particularly young men ages 15 to 29 are the majority of victims and perpetrators of armed violence. Second, it also shows that the physical spaces that young people occupy in society, whether this implies playing in the streets, sitting on porches or sleeping in beds, are more vulnerable to stray bullet armed violence than is the population in general.

The application of the Geneva Declaration typology of armed violence has also been useful in generating a better understanding of the phenomenon and the findings are consistent with those found by CERAC in Colombia. The motives and actors behind a large number of cases of stray bullet armed violence are unknown (36%). This means that many cases are never investigated by police or prosecutors. It also suggests that people from communities most affected by armed violence and stray bullets are afraid to speak out against perpetrators of armed violence. The working paper found the following in regards to the other forms of armed violence:

- **26%** of the cases of stray bullets were related to **gang violence**;
- **14%** of cases were related to cases of **armed robbery and common crime**; **11%** of cases were related to **social and community-based conflicts** or **inter-personal disputes**;

- **5%** of cases were caused by **celebratory fire** or shots fired into the air by civilians;
- **6%** of cases were linked to **organized crime**;
- **Less than 1%** of cases were related to **armed conflict** and/or terrorism;
- **Less than 1%** of cases were related to **mental instability** or people with mental illness; and
- **14%** of cases involved **law enforcement operations** where the stray bullet was either fired from a police weapon and/or a criminal weapon.

The strategies required to address most of the cases of stray bullets documented in this study are no different than general government efforts to include small arms control and armed violence reduction measures (outlined in Section 3 and in annexes 2 and 3) in broader citizen security and violence and crime prevention frameworks. Unfortunately, too often small arms control is not given proper weight in citizen security and crime and violence prevention frameworks despite the fact that small arms are involved in approximately 75% of all homicides across the region. UNLIREC believes that robust integration of small arms control and armed violence reduction measures is essential to reduce levels of victimization, including victimization by stray bullet.

Additionally, this study suggests that it would be possible to address 19% of the cases of stray bullets with specific measures, such as those outlined in Section 3. In the case of this data set, these measures could have potentially resulted in approximately 100 fewer injuries and deaths. The most preventable of injuries and deaths caused by stray bullets are those caused by celebratory fire (5%). Many Latin American and Caribbean governments do not have laws that criminalize the firing of shots into the air in public.

UNLIREC recommends that all Latin American and Caribbean governments, where it does not already exist, consider adopting legislation that criminalizes celebratory fire. It is also recommended that such legislation be accompanied by public awareness and education campaigns, implemented before and during national and religious holidays and at sporting venues.

Approximately, 14% of the cases of stray bullets were related to law enforcement operations. While it is not possible, nor would it be fair, to second guess the actions of law enforcement officers having to make split-minute decisions under difficult circumstances, it is also clear that outdated use of force doctrine, insufficient training and practice and the lack of less lethal weapons can lead to shootouts that often leave innocent victims from stray bullet fire. UNLIREC believes at least some of these cases of stray bullets could be prevented by:

- Updating use of force doctrines to better address existing realities and take advantage of lessons learned in this area by police forces worldwide;
- Investing more resources in preparing law enforcement on use of force issues, beyond tactical training, to include training on parameters of legality, necessity and proportionality; and
- Analyzing the legality, feasibility and desirability of incorporating intermediate or less lethal weapons into the law enforcement toolkit to give officers all the options necessary to preserve order, combat crime and protect the population in general.

The authors hope this study sheds additional light on the issue of stray bullets and the potential role that small arms control, armed violence reduction and other targeted measures can play in preventing more stray bullets and the disproportionate effect they have on women and young people. UNLIREC stands ready to work with Member States, UN agencies and civil society to formulate strategies to reduce armed violence, and senseless victimization by stray bullets in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Annex 1: Chronology of documented cases of stray bullets in Latin America and the Caribbean (2009-2013)

Antigua and Barbuda

Total	6	Organized Crime	0
Injured	10	Gang related	0
Killed	0	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	8	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	2	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	0	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	2	Unknown	5
Age unknown	7	Law Enforcement	No

18 November 2009 (armed robbery/common crime)

A man was hit and injured by a stray bullet during an armed robbery while pumping gas. (Source: Antigua News) < <http://www.caribarenaantigua.com/antigua/news/economy/6891-mayhem-at-mam.html> >

15 November 2011 (unknown)

Two women were hit by stray bullets from an unknown source while walking down the street. (Source: Antigua News) < <http://www.caribarenaantigua.com/antigua/news/police/10707-stray-bullets-strike-bystanders-in-villa.html> >

24 January 2012 (unknown)

A man opened fire indiscriminately with a pistol in a residential complex injuring another man. (Source: Antigua Observer) <<http://www.antiguaobserver.com/man-wounded-hospitalised/>>

15 October 2012 (unknown)

Two men were injured by stray bullets while playing cards inside an apartment building. (Source: Antigua News) < <http://www.caribarenaantigua.com/antigua/news/police/101929-bullets-strike-two-in-grays-farm.html> >

11 November 2012 (unknown)

A man was shot and injured by a stray bullet when a man disguised as a police officer shot another young man and the bullets penetrated the wall of the building. (Source: Antigua Observer) <<http://www.antiguaobserver.com/shooting-victims-discharged-from-hospital/>>

8 March 2013 (unknown)

One woman was hit by a stray bullet during a confrontation between two people near a Bus Station in the evening. (Source: Antigua Chronicle) <<http://www.antiguachronicle.net/crime-police/item/623-at-least-three-people-shot-on-carnival-tuesday>>

Argentina

Total	24	Organized Crime	1
Injured	21	Gang related	5
Killed	8	Armed robbery/common crime	3
Male	11	Social/community-based/inter-personal	6
Female	10	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	8	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	10	Celebratory fire	2
Young Adults (18-29)	4	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	4	Unknown	7
Age unknown	11	Law Enforcement	Yes (5)

2 March 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A stray bullet from a 9 mm pistol entered the house of a former football star when four armed robbers of a supermarket engaged in a shootout with local police in a neighborhood of Buenos Aires. No one was injured, but material damage was caused to personal property.

(Source: La Nación) <<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1104718-flores-asalto-y-tiroteo-en-un-supermercado>>

25 December 2009 (celebratory fire)

One person was injured by a stray bullet during Christmas celebrations in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires.

(Source: La Nación) <<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1215492-mas-de-100-heridos-por-los-festejos-de-navidad>>

5 October 2010 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 23-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet from a shootout between two disputing neighbors in Buenos Aires province.

(Source: La Razón) <http://www.larazon.com.ar/policia/Murio-bebe-brazos-tiroteo-bandas_0_174000027.html>

2 December 2010 (law enforcement operations; social/community-based/inter-personal)

A police officer was killed by a stray bullet, supposedly via friendly fire, when police confronted protesting community members in Formosa province near the border with Paraguay.

(Source: Argenpress) <<http://www.argenpress.info/2010/12/la-comunidad-qom-llego-la-capital.html>>

24 March 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A police officer was shot in the leg and a passerby in the hand when armed robbers shot at police pursuing their vehicle in the province of Buenos Aires.

(Source: La Razón) <http://www.larazon.com.ar/policia/Robo-tiroteo-Flores_0_225000041.html>

26 December 2011 (celebratory fire)

An eight-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet during Christmas celebrations in Buenos Aires province.

(Source: El Comercio) <http://www.elcomercio.com/mundo/muerto-heridos-festejos-Navidad-Argentina_0_616138477.html>

6 May 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 20-year-old professional football player was killed by a stray bullet in the province of Buenos Aires during a shootout between police and armed criminals.

(Source: Trome) <<http://trome.pe/deportes/1411089/noticia-bala-perdida-mato-jugador-banfield>>

25 September 2012 (gang related)

An 18-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet to the neck while standing on the sidewalk near her home in the Godoy Cruz district of Mendoza province. It appears the woman was caught in the crossfire in a shootout between rival gangs.

(Source: La Razón) <http://www.larazon.com.ar/policia/joven-charlando-vereda-murio-disparo_0_390300161.html>

1 October 2012 (unknown)

A five-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet to the neck when two adolescents engaged in a shootout in the street where she lived in the Lomas de Zamora district of Buenos Aires province. The youth were arrested and taken to jail.

(Source: Taringa) <<http://www.taringa.net/posts/noticias/15675446/Una-bala-perdida-hirio-a-una-nena-de-cinco-anos.html>>

6 November 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

Shots were fired in the air in a fight that broke out between fans of two rugby teams in city of Salta. Fortunately, no one was injured.

(Source: Ole.com) <http://www.ole.com.ar/fuera-de-juego/Gimnasia-tiros_0_805719664.html>

25 January 2013 (unknown)

A nine-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while standing on the sidewalk in front of his town in the province of Santa Fe.

(Source: Emol) <<http://www.emol.com/noticias/internacional/2011/01/01/455987/al-menos-tres-muertos-y-220-heridos-dejan-festejos-de-fin-de-ano-en-argentina.html>>

4 February 2013 (unknown)

A 26-year-old woman and her infant son were injured by stray bullets of unknown origin in the San Rafael district of Mendoza province.

(Source: La Nación) <<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1551796-mendoza-una-mujer-y-su-bebe-fueron-heridas-por-una-bala-perdida>>

11 May 2013 (law enforcement operations; social/community-based/inter-personal)

Five persons were injured with rubber bullets when police fired into a crowd of protesters near the Fatamina mine.

(Source: Clarín) <http://www.clarin.com/sociedad/Represion-Famatina-heridos-pegaron-intendente_0_917308732.html>

11 May 2013 (organized crime)

A 46-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet to the head at 06:45 in the capital of Buenos Aires during an assassination hit carried out by alleged members of the Chinese mafia against a Chinese merchant.

(Source: La Nación) <<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1580982-sicarios-de-la-mafia-china-matan-a-un-comerciante-y-a-una-mujer-inocente>>

15 June 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

One person was injured by a stray bullet during a squabble between competing port workers union groups in Buenos Aires.

(Source: Clarín) <http://www.clarin.com/politica/Cruces-palos-piedras-eleccion-portuarios_0_938306251.html>

2 August 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 50-year-old woman was killed by stray bullet coming from a gun fight between two feuding neighbors.

(Source: Clarín) <http://www.clarin.com/policiales/Paso-cuadras-tiroteo-recibio-perdida_0_967103419.html>

3 August 2013 (unknown)

A male school guidance counselor was shot in the arm and injured by a stray bullet in front of the school where he worked in Mendoza. The origin of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Los Andes) <<http://www.losandes.com.ar/notas/2013/8/3/bala-perdida-brazo-preventor-729882.asp>>

10 September 2013 (gang related)

A nine-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet that penetrated his house as a result of a gang fight in a Buenos Aires neighborhood.

(Source: Clarín) <<http://tiempo.infonews.com/2013/09/10/policiales-109114-un-nene-murio-al-recibir-un-disparo-en-la-cabeza-en-el-barrio-zavaleta.php>>

12 September 2013 (gang related)

A three-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while walking down the street with her parents in the Guaymallen district of Mendoza during a gang confrontation.

(Source: Jornada Online) <<http://www.jornadaonline.com/Mendoza/101802>>

19 September 2013 (unknown)

A thirteen-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while walking home at midnight in Mendoza. The origin of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Los Andes) <<http://www.losandes.com.ar/notas/2013/9/19/nino-anos-herido-bala-perdida-739184.asp>>

22 October 2013 (gang related)

A two-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while playing in his patio in the city of Rosario. The bullet allegedly was fired during a gang fight in the neighborhood.

(Source: El Litoral) <http://www.ellitoral.com/index.php/id_um/93980-nene-herido-en-rosario-por-una-bala-perdida>

11 November 2013 (unknown)

A seven-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet to the eye while playing on the sidewalk at 07:00 pm in front of her Rosario home due to a gunfight between two unidentified individuals.

(Source: Arroyo Diario) <<http://arroyodiario.com.ar/noticias/policiales/31279-rosario-una-bala-perdida-hirio-a-una-nena-de-siete-anos-en-el-ojo.html>>

30 November 2013 (gang related)

A six-year-old girl was killed and a 48-year-old man was injured by stray bullets during a shootout between rival gangs in the city of Santa Fe at 06:00pm.

(Source: Clarín) <http://www.clarin.com/policiales/nena-anos-grave-pelea-bandas_0_1039096479.html>

<http://www.losandes.com.ar%2Fnotas%2F2013%2F12%2F6%2Fsanta-murio-nena-estaba-jugando-club-cuando-entro-bala-perdida-uocra-754769.asp>

17 December 2013 (unknown)

A 41-year-old pregnant woman was injured by a stray bullet of unknown origin while standing on a street corner in a Mendoza neighborhood.

(Source: Los Andes) <<http://www.losandes.com.ar/notas/2013/12/17/mujeres-ellas-encinta-fueron-baleadas-756828.asp>>

Bahamas

Total	2	Organized Crime	0
Injured	0	Gang related	0
Killed	2	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	1	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	1	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	1	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	0	Unknown	1
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	Yes (1)

14 July 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A stray bullet from a police firearm engaged in a shootout with armed robbers in Nassau is the alleged cause of death of a young boy.

(Source: Bahamas B2B) < <http://www.bahamasb2b.com/news/story.php?title=teen-death-due-to-stray-police-bullet>>

2 November 2010 (unknown)

A 29-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in the Fox Hill district of Nassau. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Bahamas Press) < <http://www.bahamaspress.com/2010/11/09/women-under-attack-by-crime-in-the-bahamas/>>

Belize

Total	11	Organized Crime	0
Injured	14	Gang related	6
Killed	2	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	6	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	10	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	8	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	3	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	4	Unknown	4
Age unknown	1	Law Enforcement	Yes (1)

14 April 2009 (gang related)

Two male youth under the age of eighteen were injured by stray bullets coming from a 9mm pistol used in a confrontation between gang members.

(Source: Channel 5 Belize) <<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/1961>>

2 February 2010 (gang related)

A seven-year-old girl was paralyzed by a stray bullet that hit her while walking to her school in Belize City. She was caught in the crossfire during a street gang confrontation and is now confined to a wheelchair.

(Source: Channel 5 Belize) <<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/37847>>

11 February 2010 (unknown)

Three people were hit by stray bullets when two youth began firing weapons indiscriminately into a Belize City neighborhood. A 19-year-old boy was killed while a 64-year-old man and a seven-year-old girl were injured in the incident.

(Source: Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.bz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1361:youths-arrested-for-deadly-shooting-on-ca-blvd-&catid=39:crime&Itemid=73>

23 April 2010 (gang related)

A woman was injured by a stray bullet in her arm that entered her residence during a fight among gangs at around 08:20 in the evening in Belize City.

(Source: Channel 5 Belize) <<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/31604>>

23 April 2010 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

An adult woman was injured in the leg by a stray bullet coming from a police shotgun at around 05:30pm in Belize City when officers were in pursuit of a wanted criminal. It is not clear if the criminal being pursued was armed at the time of the incident.

(Source: Amandala) <<http://amandala.com.bz/news/police-fire-at-suspect-in-residential-area-woman-in-house-gets-shot-in-leg/>>

12 May 2010 (unknown)

A teenage girl was injured by a stray bullet during the morning hours in Belize City when a man on bicycle initiated a drive by shooting into a building.

(Source: Channel 5 Belize) <<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/32558>>

24 June 2010 (gang related)

A 19-year-old girl died after she was hit by a stray bullet from a 9mm pistol. The shooting in question was a gang-related attack that took place around 06:15 in the evening.

(Source: Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.bz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1973:joyce-mitchell-victim-of-stray-bullet-&catid=39:crime&Itemid=73>

7 September 2010 (gang related)

On a Saturday evening in Belize City a nine-year-old girl, a sixteen-year-old boy and a 22-year-old woman were injured by stray bullets when the gunfire exchanged between rival gangs penetrated the walls of the buildings they were in.

(Source: Channel 5 Belize) <<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/37995>>

2 November 2011(unknown)

A 35-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet that penetrated the walls of her home in Belize City around 08:35 in the evening.

(Source: Channel 5 Belize) <<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/62735>>

4 September 2012 (gang related)

A 14-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet when walking down the street at around 05:30 pm in Belize City. She was accidentally caught in the crossfire of two feuding gangs.

(Source: Amandala) <<http://amandala.com.bz/news/dana-killed-leaves-6-children/>>

4 November 2013 (unknown)

A 40-year-old construction worker was injured by stray bullets in the legs while working on the second floor of a building project in Belize City at 11:30 in the morning. The shooters were not identified.

(Source: Love FM) <<http://lovefm.com/stray-bullet-injures-construction-worker-in-belize-city/>>

Bolivia

Total	2	Organized Crime	0
Injured	2	Gang related	0
Killed	0	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	1	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	1	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	0	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	0	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	0	Unknown	1
Age unknown	2	Law Enforcement	No

22 February 2013 (unknown)

A man was injured by a stray bullet after hearing three shots fired while exiting an internet cafe in Santa Cruz. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Deber) <<http://www.eldeber.com.bo/el-herido-con-bala-perdida-es-abogado-y-se-recupera/130221225654>>

27 October 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

The daughter of a local butcher was injured by a stray bullet while armed robbers on motorcycle attempted to assault a meat delivery truck in a market of Santa Cruz.

(Source: El Día) <http://eldia.com.bo/index.php?cat=1&pla=3&id_articulo=130563>

Brazil

Total	71	Organized Crime	0
Injured	53	Gang related	17
Killed	29	Armed robbery/common crime	14
Male	36	Social/community-based/inter-personal	7
Female	38	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	8	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	17	Celebratory fire	1
Young Adults (18-29)	25	Other	3
Adults (30 and over)	23	Unknown	29
Age unknown	17	Law Enforcement	Yes (19)

9 January 2009 (gang related)

A 27-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet at a beach in Rio de Janeiro. He was caught in the crossfire in an armed confrontation between rival gangs.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2009/01/09/estudante-e-vitima-de-bala-perdida-na-orla-do-leme/>>

20 January 2009 (unknown)

A 23-year-old man was killed by stray bullet in Lapa district, Rio de Janeiro, while leaving a bar. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2009/01/20/morre-jovem-atingido-por-bala-perdida-na-lapa/>>

20 February 2009 (law enforcement operations/gang related)

A 53-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet from an AR-15 rifle while having breakfast in her home in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro during a police operation against gangs involved in drug trafficking. Three suspected gang members were arrested. Narcotics and AR-15 rifles were confiscated.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/02/familia-de-vitima-de-bala-perdida-em-acao-da-pm-no-rio-culpa-agentes.html>>

8 September 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

An elderly man was killed and four people were injured by stray bullets in northern Rio de Janeiro during an armed confrontation between police and four men armed with rifles, pistols and grenades. The police were pursuing criminals in a vehicle when a shootout ensued.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2009/09/08/idoso-morta-por-bala-perdida-em-bonsucesso-foi-o-20o-caso-no-ano/>>

24 September 2009 (armed robbery/ common crime)

A 29-year-old woman injured by a stray bullet in a district of Rio de Janeiro. The shots came from three men and a woman who were on two motorcycles trying to rob the driver of a vehicle nearby.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2009/09/24/bala-perdida-atinge-manicure-na-tijuca/>>

4 March 2010 (unknown)

A 50-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in western Rio de Janeiro. The woman was hit by a stray bullet in the chest, around 12:00 p.m. in front of a school. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2010/03/04/professora-atingida-por-bala-perdida-em-frente-a-escola/>>

17 August 2010 (law enforcement operations/ gang related)

A 42-year-old man was injured by stray bullet in northern Rio de Janeiro. The bullets came from clashes between police and local drug gangs.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2010/08/17/bala-perdida-acerta-homem-pelas-costas-na-zona-norte/>>

29 May 2011 (gang related)

An elderly woman was injured by a stray bullet in a favela of Rio de Janeiro. A conflict lasting several hours started on Sunday morning after a group of at least eleven men armed with rifles

attempted to invade the favela to take over drug sales territory from the rival drug traffickers. During the conflict six persons died and at least four were injured, including the reported elder woman.

(Source: Emol) <<http://www.emol.com/noticias/internacional/2011/05/29/484322/al-menos-seis-muertos-en-tiro-teo-entre-narcotraficantes-en-rio-de-janeiro.html>>

1 November 2011 (gang related)

Two people were injured by stray bullets in the state of Alagoas. An armed clash between rival drug gangs left three people injured, two of them by stray bullets. Four adults and eight minors were arrested in the incident. Three .38 revolvers, four cartridges of the same caliber, narcotics and cash were confiscated in the incident.

(Source: Gazeta de Alagoas)

<<http://gazetaweb.globo.com/gazetadealagoas/acervo.php?c=191314>>

26 November 2011 (unknown)

The car of the president of the Brazilian Football Confederation was hit by a stray bullet in Rio de Janeiro. He was traveling with his wife at the time. No one was injured in the incident.

(Source: Nación Chile) <<http://www.lanacion.cl/bala-perdida-impacta-al-auto-de-ricardo-teixeira-en-rio/noticias/2011-11-26/172437.html>>

25 January 2012 (armed robbery/common crime; law enforcement operations)

An 18-year-old man was injured by stray a bullet in Rio Branco, Acre. According to information, the victim was hit by a stray bullet while sitting in a vehicle with his brother at the exact moment when two men on a motorcycle were assaulting a gas station attendant. Plainclothed policemen, who were at the gas station, reacted to the assault firing at the robbers who escaped the scene.

(Source: A Gazeta do Acre) <<http://agazetadoacre.com/policia/26463-jovem-e-atingido-por-bala-perdida-durante-tiro-teio-entre-policiais-e-assaltantes-comando-da-pm-afasta->>

29 November 2012 (unknown)

A 52-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in the Curitiba metropolitan area. The victim, according to the police, was a doorman for an apartment building. The shot hit the victim's head, who died at the scene. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2012/11/porteiro-e-morto-por-bala-perdida-em-colombo-na-regiao-de-curitiba.html>>

24 December 2012 (unknown)

A one-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in the state of Sergipe. According to police, the child was in his house on a Saturday night, when two men on a motorcycle fired several shots in the street. The suspects were not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/se/sergipe/noticia/2012/12/crianca-de-um-ano-e-meio-morre-vitima-de-bala-perdida-em-aracaju.html>>

24 December 2012 (unknown)

A 26-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while riding in a bus in Rio de Janeiro. The woman was hit in the head by a shot when the bus was passing through a favela district.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2012/12/24/morre-jovem-atingida-por-bala-perdida-em-onibus-no-rio-de-janeiro/>>

1 January 2013 (unknown)

A 43-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in Porto Velho, Rondônia while at a snack bar. Suspects passed by running and shooting at another individual.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2013/01/agente-penitenciario-morre-apos-ser-atingido-por-bala-perdida-em-ro.html>>

1 January 2013 (unknown)

A 25-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in Belo Horizonte. According to the Police she was walking with her boyfriend on the way to church. Witnesses said that gunshots were heard nearby but the source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/minas-gerais/noticia/2013/01/jovem-morre-ao-ser-atingida-por-bala-perdida-na-grande-bh-diz-pm.html>>

1 January 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 22-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. According to police, turmoil at a New Year's Eve party started around 04:00 am. In the midst of a fight, several shots were fired and one of the shots hit the victim in the head. Police identified the shooter responsible for the incident.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/mato-grosso-do-sul/noticia/2014/01/jovem-morre-com-bala-perdida-em-festa-de-reveillon-popular-em-ms.html>>

2 January 2013 (unknown)

An 18-year-old woman injured by a stray bullet in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro. She was hit in the head while walking with her parents down the street. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/01/jovem-e-atingida-na-cabeca-por-bala-perdida-na-regiao-do-lins-no-rio.html>>

2 January 2013 (law enforcement operations)

A 25-year-old woman was killed by stray bullet in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro. The bullet came from a shooting that took place when police were fired on after making a routine vehicle traffic stop early in the morning.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/01/jovem-e-atingida-na-cabeca-por-bala-perdida-na-regiao-do-lins-no-rio.html>>

2 January 2013 (gang related)

A 26-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro. She was riding on a bus on her way to work when she was shot in the head during a shootout between drug gangs. (Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/01/jovem-e-atingida-na-cabeca-por-bala-perdida-na-regiao-do-lins-no-rio.html>>

2 January 2013 (unknown)

A 21-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Alagoas. She was standing outside her house when gunshots were heard. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/al/alagoas/noticia/2013/03/familiares-de-jovem-atingida-por-bala-perdida-protestam-em-maceio.html>>

2 January 2013 (Celebratory fire)

A 22-years-old woman injured by a stray bullet in a district of Rio de Janeiro. The bullet came from celebratory fire shot by unknown individuals during New Year's celebrations. (Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/01/sinto-que-nasci-de-novo-diz-vitima-de-bala-perdida-no-suburbio-do-rio.html>>

3 January 2013 (unknown)

A woman was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Sao Paulo. She was at work in a department store when she was hit by the stray bullet. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: Globol.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sao-paulo/sorocaba-jundiai/noticia/2013/01/mulher-e-atingida-de-raspao-na-cabeca-por-bala-perdida-em-piedade.html>>

4 January 2013 (unknown)

An 11-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in Manaus. A teenager was apprehended suspected of having carried out the shooting. (Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/am/amazonas/noticia/2013/01/crianca-e-atingida-por-bala-perdida-enquanto-brincava-em-casa-no-am.html>>

7 January 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A woman was injured by a stray bullet in a favela in western Rio de Janeiro. According to police, she was passing by in a car with her husband when the bullet struck. A witness reported that a shooting had begun after an attempted robbery of another car in the area. (Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/01/mulher-e-atingida-na-cabeca-por-bala-perdida-na-zona-oeste.html>>

10 January 2013 (gang related)

A 61-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in Vitória during a shootout among drug trafficking gangs. According to the police, the victim was talking with friends in front of a beauty salon when criminals began shooting and a bullet hit his rib. (Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/01/aposentado-morre-atingido-por-bala-perdida-em-vila-velha-no-es.html>>

11 January 2013 (unknown)

Three people were injured by stray bullets in Rio Branco, Acre. According to the news two men passed by on a motorcycle firing in all directions.

(Source: A Gazeta do Acre) <<http://agazetadoacre.com/editorial/37538-bandidos-armados.html>>

14 January 2013 (unknown)

A four-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in Paraná state. The boy was hit while entering a vehicle. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2013/01/garoto-de-4-anos-e-atingido-por-bala-perdida-durante-festa-de-aniversario.html>>

14 January 2013 (unknown)

A five-year-old boy was injured by stray bullet in Londrina, Paraná, while he was playing outside of his mother's friend's house. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2013/01/garoto-de-4-anos-e-atingido-por-bala-perdida-durante-festa-de-aniversario.html>>

15 January 2013 (unknown)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet in Espírito Santo state. She was hit by random gunfire while closing up her shop. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/01/suspeitos-de-morte-de-comerciante-por-bala-perdida-sao-presos-no-es.html>>

20 January 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A man was injured by a stray bullet while riding on a bus in the state of Alagoas. Witnesses said the shot was fired by a man who was standing outside the bus. He and another man had stolen a motorcycle and while escaping, began shooting.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/al/alagoas/noticia/2013/01/passageiro-e-vitima-de-bala-perdida-dentro-de-onibus-em-maceio.html>>

29 January 2013 (armed robbery/common crime; law enforcement operations)

A 68-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet in Joao Pessoa, Paraíba, during a police persecution of two men who had stolen a bicycle.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/pb/paraiba/noticia/2013/01/idoso-e-atingido-por-bala-perdida-durante-perseguição-policia-na-pb.html>>

31 January 2013 (law enforcement operations)

A woman killed by a stray bullet in Rio de Janeiro while carrying a baby. According to initial reports, police officers were chasing another vehicle when the shooting occurred.

(Source: Folha de Sao Paulo) <<http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/1223516-mulher-com-bebe-no-colo-morre-atingida-por-bala-perdida-no-rio.shtml>>

1 February 2013 (law enforcement operations)

A 49-year-old woman was killed by stray bullet when two police officers fired at a motorcycle that did not stop when approached. The officers were detained in relation to the incident.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/02/pedida-prisao-de-pm-e-agente-apos-morte-de-manicure-por-bala-perdida.html>>

1 February 2013 (gang related)

A six-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet in Joao Pessoa, Paraíba. She was hit by gunfire from a drive-by shooting that also injured a 19-year-old man who allegedly was the intended target.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/pb/paraiba/noticia/2013/02/crianca-de-seis-anos-e-vitima-de-bala-perdida-durante-tiroteio-na-paraiba.html>>

3 February 2013 (unknown)

A 38-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Sao Paulo. The crime occurred at midnight in a public plaza. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sp/piracicaba-regiao/noticia/2013/02/homem-e-atingido-por-bala-perdida-no-final-da-sapucaia-em-piracicaba.html>>

4 February 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 37-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while talking on the phone in his home in the state of Sao Paulo. Police were persecuting two suspects fleeing a crime scene in a car when the shots were fired. One of the alleged criminals was arrested in the incident. The police officer involved was prosecuted for unintentional homicide.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sao-paulo/noticia/2013/02/corpo-de-vendedor-atingido-por-bala-perdida-em-sp-e-velado.html>>

14 February 2013 (unknown)

A 60-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Alagoas while standing in front of her house. Two men had opened fire on another individual nearby, resulting in the death of the man.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/al/alagoas/noticia/2013/02/idosa-e-atingida-por-uma-bala-perdida-na-porta-de-casa-em-maceio.html>>

20 February 2013 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet in a favela in northern Rio de Janeiro. The bullet came from a shootout between police and local gangs.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2013/02/20/bala-perdida-mata-mulher-na-zona-norte-do-rio/>>

24 February 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

Three people were injured by stray bullets in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro. Two men aged 15 and 25 and a 36-year-old woman were killed when two other men began shooting at each other after an argument in a local bar.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2013/02/tiroteio-deixa-tres-vitimas-de-bala-perdida-no-suburbio-do-rio.html>>

26 February 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 15-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in the state of Maranhao. The boy was at a party when two men started a fight began shooting at each other.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/ma/maranhao/noticia/2013/02/adolescente-morre-apos-ser-atingido-por-bala-perdida-em-codo.html>>

27 February 2013 (unknown)

A 43-year-old woman was injured by stray bullet in the state of Sao Paulo while walking in a park with her two children. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sp/sao-carlos-regiao/noticia/2013/02/empregada-domestica-e-atingida-no-joelho-por-bala-perdida-em-araraquara.html>>

13 March 2013 (unknown)

A 10-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Sao Paulo while playing in the street with other children. A man on a motorcycle began firing at another youth in the neighborhood when the incident took place.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sao-paulo/sao-jose-do-rio-preto-aracatuba/noticia/2013/03/crianca-atingida-por-bala-perdida-em-rio-preto-sp-segue-internada.html>>

14 March 2013 (gang related)

A 50-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet in Vitória, Espírito Santo, while working on a vehicle in a garage. The bullet came from a shootout between local drug gangs.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/03/mecanico-e-ferido-por-bala-perdida-durante-tiroteio-em-vitoria.html>>

4 April 2013 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A 21-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in a Rio de Janeiro favela during a gunfight between police and local drug gangs at 07:00 p.m. A thirteen-year-old boy and another teenage boy were injured by stray bullets in the incident.

(Source: Folha de Sao Paulo) <<http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/1257648-morador-morre-em-tiroteio-entre-pms-de-upp-e-bandidos-em-favela.shtml>>

7 April 2013 (unknown)

A 59-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Espírito Santo while sitting on the sidewalk at the corner of the street where she lived. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/04/pensei-que-fossem-bombinhas-diz-vitima-de-balas-perdidas-no-es.html>>

9 April 2013 (unknown)

Two boys, aged 2 and 9, were injured by stray bullets in Vitória, Espírito Santo, while sitting on the sidewalk when gunmen opened fire on another youth nearby.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/04/suspeitos-armados-atiram-contrapapaz-e-atingem-2-criancas-no-es.html>>

13 April 2013 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A 40-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in the metropolitan region of Espírito Santo when caught in the crossfire of a shootout between police and armed gangs. A twenty five year-old man was arrested in the incident.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/04/mulher-e-atingida-por-bala-perdida-na-serra-es-e-morre-no-hospital.html>>

18 April 2013 (Armed robbery/common crime)

A man was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Alagoas during the armed robbery and homicide of a taxi driver. A man was arrested in relation to the incident.

(Source: A Gazeta de Alagoas)

<<http://gazetaweb.globo.com/gazetadealagoas/acervo.php?c=221439>>

23 April 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/ common crime)

A 26-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in the west of Rio de Janeiro. The man was at a bus stop when he was struck by the bullet. The shooting started when two men were confronted by police while robbing pedestrians and then engaged in a shootout.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2013/04/23/jovem-morre-vitima-de-bala-perdida-em-frente-ao-barrashopping/>>

2 May 2013 (gang related)

A 23-year-old woman killed by a stray bullet caught in the crossfire in a gunfight between rival gangs while on the street in the state of Espírito Santo.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/05/jovem-e-vitima-de-bala-perdida-no-quintal-de-casa-em-vila-velha-es.html>>

2 May 2013 (unknown)

A 44-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Paraíba while sitting with her grandson in a local snack bar when two men on motorcycles exchanged gunfire nearby.

(Source: Globo.com) <http://g1.globo.com/pb/paraiba/noticia/2013/05/apos-troca-de-tiros-mulher-e-atingida-por-bala-perdida-na-pb-diz-policia.html>>

2 May 2013 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A 24-year-old pregnant woman was injured by a stray bullet while walking home in Santos, São Paulo. She was caught in the crossfire in a shootout between police and local gangs.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/noticia/2013/05/jovem-gravida-e-atingida-por-bala-perdida-em-santos-sp.html>>

3 May 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A male minor was injured by a stray bullet in Porto Velho, Rondônia. The bullet came from a shot fired by a man engaged in a personal argument with another individual before fleeing the scene.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2013/05/jovem-e-morto-por-bala-perdida-em-porto-velho.html>>

3 May 2013 (unknown)

A 32-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in Maceió, Alagoas. The victim was walking in the street when two men fired upon another man who was killed.

(Source: Gazeta do Alagoas)

<<http://gazetaweb.globo.com/gazetadealagoas/acervo.php?c=222296>>

10 May 2013 (unknown)

An eight-month-old girl and her mother were injured by stray bullets in the city of Joao Pessoa. According to police the bullets came from a nearby assassination attempt on a local man by two individuals on motorcycle.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/pb/paraiba/noticia/2013/05/menina-de-8-meses-e-vitima-de-bala-perdida-em-joao-pessoa-diz-policia.html>>

11 May 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 21-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in Rio Largo, Alagoas, during a gunfire between the police and a man suspected of having committed a homicide earlier. The woman was standing in the doorway of her home at the time of the incident.

(Source: Gazeta de Alagoas)

<<http://gazetaweb.globo.com/gazetadealagoas/acervo.php?c=222778>>

17 May 2013 (unknown)

A 23-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in Brasília, while waiting for a bus. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/distrito-federal/noticia/2013/05/mulher-e-atingida-por-bala-perdida-em-ceilandia-no-df.html>>

8 June 2013 (social/community based/inter-personal)

A 30-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet from a .38 calibre revolver in the state of Alagoas during a gun fight between two competing taxi drivers.

(Source: Gazeta do Alagoas)

<<http://gazetaweb.globo.com/gazetadealagoas/acervo.php?c=224399>>

18 June 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A man was injured by a stray bullet while riding his motorcycle at 10:00 pm in the state of Sao Paulo. The bullet came from a shootout between police and criminal elements.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sao-paulo/noticia/2013/06/homem-e-atingido-por-bala-perdida-em-tentativa-de-assalto-na-grande-sp.html>>

25 June 2013 (law enforcement operations; social/community based/inter-personal)

A 22-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet in Campinas when police officers and students clashed and shots were fired.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/sp/campinas-regiao/noticia/2013/06/universitario-de-campinas-e-atingido-por-bala-perdida-em-protesto.html>>

25 June 2013 (gang related)

An eleven-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Goiânia when she was caught in the crossfire of two rival gangs. A 17-year-old boy was arrested by the police suspected of being the gunman (Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/goias/noticia/2013/06/garota-de-11-anos-e-atingida-por-bala-perdida-durante-troca-de-tiros-em-go.html>>

27 June 2013 (armed robbery/ common crime)

A 33-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in the state of Sergipe while walking down the street with her husband when she was hit by a bullet fired by robbers at a taxi driver who had resisted the attempted robbery.

(Source: G1 Sergipe) <<http://g1.globo.com/se/sergipe/noticia/2013/06/mulher-morre-ao-ser-atingida-por-bala-perdida-na-zona-norte-de-aracaju.html>>

1 July 2013 (Unknown)

An 18-year-old boy and a 46-year-old man were injured by stray bullets in Maceió while watching a football match with a group of people when a group of armed men opened fire nearby.

(Source: Gazeta de Alagoas) <<http://gazetaweb.globo.com/noticia.php?c=344107&e=12>>

1 July 2013 (Unknown)

A 26-year-old woman and a ten year-old girl were injured by stray bullets in Maceio when a man began shooting in the street nearby.

(Source: Gazeta de Alagoas) <<http://gazetaweb.globo.com/noticia.php?c=344107&e=12>>

2 July 2013 (armed robbery/common crime; law enforcement operations)

An 18-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Rondônia when her family vehicle in which she was traveling was caught in the crossfire between police and a group of criminals attempting to rob a bank.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2013/07/estudante-atingida-em-acao-de-bando-continua-sem-movimento-nas- pernas.html>>

11 July 2013 (Unknown)

A 22-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in the state of Piauí. The woman was at the door of her house when there was an assassination attempt 500 meters away. Police believe she was hit by one of the shots.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/pi/piaui/noticia/2013/06/jovem-morre-apos-ser-atingida-por-bala-perdida-na-zona-sul-de-teresina.html>>

16 July 2013 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

An 11-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while at school in Rio de Janeiro during an armed confrontation between police and armed gangs.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2010/07/16/bala-perdida-mata-na-sala-de-aula/>>

13 October 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 70-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while playing cards with friends in a kiosk near the beach Rio de Janeiro. Four men on two motorcycles tried to rob a vehicle when the driver pulled a gun and began shooting at the robbers. The bullet that hit the elderly man was reported to have come from the driver of the vehicle.

(Source: Jornal do Brasil) <<http://www.jb.com.br/rio/noticias/2009/10/13/bala-perdida-mata-idoso-na-praia-do-recreio/>>

23 December 2013 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

An 11-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet in Rio de Janeiro while lying on a sofa at home, when a shootout erupted between police and drug dealers in a community in the city.

(Source: Bandeirantes)

<<http://noticias.band.uol.com.br/brasilurgente/video/2013/12/23/14803463/menina-de-11-anos-e-vitima-de-bala-perdida.html>>

27 December 2013 (social/community based/inter-personal)

An eleven-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul when two men began fighting over a woman accompanying one of the men. Shots were fired and the young boy nearby was killed.

(Source: Globo.com) <<http://g1.globo.com/mato-grosso-do-sul/noticia/2013/12/vinganca-motivou-morte-de-crianca-com-bala-perdida-em-ms-diz-policia.html>>

Chile

Total	11	Organized Crime	0
Injured	4	Gang related	5
Killed	7	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	6	Social/community-based/inter-personal	2
Female	5	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	2	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	4	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	5	Unknown	3
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	Yes (2)

26 April 2011 (gang related)

A 51-year-old woman was shot and killed by a stray bullet while cooking in her home in the Conchalí suburb of the Santiago Metropolitan Area. The bullet came from a shootout between rival gangs in the late evening hours and one gang member was killed.

(Source: Emol <<http://www.emol.com/noticias/nacional/2011/04/26/478034/con-dos-fallecidos-termina-balacera-por-ajuste-de-cuentas-en-la-comuna-de-conchali.html>>

17 May 2011 (unknown)

A 40-year-old mother of five was shot and killed in her home by a stray bullet during the evening hours under confusing circumstances in a suburb of Santiago. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Emol) <<http://www.emol.com/noticias/nacional/2011/05/17/481927/mujer-fallecio-tras-recibir-impacto-de-supuesta-bala-perdida-en-la-comuna-de-cerro-navia.html>>

27 May 2011(unknown)

A 26-year-old woman was seriously injured by a stray bullet to the head while walking down the street at 04:00 pm in a suburb of Santiago. The origin of the bullet was not determined.

(Source: Emol) <<http://www.emol.com/noticias/nacional/2011/05/27/484075/mujer-quedo-con-riesgo-vital-tras-ser-impactada-en-el-craneo-por-una-bala-perdida.html>>

17 July 2012 (gang related)

A 36-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in his home while talking on the telephone. The bullet was attributed to shots fired in a confrontation between rival street gangs in a neighborhood of the greater Santiago Metropolitan area.

(Source: La Nación) <<http://www.lanacion.cl/sujeto-muere-en-el-patio-de-su-casa-debido-a-una-bala-loca-en-la-granja/noticias/2012-07-17/081824.html>>

10 October 2012 (law enforcement operations; social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 21-year-old university student was seriously injured by a stray bullet while watching a protest from his apartment balcony in Santiago at around 02:30 p.m. The bullet came from a warning shot fired by a police officer into the air as a warning to student protesters.

(Source: La Nación) <<http://www.lanacion.cl/estudiante-baleado-por-gendarme-en-santiago-duro-diagnostico/noticias/2012-10-10/093016.html>>

25 October 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

Forensic studies indicated that a young police officer was shot and killed by a stray bullet that came from a fellow police officer's weapons during a shootout with a group of criminals.

(Source: La Cuarta) <<http://www.lacuarta.com/noticias/cronica/2012/10/63-145674-9-bala-que-mato-a-pdi-era-la-de-un-companero.shtml>>

26 December 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A four-year-old girl was hit in the jaw by a stray bullet and injured while playing outside in the afternoon in front of her home in a suburb of the Santiago Metropolitan area. Allegedly, the bullet was originally intended for the girl's father because of a dispute over a woman.

(Source: La Cuarta) <<http://www.lacuarta.com/noticias/cronica/2012/12/63-148427-9-por-lío-de-faldas-de-su-papi-nina-habria-recibido-bala-en-el-rostro.shtml>>

23 February 2013 (unknown)

A male union leader was hit by a stray bullet of unknown origins at 03:30 pm outside his place of work.

(Source: Terra) <<http://noticias.terra.com.ar/internacionales/una-bala-perdida-mata-a-dirigente-sindical-en-chile,8a4aba8cb360d310VgnCLD2000000ec6eb0aRCRD.html>>

31 March 2013 (gang related)

A thirteen-year-old girl was killed when hit to the heart by a stray bullet while sleeping in her home in the Santiago Metropolitan area in the early hours of the morning. The bullet came from shots fired by unidentified individuals in the neighborhood that had just recently gotten out of jail.

(Source: La Nación) <<http://www.lanacion.cl/nina-de-13-anos-muere-por-bala-perdida-en-san-ramon/noticias/2013-03-31/135633.html>>

13 April 2013 (gang related)

A 31-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in his home when shots fired in a confrontation between rival street gangs in the San Bernardo neighborhood of the greater Santiago Metropolitan area.

(Source: Emol) <<http://www.emol.com/noticias/nacional/2013/04/13/593276/pdi-arresta-a-joven-de-18-anos-imputado-de-crimen-de-poblador-en-san-bernardo.html>>

11 September 2013 (gang related)

A 19-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet from a gang fight as he left a local football game in the Peñalolén district of Greater Santiago.

(Source: Cooperativa CL) <<http://www.cooperativa.cl/noticias/pais/policial/joven-resulto-herido-por-una-bala-perdida-en-penalolén/2013-09-11/070118.html>>

Colombia

Total	57	Organized Crime	3
Injured	36	Gang related	14
Killed	36	Armed robbery/common crime	5
Male	29	Social/community-based/inter-personal	7
Female	41	Mental instability	1
Gender unknown	2	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	55	Celebratory fire	8
Young Adults (18-29)	8	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	5	Unknown	19
Age unknown	4	Law Enforcement	Yes (1)

25 May 2009 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 16-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet in the city of Cali at 12:15 just after midnight. The bullet came from a failed carjacking nearby where armed robbers fired at the vehicle.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-5270747>>

13 June 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 14-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking to school at 7am in Bogota. The bullet came from a shootout between police and armed robbers who had just robbed a nearby residence.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3484098>>

21 June 2009 (unknown)

A twelve-year-old boy was critically injured by a stray bullet that went through the body of the man originally targeted by an unidentified shooter in Bogota.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3494214>>

25 June 2009 (gang related)

A 13-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet from a nearby gang fight while he was playing video games inside a friend's house in Medellín.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3498879>>

3 August 2009 (gang related)

Three minors were killed by stray bullets between rival gangs in the city of Medellín, a 14-year-old boy, a 14-year-old girl and a three-year-old boy.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3552882>>

23 August 2009 (gang related)

A nine-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet from a gunfight among rival gangs in the city of Cali.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-5921570>>

12 December 2009 (celebratory fire)

A young woman riding on Medellín's cable car system was injured by a stray bullet to the leg. The bullet allegedly came from shots being fired into the air by a group of people celebrating nearby.

(Source: Latin America Herald Tribune)

<<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=12393&ArticleId=348901>>

3 January 2010 (unknown)

One eight-year-old girl was killed and another eight-year-old girl was injured by stray bullets in Medellín. The source of the gun shots was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3781783>>

9 January 2010 (unknown)

A 28-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet while on vacation in the city of Santa Marta. The bullets came from a 9mm pistol used in a shootout between two men nearby.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-6919748>>

10 January 2010 (gang related)

Stray bullets from a gang fight in the city of Cali took the life of an eight-year-old girl and injured a twelve-year-old boy and a 25-year-old man. Two suspects were captured by the police.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-6923767>>

1 February 2010 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 60-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet when a neighbor began shooting at a dog that allegedly bit his son in Bogotá.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-7095127>>

1 February 2010 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A twelve-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet that came from a dispute that erupted outside a night club in Medellín that also resulted in the death of two other individuals.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3818797>>

16 February 2010 (armed robbery/common crime)

A three-year-old girl was killed and her one-year-old sister was injured by stray bullets during an assault on a neighborhood store in the city of Pereira.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3841484>>

12 May 2010 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old female student and a teacher were killed by stray bullets at 1pm in the city of Cali. The shots came from a drive by shooting and were allegedly intended for another student at the school.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3961811>>

2 July 2010 (unknown)

A two-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet that penetrated the roof of her home in the city of Villavicencio at 7:30 pm. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-7786628>>

8 July 2010 (unknown)

A pregnant sixteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet and was forced to undergo a Caesarean surgery in order to save the unborn baby in the city of Cali. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-4044801>>

6 September 2010 (gang related)

A nine-year-old boy was injured by stray bullet while playing football in his Bogotá neighborhood at 3:00 pm. The bullets came from a nearby gang fight.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-7894572>>

26 October 2010 (organized crime)

A seven-year-old boy was killed when a stray bullet hit him in the abdomen at 09:00 pm while accompanying his parents to a neighborhood store in Bogotá. The bullet came from the gun of a local hitman who attempted to assassinate another man in a local bar.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-8203360>>

2 January 2011 (celebratory fire)

A five-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet from celebratory gun fire while watching a New Year fireworks display on his family terrace in Cartagena.

(Source: El Heraldo) <<http://www.elheraldo.co/judicial/nino-de-5-anos-resulto-herido-por-bala-perdida-en-cartagena>>

3 January 2011 (celebratory fire)

A seven-year-old boy was killed after a stray bullet from celebratory fire hit him in the head during end of year celebrations in the district of Soacha.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-4329116>>

3 January 2011 (celebratory fire)

Two-five-year-old boys were injured by stray bullets from end of year celebratory fire in the city of Medellín.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-4329116>>

6 January 2011 (unknown)

A fifteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet from an unknown source in southern Bogotá.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-8748620>>

6 January 2011 (celebratory fire)

An eight-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet from celebratory fire that came through the roof of her home during New Year celebrations.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-8748620>>

25 July 2011 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking down the street in the city of Cali. She was caught in the crossfire of rival gangs.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-4705772>>

20 August 2011 (unknown)

An eight-year-old girl was injured by stray bullet to the head while watching television with her family at 09:45pm. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-4765813>>

9 October 2011 (unknown)

An eight-month-old baby boy was killed in his sleep by a stray bullet when a man fired at a local hairdresser in the department of Cordoba. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Heraldo) <<http://www.elheraldo.co/regi-n/menor-de-diez-meses-muri-por-una-bala-perdida-en-homicidio-contra-peluquero-41022>>

13 October 2011 (gang related)

A 39-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a rifle while riding in Medellín's Metro Cable Car. Shots were fired between rival gangs in the hills through which the cable car travels.

(Source: Caracol) <<http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/regionales/bala-perdida-cause-la-muerte-de-un-pasajero-del-metrocable-de-medellin/20111013/nota/1561554.aspx>>

27 December 2011 (unknown)

A nine-year-old boy was critically injured by a stray bullet while playing outside of his Bogotá residence. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-5053933>>

1 January 2012 (unknown)

A six-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from an unidentified source that came through her house on New Year's Eve in the city of Monteria.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-10931231>>

3 January 2012 (celebratory fire)

An eleven-year-old girl was killed by stray bullets from end of year celebratory gun fire in the city of Medellín. Colombian police report that 57 people were killed by stray bullets from celebratory fire in 2012.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12489544>>

4 January 2012 (gang related)

A three-year-old girl was killed and a twenty year-old man was injured by stray bullets coming from a shootout among rival drug trafficking gangs in the city of Barrancabermeja at 08:50 o'clock at night.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-10935085>>

9 January 2012 (organized crime)

A nine-year-old girl was paralyzed from the waist down by a stray bullet in the department of Atlantico. The incident happened when two men nearby shot at another apparently in an assassination attempt.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-5069733>>

10 January 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A seven-year-old baby girl was injured by a stray bullet when a man shot at her house in an apparent personal dispute with the baby's father. The man was detained by the police.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-10942053>>

28 March 2012 (armed robbery/common crime)

A fifteen-year-old mother was killed by a stray bullet in the city of Cali. She was walking down the road when armed robbers attacked a delivery truck and engaged armed guards on board in a shootout.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-11444002>>

6 April 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A two-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet when two men began fighting after a local football match. Both men were arrested by the local police.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-11510342>>

10 April 2012 (gang related)

A thirteen-year-old boy was killed and three other boys under the age of eighteen were injured by stray bullets while playing cards outside at 10:00 pm in the city of Cali. The youth were apparently caught in crossfire among rival gangs.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-5340086>>

11 April 2012 (unknown)

A young mother was killed and her four-year-old son was injured when they were caught in the crossfire of a gunfight when she was taking her son to school in the city of Medellín.

(Source: El Colombiano)

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/A/asesinan_a_otra_joven_mama_que_llevaba_a_su_nina_al_colegio/asesinan_a_otra_joven_mama_que_llevaba_a_su_nina_al_colegio.asp>

27 April 2012 (gang related)

A seven-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking to her mother's street vendor stand at 9:30 pm in the city of Cali. She was hit by stray gunfire from two rival gangs.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-11668587>>

20 May 2012 (gang related)

An eighteen-month-old boy was injured by stray bullet from a gunfight among rival gangs in the city of Cali.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-11838382>>

5 June 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A twenty-year-old woman was killed and another woman was injured when a man fired his small arms in an apparent inter-personal dispute in a rural community of Ibagué.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-11923547>>

1 January 2013 (celebratory fire)

A twelve-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from celebratory fire while watching fireworks on her patio in Medellín. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-11923547>>

29 January 2013 (unknown)

Two people were injured by stray bullets while riding in the Metro Cable Car in Medellín. The source of the bullets was not identified.

(Source: El Espectador) <<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/articulo-401031-dos-personas-heridas-bala-perdida-metrocable-de-medellin>>

18 March 2013 (celebratory fire)

A sixteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet to the arms and chest from celebratory shots in the air after a party in the city of Pereira. The shooter was eventually found and arrested. Two illegal revolvers and an illegal pistol were confiscated from the residence of the accused.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12700382>>

19 March 2013 (unknown)

An eighteen-year-old male national cycling champion was killed by stray bullets from an unidentified gunfight in Medellín.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12700848>>

26 March 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A thirteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while riding on the public bicycle path in the city of Cali. The bullets came from a confusing incident where armed assailants tried to rob a bicycle from another cyclist nearby.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12711547>>

26 March 2013 (gang related)

A four-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet when two rival gangs engaged in a gunfight in the city of Cali.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12711547>>

23 May 2013 (unknown)

A 29-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet when her street food vending stand became part of a shootout between unidentified persons at 11:30 pm in Medellín.

(Source: El Colombiano)

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/M/muere_otra_mujer_por_bala_perdida/muere_otra_mujer_por_bala_perdida.asp>

30 July 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A seven-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet when two men under the influence of alcohol started shooting at each other in a dispute over a board game.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-12711547>>

1 September 2013 (unknown)

A twenty-year-old Mormon missionary man from the Dominican Republic was killed by a stray bullet in the company of several missionary colleagues in the city of Cali. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-13039691>>

7 October 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A five-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet when a man opened fire into the business owned by his parents at 09:00 pm in southern Bogotá. The shooter was a disgruntled client under the influence of alcohol.

(Source: El Tiempo) <<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-13105418>>

9 October 2013 (gang related)

A ten-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet when caught in the crossfire between rival gangs in a Cali neighborhood. The mother of the minor and her four siblings soon had to leave the neighborhood under threat from gang members if they testified about the shooting.

(Source: El País) <<http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/judicial/noticias/madre-menor-muerta-por-bala-perdida-cali-tuvo-abandonar-su-barrio>>

25 October 2013 (mental instability)

A girl under the age of eighteen was killed and her grandmother was injured when a drunk man was seen shooting indiscriminately at the building where they lived in the port city of Buenaventura. The suspect was not found by authorities.

(Source: El País) <<http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/judicial/noticias/muere-menor-buenaventura-por-bala-perdida>>

11 November 2013 (organized crime)

A six-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while playing with friends at 03:20 pm in the city of Cali. The bullet came from an attack on another individual nearby who was also killed.

(Source: El País) <<http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/judicial/noticias/menor-seis-anos-perdio-vida-por-bala-perdida-oriente-cali>>

3 December 2013 (unknown)

A 38-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet while making a phone call from her balcony in Medellín. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Colombiano)

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/E/en_estado_critico_esta_mujer_herida_por_bala_perdida_en_la_alborada/en_estado_critico_esta_mujer_herida_por_bala_perdida_en_la_alborada.asp>

25 December 2013 (unknown)

A ten-year-old-girl was injured by a stray bullet while playing with friends inside her home in Bucaramanga. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Vanguardia) <<http://www.vanguardia.com/judicial/239616-menor-de-10-anos-fue-victima-de-bala-perdida-en-el-norte-de-bucaramanga>>

25 December 2013 (gang related)

A four-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in what police believed to be a revenge shooting directed at another person in the city of Barrancabermeja.

(Source: Vanguardia) <<http://www.vanguardia.com/judicial/239627-herido-nino-de-cuatro-anos-por-una-bala-en-atentado-sicarial-en-barrancabermeja>>

30 December 2013 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old pregnant woman was critically injured by a stray bullet in the city of Cali causing her to lose her baby. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Tiempo) <http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-13326522.html>

Costa Rica

Total	9	Organized Crime	0
Injured	2	Gang related	3
Killed	7	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	6	Social/community-based/inter-personal	3
Female	3	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	3	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	2	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	2	Unknown	2
Age unknown	2	Law Enforcement	No

30 June 2010 (armed robbery/common crime)

A fourteen-year-old boy was killed when a stray bullet hit him in the back in the Caribbean city of Limon. The bullet came from a weapon fired by two suspected armed robbers.

(Source: Nacion) <[http://www.nacion.com/2010-06-](http://www.nacion.com/2010-06-30/Sucesos/UltimaHora/Sucesos2429663.aspx#sthash.9N3eQPN8.dpuf)

[30/Sucesos/UltimaHora/Sucesos2429663.aspx#sthash.9N3eQPN8.dpuf](http://www.nacion.com/2010-06-30/Sucesos/UltimaHora/Sucesos2429663.aspx#sthash.9N3eQPN8.dpuf)>

24 August 2010 (gang related)

A 25-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while walking with his girlfriend. The bullet originated in a nearby gang fight between rival gangs in central San Jose.

(Source: Al Día) <http://www.aldia.cr/ad_ee/2010/agosto/24/sucesos2495007.html>

15 June 2012 (unknown)

A woman was injured by a stray bullet to the head while sleeping in her home. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <<http://www.prensalibre.cr/lpl/suceso/66514-bala-perdida-la-hiere-en-la-cabeza-mientras-dormia.html>>

15 June 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 30-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while walking on the side of a rural road. The stray bullet came from nearby where a couple opened fire on a church congregation.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <<http://www.prensalibre.cr/lpl/suceso/67327-tiroteo-contra-iglesia-deja-un-muerto.html>>

18 June 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A young man was shot and killed by a stray bullet that came from a gun fight between two men outside a bar in the town of Pavas.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <<http://www.prensalibre.cr/lpl/suceso/65673-muere-por-bala-perdida-en-rina-ajena.html><

19 December 2012 (gang related)

A seventeen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet to the head while traveling with his mother on a public bus route near San Jose. The bullet came from shots fired by nearby gang members.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <<http://www.prensalibre.cr/lpl/suceso/75691-bala-perdida-habria-acabado-con-menor-en-la-carpio.html>>

8 April 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 53-year-old man who made his living driving a taxi was killed by a stray bullet that came from a dispute outside a bar in the town of Alajuelita.

(Source: Nación) <http://www.nacion.com/sucesos/Muere-recibio-perdida-intentaron-Alajuelita_0_1334266621.html>

June 2013 (gang related)

A school girl was shot and injured in the leg by a stray bullet in the town of Alajuelita as two rival bands engaged in a shootout over drug dealing territory.

(Source: Diario Extra) <<http://www.diarioextra.com/Dnew/noticiaDetalle/68765>>

3 October 2013 (unknown)

A mother of four was killed by a stray bullet from an AK-47 assault rifle while resting in her San Jose home. At the scene of a nearby gang shootout that may have caused the incident the police found projectiles from AK-47 rifles, .38 revolvers and 9mm pistols.

(Source: Nación) <http://www.nacion.com/opinion/editorial/Balas-perdidas_0_1369863011.html>

Dominican Republic

Total	13	Organized Crime	0
Injured	7	Gang related	2
Killed	6	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	4	Social/community-based/inter-personal	4
Female	9	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	8	Celebratory fire	1
Young Adults (18-29)	2	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	3	Unknown	5
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	Yes (2)

16 April 2009 (unknown)

An eight-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet to the chest that entered her Santo Domingo apartment while sleeping in her mother's arms at 03:30 in the morning. The origin of the bullet is unknown.

(Source: Listín Diario) < <http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2009/4/15/97786/La-bala-perdida-que-no-encontro-corazon-de-Eliana-Gabriela>>

22 July 2009 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A fourteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet in the province of Peravia. The bullet that hit her came from gunfire between two quarrelling customers at a local gas station pump.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2009/7/21/108915/Una-ola-de-muertes-violentas-afecta-la-comunidad-banileja>>

8 November 2009 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 21-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet in the city of Santiago while eating in a transportation company cafeteria during a community protest.

(Source: Listín Diario) < <http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2009/8/11/111148/Un-obrero-resulta-herido-de-gravedad-en-medio-de-protestas-en-Navarrete>>

5 January 2010 (unknown)

An eleven-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in Santo Domingo. The origin of the bullet is unknown.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2010/1/4/127024/Van-28-personas-muertas-en-el-fin-de-ano>>

5 January 2010 (unknown)

A 26-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while playing dominoes with friends in Santo Domingo. The origin of the bullet is unknown.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2010/1/5/127059/Patrulla-mato-esta-madrugada-presunto-delincuente-en-SC-hieren-2-asalto>>

12 April 2010 (gang related)

A 20-months-old baby girl was killed by a stray bullet during a shootout among rival drug traffickers in Santo Domingo. One of the accused was held in preventive detention.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2010/4/12/138116/Tres-meses-de-prision-preventiva-para-acusado-por-muerte-bebe>>

15 September 2010 (celebratory fire)

A 67-year-old man was killed while driving his car on the highway by a stray bullet fired by from the pistol of a street car vendor. The vendor was known to fire in the air when he had consumed too much alcohol.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2010/9/14/158837/Vendedor-de-chicharrones-disparo-la-bala-que-mato-a-hermano-de-ex-rector>>

31 May 2011 (gang related)

A 34-year-old mother of four was killed by a stray bullet in the town of Bani. The bullet came from shots fired between rival drug gangs.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2011/5/31/190263/Bala-perdida-mata-a-madre-de-4-hijos>>

8 August 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A teenage girl was killed by a stray bullet to the head in the town of Basima. The bullet came from an armed confrontation between a military official and a group of armed criminals.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2011/8/7/198793/Fallecio-esta-tarde-adolescente-herida-de-un-balazo-en-la-cabeza-en-Villa>>

3 September 2012 (unknown)

A six-year-old girl was seriously injured by a stray bullet that entered her house while sleeping at night. The origin of the bullet is unknown.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2012/9/3/245903/Una-nina-de-6-anos-se-encuentra-en-estado-critico-tras-recibir-un-balazo>>

12 February 2013 (law enforcement operations; social/community-based/inter-personal)

A thirteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet, possibly fired by police in the context of a heated community protest.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2013/2/11/265524/Protestas-en-Navarrete-dejan-tres-heridos-entre-ellos-una-nina-de-13-anos>>

18 March 2013 (unknown)

A fourteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet to the head while she was with her family in front of her Santo Domingo home. The origin of the bullet is unknown.

(Source: Listín Diario) <<http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2013/2/11/265524/Protestas-en-Navarrete-dejan-tres-heridos-entre-ellos-una-nina-de-13-anos>>

30 March 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 65-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in Santo Domingo. The bullet was fired by a man shooting at a friend with whom he had a personal dispute.

(Source: Listín Diario) <http://www.listin.com.do/la-republica/2013/3/30/271278/Joven-de-17-anos-muere-al-caer-de-segundo-piso-y-mujer-de-65-por-una-bala>>

Ecuador

Total	14	Organized Crime	2
Injured	8	Gang related	6
Killed	9	Armed robbery/common crime	2
Male	8	Social/community-based/inter-personal	1
Female	9	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	7	Celebratory fire	2
Young Adults (18-29)	2	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	2	Unknown	2
Age unknown	6	Law Enforcement	Yes (2)

17 June 2009 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet from a gang fight while shining his shoes at 08:40pm for school the next day.

(Source: Hoy) <<http://www.hoy.com.ec/noticias-ecuador/un-menor-de-12-anos-muere-a-causa-de-una-bala-perdida-353696.html>>

23 November 2009 (armed robbery/common crime)

An unidentified woman was injured by a stray bullet in an armed assault using sub-machine guns on a supermarket in Quito.

(Source: La Hora) <http://www.lahora.com.ec/index.php/noticias/show/961708/-1/Tres_muertos_de_bala_por_robo.html#.Ugj8P9L-Hig>

5 July 2010 (gang related)

A sixteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from a nearby gang fight while exiting an internet cafe Guayaquil.

(Source: Hoy) <<http://www.hoy.com.ec/noticias-ecuador/menor-fallece-por-bala-perdida-417117.html>>

11 February 2010 (gang related)

A four-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from a gang fight in the city of Guayaquil.

(Source: Hoy) <<http://www.hoy.com.ec/noticias-ecuador/breves-de-pais-392225.html>>

12 December 2010 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

Two separate, but related, incidents in a prison in the city of Machala near the border with Peru left one prisoner dead and several injured by stray bullets. A gang fight between two rival gangs in the jail left one prisoner dead and two injured in the morning. Later in the day prison officers fired warning shots in the air to dissuade protesting prisoners leaving three injured.

(Source: La Hora)

<http://www.lahora.com.ec/index.php/noticias/show/1101061944/1/Cruce_de_balas_en_la_c%C3%A1rcel_de_Machala.html#.Ugj6H9L-Hig>

9 March 2011 (celebratory fire)

A 49-year-old man and his 27-year-old daughter were injured by stray bullets from celebratory gunfire during local festivities in the town of Portoviejo.

(Source: Hoy) <http://www.lahora.com.ec/index.php/noticias/show/1101106661/-1/Dos_heridos_por_balas_perdidas.html#.Ugj3btL-Hig>

30 January 2012 (armed robbery/common crime)

A fourteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet during a nearby armed robbery in Guayaquil.

(Source: Hoy) <<http://www.hoy.com.ec/noticias-ecuador/una-bala-perdida-mata-a-un-menor-531727.html>>

24 October 2012 (gang related)

A nineteen-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet when rival gang members fired at and killed two of their enemies at a funeral service around 09:00 pm in the town of Babahoyo.

(Source: La Hora) <http://www.lahora.com.ec/index.php/noticias/show/1101412215/-1/home/goRegional/Manta#.Uhn_bNL-Hig>

January 2013 (unknown)

A four-month-old baby girl was killed by a stray bullet that entered her house during a street fight in a suburb of Guayaquil at 01:30 in the afternoon.

(Source: El Universo) <<http://www.eluniverso.com/2013/01/26/1/1422/bala-perdida-mato-nina-4-meses-empalme.html>>

28 January 2013 (organized crime)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet inside a brothel in Quito when a man in an adjacent room was assassinated by unidentified armed attackers at 10:00 in the evening.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias) <<http://www.ultimasnoticias.ec/noticias/13027-asesinados-fuera-de-burdeles.html>>

18 June 2013 (organized crime)

A 32-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet during an assassination of another man nearby in the town of Huaquillas.

(Source: La Hora) <http://www.lahora.com.ec/index.php/noticias/show/1101522947/-1/Nuevo_sicariato_en_Huaquillas.html#.Ugj4tNL-Hig>

6 August 2013 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A woman was injured in the arm by a stray bullet during a nearby attack on a school bus in a poor district of the city of Guayaquil. A security guard engaged the assailants in a gunfight in an effort to repel the attack.

(Source: Ecuador en Vivo) <<http://www.ecuadorenvivo.com/sociedad/189-videos/3029-balacera-en-guayaquil-deja-a-mujer-herida-debido-a-bala-perdida.html#.UrMFv5qx5kQ>>

2 September 2013 (unknown)

A twelve-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking from a friend's house around noon in Guayaquil.

(Source: El Universo)

<<http://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2013/09/02/nota/1381676/menores-murieron-balas-perdidas-dos-provincias>>

2 September 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

An eleven-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet coming from a .38 calibre revolver in the city of Manabi. Two men, who were both injured, began shooting at each other after a disagreement over a card game at a party at 02:30 in the morning.

(Source: El Universo)

<<http://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2013/09/02/nota/1381676/menores-murieron-balas-perdidas-dos-provincias>>

El Salvador

Total	29	Organized Crime	2
Injured	26	Gang related	9
Killed	5	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	14	Social/community-based/inter-personal	1
Female	17	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	24	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	2	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	4	Unknown	16
Age unknown	1	Law Enforcement	No

21 January 2009 (gang related)

A 78-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while aboard a bus en route to San Salvador when gang members entered and assassinated another passenger. The incident took place at 07:30 am. and was perpetrated with 9mm and .22 caliber pistols.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/departamentos/13774-pasajero-ultimado-dentro-de-bus>>

19 March 2009 (unknown)

A ten-year-old boy was shot and killed by a stray bullet while at school in the city of Ilopango. The bullet was fired by unidentified individuals at least 100 meters away at approximately 02:00 pm.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/social/23805-nino-muere-por-bala-perdida-dentro-de-escuela>>

1 June 2009 (organized crime)

A twenty- year-old man was accidentally injured by a stray bullet when two other men were assassinated nearby in a drive-by shooting in the department of La Paz.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/departamentos/37021-dos-muertos-y-un-herido-en-ataque-a-tiros>>

4 January 2010 (unknown)

A baby girl under the age of two from the city of Santa Ana was the first reported victim of stray bullets in El Salvador in 2010. The girl was reported injured and in critical condition.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/social/83703-bloom-reporta-lesionada-por-bala>>

6 April 2010 (unknown)

A nine-year-old boy was injured when a stray bullet hit him in the arm and the throat while playing on his patio in rural Sonsonate at 02:00 pm during the Easter holidays. The origin of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) < <http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/social/108131-menor-lesionado-por-bala-perdida-durante-vacacion>>

14 April 2010 (unknown)

A six-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while walking with his parents near a riverbed in rural Sonsonate. The origin of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/departamentos/110014-hallan-cadaver-de-joven-ahogado>>

24 May 2010 (unknown)

A one-year-old baby girl was injured in the small intestine by a stray bullet that entered her home one afternoon in the department of La Paz. The origin of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Diario de Hoy) <http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_completa.asp?idCat=8613&idArt=4818595>

16 June 2010 (gang related)

A ten-year-old school girl was injured by a stray bullet when two men tried to hide in a school before being assassinated by alleged gang members. The incident took place at 02:45 pm in the department of La Paz.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/judicial/125801-asesinan-hermanos-en-centro-escolar-de-zacatecoluca>>

21 June 2010 (unknown)

Two girls, ages six and eleven, were injured by stray bullets while traveling on a bus in San Salvador. The origin of the bullets was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/lodeldia/127062-cinco-ninos-con-lesiones-de-bala>>

21 June 2010 (unknown)

A ten-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet to the leg while traveling by bus to the town of Mejicanos in Greater San Salvador. The origin of the bullets was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/lodeldia/127062-cinco-ninos-con-lesiones-de-bala>>

21 June 2010 (unknown)

A six-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while playing in San Salvador. The origin of the bullets was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/lodeldia/127062-cinco-ninos-con-lesiones-de-bala>>

21 June 2010 (unknown)

An eleven-year-old boy was injured in his digestive organs by a stray bullet while playing football in the department of La Libertad. The origin of the bullets was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/lodeldia/127062-cinco-ninos-con-lesiones-de-bala>>

29 June 2011 (gang related)

A fifteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while eating at a local snack bar in the department of Sonsoante. The bullets originated in an alleged gang fight nearby.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/departamentos/202050-tres-homicidios-de-estudiantes-en-una-semana>>

13 September 2011 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A five-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet to the jaw when someone placed a firearm on a nearby table. The event took place at around 08:00 pm in a rural town of Sonsonate department.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/departamentos/217373-ninos-heridos-por-balas-perdidas>>

13 September 2011 (unknown)

A twelve-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet of unidentified origin in a rural town of Sonsonate department.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/departamentos/217373-ninos-heridos-por-balas-perdidas>>

29 October 2011 (gang related)

A two-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet when two gang members attempted to assassinate another man in the Pachimalco district of San Salvador.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_completa.asp?idCat=47859&idArt=6336891>

20 November 2012 (gang related)

A 32-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet originating in a gang shootout in a San Salvador area shopping center. The bullet that hit the woman came from a 9mm caliber weapon and the event took place at 01:50 in the afternoon.

(Source: El Mundo) <<http://elmundo.com.sv/tres-heridos-deja-tiroteo-en-un-centro-comercial>>

23 November 2012 (unknown)

A five-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while playing in her patio in the department of Cuscatlán. The origin of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/Menor-es-herida-por-bala-perdida>>

23 November 2012 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old was injured by a stray bullet coming from a nearby shootout where two gang members were killed.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/Menor-es-herida-por-bala-perdida>>

5 December 2012 (armed robbery/common crime)

A forty one-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet while riding on the bus in San Marcos at 07:30 in the morning. Armed robbers boarded the bus to rob passengers and started firing when they did not receive cooperation.

(Source: El Mundo) <<http://elmundo.com.sv/tiroteo-en-autobus-deja-tres-heridos>>

26 December 2012 (unknown)

A seven-month-old baby boy was injured in the leg by a stray bullet that entered his Ilopango home. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/ingresan-a-nino-de-siete-meses-lesionado-por-bala-perdida>-->

20 May 2013 (unknown)

A nine-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while playing in front of her house. The event took place at 01:00 in the afternoon in a rural area of Ahuachapan department.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/sonsonate--nina-lesionada-a-causa-de-bala-perdida>>

2 July 2013 (unknown)

A four-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking down the main street of her town in the department of Usulután. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/muere-nina-de-4-anos-por-bala-perdida-en-jucuapa>>

21 September 2013 (organized crime)

A twenty-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in a shooting inside a local football stadium in La Unión. The shooting was directed at a local football league official who died in the incident.

(Source: Diario de Hoy)

<http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_completa.asp?idCat=47859&idArt=8190072>

22 September 2013 (gang related)

An eight-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from a gang fight in San Salvador in the same incident where another young boy was also injured by a stray bullet.

(Source: Diario de Hoy)

<http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_completa.asp?idCat=47859&idArt=8192210>

28 September 2013 (gang related)

A 63-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while riding in the bus during a gunfight between rival gangs in the Mejicanos district of San Salvador.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) <<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/2013/09/28/homicidios-en-mejicanos-se-incrementan-en-un-233>>

13 October 2013 (gang related)

A woman was injured when a stray bullet hit her in the ear in Ahuachapan. The bullet came from a shootout where four men were assassinated by alleged gang members in an auto garage.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) < <http://www.laprensagrafica.com/2013/11/14/se-duplican-casos-de-ninos-heridos-con-arma-de-fuego>>

2 November 2013 (unknown)

A ten-year-old boy was injured when a stray bullet hit him in the leg. He was walking down the street in his neighborhood in the department of Usulután. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) < <http://www.laprensagrafica.com/2013/11/14/se-duplican-casos-de-ninos-heridos-con-arma-de-fuego>>

14 November 2013 (unknown)

A seven-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet walking down the street with his family in San Salvador. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa Gráfica) < <http://www.laprensagrafica.com/2013/11/14/se-duplican-casos-de-ninos-heridos-con-arma-de-fuego>>

Guatemala

Total	22	Organized Crime	3
Injured	14	Gang related	4
Killed	9	Armed robbery/common crime	0
Male	13	Social/community-based/inter-personal	4
Female	8	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	2	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	15	Celebratory fire	1
Young Adults (18-29)	3	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	5	Unknown	6
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	No

26 March 2009 (gang related)

A two month old baby boy was killed by a stray bullet while in his mother's arms on a public bus in Guatemala City at 06:00 am. Armed men opened fire on the bus killing the driver and injuring his assistant. The incident was likely related to local gang's demanding protection payments from local bus companies.

(Source: La Hora) <

<http://www.lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/107993-muere-bebe-que-recibio-bala-perdida-en-ataque-a-autobus>>

24 December 2009 (unknown)

A 32-year-old female university professor and anti-gun violence activist was killed by a stray bullet in the middle of a family gathering to celebrate Christmas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Hora) <<https://lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/140041-por-una-bala-perdida-elisa-cayo>>

1 February 2010 (social/community-based/inter-personal; armed robbery/common crime)

A two-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet during a shootout in a Guatemala City bus terminal. The incident involved a group dedicated to vigilante justice that tried to eliminate an alleged criminal.

(Source: La Hora) <<https://lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/140041-por-una-bala-perdida-elisa-cayo>>

2 March 2010 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 23-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while walking in an upscale district of Guatemala City. The shot originated in a traffic dispute between a taxi driver and a man on a motorcycle.

(Source: El Periódico) <<http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20111110/pais/203495/>>

20 December 2010 (organized crime)

Two school children were injured on a school bus when men armed with AK-47 assault rifles opened fire on the criminal investigation unit of the police in Guatemala City.

(Source: El Periódico) <<http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20110302/pais/191722>>

27 September 2011 (law enforcement operations)

An eleven-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet when her father was detained in a joint operation of the military and police in the Caribbean town of Livingston. The bullet came from a shot fired into the air by one of the soldiers.

(Source: El Periódico) <<http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20110927/pais/201559/>>

1 October 2011 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 22-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet when armed men attacked a private security guard in a Guatemala City shopping center. The guard was also injured.

(Source: El Periódico) <<http://elperiodico.com.gt/es/20111001/pais/201765/>>

4 May 2012 (gang related)

A fifteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet when rival gangs engaged in an armed confrontation in Guatemala City.

(Source: La Hora)

<<http://www.lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/157780-en-corto>>

21 February 2012 (unknown)

A ten-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while sleeping in his Guatemala City home. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Hora)

<<http://www.lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/153596-nino-herido-por-bala-perdida>>

19 March 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A two-year-old girl died in Guatemala after several weeks of complications from a stray bullet. The victim was walking with her mother to a neighborhood store when armed men attacked another man in the area. The target of the attack was also injured.

(Source: La Hora)

<<http://www.lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/175149-despues-de-18-dias-de-agonia-muere-nina-por-bala-perdida>>

22 June 2013 (social/community-based/interpersonal)

A 46-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet outside a local night club in Coatepeque. The bullet came from a gunfight inside the night club that left another man dead.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/san_marcos/Balacera-centro-nocturno-muerto-Coatepeque_0_942505951.html>

25 June 2013 (unknown)

A 37-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while waiting at a stoplight in his car in Guatemala City. A gunfight ensued nearby and left another man dead.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Ataque-armado-zona-muerto-herido_0_944305673.html>

10 July 2013 (unknown)

A fourteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet outside her school in Guatemala City. Several men were shooting nearby in the street, but the target was not identified. Two people were arrested in the incident.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Menor-disparos-Calzada-San-Juan_0_953304831.html>

16 July 2013 (gang related)

A four-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet when walking with her dad in her Guatemala City neighborhood. Armed men opened fire targeting a local gang member, but missed their target and hit the girl.

(Source: La Hora)

<<http://www.lahora.com.gt/index.php/nacional/guatemala/actualidad/180802-nina-fue-victima-de-bala-perdida->>

30 July 2013 (unknown)

An eleven-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet that had penetrated the roof of his Guatemala City home. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Nino-anos-herido-bala-perdida_0_965303662.html>

5 August 2013 (organized crime)

An eleven-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while walking out the door of this Guatemala City home. The bullet came from a nearby assassination of another man.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Ataques-dejan-muertos_0_968903164.html>

28 August 2013 (gang related)

A four-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while sleeping in his Villanueva home after a nearby gun fight among rival gangs.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/Menor-herido-bala_0_982701740.html>

13 September 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 25-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while riding on motorcycle in Guatemala City. The armed attack was directed at another man on motorcycle who also died in the incident.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Incidente-armado-muertos-Aguilar-Batres_0_992300887.html>

8 October 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A six-year-old boy was killed by stray bullet while helping his family move into their new residence in the city of Mixco. The shots were fired nearby by a man targeting his former partner and her new boyfriend, both of whom were injured in the incident.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Muere-nino-herido-bala-perdida_0_1007299296.html>

10 October 2013 (unknown)

A ten-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet of unknown origin while playing on his patio with his sister in rural Santa Rosa.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/santa_rosa/Bala-perdida-hiere-nino_0_1008499185.html>

10 October 2013 (organized crime)

A 61-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in an armed attack in the city of San Marcos that also killed two other men originally targeted by the attackers.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Violencia-deja-muertos_0_1015098537.html>

26 December 2013 (celebratory fire)

A 54-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet to the head, apparently from celebratory fire, while watching a Christmas fireworks display in Guatemala City.

(Source: Prensa Libre) <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Violencia-ensombrece-Nochebuena_0_1054694535.html>

Guyana

Total	4	Organized Crime	0
Injured	1	Gang related	0
Killed	3	Armed robbery/common crime	3
Male	4	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	0	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	1	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	1	Unknown	1
Age unknown	1	Law Enforcement	Yes (3)

24 April 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 32-year-old man sitting in a vehicle was killed by a stray bullet allegedly fired from a police gun during a high speed chase in pursuit of another individual at 09:40 pm in Georgetown.

(Source: Winn FM) <<http://www.winnfm.com/news/regional/1618-former-athlete-accidentally-shot-and-killed-by-police>>

6 October 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 22-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet when police fired at another man nearby who was threatening them with a firearm.

(Source: Caribbean Trakker) <<http://www.caribbeantrakker.com/2012/04/berbice-man-attacked-police-with-cutlass-stray-bullet-hits-neighbour/#.UsgwsRbvWUs>>

2 May 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A man was killed by a stray bullet from an AK-47 assault rifle fired from a police patrol in pursuit of a suspect the night after a police officer was killed.

(Source: Guyana Chronicle) <<http://guyanachronicle.com/startling-revelations-surround-shooting-death-of-corporal-cleto-cops-reportedly-tipped-off-about-four-roaming-ak-47s-ranks-allegedly-refused-patrol-duty-that-night-sops-breached/>>

23 October 2013 (unknown)

A fourteen-year-old boy was killed by stray bullets from gunfire in Georgetown. The source of the gunfire was not identified.

(Source: Guyana Chronicle) <<http://guyanachronicle.com/parents-of-vive-la-force-lad-killed-by-stray-bullet-still-awaiting-justice-mother-i-still-waiting-to-hear-from-the-police-but-they-not-coming-forward-to-say-anything/>>

Honduras

Total	38	Organized Crime	4
Injured	25	Gang related	12
Killed	22	Armed robbery/common crime	3
Male	39	Social/community-based/inter-personal	2
Female	8	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	23	Celebratory fire	7
Young Adults (18-29)	8	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	13	Unknown	10
Age unknown	3	Law Enforcement	Yes (3)

9 September 2009 (gang related)

A 24-year-old man working as a municipal police officer was killed by a stray bullet during a shootout between national police and gangs in San Pedro Sula where a gang member was also killed.

(Source: La Prensa)

<<http://archivo.laprensa.hn/Pa%C3%ADs/Ediciones/2009/09/10/Noticias/Muere-policia-municipal-en-refriega-con-pandilleros>>

25 December 2010 (celebratory fire)

Two young boys were injured by stray bullets from celebratory gunfire during Christmas festivities in the city of San Pedro Sula.

(Source: La Prensa)

<<http://archivo.laprensa.hn/Pa%C3%ADs/Ediciones/2010/12/25/Noticias/Al-menos-tres-muertos-en-Honduras-en-Navidad>>

6 June 2011 (organized crime)

A three-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in his home in Tegucigalpa. Nearby armed men attempted to kill another man who escaped unharmed, but was later shot dead at a football match the next day.

(Source: La Prensa) <<http://archivo.laprensa.hn/Sucesos/Ediciones/2011/06/07/Noticias/Nino-de-tres-anos-muere-en-balacera>>

21 December 2011 (celebratory fire)

A teenage boy was killed by a stray bullet from celebratory gunfire during the commencement of Christmas season festivities in Comayagua.

(Source: El Heraldo) <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Bala-perdida-le-quita-la-vida-a-un-menor-en-la-capital>>

25 December 2011 (celebratory fire)

A twelve-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet from celebratory gunfire during Christmas celebrations in the department of Cortes.

(Source: El Heraldo) <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Bala-perdida-casi-le-quita-la-vida-a-menor-en-San-Pedro-Sula>>

2 January 2012 (celebratory fire)

A 52-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet when a family member began shooting in the air during a New Year's celebration in the department of Olancho.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/01/02/“gatillo-alegre”-casi-acaba-con-la-vida-de-cortadora-de-cafe/>>

15 January 2012 (gang related)

A 23-year-old male university student was killed by a stray bullet while working on a construction project when a gunfight ensued nearby between the two main gangs operating in San Pedro Sula.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/01/15/universitario-muere-en-duelo-entre-pandilleros/>>

19 February 2012 (gang related)

A 32-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while resting in his home on Sunday morning from a gang fight in the street nearby in the city of Choloma.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/02/19/un-joven-muere-y-otro-es-herido-por-balas-perdidas/>>

19 February 2012 (unknown)

A 30-year-old construction worker died after spending several days in the hospital when a stray bullet hit him in the brain. He had recently been transferred to a hospital in San Pedro from another in the city of Santa Barbara.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/02/19/un-joven-muere-y-otro-es-herido-por-balas-perdidas/>>

24 April 2012 (unknown)

A school boy was killed by a stray bullet while playing football in a rural community of the Copan department. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/04/24/bala-perdida-mata-a-menor-en-una-cancha/>>

9 August 2012 (celebratory fire)

A school boy was injured by a stray bullet while watching a football game in the city of Tocoa. Several individuals had begun firing into the air when the local team scored its first goal.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/08/09/menor-resulta-herido-con-bala-perdida-en-tocoa/>>

11 August 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A man walking down the road was killed by a stray bullet in the town of Talanga when police and armed criminals engaged in a shootout that left two police officers dead.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/08/11/cinco-muertos-en-refriega-en-esquias-entre-ellos-dos-policias/>>

20 August 2012 (unknown)

A five-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in his classroom at 1:30 pm in Tegucigalpa. Outside the school a man injured by gunfire was observed walking by but no one was arrested in the incident.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Bala-perdida-hiere-en-la-cabeza-a-nina-de-5-anos>>

3 September 2012 (celebratory fire)

A 20-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while watching a football match in a rural community of Santa Barbara department. Apparently, the bullet came from celebratory shots into the air.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/09/03/joven-muere-por-una-bala-perdida/>>

1 October 2012 (organized crime)

A 39-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while walking home from a religious service in the town of Choloma. Two unidentified armed men had shot and killed another man nearby in the incident.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/10/01/dos-hombres-que-regresaban-de-un-retiro-espiritual-pierden-la-vida/>>

5 November 2012 (unknown)

An eight-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while playing on her patio in a rural community of Yoro department. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/11/05/mujer-perece-tiroteada/>>

2 December 2012 (gang related)

A 22-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while walking home in San Pedro Sula. The bullet came from a nearby shooting where one man pursued another on bicycle and shot him dead.

(Source: La Prensa)

<<http://www.laprensa.hn/csp/mediapool/sites/LaPrensa/Sucesos/Policiales/story.csp?cid=366627&sid=951&fid=98>>

13 December 2012 (gang related)

A four-year-old boy and a twenty month old toddler were injured by stray bullets inside their home in Comayagua when rival gangs began an armed confrontation.

(Source: El Herald) <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Dos-ninos-heridos-durante-enfrentamiento-entre-pandilleros-en-Comayagua>>

2 January 2013 (celebratory fire)

Two separate incidents of celebratory gunfire during New Year's fireworks celebrations in San Pedro Sula left a fifteen-year-old boy and a ten-year-old boy injured.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/01/02/gatillo-alegres-casi-acaban-con-la-vida-de-dos-menores/>>

6 February 2013 (gang related)

A sixty five-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while walking his grandson to school in Comayaguela. The man was caught in the crossfire of rival gangs.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/02/06/hombre-muere-por-bala-perdida/>>

26 March 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 26-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while working as a security guard in a bank. Nearby a group of armed assailants began firing at two informal foreign currency traders working in the street outside.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/03/26/balacera-entre-asaltantes-y-policias-deja-un-herido/>>

15 April 2013 (unknown)

A 38-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while waiting at a bus stop in the city of San Pedro Sula. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/04/15/matan-tres-mujeres-en-un-corto-tiempo/>>

22 April 2013 (gang related)

A twelve year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while sleeping in his San Pedro Sula home by an alleged shootout among rival gangs in the streets outside.

(Source: La Prensa)

<<http://www.laprensa.hn/csp/mediapool/sites/LaPrensa/Sucesos/Policiales/story.csp?cid=365677&sid=951&fid=98>>

9 May 2013 (organized crime)

A 27-year-old man was killed when hit by a stray bullet while riding his bicycle in San Pedro Sula. At a nearby football field armed men opened fire and killed two other men.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/05/09/balacera-en-cancha-de-futbol-deja-dos-muertos-y-un-herido/>>

11 May 2013 (gang related)

A four-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet when she was caught in the crossfire among rival gangs in Tegucigalpa.

(Source: El Heraldo) <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Nina-muere-por-bala-perdida>>

17 May 2013 (gang related)

A sixteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from an armed gang confrontation while walking home in San Pedro Sula at 08:30.

(Source: La Prensa)

<<http://www.laprensa.hn/csp/mediapool/sites/LaPrensa/Sucesos/Policiales/story.csp?cid=365487&sid=951&fid=98>>

7 June 2013 (gang related)

A 46-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from an AK-47 assault rifle while in his kitchen at 09:00 pm in Comayagua. Gang members were holding target practice against building walls outside.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/06/07/bala-perdida-mata-a-vendedor-de-tortillas-dentro-de-su-casa/>>

10 June 2013 (gang related)

Five people were injured by stray bullets after two alleged gang members were assassinated in the street by armed individuals in San Pedro Sula. Those injured by the stray bullets included a 52-year-old man, a 54-year-old man, an 18-year-old man, a 19-year-old man and an unidentified woman all of whom were treated in a local hospital.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/06/10/acribillan-presuntos-pandilleros-tras-visitar-reos-en-centro-penal/>>

16 June 2013 (unknown)

A 17-year-old boy died in the hospital in San Pedro Sula after spending more than two weeks in the hospital because of a stray bullet injury. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa)

<<http://www.laprensa.hn/csp/mediapool/sites/LaPrensa/Sucesos/Policiales/story.csp?cid=365263&sid=951&fid=98>>

27 July 2013 (organized crime)

A four-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while playing on his patio in San Pedro Sula. The bullet came from nearby gunmen who were shooting at another man in the neighborhood.

(Source: La Prensa) <<http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/policiales/364985-98/bala-perdida-mata-a-niño-de-4-años-en-la-colonia-sandoval>>

1 August 2013 (unknown)

A five-year-old girl was critically injured by a stray bullet while playing on her patio in the city of Catacamas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/08/01/bala-perdida-tiene-al-borde-de-la-muerte-a-menor/>>

5 August 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A five-year-old boy was accidentally shot and killed by game hunters in a rural community of Olancho department.

(Source: El Herald) <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Muere-nino-herido-por-cazadores>>

30 August 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

An eight-year-old boy was critically injured by a stray bullet while playing with friends on his patio in a district of Tegucigalpa. The shots apparently came from a feud among neighboring families. A member of one of the families was detained by the police.

(Source: El Herald) <<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Pais/Menor-de-8-anos-fue-victima-de-bala-perdida>>

29 September 2013 (unknown)

A 50-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet when an armed confrontation ensued outside his home in Comayagua.

(Source: La Prensa) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/09/29/albanil-muere-por-bala-perdida/>>

29 October 2013 (gang related)

A prisoner was injured by a stray bullet inside a jail in the department of Valle when another prisoner opened fire in the prison against alleged adversaries, one of whom was killed and another was injured. The person responsible for the shooting was in jail for armed robbery, homicide and illicit small arms possession.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/10/29/un-muerto-y-dos-heridos-en-penal-de-nacaome/>>

2 December 2013 (law enforcement operations: armed robbery/common crime)

Two men, aged 62 and 42, were injured by stray bullets while traveling on a bus on the highway in La Lima, Cortes. Allegedly the shots came from shots fired by a military patrol against another vehicle traveling on the highway.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/movil/2013/12/03/ayudante-y-pasajero-resultan-heridos-cuando-militares-dispararon-a-sujetos/>>

2 December 2013 (unknown)

A young boy was injured by a stray bullet while receiving instruction in a woodcraft workshop. Shots were heard outside the workshop but those responsible were not identified.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/movil/2013/12/03/ayudante-y-pasajero-resultan-heridos-cuando-militares-dispararon-a-sujetos/>>

26 December 2013 (unknown)

Two persons were injured by celebratory gunfire during Christmas festivities in Puerto Cortes, a fourteen-year-old boy and an adult man.

(Source: La Tribuna) <<http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/12/26/balas-perdidas-hieren-a-hombre-y-nino-en-cortes/>>

Jamaica⁷²

Total	6	Organized Crime	0
Injured	1	Gang related	2
Killed	4	Armed robbery/common crime	3
Male	3	Social/community-based/inter-personal	1
Female	2	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	3	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	0	Unknown	0
Age unknown	1	Law Enforcement	Yes (3)

3 March 2009 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A seventeen-year-old female honors student was killed by a stray bullet in her St. Andrews home while sleeping at 11:45 pm. The shots came from a shootout between a joint military/police operation and armed elements.

(Source: The Gleaner) <<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/latest/article.php?id=8973>>

3 March 2009 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A ten-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while in her home in St. Andrews. The shot was fired in an inter-personal dispute nearby in the neighborhood.

(Source: The Gleaner) <<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20090308/lead/lead4.html>>

13 May 2009 (gang related)

A man was injured by a stray bullet at 06:00 pm in Kingston during the nearby assassination of another man involved in gang activity.

(Source: The Gleaner) <<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/latest/article.php?id=8973>>

8 December 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

Several taxis were riddled with stray bullets after a shootout between police and armed robbers who had just assaulted a foreign exchange house in the city of Ocho Rios at around 02:00 pm.

(Source: The Gleaner) <<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20091208/lead/lead3.html>>

18 January 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A young man in his daily activity as missionary of the Mormon Church was killed by a stray bullet from a police shoot out during a law enforcement operation.

(Source: Jamaica Observer) <<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Mormon-missionary-killed-in-Jamaica>>

⁷² The Jamaica data does not include cases from the high profile June 2010 intervention in the Tivoli Gardens neighborhood of Kingston where it is possible that a number of people were killed or injured by stray bullets when the police and military intervened to arrest a drug trafficker requested for extradition by the Government of the United States.

9 May 2012 (armed robbery/common crime)

An eleven-year-old was killed by a stray bullet in his sleep when armed robbers fired into his Westmoreland home at around 11:00 pm.

(Source: The Gleaner) <<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120509/lead/lead4.html>>

Mexico

Total	52	Organized Crime	11
Injured	26	Gang related	8
Killed	28	Armed robbery/common crime	8
Male	29	Social/community-based/inter-personal	4
Female	23	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	2	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	19	Celebratory fire	3
Young Adults (18-29)	15	Other	1
Adults (30 and over)	12	Unknown	17
Age unknown	8	Law Enforcement	Yes (9)

26 May 2009 (unknown)

A 26-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet that penetrated the walls while he was sleeping in his home in Coahuila state. Two vehicles were reported exchanging gunfire in the streets nearby.

(Source: El Sol de La Laguna) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/esto/notas/n1176938.htm>>

3 September 2009 (organized crime)

An unidentified male was killed by a stray bullet while traveling on a public bus in Michoacan. The bullet came from a bloody assassination hit where the local under-secretary of public security and two of his bodyguards were killed.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article6418>>

4 September 2009 (unknown)

A male minor was injured by a stray bullet while walking in the street at 03:00 pm in Coahuila state. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Bajío) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldelbajio/notas/n1311401.htm>>

7 September 2009 (unknown)

A 29-year-old man was seriously injured by a stray bullet while talking to a friend in front of his house at 09:00 pm in Chihuahua state. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Parral) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldeparral/notas/n1315122.htm>>

17 September 2009 (gang related)

A 56-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a .22 calibre weapon when leaving his house at 1:00 pm in Leon, Guanajuato state. He was caught in the crossfire of a gang fight where one gang member was also killed.

(Source: El Sol de León) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldeleon/notas/n1327874.htm>>

17 October 2009 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 24-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while walking down the street in a district of Mexico City. A group of armed criminals were shooting indiscriminately in their getaway after robbing a client of a nearby bank.

(Source: Esto) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/esto/notas/n1366755.htm>>

27 October 2009 (law enforcement operations; organized crime)

A fifteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while waiting at a bus stop in Tijuana. The bullet came from a shootout between local police and members of organized crime rings.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://razon.com.mx/spip.php?article12430>>

4 December 2009 (law enforcement operations; organized crime)

An unidentified innocent bystander was killed by a stray bullet during a shootout between army soldiers and organized crime in Monterrey. Twelve criminals were also killed in the incident.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://razon.com.mx/spip.php?article16944>>

8 December 2009 (unknown)

A male minor was injured by a stray bullet while walking down the street at 07:20 in Sinaloa state. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Sinaloa) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldesinaloa/notas/n1433050.htm>>

23 December 2009 (celebratory fire)

A 21-year-old male musician was killed by a stray bullet while performing at a concert at a local celebration at midnight on the outskirts of Mexico City. The bullet came from a shot into the air taken by a man under the influence of alcohol. The man responsible fled the scene.

(Source: El Mexicano) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elmexicano/notas/n1452890.htm>>

14 February 2010 (organized crime)

A 21-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while making a purchase in a pharmacy in the State of Durango. The bullet came from the assassination of a municipal official by organized criminals where the official's secretary was also seriously injured.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article23900>>

16 March 2010 (organized crime)

An unidentified tourist was killed by a stray bullet in the beach resort of Acapulco. The bullet came from an assassination of two local government workers.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article26836>>

22 March 2010 (organized crime)

A woman was injured by a stray bullet in the state of Nuevo Leon as she was caught in the crossfire of an assassination of a former military officer and his bodyguard by organized criminals.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://razon.com.mx/spip.php?article27420>>

5 May 2010 (law enforcement operations; organized crime)

A forty six-year-old man was killed and another unidentified adult male was injured by stray bullets in Mexico City in a shootout that appears to have involved rogue elements from the police and judiciary. An AR-15 rifle and ammunition was confiscated near the scene of the crime. Six officials were arrested and taken in for questioning.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article31599>>

28 December 2010 (unknown)

A 25-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet in front of her residence during the morning hours in the state of Michoacán. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Cuernavaca)

<<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldecuernavaca/notas/n1904941.htm>>

25 March 2011 (unknown)

A 27-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while driving in a delivery truck with his boss in Hidalgo state. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Tulancingo)

<<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldetulancingo/notas/n2015078.htm>>

16 April 2011 (organized crime)

A three-year-old boy was killed by a .45 calibre stray bullet while his father was working on his car at 08:00 pm in the state of Jalisco. He was caught in the crossfire between two bands of organized criminals involved in kidnapping.

(Source: El Occidental) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/eloccidental/notas/n2043907.htm>>

20 July 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A fourteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while playing football with friends in a town near Monterrey. The bullets are alleged to have come from a police weapon fired in pursuit of a group of criminal elements.

(Source: La Prensa) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/laprensa/notas/n2154680.htm>>

16 August 2011 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A twenty-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet during a rodeo event in San Luis Potosi. The bullet was fired during a scuffle between two men also in attendance at the rodeo.

(Source: El Sol de San Luís) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldesanluis/notas/n2188537.htm>>

12 October 2011 (celebratory fire)

A 43-year-old man, and professional wrestler, was killed by a stray bullet when a group of men began shooting in the air during a celebration of a local festival. No one was arrested in relation to the incident.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article94639>>

8 November 2011 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A 22-year-old man known to be affiliated with local gangs was killed by a stray bullet at 11:00 pm while walking down the street in city of Leon, Guanajuato state. Police fired shots when engaging in a confrontation with a group of young people, including possible gang members. (Source: La Prensa) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/laprensa/notas/n2300802.htm>>

2 January 2012 (gang related)

An eight-year-old girl was critically injured by a stray bullet that penetrated the walls of her home in Michoacán state. The bullet came from a gun fight among local street gangs. (Source: El Sol de Morelia) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldemorelia/notas/n2368399.htm>>

6 January 2012 (social/community-based/interpersonal)

A 21-year-old man was killed accidentally by a stray bullet while on a hunting excursion with friends in Sinaloa state. (Source: El Sol de Morelia) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldemorelia/notas/n2373577.htm>>

22 February 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 48-year-old woman in El Paso, Texas was injured by a stray bullet from a .223 calibre police weapon that came from the other side of the border in Ciudad Juarez. Police in Ciudad Juarez were firing upon a pair of individuals involved in a carjacking. Both men were arrested by the police and .25 calibre and 9 mm small arms were confiscated. (Source: El Mexicano) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elmexicano/notas/n2439575.htm>>

27 March (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A fifteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while inside her home after midnight in Mexicali. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: El Mexicano) <<http://www.elmexicano.com.mx/informacion/noticias/1/3/estatal/2012/03/27/559300/lesion-o-a-joven-bala-perdida>>

28 April January 2012 (gang related)

A ten-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet by a gang fight over local drug dealing territory in the streets of Tijuana. One gang member was killed in the shooting and eight gang members involved in the incident were arrested by the police. (Source: El Sol de Tijuana) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldetijuana/notas/n2522327.htm>>

10 June 2012 (law enforcement operations)

A 26-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while driving his vehicle at 09:00 pm in Puebla. The shot that killed him came from a police firearm directed at a group of criminals in another vehicle. The group of police officers involved fled the scene. (Source: El Sol de Puebla) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldepuebla/notas/n2575454.htm>>

14 June 2012 (gang related)

A fifteen-year-old girl was critically injured by a .22 calibre stray bullet when two youth gangs engaged in a fight and pulled out small arms in a school in the state of Jalisco. One of the youth involved was detained by the police after the incident.

(Source: El Occidental) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/eloccidental/notas/n2580366.htm>>

18 July 2012 (unknown)

A four-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet in her house in Mexicali. The course of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Mexicano) <<http://www.el-mexicano.com.mx/informacion/noticias/1/3/estatal/2012/07/18/594683/nenita-victima-de-una-bala-perdida>>

30 July 2012 (gang related)

A fourteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while on her patio in Puebla. Gang members were shooting at and pursuing a young man that ran to hide in a neighboring house.

(Source: El Sol de Puebla) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldepuebla/notas/n2638032.htm>>

26 August 2012 (organized crime)

A 22-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet on the highway at 02:30 pm in the state of Jalisco. Armed men fired at cars that refused to participate in highway roadblocks designed by organized crime to disrupt economic and political activity in the area.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://razon.com.mx/spip.php?article136202>>

10 September 2012 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 36-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet at 09:50 am at a bank in a Mexico City shopping center. The incident involved a shootout among a group of robbers and the bank's security guards when the robbers attempted to rob a money transporter parked in front of the bank. Two of the assailants involved in the shootout were killed.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article138353&tipo=especial>>

12 November 2012 (organized crime)

A 27-year-old female gas station attendant was killed by a stray bullet when armed criminals opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles on a group of police men pumping gas into their vehicle at 04:00 pm in the state of Durango.

(Source: El Sol de Durango) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldedurango/notas/n2767583.htm>>

14 November 2012 (unknown)

A 35-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while in front of his house at 08:00 pm in Mexico state. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Bajío) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldelbajio/notas/n2770825.htm>>

14 November 2012 (organized crime)

A 19-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while traveling on the highway when she was caught in the crossfire of two bands of organized criminals in vehicles shooting at each other on the highway that connects Mexico City with Ciudad Juarez.

(Source: El Sol de Zacatecas)

<<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldezacatecas/notas/n2808352.htm>>

15 November 2012 (celebratory fire)

A ten-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet fired from a 9 mm pistol that penetrated the roof of the movie theater where he was watching a film in Mexico City. Youth gang members were discovered to have been firing shots into the air about 300 meters from the scene of the incident.

(Source: La Razón)

<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?page=imprimir_articulo&id_article=148181>

15 November 2012 (unknown)

A female minor was injured by a stray bullet while in front of her home at 08:50 pm in Guanajuato state.

(Source: El Sol de Salamanca)

<<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldesalamanca/notas/n2771429.htm>>

13 December 2012 (unknown)

A 56-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in Mexico City. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article152947&tipo=especial>>

29 March 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

An adult woman was injured by a stray bullet in Mexico City when an off-duty police officer used his firearm to deter a would-be armed robber attempting to steal his laptop computer.

(Source: El Heraldo de Chihuahua)

<<http://www.oem.com.mx/elheraldodechihuahua/notas/n2929498.htm>>

30 March 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A three-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet that came through the roof of her home in Hidalgo state. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Notimex) <<http://noticierostelevisa.esmas.com/df/577909/bala-perdida-hiere-bebe-miguel-hidalgo/>>

6 April 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A four-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet on her balcony at 11:00 pm in Cuernavaca. The incident took place when a neighbor argued with his family and pulled out two small arms, a .38 calibre revolver and a .45 calibre pistol and began firing indiscriminately. The individual was arrested by the local police.

(Source: El Sol de Cuernavaca) <
<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldecuernavaca/notas/n2939126.htm> >

10 April 2013 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while inside a classroom in a private university in the city of Culiacan. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Mexicano)

<<http://www.elmexicano.com.mx/informacion/noticias/1/2/nacional/2013/04/10/665620/bala-hiere-en-el-pomulo-a-alumna-en-sinaloa>>

23 April 2013 (law enforcement operations; social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 72-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet when caught in the crossfire between a state prosecutor and a disgruntled farmer at 06:00 in the morning in the state of Chihuahua.

(Source: El Sol Parral) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldeparrral/notas/n2958902.htm>>

28 April 2013 (unknown)

An adult woman was injured by a stray bullet while in her home in the morning hours in the state of Chihuahua. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Heraldo de Chihuahua)

<<http://www.oem.com.mx/elheraldodechihuahua/notas/n2964230.htm>>

6 May 2013 (unknown)

A 17-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while sitting with her son in the living room of her house at 08:00 pm in Morelos state. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol De Cuatla) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldecuautla/notas/n2972863.htm>>

27 May 2013 (unknown)

An eight-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet walking down the street at 06:00 pm in Mexico City. An armed man was observed shooting a couple riding on a motor cycle.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article174153>>

21 June 2013 (gang related)

A 70-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet from a .22 calibre weapon during an armed gang confrontation at 02:30 in Guadalajara state. One man was arrested by the police in relation to the incident.

(Source: El Sol Guadalajara) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/eloccidental/notas/n3026443.htm>>

5 July 2013 (unknown)

A 32-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while playing in his band at a concert in Guanajuato state. The source of bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Bajío) <<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldelbajio/notas/n3043131.htm>>

12 July 2013 (unknown)

A 26-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while walking down the street at 12:00 midnight in the state of Sinaloa. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Sol de Mazatlán)

<<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldemazatlan/notas/n3050688.htm>>

20 September 2013 (unknown)

A 38-year-old male was driving on his motorcycle along a road in Mexico City when he was suddenly hit in the head and injured by a stray bullet that penetrated his helmet. He was taken to hospital immediately.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/ciudad-metropoli/2013/bala-perdida-hiere-cabeza-motociclista-zaragoza-952358.html>>

4 November 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A fourteen-year-old boy was killed and a 34-year-old man was injured by stray bullets in the state of Mexico. The bullets involved were fired by police officers in a confrontation with criminal elements.

(Source: La Razón) <<http://razon.com.mx/spip.php?article194767>>

24 December 2013 (gang related)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet at 01:00 in the morning in Mexico City. The bullet came from a gang fight that took place nearby.

(Source: El Mexicano)

<<http://www.elmexicano.com.mx/informacion/noticias/1/2/nacional/2013/12/24/720568/bala-perdida-mata-a-mujer-en-iztapalapa>>

Nicaragua

Total	17	Organized Crime	0
Injured	5	Gang related	7
Killed	12	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	11	Social/community-based/inter-personal	2
Female	6	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	7	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	5	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	2	Unknown	7
Age unknown	3	Law Enforcement	Yes (1)

1 January 2009 (unknown)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet while returning to her house after attending a New Year's celebration in Managua. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/nacionales/36409>>

1 January 2009 (unknown)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet when she went to check on her children outside her home where they were observing neighborhood fireworks. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/nacionales/36409>>

1 January 2009 (unknown)

A young mother was killed by a stray bullet while breastfeeding her baby at her home in Managua. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/nacionales/36409>>

17 April 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A seventeen-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet from a shootout between police and armed criminals who had just robbed a pharmacy in front of a school in Managua. Two police men were injured in the incident and three suspected criminals were taken into custody.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/45387>>

14 September 2009 (unknown)

An eighteen-year-old mother was killed by a stray bullet from a .22 calibre weapon while standing in the window of her home in Managua. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/57110>>

1 December 2009 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 25-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a rifle when a fight broke out at a graduation party in a rural community of the Leon department involving both small arms and machetes. Two men were taken into custody by the police after the incident.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/63082>>

21 May 2010 (gang related)

A three-year-old girl was injured in the chest when a stray bullet from a nearby gang fight entered her Managua home at around 7:45 pm.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2010/05/21/sucesos/25214-pandilleros-hieren-a-nina>>

16 January 2011 (gang related)

A 24-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a shotgun caught in the crossfire of a gang confrontation while walking down the street with his mother in the evening. No one was arrested in the incident.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/92565>>

29 March 2011 (gang related)

A four-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from an armed confrontation among rival gangs in Managua. Several gang members were also injured in the incident and later taken into custody by the police for questioning.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/98309>>

8 April 2011 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old boy was left completely paralyzed by a stray bullet while running an errand for his grandmother when he was caught in the crossfire of an armed confrontation among rival gangs in Managua.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2011/04/08/sucesos/57264-nino-grave-bala-perdida>>

10 September 2011 (gang related)

A 50-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a gang shootout while sleeping on his patio in Managua.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/98691>>

10 October 2011 (unknown)

A stray bullet from a .40 calibre firearm went through the roof of a classroom where youth were receiving training on HIV-AIDS prevention. No one was injured in the incident.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/departamentales/116324>>

4 December 2011 (unknown)

A twelve-year-old boy was critically injured by a stray bullet while walking with his father to a plot of land where the family grows crops in rural Managua. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2011/12/04/hechos/82715-nino-grave-bala-perdida>>

6 January 2012 (unknown)

A young boy was injured by a stray bullet that went through the roof of his house while he was sleeping in the city of Esteli. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: La Prensa) <<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2013/01/10/departamentales/130212-bala-perdida-hiere-a>>

24 December 2012 (gang related)

A ten-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet from a shootout among rival gangs for control over territory in Managua.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/272855>>

6 June 2013 (gang related)

A 24-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a shootout among rival gangs in Managua at approximately 6:30 pm.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/sucesos/288194>>

30 August 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

Two men, ages 76 and 34, were killed by stray bullets in a busy market in Managua when a vendor and client of another stall entered in an argument that ended with one of the men firing a weapon. The shooter fled the scene. A 26-year-old woman who tried to mediate the confrontation was also injured by a stray bullet.

(Source: El Nuevo Diario) <<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/nacionales/295601>>

Panama

Total	6	Organized Crime	0
Injured	2	Gang related	1
Killed	3	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	2	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	2	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	1	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	1	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	1	Unknown	4
Age unknown	2	Law Enforcement	No

3 March 2009 (armed robbery/common crime)

The director of the National Cultural Institute was killed by a stray bullet from an AK-47 assault rifle from a nearby assault on an armored bank car. No one was immediately detained in relation to the incident.

(Source: La Estrella) <<http://www.laestrella.com.pa/online/al-minuto/2009/03/10/director-de-cultura-muere-en-tiroteo.asp>>

14 May 2009 (unknown)

The automobile of the mayor of San Miguelito was penetrated by a stray bullet but no one was injured in the event. The gunfire came from another nearby vehicle of armed persons shooting at an off duty security officer.

(Source: La Estrella) <<http://www.laestrella.com.pa/online/impreso/2009/05/14/inseguridad-rebosa-en-la-nariz-del-prd.asp>>

4 July 2011 (unknown)

A 20-year-old woman and another unidentified person were injured by stray bullets when gunfire began in the Curundu district of Panama City. The source of the bullets was not identified.

(Source: El Siglo) <<http://www.elsiglo.com/mensual/2011/07/04/contenido/385537.asp>>

5 July 2011 (gang related)

A 43-year old man was killed in a neighbourhood of Panama City when a stray bullet pierced his shoulder. According to the police the bullet originated from a fight between two rival gangs.

(Source: El Siglo) <<http://elsiglo.com/cronica-roja/bala-perdida-encontro/23664946>>

21 March 2012 (unknown)

The walls of a Panama City building were penetrated by a stray bullet from gunfire originating in front of a nearby night club but no one was injured. Police stopped an individual near the scene but let him go after he was found to have a legally registered weapon.

(Source: La Estrella) <<http://www.laestrella.com.pa/online/impreso/2012/03/21/una-bala-perdida-en-apartamento.asp>>

26 May 2013 (unknown)

A fifteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet from nearby gunfire in a district of Panama City. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Critica) <<http://www.critica.com.pa/notas/1590562-matan-quinceanera>>

Paraguay

Total	9	Organized Crime	0
Injured	8	Gang related	0
Killed	1	Armed robbery/common crime	0
Male	3	Social/community-based/inter-personal	1
Female	5	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	1	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	4	Celebratory fire	4
Young Adults (18-29)	2	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	0	Unknown	4
Age unknown	3	Law Enforcement	No

30 June 2010 (unknown)

A woman of unidentified age was injured by a stray bullet while leaving her place of work in a local commercial center in Asunción. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: ABC) <<http://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/bala-perdidahirioa-una-mujer-en-la-cabeza-cuando-salia-de-su-trabajo-124962.html>>

1 January 2012 (celebratory fire)

One person was injured by a stray bullet during New Year celebrations. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: ABC) <<http://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/emergencias-medicas-asistio-a-217-personas-durante--de-fin-de-ano-350950.html>>

10 December 2012 (celebratory fire)

A female minor was injured by a stray bullet while on the patio of her residence. The bullet came from celebratory gunfire from a local political party activity. No criminal investigation was pursued by the authorities.

(Source: ABC) <<http://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/bala-perdida-hiere-a-menor-488302.html>>

25 December 2012 (celebratory fire)

A three-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet. The bullets came from a .38 calibre gun fired by a local taxi driver from the terrace of his home in apparent celebratory gunfire. The man was arrested by the authorities and charged with manslaughter.

(Source: ABC/La Nación) <<http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresajudiciales-y-policiales/los-casos-impunes-de-balas-perdidas-597957.html>; <http://www.lanacion.com.py/articulo/106615-extrajeron-una-bala-del-cuerpo-de-paz-valentina.html>>

7 January 2013 (unknown)

A twelve-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet from a 16 gauge shotgun that penetrated the walls of his home. A man was detained in relation to the incident and fined for illicit small arms possession.

(Source: La Nación) <www.lanacion.com.py/.../108351-dos-hombres-son-imputados-por-caso-de-bala-perdida-tras-herir-a-nino-de-12-anos.html>

11 July 2013 (unknown)

A female of unspecified age was injured by a stray bullet. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: ABC) <<http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresajudiciales-y-policiales/los-casos-impunes-de-balas-perdidas-597957.html>>

14 July 2013 (unknown)

A 23-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: ABC) <<http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresajudiciales-y-policiales/los-casos-impunes-de-balas-perdidas-597957.html>>

14 July 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A two-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet. The gun was fired by a neighbor against his partner.

(Source: ABC) <<http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresajudiciales-y-policiales/los-casos-impunes-de-balas-perdidas-597957.html>>

25 December 2013 (celebratory gunfire)

A 25-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet to the head from a .38 calibre revolver in Ciudad del Este in shots discharged in apparent celebratory gunfire for Christmas festivities.

(Source: La Nación) <www.lanacion.com.py/.../108816-fiscal-confirma-dos-imputados-por-caso-de-bala-perdida.html>

Peru

Total	47	Organized Crime	5
Injured	33	Gang related	5
Killed	22	Armed robbery/common crime	16
Male	30	Social/community-based/inter-personal	6
Female	23	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	2	Armed conflict/terrorism	1
Minors	25	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	7	Other	1
Adults (30 and over)	11	Unknown	13
Age unknown	12	Law Enforcement	Yes (18)

4 January 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 40-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet from a shootout between police and armed criminals that had just exchanged a group of street currency traders stealing USD 200,000 from them in the upscale district of Miraflores in Lima at 08:20 pm.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/noticia/239155/agricultora-murio-durante-asalto-omnibus-libertad>>

30 January 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 34-year-old farmer was killed by a stray bullet while attending to his crops outside of Trujillo. The bullet came from a shootout between police and criminals that had assaulted an inter-provincial bus. One man was taken into custody.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/noticia/239155/agricultora-murio-durante-asalto-omnibus-libertad>>

25 April 2009 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A seventeen-year-old boy helping local fisherman was killed by a stray bullet that came from Navy weapons fired offshore near the city of Chimbote. Navy officials issued an official report that the bullets had come from a shootout with criminals at sea.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/noticia/278197/marinos-matan-menor-durante-balacera-costa-chimbote>>

5 May 2010 (unknown)

A ten-year-old girl was injured and partially paralyzed by a stray bullet from a shootout in Lima. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

13 May 2010 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in a district of Lima. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/noticia/477888/aumentan-victimas-balas-perdidas>>

13 May 2010 (law enforcement operations; organized crime)

A 53-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet when he exited a bus on the Pan American highway. The bullet came from a shootout between police and criminals that attempted to kidnap a businessman.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/noticia/477888/aumentan-victimas-balas-perdidas>>

15 May 2010 (gang related)

A nineteen-year-old father was injured by a stray bullet from a nearby gang fight in the city of Trujillo.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/noticia/478939/bala-perdida-lo-hiere-miembro-viril>>

6 September 2010 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A woman was injured by a stray bullet in Callao when police engaged in a shootout with criminals elements.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/634855/noticia-mujer-murio-bala-perdida-durante-tiroteo-entre-policia-delincuentes>>

29 September 2010 (armed robbery/common crime)

A three-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while running an errand with his mother when armed men assaulted a motorcycle taxi in the city of Chiclayo.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/noticia/646520/chiclayo-bala-perdida-hiere-nino>>

3 October 2010 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while walking in front of a discotheque at night in a district of Lima. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

13 January 2011 (unknown)

A six-year-old girl was critically injured by a stray bullet while walking in front of her house in Callao. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

24 January 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 39-year-old man returning home from a football match was injured by a stray bullet from a police weapon fired in a shootout with criminal elements.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

15 February 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

An 82-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while riding in a car in a district of Lima. The bullet allegedly came from a police weapon fired at a group of criminals.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/713880/noticia-anciana-murio-medio-balacera-lince>>

2 March 2011 (gang related)

An 18-year-old man was killed and two females, aged 25 and 17, were injured by stray bullets from an armed gang confrontation following Carnival celebrations in the port of Callao.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/721271/noticia-violencia-callao-balacera-dejo-muerto-heridos-graves>>

17 March 2011 (unknown)

A ten-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking down the street with her family in the town of Chilca. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

12 April 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 28-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet fired by police into the air to deter robbers in the center of Lima. The robbers had just stolen money from a local store when the police fired into the air.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/741793/noticia-hombre-muere-bala-perdida-tiro-teo-entre-policias-delincuentes>>

20 July 2011 (organized crime)

A woman and three construction workers were injured by stray bullets when a group of armed men opened fire on a construction site in front of a school in Lima allegedly over the distribution of construction jobs.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/910601/noticia-obreros-desataron-balacera-frente-centro-educacion-inicial>>

13 November 2011 (gang related)

A 27-year-old pregnant woman was injured by a stray bullet in a district of Lima from an armed gang confrontation.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/741793/noticia-hombre-muere-bala-perdida-tiro-teo-entre-policias-delincuentes>>

14 November 2011 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A two-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet that went through the window of her home during an anti-mining protest in the city of Andahuaylas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/peru/1333482/noticia-se-recupera-nina-dos-anos-herida-protestas-andahuaylas>>

1 January 2012 (unknown)

A female minor was injured by a stray bullet in a district of Lima. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

6 January 2012 (unknown)

A twelve-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet of unknown origin on the outskirts of Lima.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://m.elcomercio.pe/lima/1357674/noticia-nina-que-recibio-bala-perdida-craneo-saldria-alta-manana>>

13 January 2012 (unknown)

A male private security guard was injured by a stray bullet while riding a bus to work. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

13 January 2012 (unknown)

A 58-year-old university professor was injured by a stray bullet while riding on a public bus in a district of Lima. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Expreso) <<http://www.expreso.com.pe/noticia/2012/01/13/docente-grave-por-bala-perdida>>

16 February 2012 (law enforcement operations: armed robbery/common crime)

An eight-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet from a 9mm pistol in a shootout between police and armed criminals in a district of Lima. Preliminary ballistics tests indicate that the bullet that killed the boy was fired from a police weapon.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378380/noticia-inseguridad-ciudadana-infortunio-victimas-balas-perdidas-lima>>

17 February 2012 (organized crime)

A group of armed men hired by a businessman and a group of local merchants engaged in an armed confrontation over a business property in the center of Lima. One of the armed hitmen was killed and another adult male merchant was injured by a stray bullet.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1375664/noticia-muerto-herido-dejo-enfrentamiento-galeria-centro-lima>>

20 February 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

An eight-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in an armed confrontation between police and armed criminals in a Lima district.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/2012/02/20/impresam/mas-informacion-ciudad-2012583>>

23 February 2012 (gang related)

A 38-year-old mother was killed by a stray bullet from a gang fight while running an errand at 10:30 pm in a district of Lima. The source of the bullet was a nearby armed gang confrontation. Four men were arrested by the police in relation to the incident.

(Source: El Comercio) < <http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1378727/noticia-disparo-mata-ama-cas-rina-pandillas-sjl>>

25 February 2012 (armed robbery/common crime)

An eighteen-year-old man was seriously injured by a stray bullet when armed individuals attempted to rob an internet café in a Lima district.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/2012/02/25/impresa/bala-perdida-deja-grave-joven-2013313>>

18 March 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

An eight-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet from a 9mm pistol fired from an official of an elite police unit that was pursuing a group of armed robbers in a district of Lima.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/2012/03/18/actualidad/bala-policia-mato-menor-2016295>>

29 April 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 34-year-old mother was killed by a stray bullet on the outskirts of Lima leaving three children orphaned. The shots were allegedly fired among disputing parties over the occupation of unoccupied properties.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1408118/noticia-madre-familia-murio-medio-balacera-terrenos-manchay>>

3 May 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

An 18-months-old baby girl was killed by a stray bullet when police engaged in an armed confrontation with criminals involved in illicit contraband in the department of Tumbes near the border with Ecuador. Preliminary ballistic tests indicated the child was killed by a bullet from a police weapon.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/2012/05/03/actualidad/tumbes-nina-muere-bala-perdida-2022706>>

21 May 2012 (organized crime)

Four people were injured by stray bullets including a one year-old boy, a seventeen-year-old boy and two other adults when a known criminal opened fire with a 9mm Taurus pistol. Apparently the shooting was a hired hit meant to intimidate the local housing association over a dispute of the control of usurped properties in the community of Ancon.

(Source: El Comercio) < <http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1417593/noticia-menor-ano-esta-estado-critico-impacto-bala-cabeza>>

23 May 2012 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old boy was critically injured by a stray bullet when he left his home at 1:30 am to look for a family member in a district of Lima. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/lima/1418419/noticia-adolescente-grave-herida-cabeza-causada-bala-perdida>>

12 September 2012 (law enforcement operations; armed conflict/terrorism)

An eight-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet during a joint police/military operation against the Shining Path guerrillas in the Peruvian Andes.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/actualidad/1468555/noticia-nina-ocho-anos-murio-operacion-rescate-vraem>>

12 September 2012 (unknown)

A 22-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet from a .22 calibre weapon after a party in Pucusana. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/actualidad/bala-se-aloja-su-vena-yugular-y-sobrevive-2041852>>

8 December 2012 (unknown)

A 33-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while working in her appliances shop in the center of Lima. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/actualidad/fallece-comerciante-bala-perdida-callao-2107063>>

21 March 2013 (gang related)

A thirteen-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet from an armed gang confrontation in a district of Lima.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/actualidad/bala-perdida-destroza-mandibula-nina-durante-pelea-entre-pandilleros-2122782>>

19 April 2013 (unknown)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet of unknown origin while riding in a motorcycle taxi between the cities of Yurimaguas and Tarapoto in the Peruvian Amazon.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/actualidad/pasajera-mototaxi-muere-durante-balacera-via-yurimaguas-tarapoto-2127214>>

27 June 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A two-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while being carried in his father's arms in a district of Lima. The shot was fired by a local man having a dispute with another neighbor. The shooter had been released from prison recently after attempting to kill his wife.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/actualidad/bala-perdida-mata-nino-dos-anos-rimac-2137632>>

3 July 2013 (organized crime)

A woman was seriously injured by a stray bullet when armed men entered a Chinese restaurant and assassinated two customers while dining in the port of Callao.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/actualidad/1599272/noticia-asesinatos-callao-sicarios-mataron-dos-personas-chifa>>

15 July 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 60-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet when a group of armed criminals began firing in a police chase. Another man was run over by a car in the incident. When authorities encountered the criminals' abandoned vehicle they confiscated small arms and ammunition.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/impresamarcas-hieren-dos-durante-persecucion-2134192>>

15 July 2013 (law enforcement operations)

A male minor was killed by a stray bullet shot from a police firearm in a district of Lima while walking down the street. The justification for the firing of the weapon was not specified.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/impresaciudad-breves-2140258>>

28 July 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

An eleven-year-old boy was critically injured by a stray bullet during an armed confrontation between police and criminals in the city of Chiclayo.

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/impresanino-11-grave-bala-perdida-2142083>>

5 August 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

An eight-year-old girl was injured when a stray bullet went through the door of her home in a district of Lima. Shots were fired after an inter-personal dispute among inebriated persons that took place outside a nearby bar.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/actualidad/1613575/noticia-victoria-menor-ocho-anos-termino-herida-bala-perdida>>

28 October 2013 (social/community-based/interpersonal)

A female school teacher was killed by a stray bullet when armed men opened fire on a group of sugar cane workers in the city of Chiclayo. The sugar workers of the region are engaged in tensions with other business interests in the region.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/actualidad/1657433/noticia-caso-pucala-dos-grupos-guerra-interminable-controlar-azucarera>>

2 November 2013 (law enforcement operations; social/community-based/interpersonal)

An off-duty soldier was killed by a stray bullet in the Peruvian Amazon when a local armed group attempted to liberate colleagues that had been jailed after a violent confrontation with the police and military several days prior. One person was killed and eight injured in violent confrontations over community affairs between a community association and a local mayor

(Source: Perú 21) <<http://peru21.pe/impresamuerto-actos-vandalismo-nauta-2155968>>

21 December 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A nine-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet in a district of Lima. Allegedly the police fired the bullet that injured the child when firing against common criminals.

(Source: El Comercio) <<http://elcomercio.pe/actualidad/1676302/noticia-olivos-nino-resulto-herido-bala-incidente-que-involucra-policia>>

St. Kitts and Nevis

Total	1	Organized Crime	0
Injured	1	Gang related	1
Killed	0	Armed robbery/common crime	0
Male	0	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	1	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	0	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	0	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	1	Unknown	0
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	No

17 December 2013 (gang related)

An adult female was injured by a stray bullet while standing on the street with her minor child as she was caught in the crossfire of a gang shooting. A former soldier was taken into custody and is being prosecuted for attempted murder.

(Source: Winn FM) <<http://www.winnfm.com/sports/6656-former-solider-charged-with-attempted-murder>>

St. Lucia

Total	4	Organized Crime	0
Injured	4	Gang related	2
Killed	0	Armed robbery/common crime	0
Male	2	Social/community-based/inter-personal	0
Female	1	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	1	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	1	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	2	Unknown	2
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	No

13 June 2009 (unknown)

An adult male bus driver was injured by a stray bullet to the leg in Castries the nation's capital. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: The Voice)

<http://www.thevoiceslu.com/editorial/2009/june/13_06_09/When_is_Enough_Enough.htm>

13 June 2009 (gang related)

A baby was lightly injured by a stray bullet that entered her home when an armed confrontation among rival gang members ensued in the street outside.

(Source: The Voice)

<http://www.thevoiceslu.com/editorial/2009/june/13_06_09/When_is_Enough_Enough.htm>

12 January 2010 (gang related)

An elderly man was injured by stray bullets to the leg while sitting in a local bar. The shots were directed by local gang members at a local police officer walking on his way to work. The officer was also injured in the incident

(Source: The Voice)

<http://www.thevoiceslu.com/local_news/2010/january/12_01_10/POLICE_OFFICER_SHOT.htm>

22 May 2010 (unknown)

A 19-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet. The woman became caught in the crossfire between two individuals shooting at each other in the street at noon.

(Source: The Voice)

<http://www.thevoiceslu.com/local_news/2010/may/22_05_10/Teen_Shot.htm>

Suriname

Total	2	Organized Crime	0
Injured	0	Gang related	0
Killed	2	Armed robbery/common crime	0
Male	2	Social/community-based/inter-personal	1
Female	0	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	1	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	1
Adults (30 and over)	0	Unknown	0
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	Yes (2)

14 December 2010 (law enforcement operations)

A twelve-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet while sleeping in his room from a weapon accidentally discharged by a military officer. The military officer was pursuing an imprisoned soldier who had escaped from custody during court martial proceedings.

(Source: Dev Sur) <<http://www.devsur.com/?s=stray+bullet&search=Search>>

6 October 2011 (law enforcement operations; social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 23-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a police weapon when intervening in a violent dispute between a shopkeeper and a client in Paramaribo.

(Source: Dev Sur) <<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2012/news/stories/10/06/man-killed-by-stray-bullet-cops-blamed/>>

Trinidad and Tobago

Total	17	Organized Crime	0
Injured	11	Gang related	8
Killed	7	Armed robbery/common crime	2
Male	9	Social/community-based/inter-personal	2
Female	9	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	4	Celebratory fire	1
Young Adults (18-29)	5	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	7	Unknown	4
Age unknown	2	Law Enforcement	Yes (2)

1 July 2010 (armed robbery/common crime)

A five-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet when a man shot at armed individuals who had just robbed him at a gas station in Port of Spain.

(Source: Trinidad Express) <<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/97564294.html>>

22 July 2010 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A woman was killed by a stray bullet in a shootout between police and criminals in Port of Spain.

(Source: Trinidad Express) <<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/98991294.html>>

20 December 2010 (gang related)

A 48-year-old woman, mother of four, was killed by a stray bullet in front of a shop on her way to pay a utility bill in the town of Marabella. She was caught in the crossfire of a gunfight involving AK-47 assault rifles. Two gang members were shot dead in the incident but no arrests were made.

(Source: Trinidad Express)

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/STRAY_BULLET_KILLS_MOM-112222054.html>

28 January 2011 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old boy was injured by stray bullets from a pump action shotgun from a gang shootout while sitting in a chair in his living room at 03:00 pm in Port of Spain.

(Source: Trinidad Express) <http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/12-year-old_injured_in_shooting_spree.html>

4 February 2011 (unknown)

A forty-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while working in a private security firm. One of his colleagues was cleaning his weapons when it accidentally fired in the city of Fernando.

(Source: Trinidad Express)

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Security_guard_shoots_colleague-115331684.html>

6 February 2011 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A three-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet during a shootout between a police task force and two armed men at 09:00 pm in Chaguanas. Another unidentified woman was also injured. The girl is the daughter of a known gang member.

(Source: Trinidad Express)

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Robocop_s_daughter_grazed_by_bullet-115429859.html>

6 February 2011 (gang related)

A six-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet when a man opened fire on another man riding a bicycle in the street in Port of Spain.

(Source: Trinidad Express) <http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Boy__6__hit_by_bullet-115421819.html>

7 February 2011 (gang related)

A 30-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet while cooking in her kitchen in Port of Spain. The bullet came from a shootout between two rival gang members in the street nearby.

(Source: Trinidad Express)

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Woman_shot_by_stray_bullet-115457269.html>

9 April 2011 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 35-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while playing cards with another man who was attacked and injured by armed individuals at 02:30 pm in Port of Spain. The shooting may have involved inter-personal disputes over gambling debts.

(Source: Trinidad Express)

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Two_men_shot__wounded_while_playing_cards_in_Laventille-119549159.html>

9 February 2012 (gang related)

A 26-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet fired from an assault rifle when rival gangs engaged in a shootout in Port of Spain. A seventeen-year-old man was later arrested in the apartment complex near where the shooting had taken place where police also confiscated 5.56 and .38 calibre ammunition.

(Source: Trinidad Express)

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Woman_shot_in_hail_of_bullets-139065229.html>

28 July 2012 (unknown)

A 25-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while watching a basketball game at 08:55 pm in San Fernando. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Trinidad Guardian) <<http://guardian.co.tt/news/2012-07-28/taxi-driver-shot-san-fernando>>

1 January 2013 (celebratory fire)

A 31-year-old woman who worked as fire officer was killed by a stray bullet when an unidentified man began shooting into the air at 11:15 pm apparently celebrating the New Year. (Source: Trinidad Guardian) <<https://guardian.co.tt/news/2012-12-31/petit-valley-woman-killed-stray-bullet>>

2 June 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 24-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet when two men engaged in a fight outside a bar and one pulled out a firearm and started shooting in Chaguanas. (Source: Trinidad Guardian) <<https://guardian.co.tt/news/2013-06-02/stray-bullet-kills-chaguanas-woman>>

25 August 2013 (gang related)

A 29-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet while walking down the street at 11:45 pm in Port of Spain. She was caught in the crossfire of a gang shootout where two men were murdered. (Source: Trinidad Guardian) <<http://guardian.co.tt/news/2013-08-25/two-killed-four-hurt-laventille-shooting>>

12 September 2013 (unknown)

A 64-year-old woman was critically injured by a stray bullet while traveling in a taxi at 11:45 am in Port of Spain. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: Trinidad Express) <<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Woman-64-shot-in-head-by-stray-bullet-in-Laventille-223561961.html>>

14 October 2013 (gang related)

A 23-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while riding his bicycle at 11:00 am in Port of Spain. The shots were intended for a gang member standing on a nearby street corner who was also injured in the incident. (Source: Trinidad Express) <<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Woman-64-shot-in-head-by-stray-bullet-in-Laventille-223561961.html>>

24 December 2013 (unknown)

A 46-year-old man and a nineteen-year-old man were killed by stray bullets when armed men opened fire on their friend, a military man, who was also killed at 03:25 at local polo grounds. (Source: Newsday) <<http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,188302.html>>

Uruguay

Total	2	Organized Crime	0
Injured	1	Gang related	0
Killed	1	Armed robbery/common crime	1
Male	1	Social/community-based/inter-personal	1
Female	1	Mental instability	0
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	1	Celebratory fire	0
Young Adults (18-29)	1	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	0	Unknown	0
Age unknown	0	Law Enforcement	No

14 December 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 29-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while standing on the balcony of her apartment in Montevideo. She was hit by a bullet from a .38 calibre revolver that was used in a confrontation between supporters of opposing basketball teams in a local tournament.

(Source: El País) <<http://www.elpais.com.uy/informacion/reclamo-de-us-430-mil.html>>

7 September 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

An eight-year-old boy was injured by a stray bullet during an armed robbery of a supermarket at 08:30 pm. The robbers began shooting when confronted by a private security guard who was also injured in the incident.

(Source: El País) <<http://www.elpais.com.uy/informacion/nino-ocho-anos-baleado-asalto.html>>

Venezuela

Total	74	Organized Crime	3
Injured	10	Gang related	24
Killed	67	Armed robbery/common crime	3
Male	47	Social/community-based/inter-personal	4
Female	30	Mental instability	1
Gender unknown	0	Armed conflict/terrorism	0
Minors	36	Celebratory fire	1
Young Adults (18-29)	23	Other	0
Adults (30 and over)	17	Unknown	37
Age unknown	1	Law Enforcement	Yes (4)

19 April 2009 (unknown)

A 47-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while parking his car in front of his residence in Caracas at 05:00 pm. The specific source of the bullet was not identified but a shootout was heard close by.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/04/19/sucgc_art_una-bala-perdida-mat_1349427>

21 April 2009 (unknown)

A 26-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while walking to work in Petare. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/04/21/sucgc_art_una-bala-perdida-alc_1356033>

29 April 2009 (unknown)

A 26-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in Caracas while entering her home together with her children when a shootout erupted in the street nearby at 03:30 in the afternoon. The source of the shootout was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/04/29/sucgc_art_bala-perdida-alcanzo_1367086>

29 June 2009 (gang related)

A 38-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet that penetrated his house in Caracas. The bullet was alleged to have come from a shootout among rival gangs in the street nearby.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/06/29/sucgc_art_una-bala-perdida-mat_1448727>

16 July 2009 (unknown)

A 42-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while walking in the street in a district of Caracas. An unidentified shootout took place in the streets nearby where an individual involved in the incident was also injured.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/07/16/sucgc_art_bala-perdida-acabo-c_1474477>

14 September 2009 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while crossing a pedestrian bridge in a district of Caracas at 04:30 am. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/09/14/sucgc_art_muere-joven-trujilla_1566315>

27 October 2009 (gang related)

A nineteen-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet outside a party in Petare. The man was caught in the crossfire when two rival gangs engaged in a shootout.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/10/27/sucgc_art_una-bala-perdida-mat_1629826>

31 October 2009 (gang related)

A 28-year-old man, father of five, was killed by a stray bullet while walking towards his house in Petare. The bullet came from a drive-by shooting directed by one gang at another.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2009/10/31/sucgc_art_fallecio-en-la-puert_1635683>

2 August 2010 (unknown)

An eighteen-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while visiting a circus. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2010/02/08/suc_ava_matan-a-joven-que-as_08A3405771>

14 August 2010 (unknown)

A 28-year-old women from the Hong Kong women's softball delegation was injured by a stray bullet while playing in an international baseball tournament.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2010/08/14/beis_ava_jugadora-herida-de-b_14A4337851>

29 August 2010 (gang related)

A fourteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in the early morning hours in Petare. He was caught in the crossfire of a shootout among rival gangs.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2010/08/29/suc_ava_nino-murio-por-bala_29A4398131>

2 January 2011 (celebratory fire)

A four-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet when individuals in the vicinity of her home fired celebratory shots during New Year celebrations.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/01/02/suc_ava_una-nina-murio-por-b_02A4920451>

31 January 2011 (unknown)

A one-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet that penetrated his home in Caracas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/01/31/suc_ava_murio-nino-que-fue-a_31A5078971>

30 May 2011 (unknown)

An 85-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in her daughter's apartment in Caracas. A shootout was heard in the streets below but the source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/05/30/muere-anciana-por-bala-perdida-durante-homenaje-en-un-sepelio>>

29 June 2011 (unknown)

A 51-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet when she opened the window of her home to let air in. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/05/30/muere-anciana-por-bala-perdida-durante-homenaje-en-un-sepelio>>

29 June 2011 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A fourteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while waiting for a bus at 10:00 am on the outskirts of Caracas. The bullet came from a personal dispute between two young men, one of whom pulled out a gun and started shooting at the other.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/05/30/muere-anciana-por-bala-perdida-durante-homenaje-en-un-sepelio>>

14 August 2011 (unknown)

A ten-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while sitting in front of his house at 09:30 pm in a district of Caracas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/08/14/bala-perdida-mato-a-nio-de-10-aos-frente-a-amigos>>

17 August 2011 (gang related)

An 18-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet that entered her house in the city of Valencia. A gang shootout in the streets nearby was the cause of the incident.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-perdida-mato-a-muchacha-mientras-dormia.aspx>>

20 August 2011 (mental instability)

A 38-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in a Caracas parking lot at 11:30 pm. The shots were fired by a man with an apparent mental problem.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/08/20/vigilante-muere-por-una-bala-perdida-en-caricua>>

24 August 2011 (unknown)

A 23-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while leaving the house of a family member in a Caracas neighborhood. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/08/24/muere-joven-por-bala-perdida-en-el-guarataro>>

1 September 2011 (unknown)

A 23-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a nearby shootout while sitting in a park in a district of Caracas.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-perdida-acabo-con-la-vida-de-un-cocinero.aspx>>

2 August 2011 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while exiting a taxi in Caracas at 11 pm. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/2011/08/02/adolescente-fue-asesinada-al-salir-de-concierto-de-calle-13>>

5 September 2011 (gang related)

A 22-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet from a nearby gang shootout when he left his home in Petare at 6 am to play football.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/muere-joven-por-bala-perdida-en-petare.aspx>>

9 September 2011 (unknown)

A 23-year-old man was injured by a stray bullet while walking down the street in a district of Caracas at 09:30 pm. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/joven-resulto-herido-por-una-bala-perdida.aspx>>

6 October 2011 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A three-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while walking with his mother in front of a cemetery in Caracas. The bullet came from an armed confrontation between members of the National Guard and armed men who had just robbed a bank.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/caracas/sucesos/111006/muere-nino-de-3-anos-de-un-tiro-en-el-cuello-en-el-cementerio>>

25 October 2011 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 25-year-old woman was injured by a stray bullet while waiting for a bus near the international airport at 07:00 pm. The bullet came from a confrontation between a taxi driver and a client nearby when one of the persons involved began shooting.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/herida-una-mujer-por-bala-perdida-en-parada-de-bus.aspx>>

6 December 2011 (unknown)

A five-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet at 07:30 pm during a religious holiday celebration. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-fria-mato-a-un-ninito-de-5-anos.aspx>>

6 December 2011 (gang related)

An eight-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet that penetrated the roof of his house in Petare. A gang fight in the neighborhood was the cause of the incident.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/111206/muere-nino-de-8-anos-por-bala-perdida-en-petare>>

14 December 2011 (gang related)

An eleven-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet while watching television in her home on the outskirts of Caracas. Two rival gangs engaged in a shootout in the streets nearby.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-perdida-hirio-a-nina-mientras-veia-television.aspx>>

8 February 2012 (unknown)

A twelve-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while sleeping in her house on the outskirts of Caracas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/120108/balas-que-se-llevan-las-vidas-de-dos-ninas>>

8 February 2012 (unknown)

Two women, aged 38 and 24, were injured by stray bullets while a seven-year-old girl was killed in the same incident during a New Year's celebration in Caracas. The bullet came through the door, but the source was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/120108/balas-que-se-llevan-las-vidas-de-dos-ninas>>

11 February 2012 (organized crime)

A 68-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in Tachira state when he was caught in the crossfire in an assassination hit that resulted in the death of the target, a 21-year-old male.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/120211/breves-sucesos>>

27 February 2012 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet on the outskirts of Caracas when rival gangs disputed drug dealing territory.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/120227/bala-perdida-acaba-con-la-vida-de-un-pequeno-de-12-anos-en-cota-905>>

3 June 2012 (law enforcement operations; gang related)

A 22-year-old pregnant woman was killed by a stray bullet during a shootout between municipal police and gang members in the municipality of Sucre.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/120603/bala-perdida-acabo-con-la-vida-de-joven-embarazada>>

11 June 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A nine-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet inside his home in Caracas. Allegedly two young neighbors were playing with a gun nearby when it went off.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/ultimado-un-chamito-dentro-de-su-casa.aspx>>

18 June 2012 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A 76-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while in her house in a district of Caracas. A family member pulled a gun and fired on another individual with whom he had personal dispute.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://deportes.eluniversal.com/sucesos/120618/bala-perdida-acabo-con-la-vida-de-una-senora-dentro-de-su-hogar>>

2 July 2012 (unknown)

A thirteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while at a party in a municipality outside Caracas. An unidentified individual began firing shots near the party.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/chamo-de-13-anos-murio-por-una-bala-perdida.aspx>>

12 August 2012 (unknown)

A 28-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet in front of his home in Petare. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-perdida-acabo-con-la-vida-de-comerciante.aspx>>

14 August 2012 (gang related)

A sixteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while walking down the street to visit a friend at 08:00 pm in a district of Caracas. The bullet came from a shootout among rival gangs.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-perdida-le-quito-la-vida-a-una-liceista.aspx>>

5 September 2012 (unknown)

A 55-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while entering his house at 4 pm in the afternoon in Caracas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/muere-un-senor-al-ser-alcanzado-por-bala-perdida.aspx>>

19 September 2012 (gang related)

A seventeen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while playing basketball in Guarenas. A nearby shootout among rival gangs was the cause of the incident.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/muere-joven-en-medio-de-tiroteo-de-bandas.aspx>>

26 September 2012 (organized crime)

A 22-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while riding in her car in Zulia state. The woman was caught in the crossfire between a body guard and a group of armed men that attempted to assault a man in another vehicle at a stop on the side of the road. One of the armed attackers was also killed in the incident. Police encountered a 9mm pistol and 30 spent cartridges at the crime scene.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/120926/bala-perdida-acaba-con-la-vida-de-una-chica-dentro-de-automovil>>

7 October 2012 (unknown)

A 43-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet that penetrated her residence in Carabobo state at 05:00 in the morning. A shootout in the street nearby was the source of the bullet where one individual involved was also killed.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/121007/muere-mujer-por-una-bala-perdida-que-ingreso-a-su-residencia?iframe=true&width=90%&height=90%>>

30 October 2012 (gang related)

A 78-year-old grandmother was killed by a stray bullet while walking to buy bread. The bullet came out of the local jail where inmates have been known to have access to weapons.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-perdida-de-la-carcel-de-sabaneta-mato-a-una-a.aspx>>

17 November 2012 (gang related)

A 23-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet on the outskirts of Caracas when two rival gangs engaged in a shootout.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/121117/286-cadaveres-han-ingresado-a-morgue-de-bello-monte-en-lo-que-va-de-me>>

27 December 2012 (unknown)

An eight-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while playing outside in the department of Bolivar. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/bala-perdida-le-quito-la-vida-a-nina-de-ocho-anos.aspx>>

9 January 2013 (unknown)

A sixteen-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while in physical education class at her school in Caracas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/caracas/130109/una-bala-marco-al-andres-bello>>

9 January 2013 (unknown)

A 15-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while playing basketball in a Caracas neighborhood at 06:30 pm. Another male minor was injured during the incident. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/130119/en-una-semana-han-matado-a-dos-personas-en-refugios>>

5 February 2013 (gang related)

A 16-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet caught in the crossfire of a confrontation among rival gangs in Caracas.

(Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Murio-adolescente-tiroteo-bandas_0_130789379.html>

11 February 2013 (unknown)

A 26-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while talking on his mobile phone in the street in a district of Caracas at 08:00 pm. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/morgue-Bello-Monte-llevaron-cadaveres_0_134388996.html>

16 February 2013 (gang related)

A thirteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in the patio of his residence from gunshots fired by gangs in the street in a district of Caracas.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/130216/bala-perdida-mata-a-nino-de-13-anos-durante-fiesta-familiar-en-la-vega>>

19 February 2013 (unknown)

A 16-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet when visiting family in a district of Caracas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Bala-perdida-mato-estudiante-Pastora_0_139189137.html>

20 February 2013 (unknown)

A 44-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while resting with his family on his patio in Petare. The source of the bullet as not identified.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/130220/bala-perdida-mata-a-hombre-frente-a-su-casa-en-petarel>>

4 March 2013 (gang related)

A thirteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while standing on the patio of his house in a district of Caracas. While the source of the bullet was not identified gangs are known to hold target practice nearby and have injured innocent bystanders previously.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Nino-murio-perdida-Caracas-La-Guaira_0_152385603.htmlx>

9 March 2013 (armed robbery/common crime)

A 72-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet between two men over a stolen motorcycle in the municipality of Sucre.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/130309/bala-perdida-atraveso-el-cuello-de-una-anciana-en-una-calle-de-catia>>

11 March 2013 (unknown)

A three-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while inside his residence in a district of Caracas. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/murio-nino-de-2-anos-al-ser-alcanzado-por-bala-per.aspx>>

12 March 2013 (unknown)

A two-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in front of his house along the highway between Caracas and La Guaira at 07:30 pm. The source of the bullet was not identified.

(Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Nino-murio-perdida-Caracas-La-Guaira_0_152385603.htmlx>

21 March 2013 (unknown)

A 43-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while driving his car on the highway. The bullet came from a shootout between two nearby vehicles.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/130321/bala-perdida-mato-a-un-hombre-que-estaba-atrapado-en-una-cola>>

24 March 2013 (gang related)

A nineteen-year-old boy was killed by stray bullet while using his computer in his home in Petare at 06:00 pm. The bullets came from a shootout among rival gangs in the street outside.

(Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Mataron-hombre-espalda-sector-Manicomio_0_244175830.html>

15 April 2013 (unknown)

A oneyear-old baby girl was killed while playing with her family at her house when a gunfight erupted outside the house.

(Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Murio-edad-alcanzado-bala-perdida_0_172782788.html>

27 April 2013 (gang related)

A 24-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while checking text messages on his phone in a Caracas neighborhood. The bullets came from a shootout among rival gangs nearby over drug dealing territory. Another unidentified man was also injured by a stray bullet in the incident.

(Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Carlota-chacao-drogas-Polichacao-violencia_0_179382290.html>

1 May 2013 (gang related)

A sixteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while playing basketball with friends in a district of Caracas. A gang shootout nearby was the cause of the incident.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/murio-adolescente-alcanzado-por-bala-perdida-en-un.aspx>>

28 May 2013 (gang related)

An eleven-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet at 09:00 pm in Petare. Two gang members were arrested by the police several days later in relation to the incident.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/130528/apresan-a-presuntos-asesinos-de-nina-de-11-anos>>

4 June 2013 (gang related)

A twenty-year-old woman and her unborn baby were killed by a stray bullet from an armed gang confrontation in a district of Caracas.

(Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/130604/embarazada-muere-por-una-bala-perdida>>

25 June 2013 (social/community-based/inter-personal)

A ten-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet from a 12 gauge shotgun in the Caracas metropolitan area. An eight year-old friend was manipulating the weapon nearby when it accidentally fired.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/nino-de-8-anos-mato-a-otro-por-accidente.aspx>>

9 July 2013 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old girl was killed and her three-year-old cousin was injured by stray bullets while standing on her porch at 03:00 pm in Caracas. Young men were observed running in the street outside and several gun shots were heard but no one was detained in the incident.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/matan-a-una-chamita-de-12-anos-y-hieren-a-su-primi.aspx>>

9 July 2013 (gang related)

A twelve-year-old girl was injured by a stray bullet when she observed men exit a vehicle and assassinate a local gang member.

(Source: Ultimas Noticias)

<<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/actualidad/sucesos/matan-a-una-chamita-de-12-anos-y-hieren-a-su-primi.aspx>>

7 September 2013 (law enforcement operations; organized crime)

A police officer was injured by a stray bullet when shots were fired hitting him in his bullet proof vest during the transfer of a criminal from one police facility to another in Zulia state. (Source: La Verdad) <<http://www.laverdad.com/sucesos/35664-identifican-a-los-compinches-de-americo-salas.html>>

8 September 2013 (law enforcement operations; armed robbery/common crime)

A 68-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while working on his car in the garage of his house at 08:00 am in Maracaibo. The bullet came from a shootout between municipal police and an armed robber in the area. (Source: La Verdad) <<http://www.laverdad.com/sucesos/35720-bala-perdida-de-enfrentamiento-mata-a-un-anciano.html>>

10 September 2013 (unknown)

A five-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet while playing in front of his house in Caracas. The bullet came from a group of armed men that attacked another man in the neighborhood. (Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Nino-anos-murio-bala-perdida_0_260974219.html>

17 September 2013 (unknown)

A 23-year-old man was killed by a stray bullet while entering his home at 03:30 in the morning after completing his shift as a motorcycle taxi driver in Maracaibo. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: La Verdad) <<http://www.laverdad.com/sucesos/36342-matan-a-mototaxista-al-salir-de-una-fiesta.html>>

17 November 2013 (unknown)

A 48-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet in her sleep in Maracaibo. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/131117/breves-sucesos-imp>>

21 December 2013 (unknown)

A thirteen-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet in the department of Tachira. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: El Universal) <<http://www.eluniversal.com/sucesos/131221/breves-sucesos-imp>>

31 December 2013 (unknown)

A 22-year-old Colombian man was killed by a stray bullet while riding on motorcycle in Caracas at 04:30 pm. The source of the bullet was not identified. (Source: El Nacional) <http://www.el-nacional.com/sucesos/Joven-pierde-vida-balacera-Petare_0_328767155.html>