

# Tracking the Big Picture During Wartime: A National Trauma Registry Perspective

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## Background

Trauma registries are a core component of modern trauma systems for surveillance, quality improvement, and research. During armed conflicts, the need for timely, population-level data increases; however, the functioning of national trauma registries during active war has been sparsely described. This study describes the performance of the Israel National Trauma Registry (INTR) during the 2023-2025 Swords of Iron War.

## Methods

We conducted a retrospective analysis of all hospitalized civilian and military casualties with war-associated injuries recorded in the INTR between October 7, 2023, and July 31, 2025.

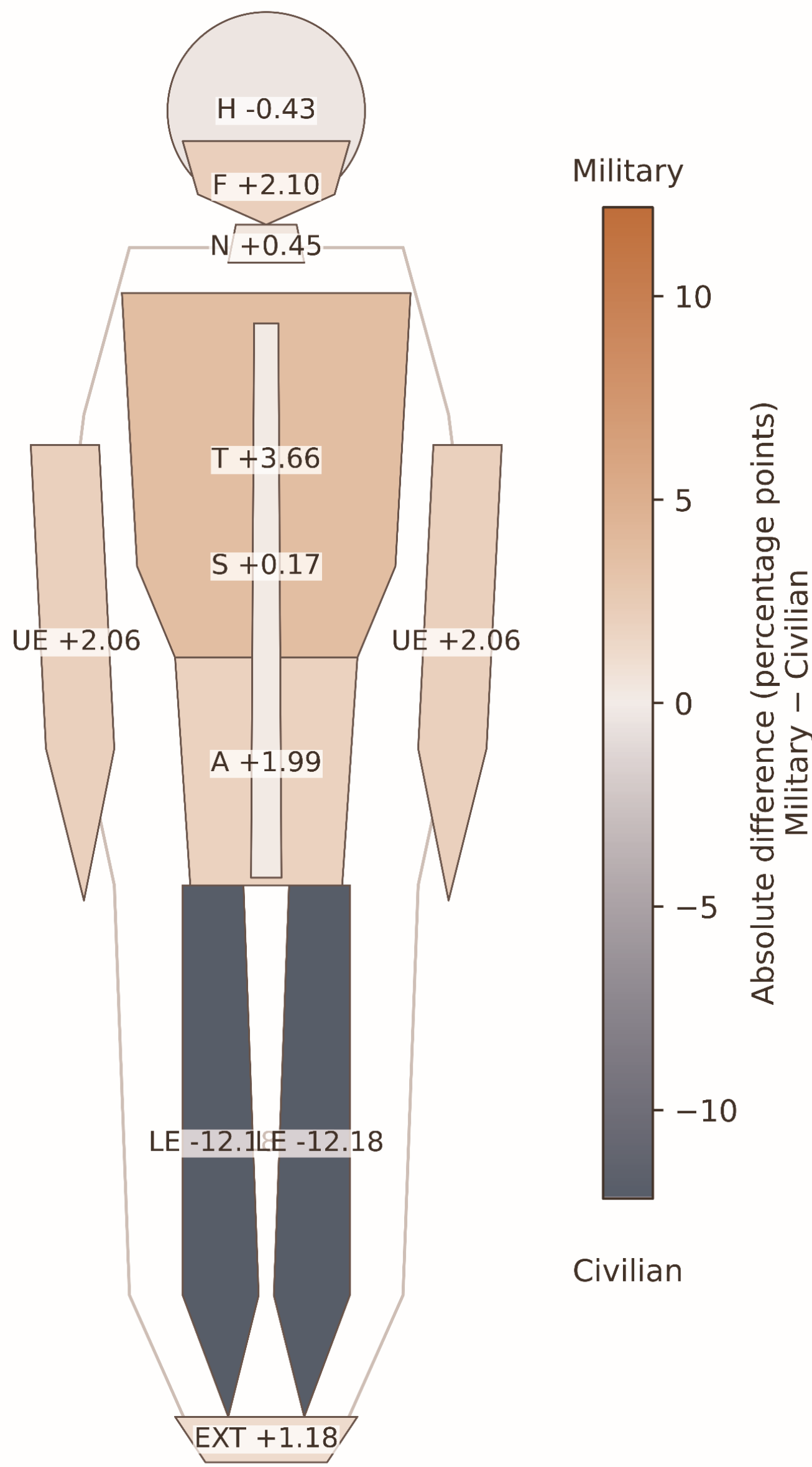
## Results

A total of 4,317 war-related trauma casualties were recorded, including 3,071 military personnel (71.1%) and 1,246 civilians (28.9%). Admissions peaked during the initial 48-72 hours of the war (figure 1). Military casualties more frequently sustained penetrating injuries, with a higher proportion of critical injury (ISS  $\geq 25$ ) compared with civilians (10.8% vs. 5.8%). Serious thoracic, abdominal, facial, and upper-extremity injuries (AIS $\geq 3$ ) were more common among military personnel; civilians exhibited a higher burden of lower-extremity trauma (figure 2).

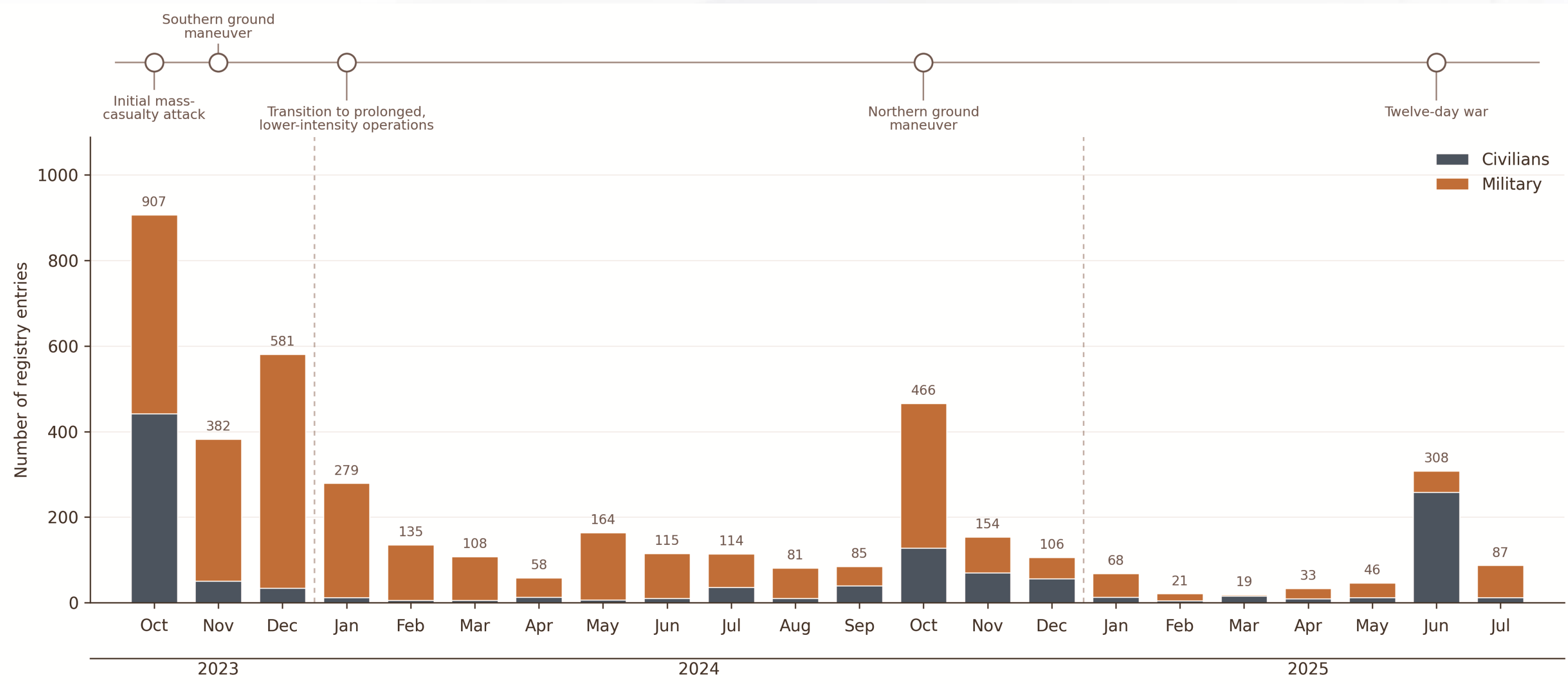
More than half of all casualties underwent operative intervention, one-fifth of military casualties required intensive care, and overall in-hospital mortality remained low (~2%).

## Conclusions

The National Trauma Registry maintained continuous, high-quality surveillance of casualties throughout the Swords of Iron War. Through targeted operational and methodological adaptations, the registry enabled real-time characterization of evolving wartime injury patterns, system burden, and outcomes, while supporting clinical and policy decisions under extreme conditions. These findings highlight the critical role of national trauma registries for trauma system management during armed conflicts.



**Figure 2.** Body-region distribution of serious injury: absolute differences between military and civilian casualties.



**Figure 1.** Monthly number of military and civilian war-related trauma entries

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**Abstract disclaimer:** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest or disclosures relevant to the content of this abstract. All research procedures were conducted in accordance with established ethical guidelines and with the approval of the appropriate institutional review board. The findings presented are based on the data available at the time of submission and may be subject to further analysis or refinement.



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