

[Eight charts that show 2016 wasn't as bad as you think](#)



2016 is likely to be remembered as an annus horribilis for so many reasons. But things are not always as they seem. There are silver linings. Here's a list of the good news. The following areas of concern are decreasing in quantity.

1. Death in conflicts.
2. Carbon emissions.
3. Violent crime.
4. Homicide rates.
5. People on the wrong side of the digital divide: mobile phone connectivity and smartphone use is going up in the developing world.
6. Population: Contraception use has increased.
7. Malaria incidence: Sri Lanka is now malaria-free.
8. Overall poverty.

The Guardian

30 December 2016

TALKING: D-diversity, F-framework, J-justification, L-list, M-misconception, V-validation, Z-zeitgeist

4 star: Excellent

What's up?

- 2016 - annus horribilis.

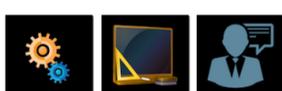
What's new?

But things are not always as they seem. There are silver linings. Here's a list of the good news. The following areas of concern are decreasing in quantity.

Deaths in conflicts	Slightly fewer deaths through armed conflict than 2015, when 167,000 people died. Death tolls are also expected to be lower from internal conflicts in the Philippines, Myanmar and India.
Carbon emissions	After more than a century and a half of nearly unbroken growth, the quantity of greenhouse gases we pour into the atmosphere each year has stalled for the third year running . This plateau in emissions is taking place against a background of quickening economic growth, showing that increasing prosperity and lifting people out of poverty need not come at the expense of the climate.
Violent crime	The overall level of offences continued its long-term decline to the lowest level since 1981 in the UK.
Homicides	Murder rates have been in decline in western democracies for years, but had persisted at stubbornly high levels in parts of central America. However, 2016 could go down as a good year in El Salvador, for years one of the most murderous places in the world.
Digital inequality	Now there are strong signs that take-up is at last being mirrored in poorer parts of the world, with positive outcomes for growth, health and democratic participation. And internet penetration is rising faster than anywhere else as costs of data and devices fall.
Population	Could 2016 go down as the year that the great global population surge finally showed signs of slowing? More women than ever are now using some form of contraception . Some 64% of women aged between 15 and 49 who are married or living with a partner are now using traditional or modern forms of family planning, up from 36% in 1970.
Malaria	The standout news in 2016 was that Sri Lanka had become the latest country to be declared malaria free . More than 30 countries that are collectively home to some 2 billion people are hopeful that they might follow suit in the next four years. The global assault on infectious diseases has led to ever longer lifespans: life expectancy is on average 10 years longer in 2016 than it was in 1980.
Overall poverty	The number of people living in extreme poverty has yet to be estimated for 2016, but the long-term trend is a happy one, describing steep decline. Numbers have more than halved since 1993, despite a growth in the world population of almost 1.9 billion. Almost 50 million people escape poverty every year in net terms

So what?

- Smile. It isn't as bad as you think or are made to believe.



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[Dr Arjun Rajagopalan](#)