



PROFILES OF PERPETRATORS OF TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

AUTHORS

ERIN MILLER

*Global Terrorism Database (GTD)
Manager, START Consortium at
the University of Maryland*

KATHLEEN SMARICK

*Special Adviser to the Director,
START Consortium at the
University of Maryland*

PURPOSE

CREATE a dataset of groups and movements that have conducted terrorist attacks within the United States

MANAGE data with regular review and updates

PROVIDE a critical tool to assist counterterrorism researchers and analysts

BACKGROUND

This research highlight provides findings based on START's Profiles of Perpetrators of Terrorism in the United States (PPT-US) dataset, which includes detailed information on the 143 organizations known to have engaged in terrorist attacks against targets in the U.S. homeland from 1970 through 2013.

Terrorism is defined as the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation. More information is available at www.start.umd.edu/gtd.

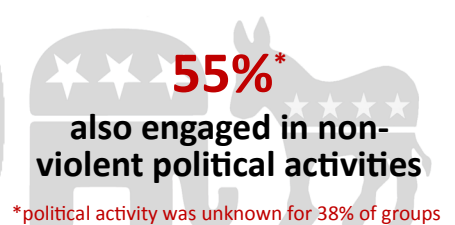
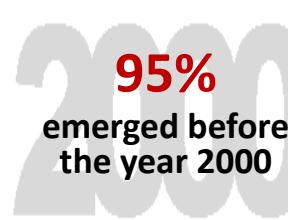
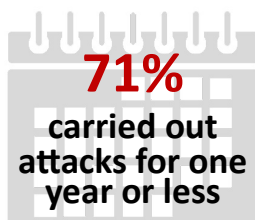
PPT-US Data: The dataset includes information on each group's:

- terrorist attacks
- history and base of operations
- ideology and goals
- financial resources
- engagement in other criminal and political activities
- alliances
- network and structure

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

There is no single "profile" of organizations that target the U.S. homeland with terrorism. Rather, the groups that attacked the United States between 1970 and 2013 had widely varied ideologies, beliefs, and goals.

Of these **143** groups that attacked targets in the United States during this time:



55 PERPETRATOR GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

Financial Crime



A counterfeiting operation was based at the compound of the leader of the Aryan Nations.

Public Order Crime



The Animal Liberation Front participates in releasing animals from research facilities.

Violent Crime



Symbionese Liberation Army members participated in multiple bank robberies.

Drug Trafficking



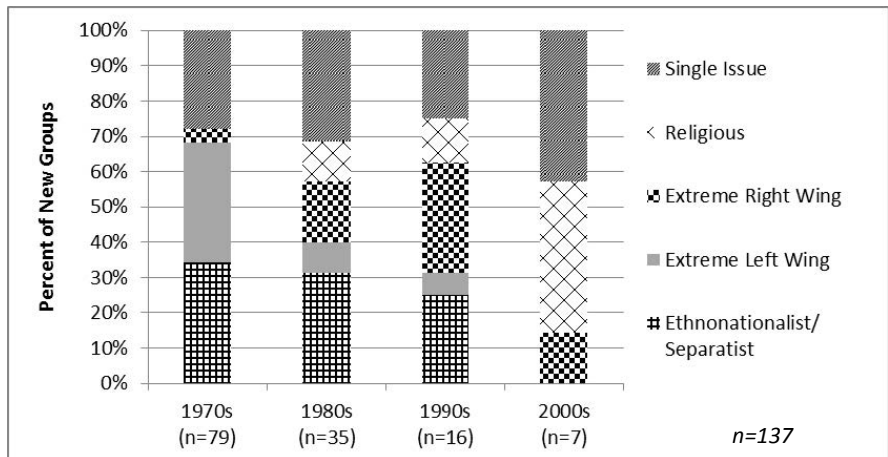
A leader of Omega-7 had ties with major narcotics dealers. The group was financed in part by trafficking activities.

Dominant Ideologies of Terrorist Groups that Emerged Each Decade

Over the decades the proportion of emerging groups with

↓ *Extreme left-wing or ethnonationalist/separatist ideologies declined*

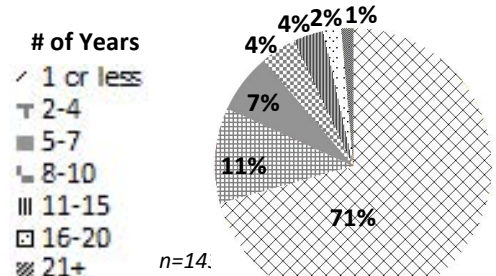
↑ *Religious ideologies increased*



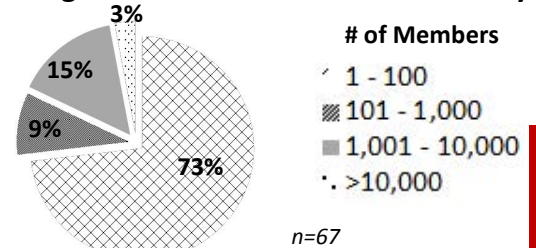
Locations of PPT-US Groups' Headquarters



Length of Time Groups Conducted Attacks



Organizational Size at Peak of Activity



TERRORISM & EXTREMIST VIOLENCE IN THE U.S. DATABASE

This research is part of a larger effort to develop a comprehensive database on Terrorism and Extremist Violence in the U.S. (TEVUS) that integrates data from the Global Terrorism Database, the American Terrorism Study, Profiles of Perpetrators of Terrorism in the U.S., and the U.S. Extremist Crime Database. Led by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), the research team is creating a resource that will allow operational and academic end-users to conduct unprecedented analyses that incorporate incident, perpetrator, and geospatial information.

TEVUS
Terrorist & Extremist Violence in the U.S.

This research was supported by the Science and Technology Directorate's Resilient Systems Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through Award Number 2009-ST-108-LR0003 made to the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

START ➡

8400 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 250
College Park, Maryland 20740
301.405.6600
infostart@start.umd.edu
www.start.umd.edu