Far-Right Homicide: Loners, Lone Wolves, and Wolf Packs

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Comparing Loners, Lone Wolves, and Wolf Packs

Research Question: How does the nature of far-right homicide offending compare across group affiliation and co-offending categories.

Variables of Interest:
- Demographics
- Prior Arrests
- Mental Illness
- Primary Affiliation
- Ideological Issue
- Weapon Use
- Number of Victims
Extremist Crime Database (ECDB)

- Created in 2006, funded by DHS S&T through START Center
- Open-source, relational data on incidents, suspects, victims, targets
- ECDB includes open-source data on:
  - Far-right, eco-terrorism, and Al Qaeda & affiliated movements
  - Violence and financial crimes
  - Ideological and non-ideological
  - Federally-investigated and state-level cases
  - Anti-government, anti-social minority, and single issue targets
Far-Right Homicide Inclusion Criteria

• One or more offenders deemed a far-right extremist

• One or more offenders indicted for crime or killed during attack

• 1 or more victims killed

• Occurred in the United States

• Homicide was ideologically motivated
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<th>Loner (n=39)</th>
<th>Lone Wolf (n=26)</th>
<th>Wolf Pack (n=31)</th>
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Far-Right Loner

- Avg. age: 37
- Prior arrests: 64%
- Drug/alcohol use: 31%
- Mental illness: 41%
- Top affiliations:
  - White supremacists (39%)
  - Single issue (33%)
- Top ideological issues:
  - Anti-race/ethnicity (36%)
  - Anti-government (23%)
- Most prevalent weapon used: Gun (82%)
- Multiple victims: 21%
Far-Right Lone Wolf

- Avg. age: 32
- Prior arrests: 57%
- Drug/alcohol use: 35%
- Mental illness: 19%
- Top affiliations:
  - Neo Nazi (42%)
  - White Supremacist (35%)
- Top ideological issues:
  - Anti-race/ethnicity (50%)
  - Anti-homeless (19%)
- Most prevalent weapon used: Gun (44%)
- Multiple victims: 12%
Far-Right Wolf Pack

- Avg. age: 21
- Prior arrests: 55%
- Drug/alcohol use: 42%
- Mental illness: 3%
- Top affiliations:
  - Neo Nazi (58%)
  - White Supremacist (39%)
- Top ideological issues:
  - Anti-race/ethnicity (61%)
  - Anti-homeless (16%)
- Most prevalent weapon used: Knife (44%)
- Multiple victims: 3%
Follow Up Study on “Loners”

Multivariate analyses indicated that loner homicides were significantly more likely to involve suspects:

- with military backgrounds
- with histories of mental illness
- who are divorced/separated/widowed
- who are relatively young

And loner homicides were more likely to occur after the 9/11 terrorist attacks
Suggested Policy Implications

• Continue to facilitate *partnerships* and networks through which critical information can be shared
  – Utilize partnerships with military intelligence
  – Utilize partnerships with social service agencies

• Use the *Internet* to prevent far-right attacks and engage in counter-propaganda efforts

• Sharpen *threat assessment* tools through comparative analyses
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