

START 

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

Jeff Gruenewald, University of Arkansas

Steven Chermak, Michigan State University

Joshua D. Freilich, CUNY, John Jay College

William Parkin, Seattle University

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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

	Loner (n=39)	Lone Wolf (n=26)	Wolf Pack (n=31)
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Carry out
homicide
alone?

Yes

Member of
informal or
formal
group?

No

Loner **Lone Wolf** **Wolf Pack**
(n=39) **(n=26)** **(n=31)**

Carry out
homicide
alone?

Yes

Yes

Member of
informal or
formal
group?

No

Yes

	Loner (n=39)	Lone Wolf (n=26)	Wolf Pack (n=31)
Carry out homicide alone?	Yes	Yes	No
Member of informal or formal group?	No	Yes	Yes

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**

Contact

Jeff Gruenewald, PhD
University of Arkansas

jgruenew@uark.edu

www.start.umd.edu