



IDENTIFYING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNITIES WHERE PERPETRATORS LIVE AND PRE-INCIDENT ACTIVITY OCCURS

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PURPOSE

IDENTIFY the characteristics of locations where perpetrators lived, planned, and prepared prior to carrying out terrorist attacks

EXAMINE differences in areas with residential and pre-incident activity, compared to those without, by group type.

Due to the small size of census tracts these data were aggregated to the county level for graphic display. However, all of the analyses were conducted at the census tract level.

Alaska and Hawaii (not shown) had no census tracts with activity.

Counties with census tract(s) where residential and/or pre-incident activity occurred are indicated in white.

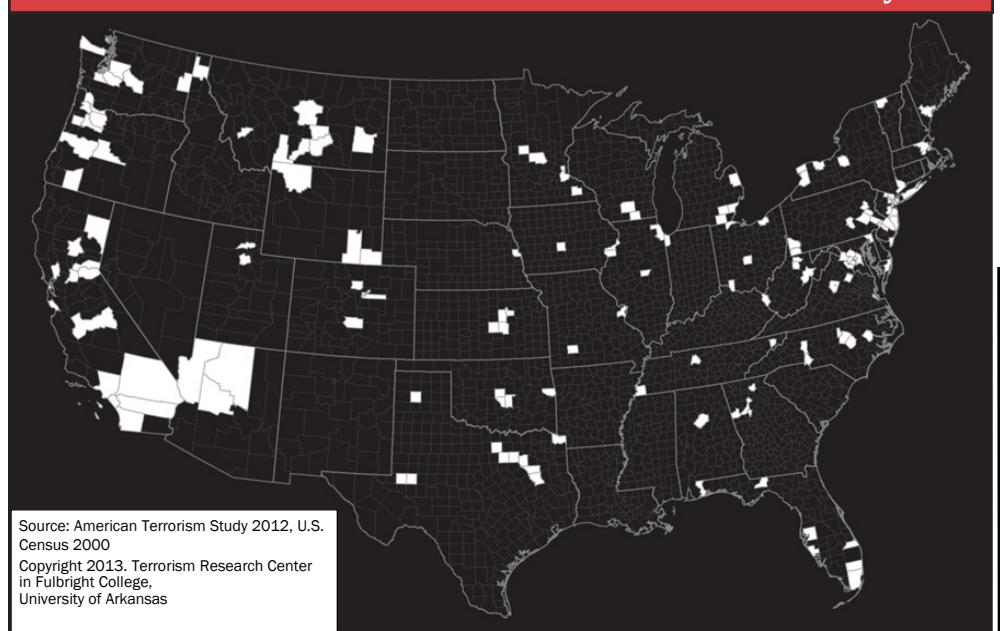
BACKGROUND

This study examines the locations of the residences and pre-incident activities associated with 144 terrorism incidents investigated by the FBI between 1990 and 2010. Using tract-level data from the 2000 U.S. Census, it compares the socioeconomic, housing, and sociodemographic characteristics of locations where environmental, far-right, and al-Qa'ida and Associated Movements (AQAM) perpetrators lived, planned, and prepared. It also compares these locations to ones that experienced no perpetrator residential or pre-incident activity. Data are drawn from the American Terrorism Study.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- ◆ 61% of perpetrator residences and 51% of pre-incident activities are located in counties different from the location of the subsequent terrorist incidents.
- ◆ 46% of all census tracts where perpetrators lived, planned or prepared for terrorist incidents are in the West, 23% in the Northeast, 16% in the South, and 15% in the Midwest.
 - ◆ In the West, 50% of activities were conducted by far-right perpetrators, 30% by environmental, and 20% by AQAM.
 - ◆ In the Northeast, 67% of activities were conducted by AQAM perpetrators, 25% by far-right, and 8% by environmental.
 - ◆ In the South, 56% of activities were conducted by AQAM perpetrators, 40% by far-right, and 4% by environmental.
 - ◆ In the Midwest, 65% of activities were conducted by far-right perpetrators, 31% by AQAM, and 4% by environmental.

Locations with Residential or Pre-incident Activity



Characteristics of Locations Where Different Groups' Residential and Pre-Incident Activities Occur, Compared to Locations without Activity

	Environmental Perpetrators	Far-Right Perpetrators	AQAM Perpetrators
<i>Socioeconomic Status</i>	Locations are not significantly different from those without activity.	Locations are generally less affluent, with lower average incomes and higher percentages of households living below the poverty level.	Locations tend to have higher unemployment rates and higher percentages of households living below the poverty level.
<i>Housing</i>	Housing tends to be newer, and values for owner-occupied homes tend to be higher.	Housing tends to be less expensive, with lower rents and lower owner-occupied home values.	Housing tends to be older, but rents and home values tend to be higher.
<i>Sociodemographic Characteristics</i>	Locations tend to have lower percentages of non-white and foreign-born residents and higher percentages of married families.	Locations tend to have lower percentages of foreign-born residents.	Locations tend to be more urban, have higher percentages of non-white and foreign-born residents, and have lower percentages of married families.

NEXT STEPS

- Data will be expanded to include cases before 1990 and after 2010.
- Residential locations will be examined to see if it is possible to distinguish between long-term, permanent residences and residences utilized solely in preparation for an attack.
- Analyses will be conducted to determine whether the characteristics of locations where specific types of groups live, plan, and prepare vary by region.

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.



This research was supported by the Resilient Systems Division of the Science and Technology Directorate 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.



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