



▶ AL-QA'IDA-RELATED TERRORISM: VIOLENT INCIDENTS AND FOILED PLOTS ◀

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PURPOSE

CREATE an empirical database on terrorism and extremist crime

CAPTURE a greater number of violent attacks and plots

PRODUCE evidence-based findings

BACKGROUND

This preliminary study provides an overview of the violent incidents and plots committed or attempted by supporters of al-Qa'ida and associated movements (AQAM) inside the United States since 1990. We focus on these movements because they are widely viewed as posing a great threat to public safety. Data are drawn from the U.S. Extremist Crime Database.

WHAT?

- AQAM supporters have perpetrated at least 30 homicide incidents and 12 attempted homicide incidents in the U.S. since 1990. The 9/11/01 attacks account for 4 of the homicide incidents, and the fatal attacks perpetrated by the Beltway Snipers account for 11.
- During the same time period, 66 violent plots attempted by AQAM supporters have been thwarted by law enforcement, with the highest number of these (11) of thwarted in 2011.

WHERE?

- More than half of the 30 homicide incidents have occurred in the South. The Census considers Maryland and Washington D.C. to be in the South, and both are represented in this analysis.

- Less than half of 30 homicide incidents have occurred in urban settings (cities with populations over 200,000).
- More than a quarter of all thwarted plots have occurred in New York City.

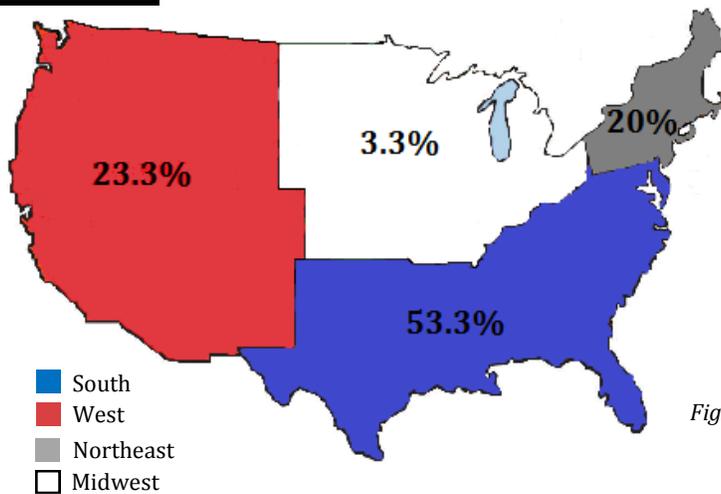


Figure shows homicides committed by AQAM supporters by U.S. Census regions.

WHO?

- A total of 210 distinct AQAM supporters have been linked to violent incidents and plots in the U.S. since 1990.
- These perpetrators have been associated with a variety of groups such as al-Qa'ida, Al Fuqra, al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, Pakistani Taliban, Al Shabaab, and others.
- The majority of the 14 violent extremists linked to the 12 attempted homicide incidents are male, and more than a third have a prior arrest history.
- Some of the characteristics and behaviors of the perpetrators of the 30 homicide incidents are displayed in the table on the right.

Preliminary Results: Primary Perpetrators of 30 Homicide Incidents*		
Attribute	Percentage	Percentage w/o Beltway Sniper Case
Killed Multiple Victims	33.3	52.6
Used Gun in Attack	73.3	57.9
Lone Actor	48.3	77.8
Non-White	96.7	94.7
Male	100.0	100.0
Age	32.5**	31.2**
Had Prior Arrest(s)	17.2	27.8
Had History of Mental Illness	13.3	21.1

*Findings are presented for one perpetrator per incident as is common practice in homicide research.
 **Average is reported rather than percentage.

NEXT STEPS

- Complete data collection and categorize different types of thwarted plots.
- Compare the violent crimes committed by supporters of AQAM and far-right violent extremists.
- Analyze how law enforcement has thwarted AQAM plots with a special focus on those attempted by lone actors.

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.



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