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National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism
A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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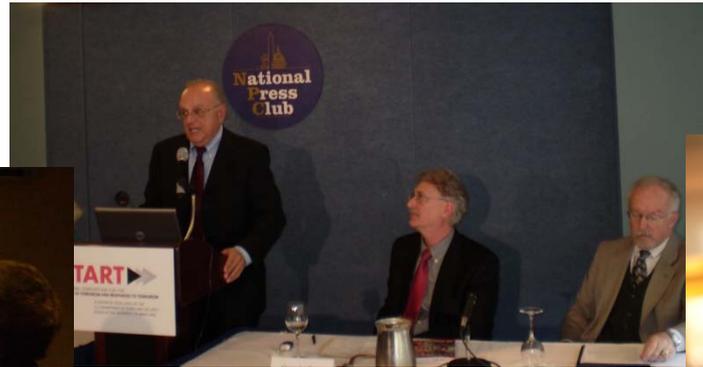
TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE U.S. HOMELAND

Gary LaFree
Director, START, University of Maryland

DHS University Network Summit – March 11, 2010
Washington, DC

START Mission

Mission: START advances science-based knowledge about the human causes and consequences of terrorism as a resource for homeland security policymakers and practitioners.



BROAD RESEARCH AREA

RESEARCH FOCUS

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Terrorism Group Formation & Recruitment

▶ Radicalization

- ▶ Within the United States
- ▶ International Processes
- ▶ Comparative Studies

Terrorism Group Persistence & Dynamics

▶ Terrorism Operations & Interventions

- ▶ Operational Decisions
- ▶ Counterterrorism Strategies
- ▶ Anti-Terrorism Initiatives

Societal Impact of Terrorism

▶ Community Resilience

- ▶ Individual Resilience
- ▶ Civil Society & Community Capacity
- ▶ Institutional Preparedness & Response Capability

Integrative Research

▶ Cross-Cutting Projects

- ▶ Event-Level Data Collection & Analysis
- ▶ Actor-Level Data Collection & Analysis

HFD and START

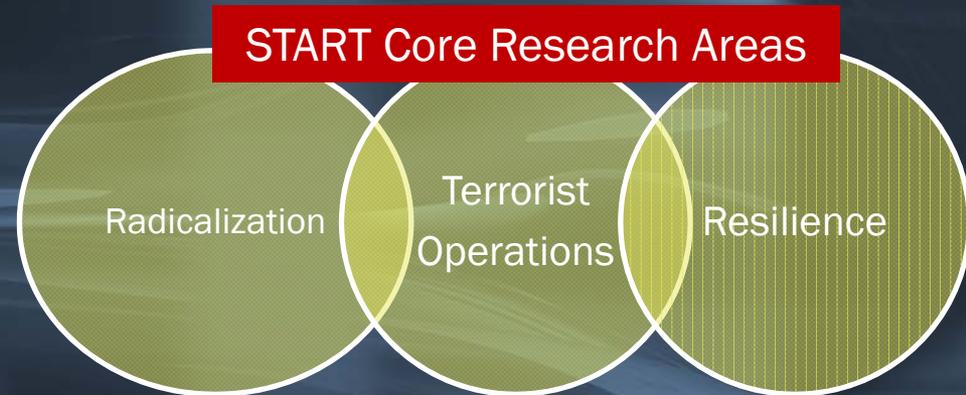
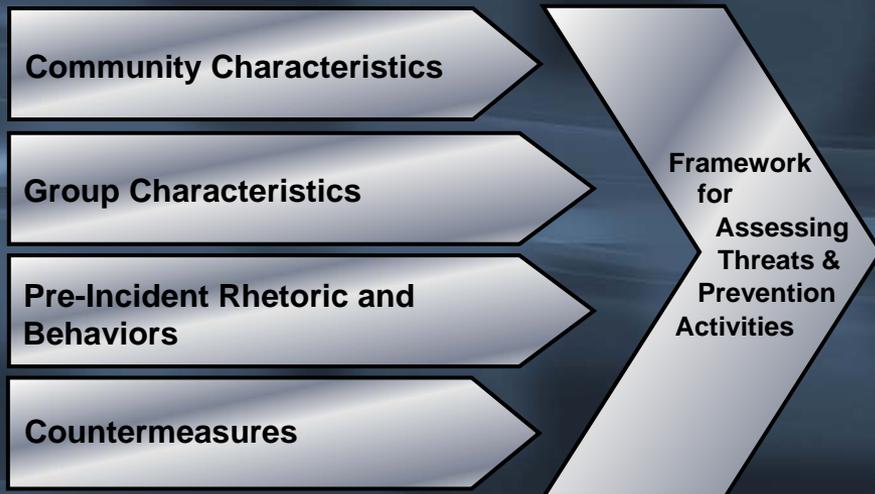
The Human Factors/Behavioral Sciences Division will advance national security by developing and applying the social, behavioral, and physical sciences to improve identification and analysis of threats, to enhance societal resilience, and to integrate human capabilities into the development of technology.

~ HFD Mission Statement



START conducts basic research on the human causes and consequences of terrorism, using theories, methods, and concepts of the social and behavioral sciences.

~ START Mission



“Community-Level Indicators of Radicalization”

- <http://www.start.umd.edu/start/publications/>
- Fishman, Shira. 2010. "Community-Level Indicators of Radicalization: A Data and Methods Task Force." In *Report to Human Factors / Behavioral Sciences Division, Science and Technology Directorate*.

The Global Terrorism Database

- Originally compiled by PGIS
- 82,000+ attacks, 1970 to 2007
- Open source, unclassified
- Includes data on domestic events
- Drawn from electronic databases (e.g., Lexis/Nexis); wire services; newspapers; Radio/ TV Transcripts; Terrorism Chronologies; Government Reports

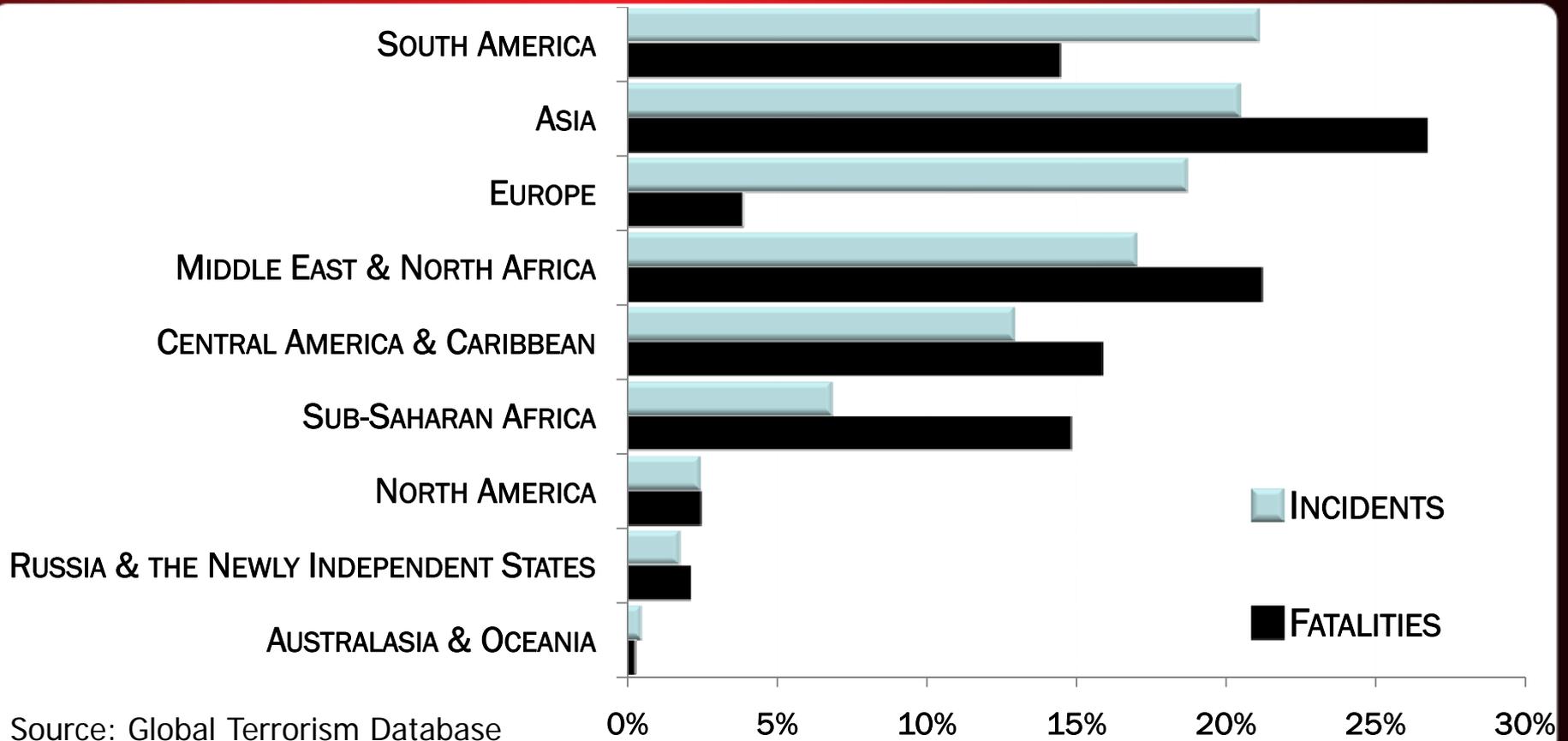


www.start.umd.edu/gtd

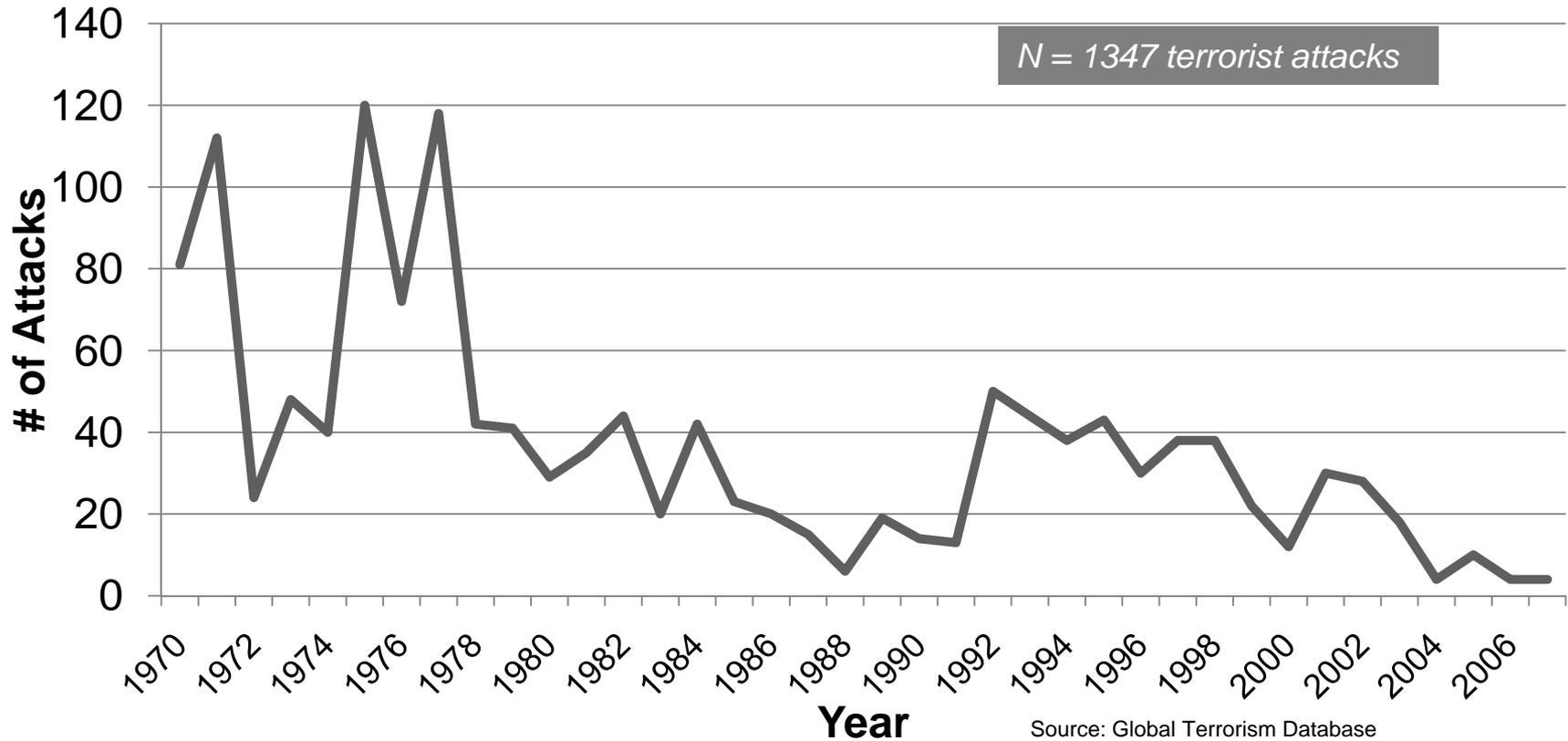
Defining Terrorism

The GTD defines terrorism as acts by non state actors involving the threatened or actual use of illegal force or violence to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation.

Terrorist Activity by Region, 1970-2007



Terrorist Attacks against U.S. Homeland, 1970-2007



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Fatal Terrorist Attacks against U.S., 1970 to 2007

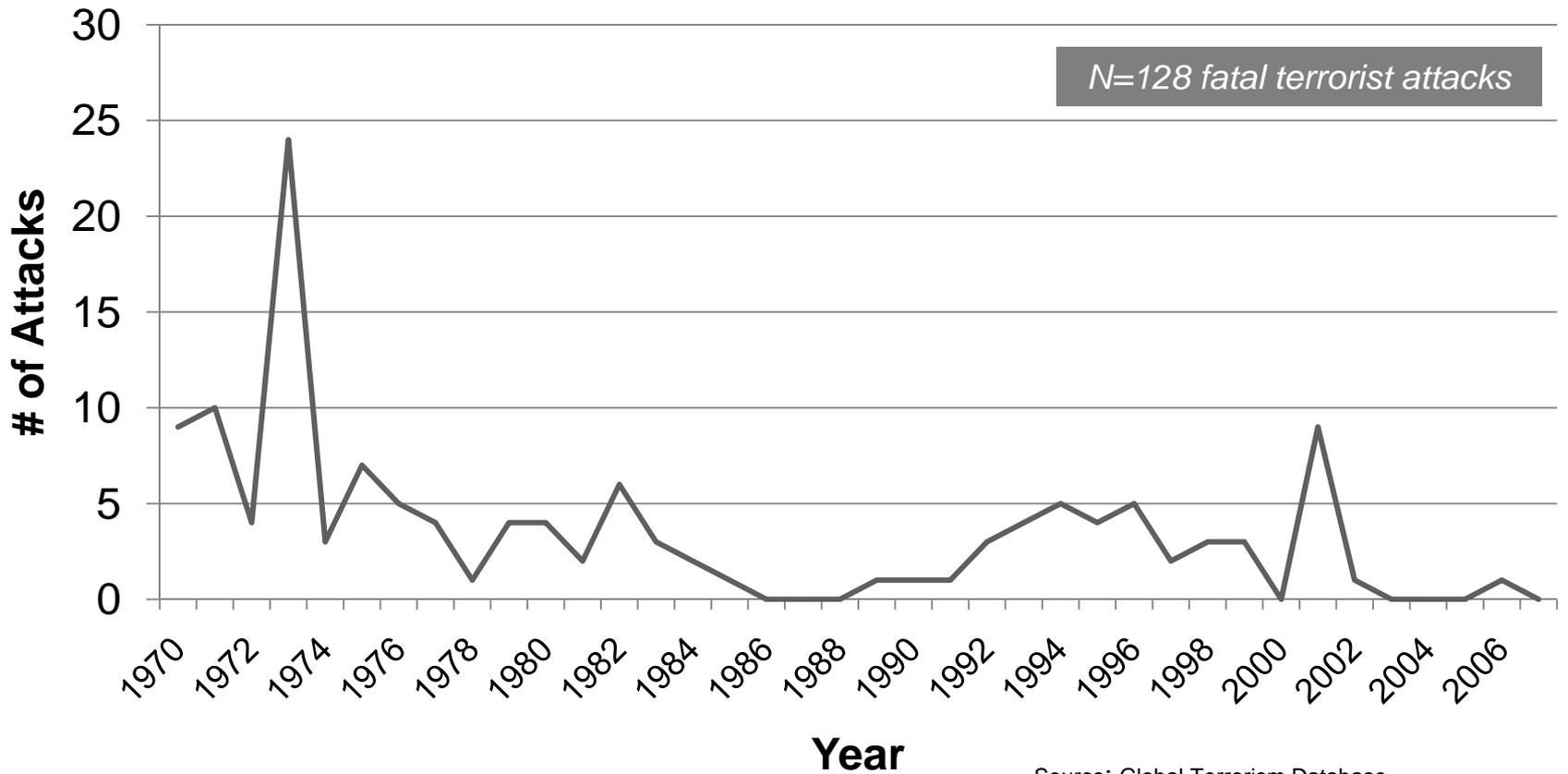
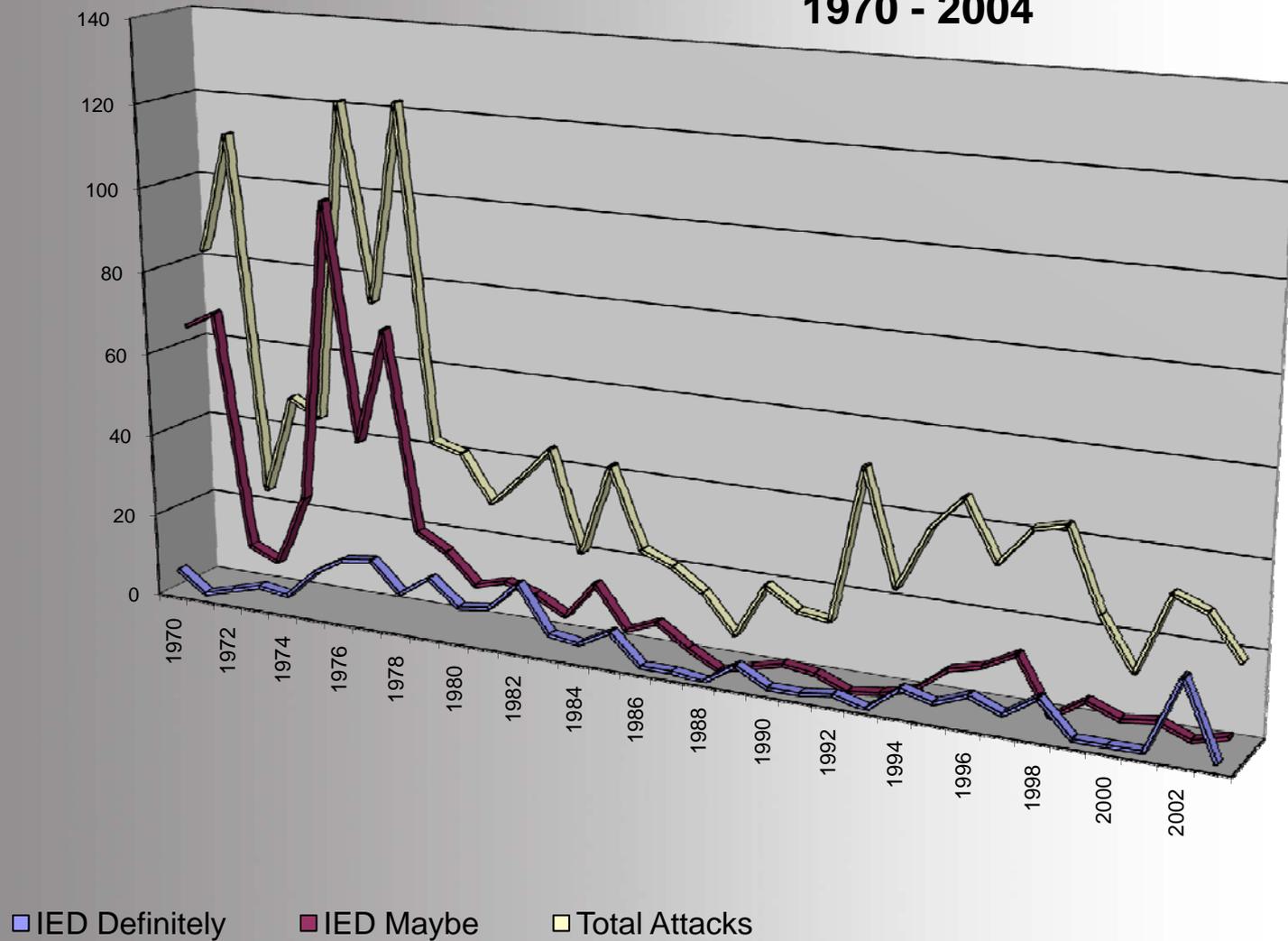
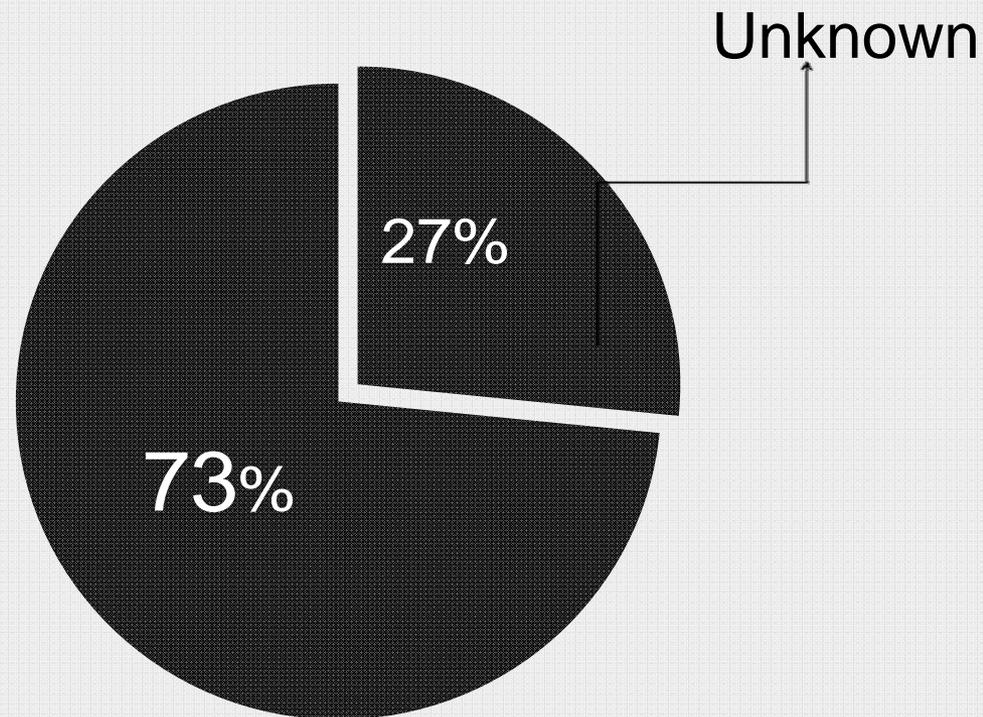


Figure 9. IED Attacks in the United States 1970 - 2004



Proportion of U.S. Domestic Attacks Where Group is Unknown, 1970 to 2007



Source:GTD

Total Attacks against the U.S. Homeland by Group, 1970 to 2007

<i>Group Name</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Anti-Abortion-related movement	177	13.14
New World Liberation Front (NWLF)	83	6.16
Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN)	71	5.27
Jewish Defense League (JDL)	55	4.08
Omega-7	42	3.12
Weather Underground, Weathermen	40	2.97
Earth Liberation Front (ELF)	37	2.75
Black Liberation Army	29	2.15
Animal Liberation Front (ALF)	23	1.71
Unknown	358	26.58
Other	432	32.07
Total	1347	100.00

Weapons Used in Terrorist Attacks against U.S. Homeland, 1970 to 2007

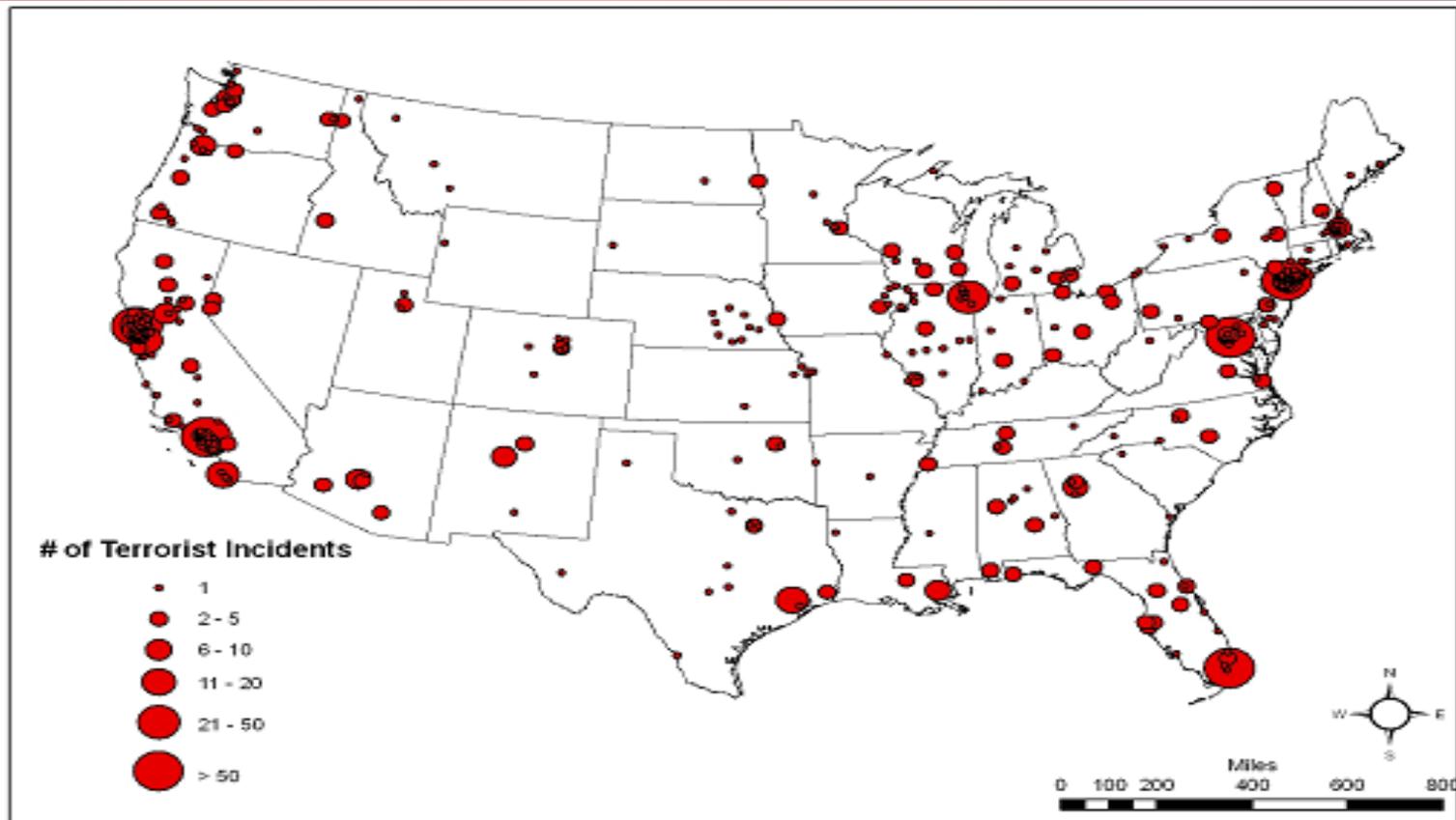
Weapons	Number	Percent
Explosives/Bombs/Dynamite	745	57.44
Incendiary	325	25.06
Firearms	118	9.10
Chemical	64	4.93
Biological	19	1.46
Melee	17	1.31
Other	9	0.69
Total	1297	100.00

Note: Unknown perpetrator in 50 incidents.

Types of Targets in Attacks against the U.S. Homeland, 1970 to 2007

<i>Target Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Target Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Business	345	30.00		Utilities	39	2.91
Abortion Related	254	18.94		Military	37	2.76
Government (General)	137	10.22		Educational Institution	37	2.76
Private Citizens & Property	121	9.02		Journalists & Media	30	2.24
Government (Diplomatic)	92	6.86		Religious Figures/ Institutions	25	1.86
Police	53	3.95		Other	76	5.67
Airports & Airlines	43	3.88		Total	1,341	100.00
NGO	39	3.21		<i>Note: Target could not be determined for 6 cases.</i>		

Distribution of U.S. Terrorist Attacks 1970-2007



Total Attacks by State, 1970 to 2007

<i>State</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>State</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
New York	345	25.73		Oregon	26	1.94
California	319	23.79		Massachusetts	26	1.94
Florida	105	7.83		Michigan	21	1.57
District of Columbia	67	5.00		Ohio	20	1.49
Illinois	59	4.40		Virginia	16	1.19
Washington	32	1.39		Georgia	14	1.04
Texas	31	2.31		Other	232	17.30
New Jersey	28	2.09		Total	1341	100

Total Attacks per U.S. City, 1970 to 2007

<i>City</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
New York	272	24.03
Miami	70	6.18
Washington, D.C.	67	5.99
San Francisco	66	5.83
Los Angeles	54	4.77
Chicago	37	3.27
Berkeley	19	1.68
Other	561	49.56
Total	1146	100.00

Note: City unknown in 201 incidents.



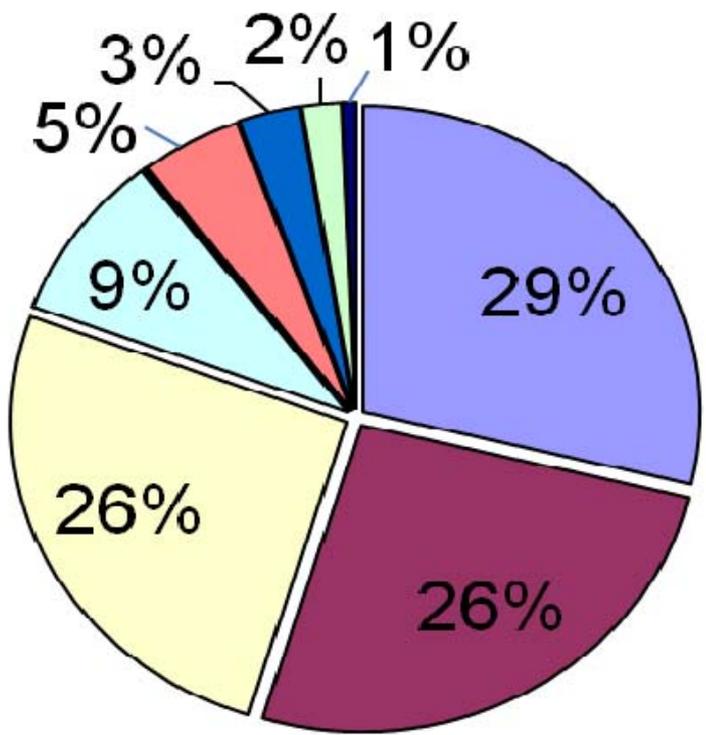
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Most Active and Most Deadly U.S. Terrorist Groups by Era

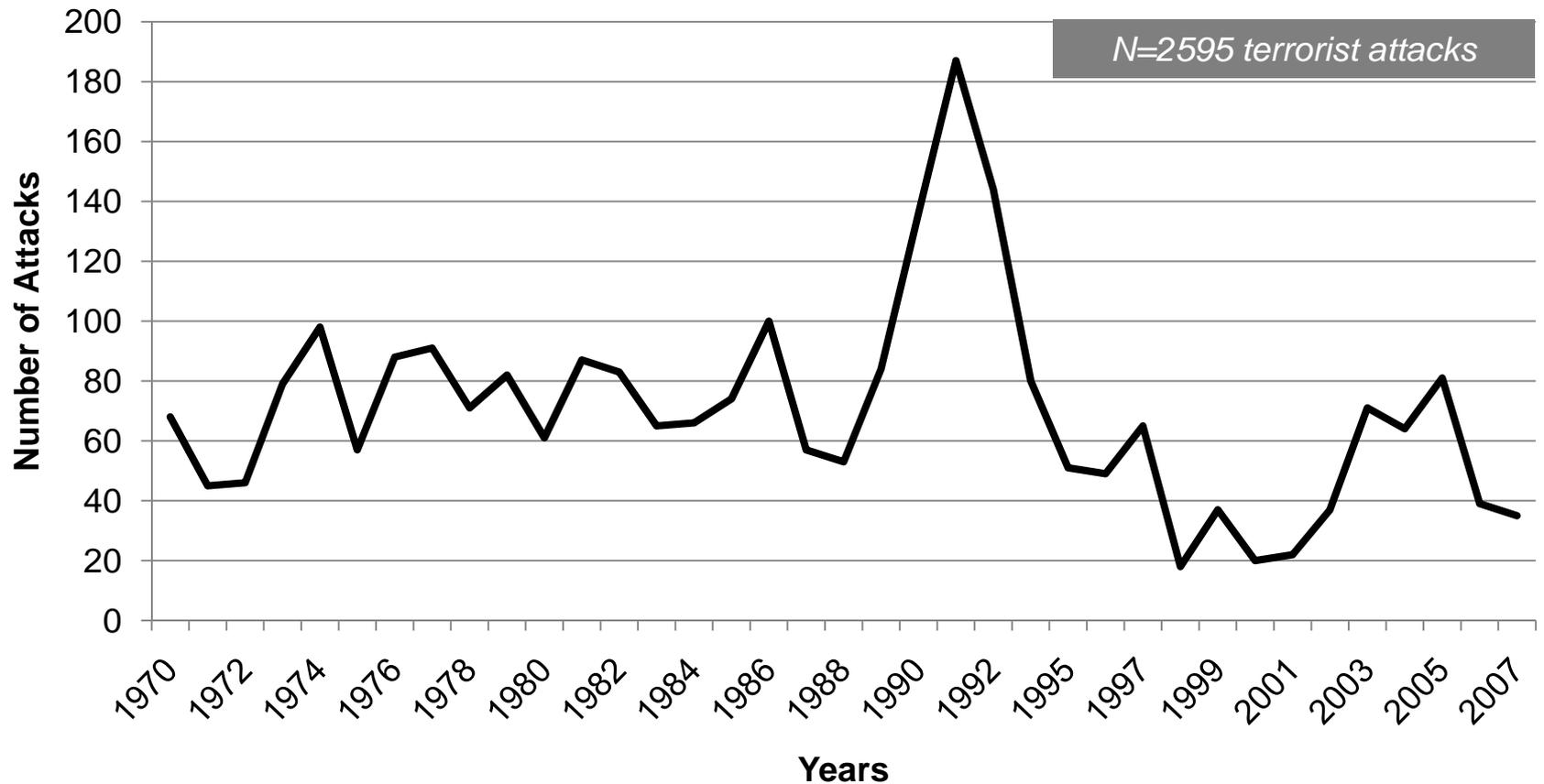
<i>Decade</i>	<i>Most Active</i>	<i>Most Deadly</i>
1970s	New World Liberation Front (NWLFF) Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN)	Black Liberation Army Death Angels
1980s	Anti-Abortion Group Jewish Defense League (JDL)	Possee Comitatus Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide Jewish Defense League (JDL)
1990s	Anti-abortion Group World Church of the Creator	Right-Wing Extremists World Church of the Creator
2000	Earth Liberation Front (ELF) Animal Liberation Front (ALF)	Al-Qa'ida

Ideologies of Terrorists in the United States



- Rightist
- Ethnonationalist
- Leftist
- Ethnonationalist/ Religious
- Environmentalist
- Other
- Religious
- Leftist/ Ethnonationalism

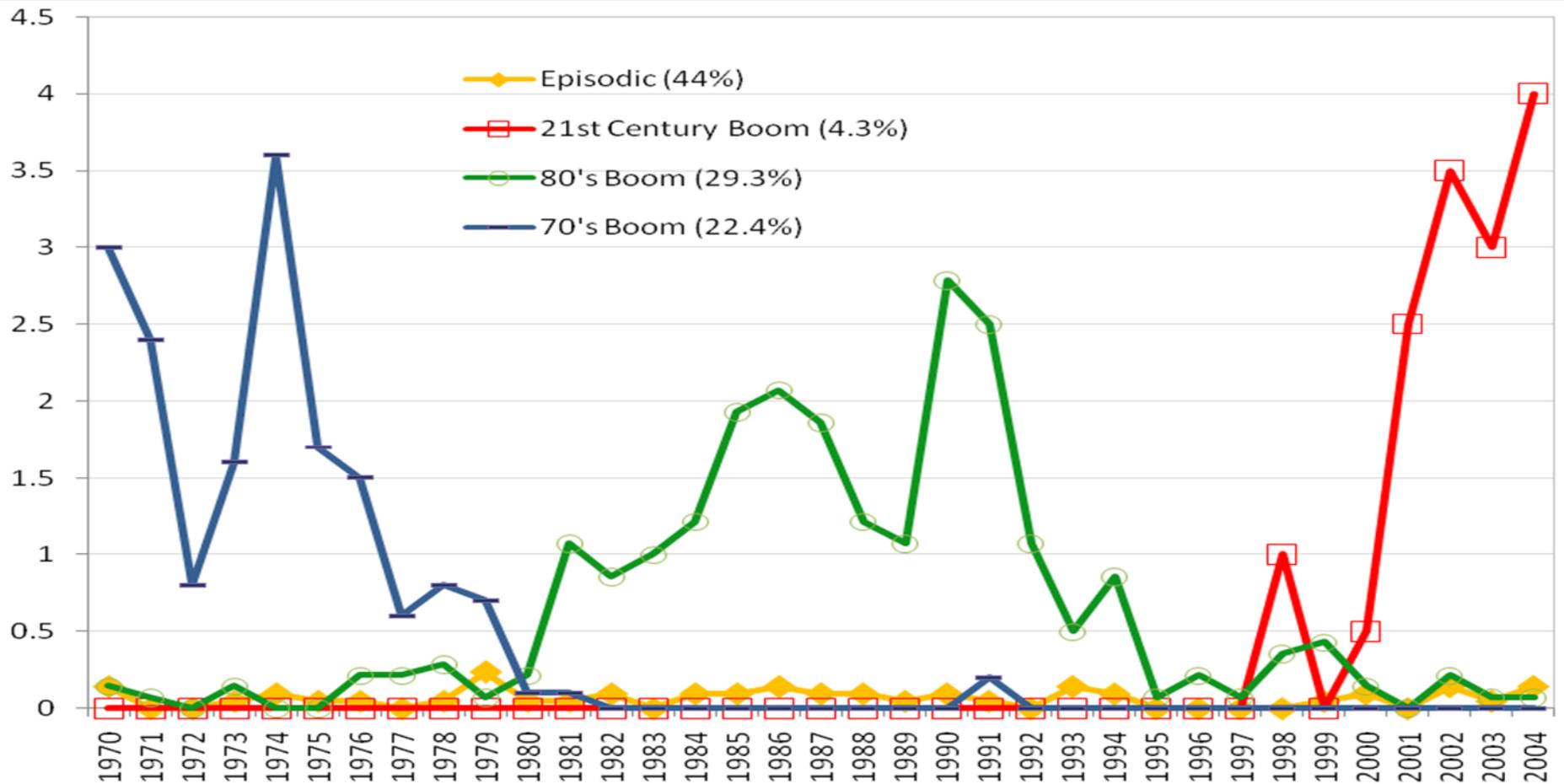
Total Attacks Against U.S. Targets *outside* U.S. Homeland



Groups that Attack U.S. Targets outside U.S. Homeland

<i>Terrorist Groups</i>	<i>Number of Attacks</i>	<i>Percent of Attacks</i>		<i>Terrorist Groups</i>	<i>Number of Attacks</i>	<i>Percent of Attacks</i>
Shining Path (SL)	53	2.05		Ejercito Revolucionaria del Pueblo (ERP) (Argentina)	25	0.96
National Liberation Army of Colombia (ELN)	39	1.51		Baader-Meinhof Group	24	0.93
Turkish People's Liberation Army	38	1.47		M-19 (Movement of April 19)	21	0.81
Montoneros (Argentina)	37	1.43		Dev Sol	20	0.77
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)	36	1.39		Red Army Faction (RAF)	18	0.69
Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA)	35	1.35		November 17 Revolutionary Organization (N17RO)	17	0.66
New People's Army (NPA)	34	1.31		Revolutionary People's Struggle (ELA)	16	0.62
Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR)	33	1.27		Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)	15	0.58
Taliban	30	1.16		Tupamaros (Uruguay)	14	0.54
United Popular Action Movement	29	1.12		Other Groups	778	30.51
Basque Fatherland and Freedom (ETA)	28	1.08		Totals	2591	100

Trajectories of Attacks on United States by Anti-U.S. Terrorist Groups, 1970-2004



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Shifting U.S. Adversaries

21st Century Boom

al Qaeda

Taliban

80s Boom

Shining Path

Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front

70s Boom

Red Brigades

People's Liberation Forces

Sporadic

Popular Liberation Army

Moro Islamic Liberation Front

Growing Importance of Thwarted Attacks

- 22 al Qaeda or jihadi-related U.S. domestic attacks thwarted since 9/11
- Including:
 - Richard Reid, “shoe bomber,” December 2001
 - Jose Padilla, “dirty bomb” case, May 2002
 - Virginia jihad network, June 2003
 - Madison Square Garden plot, August 2004
 - Liquid explosives plot, August 2006
 - Fort Dix plot, May 2007
 - Synagogue bombing plot, May 2009
 - Najibullah Zazi, October 2009

Future Directions for U.S. Data

**Global Terrorism
Database: U.S. Cases**

**U.S. Extremist Crime
Database**

New Integrated Database:
Terrorism and Extremist Violence in
the United States

**American Terrorism
Study** (federal terrorism
convictions)

**Profiles of Terrorism
Perpetrators:** Groups that
have attacked the U.S.

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Planning Horizon for US Terrorist Groups

Running Cumulative % of Acts by Time Range

Category (Incidents)	3+ years	1 to 3 years	7 to 12 months	4 to 6 months	1 to 3 months	15-30 days	8-14 days	4-7 days	2-3 days	Day Before	Incident Day	Total Acts
International (10)	100%	97%	89%	84%	68%	55%	32%	21%	13%	9%	5%	93
Environmental (29)				100%	98%	95%	91%	80%	72%	43%	20%	80
Right Wing (11)		100%	96%	96%	94%	67%	49%	44%	31%	26%	15%	55
Left Wing (6)					100%	88%	88%	88%	88%	75%	50%	8
All Categories (56)	100%	99%	95%	93%	85%	72%	57%	48%	40%	27%	14%	236

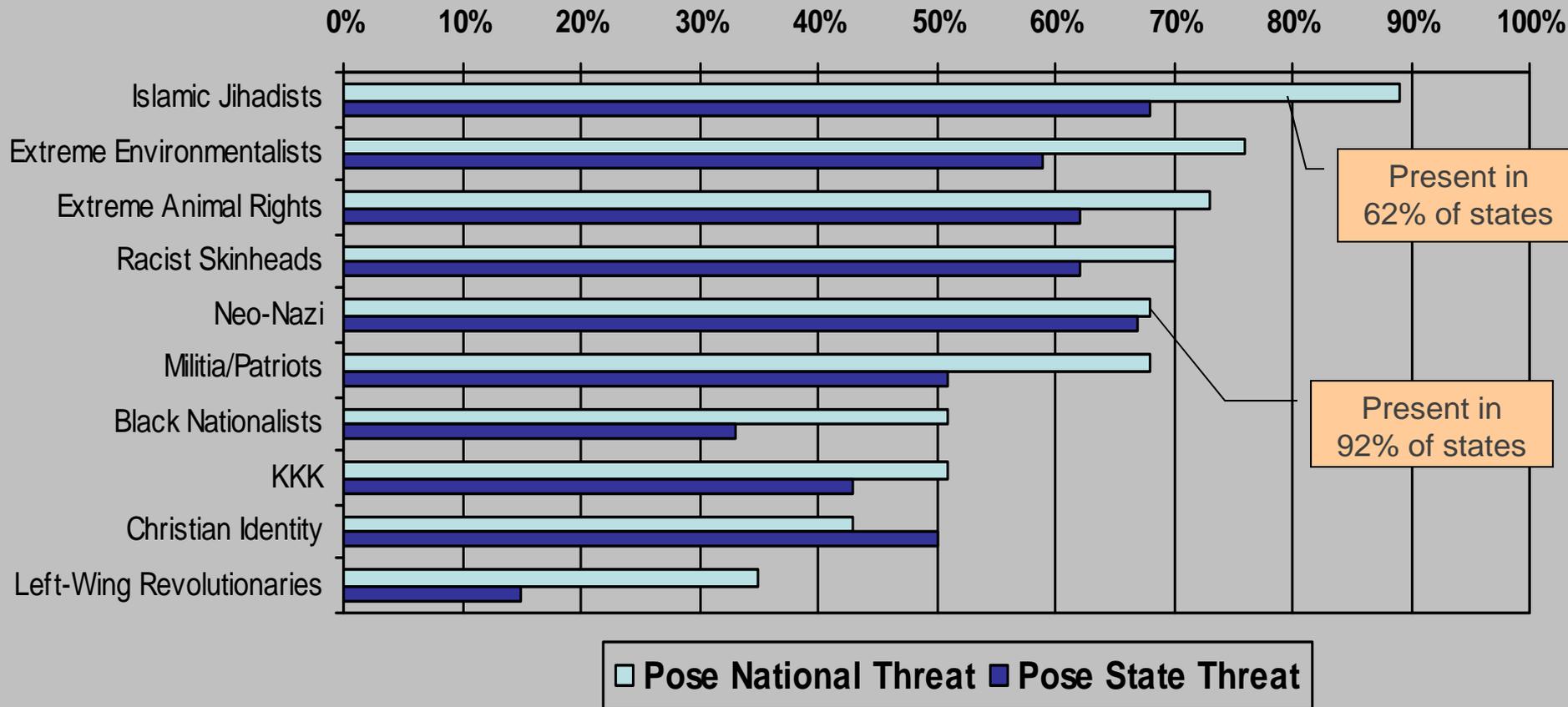
Researchers: Brent Smith (Arkansas) and Kelly Damphousse (Oklahoma)



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Perceptions of Threat: State Police Agency Perspectives



Research led by Joshua D. Freilich, Joseph Simone, and Steven Chermak



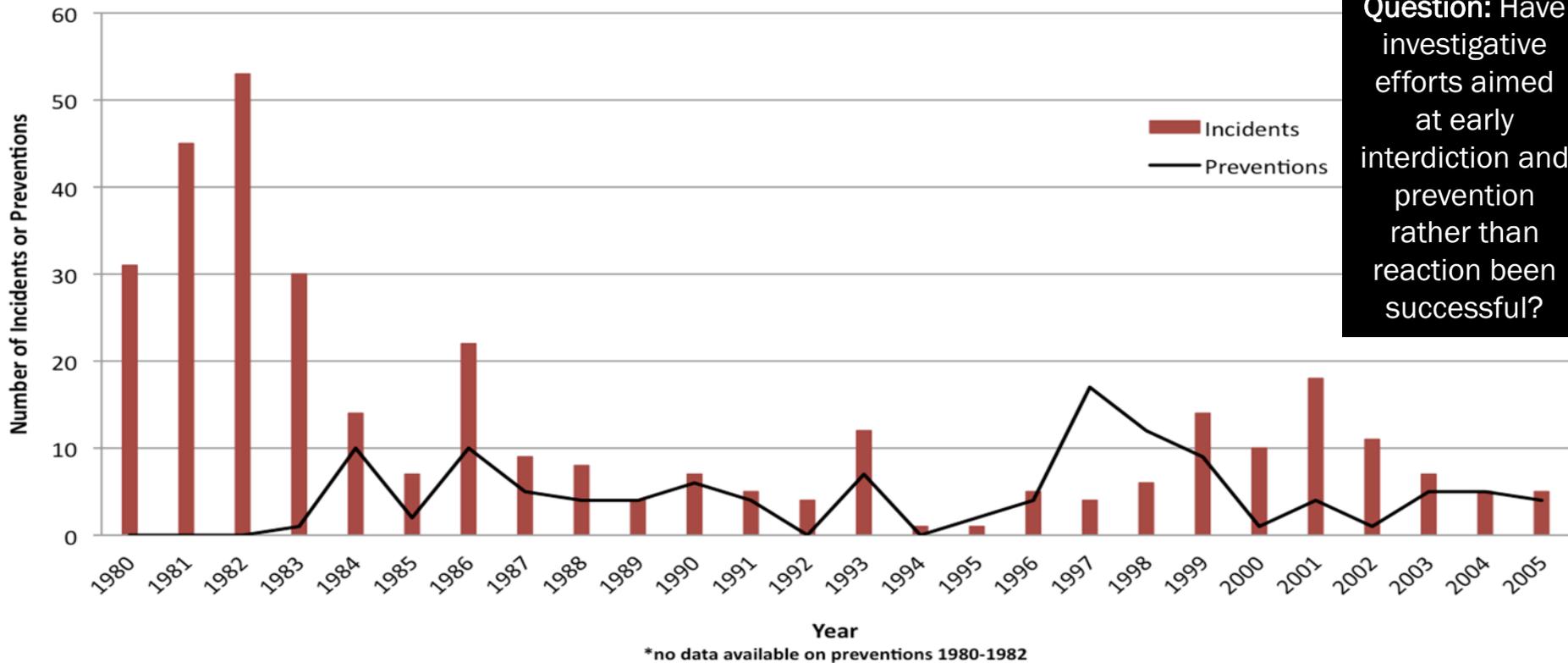
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Measuring Intervention Success in Terrorist Activities

1980-2005 Incidents and Preventions

source: FBI Annual Reports on Terrorism 1983-2005



Research Question: Have investigative efforts aimed at early interdiction and prevention rather than reaction been successful?

*no data available on preventions 1980-1982

Research led by Brent Smith and Kelly Damphousse

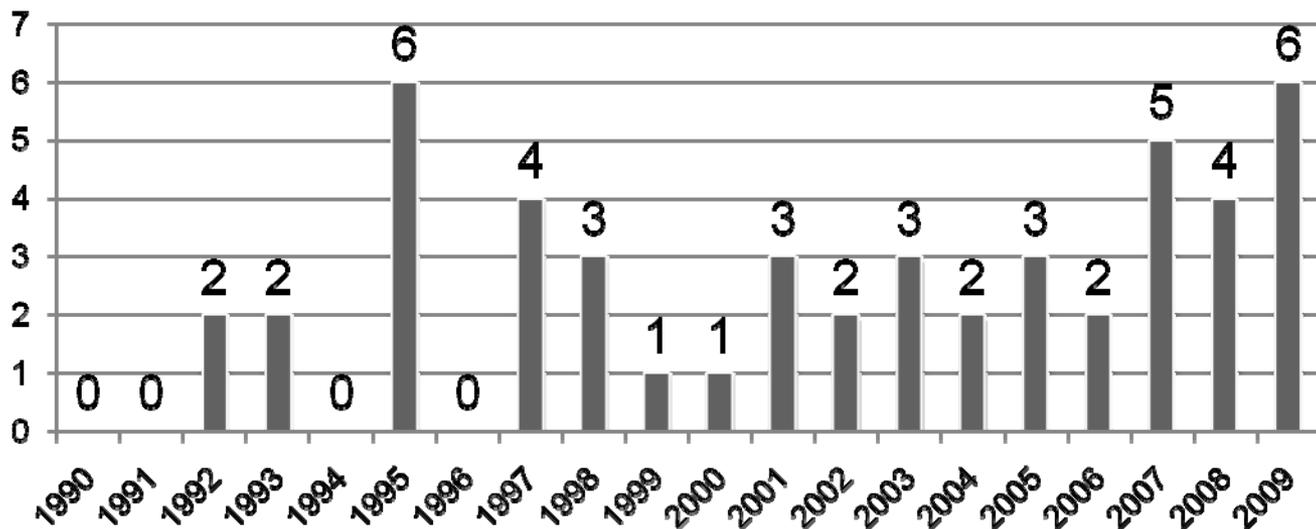
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U.S. Law Enforcement Killed by Far-Right Extremists

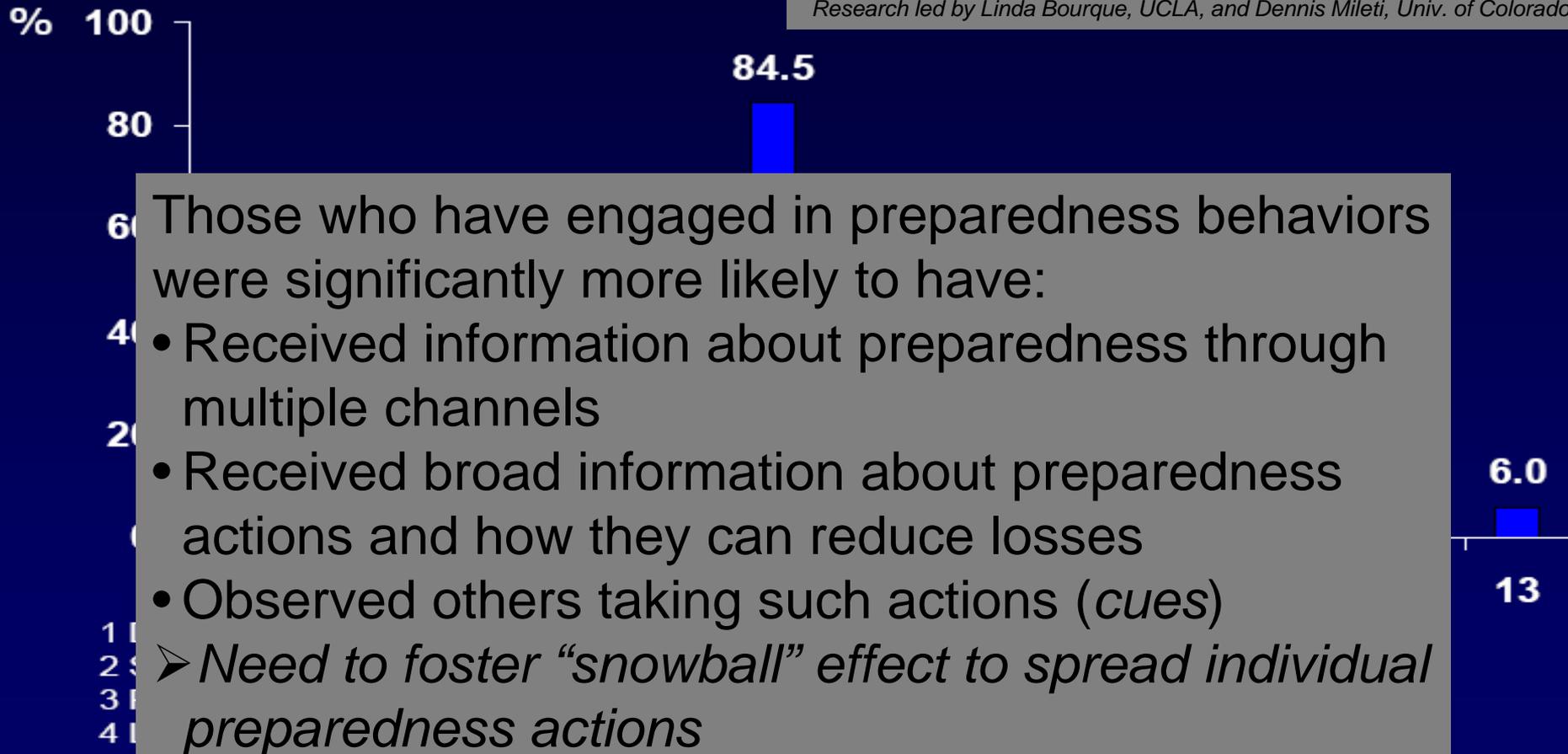
- 49 known law-enforcement fatalities in incidents involving far-rightists, 1990-June 2009
- 65% of fatalities were local law enforcement



- Only 26% of FR suspects belong to formal groups (vs. lone wolves & unaffiliated)

U.S. Household Preparedness

Research led by Linda Bourque, UCLA, and Dennis Mileti, Univ. of Colorado



December 15, 2008

187 provided national benchmarks

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Conclusions: U.S. Event Data

- Challenge of interpretation: hate crimes, abortion clinic bombings, environmental
- Growing (?) importance of thwarted attacks
- Importance of bombs/explosive devices
- Attacks are highly concentrated geospatially
- Attacks on US targets in other countries more common than domestic attacks



Beta Release

Search the Database

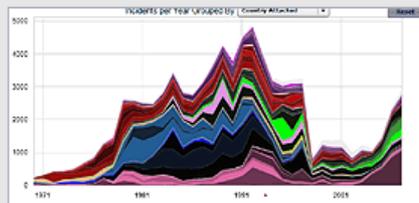
[I'm a New User](#)

Browse by:

Information on Over 80,000 Terrorist Attacks

The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) is an open-source database including information on terrorist events around the world from 1970 through 2007 (with annual updates planned for the future). Unlike many other event databases, the GTD includes systematic data on domestic as well as international terrorist incidents that have occurred during this time period and now includes more than 80,000 cases. [Learn more](#)

GTD DATA RIVERS



The **GTD Data Rivers** is an interactive visual exploratory tool that allows users to investigate temporal trends in terrorism in the Global Terrorism Database (GTD). The GTD Data Rivers aggregates important variables from the database and visualizes them as a comprehensible *stack chart*.

[Learn more about GTD Data Rivers](#)

THIS DATE IN TERRORISM

June 25

2000 **Ismael, Algeria**

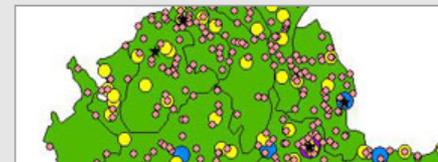
06/25/2000: An armed group attacked a mercury factory in Ismael, Algeria, killing one and setting fire to several lorries and pieces of equipment. The perpetrators were thought to have belonged to the Salafist Group for Preaching and Fighting (GSPC).

[Learn more](#)

2001 **Uige, Angola**

06/25/2001: Eleven people were killed and seven injured in a National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) attack against Uige, the capital of Uige Province in the north of Angola. UNITA attacked Uige in three separate areas, north, east and south of the city, penetrating

FEATURED



The Spatial Concentration and Patterns of Left-Wing Terrorism in Colombia (1977-1997)

Using data from the GTD, an analysis was conducted on the spatial concentrations and patterns of left-wing terrorism in Colombia from 1977 to 1997.

[Read more](#)

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