

FAR-RIGHT EXTREMIST TACTICS IN THE USA

Authors: Dr. Eoin B. Healy and Hope LaFreniere

Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. Arie Perliger

Co-PIs: Dr. Eoin B. Healy and Dr. Victor Asal



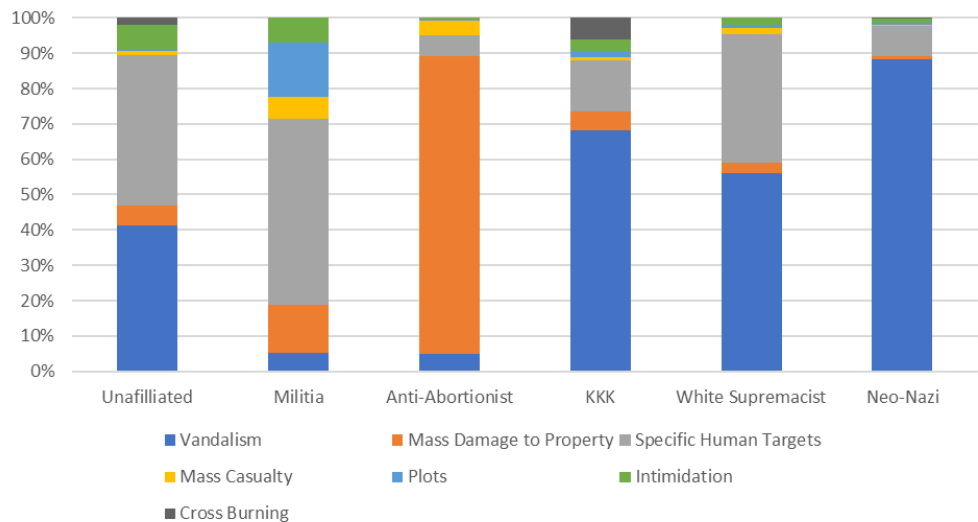
This research brief uses preliminary University of Massachusetts | Lowell–Development Services Group, Inc., data on far-right violence that currently document more than 7,800 incidents motivated by far-right ideologies from 1990 through 2021.

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Above: Ku Klux Klan parade, Sept. 13, 1926. Credit: Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016842483/>



Figure 2. Tactics Used by Far-Right Perpetrators (N = 7,830)



PROPERTY

The volume of property attacks by affiliated perpetrators has changed over time.

TACTICS BY GROUP

Various far-right groups tend to use different tactics. Vandalism tends to be associated with neo-Nazi, white supremacist, KKK, and unaffiliated perpetrators who adopt distinct symbols and use outgrouping terms.

Militia groups, the unaffiliated, and white supremacists are the most likely groups to attack specific human targets.

While anti-abortionist groups were the primary perpetrators during the 1990s, racist groups (KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists) were the primary perpetrators throughout the 21st century's first decade and have increased their attacks since 2018.

Figure 3. Property Attacks by Affiliated Groups Over Time (N=521)

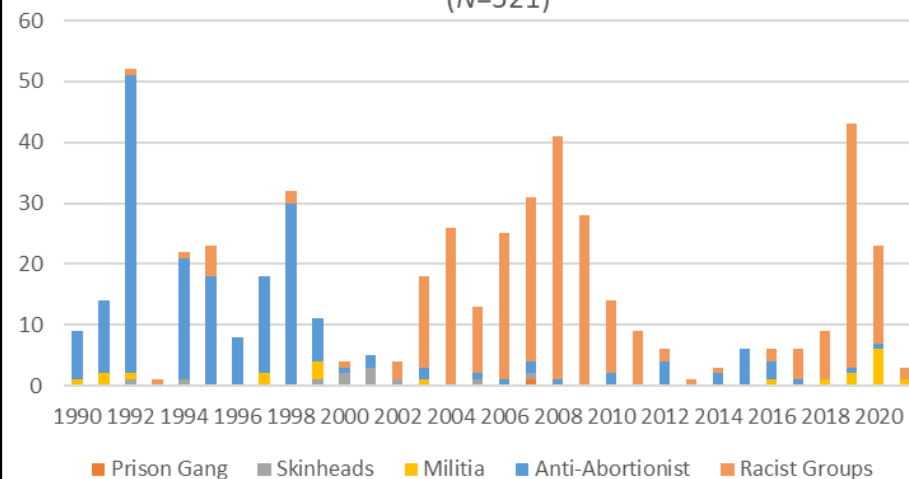
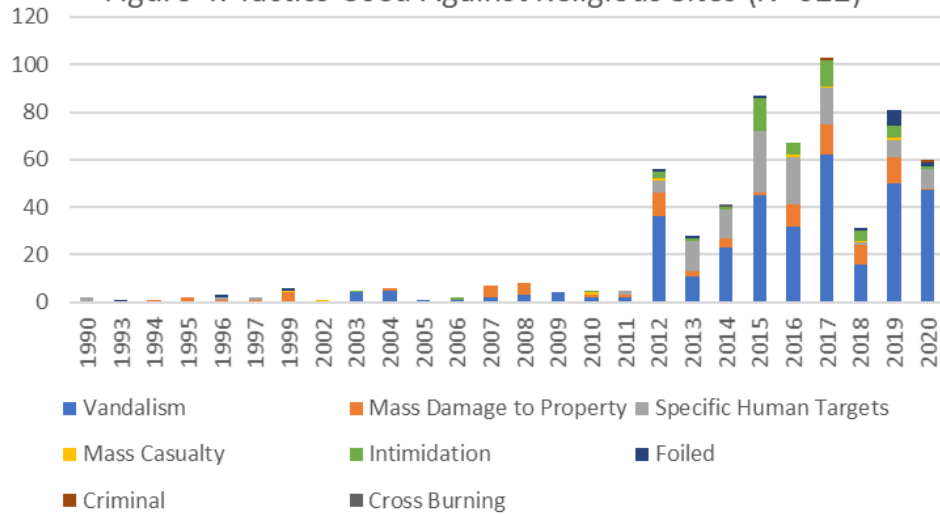


Figure 4. Tactics Used Against Religious Sites (N=622)



Racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and white supremacists have been linked directly to 380 far-right violent incidents from 1990 through 2021.

Violent incidents targeting specific human beings increased in 2019 and 2020. This may be because individuals are more willing to state their group affiliation, particularly with race accelerationist groups such as the boogaloo bois and the Western misogynist group the Proud Boys.

Religious sites increasingly came under attack from far-right extremists during the 2010s.

While a large proportion of incidents are acts of vandalism, religious sites also have increasingly sustained mass damage to property and attacks with specific human targets.

Figure 5. Racist Groups' Violent Tactics (N=380)

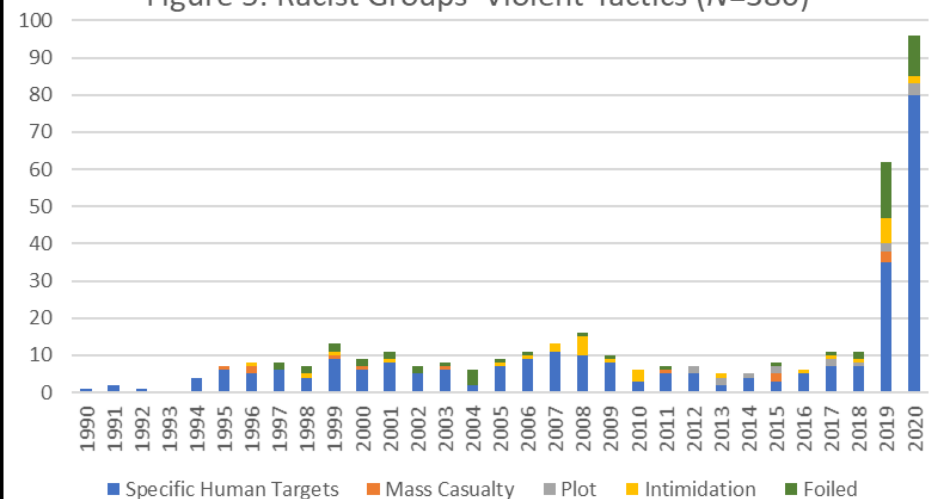
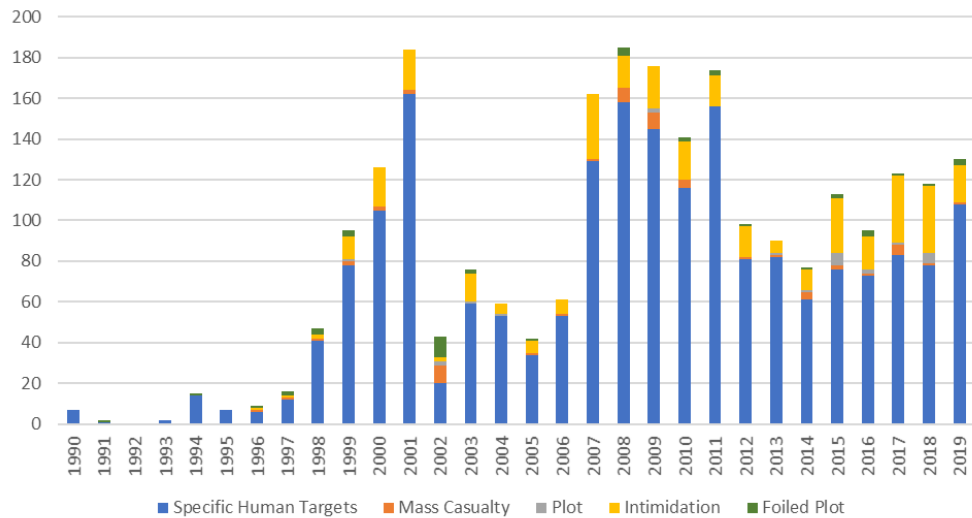


Figure 6. Unaffiliated Violent Tactics (N = 2,595)



Unaffiliated far-right violence makes up the majority of all violent attacks (N = 3,506) and is increasing over time. These attacks are 2.7 times as likely to be violent, compared with attacks by affiliated perpetrators. Unaffiliated right-wing attacks involve specific human targets in 81.3 percent of incidents and intimidation in 13.9 percent of incidents. These unaffiliated attacks are between 5 and 6 times as likely to target religious or ethnic minorities or immigrants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

DR. ARIE PERLIGER  ARIE_PERLIGER@UML.EDU

 @APERLIGER

DR. EOIN B. HEALY  EHEALY@DSGONLINE.COM

 @EOINHEALY

MILITIA VERSUS NONMILITIA THREATS
Militia activity increased in 2020. However, militia groups' plots are nearly 15 times as likely to be foiled by police as the attack plans of other far-right extremists.

Militias are 9 times as likely as nonmilitia groups to use violent tactics.

Figure 7. Militia Tactics (N = 175)

