Racial Dynamics in the Perpetration of Far-Right Violence in the United States

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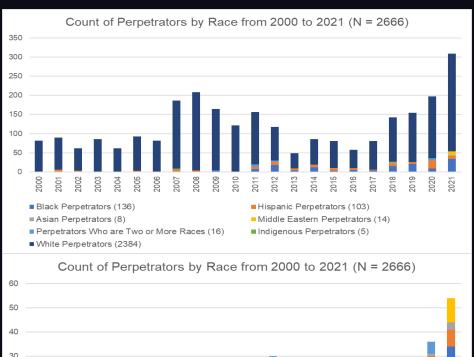
> Center for Terrorism

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This research brief uses preliminary University of Massachusetts, Lowell– Development Services Group, Inc., data on far-right violence that documents more than 4,700 perpetrators motivated by far-right ideologies from 2000 through 2021.

Image: Freepik.com.





30 20 2008 2009 2010 2012 2016 2017 2018 2013 2015 2011 2014 2020 Hispanic Perpetrators (103) Black Perpetrators (136 ■Asian Perpetrators (8) Middle Eastern Perpetrators (14) Indigenous Perpetrators (5) Perpetrators Who are Two or More Races (16)

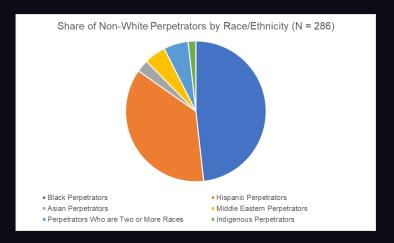
Thus far, 286 non-White perpetrators have been identified, and many of these have perpetrated attacks more recently. The number of non-White perpetrators has been increasing over time, with a 108% increase from 2019 to 2021.

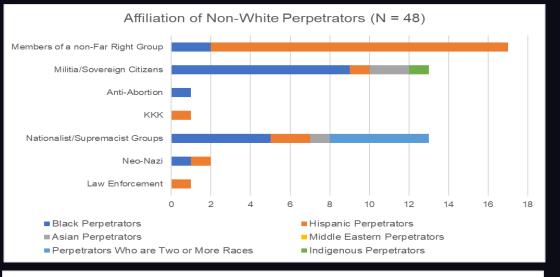
Perpetration by Hispanic and Black individuals suggests that Hispanic and Black communities in particular might be facing new vulnerabilities to radicalization from the far right.  $\diamond$ 

This research brief summarizes the targets, tactics, and affiliations of non-White perpetrators of farright violence from 2000 through 2021.

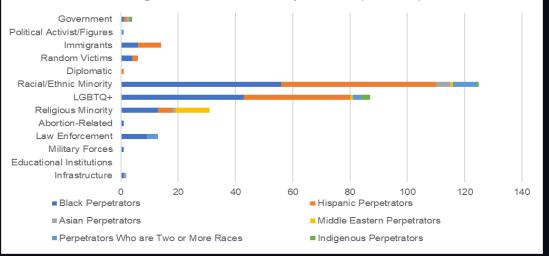
Leading up to Barack Obama's 2008 election as the United States' first Black president and the period shortly afterward, far-right violence perpetrated by White individuals increased. During this same period, extremist violence perpetrated by non-White individuals actually declined.

White individuals are responsible for the vast majority (89%) of incidents of far-right violence, which makes non-White perpetration a relatively rare occurrence. However, recent developments have suggested that the far right may be diversifying in terms of membership.





Targets of Non-White Perpetrators (N = 286)



Non-White Perpetrators by State



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About 83% of non-White perpetrators were not known to be affiliated with any far-right group. This suggests that many become radicalized through different avenues. Explanations of those

who are members of groups, especially those who are members of racist groups, are still developing.

Some groups highlight their non-White members, attempting to illustrate how they are "not racist." For example, Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio's Afro-Cuban ancestry often is used in discourse as a counterpoint to the group's racist rhetoric.

It appears that the majority of non-White perpetrators targeted individuals based on their racial or ethnic identity, which suggests that minority competition may be a factor.

Additionally, a significant portion of non-White perpetrators' targets are from the LGBTQ+ community, suggesting that gender and sexual identity may be a salient ideological concern among non-White far-right individuals.

Geographically, it appears that non-White perpetrators are located in areas similar to where the majority of far-right violence is taking place, largely California and New York.