

NCITE EXPLAINER: Domestic Terrorism



“The greatest terrorism threat to the Homeland we face today is posed by lone offenders, often radicalized online, who look to attack soft targets with easily accessible weapons.”

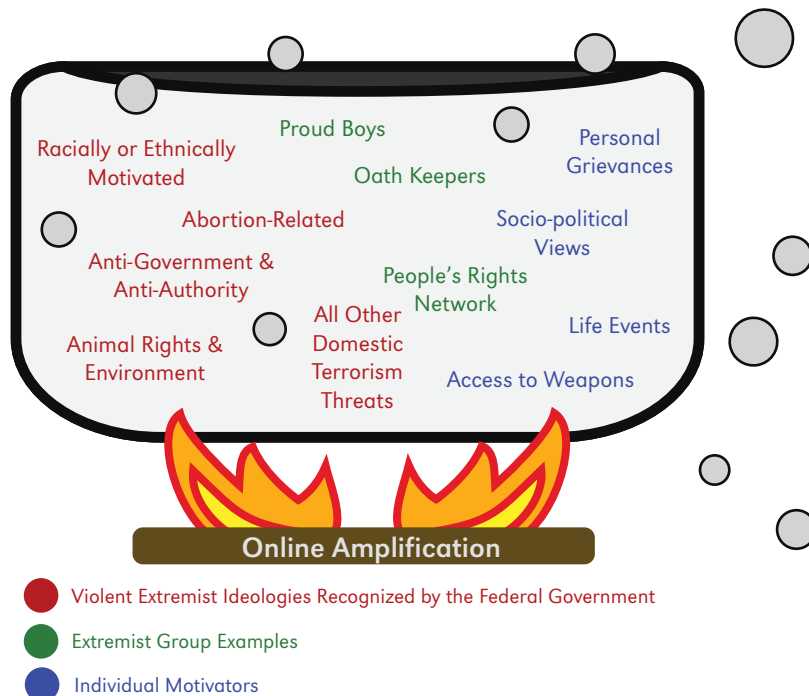
What It Is

FBI-DHS Strategic Intelligence Assessment May 2021

A premeditated act of violence against human life, critical infrastructure, or key resources that occurs inside the U.S. This violent act violates federal and/or state criminal laws and is done with intent to intimidate, coerce, influence, and/or affect the conduct of a government, business, or group beyond the immediate victim.

Why It Happens

Experts are looking for answers in a complex stew of extremist ideology, extremist group behavior, and individual beliefs and circumstances that, cooked in an online crucible, can boil into violence.



7,314 Number of hate crimes reported by participating U.S. law enforcement jurisdictions to FBI in FY2019. Nexus to domestic terrorism needs to be explored.

1,000 Average yearly FBI pending domestic terrorism investigations for 2017 through 2019. Investigations must meet legal, Constitutional standard plus additional FBI approval to move forward.

846 Number of domestic terrorism subjects arrested by or with the FBI between 2015 and 2019.

X There are a lot of numbers we don't know. This is a space NCITE researchers can help fill as they study the domestic terrorism stew.

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Who Can Help

NCITE is the largest and only federally designated research consortium studying this threat. Among our 50 plus researchers are:

50 +



Pete Simi
Chapman University. Sociologist who has studied perpetrators of domestic terrorism for over two decades.



Iris Malone
George Washington University. Political scientist using big data and machine learning to make sense of attack location characteristics.



Erin Kearns
University of Nebraska at Omaha. Criminologist with expertise in threat assessment and media portrayals of domestic terrorism.



Sam Hunter
University of Nebraska at Omaha. Organizational psychologist who is studying ways to preempt violent behavior.



Seamus Hughes
Deputy Director, Program on Extremism at George Washington University. Tracks terrorism activity through U.S. courts.

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