

Contemporary Threat Assessment and Management

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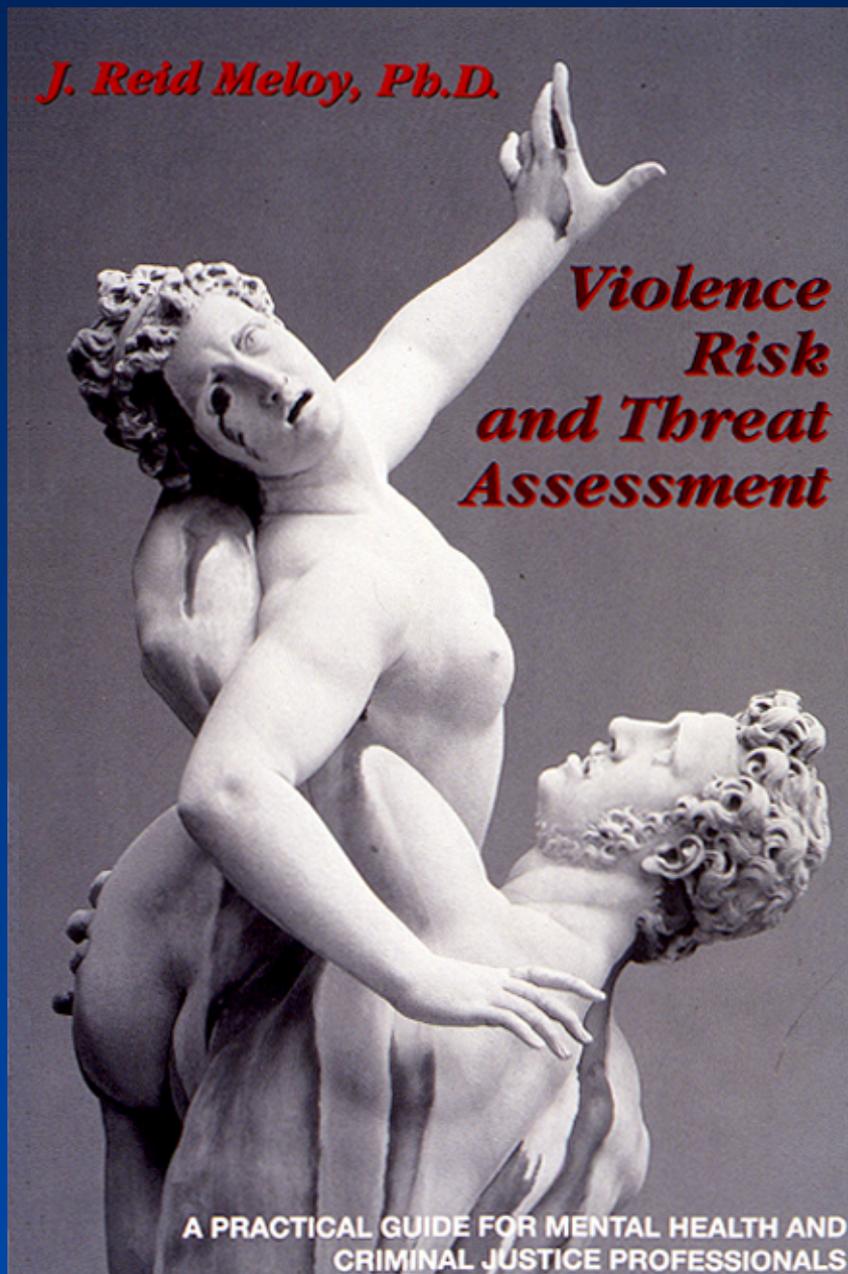
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J. Reid Meloy, Ph.D.

*Violence
Risk
and Threat
Assessment*

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS



Violence defined:

- An intentional act of aggression toward another human being that physically injures, or is likely to physically injure, that human being.



Is violence homogeneous?

- No



Affective and Predatory Modes of Violence

- Intense ANS arousal
- Subjective experience of emotion
- Reactive and immediate violence
- Internal or External threat
- Goal is threat reduction
- Minimal or no ANS
- No conscious emotion
- Planned and purposeful
- No or minimal threat
- Many goals



Affective and Predatory (continued)

- Rapid displacement of target
- Time-limited behavior
- Preceded by public posturing
- Primarily emotional
- Heightened and diffuse awareness
- No target displacement
- No time limit to behavior
- Preceded by private ritual
- Primarily cognitive-conative
- Focused awareness



Cornell et al., 1996, J
Consulting Clinical Psych,
64:783-790

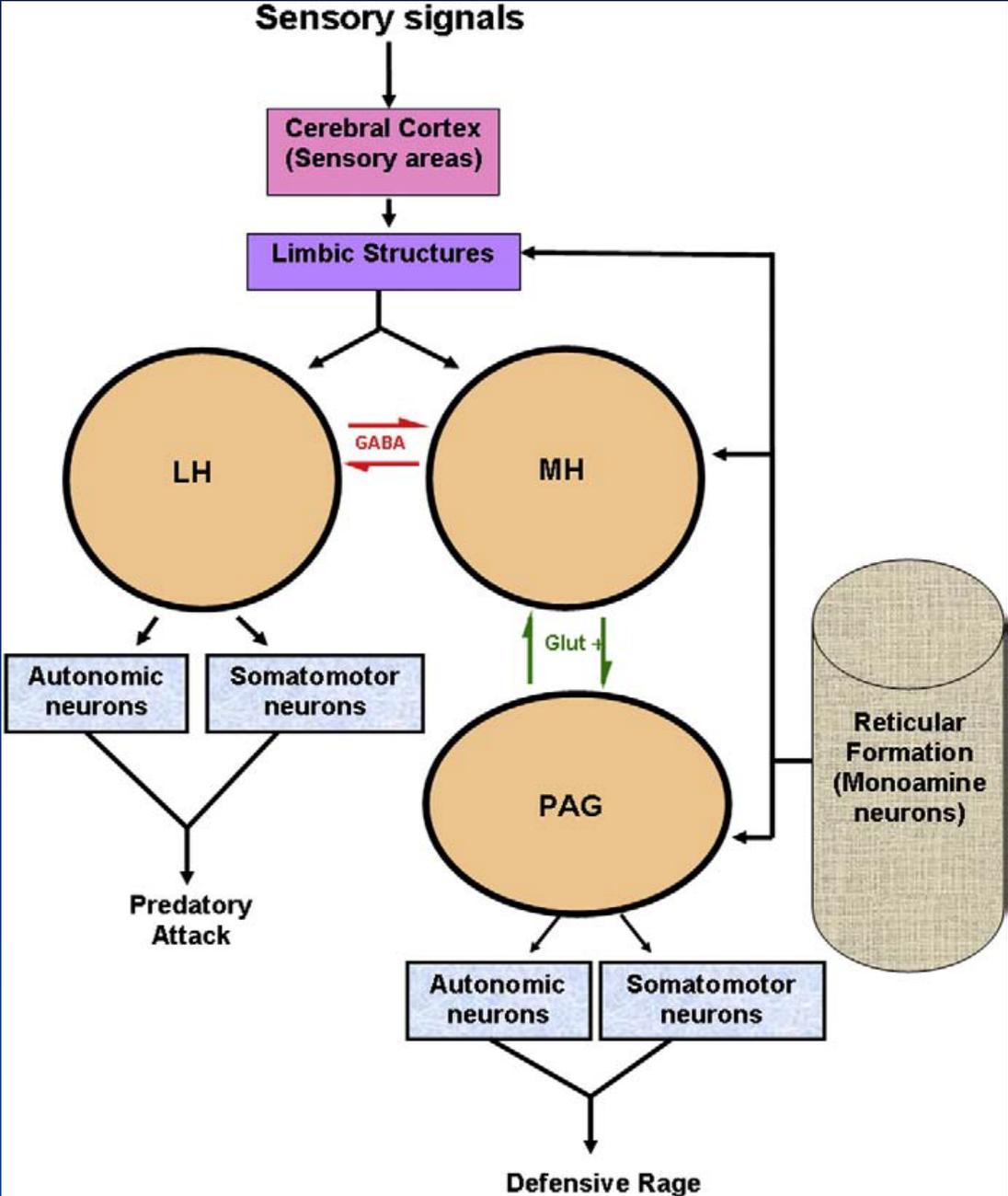
- Instrumental aggression
 - Motivated by goals other than emotion
 - Planning/preparation
- Reactive/Hostile aggression
 - Provocation
 - Arousal of hostility



Siegel A, Victoroff J.

- Understanding human aggression: new insights from neuroscience. Int J Law Psychiatry, 32:209-215, 2009





Hanlon et al., Criminal Justice and Behavior, 2013

- Affective murderers performed more poorly than predatory murderers across multiple neurocognitive domains:
 - Intelligence
 - Memory
 - Attention
 - Executive functions

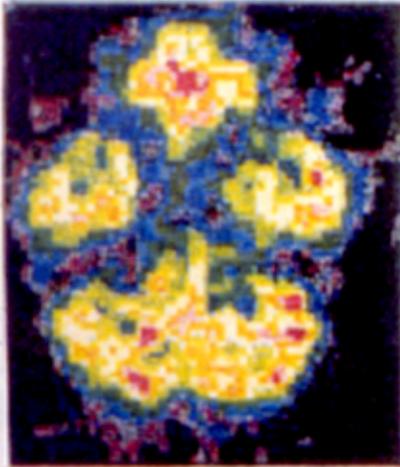




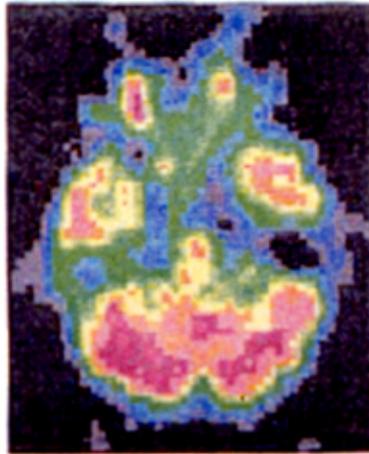




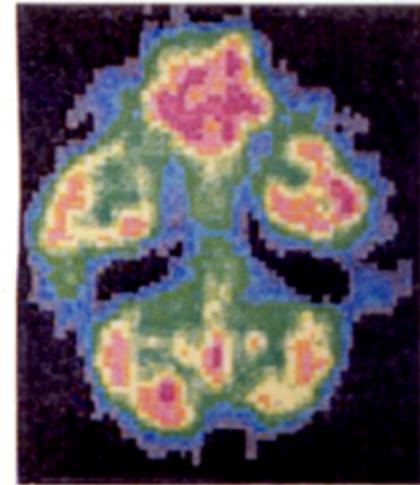
Raine et al., Behavioral
Sciences and the Law,
16:319-32, 1998



CONTROL



AFFECTIVE



PREDATORY

- 41 comparisons, 15 predatory, 9 affective murderers

Meloy, J.R. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry,
40:539-547, 2006

- “Empirical basis and forensic application of affective and predatory violence”
- Observational measures
- Self report instruments (PAVR, IPAS)
- Extensive scientific foundation
- Available at www.drreidmeloy.com

Data Gathering

- Self-report
- Official records
- Collaterals



Are there differences between threat assessment and violence risk assessment?

- Operational context
- Dynamic emphasis
- Idiographic (case-driven) approach: inductive
- Very low base rates
- Risk management rather than prediction
- Subject and potential victim
- Predatory (instrumental, intended) violence
- Likely urgency

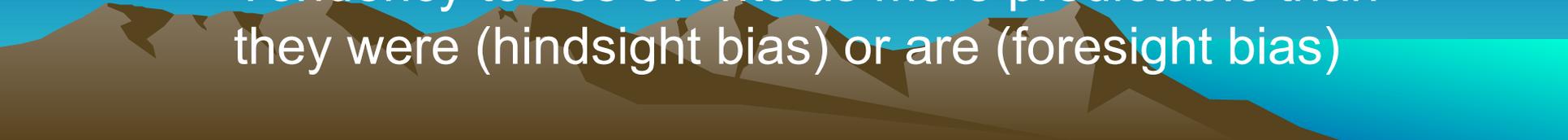


Are there similarities?

- Practiced by professionals with diverse backgrounds
- Goal is to prevent violence
- To assist decisions and actions of others
- Evaluations are a process over time
- Process should be structured and guided
- Violence is result of decision-making affected by perpetrator, target, and circumstances



What are vulnerabilities within threat assessment?

- Inductive (abductive) reasoning
 - One moves from particular facts about a case to a general principal
 - Availability bias
 - Importance is judged by ease and emotional charge with which it comes to mind, not actual probability
 - Confirmatory bias
 - Searching for evidence that supports one's opinion, rather than following all evidence
 - Predictable world bias
 - Tendency to see events as more predictable than they were (hindsight bias) or are (foresight bias)
- 

Confirmatory Bias—how we seek to protect our beliefs

- We *notice* facts to support our beliefs
- We *overlook* facts that don't
- We *seek* information to support our beliefs
- We give *greater weight* to such information
- We *accept at face value* such information
- We are better able to *remember* such information



Inductive reasoning

- All of the swans we have seen are white;
- Therefore, all swans are white.



Oops



Inductive vs. Deductive Reasoning

- This psychopath is a cold blooded murderer; therefore all psychopaths are cold-blooded murderers
- Comparison of psychopathic and nonpsychopathic prisoners indicates that the former have significantly higher rates of violence and are more predatory when they kill (cold-blooded) than nonpsychopathic murderers (Hare, 2003; Woodworth & Porter, 2002)



However,

- Base rates for violence among psychopathic criminals once released typically do not exceed 35%.
- Therefore, most psychopaths will not be violent if released from prison.
- But which group does your guy fit into?



The large group (deductive dilemma) and how to resolve

- Individualize assessments but anchor with large group data
- Move beyond placement of subject within a similar group of subjects (traditional violence risk assessment, whether actuarial or structured professional judgment)
- Adopt a more dynamic approach to risk assessment—focus on proximal indicators
- Begin to account for mode of violence



- We do not attempt to *predict* what the subject will do in the future; instead, we *risk manage* what he is doing now.



The low base rate dilemma

- Predictive attempts will result in too many false positives due to low base rate for targeted violence
- The Paradox: we will usually never know the violent acts we prevented
- However, over time, we will know if threat assessment teams are working with large aggregated data sets

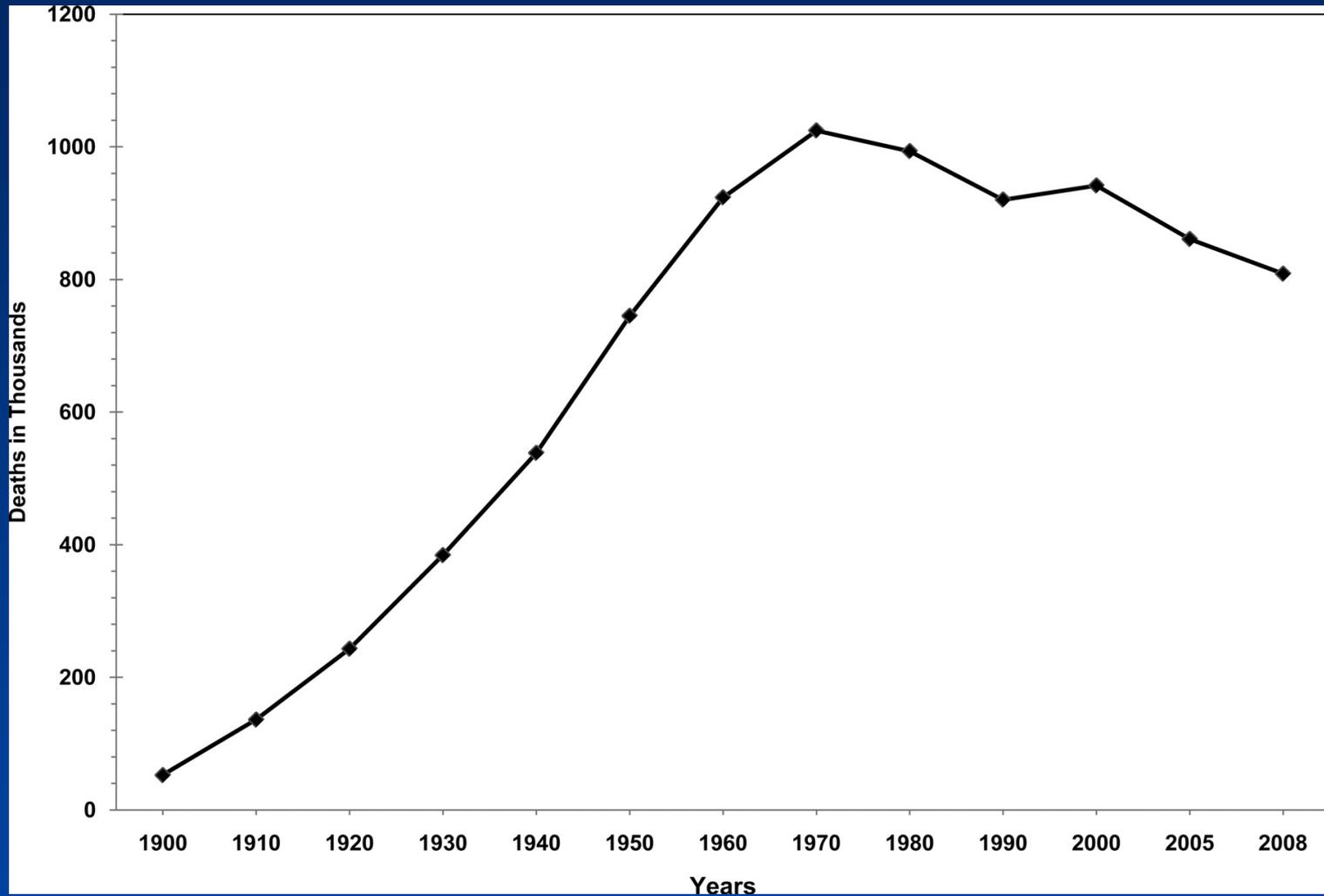


Medical corollary

- Heart attacks cannot be individually predicted, but risk factors are known, and subjects with such risk factors can be treated with various effective interventions, such as statins, other meds, exercise, diet, etc.
- Epidemiological (nomothetic) data have indicated reductions in cardiovascular disease over the past forty years in US



Deaths attributable to cardiovascular disease (United States: 1900–2008).



Writing Group Members et al. *Circulation* 2012;125:e2-e220

Prevention does not
require prediction



Calhoun and Weston Threat Management Lessons

- Keep in mind your intervention goal
- Safety of subject, target, other targets, and public at large



Static vs. Dynamic Factors

- Static (status) factors do not change over time, and are not affected through intervention or interdiction (criminal history, drug history, weapons history, psychopathy, etc.)
 - Dynamic (state) factors do change over time, and can be affected through intervention or interdiction (drug use, weapons possession, psychotic symptoms, etc.)
- 

Which predict violence the best?

- Douglas and Skeem, Psychology, Public Policy and the Law, 11:347-383, 2005
- Dynamic factors are best short-term predictors of violence due to focus on *intraindividual* differences at various points in time



But are there dynamic factors
for targeted (predatory,
instrumental) violence?



Warning Behaviors

- Patterns of behavior rather than individual risk factors: *pattern analysis*
- Origins in German gestalt psychology (Wertheimer, Koffka, Kohler)
- Proximally related to violence



Gestalt Psychology

- How can I read these words without my vowels?



Warning Behaviors (Meloy, Hoffmann, Guldemann & James, BS&L, 2012; 30:256-279)

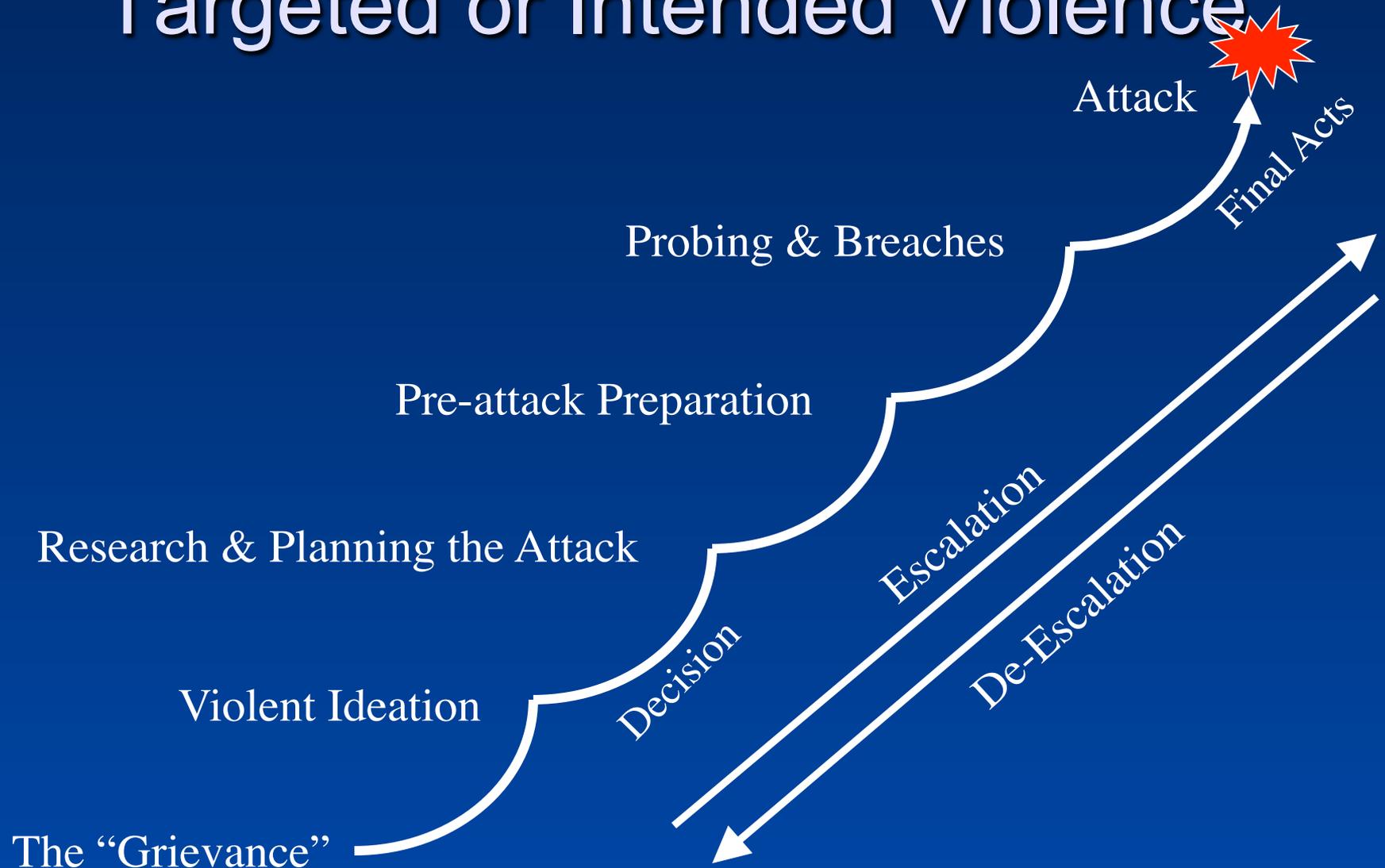
- Pathway
- Fixation
- Identification
- Novel aggression
- Energy burst
- Leakage
- Directly communicated threat
- Last resort behavior

Pathway warning behavior

Any behavior that is part of research, planning, preparation, or implementation of an attack (Fein & Vossekuil, 1998, 1999; Calhoun & Weston, 2003)



Pathway to Targeted or Intended Violence



Adapted with permission from F.S. Calhoun and S.W. Weston (2003). *Contemporary threat management: A practical guide for identifying, assessing and managing individuals of violent intent.*

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Fixation Warning Behavior

Any behavior that indicates an increasingly pathological preoccupation with a person or a cause (Mullen et al., 2009). It is measured by: a) increasing perseveration on the person or cause; b) increasingly strident opinion; c) increasingly negative characterization of the object of fixation; d) impact on the family of the object of fixation, if present and aware; e) angry emotional undertone. It typically causes deterioration of social and occupational functioning.



Ft. Hood, TX, Nov. 5, 2009



Pathological Fixation

- During psychiatric residency and fellowship (2003-2009) at Walter Reed in June, 2007: “The Koranic World View as it relates to Muslims in the Military,” was his medical psychiatric presentation: the disjuncture between topic and context
 - “We love death more than you love life!”
 - “Fighting to establish an Islamic state to please God, even by force, is condoned by the Islam.”
 - “Muslim soldiers should not serve in any capacity that renders them at risk to hurting/killing believers unjustly.”

Pathological Fixation

- Became increasingly vocal in his opposition to the wars; strident and argumentative
- Gave a third psychiatric presentation during his MPH fellowship, “Why the War on Terror is a War on Islam”
- Began communicating with Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen in December, 2008; 18 emails, no response initially
 - He was asking about killing American soldiers and officers...whether this is a religiously legitimate act” (Al Jazeera interview of Awlaki after failed attack)



Identification Warning Behavior

Any behavior that indicates a psychological desire to be a “pseudocommando” (Dietz, 1986; Knoll, 2010), have a “warrior mentality” (Hempel et al., 1999), closely associate with weapons or other military or law enforcement paraphernalia, identify with previous attackers or assassins, or to identify oneself as an agent to advance a particular cause or belief system.

--Meloy JR, Mohandie K, Knoll J, Hoffmann J. (2015).
The concept of identification in threat assessment. Behavioral Sciences and the Law. DOI: 10.1002/bsl.2166.



Timothy McVeigh



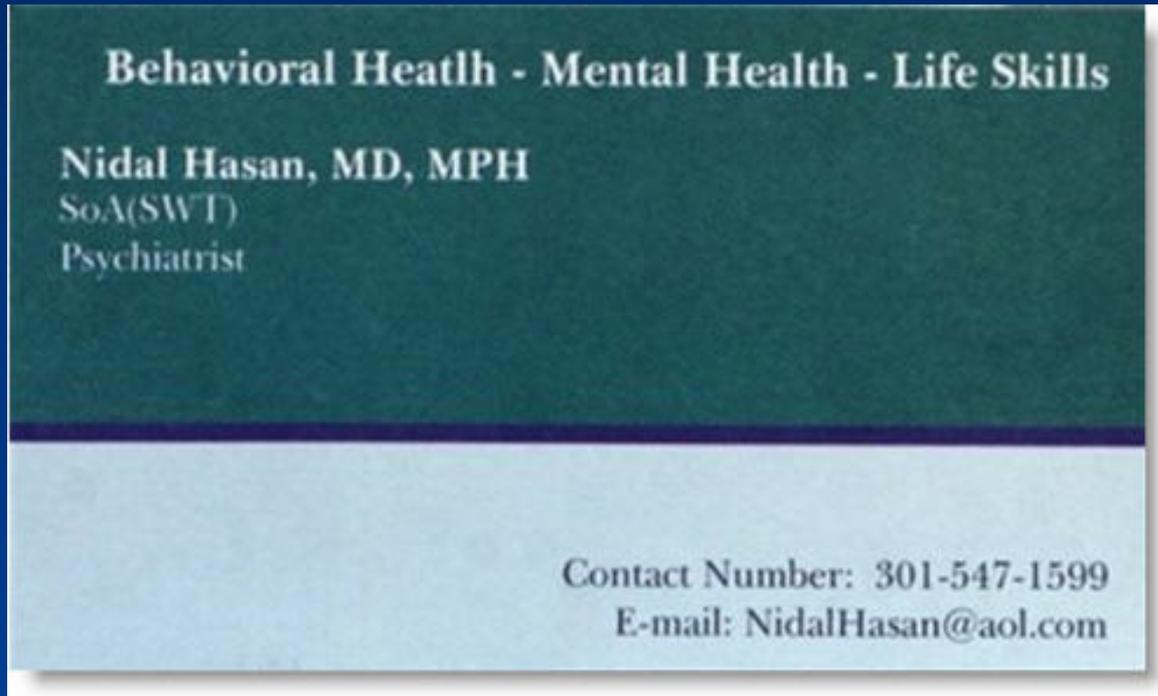


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4296

1966

Is there a problem?



- Soldier of Allah (Glory to Him the exalted)
- Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala

Anders Breivik



Novel aggression Warning Behavior

An act of violence which appears unrelated to any targeted violence pathway warning behavior which is committed for the first time. Such behaviors may be utilized to test the *ability* (de Becker, JACA, 1997) of the subject to actually do a violent act, may be a measure of *response tendency*, the motivation to act on the environment (Hull, 1952), a *behavioral tryout* (MacCulloch, Snowden, Wood & Mills, 1983), or *proof of kill* (G. Deisinger, personal communication, 2011).



Michael Zehaf-Bibeau



Islamic Media · 20m

Une photo qui serait celle du tireur à #Ottawa

← ↻ 4 ★ 3 ⋮

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

- October 22, 2014
- Killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, injured three others
- Stormed Canadian Parliament and killed by Sgt. at Arms
- History
 - 32 yo loner, drifter, mentally unstable, drug addict, nonviolent criminal, then radical Islamist
 - Automobile killing of Canadian soldier by Martin Couture-Rouleau two days earlier near Montreal

December, 2011

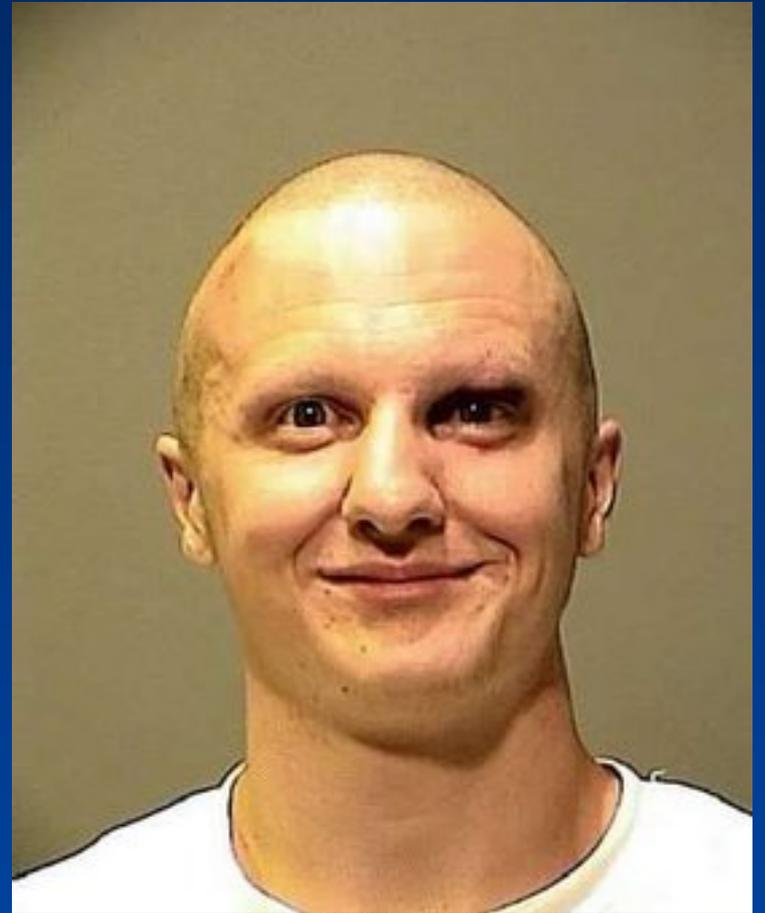
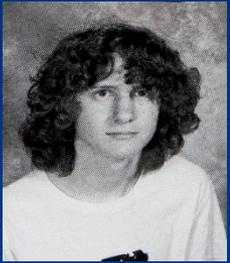
- Walked into RCMP in Burnaby, said he committed an armed robbery a decade earlier and wanted to be arrested; but no record.
- The next night, he tried to rob a McDonald's restaurant with a pencil, and waited for the police to arrive:
 - “I'm a crack addict and at the same time a religious person, and I want to sacrifice freedom and good things for a year maybe, so when I come out I'll appreciate things in life more and be clean.”



Energy burst Warning Behavior

An increase in the frequency or variety of any noted activities related to the target, even if the activities themselves are relatively innocuous, usually in the days or weeks before the attack (Odgers et al., 2009).





Energy Burst Warning Behavior, January 7-8, 2011

- Drops off 35 mm film at Walgreen's evening of Jan. 7 before midnight
- Checks into Motel 6 shortly after midnight
- Searches web for "assassins" and "lethal injection"
- 0219 picks up photos, makes a purchase



Jared Loughner

- Leaves telephone message with friend
- 0412 posts to Myspace page photo of Glock 19 and words, “Goodbye friends.”
- 0600 visits Walmart and Circle K stores



Energy Burst (cont'd)

Unable to purchase ammunition at first Walmart, purchases 9 mm full metal jacket ammo and diaper bag at 0727

Stopped by police officer for running a red light

Confronted by father at home, runs away

Returns to Circle K, gets a cab, goes to supermarket where he insists on getting correct change for cab ride



Energy Burst (contd)

- Sixteen minutes later, opens fire at 10:10, killing 6 and wounding 13 people
- Tackled by 3 senior citizens when he attempts to reload



Leakage Warning Behavior

The communication to a third party of an intent to do harm to a target through an attack (Meloy & O'Toole, Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 29:513-527, 2011).

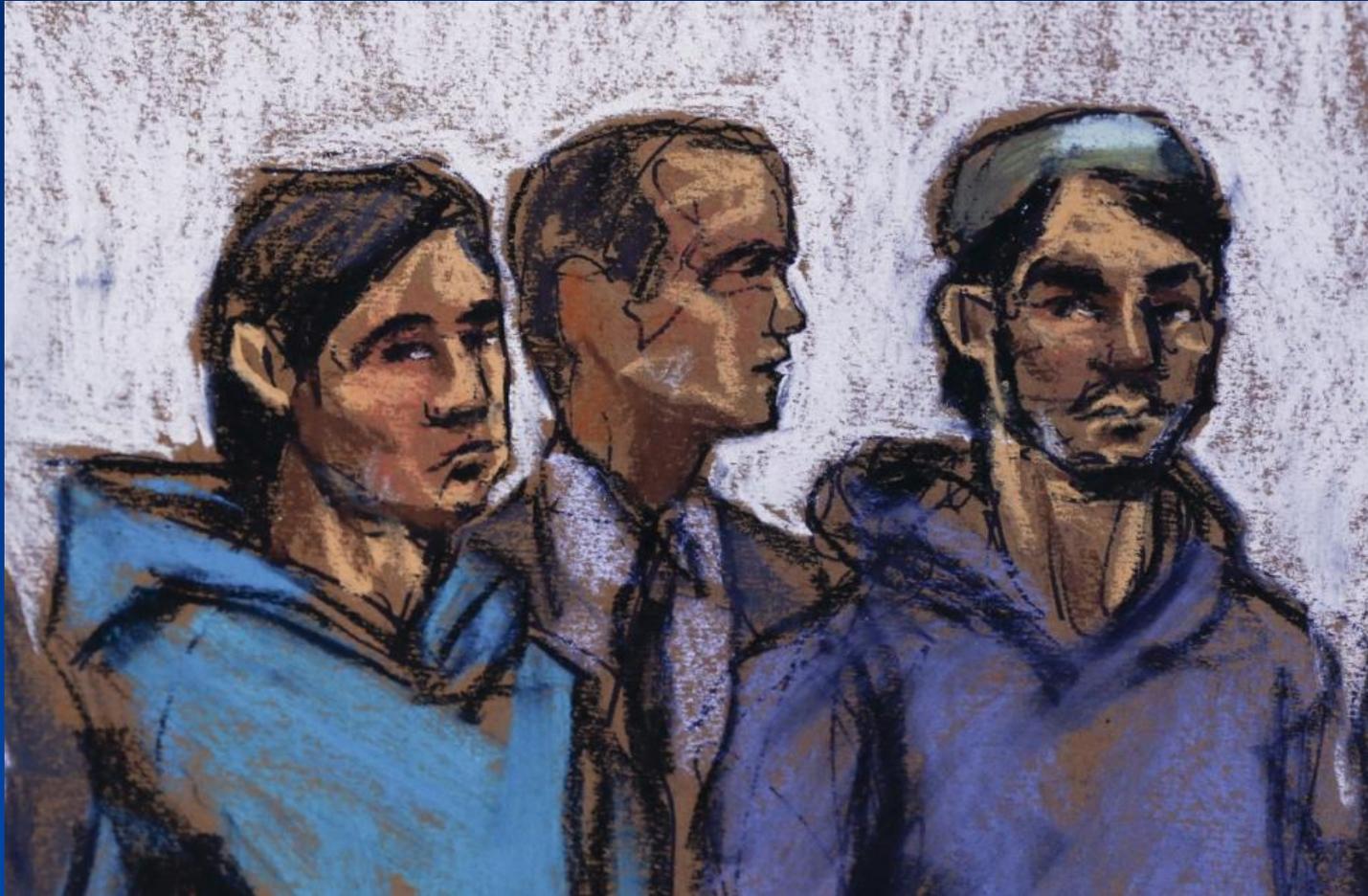


Open source social media

- “Greetings!....I am in USA now but we don’t have any arms. But is it possible to commit ourselves as dedicated martyrs anyway while here? What I’m saying is to shoot Obama, and then get shot ourselves, will it do? That will strike fear in the hearts of infidels.”
 - Abdurasul Juraboev, Hilofatnews.com, Aug. 8, 2014



Federal District Court, Feb., 2015



When do third parties report?

- When reporting measures are:
 - Accessible (multiple channels)
 - Safe (anonymity if desired)
 - Credible (may need to be earned over time)
 - Rowe et al., J Int Ombudsman Association, 2:1-24, 2009



Last resort Warning Behavior

Evidence of a violent “time/action imperative” (Mohandie & Duffy, 1999). Increasing desperation or distress through declaration in word or deed, forcing the individual into a position of last resort. There is no alternative other than violence, and the consequences are justified (de Becker, 1997). The subject feels trapped (S. White, personal communication).





- “I have no choice. I am not in the position to, alone, go into the ghetto and fight. I chose Charleston because it is most historic city in my state, and at one time had the highest ratio of blacks to Whites in the country. We have no skinheads, no real KKK, no one doing anything but talking on the internet. Well someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world, and I guess that has to be me.”

Directly Communicated Threat Warning Behavior

The communication of a direct threat to the target or law enforcement beforehand. A threat is a written or oral communication that implicitly or explicitly states a wish or intent to damage, injure, or kill the target, or individuals symbolically or actually associated with the target.



Stockholm, Dec. 11, 2010

- “Now, your children--daughters and sisters--will die like our brothers and sisters and children are dying...our actions will speak for themselves. As long as you do not end your war against Islam and the insult against the prophet and your stupid support for that pig Vilks...all mujahedeen...now it's time to attack. Do not wait any longer. Come forth with whatever you have, even if it is a knife, and I know that you can bring more than knives. Fear no one. Do not be afraid of jail. Do not fear death.”



Taimour al-Abdaly

- 28 year old Iraqi Sunni
- Emigrated to Sweden age 10
- Attended university in UK
- Detonated a car, and a few minutes later, blew himself up with a pipe bomb 200 meters away



نحن فرسان لنا الخيل مهود
ان دعى داعي اجبنا للنداء

نفجير السوبد

من سبفعلها
غير فرسان

دولة العراق الإسلامية

أحد فرسان دولة العراق الإسلامية
الذي
نفذ نفجير السوبد

<http://occident.blogspot.com>

Calhoun and Weston Threat Management Lessons

- Intervention should be proportionate, flexible, and sustainable
- “Hunters and howlers” must both be managed



But are the warning behaviors valid (useful)?

- Can they accurately tell us who will engage in targeted violence (sensitivity)?
- Can they accurately tell us who will not engage in targeted violence (specificity)?

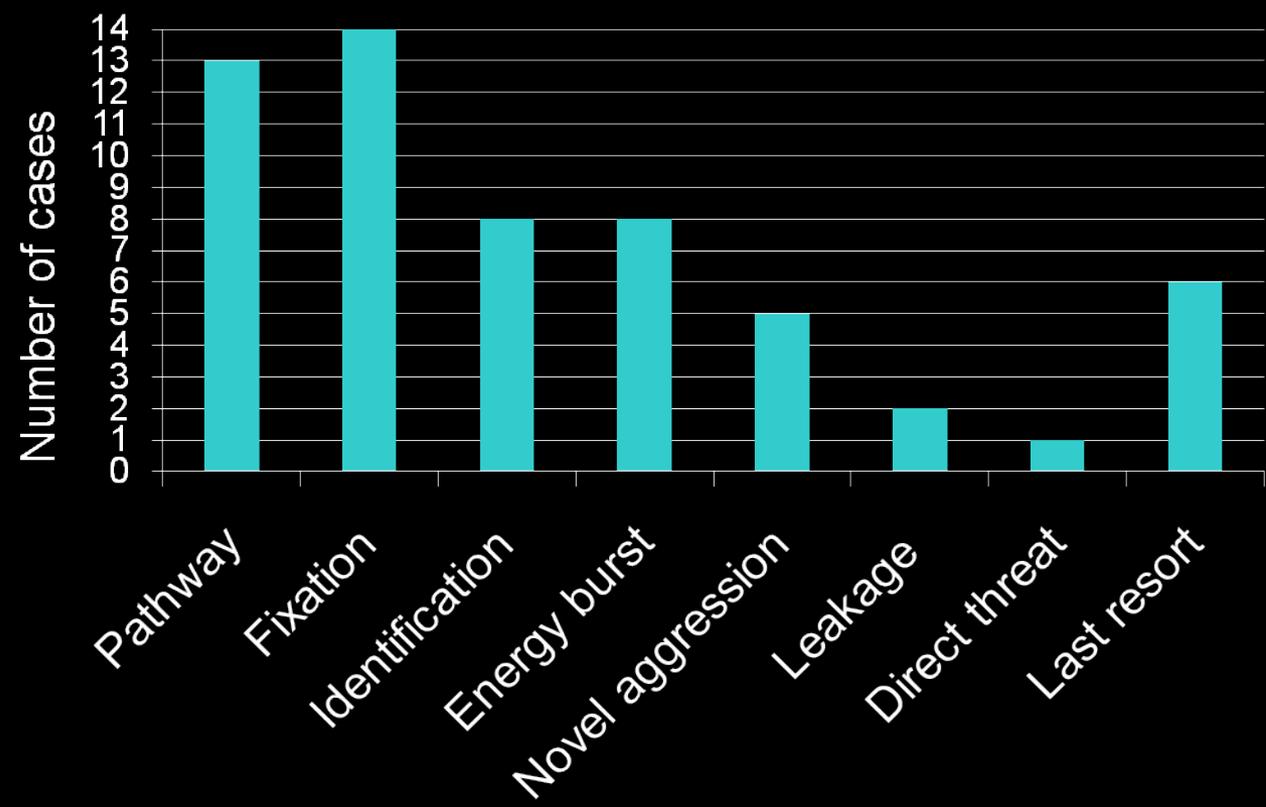


Hoffmann, Meloy, Guldemann & Ermer, Behavioral Sciences & Law, 29:2011

- Potentially lethal nonterrorist attackers of public figures in Germany, 1968-2004 (N=14)
- All warning behaviors present
- Pathway and fixation most common warning behaviors; leakage and direct threat least common warning behaviors
- First test of ecological and external validity



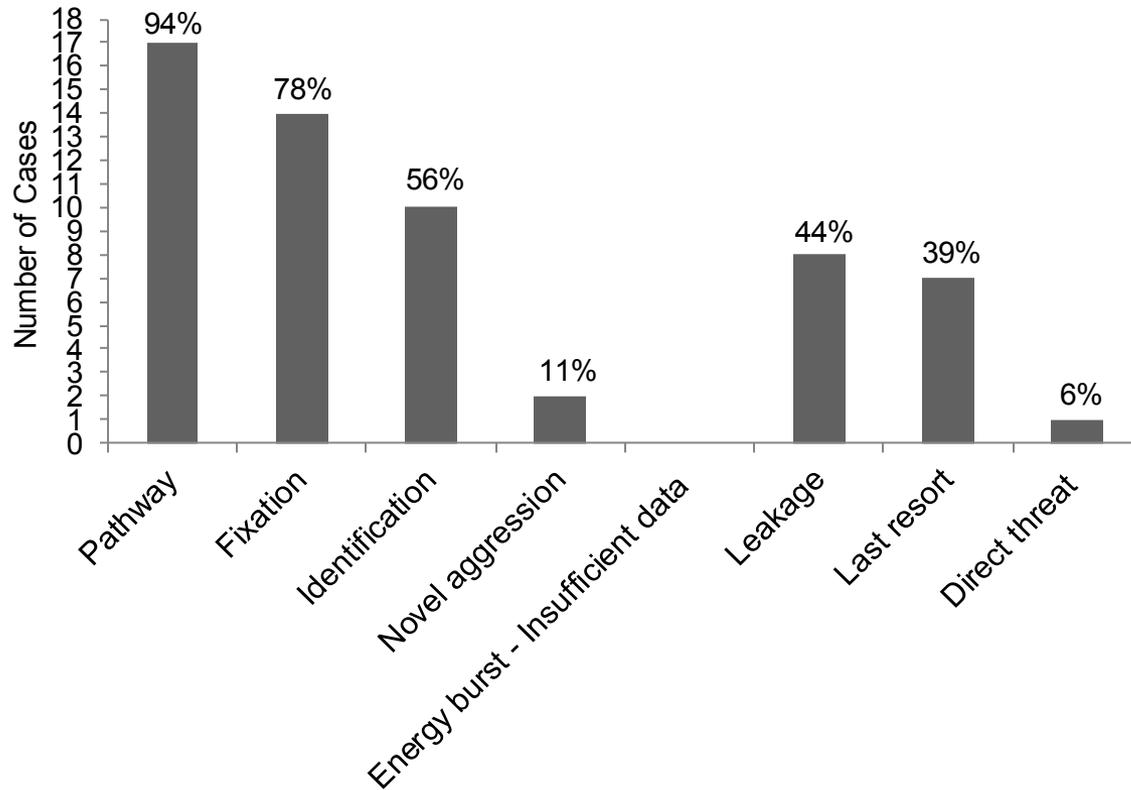
Frequency of Warning Behaviors for German Public Figure Attackers (N=14)



US Presidential and Political Attackers and Assassins

- Richard Lawrence
- John Wilkes Booth
- Charles Guiteau
- Leon Czolgosz
- John Schrank
- Giuseppe Zangara
- Carl Weiss
- Oscar Collazo
- Griselio Torresola
- Lee Harvey Oswald
- James Earl Ray
- Sirhan Sirhan
- Arthur Bremer
- Samuel Byck
- Lynette Fromme
- Sara Jane Moore
- John Hinckley, Jr.
- Francisco Duran

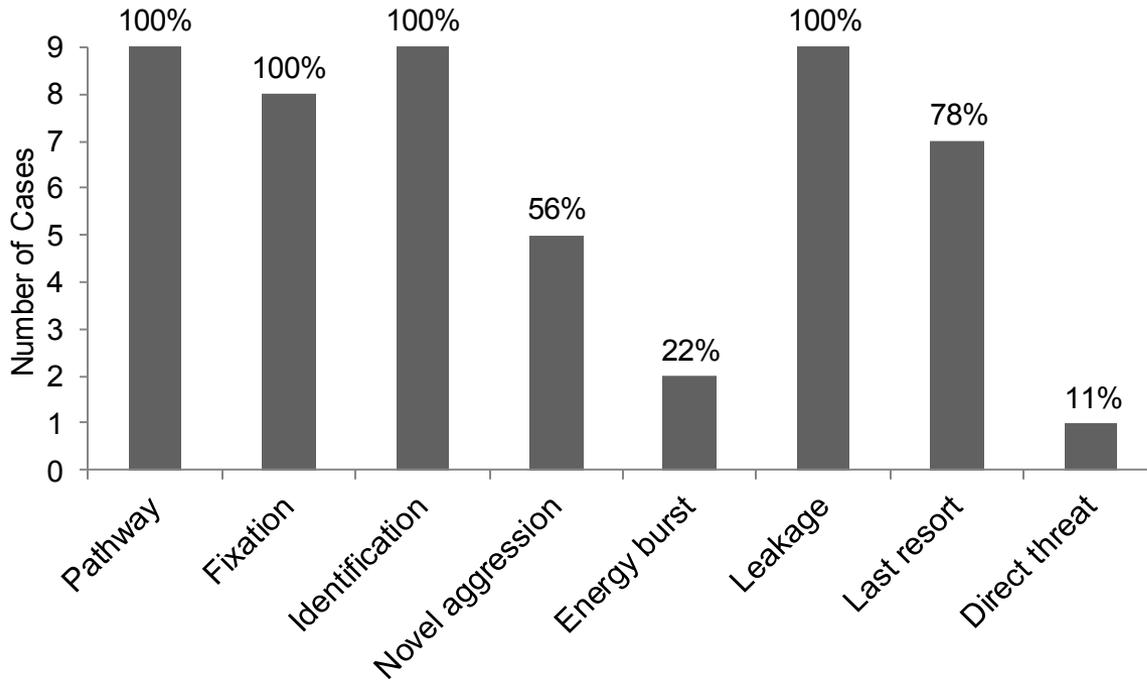
U.S. Presidential and Political Attackers and Assassins (N=18)



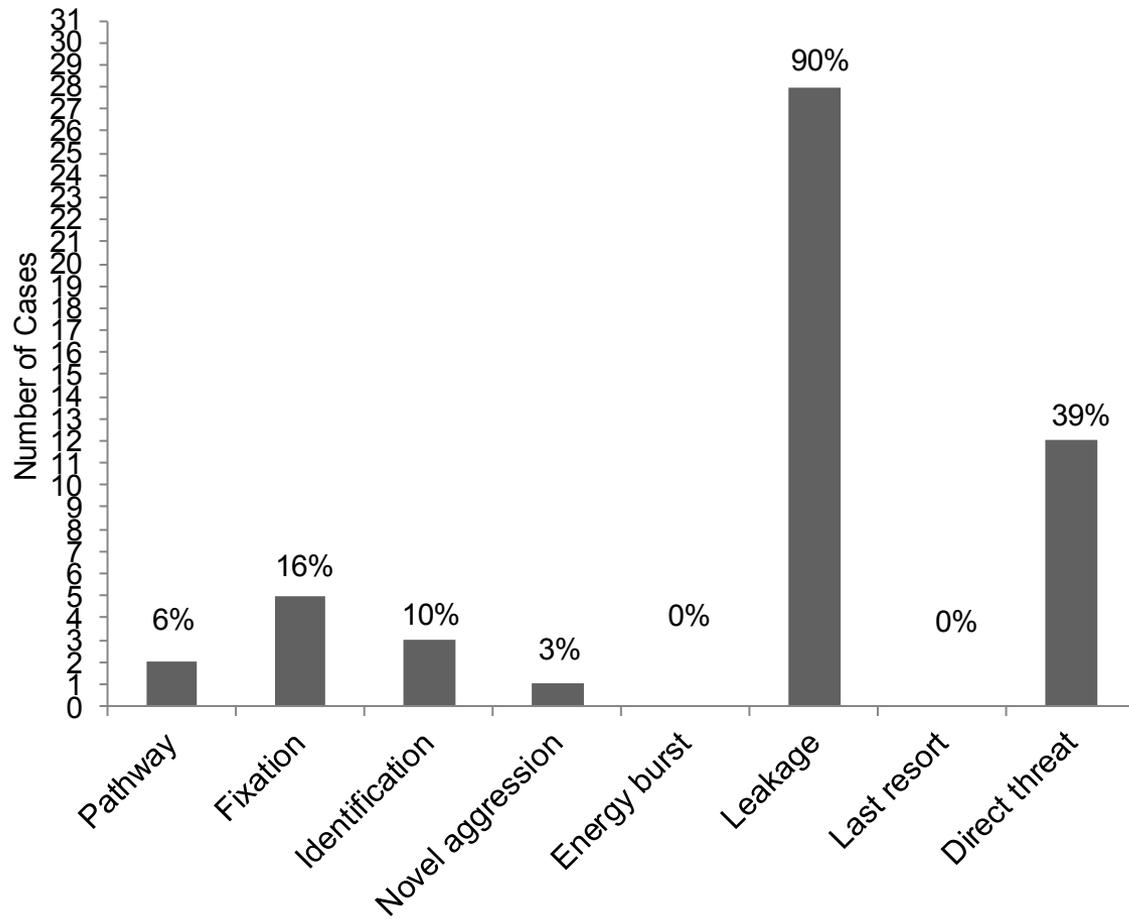
Comparison of German School Shooters and Other Students of Concern

- 1999-2010
- All male, ages 15-23
- 37 victims killed, 78% used a firearm
- 56% former students who returned
- Threateners aged 16-22, 89% current students, none planned to attack

School Shooters (N=9)



Other Students of Concern (N=31)



Comparison of shooters and other students of concern

Shooters, greater frequency of:

- Pathway
- Fixation
- Identification
- Novel aggression
- Last resort

Effect size (phi coefficients)

- 0.61-0.875 (large)
- $p < .001$
- Fisher exact test due to small sample sizes

*Meloy et al. (2014). J Threat Assessment and Management

Detection of “weak signals” of lone wolves via linguistic data mining on the internet

- Fixation
- Identification
- Leakage
- Bryniellson et al., Security Informatics, 2013 (Swedish Defense Research Agency)
- www.security-informatics.com



Anders Breivik



Oslo and Utoya, Norway, July 22, 2011—77 dead

- Pathway yes
 - Fixation yes (cause)
 - Identification yes
 - Novel aggression yes (virtual)
 - Energy burst yes
 - Leakage yes
 - Last resort yes
 - Direct threat no
- 

Calhoun and Weston Threat Management Lessons

- Gauge the intimacy effect
- Be prepared to reassess the situation

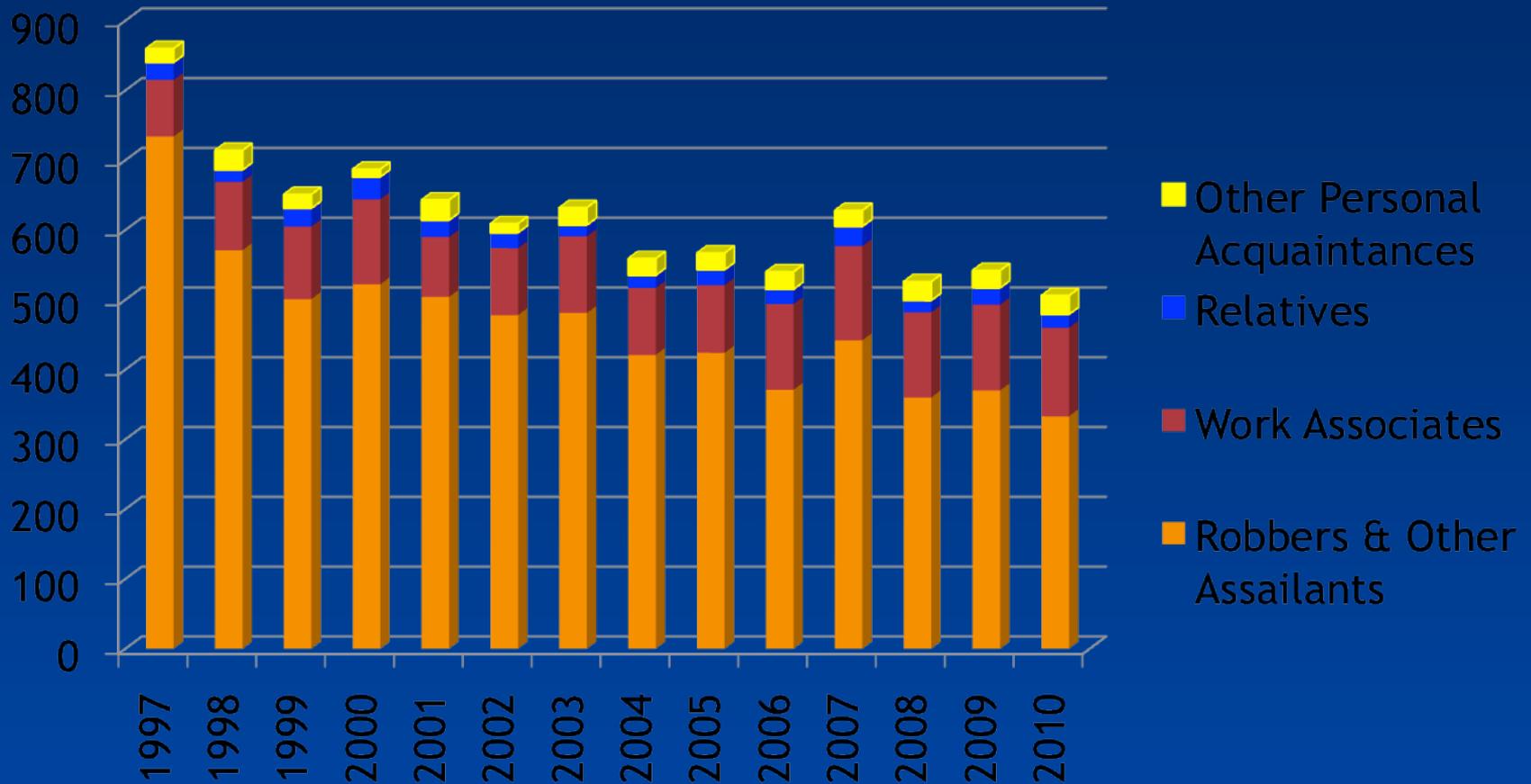


Workplace Violence

- A leading cause of workplace injury, but usually minor
- 463 homicides in workplace in 2012
- 375 were intentional shootings, 10% by co-worker, 6% by spouse
- Risk of any workplace violence is 5 per 1000 employees (0.5%): a very safe environment
 - National Center for Victims of Crime, 2014; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014

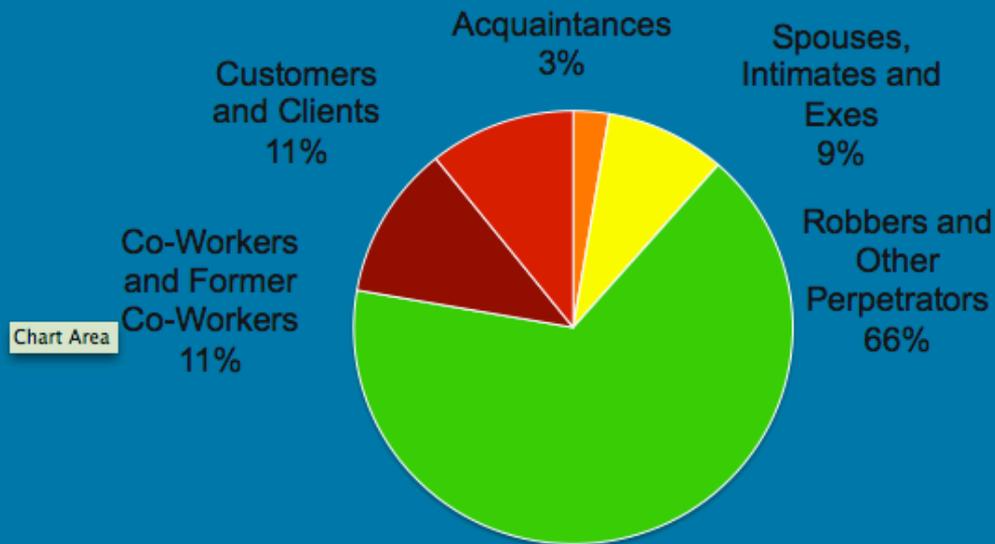


Workplace Homicides by Perpetrator Relationship to Victim, 1997-2010



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2010 Data

Who Commits Workplace Homicides?



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2011 Preliminary Data

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Workplace Violence

- Highest risk professions:
 - Law enforcement officers
 - Mental health professionals
 - Security guards
 - Bartenders
 - Retail sales employees



Targeted Homicides in the Workplace other than Robbery

- Most involve one perpetrator and one victim
- Weapon utilized is a firearm in most cases
- Initial motivation is typically a grievance (reaction to an accumulation of losses or humiliations) which may be delusional or real, or both, and a decision is made to intend to be violent. A pathway follows:
 - S. White (2014). Workplace targeted violence. In Meloy & Hoffmann, eds, Int Handbook of Threat Assessment. New York: Oxford University Press.

- There is no such thing as “snapping.”



Multiple Murder of Civilians

- Typically defined as 3 or more fatalities by a single perpetrator at the same time in the same location.
- Virtually always committed by males, especially if outside the family setting.
- Virtually all multiple murders are targeted or intended violence.
- Again, they do not “snap.”



How do we know they do not “snap?”

- Observations of perpetrator at time of killings through video surveillance and surviving victims
- Self-descriptions by perpetrators of their calm emotional state at the time of the killings
- Self-report and police evidence that they planned and prepared their act for days, weeks, or months beforehand
- Evolved biological advantage in all mammals to stay calm when hunting



R. Borum---Operational Assessment of Subject

- **Can he formulate a goal and then act?**
 - Think logically (consequences reasonably flow from action)
 - Think coherently (overall planning)
 - Think consistently (ideas don't contradict each other)
 - Self regulate (to monitor, inhibit, and execute)
 - Criminology and Public Policy, 12:103-112, 2013



Our studies of adolescent and adult multiple murder

- Meloy, JR. J Forensic Sciences, 42:326-329, 1997
- Hempel, et al., J Am Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, 27:213-225, 1999
- Hempel, et al., J Forensic Sciences, 45:582-88, 2000
- Meloy et al., J Am Acad Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 40:719-728, 2001
- Meloy et al., Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 22:291-309, 2004
- Katsavdakis et al., J Forensic Sciences, 56:813-818, 2011
- Knoll & Meloy (2014). Psychiatric Annals.



In our research,

- Two thirds were psychotic at the time (probably 20% with new research)
- This group targeted strangers
- Typically they were paranoid and believed there was an active conspiracy against them
- Tried to maximize their casualty rate
- Triggering event for this group was a major loss in love or work, but there had been an accumulation of such over months or years



In our research,

- The nonpsychotic has fewer victims
- Specifically targeting one or more people who have humiliated and/or angered him
- They are “narcissistically sensitive” and their feelings are more reactive and intense than others when rejected.
- Typically one or a series of events that is a humiliating loss in love or work will trigger their decision to carry out the attack.



Triggering Events:

- We wrote in 2004, “adult triggers included termination from a job or envy over another’s promotion, bankruptcy, confrontation by an employer, actual or perceived abandonment by a sexual intimate, jealousy, erotomaniac beliefs, child support issues, or property damage or trespass. Most precipitants occurred within hours or days of the mass murder, although direct causality could not be established” (Meloy et al., 2004, p. 298).



Most adult multiple murderers

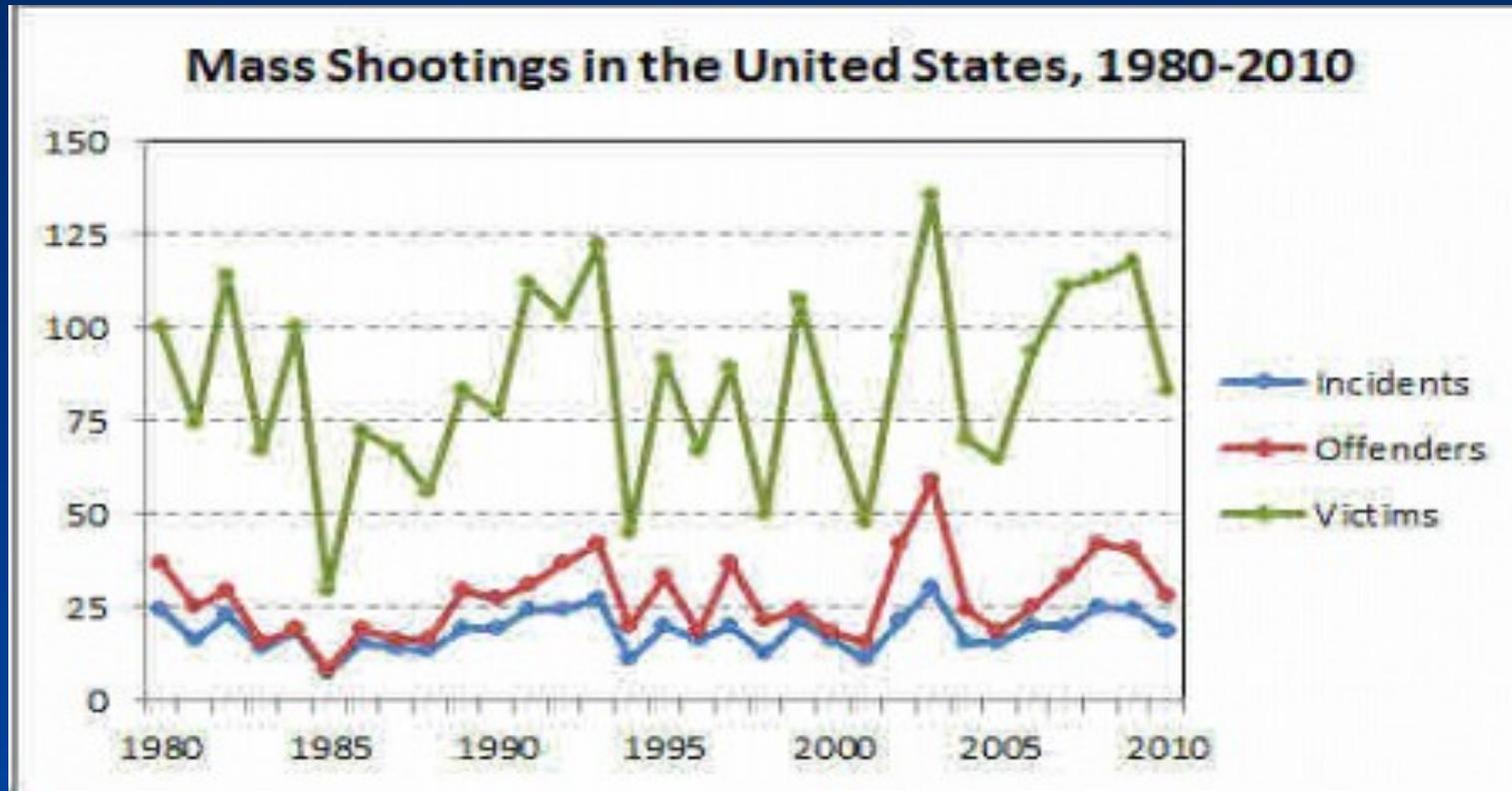
- Are males in their fourth decade of life
- Have a psychiatric history of both a clinical diagnosis and a personality disorder
- We wrote in 1999, “extreme anger appears to be the central emotion fueling these events, and it is often caused by the perception that others are persecuting or treating one unfairly. Often paranoid ideation and/or depressed mood complicate and intensify the chronic brooding anger of the perpetrators, while their antisocial and narcissistic traits provide a sense of callousness and entitlement that allows them to act it out” (Hempel et al., 1999, p. 222).



Further characteristics

- Single or divorced
- Not intoxicated at the time
- Alcohol and/or drugs could impede tactical success
- He wants a clear mind
- 80% do not communicate a direct threat to target beforehand
- 60% do leak their intent to third parties (family, friends, strangers, social media) due to anxiety, ambivalence, pride, or excitement

Frequency was stable over 30 yrs



Criminal Violence

- Criminal violence is decreasing throughout the United States, but mass murder is on the rise
- Actual numbers depend on definition: do we count familicides and/or gang related mass murders?

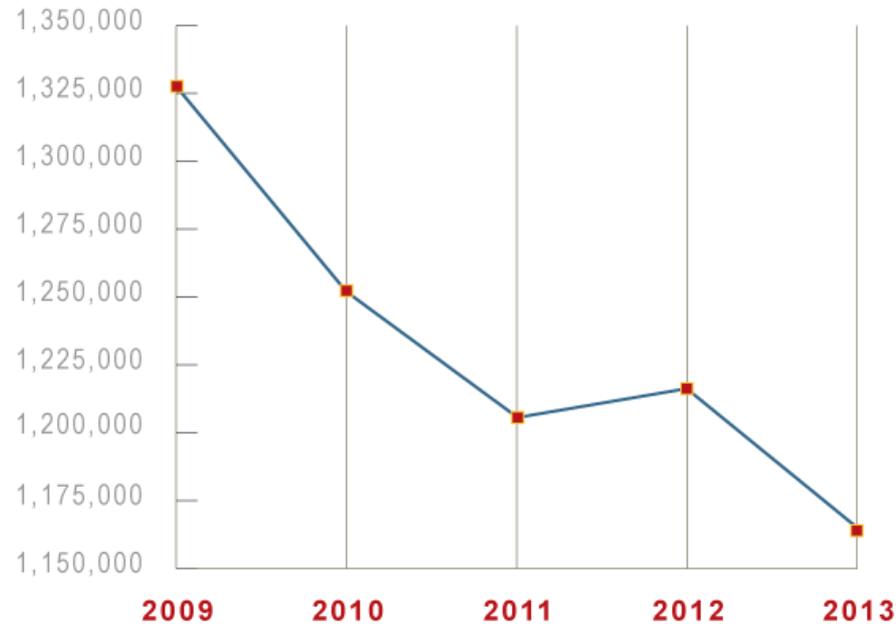


FBI Uniform Crime Report 2013

Violent Crime Offense Figure

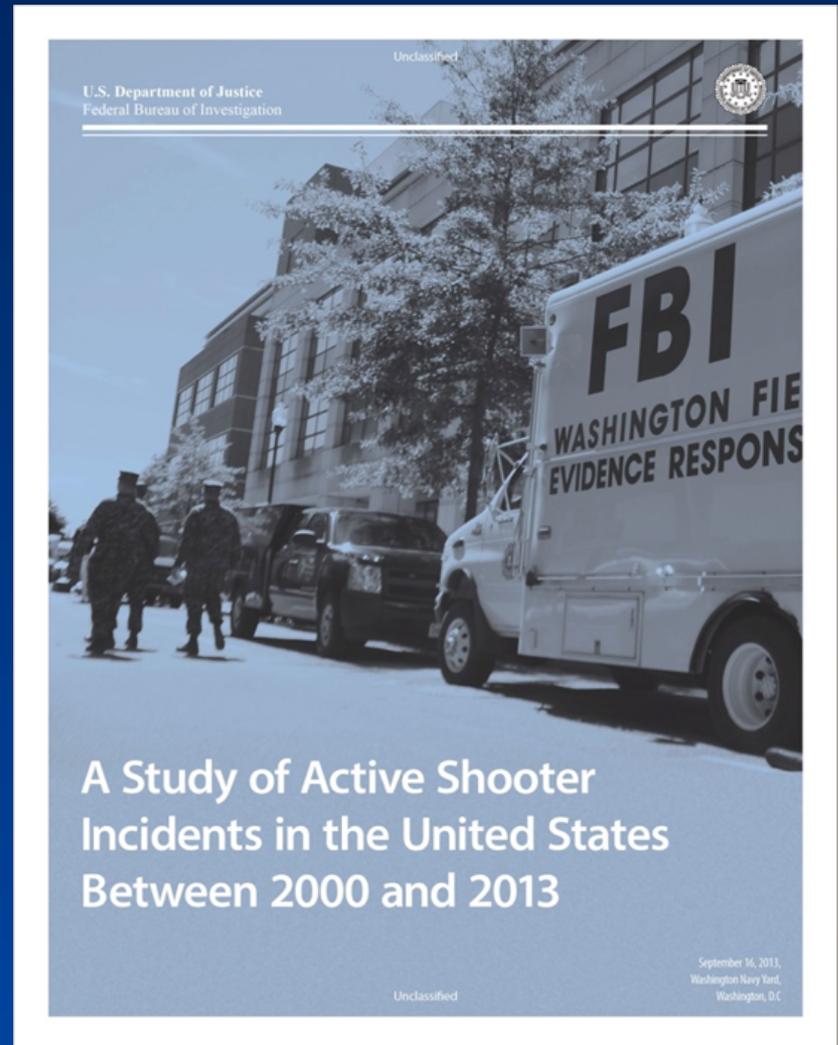
Five-Year Trend, 2009-2013

Estimated
number of offenses



Active Shooter Incidents in the United States 2000-2013

FBI



FBI Active Shooter Study 2014

- “An individual(s) killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.”
- 11.4 incidents annually (N=160)
- 6.4 2000-2006
- 16.4 2007-2013
- 150% increase
- Consistent with Harvard public health study (M. Follman, 2012, (www.motherjones.com))

updated July, 2015



160 incidents occurred between 2000 and 2013

An average of **11.4**

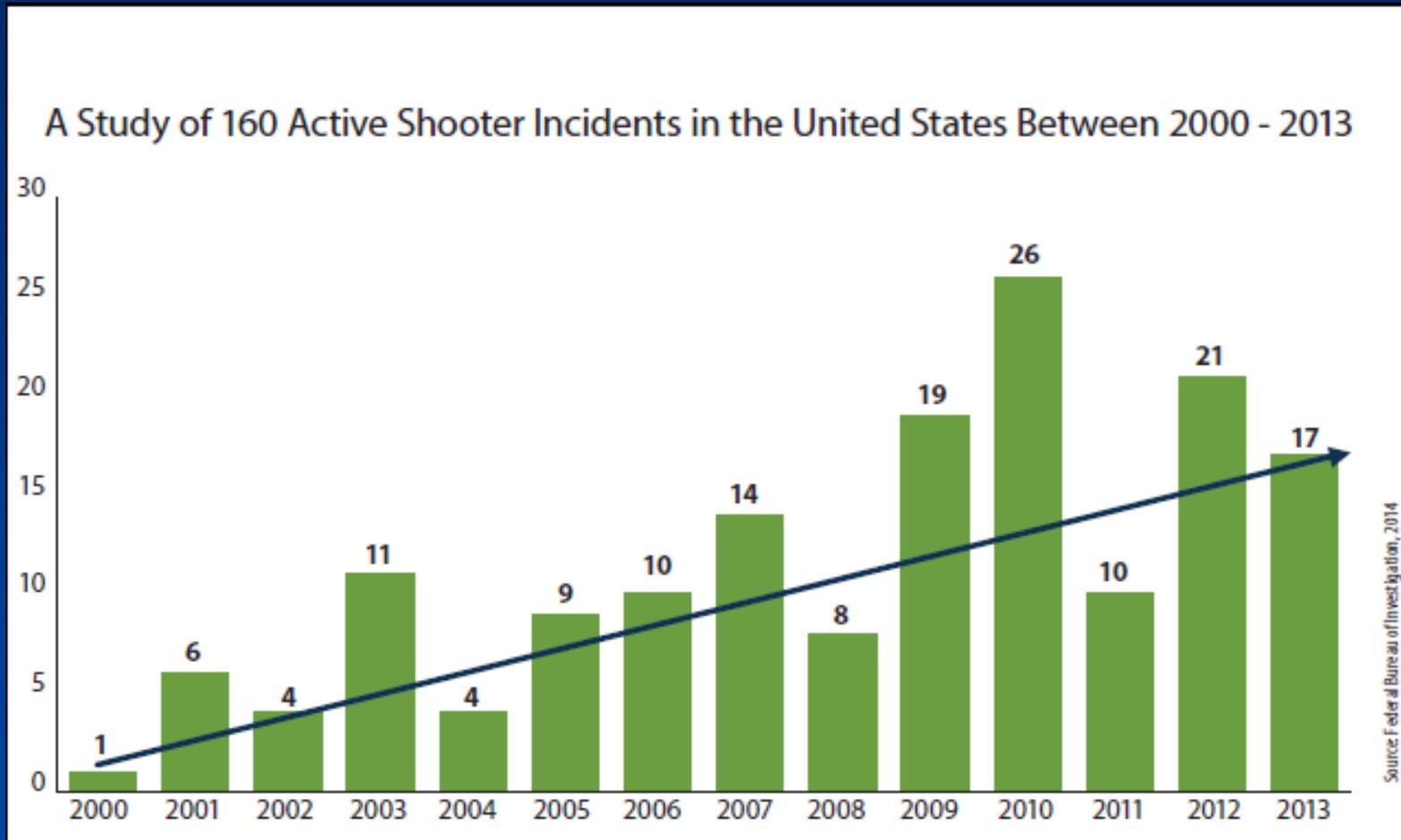
incidents occurred annually; with an increasing trend from 2000 to 2013.

1,043
Casualties, including killed and wounded
(shooters were not included in this total)

486
were killed in 160 incidents

557
were wounded* in 160 incidents.

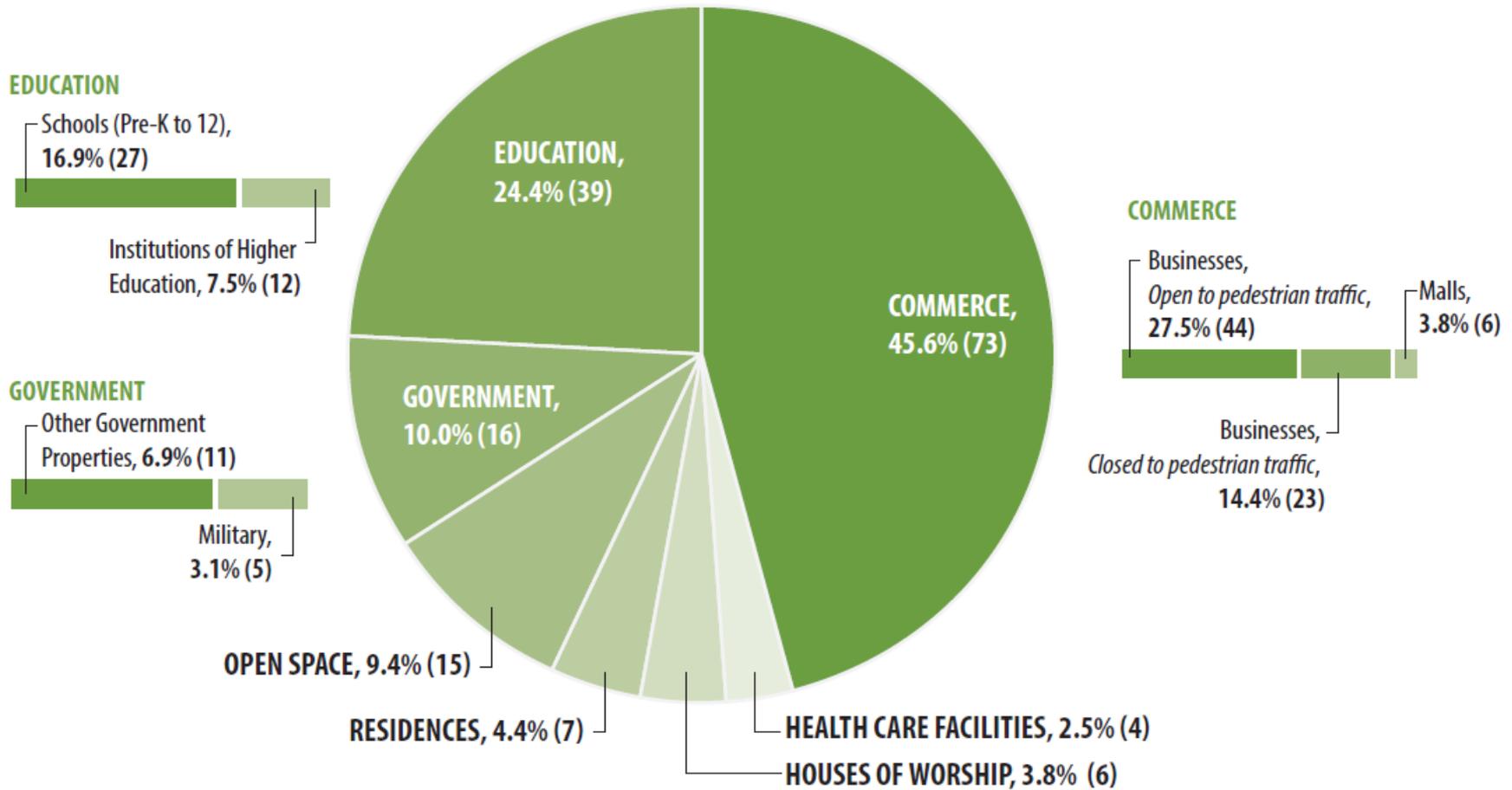
U.S. Active Shooter Incidents from 2000 to 2013



Blair, J. Pete, and Schweit, Katherine W. (2014). *A Study of Active Shooter Incidents, 2000 - 2013*. Texas State University and Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C. 2014.

U.S. Active Shooter Incidents from 2000 to 2013

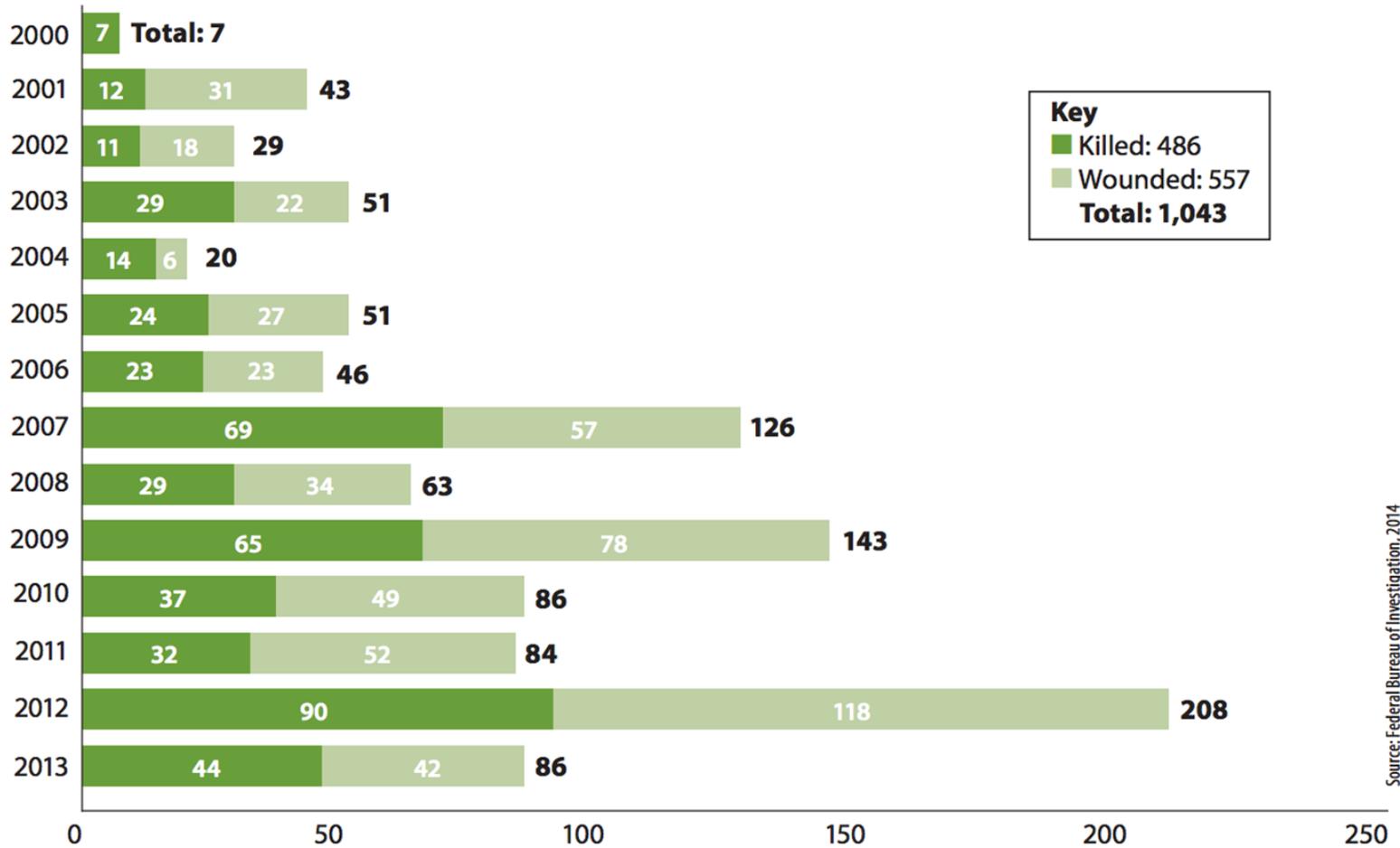
A Study of 160 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2013: Location Categories



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014

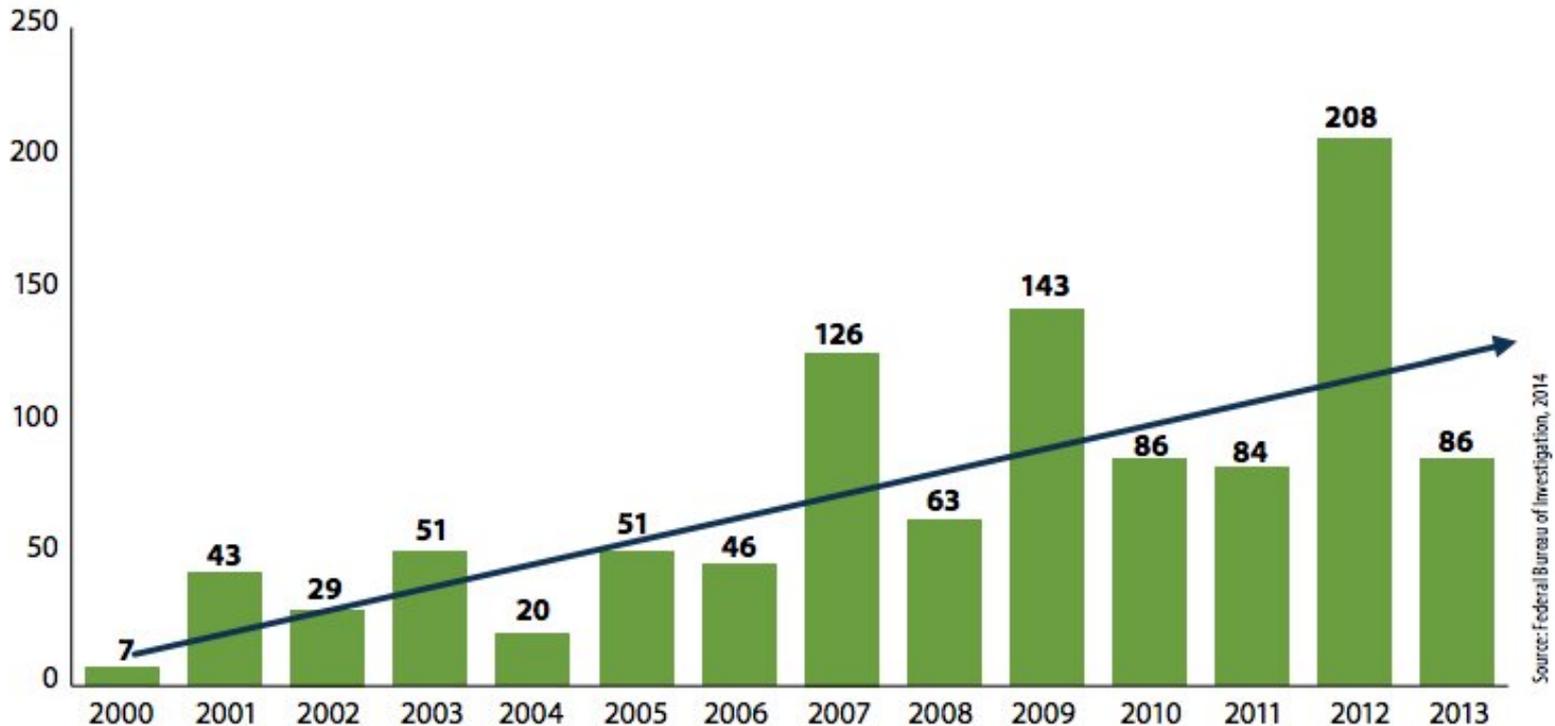
U.S. Active Shooter Incidents from 2000 to 2013

A Study of 160 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2013:
Broken Down by Casualty Type; Killed or Wounded



U.S. Active Shooter Casualties from 2000 to 2013

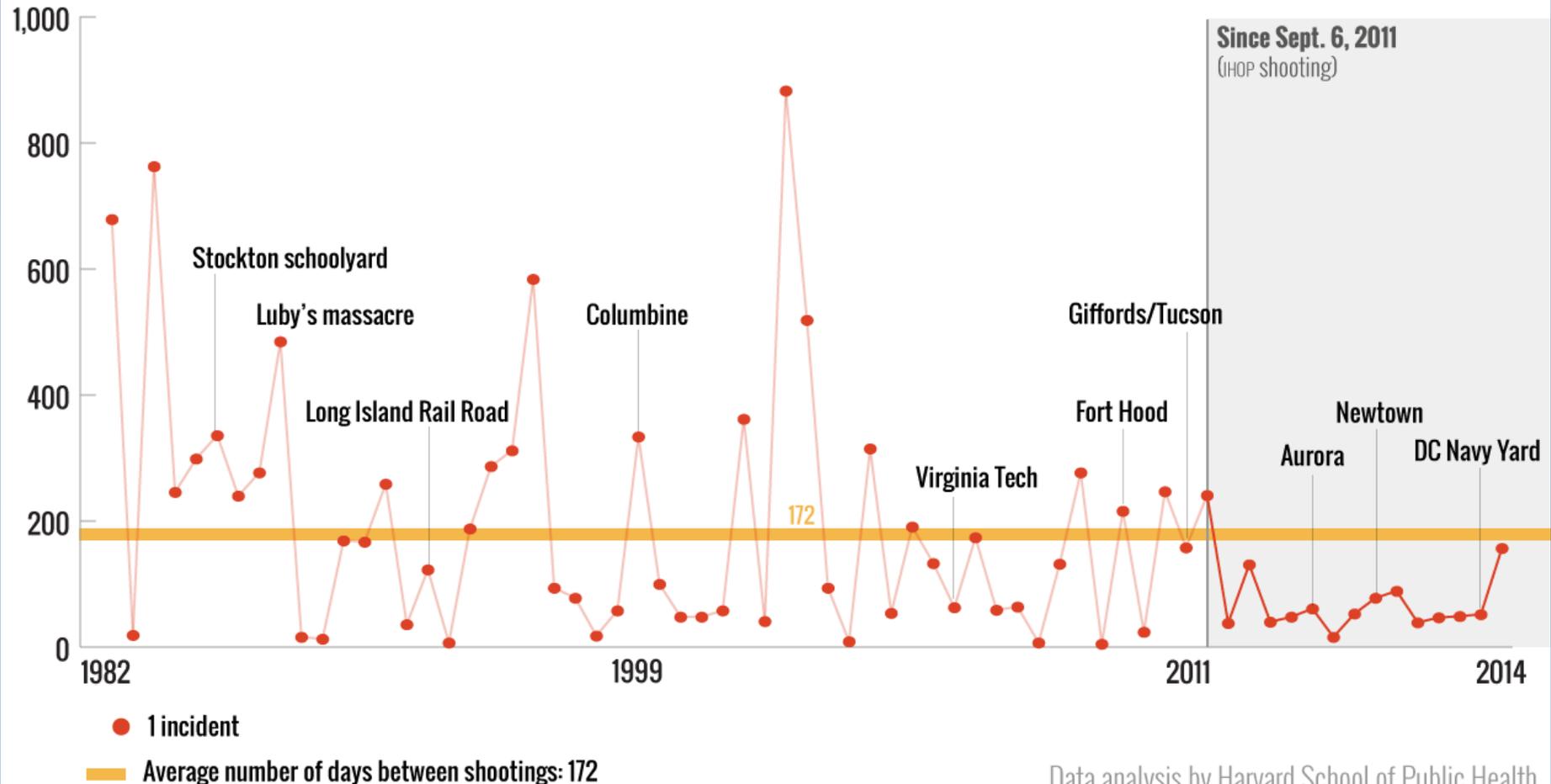
A Study of 160 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2013:
Annual Totals of 1,043 Casualties



Mother Jones & Harvard School of Public Health Oct. 2014

More Frequent Mass Shootings Since 2011

Days since previous mass shooting



Data analysis by Harvard School of Public Health

Personality and Other Psychological Characteristics

- Targeted workplace homicide is motivated by a sense of rejection, a felt injustice, and a determination to seek revenge
- Begins with a grievance
 - A thinking pattern which blames everyone else
 - An emotional mood that is angry and ashamed
 - Humiliating event is either loss of status or some other perceived rejection at home or work
 - May be completely delusional or reality-based



Psychological Characteristics

- Vengeful thoughts develop into violent fantasies
- Most individuals go no further, and consider other choices (eg, new job, new mate, acceptance of situation)
- A very few see violence as the solution, and make a decision to act
- JACA (de Becker, 1997)
 - The act is justified
 - There is no alternative
 - I accept the consequences
 - I have the ability to do this



Research, planning, preparation

Research

- Weapons, targets, timing, approach, escape (or suicide) all considered

Planning

- Weapons, targets, timing, approach, and escape plan selected

Preparation

- Intelligence gathering, surveillance, boundary probes
- Behavioral patterns of victims, specific location to enhance success
- Practice in use of chosen weapons
- Secrecy, which also stimulates “clandestine excitement”
- Enhanced by deception success, but sabotaged by leakage (communication of intent to a third party—very common)



Shame and Anger

- Magnified by narcissistic traits in subject
 - Inflated sense of self (grandiosity)
 - Entitlement
 - Self-focus diminishes empathy for others
 - The slightest criticism, especially in public, deflates the self, which is felt as shame (the self as bad).
 - Males quickly convert this into anger
 - Anger may be expressed openly or controlled
 - Such emotional states more apparent in nonpsychotic shooters



Calhoun and Weston Threat Management Lessons

- Recognize and anticipate precipitating events, usually loss and humiliation
- Avoid creating a precipitating event



Terrorism can be a motivation, a tactic, and a strategy

- “Propaganda of the deed” (19th century anarchists)
- “Politically motivated violence against noncombatants.”
 - Scott Stewart, [Stratfor](#), Feb. 23, 2012

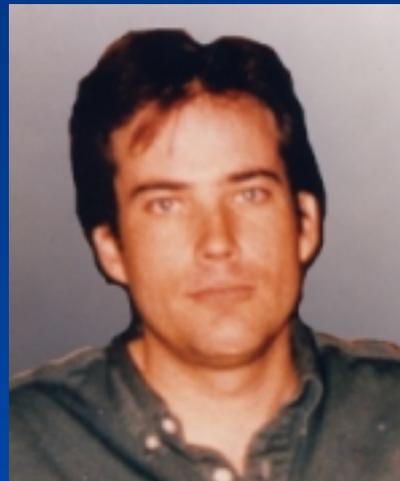


Lone Terrorist

- Research, planning, preparation, and implementation of an act of terrorism without any external command or control
- May operate in pairs, but usually alone



The Lone Wolf?



◀ So fight in the cause of Allah,
you are not held responsible except for yourself.
And inspire the believers ▶

Suratun Nisa': 84



man
Jihad
alone

Database

- Puckett (2001) FBI study of 10 lone terrorists
- Sageman (2008) large database of “leaderless jihad” cases
- Simon (2013) small sample of prominent lone wolf cases in North America and Europe
- Spaaij (2012) studied 88 lone wolf cases in 15 countries in North America and Europe
- Meloy direct and indirect assessment of lone wolf terrorists in US in work with FBI and other consultations



Additional Studies:

- Gill, Horgan & Deckert (2013). J Forensic Sciences. (N=119)
- Gruenewald, Chermak & Freilich (2013). Criminology & Public Policy. (N=47)
- Borum (2014). Behavioral Sciences and the Law.
- Meloy & Yakeley (2014). Behavioral Sciences and the Law.
- Gill (2015). The Lone Actor Terrorist.



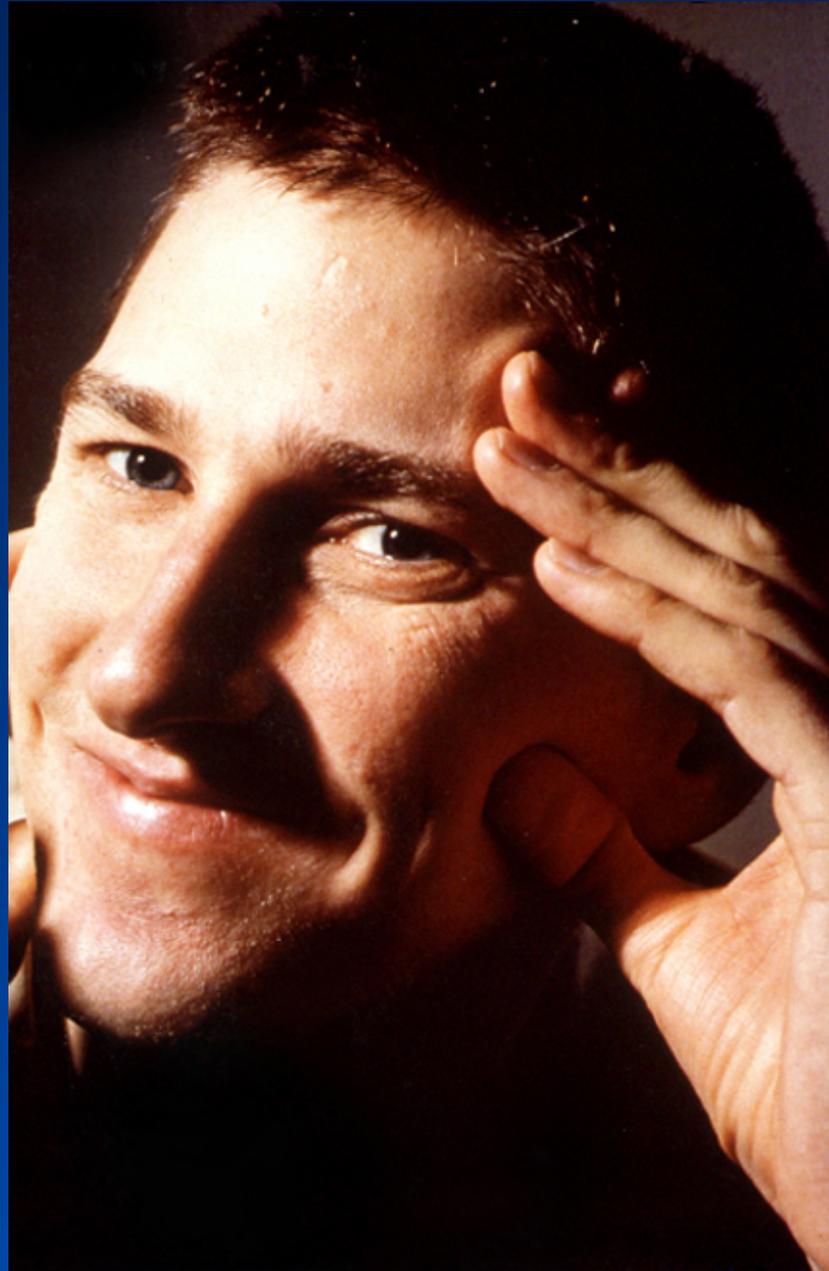
10 Dynamic Characteristics of the Lone Terrorist



1. Personal Grievance and Moral Outrage

- Combining of personal grievance and moral outrage concerning historical or contemporaneous religious or political events
- Moral outrage is vicarious identification, ie, lone terrorist has not personally experienced the suffering of the victimized group: trees, animals, aborted fetuses, taxpayers, religious/ethnic groups, politically oppressed groups, delusional groups





Findings on Timothy McVeigh

- Superior Intelligence
- Abandoned by mother—distrusted women
- Preferred to be alone—became more reclusive in two years before bombing
- Sexualized his interest in weapons
- “Ultimate warrior” identification
- Humiliated by SFASP rejection, **the grievance**
- Poised, overcontrolled, brooding “intellectual”
- Saw self as first hero of the second American revolution
- Hypervigilant narcissism (Gabbard, 1989)

Timothy McVeigh

- Research, planning, and preparation took about 18 months following **moral outrage** at Branch Davidian compound assault by FBI and ATF (Apr 19, 1993)
- Engaged in robbery to secure money
- Original cell was composed of McVeigh, Nichols, and Fortier
- Surveillance in Oklahoma City by car
- Bomb was sodium nitrate fertilizer in shaped charge in Ryder truck (4-5,000 pounds)
- Exact detonation device unknown; accelerant was rocket fuel (methane) from race track



2. Framed by an Ideology

- Intent to act is framed by an ideology or belief system: religion, politics, secular commitment, one issue, idiosyncratic
- Violence is sanctioned by an external moral authority: not the valueless violence of the psychopath
- On closer exam, cherry-picked phrases to justify violence toward others
- Morality becomes a simplistic choice between good and evil



Sovereign Citizens (US) or Freemen (Canada)

- Heir to the Patriot Movement in the U.S. and *posse comitatus*—do not believe in federal or state government authority, esp taxes, licenses, control of lands, etc; ideology apparent in Oregon standoff, January, 2016



LaVoy Finicum



'AMBUSH'
IN OREGON





Republic of
ALABAMA



SOVRIN1

ALABAMA
AUG

republicoftheunitedstates.org

14 USA
34-016519

JIHAD WORKS BOTH WAYS...



**JOIN THE RESISTANCE,
SUPPORT THE RECONQUISTA!**

3. Failure to Affiliate with an Extremist Group

- Rejection by or of an extremist group further isolates and hardens the belief system and intent to be violent
- Typically due to a lifelong pattern of interpersonal difficulties
- Will then turn to the internet in search of like-minded violent true believers



The Lone Terrorist

Kathleen Puckitt, CT FBI, 2001

- Intensive study of primary source material, including clinical interview data, of 10 lone terrorists in the U.S.
- Tim McVeigh, Joseph Franklin, John Salvi, Eric Rudolph, Buford Furrow, Ted Kaczynski, Benjamin Smith, Paul Hill, Michael Griffin, Terry Nichols



Major Finding and Operational Implication

- Major finding: Attempt to affiliate with an extremist group led to rejection and further hardening of radical position and violent intent
- Operational implication: be acutely observant of those who attempt to affiliate and are rejected, or subsequently reject, a real community of extremists who have bonded under one cause or banner
- ISIS dilemma: inspiration, not affiliation, drives motivation



Rev. Paul Hill



Paul Hill

- Minister of orthodox Presbyterian Church in Florida
- Excommunicated by church members for his radicalization concerning the anti-abortion movement
- Killed Paul Britton, MD, 3 years later in 1994 with shotgun attack at a rally outside clinic



4. Dependence on the Virtual Community

- Anonymity leads to greater self-disclosure: active exchange not passive viewing
- Most extreme and deviant ideas can find support somewhere on the internet
- Paranoid pseudo-community (Cameron)
 - The fantasy of being persecuted
- Pronoid pseudo-community
 - The fantasy of belonging

Nadir Soofi and Elton Simpson May 3, 2015, Texas



ISIS Social Media Prompt

The screenshot displays the Twitter profile of Mujahid Miski (@Love_H00riyah_). The profile header shows 68 tweets, 227 following, 666 followers, and 139 favorites. A 'Follow' button is visible in the top right corner. The profile picture is a dark image, possibly of a soldier. The main content area shows three tweets:

- Tweet 1:** A tweet from Mujahid Miski (@Love_H00riyah_) posted 8 hours ago. The text reads: "The brothers from the Charlie hebdo attack did their part. It's time for brothers in the #US to do their part." Below the text is a link to breitbart.com/big-journalism.... The tweet has 5 retweets and 13 likes.
- Tweet 2:** A retweeted tweet from 'I'm your bro fillah' (@tawakkul) posted 8 hours ago. The text reads: "When will they ever learn? They are planning on selecting the best picture drawn of Rasulullah (saws) in Texas." Below the text is a link to breitbart.com/big-journalism.... The tweet has 2 retweets and 3 likes.
- Tweet 3:** A retweeted tweet from 'monaser...' (@monaser...) posted 18 hours ago. The text is in Arabic: "الاحتاج الحاضر في هذه المرحلة... لأن يندم عن الشبهات مهما كانت... وأن يكون همه الوحيد تصديدا دولة الخلافة... وإعطاء القبة شىء تعاقب...". The tweet has 10 retweets and 11 likes.

ISIS Support

The screenshot shows the Twitter profile of AbuHussainAlBritani (@_AbuHu55ain). The profile header includes the name, handle, and statistics: 9 tweets, 25 following, 137 followers, and 15 favorites. A 'Follow' button is visible. The profile bio reads 'Kik: AbuHussain2 (Brothers only!)'. The main content area displays a list of tweets:

- Tweet 1:** Posted 2m ago. Text: "If there is no check on the freedom of your speech, then let your hearts be open to the freedom of our actions #GarlandShooting #TexasAttack". Engagement: 1 star.
- Tweet 2:** Posted 6m ago. Text: "They Thought They Was Safe In Texas From The Soldiers of The Islamic State - #garlandshooting #TexasAttack". Engagement: 4 retweets, 5 stars.
- Tweet 3:** Posted 9m ago. Text: "Kill Those That Insult The Prophet - #GarlandShooting". Engagement: 3 retweets, 3 stars.
- Tweet 4:** Posted 19m ago. Text: "Allahu Akbar!!!!!! 2 of our brothers just opened fire at the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) art exhibition in texas! #TexasAttack". Engagement: 10 retweets, 8 stars.
- Tweet 5:** Retweeted by AbuHussainAlBritani. Text: "Shariah is Light @starwakuul · 1h The bro with me and myself have given bay'ah to Amirul Mu'mineen. May Allah accept us as mujahideen. Make dua #texasattack". Engagement: 6 retweets, 7 stars.
- Tweet 6:** Posted 3h ago. Text: (partially obscured).

On the right side of the profile, there is a sign-up form for Twitter with fields for 'Full name', 'Email', and 'Password', and a 'Sign up for Twitter' button. Below the form, it says '© 2015 Twitter About Help Advertise'.

Social Media

- Contagion effect—two weeks: the act
- Copycat phenomena—when aggregated, it becomes a cultural script for some: the actor
- Cyberspace
 - Legacy tokens (A. Simons)
 - Cajoling



5. Thwarting of Occupational Goals

- Disillusioned with the social order
- Resentful of narcissistic wounding due to history of slights, rejections, failures
- “In-betweeners” (Ollson, 2005; Singer, 1995)
- Identity confusion vs. identity integration (Erikson, 1950)



Richard Reid



Calhoun and Weston Threat Management Lessons

- Do not become overconfident about physical security. Violence occurs at the edges.
- Silos are still pervasive and a problem; multi-disciplinary teams, awareness throughout corporation, and reporting ease will help.
- Tactics are often done well at the expense of strategic thinking: connect your means and ends

