
HOW IS DOMESTIC TERRORISM EVOLVING?

Domestic terrorism is violence committed by race-based, single-issue, anti-government, and religious extremists without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist organization.

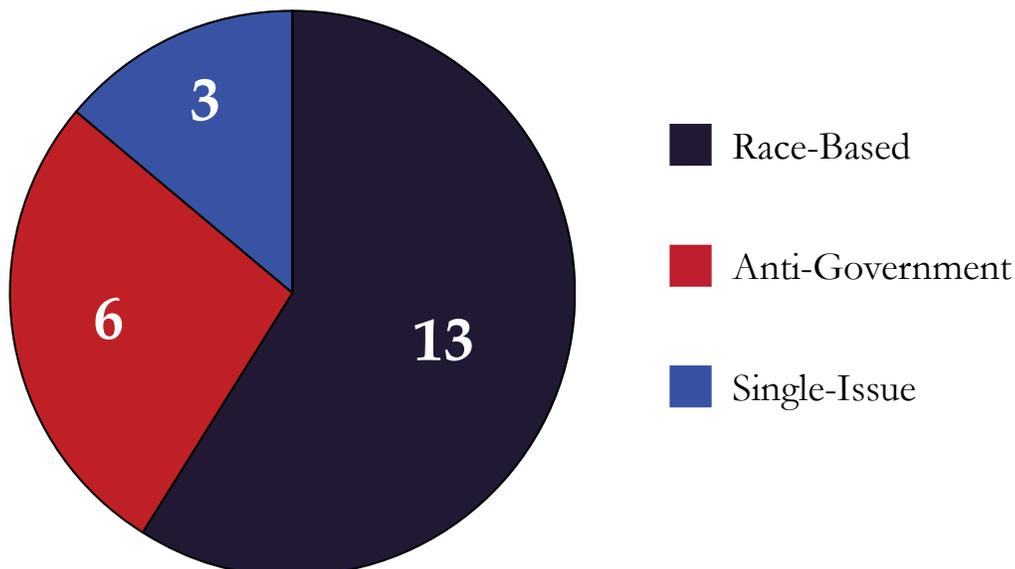
According to an NJOHSP nationwide review, domestic terrorists engaged in 22 attacks in 2016 and were responsible for an additional 17 plots, threats of violence, and instances of weapons stockpiling. These numbers represent an increase from 2015, when the same NJOHSP study identified 16 attacks attributed to domestic terrorists, as well as 16 added plots, threats of violence, and instances of weapons stockpiling.

Attacks attributed to race-based extremists increased from five in 2015 to 13 in 2016, with the majority attributed to white supremacists. In July 2016, Ohio authorities arrested Charles Butler and Robert Paschalis for assaulting a black man outside his residence in Toledo. Butler posted on Facebook that the attack was “in the name of the White Race,” according to the criminal complaint.

59%

of all domestic terrorist attacks in the United States in 2016 were attributed to race-based groups such as black separatist and white supremacist extremists, with the primary targets being law enforcement and minority groups.

Attacks in the United States, 2016



Rise in Deadly Assaults Against Law Enforcement

An NJOHSP review of extremist attacks against law enforcement officers nationwide reveals that in the last year, these incidents were more lethal and pre-planned than in the past. They also often occurred following publicized cases of alleged police brutality and by individuals of varied ideologies. In 2016, 12 attacks resulted in nine police officer fatalities, as compared to eight attacks that yielded no deaths in 2015.

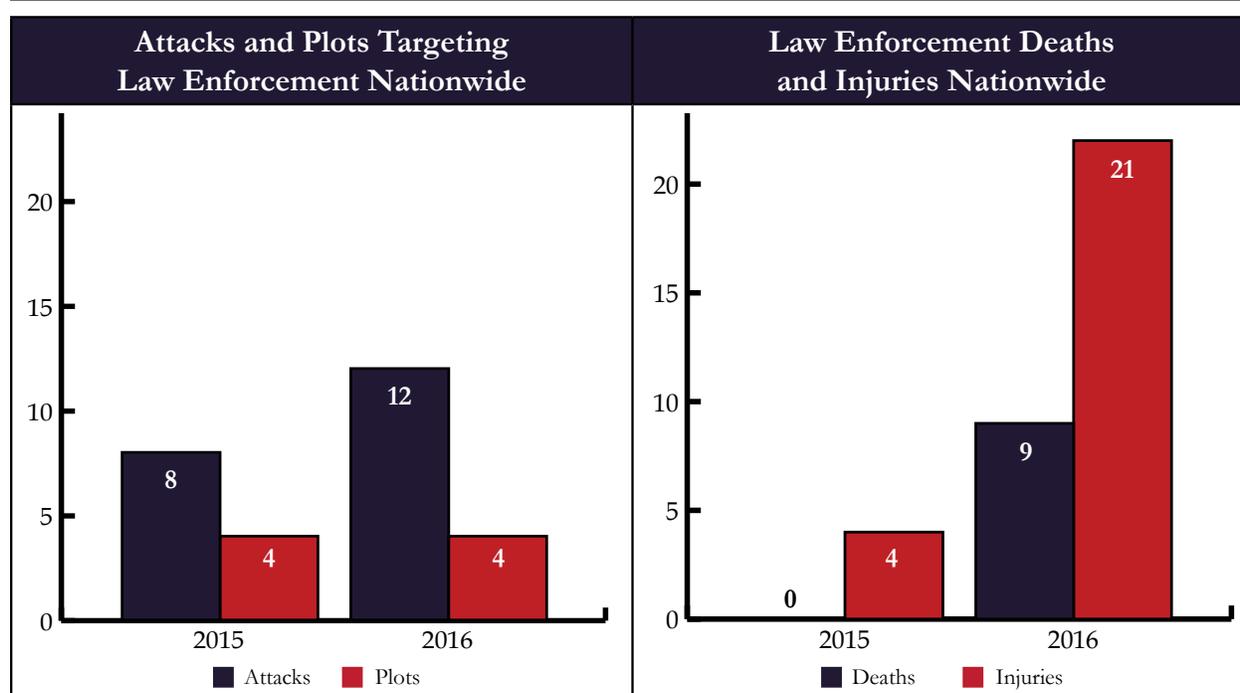
Last year, 90 percent of all extremist-perpetrated law enforcement deaths occurred after the police-involved shootings of Alton Sterling in Louisiana on July 5 and Philando Castile in Minnesota on July 6. On July 7, Micah Johnson, a former black separatist member, killed five officers and injured nine others at a Black Lives Matter protest in Dallas. During the standoff, Johnson said he was upset over recent police-involved shootings and wanted to kill primarily white police officers. On July 17, Gavin Long, a sovereign citizen and former Nation of Islam member, killed three officers and injured three others in Baton Rouge after posting YouTube videos alleging police oppression.

In October 2016, Damoine Wilcoxson fired at two police facilities in Indiana, sparking an armed stand-off. Wilcoxson left handwritten notes outside the police headquarters demanding \$100,000 and stating “white people must die.”

Over half of the 12 attacks in 2016 were pre-planned. In January 2016, homegrown violent extremist Edward Archer approached a police vehicle in Philadelphia, fired 13 shots, and critically injured one officer. Archer later told investigators, “Police bend laws that are contrary to the teachings of the Koran.” In 2015, all eight extremist attacks against police were conducted during routine, official activities such as traffic stops, search warrants, and interviews.

In 2016, the ideologies of extremists involved in law enforcement attacks were diverse; they included race-based, anti-government, and single-issue extremists. Notably, in North Dakota, an environmental extremist was charged after shooting at officers attempting to arrest her for disorderly conduct during a pipeline protest—the first reported environmental extremist act of violence since 2009.

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White Supremacist Attacks in the United States, 2016

Last year, there were seven documented attacks attributed to white supremacists, an increase from five in 2015. They were:

1) Dana Ericson, Nashville, Indiana

On February 18, Ericson, a self-proclaimed white supremacist, slashed a foreign exchange student with a hatchet while the student was on a class field trip. He claimed this act was “ethnic cleansing” and that he “hates people of color.”



2) Oliver Stewart-Vukicevic, Harlem, New York

On February 24, Stewart-Vukicevic, who was suspected of a hate crime involving anti-Semitic letters left throughout his apartment building, charged at detectives with a knife after they came to investigate. The detectives found swastikas and other hate-filled literature in his residence.

3) Ian Justine Plankey, Richard Lawrence Daulton, Kevin Matthew Stewart, Lake Los Angeles, California

On February 28, Plankey, Daulton, and Stewart began using racial slurs and harassing a group of Hispanic individuals playing soccer and speaking Spanish. The harassment escalated, and the three attacked the group with knives.



4) Charles Butler, Robert Paschalis, Toledo, Ohio

On May 18, authorities arrested Butler and Paschalis for assaulting a black man with a broom outside his residence, leaving him with a damaged eye socket. Prior to his arrest, Butler posted online that he was acting “in the name of the white race.”

5) Russell Courtier, Colleen Hunt, Gresham, Oregon

On August 10, Courtier and Hunt attacked an African-American teenager outside a convenience store. After the teen tried to flee, Courtier and Hunt ran over him with their car, killing him. Courtier was a long-time member of a white supremacist prison gang known as European Kindred.

6) Daniel Rowe, Olympia, Washington

On August 16, Rowe, a self-proclaimed white supremacist, stabbed an interracial couple with a knife after he saw them kissing outside a restaurant. While under arrest, he continued espousing racist rhetoric, focused specifically on the Black Lives Matter movement.

7) Aaryn Snyder, Fort Wayne, Indiana

On August 21, Snyder, a self-proclaimed white supremacist, stabbed his African-American neighbor to death for being in his yard. Snyder admitted to the stabbing and was also arrested for failing to register as a sex offender.



Sovereign Citizen Extremists Flouting Laws

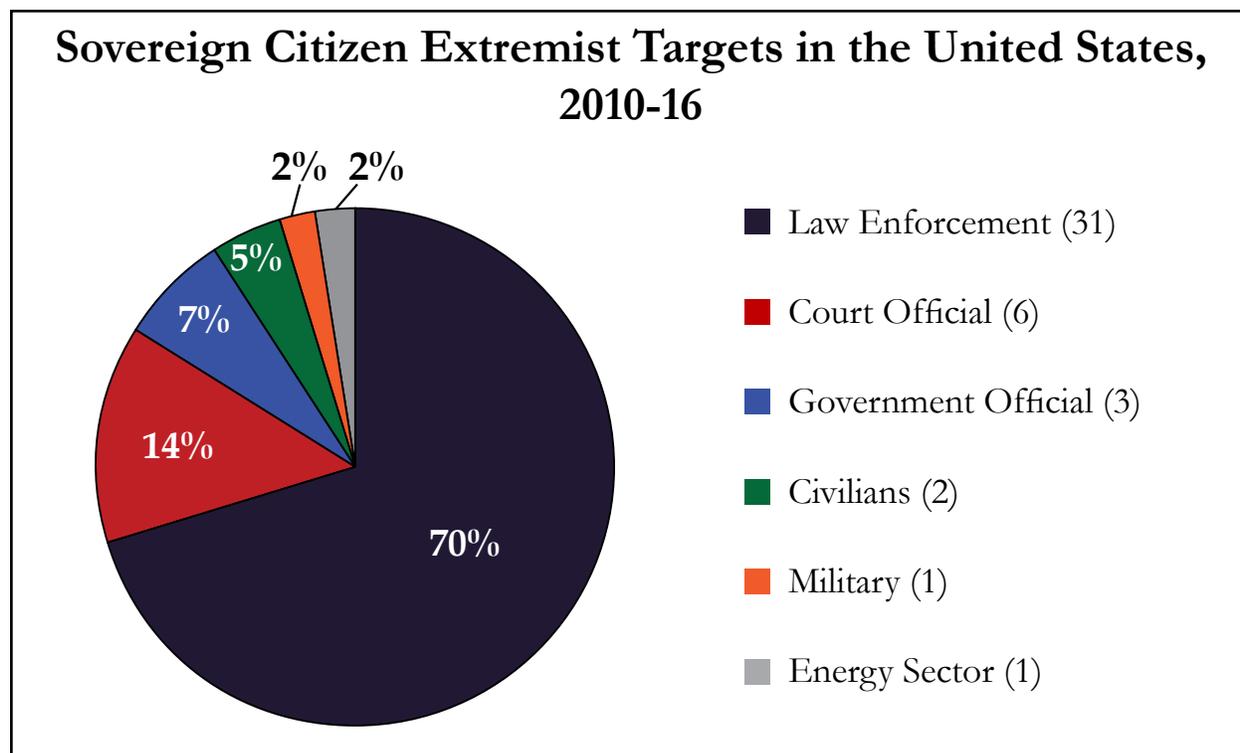
Sovereign citizen extremists are adopting new methods to circumvent New Jersey laws due to a lack of standardized reporting and their success in using prisons as teaching outlets. In May 2015, New Jersey statute 2C:21-42, “an act concerning fraudulent financing statements,” enacted stricter requirements and increased penalties for filing false statements and liens.

An NJOHSP review of 24 states with enacted or pending laws imposing penalties on fraudulent lien filers found that either the laws are not expansive enough to cover victims or sovereign citizen extremists have created new ways to get cases dismissed. Online sites claiming to be “third-party recording entities” offer to post fraudulent liens on extremists’ behalf, which can easily be downloaded and replicated.

Between May 2015–October 2016, there have been 13 incidents in which sovereign citizen extremists in New Jersey filed fake lawsuits or liens on public officials. Due to a lack of standardized reporting procedures, identifying new trends and enforcing existing legislation is difficult. Other states have reported similar gaps in reporting.

In 2014, four of 14 incidents in which sovereign citizen extremists threatened to file liens against public officials involved inmates at New Jersey correctional facilities. Extremists have taught fellow inmates how to file fraudulent liens—sometimes for a fee—claiming the tactic will get them out of jail.

Sovereign citizen extremists view federal, state, and local governments as illegitimate, lacking the authority to issue or enforce laws.



Fewer Militia Run-Ins With US Government Likely

Confrontations between militia extremist groups and the US Government will likely decrease this year as signs emerge that Washington, DC is open to relinquishing some control of federal land to the states—a longstanding militia demand. Instead, militia extremists, particularly along the US-Mexico border, appear poised to increasingly focus on armed patrols and other perceived non-government threats to enforce security.

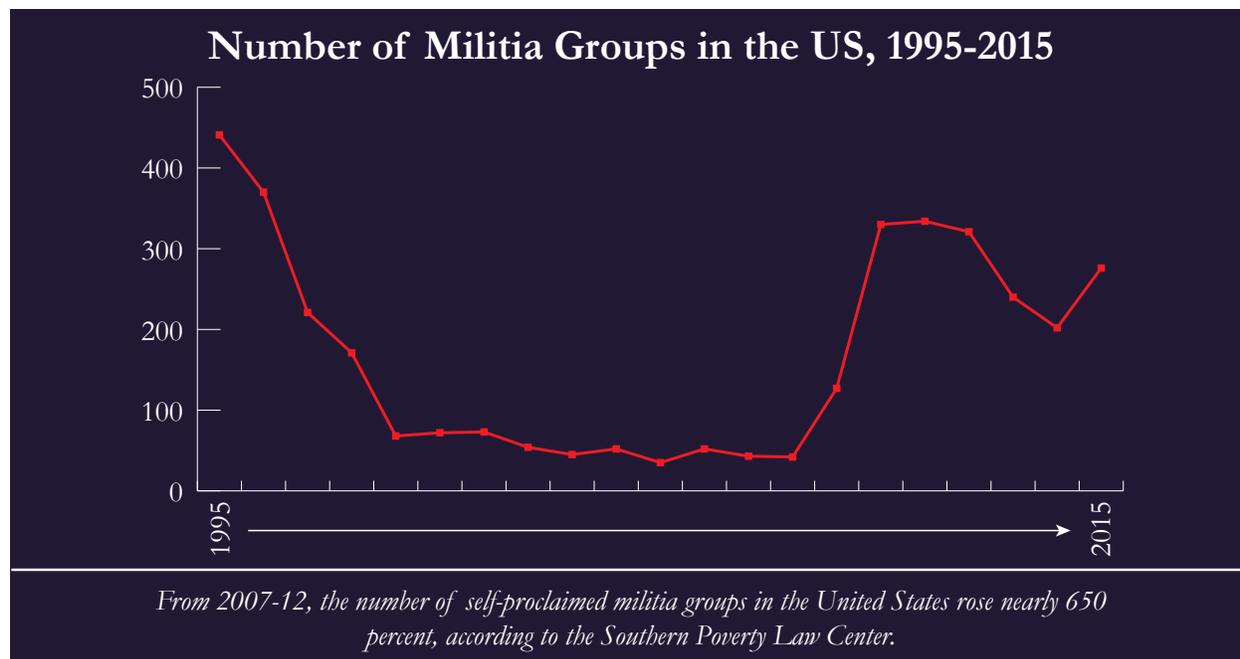
Three bills in Congress, set to be reintroduced this year, propose transferring millions of acres of federal land in Nevada to state control and allowing all states to regulate oil and gas drilling on federal land in their borders. An NJOHSP review of militia leaders' public statements in 2016 reveals a general sentiment favoring such moves, as the status of federally owned land has been a primary driver of armed standoffs with the US Government in recent years.

Since at least 2005, militia extremist groups have patrolled the southern US border. One such group has conducted reconnaissance on the US-Mexico border since 2011 and claims 200 volunteers, while another has surveilled border areas in Arizona and New Mexico since 2014.

Publicly, militia extremist groups are beginning to identify professed non-government threats. In October 2016, a Kansas militia plotted to bomb an apartment complex housing a mosque used by Somali immigrants. Additionally, in November 2016, the founder of a national militia group hosted a webinar providing instructions on how to set up neighborhood "Kill Zones" after the US presidential election—a response to his anticipation of "intruders" "suspending the democratic process" or "legitimizing the implementation of emergency powers and martial law." Examples of "intruders" included political, civil-rights, terrorist, and race-based groups.



Three members of "The Crusaders," Curtis Allen, Gavin Wright, and Patrick Eugene Stein, who were behind the plot in Kansas to bomb an apartment complex.



Anarchists Mobilizing Amid Civil Unrest

Anarchist extremists will likely exploit anti-law enforcement sentiment by carrying out criminal and violent acts during political rallies, otherwise legitimate protests, and race-based events. In 2012, police arrested a doctor in Bergen County for stockpiling explosive materials and found anarchist extremist literature in his home; since that time, no anarchist extremist activity has been reported in the State.

In April 2016, anarchist extremists in Pittsburgh attacked Republican Party supporters by physically assaulting attendees and using pepper spray against police and civilians. Extremists attempted to force their way toward supporters, leading to the arrest of three individuals, according to a pro-anarchist website.

In the past two years, anarchist extremists have infiltrated peaceful social-rights movements in the United States. In July 2016, law enforcement officials arrested about 100 people in Minnesota, including suspected anarchist extremists, after an anti-law enforcement protest.

In June 2016, 300 counter-protesters, including some anarchist extremists, attacked white supremacists rallying at the California State Capitol in Sacramento. In February 2016, anarchist extremists attacked Ku Klux Klan members holding a rally in Anaheim, California, which resulted in three stabbings and seven arrests.



Anarchist extremists protest against white supremacists in Sacramento, California in June 2016.

\$1 million

Property damage caused by anarchist extremists in Portland, Oregon in the four days following the US presidential election. Additionally, the Portland Police incurred roughly \$500,000 in overtime costs during the riots.

Domestic Terrorism Publications in 2016

January 14:

Militia Standoff in Oregon

www.njohsp.gov/analysis/militia-standoff-in-oregon

March 28:

Podcast Episode 11:

Mass Shootings - Defining a Phenomenon

www.njohsp.gov/media/podcast-mass-shootings

April 18:

Podcast Episode 14:

One-on-One with Lauren Steinberg

www.njohsp.gov/media/podcast-lauren-steinberg

May 18:

Oregon Standoff Bundle

www.njohsp.gov/analysis/oregonstandoff

May 31:

Podcast Episode 20:

Round Two with J.M. Berger

www.njohsp.gov/media/podcast-jm-berger

June 6:

Podcast Episode 22:

One-on-One with J.J. MacNab

www.njohsp.gov/media/podcast-jj-macnab

June 28:

Podcast Episode 25:

One-on-One with Thomas Brzozowski

www.njohsp.gov/media/podcast-thomas-brzozowski

July 5:

Mass Shootings in the US,

January 2015 to June 2016

www.njohsp.gov/analysis/massshootings

July 5:

Podcast Episode 26:

Domestic Terrorism Conference Recap

www.njohsp.gov/media/podcast-dt-conference

July 18:

Recent Attacks on Law Enforcement

www.njohsp.gov/analysis/recent-attacks-on-law-enforcement

July 20:

Washitaw Nation: Non-Violent in New Jersey

www.njohsp.gov/analysis/washitawnation

July 25:

Podcast Episode 29:

Sovereign Citizen Extremists

www.njohsp.gov/media/podcast-sovereign-citizen-extremists

September 26:

Overlap Between Black Separatists and

Moorish Sovereign Citizen Extremists

www.njohsp.gov/analysis/overlap-between-black-separatists-and-moorish-sovereign-citizen-extremists