



**NEW JERSEY
PREDICTIVE THREAT ANALYSIS**

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NJOHSP

INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

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The purpose of this intelligence report is to identify the most likely courses of action for domestic extremists or homegrown violent extremists within New Jersey over the next three years. Specifically, the report assesses the actions or activities an ideologically motivated individual or group will likely engage in and seeks to identify the most likely actions a particular threat actor will carry out based on trends and past behavior.

The information in this report is derived from multiple sources, including open source reporting, and intelligence products from the previous three years. From a State perspective, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP) proactively collected, compiled, and aggregated this information to conduct a trend analysis. This report is provided for public awareness of NJOHSP's analytical assessments, which will guide its efforts to remain ahead of a changing threat landscape as COVID-19 health and safety protocols lessen and restrictions on attendance at mass gatherings and other events within New Jersey are gradually removed.

Background:

In February 2020, NJOHSP released its [2020 Terrorism Threat Assessment](#) that forecasted the threats to the State from both domestic extremists and foreign terrorist organizations for that year. Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic emerged and resulted in an environment that allowed numerous threat actors to manipulate societal tensions and fears on an international level.

Observing that COVID-19 restrictions, disinformation, and misinformation would converge with the 2020 Presidential election and mounting civil unrest, NJOHSP released a [supplemental threat assessment](#) in September to accurately assess the threats this situation would pose. Within the assessment, NJOHSP stated that domestic extremists, foreign terrorist organizations, and nation-state actors would attempt to hinder economic recovery and vaccination efforts, fuel anti-government sentiment, and spread false narratives through the use of disinformation. Through the Internet and social media, threat actors learned to leverage online conspiracy theories to thrive and expand their individual movements to mainstream platforms, which allowed for a wider range of recruitment.

Furthermore, regardless of which nominee won the 2020 Presidential election, NJOHSP assessed that extremists would likely continue to engage in political violence, post-election protests, and attempts to overrun governmental facilities. This assessment was most notable during the riot at the US Capitol on January 6, which resulted in several deaths and injuries, as well as a plot to detonate improvised explosive devices at both the Republican and Democratic national committee headquarters.

All last year, a wide range of ideologically motivated extremists continued to conduct and plot attacks throughout the United States, including in the tri-state region. Of these, anarchist extremists engaged in street-level violence against law enforcement and far-right organizations, militia extremists shifted their focus toward attacking government representatives, and white racially motivated extremists plotted attacks to accelerate the collapse of society.

Analytical Assessments

<p>Anarchist Extremists</p>	<p>Anarchist extremists will likely remain loosely organized and attempt to partner with larger groups in surrounding states to engage in criminal or violent activity challenging any cause they perceive as unjust. They will likely be prepared to clash with counter-protesters or law enforcement if they deem it necessary. Additionally, they will likely use encrypted applications and social media platforms to communicate with each other.</p>
<p>Animal Rights Extremists</p>	<p>Animal rights extremists have not been active in New Jersey in the past few years. Activists tend to organize small-scale, First Amendment-protected protests and have not been violent. Likely actions involve criminal acts such as vandalism. A specific event could cause them to assemble and become operational, targeting a business or individual they have a grievance against.</p>
<p>Anti-Abortion Extremists</p>	<p>Anti-abortion extremist groups have not been active in New Jersey in the past few years. Activists tend to organize small-scale, First Amendment-protected protests. Isolated online and verbal threats against reproductive facilities have occurred. Based on previous incidents, lone offenders may engage in violent and threatening behavior to disrupt day-to-day operations against a facility.</p>
<p>Anti-Government Extremists</p>	<p>Anti-government extremists will likely operate individually or coordinate with like-minded individuals who possess varied and unpredictable motivations to target law enforcement and government officials of all levels with threats of violence.</p>
<p>Black Racially Motivated Extremists (BRMEs)</p>	<p>BRMEs will likely engage in low-level criminal activity, conduct military-style training, attend rallies or protests, and attempt to establish a larger presence within the State. Lone offenders may engage in isolated attacks targeting a religious facility or law enforcement agency they have a personal grievance against.</p>
<p>Environmental Extremists</p>	<p>Environmental extremists have not been active in New Jersey in the past few years. Activists tend to organize small-scale, First Amendment-protected protests and have not been violent.</p>

Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs)	<p>FTOs, such as al-Qa'ida and ISIS, remain committed to supporting their global affiliates and vilifying the United States. These groups will remain resilient with operations in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia while seeking to inspire followers in America to commit attacks and support them, whether monetarily or by traveling overseas. Homeland security initiatives have prevented FTOs from directing a coordinated attack in the United States; however, ongoing global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, could strengthen these groups and provide the opportunity to regain previously lost territory or attract new recruits.</p>
Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs)	<p>HVEs will likely provide material support to overseas extremists using social media, as well as encrypted messaging and cash transaction apps. Followers have provided financial support, traveled overseas, created propaganda, and/or radicalized supporters online. Additionally, HVEs may plot and conduct attacks using accessible means, such as edged weapons or vehicles to target public gatherings.</p>
Militia Extremists	<p>Militia extremists will likely focus on targeting government officials and law enforcement with threats of violence surrounding issues of perceived government overreach. Smaller groups will likely focus on recruitment and training, primarily seeking individuals with varied skill sets and backgrounds. Additionally, individuals or groups may travel out of state to participate in illegal and illicit activities.</p>
Sovereign Citizen Extremists	<p>Sovereign citizen extremists will likely operate individually or within small groups to engage in financial schemes and attempt to illegally acquire private property. They will likely target government officials with threats of false legal and financial action, as well as resist police officers with physical violence during routine traffic stops.</p>
White Racially Motivated Extremists (WRMEs)	<p>WRMEs will likely organize and operate as small cells or groups that fall under separate national banners. The primary tactic is likely to be propaganda distribution throughout the State to spread their ideology and recruit new members. Some organizations will likely attempt to establish stronger ties within the State while stockpiling weapons and tactical equipment. New Jersey-based WRMEs will likely communicate online and travel across state lines to engage in tactical training or participate in rallies. Lone offenders may engage in isolated attacks against a religious facility or government target.</p>