



OFFICE of PRIVATE SECTOR

SLICKSHEET – HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISM



A **homegrown violent extremist (HVE)** is a person of any citizenship who lives or operates primarily in the United States, and who advocates, engages in, or is preparing to engage in or support terrorist activities in furtherance of a foreign terrorist organization's objectives, but whose actions are independent of direction by a foreign terrorist organization.

HVEs are inspired by a mix of personal, group, community, sociopolitical, and ideological factors.

OVERVIEW

HVEs Remain the Primary International-linked Terrorist Threat to the Homeland.

- There is no useful demographic profile, however, HVEs have historically been primarily male and born in the United States. They have been geographically dispersed across the country.
- Primarily reliant on easily obtainable tools, such as edged weapons, firearms, vehicles and unsophisticated explosives, HVEs are often able to legally acquire weapons and/or explosive precursors without raising concerns.
- Selection of civilian, personally significant, and familiar targets with perceived minimal security decreases the need for HVEs to conduct pre-operational surveillance.
- Use of online platforms or encrypted applications for sharing and consuming violent extremist media, dissemination of tactical guidance, and communications with other violent extremists increases the accessibility of violent extremist messaging to potential HVEs.

KNOW THE SIGNS

Some behaviors and activities exhibited by individuals that could signal their mobilization to violence * include:

- Expressing acceptance of violence as a means to achieve ideological goals
- Changing appearance or behavior to reflect a hardened point of view or new sense of purpose
- Consuming or producing violent extremist media or participating in online sites/groups that promote such content
- Engaging in end-of-life preparations such as disposing of personal assets, unusual goodbyes
- Suspicious or illegal acquisition of weapons and/or explosive precursors
- Inquiring about jobs that provide sensitive access in a suspicious manner or surveilling potential targets
- Suspicious transfer/receipt of financial resources, electronic equipment, or survivalist gear to or from individuals or groups overseas

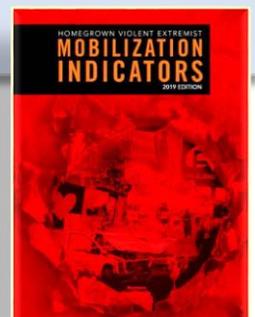
BYSTANDERS:

As of 2017, a US Government study found that bystanders witnessed or became aware of an HVE's violent extremist views or activities nearly 80% of the time.

Commercial company employees—such as store employees who sell weapons or explosive precursor materials—may interact with HVEs in the final planning stages of an attack, possibly providing these employees with a valuable opportunity to intervene and report suspicious activity to authorities.

*** NOTE:** Each indicator listed above on its own is considered moderately or minimally diagnostic, may be constitutionally protected and/or insignificant if alone, and requires combination with other suspicious activities or additional indicators—particularly advocacy for violence—to constitute a basis for reporting to authorities.

For a list of HVE Mobilization Indicators, download the HVE Mobilization Indicators booklet at <http://go.usa.gov/xEKgd>



CONTACT US: For questions or assistance, locate and contact your local FBI field office at www.fbi.gov