

LEADERSHIP OF THE EXTREME AND DANGEROUS FOR INNOVATIVE RESULTS

ABOUT

The Leadership for the Extreme and Dangerous for Innovation Results (LEADIR) dataset uses an internal strategic organizational approach to examine the leadership, organizational structure, and indicators of innovation in a sample of 280 violent extremist organizations and 295 violent extremist leaders active between 2008 and 2017. The data can be used to provide insight into which violent extremist organizations and leaders will emerge as the most strategically differentiated in the coming years. LEADIR has been federally funded and used by the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security since 2010.

KEY FINDINGS

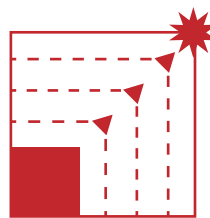
Terrorist groups who use uniforms to denote status differences and tenure are more lethal, in general, and more lethal against hard targets compared to those groups whose members do not wear uniforms. We believe this is an indicator that formalization within the organization increases the capacity for lethal violence.



Organizational complexity was significantly linked to the number of attacks on hard targets and the number of highly successful attacks on hard targets. This suggests that, as organizations adopt a more sophisticated organizational design, their willingness and success in attacking hard targets increases.



Organizational size was significantly related to all five attack outcomes. This suggests that organizational size is an important predictor of violence at the group level. More importantly, this finding has emerged across terrorism datasets showing its consistency as a group-level construct.



Attack Outcome Variables:

- **Lethality:** Number of individuals killed regardless of target type
- **Lethality on Hard Target:** Number of hard targets killed
- **Number of Attacks on Hard Target**
- **Number of Successful Attacks on Hard Targets:** Number of attacks on hard targets in which the number of victims killed outweighed the perpetrators killed
- **Number of Highly Successful Attacks on Hard Targets:** Number of attacks on hard targets in which the number of victims killed outweighed the perpetrators killed by 10 or more

VIOLENT EXTREMIST LEADERS

- ▶ The average age leaders **rose to power** was **43 years old**
- ▶ Approximately **79% of leaders have operational influence** over the organization (e.g., fundraising, weapons procurement)
- ▶ Roughly **44% of leaders have strategic influence** over the organization (e.g., goals)
- ▶ Around **34% of leaders** were said to have **both strategic and operational influence** over the organization
- ▶ Approximately **38% of leaders were incarcerated or detained** over a long time period before or during their rise to power
- ▶ About **43% of leaders founded the organization** in which they lead
- ▶ Of those leaders who were **removed from power**, the most common means were through **decapitation via rivals or government forces (17%)** or through **arrest (10%)**