



## What is Domestic Violent Extremism?

DVE occurs when an individual based and operating primarily within the United States or its territories seeks to further political or social goals wholly or in part through unlawful acts of force or violence.

### Types of Violence:

**Targeted violence:** any intentional act against a pre-identified target based on that target's perceived identity or affiliation that is intended to intimidate or coerce or generate publicity about the perpetrator's grievance

- Examples: Nashville Covenant School Shooting (2023); Louisville Old National Bank Shooting (2023)

**Terrorism:** a form of targeted violence in which violence is committed in the name of ideology to further a political or social agenda

- Examples: Tops Supermarket Shooting (2022); El Paso Wal-Mart Shooting (2019)

# PREVENTS-OH

Responding to the risk of domestic violent extremism through education, dialogue and trainings in collaboration with partners in Southwest Ohio

## Attitudes Towards Violence

- 1 in 3 Americans think violence against the government is sometimes justified<sup>1</sup>
- 1 in 10 Americans say violence is justified "right now"<sup>2</sup>

## Ohio In Focus

- More than 50 Ohioans have been charged in connection with the 2021 Capitol Riot<sup>3</sup>
- Ohio is the 2nd leading state for the most active anti-government extremist groups<sup>4</sup>
- Ohio is a hub for racially and religiously motivated extremist networks, including a Neo-Nazi home school network and long-running website the Daily Stormer<sup>5</sup>
- Ohioian James Fields was convicted of murder during 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville<sup>6</sup>
- Self proclaimed Incel, Tres Genco, pled guilty to a plot to kill many women at Ohio State University in 2020<sup>7</sup>

## The Legal Context

- U.S. laws strongly protect speech, assembly, petition, and association. Hateful speech and expression are not generally legally punishable unless connected with criminal actions
- Domestic and state laws do prohibit targeted violence, terrorism, incitement, private militias, intimidation, hate crimes, and other actions carried out by domestic violent extremists



1. The Hill, 2022

2. The COVID States Project, 2022

3. NBC News 4, 2023

4. SPLC, 2021

5. Education Week, 2023; SPLC, 2023

6. DOJ, 2019

7. DOJ, 2022



# Pathways In and Out of Domestic Violent Extremism

**Radicalization** - a process whereby an individual comes to believe, for a variety of reasons, that the threat or use of unlawful violence is necessary – or even justified – to accomplish a goal

**Mobilization** - a process whereby individuals take action to prepare for or engage in violence or material support of violence to advance their cause

**Risk Factors** - increase the likelihood of a person becoming radicalized to extremist violence. They do not directly predict or cause a person to engage in violence. Examples: substance abuse, social isolation, suicidal ideation

**Protective Factors** - decrease the likelihood of a person becoming radicalized. They serve as buffers against risk. Examples: family ties, health resources, social integration



# Gender, Sexuality, and Extremism

Women are more likely than men to be victims of violent extremist groups

Women also play key roles in extremist movements, from the KKK to QAnon

All extremist groups are misogynistic; some groups specifically target women & LGBTQI+

## Prevention is Key

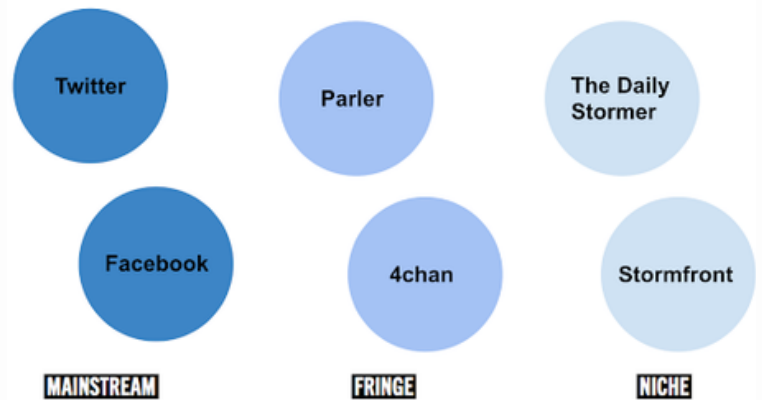
- Violence generates violence: through desensitization, normalization, and social contagion
- Extremist violence is a public health problem: social and environmental factors increase risks for radicalization, mobilization, and perpetration
- Prevention depends on everyone: families, teachers, government officials, military veterans, medical professionals, social services, faith leaders, and you

## Extremist Groups and Symbols



Some of the most visible extremist groups in Ohio are the Patriot Front, Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, Aryan Nations, and Three Percenters

## Recruitment Platforms and Strategies



Extremist groups use online spaces to recruit members, plan attacks, spread disinformation and conspiracy theories, share violent images and glorify weapons