

## **Key Themes of the 28 Mass Attacks In the U.S. in 2017**

**U.S. Secret Service Study**

*Part 2*

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**These findings aid in understanding what to look for**

**They stress the importance of data collection:**

**Backgrounds**

**Potential target(s)**

**Current and past behaviors**

**Situational factors – the environment**

**Corroborating this information from multiple sources**

**Although this study is not clinically validated, it's an important step in helping and validating the threat assessment process.**

## 100% Had At Least 1 Stressor

- ★ ***Family/romantic relationships***, such as spousal estrangements, divorces, romantic breakups, rejected proposals, physical or emotional abuse, or the death of a parent
- ★ ***Personal issues***, such as unstable living conditions, physical illnesses, or other significant disorders
- ★ ***Work or school environments***, such as being fired or suspended, filing grievances, being bullied at work or at school, feeling disrespected, or being the subject of real or perceived gossip
- ★ ***Contact with law enforcement that did not result in arrests or charges***, such as being the subject of domestic disturbance calls or being sought for a crime unrelated to their attack

## 57% Had Financial Instability

- Couldn't maintain employment
- They ranged in age from 15-66
- 54% had a history of drug and/or substance abuse
- 71% had a history of criminal charges, beyond traffic violations
- 32% had a history related to DV
- 64% had a history of mental health (most common – psychosis & suicide)



## MOTIVES & TARGETING

- 46% - personal grievances were the main motivating factor (perceived wrongs, DV, bullied or disliked)
- 25% subscribed to a specific belief system (ideologies or racial biases)
- 39% developed a fixation on a person, activity or belief
- 57% resulted in harm to random persons
- 14% resulted in harm to pre-selected targets
- 21% resulted in harm to specific and random targets

## Aggressive Signs Were Common

**“82% exhibited behaviors that were indicative of aggressive narcissism, as evidenced by displays of rigidity, hostility, or extreme self-centeredness. For example, some inappropriately asserted control over others, as observed by their histories of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, or harming animals.”**



## OTHER AGGRESSIVE SIGNS

“Others had a history of violent or angry outbursts following interpersonal conflicts with co-workers, neighbors, or family members. Some attackers displayed an inflated sense of self or entitlement, unrealistically believing that they were deserving of certain relationships, successes, or benefits, with some reacting angrily when they did not obtain what they believed they deserved.”

## Communications With Target

- **79% has some form of threatening or concerning communications – 36% directly with the target.**
- **75% engaged in concerning communications not raised to the level of a threat (i.e., angry or suicidal comments or intent to attack).**





## SUMMATIONS



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