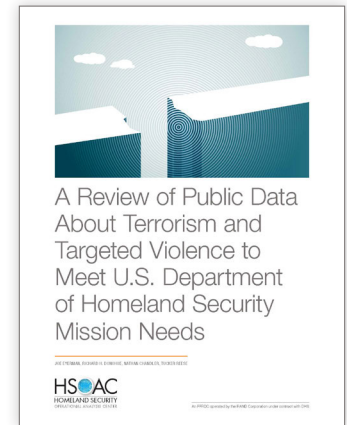


# A Review of Public Data About Terrorism and Targeted Violence to Meet U.S. Department of Homeland Security Mission Needs

JOE EYERMAN, RICHARD H. DONOHUE, NATHAN CHANDLER, TUCKER REESE

[www.rand.org/t/RRA1203-1](http://www.rand.org/t/RRA1203-1)



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) *Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence* calls for better data resources. Researchers reviewed DHS needs, existing resources, and alignment between those needs and resources. They document their findings and recommendations here: Available resources might meet current needs, but new resources will be required as needs evolve.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are DHS needs for data on terrorism and targeted violence?
- What databases exist that might fulfill those needs?
- What gaps are there between the data needs and available data sources?

## KEY FINDINGS

- DHS has a strong need for data to support policy and create actionable operational intelligence. These data needs span the gamut of incident types, actors, motivations, and tactics, techniques, and procedures.
- Many sources are available to support DHS needs. However, some areas, such as cyberthreats and emerging technologies, require new database construction.

- Although the overall quality of the prominent databases is generally high, the quality assurance and study documentation standards are inconsistently applied, suggesting a need for clearly promulgated requirements.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- DHS should continue funding database updates and new builds for emerging threats, such as cyberattacks.
- DHS can guide the data collection field with clear expectations about standards for quality control procedures, transparency, and documentation.
- DHS can improve data timeliness and relevance to emerging issues and program evaluations through a combination of investments in new data collection methods and an expedited process for identifying and funding new data needs.
- DHS can improve the alignment of the data collection field with its data needs through additional assessments and research. This could result in solutions to improve the overall quality and accuracy of data use for the analysis of terrorism and targeted violence.