

U.S. Terrorism Incidents Dataset Codebook

MAY 2026

Codebook

This codebook defines each column in the published dataset.

DATE

The date of the incident. For attacks, the date violence occurred. For plots, the date of law enforcement interdiction or arrest.

STATE

U.S. state where the incident occurred. For plots, the state of the intended target when a single target is identifiable. Otherwise, the state where the perpetrator was based or arrested.

CITY

City where the incident occurred. For plots, the city of the intended target when a single target is identifiable. Otherwise, the city where the perpetrator was based or arrested.

SUMMARY

Plain-prose description of the incident.

IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION

The ideological orientation of the incident. One of: Right, Left, Jihadist, Ethnonationalist, or Other. See definitions in the Methodology document.

IDEOLOGY SUBTYPE

The ideological subtype of the incident. See definitions in the Methodology document.

INCIDENT TYPE

Plot or Attack. “Plot” means the perpetrator demonstrated plans or intent to commit an act of terrorism but did not carry it out, typically because law enforcement interdicted them beforehand. “Attack” means the perpetrator carried out the act, regardless of whether it was successful.

VICTIMS KILLED

Number of fatalities resulting from the incident, not including the perpetrator or perpetrators.

LOCATION TYPE

The type of physical place where the incident occurred or was planned to occur. “Multiple” when the perpetrator named two or more distinct location-type categories. “Unspecified” when no location type was identified.

TARGET

The type of person, group, or entity targeted by the incident. “Multiple” when the perpetrator named two or more distinct target categories. “Unspecified” when no target type was identified.

MAIN WEAPON

The primary weapon used or planned for use in the incident.

WEAPON CATEGORIES

Dummy variables for each weapon category (1 = present, 0 = absent). A weapon is coded 1 only when it was used or intended as an instrument of harm—not for transportation, cover, or concealment.

SOURCES

URLs of sources relied on for coding the incident.