Fear, Violence, and Trauma: Combatting Terrorism Through Research

December 12, 2016
The scale of the problem
Injury deaths compared to other leading causes of mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deaths per year (millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Injury | HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria

Source: Global burden of disease, 2004

http://www.trekmedics.org/diems_images/IMG_Injury_vs_IDs.png
American deaths caused by terrorism vs. gun violence

The gun fatalities number covers all manner of death, including homicide, accident and suicide.

406,496
American deaths by firearms on U.S. soil (2001 - 2013)

3,380
American deaths by terrorism (2001 - 2013)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. State Department

COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF DEATHS BY TERRORISM, PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL TERRORIST DEATHS FOR 2013

Five countries account for more than 80 per cent of global terrorist deaths.

http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Terrorism%20Index%20Results%202014.jpg
Joseph Wippl

Professor of the Practice, International Relations
Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
Intelligence and Counterterrorism
Susan M. Akram

Clinical Professor
Director, International Human Rights Clinic
School of Law
The World’s Displaced Persons

UNHCR Global Trends Report 2015 (issued June 2016)

65.3 million forcibly displaced worldwide

- 21.3 million persons were refugees
  - 16.1 million under UNHCR’s mandate
  - 5.2 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA
- 40.8 million internally displaced persons†
- 3.2 million asylum-seekers

If these 65.3 million persons were a nation, they would make up the 21st largest in the world.
Jaimie L. Gradus, DSc, MPH

Epidemiologist, National Center for PTSD
VA Boston Healthcare System
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry and Epidemiology
School of Medicine
- Population cohort of adults with stress disorder diagnoses from 1995-2011 (n = 101,663)
- Comparison group (age, sex matched; n = 508,315)
- Used national healthcare and social registries for data
- ICD-10 stress disorders = acute stress reaction, PTSD, adjustment disorder, and two unspecified diagnoses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Acute Stress Reaction (N = 9,182)</th>
<th>PTSD (N = 3,786)</th>
<th>Adjustment Disorder (N = 66,823)</th>
<th>Other Reactions to Severe Stress (N = 1,692)</th>
<th>Reactions to Severe Stress, Unspecified (N = 20,180)</th>
<th>Comparison Cohort (N = 508,315)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of all-cause mortality</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-cause mortality - unadjusted (95% CI)</td>
<td>(2.6 – 3.2)</td>
<td>(1.9 – 2.6)</td>
<td>(2.7 – 2.9)</td>
<td>(2.3 – 3.5)</td>
<td>(2.4 – 2.8)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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<td>All-cause mortality - adjusted (95% CI)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of suicide</td>
<td>0.63%</td>
<td>0.61%</td>
<td>0.78%</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide - unadjusted (95% CI)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide - adjusted (95% CI)</td>
<td>(14 – 49)</td>
<td>(7.6 – 46)</td>
<td>(15 – 21)</td>
<td>(5.4 – 112)</td>
<td>(16 – 41)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neta C. Crawford

Professor, Political Science
College of Arts & Sciences
## Why Do Political Organizations Target Civilians?

### Unintentional
- Unforeseen Accident
- Systemic "collateral damage" (foreseeable, structural)
- Proportionality/Double Effect (unintended, yet foreseeable and foreseeable choice)

**Foundational premise:** targeting civilians is illegitimate, adhering to the principle of distinction.

### Intentional

#### Means to an End
- Thumbscrew/Punishment Theory: hurting civilians directly or indirectly works to achieve military objectives

#### End in Itself
- Attacking Civilians Directly achieves the aspirations for a pure or dominant civilizational, racial, or class identity

**Shared premise:** targeting civilians is legitimate, denying or ignoring the principle of distinction or the fact that certain people are "innocent" civilians

### What beliefs and feelings underpin the assumption that targeting civilians is legitimate? How do they change?
Jessica Stern

Research Professor
Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
Students Challenging Violent Extremism

- Current Challenge:
  - Terrorist organizations, across the political spectrum, are mobilizing youth via social media

- What is P2P Challenging Extremism?
  - P2P: Challenging Extremism provides an opportunity for youth to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge violent extremist ideology, propaganda, and recruitment messaging

- How Does P2P Work?
  - Student teams, together with their faculty advisor, receive $2000 to produce a real campaign and measure its impact

- What will we do in my class?
  - We will help a new NGO, Parents4Peace, provide information to family members who are worried that their kids are radicalizing to join neo-Nazi, jihadi, or other violent movements

“If it happened to my child, it can happen to yours”
John D. Woodward Jr., JD

Professor of the Practice, International Relations
Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
Rapid DNA Will Quickly Pose Challenges

The power of DNA is:

1. Identification (1:N)
   - Where N is > 15 million
2. “Cold Hits”
3. Once digitized, it may be searched forever.

The more DNA you collect & search, the more you match.

DNA Profiles & Hits

Current DNA processing is manually rigorous, time consuming, & resource intensive… BUT

Public policy challenges loom:
- Collection
- Searching & Retention
- DNA Processing
- Information Sharing
- Legal Standards
- Technical Standards

Rapid DNA: Coming Soon to a Police Department Near You
Alexis Peri

Assistant Professor, History
College of Arts & Sciences
Chris Walsh

Interim Director, Writing Program
College of Arts & Sciences
Terrorism, Cowardice, and the Limits of Trauma

Andrew Pogany 2003

Soldier Accused as Coward

Andrew Pogany 2010