

# Terrorism and Immigration

## A Risk Analysis, 1975–2022

BY ALEX NOWRASTEH

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**T**errorism is a hazard to human life and material prosperity that should be addressed in a sensible manner whereby the benefits of actions taken to contain it outweigh the costs.

A total of 219 foreign-born terrorists were responsible for 3,046 murders on U.S. soil from 1975 through the end of 2022.

The chance of a person perishing in a terrorist attack committed by a foreigner on U.S. soil over the 48-year period studied here is 1 in 4.3 million per year. The hazard posed by foreigners who entered on different visa categories varies considerably. For instance, the annual chance of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack by a refugee is about 1 in 3.3 billion, while the annual chance of being murdered in an attack committed by an illegal immigrant is zero. Looking at this spectrum of risk, any government response to terrorism must consider the wide

range of hazards posed by foreign-born terrorists who entered under various visa categories.

There were 219 foreign-born terrorists who planned, attempted, or carried out attacks on U.S. soil from 1975 through 2022. Of those, 67 percent were Islamists, 16 percent were foreign nationalists, 6 percent were right-wing extremists, 5 percent were non-Islamic religious terrorists, 4 percent were left-wing extremists, and the rest were separatists, adherents of other or unknown ideologies, or targeted worshippers of specific religions.

The federal government has an important role in screening all foreigners who enter the United States and excluding those who pose a threat to the national security, safety, or health of Americans, as foreign-born terrorists explicitly do. This focused terrorism risk analysis can aid in the efficient allocation of scarce government-security resources to best counter the small threat of foreign-born terrorists.



ALEX NOWRASTEH is the vice president for economic and social policy studies at the Cato Institute.

## INTRODUCTION

The federal government's security resources should be allocated to the most efficient means of reducing the costs of terrorism. The government initially applied cost-benefit methods for evaluating the risk of terrorism, the cost of terrorism, and the supposed security benefits provided by the Department of Homeland Security in the years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. However, those methods were not well developed because cost-benefit analyses are anathema to decisionmakers in most government agencies, who are inclined to assume that the benefits provided by their agencies offset high costs.<sup>1</sup> As a partial remedy to that long-running deficiency, the Strategic National Risk Assessment seeks to evaluate the risk of threats and hazards to help the government more effectively allocate resources to the security threats that pose the greatest risk.<sup>2</sup> Even so, the assessment does not include a thorough terrorism risk analysis of different visa categories or of native-born terrorists compared to those born abroad. Substantial administrative hurdles and barriers are in place to block foreign-born terrorist infiltration from abroad through vigorous vetting procedures that have low error rates.<sup>3</sup> Any change in immigration policy for terrorism prevention should be subject to a cost-benefit calculation. Sensible terrorism screening policy must do more good than harm to justify its existence, meaning that the cost of the damage the policy prevents should at least equal the cost it imposes.

**“Any change in immigration policy for terrorism prevention should be subject to a cost-benefit calculation.”**

This policy analysis identifies 219 foreign-born terrorists in the United States who killed 3,046 people in attacks on U.S. soil from 1975 through the end of 2022. Nine of them were illegal immigrants; 70 were lawful permanent residents; 22 were students; 1 entered on a K-1 fiancé(e) visa; 28 were refugees; 13 were asylum seekers; 44 were tourists on various visas; 14 were from Visa Waiver Program countries; 1 entered on an A-2 visa for government business or military training; and 1 was on an H-1B visa for skilled temporary foreign workers. The visas for the remaining 16 terrorists

could not be determined. During that period, the chance of being murdered by a foreign-born terrorist on U.S. soil was 1 in 4,338,984 a year. The annual chance of being murdered by someone other than a foreign-born terrorist in a normal homicide was more than 316 times greater than the chance of dying in a foreign-born terrorist's attack.

This policy analysis is an update and simplification of two previous Cato policy analyses on the same topic that were published in 2016 and 2019. It differs from both previous versions because it does not include the total number of visas issued during the years analyzed, does not include a cost-benefit analysis of different immigration policies intended to reduce the threat of foreign-born terrorism, and it differs from the 2019 version because it does not include native-born terrorists.

The risks of foreign-born terrorists on U.S. soil are quantified by evaluating how many people they murdered and injured in attacks, the ideologies of the attackers, the visas foreign-born terrorists entered on, their countries of origin, and the costs of terrorism.

## BRIEF LITERATURE SURVEY

Few researchers have tried to identify the specific visas used by terrorists and, with the exception of the earlier versions of this policy analysis, no others have used that information to produce a risk assessment for each U.S. visa category or by nationality.<sup>4</sup> John Mueller and Mark Stewart produced superb terrorism risk analyses but did not focus on the terrorism risks broken down by visa category or nativity.<sup>5</sup> Robert S. Leiken and Steven Brooke wrote the most complete survey of visas used by foreign-born terrorists.<sup>6</sup> However, their published work does not separate threats by country, and their analysis ended in 2006; in addition, their data set is no longer available, and they did not produce a risk analysis.<sup>7</sup> Immigrants are overrepresented among those convicted of terrorist-related offenses post-9/11.<sup>8</sup> Broader links between immigration and terrorism are the subject of additional strands of research, but they are not risk analyses.<sup>9</sup>

## METHODOLOGY

Terrorism is the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a nonstate actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through coercion, fear, or

intimidation.<sup>10</sup> This analysis focuses on terrorism during the 48-year period from January 1, 1975, to December 31, 2022, which began with large waves of Cuban and Vietnamese refugees entering the country—which posed a terrorism risk—and ended with a hostage situation at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas. It identifies foreign-born terrorists who were convicted of planning, attempting, or committing a terrorist attack on U.S. soil and links them with the specific visa they were first issued, as well as the number of people they individually murdered, if any, in their attacks, the number of people they injured, the countries they were born in, and their ideologies (illegal immigrants are included in a visa category called “illegal” to improve readability). This report counts terrorists who were discovered trying to enter the United States on a forged passport or visa as illegal immigrants. Asylum seekers usually arrive on a different visa with the intent of applying for asylum once they arrive, so they are counted under the asylum category unless they entered months before claiming asylum. For instance, the Tsarnaev brothers, who carried out the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013, traveled here on tourist visas but they are categorized as asylum seekers because their family immediately applied for asylum.

**“This analysis focuses on terrorism during the 48-year period from January 1, 1975, to December 31, 2022, which began with large waves of Cuban and Vietnamese refugees entering the country—which posed a terrorism risk—and ended with a hostage situation at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas.”**

Next, information on individual terrorists, their visa types, and the number of casualties is compared with the monetized loss per casualty to quantify the loss. The monetized loss per casualty is based on an economic concept called the value of a statistical life, which reflects the societal willingness to pay for risk reductions that prevent one statistical death in the aggregate. Crucially, this does not assign a

value to a specific individual’s life. Where conflicting numerical estimates exist, the highest plausible figures are used to maximize the risks and costs of terrorism in terms of human life. The Appendix lists all the foreign-born terrorists identified by relevant date, the number of murders, the number of injuries, visa type, country of birth, and ideology.

Finally, other costs of terrorism, such as injuries, property damage, losses to businesses, and reduced economic growth, are also considered. It is easy to draw comparisons between attacks regarding fatalities, but injuries are inherently difficult to compare because of their wide spectrum of severity, which makes this the least meaningful statistic, so the judicious reader should interpret it with caution. Only three terrorist attacks committed by foreigners on U.S. soil created significant property and business damage, as well as wider economic damage: the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 9/11 attacks, and the Boston Marathon bombing. The costs of the government’s responses to terrorism, such as foreign wars and domestic counterterrorism spending, are excluded. This analysis is concerned primarily with the cost of human lives taken in terrorist attacks and considers the costs of injuries and property damage in subsequent sections.

## **Counting Terrorists and Their Victims**

This policy analysis examines foreign-born terrorists and excludes American-born terrorists. For attacks that were planned or carried out by native-born Americans in concert with foreign-born terrorists, the latter are credited entirely for the murders and injuries that resulted from the plot. This choice increases the estimates of harm caused by foreign-born terrorists. For plots that included many foreign-born terrorists and victims, the number of victims is divided equally between the terrorists in each attack. For instance, the 1993 World Trade Center attack was committed by six foreign-born terrorists. Six people were murdered and 1,042 people were injured, making each terrorist responsible for 1 murder and 173.67 injuries. Airplane hijackings that started but did not end in the United States, such as the September 10, 1976, hijacking of TWA Flight 355 by Croatian nationalists that eventually terminated in Paris, France, are also included. However, this analysis excludes terrorist attacks in which the identities of the perpetrators are

unknown, as well as attacks that occurred or were intended to occur (but were not successfully carried out) abroad. Those killed or injured by the police or security forces responding directly to the terrorism are counted as victims of the terrorist as well. Terrorists are categorized as making threats only if they made an actual effort to commit the attack or have bombmaking experience, or if they made it appear as if they committed the attack through a hoax.

Moreover, those who committed violent crimes domestically to fund terrorism, even if they never committed the actual terrorist attack, are counted as terrorists. If the terrorist is killed or dies overseas before being arrested for plotting an attack, that person is not counted. Convictions for weapons charges are not delineated as terrorism unless the weapons are bombs, dynamite, or poisons. Mere possession of machine guns or other illegal firearms is not terrorism. People who teach others how to build a bomb are not counted as terrorists and neither are those who solicit others to commit terrorist attacks. Lastly, terrorists who were entrapped by the FBI are counted.<sup>11</sup>

The ideologies of foreign-born terrorists are broken into the categories of foreign nationalism; Islamism; left-wing (communism, animal rights, environmentalism, etc.); political assassination with unclear motive; religious (non-Islamist); right-wing (including members of the incel ideology); separatism of various kinds; against specific religions (such as anti-Jewish or anti-Muslim); and unknown or other. The citizenship of terrorists at their birth is their country of origin. The most difficult challenge was distinguishing terrorism from crimes motivated by ethnic, racial, national, religious, or other forms of bigotry. Individual cases that came close to being categorized as terrorism but that were ultimately rejected are available from the author upon request.

Finally, calculating the risk of being murdered in a foreign-born terrorist attack on U.S. soil partly depends on the number of people in the United States. The Census Bureau and the American Community Survey record only the resident population for any year, but there are, at any given time, many temporary travelers and tourists within the United States. Ideally, these individuals should be included in any risk calculation because they could also be murdered or injured in a terrorist attack. However, the previous versions of this policy analysis did not include them in the denominator for the risk calculations. This may seem like a small point except that there are

several million tourists in the United States at any given time, which, if they were included in the risk calculation, would lower the estimated chance of being murdered or injured in a terrorist attack for each year. Notably, Sayfullo Habibullaev Saipov murdered eight people in a terrorist attack in New York City on Halloween 2017, and five of his victims were Argentine tourists.<sup>12</sup> Undoubtedly, some number of those who are murdered or injured in other attacks have also been tourists or other nonresidents. Despite this, estimating the number of tourists in the United States at any given time over the last 43 years would require too many assumptions and estimates to be statistically reliable. Therefore, this policy analysis counts all people who were murdered or injured in terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, but in estimating the annual chance of being murdered in an attack it only counts residents as the population. This convention overestimates the risk of dying or being injured in a terrorist attack.

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The 2019 policy analysis included information on native-born terrorists, their victims, their ideologies, and other characteristics. Counts of native-born terrorists are not included in this version for four main reasons. First, the collection and categorization of native-born American terrorists back to 1975 is costly. Second, no readers of the 2019 policy analysis remarked on the native-born terrorist numbers and their attention was almost exclusively focused on foreign-born terrorists.

Third, the data on native-born terrorists would not be as reliable as the data for foreign-born terrorists. The 2020 riots following the murder of George Floyd and the January 6, 2021, rioters who attempted to disrupt the count of electoral votes to certify Joe Biden’s election present complex methodological challenges. In both cases, some of the rioters undoubtedly committed violence for political purposes but many did not. Identifying the *thousands* of people involved in both sets of riots, separating property criminals and other hooligans from those who intended political

violence, and uncovering their immigration statuses would be too difficult and would involve too many judgment calls by the author. However, not including the violence from those two politically inspired spasms of violence would also give an incomplete view of native-born terrorism since almost all perpetrators were native-born Americans.<sup>13</sup>

Fourth, wide segments of the public disagree on whether the riots in 2020 and 2021 would rise to the level of terrorism that is analyzed in this paper, whereas there is little disagreement over whether the incidents that are included, such as the 9/11 attacks, were terrorism.

## Sources

The terrorists' identities come from 18 main data sets and documents. The first is *Terrorism Since 9/11: The American Cases*, edited by John Mueller.<sup>14</sup> This voluminous work contains biographical and other information related to terrorist attacks and cases since September 11, 2001. Mueller's work is indispensable because he focuses on actual terrorism cases rather than questionable instances of people who were investigated for terrorism, then cleared of terrorism and convicted under nonterrorism statutes, but whose convictions were ultimately counted as "terrorism-related" convictions. For instance, a 2017 Department of Justice National Security Division's "Chart of Public/Unsealed International Terrorism and Terrorism-Related Convictions from 9/11/01–12/31/15" included 627 "terrorism-related" convictions of which only 280, or 45 percent, were convicted under an actual terrorism statute.<sup>15</sup> Seventy of those 280 convictions were for planning or executing an attack on U.S. soil, and only 40 of the 70 people were foreign-born. Many of those terrorism-related convictions were for citizenship fraud, passport fraud, or false statements to an immigration officer by immigrants who never posed an actual terrorism threat to the homeland. The convictions of Nasser Abuali, Hussein Abuali, and Rabi Ahmed provide further context for the government's use of the term "terrorism-related." An informant told the FBI that the trio tried to purchase a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, but the FBI found no evidence supporting the accusation. The three individuals were instead charged with, and convicted of, receiving two truckloads of stolen cereal.<sup>16</sup> The government classified their convictions

as "terrorism-related" despite the lack of an actual terrorist connection, terror threat, planned attack, conspiracy, or any tentative steps toward the execution of a terror attack. While this incident is especially absurd, it is not too different from many of the other 346 terrorism-related convictions in the Department of Justice report.

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The second source is the Fordham University Center on National Security's terrorism trial report cards, a compilation of all the trials for terrorism cases for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) members in the United States as well as statistical analyses and overviews.<sup>17</sup>

Third is the 2013 Congressional Research Service report, "American Jihadist Terrorism: Combating a Complex Threat."<sup>18</sup>

The fourth source of terrorist identities is a combination of the RAND Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents (RDWTI), which covers the years 1968–2009, and other RAND Corporation publications on terrorism.<sup>19</sup>

Fifth is the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), maintained by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland, College Park, and other research produced by the GTD.<sup>20</sup> It is important to highlight that the RDWTI and GTD overlap considerably, which provides a valuable check.

Sixth are the results of numerous Freedom of Information Act requests by various organizations and individuals asking for all terrorism-related convictions since 9/11.<sup>21</sup>

Sources 7 through 17 are the New America Foundation; *The Intercept*; the Investigative Project on Terrorism; the research of University of North Carolina professor Charles Kurzman; the George Washington University Program on Extremism; the Center for Immigration Studies; the Southern Poverty Law Center; research by the National White Collar Crime

Center; the Terrorism Research Center at Fulbright College; a dissertation by Catlyn Kenna Keenan; numerous FBI reports from 1982 to 2005 on terrorist incidents in the United States; and press releases, statements, or speeches issued by the U.S. Department of Justice.<sup>22</sup>

Individual immigration information for the terrorists, their ideologies, and their countries of origin comes from the sources mentioned above, as well as news stories, court documents, and other government reports. Many of the foreign-born terrorists analyzed here entered the United States on one visa but committed their terrorist attack after they switched to another visa or were naturalized. This report classifies those foreign-born terrorists under the first visa they had when they entered the country. The only exception to that rule is for those seeking asylum in the United States—they are counted under the asylum visa. That exception is important because those individuals usually make their claim at the U.S. border or after they have entered on another visa, often with the intention of applying for asylum. For instance, Faisal Shahzad is counted on the student visa because he initially entered on that visa and then obtained an H-1B visa before his unsuccessful attempt at setting off a car bomb in Times Square in 2010.

Because this policy analysis is an update, it includes corrections to previous reports based on subsequent research. The only notable correction is the addition of Elliot Oliver Robertson Rodger as a foreign-born terrorist who murdered 6 people and injured 14 in an attack in Santa Barbara, California, on May 23, 2014. Rodger was inspired by a right-wing incel ideology and was born in the United Kingdom.<sup>23</sup>

## THE ATTACKERS

These data sets identify 219 foreign-born terrorists in the United States from 1975 to the end of 2022, of which 9 were illegal immigrants; 70 were lawful permanent residents; 22 were students; 1 entered on a K-1 fiancé(e) visa; 28 were refugees; 13 were asylum seekers; 44 were tourists on various visas; 14 were from Visa Waiver Program countries; 1 was on an H-1B visa; and 1 was on an A-2 visa for government business or military training. The visas for 16 terrorists could not be determined.

The number of murder victims per terrorist attack comes primarily from government reports, the RDWTI, the GTD,

John Mueller’s research, and media reports. From 1975 through 2022, those 219 foreign-born terrorists murdered 3,046 people, 97.8 percent of whom were killed on September 11, 2001. The other 2.2 percent of murder victims were dispersed over the 48-year period, with two spikes that occurred in 1993 and 2015. These spikes represent the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed 6 people and the combination of two 2015 attacks—the Chattanooga, Tennessee, shooting on July 16, 2015, that killed 5 people, and the San Bernardino, California, attack on December 2, 2015, that killed 14 people.

## “These data sets identify 219 foreign-born terrorists in the United States from 1975 to the end of 2022.”

From 1975 through 2022, the approximate annual chance that an American resident would be murdered in a terrorist attack carried out by a foreign-born terrorist was 1 in 4,338,984. At one end of the spectrum, foreigners on the Visa Waiver Program killed 1 American resident in a terrorist attack, resulting in a risk of about 1 in 13.2 billion per year. On the other end of the spectrum, those on other tourist visas killed 2,829.4 people, resulting in a risk of about 1 in 4.7 million a year. The approximate chance that an American would be killed in a terrorist attack committed by a refugee was 1 in 3.3 billion a year. Of the roughly 963,389 total murders committed in the United States from 1975 to the end of 2022, a total of 3,046 (or 0.32 percent) were committed by foreign-born terrorists in attacks.<sup>24</sup> Those risk statistics are summarized in Table 1. The annual chance of being murdered in a criminal homicide was 316 times as great as dying in an attack committed by a foreign-born terrorist on U.S. soil.

The U.S. murder rate declined from 9.7 per 100,000 in 1975 to 7.4 per 100,000 in 2022, whereas the 1975–2022 rate of murder committed by foreign-born terrorists was 0.023 per 100,000 per year, only spiking at 1.05 in 2001 (see Figure 1). Zero Americans were killed in a domestic attack committed by foreign-born terrorists in 30 of the 48 examined years. In the 21 years after 9/11, only 6 years were marred by successful foreign-born terrorist attacks. Figure 1 shows a

single perceptible blip for terrorism on the 9/11 attacks in an otherwise flat line.

From 1975 through 2022, 219 foreign-born terrorists injured 17,077 people in attacks on U.S. soil, injuring 5.6 people for every person they murdered (see Table 2). But 86.9 percent of all people injured in foreign-born terrorist

attacks, 14,842, were injured on 9/11. From 1975 through 2022, the annual chance of being injured in a terrorist attack carried out by a foreign-born terrorist was 1 in 773,938. Illegal immigrants injured zero American residents in terrorist attacks, whereas those on tourist visas injured 1 in 773,938 a year. The approximate chance that an American would be

Figure 1

**U.S. murder rates from foreign-born terrorism and nonterrorism homicides**



Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER),” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations.

Table 1

**Chance of dying in an attack by a foreign-born terrorist, 1975–2022**

Visa category	Terrorism deaths per visa category	Annual chance of being killed
Tourist	2,829.4	1 in 4,671,130
Student	158.8	1 in 83,233,129
Lawful permanent resident (LPR)	22.0	1 in 600,752,031
K-1 fiancé(e)	14.0	1 in 944,038,907
Asylum	9.0	1 in 1,468,504,966
Unknown	4.8	1 in 2,753,446,811
Refugee	4.0	1 in 3,304,136,173
Government (A-2)	3.0	1 in 4,405,514,897
Visa Waiver Program (VWP)	1.0	1 in 13,216,544,692
H-1B	0.0	Zero
Illegal	0.0	Zero
<b>All</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>1 in 4,338,984</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations. Note: Non-whole numbers for deaths result from dividing the number of victims of a single incident equally among multiple terrorist perpetrators.

injured in a terrorist attack committed by a refugee was 1 in 615 million a year.

In 29 of the 48 years, zero people were injured in terror attacks committed by foreign-born terrorists. The three most injurious attacks were 9/11 (14,842 people injured); the 1993 World Trade Center attacks (1,046 people injured); and the 1984 Rajneeshee bioterror attack in The Dalles, Oregon (751 people were sickened).

## Uniqueness of 9/11

The foreign-born terrorist murder rate has a single spike in 2001 and is virtually a flat line for every other year (see Figure 1). The foreign-born-terrorist murder rate of 1.05 per 100,000 in 2001 is 177 times greater than the next-highest annual rate of 0.0059 in 2015. The statistical mode (meaning the most common number) of the annual murder rate by foreign-born terrorists is zero.

The 9/11 attacks killed 2,979 people (not counting the 19 hijackers). These attacks were a horrendous crime, but they were also a dramatic statistical outlier. The year 2015 was the deadliest year excluding 2001, with 19 Americans killed by foreign-born terrorists. Fourteen of those victims were killed in the San Bernardino attack—the second-deadliest attack committed by foreign-born terrorists on U.S. soil. The

attacks on 9/11 killed about 213 times more people as were killed in San Bernardino.

Government officials frequently remind the public that we live in a post-9/11 world, where the risk of terrorism is so extraordinarily high that it justifies enormous security expenditures and curtailments of civil rights.<sup>25</sup> The period from 1975 to September 11, 2001, had only 23 murders committed by 28 foreign-born terrorists out of a total of 98 who either attempted an attack or successfully carried out an attack (see Table 3). From September 12, 2001, to December 31, 2022, 44 people were murdered on U.S. soil by a total of 9 foreign-born terrorists, while 91 other foreign-born terrorists attempted or committed attacks that did not result in fatalities.

Prior to 9/11, the chance of being murdered by a foreign-born terrorist was about 1 in 276.7 million per year. After 9/11, the chance of being murdered by a foreign-born terrorist was about 1 in 149.2 million per year. The horrendous death toll from the terrorist attacks of 9/11 dominates deaths from other attacks. On that one day, the chance of dying in a terrorist attack was 1 in 95,659.

Prior to 9/11, 1,814 people were injured on U.S. soil by a total of 26 foreign-born terrorists and the chance of being injured by a foreign-born terrorist was about 1 in 3.5 million per year (see Table 4). After 9/11, the chance of

Table 2

### Chance of being injured in an attack by a foreign-born terrorist, 1975–2022

Visa category	Terrorism injuries per visa category	Annual chance of being injured
Tourist	14,961.6	1 in 883,364
Student	1,065.1	1 in 12,408,577
Lawful permanent resident (LPR)	329.5	1 in 40,116,707
K-1 fiancé(e)	17.0	1 in 777,443,805
Asylum	669.0	1 in 19,745,834
Unknown	2.0	1 in 6,608,272,346
Refugee	22.0	1 in 614,723,009
Government (A-2)	8.0	1 in 1,652,068,087
Visa Waiver Program (VWP)	3.0	1 in 4,405,514,897
H-1B	0.0	Zero
Illegal	0.0	Zero
<b>All</b>	<b>17,077</b>	<b>1 in 773,938</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations. Note: Non-whole numbers for deaths result from dividing the number of victims of a single incident equally among multiple terrorist perpetrators.



being injured by a foreign-born terrorist was about 1 in 15.6 million per year. It is important to repeat that the large number of injuries in the terrorist attacks of 9/11 dominates injuries from other attacks.

## Terrorism Deaths and Injuries by Ideology

Because of the disproportionate number of murders committed on 9/11, the Islamist ideology of those attackers was the dominant motivation for those terrorist attacks during the 48-year period. Of the 219 foreign-born terrorists who were active from 1975 through 2022, 67 percent were Islamists. Some 16 percent were foreign nationalists, such as Armenians who murdered people in vengeance for the genocide carried out by the Turkish government or Croatians who wanted independence from Yugoslavia. The rest were spread out over other ideologies (see Table 5). The number of murders committed by foreign-born terrorists by ideology is even more lopsided. Including the 9/11 attacks, foreign-born Islamist terrorists murdered 99.4 percent of all people killed in a terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Of all people murdered by foreign-born terrorists, 97.8 percent died in the 9/11 attacks. The approximate annual chance of being murdered

in an attack committed by a foreign-born Islamist was about one in 4.4 million per year. That chance drops substantially to one in 2.6 billion per year for foreign-born nationalists. The distribution of injuries is also similar, with 95.5 percent being inflicted by foreign-born Islamist terrorists.

## Estimating the Cost per Terrorist Victim

When regulators propose a new rule or regulation to enhance safety, they are routinely required to estimate how much it will cost to save a single life under their proposal, which acknowledges that human life is very valuable but not infinitely so.<sup>26</sup> Depending on the risk-reward tradeoff, Americans are willing to take risks that increase their chance of violent death or murder, such as enlisting in the military, living in cities that have more crime than rural areas, or driving at high speeds—actions that would be unthinkable if individuals placed infinite value on their own lives. It then stands to reason that there is a value between zero and infinity that people place on their lives. In public policy, a review of 132 federal regulatory decisions concerning public exposure to carcinogens found that regulators do not undertake action when the individual fatality risk is lower than 1 in 700,000, indicating that risks are deemed acceptable when annual

Table 3  
**Chance of being killed in a terrorist attack by the nativity of the attacker, 1975–2022**

Period	Number of successful terrorists	Murders in terrorist attacks	Annual chance of dying in terrorist attack
Pre-9/11	28	23	1 in 276,740,143
9/11/01	19	2,979	1 in 95,659
Post-9/11	9	44	1 in 149,239,828
<b>1975–2022</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>1 in 4,338,984</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations.

Table 4  
**Chance of being injured in a terrorist attack by the nativity of the attacker, 1975–2022**

Period	Number of successful terrorists	Injuries in terrorist attacks	Annual chance of being injured in terrorist attack
Pre-9/11	26	1,814	1 in 3,508,827
9/11/01	19	14,842	1 in 19,200
Post-9/11	20	421	1 in 15,597,512
<b>1975–2022</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>17,077</b>	<b>1 in 773,938</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations.

fatality risk is lower than that figure.<sup>27</sup> Using a similar type of analysis for foreign-born terrorism will help guarantee that scarce resources are devoted to maximizing the number of lives saved relative to the costs that are incurred.

In 2010, the Department of Homeland Security produced an initial estimate that valued each life saved from an act of terrorism at \$6.5 million, then doubled that value (for unclear reasons) to \$13 million per life saved.<sup>28</sup> An alternative valuation by the scholars Robert W. Hahn, Randall Lutter, and W. Kip Viscusi use data from everyday risk-reduction choices made by the American public to estimate that the value of a statistical life is \$15 million.<sup>29</sup> This policy analysis uses the \$15 million estimate to remove any suspicion of undervaluation.

There are other costs of terrorism, such as property damage, medical care for the wounded, and disruptions to economic activity, that ideally should be included.<sup>30</sup> However, those costs are highly variable and confined to three major terrorist attacks caused by foreigners. Those three attacks are the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 9/11 attacks, and the Boston Marathon bombing; their highest plausible cost estimates are \$1 billion, \$170 billion, and \$25 million, respectively.<sup>31</sup> Those costs do not count the cost of the government’s reactions. The monetized cost of terrorism in terms of lives lost was greater than the value of property and other economic damages

in every terrorist attack examined here, except for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 9/11 attacks.

## FOREIGN-BORN TERRORISTS BY VISAS

This policy analysis categorizes terrorists’ visa status using the first visa that a terrorist received upon entering the United States. Those who entered illegally are counted as illegal immigrants. Terrorists who successfully entered on fraudulent passports, fraudulent visas, or on another person’s legitimate passport or visa are counted toward those categories. For example, Iyman Faris originally entered the United States on a student visa and a passport that belonged to another person.<sup>32</sup> While Faris applied for asylum four months later and received a green card through marriage more than a year after that, for the purposes of this report he entered on a student visa. This estimation methodology could exaggerate the number of terrorists who entered the United States with a green card or lawful permanent residency, thus diminishing the relative danger of other categories. The specifics of the various visa programs will be described in their individual subsections below.

The terrorist risk for each visa category can be understood in different ways. The following sections will present the

Table 5

### Chance of being murdered or injured in a terrorist attack by the ideology of the attacker, 1975–2022

Ideology	Number of terrorists	Murders in terrorist attacks	Annual chance of being murdered in terrorist attack	Injuries in terrorist attacks	Annual chance of being injured in terrorist attack
Islamism	147	3,028	1 in 4,364,777	16,297	1 in 810,980
Foreign nationalism	34	5	1 in 2,643,308,938	5	1 in 2,643,308,938
Right	12	11	1 in 1,201,504,063	16	1 in 826,034,043
Religious (non-Islamist)	11	0	Zero	751	1 in 17,598,595
Left	9	1	1 in 13,216,544,692	7	1 in 1,888,077,813
Political assassination	3	1	1 in 13,216,544,692	0	Zero
Separatism	1	0	Zero	1	1 in 13,216,544,692
Unknown/other	1	0	Zero	0	Zero
Against specific religion	1	0	Zero	0	Zero
<b>All foreign-born terrorists</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>1 in 4,338,984</b>	<b>17,077</b>	<b>1 in 773,938</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations.

number of foreign-born terrorists in each visa category and the number of murders and injuries carried out by terrorists in each visa category. Multiplying the number of murders in each visa category by the \$15 million cost per victim yields the estimate of the costs of terrorism for each visa during the 1975–2022 period.

## Number and Cost of Terrorism Victims for All Visa Categories

As previously noted, 3,046 people were murdered by foreign-born terrorists in attacks in the United States from 1975 to the end of 2022. Table 6 shows the types of visas that foreign-born terrorists used to enter the United States and how many victims were murdered by attacks committed by terrorists on each visa. Foreign-born terrorists on tourist visas have killed more Americans in attacks than those on any other type of visa, followed distantly by those who entered on student visas. The 2,979 deaths from the 9/11 attacks account for all but 67 murders in foreign-born terrorist attacks.

Those terrorist attacks cost \$45.69 billion in human life over the 48-year period, or about \$952 million per year on average as displayed in Table 7 (no discount-rate adjustment). Of the 219 foreign-born terrorists, 163 did not murder anyone

in a terrorist attack. Many of them were arrested before they attacked, or else their attacks failed to take any lives. However, they did injure 833 people in their attacks. On average, each terrorist killed about 14 people, for a total human cost of \$208.6 million, and injured about 78 people.

Only 56 of the 219 foreign-born terrorists killed anyone in an attack. Of those terrorists, each one killed an average of 54.4 people, for a cost of \$815.9 million in human life. Prior to 9/11, only two terrorists, Mir Aimal Kasi (also known as Mir Aimal Kansi) and Eduardo Arocena, killed more than one person each: Mir Aimal Kasi shot and killed CIA employees Frank Darling and Lansing Bennett as they were waiting in traffic outside of CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, on January 25, 1998; Eduardo Arocena assassinated Eulalio José Negrín on November 25, 1979, and Félix García on September 11, 1980. Over time, the number of terrorists per year has shrunk but their individual deadliness has increased.

There were nine successful terrorists after 9/11; they killed 44 people, with each terrorist being responsible for an average of about five murders. Egyptian-born Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet murdered 2 people on July 4, 2002, at Los Angeles International Airport; the Tsarnaev brothers murdered 3 people at the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013, and another 2 people during their subsequent run from the law;

Table 6

### All foreign-born terrorists, murders, and injuries, by visa category, 1975–2022

Visa category	Number of terrorists	Murders in terrorist attacks	Injuries in terrorist attacks
Lawful permanent resident (LPR)	70	22.0	329.5
Tourist	44	2,829.4	14,961.6
Refugee	28	4.0	21.5
Student	22	158.8	1,065.1
Unknown	16	4.8	2.0
Visa Waiver Program (VWP)	14	1.0	3.0
Asylum	13	9.0	669.3
Illegal	9	0.0	0.0
K-1 fiancé(e)	1	14.0	17.0
Government (A-2)	1	3.0	8.0
H-1B	1	0.0	0.0
<b>All</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>17,077</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations. Note: LPR = lawful permanent resident; VWP = Visa Waiver Program; K-1 = fiancé(e) visa.

Elliot Oliver Robertson Rodger murdered 6 people on May 23, 2014; Mohammad Abdulazeez murdered 5 people on July 16, 2015; Tashfeen Malik, along with her U.S.-born husband, Syed Rizwan Farook, murdered 14 people on December 2, 2015, in San Bernardino, California; Emanuel Kidega Samson murdered 1 person on September 24, 2017, in Antioch, Tennessee; Sayfullo Habibullaevic Saipov murdered 8 people on October 31, 2017, in New York City; and Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani murdered 3 people on December 6, 2019.

The injuries caused by foreign-born terrorists in attacks on U.S. soil are also important to consider, although the range of monetized costs from the injuries is enormous. At the low end are minor injuries including scratches and blown-out ear drums, while at the high end are major injuries include brain damage, amputation, and paralysis. A fatality caused by a violent action, in contrast, is just as destructive as another fatality caused by a violent action, so the cost range is zero for fatalities. As a result, it is very difficult to make comparisons of injuries in different terrorist attacks. Regardless, injuries are a source of costs that terrorist attacks impose on Americans. The number of people injured by foreign-born terrorists in attacks in the United States from 1975 to the end of 2022 was 17,077 (see Table 6); 14,842 of those injuries, or 87 percent, were inflicted during the 9/11 attacks.

## Countries of Origin for Foreign-Born Terrorists

The country of origin for the largest number of foreign-born terrorists is Saudi Arabia, which accounts for 19 of the 219 foreign-born terrorists from 1975 through 2022 (see Table 8). Saudis were also the deadliest; combined, they murdered 2,354.8 people and injured 11,725.4 (non-whole numbers result from dividing the number of victims of a single incident equally among multiple terrorists). There were 16 foreign-born terrorists from Croatia, who murdered three people in terrorist attacks and injured four, during the 1970s. There were 15 foreign-born terrorists from Pakistan who murdered 17 people and injured 194 in terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. Notably, terrorists from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Lebanon were the deadliest after Saudi Arabia because of their involvement in 9/11.

## CONCLUSION

Terrorism presents a real threat to the life, liberty, and property of Americans. That has led many Americans to worry about foreign-born terrorists entering the United States, either legally or illegally, and carrying out disastrous attacks. But foreign-born terrorism on U.S. soil is a low-probability

Table 7

### Deadliness of all foreign-born terrorists, by visa category, 1975–2022

Visa type	Murders	Percent	Costs per visa (\$)
Lawful permanent resident (LPR)	22.0	0.7%	330,000,000
Tourist	2829.4	92.9%	42,441,157,895
Refugee	4.0	0.1%	60,000,000
Student	158.8	5.2%	2,381,842,105
Unknown	4.8	0.2%	72,000,000
Visa Waiver Program (VWP)	1.0	0.0%	15,000,000
Asylum	9.0	0.3%	135,000,000
Illegal	0.0	0.0%	0
K-1fiancé(e)	14.0	0.5%	210,000,000
Government (A-2)	3.0	0.1%	45,000,000
H-1B	0.0	0.0%	0
<b>All</b>	<b>3046</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>45,690,000,000</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown; “American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau; and author’s estimates and calculations. Note: Non-whole numbers for deaths result from dividing the number of victims of a single incident equally among multiple terrorist perpetrators.

Table 8

**Foreign-born terrorists, fatalities, and injuries by country of origin**

Countries	Terrorists	Percent terrorists	Murders	Percent murders	Injuries	Percent injuries
Afghanistan	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	29.0	0.2%
Algeria	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Armenia	6	2.7%	1.0	0.0%	1.0	0.0%
Australia	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	107.3	0.6%
Bahamas	2	0.9%	1.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Bangladesh	6	2.7%	0.0	0.0%	4.0	0.0%
Bosnia	2	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	3.0	0.0%
Canada	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
China	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Croatia	16	7.3%	3.0	0.1%	4.0	0.0%
Cuba	12	5.5%	5.0	0.2%	1.0	0.0%
Dominican Republic	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Egypt	12	5.5%	160.8	5.3%	960.8	5.6%
Eritrea	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Estonia	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Ethiopia	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
France	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Germany	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	1.0	0.0%
Ghana	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Guinea	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	4.0	0.0%
Guyana	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Haiti	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
India	7	3.2%	0.0	0.0%	107.3	0.6%
Iran	12	5.5%	0.0	0.0%	9.0	0.1%
Iraq	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Japan	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Jordan	5	2.3%	1.0	0.0%	173.7	1.0%
Kosovo	2	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Kuwait	3	1.4%	6.0	0.2%	175.7	1.0%
Kyrgyzstan	2	0.9%	5.0	0.2%	280.0	1.6%
Lebanon	11	5.0%	157.8	5.2%	784.2	4.6%
Macedonia	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Morocco	3	1.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Nigeria	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	1.0	0.0%
Pakistan	15	6.8%	17.0	0.6%	193.7	1.1%
Palestine	4	1.8%	3.0	0.1%	353.3	2.1%
Philippines	2	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	107.3	0.6%
Qatar	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%

Table 8 (continued)

**Foreign-born terrorists, fatalities, and injuries by country of origin**

Countries	Terrorists	Percent terrorists	Murders	Percent murders	Injuries	Percent injuries
Saudi Arabia	19	8.7%	2,354.8	77.3%	11,725.4	68.7%
Serbia	2	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Sierra Leone	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Somalia	6	2.7%	0.0	0.0%	25.0	0.1%
South Africa	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	107.3	0.6%
South Korea	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Sudan	7	3.2%	1.0	0.0%	7.0	0.0%
Syria	2	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Taiwan	2	0.9%	1.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Trinidad and Tobago	2	0.9%	1.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Tunisia	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	2.0	0.0%
Turkey	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
United Arab Emirates	2	0.9%	313.6	10.3%	1,562.3	9.1%
United Kingdom	9	4.1%	6.0	0.2%	335.9	2.0%
Uzbekistan	3	1.4%	8.0	0.3%	11.0	0.1%
Vietnam	1	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	1.0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>17,077</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sources: See methodology section for detailed breakdown.

Note: Non-whole numbers for deaths or injuries result from dividing the number of victims of a single incident equally among multiple terrorist perpetrators.

event that poses small risks and low costs on Americans as a whole.<sup>33</sup> From 1975 through 2022, the average chance of dying in an attack committed by a foreign-born terrorist on U.S. soil was 1 in 4,338,984 a year, and the chance of being injured was about 1 in 773,938. By comparison, the annual chance of being murdered in a criminal homicide in the United States was about 1 in 20,134 during the same time. In other words, the annual chance of being murdered in a normal homicide is about 316 times as great as dying in an attack committed by a foreign-born terrorist on U.S. soil.

This policy analysis examines the past, so it does not project future trends in foreign-born terrorism, which could be quite different going forward. Nonetheless, the past is the best guide to understanding what could happen with foreign-born terrorism in the coming years.

There are several lessons for policymakers. First, relative

to other risks and the absolute danger posed by foreign-born terrorism, the federal government likely spends too many resources on reducing the threat of foreign-born terrorism. Second, the threat posed by foreign-born terrorism is not a good reason to reduce immigration to the United States because the costs of such a policy would exceed the benefits from the inflow of immigrants and their substantial contributions to the U.S. economy and society. Third, illegal immigrants are not a significant terrorist threat; there were only nine terrorists who were illegal immigrants and they killed or injured zero people over the entire 48-year period analyzed here. Fourth, the threat of foreign-born terrorism has diminished in recent years.

All identified foreign persons who attempted or committed terrorism in the United States during the 48-year period of 1975 through 2022 are listed in the Appendix.

**Identified foreign-born persons who attempted or committed terrorism on U.S. soil, 1975–2022**

<b>Name of terrorist</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fatalities *</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Visa upon entry</b>	<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>Ideology</b>
Hernandez, Valentin	January	21	1975	1.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Right
Kajevic, Stojilko	June	22	1975	0.00	0.00	R	Serbia	Foreign nationalism
Otero, Rolando	October	17	1975	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Right
Basic, Zvonko	September	10	1976	1.00	3.00	R	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Matanic, Petar	September	10	1976	0.00	0.00	L	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Pesut, Frane	September	10	1976	0.00	0.00	L	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Vlasic, Slobodan	September	10	1976	0.00	0.00	L	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Diaz, Alvin Ross	September	21	1976	1.00	0.50	R	Cuba	Right
Sampol, Guillermo Novo	September	21	1976	1.00	0.50	L	Cuba	Right
Brekalo, Jozo	June	14	1977	0.00	0.33	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Buconjic, Marijan	June	14	1977	0.00	0.33	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Dizdar, Vladimir	June	14	1977	0.00	0.33	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Kelava, Bozo	August	17	1978	0.00	0.00	R	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Kodzoman, Mile	August	17	1978	0.00	0.00	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Bagaric, Milan	September	28	1978	0.20	0.00	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Markich, Mile	September	28	1978	0.20	0.00	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Ljubas, Ante	September	28	1978	0.20	0.00	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Logarusic, Vinko	September	28	1978	0.20	0.00	T	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Primorac, Ranko	September	28	1978	0.20	0.00	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Caran, Ante	November	22	1978	0.50	0.00	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Rudela, Marijan	November	22	1978	0.50	0.00	U	Croatia	Foreign nationalism
Kavaja, Nikola	June	20	1979	0.00	0.00	L	Serbia	Foreign nationalism
Asadi, Hormoz	November	9	1979	0.00	0.00	F	Iran	Islamism
Ghodoosi, Feraidonoon	November	9	1979	0.00	0.00	F	Iran	Islamism
Heidary, Hady	November	9	1979	0.00	0.00	F	Iran	Islamism
Noori, Mohamaad	November	9	1979	0.00	0.00	F	Iran	Islamism
Stamboulish, Antoun	November	9	1979	0.00	0.00	F	Sudan	Islamism
Jimenez, Eduardo Guerra	June	12	1979	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Left
Arocena, Eduardo	September	11	1980	2.00	0.00	A	Cuba	Right
Garcia, Andres	March	25	1980	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Right
Losada-Fernandez, Eduardo	March	25	1980	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Right
Perez, Alberto	March	25	1980	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Right
Remon, Pedro	March	25	1980	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Right
Sassounian, Harout	October	6	1980	0.00	1.00	L	Armenia	Foreign nationalism
Laaman, Jaan	December	21	1981	0.00	0.00	R	Estonia	Left
Chirinian, Varant Barkev	January	1	1982	0.00	0.00	L	Armenia	Foreign nationalism
Kozibioukian, Hratch	January	1	1982	0.00	0.00	L	Armenia	Foreign nationalism
Kozibioukian, Stanouche	January	1	1982	0.00	0.00	L	Armenia	Foreign nationalism

**Identified foreign-born persons who attempted or committed terrorism on U.S. soil, 1975–2022**

<b>Name of terrorist</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fatalities*</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Visa upon entry</b>	<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>Ideology</b>
Tcharkhutian, Vicken	February	22	1982	0.00	0.00	L	Armenia	Foreign nationalism
Sassounian, Harry	January	28	1982	1.00	0.00	L	Armenia	Foreign nationalism
Hovsepian, Viken	October	1	1982	0.00	0.00	L	Lebanon	Foreign nationalism
Sarkissian, Karnig	October	1	1982	0.00	0.00	L	Syria	Foreign nationalism
Berberian, Dikran Sarkis	October	1	1982	0.00	0.00	A	Lebanon	Foreign nationalism
Yacoubian, Viken	October	1	1982	0.00	0.00	L	Lebanon	Foreign nationalism
Kholya, Hussein Shey	February	15	1983	0.00	0.00	F	Iran	Islamism
Sheela, Ma Anand	August	29	1984	0.00	107.29	F	India	Religious (non-Islamist)
Croft, Sally-Anne	August	29	1984	0.00	107.29	T	United Kingdom	Religious (non-Islamist)
Hagan, Susan	August	29	1984	0.00	107.29	T	United Kingdom	Religious (non-Islamist)
McCarthy, Ann Phyllis	August	29	1984	0.00	107.29	T	South Africa	Religious (non-Islamist)
Stork, Catherine Jane	August	29	1984	0.00	107.29	T	Australia	Religious (non-Islamist)
Onang, Diane Ivonne	August	29	1984	0.00	107.29	L	Philippines	Religious (non-Islamist)
Lissanevitch, Susan	August	29	1984	0.00	107.29	T	United Kingdom	Religious (non-Islamist)
Tun, Wu	October	1	1984	0.50	0.00	U	Taiwan	Foreign nationalism
Tung, Kuei-sen	October	1	1984	0.50	0.00	U	Taiwan	Foreign nationalism
Tran, Be Tu van	March	18	1986	0.00	1.00	R	Vietnam	Right
Birk, Gurpartap Singh	April	8	1987	0.00	0.00	L	India	Religious (non-Islamist)
Singh, Sukhvinder	April	9	1987	0.00	0.00	L	India	Religious (non-Islamist)
Sandhu, Jasbir	April	10	1987	0.00	0.00	L	India	Religious (non-Islamist)
Singh, Virinder	April	11	1987	0.00	0.00	L	India	Religious (non-Islamist)
Mourad, Walid	October	23	1987	0.00	0.00	T	Lebanon	Foreign nationalism
Younan, George	October	23	1987	0.00	0.00	T	Lebanon	Foreign nationalism
Kabbani, Walid	October	23	1987	0.00	0.00	I	Lebanon	Foreign nationalism
Kikumura, Yu	April	13	1988	0.00	0.00	T	Japan	Left
Hawamda, Mousa	July	20	1988	0.00	0.00	L	Jordan	Foreign nationalism
Francis, Glen Cusford	January	31	1990	1.00	0.00	V	Trinidad and Tobago	Islamism
Joseph, Glossy Bruce	June	1	1991	0.50	0.00	U	Bahamas	Political assassination
Alexander, Billy	January	1	1991	0.50	0.00	U	Bahamas	Political assassination
Daryani, Asad	April	5	1992	0.00	0.00	F	Iran	Islamism



**Identified foreign-born persons who attempted or committed terrorism on U.S. soil, 1975–2022**

<b>Name of terrorist</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fatalities*</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Visa upon entry</b>	<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>Ideology</b>
Parvaresh, Kambiz	April	5	1992	0.00	0.00	F	Iran	Islamism
Savari, Mehrdad	April	6	1992	0.00	0.00	V	Iran	Islamism
Fettehi, Ali	April	7	1992	0.00	0.00	V	Iran	Islamism
Farokhy, Amir	April	8	1992	0.00	0.00	U	Iran	Islamism
Ismoil, Eyad	February	26	1993	1.00	173.67	F	Jordan	Islamism
Kasi, Mir Aimal	January	25	1993	2.00	3.00	T	Pakistan	Islamism
Abouhalima, Mahmud	February	26	1993	1.00	173.67	T	Egypt	Islamism
Ayyad, Nidal A.	February	26	1993	1.00	173.67	L	Kuwait	Islamism
Nosair, El Sayyid	February	26	1993	1.00	1.00	U	Egypt	Islamism
Salameh, Mohammad	February	26	1993	1.00	173.67	T	Palestine	Islamism
Yousef, Ramzi	February	26	1993	1.00	173.67	A	Pakistan	Islamism
Ajaj, Ahmed	March	9	1993	1.00	173.67	A	Palestine	Islamism
Ali, Siddig Ibrahim Siddig	June	1	1993	0.00	0.00	L	Sudan	Islamism
Elhassan, Tarig	June	1	1993	0.00	0.00	L	Sudan	Islamism
Haggag, Abdo Mohammed	June	1	1993	0.00	0.00	L	Egypt	Islamism
Khalafalla, Fares	June	1	1993	0.00	0.00	T	Sudan	Islamism
Saleh, Matarawy Mohammed Said	June	1	1993	0.00	0.00	L	Egypt	Islamism
Abdelgani, Amir	June	24	1993	0.00	0.00	T	Sudan	Islamism
Abdelgani, Fadil	June	24	1993	0.00	0.00	T	Sudan	Islamism
Rahman, Omar Abdel	June	24	1993	0.00	0.00	T	Egypt	Islamism
Baz, Rashid Najib	March	1	1994	1.00	3.00	F	Lebanon	Islamism
Elgabrowni, Ibrahim	March	4	1994	0.00	0.00	L	Egypt	Islamism
Saleh, Mohammed	January	18	1996	0.00	0.00	L	Jordan	Islamism
Thurston, Darren	January	1	1996	0.00	0.00	I	Canada	Left
Abu Kamal, Ali Hassan	February	23	1997	1.00	6.00	T	Palestine	Islamism
Paulson, Karen Simon	May	3	1997	0.00	1.00	V	Germany	Separatism
Mezer, Gazi Ibrahim Abu	July	1	1997	0.00	0.00	I	Palestine	Islamism
Rubin, Rebecca	November	30	1997	0.00	0.00	V	Canada	Left
Meskini, Abdelghani	December	1	1999	0.00	0.00	I	Algeria	Islamism
Ressam, Ahmed	December	1	1999	0.00	0.00	I	Algeria	Islamism
Al Ghamdi, Ahmed	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Ghamdi, Hamzi	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Ghamdi, Saeed	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Hazmi, Nawaf	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Hazmi, Salem	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism

**Identified foreign-born persons who attempted or committed terrorism on U.S. soil, 1975–2022**

<b>Name of terrorist</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fatalities*</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Visa upon entry</b>	<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>Ideology</b>
Al Haznawi, Ahmad	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Mihdhar, Khalid	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Nami, Ahmed	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Omari, Abdul Aziz	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Shehhi, Marwan	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	United Arab Emirates	Islamism
Al Shehri, Mohand	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Shehri, Wail	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Shehri, Waleed	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Al Suqami, Satam	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Atta, Mohammad	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Egypt	Islamism
Banihammad, Fayez	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	United Arab Emirates	Islamism
Jarrah, Ziad	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Lebanon	Islamism
Moqed, Majid	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
al-Qahtani, Mohammed	September	11	2001	0.00	0.00	T	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Moussaoui, Zacarias	September	11	2001	0.00	0.00	V	France	Islamism
Hanjour, Hani	September	11	2001	156.79	781.16	F	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Reid, Richard	December	22	2001	0.00	0.00	V	United Kingdom	Islamism
al-Marri, Ali Saleh Kahlah	December	1	2001	0.00	0.00	F	Qatar	Islamism
Mandhai, Imran	February	1	2002	0.00	0.00	L	Pakistan	Islamism
Jokhan, Shueyb Mossa	May	1	2002	0.00	0.00	L	Trinidad and Tobago	Islamism
Hedayet, Hesham Mohamed Ali	July	4	2002	2.00	4.00	T	Egypt	Islamism
Kim, Steve	October	3	2002	0.00	0.00	L	South Korea	Right
Faris, Iyman	May	1	2003	0.00	0.00	F	Pakistan	Islamism
Khan, Majid Shoukat	March	28	2003	0.00	0.00	A	Pakistan	Islamism
Abdi, Nuradin M.	November	28	2003	0.00	0.00	I	Somalia	Islamism
Barot, Dhiren	August	1	2004	0.00	0.00	F	India	Islamism
Siraj, Shahawar Matin	January	1	2004	0.00	0.00	A	Pakistan	Islamism
Tarmohammed, Nadeem	August	1	2004	0.00	0.00	V	United Kingdom	Islamism
Shaffi, Qaisar	August	1	2004	0.00	0.00	V	United Kingdom	Islamism
Aref, Yassin Muhiddin	August	4	2004	0.00	0.00	R	Iraq	Islamism
Hossain, Mohammed Mosharref	August	6	2004	0.00	0.00	L	Bangladesh	Islamism
Samana, Hammad Riaz	August	2	2005	0.00	0.00	L	Pakistan	Islamism
Taheri-azar, Mohammed Reza	March	3	2006	0.00	9.00	L	Iran	Islamism
Ahmed, Syed Haris	March	23	2006	0.00	0.00	L	Pakistan	Islamism
Abraham, Patrick	June	1	2006	0.00	0.00	T	Haiti	Islamism
Duka, Dritan	May	8	2007	0.00	0.00	I	Macedonia	Islamism

**Identified foreign-born persons who attempted or committed terrorism on U.S. soil, 1975–2022**

<b>Name of terrorist</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fatalities*</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Visa upon entry</b>	<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>Ideology</b>
Duka, Eljvir	May	8	2007	0.00	0.00	I	Macedonia	Islamism
Duka, Shain	May	8	2007	0.00	0.00	I	Macedonia	Islamism
Shnewer, Mohamad Ibrahim	May	8	2007	0.00	0.00	L	Jordan	Islamism
Tatar, Serdar	May	8	2007	0.00	0.00	L	Turkey	Islamism
Defreitas, Russell	June	1	2007	0.00	0.00	L	Guyana	Islamism
Mohamed, Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif	June	18	2008	0.00	0.00	F	Egypt	Islamism
Smadi, Hosam Maher Husein	September	24	2009	0.00	0.00	T	Jordan	Islamism
Payen, Laguerre	May	20	2009	0.00	0.00	L	Haiti	Islamism
Zazi, Najibullah	September	19	2009	0.00	0.00	R	Afghanistan	Islamism
Abdulmutallab, Umar Farouk	December	25	2009	0.00	1.00	T	Nigeria	Islamism
Shahzad, Faisal	May	1	2010	0.00	0.00	F	Pakistan	Islamism
Ahmedzay, Zarein	January	7	2010	0.00	0.00	R	Afghanistan	Islamism
Medunjanin, Adis	January	7	2010	0.00	0.00	R	Bosnia	Islamism
Hasanoff, Sabirhan	June	30	2010	0.00	0.00	L	China	Islamism
Hassoun, Sami Samir	September	19	2010	0.00	0.00	L	Lebanon	Islamism
Ahmed, Farooque	October	27	2010	0.00	0.00	L	Pakistan	Islamism
Mohamud, Mohamed Osman	November	26	2010	0.00	0.00	R	Somalia	Islamism
Aldawsari, Khalid Ali-M	February	23	2011	0.00	0.00	F	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Kodirov, Ulugbek	July	26	2011	0.00	0.00	F	Uzbekistan	Islamism
Ferhani, Ahmed	May	11	2011	0.00	0.00	A	Algeria	Islamism
Mamdouh, Mohamed	May	11	2011	0.00	0.00	L	Morocco	Islamism
Melaku, Yonathan	June	17	2011	0.00	0.00	L	Ethiopia	Islamism
Arbabsiar, Manssor	October	11	2011	0.00	0.00	L	Iran	Political Assassination
Sherifi, Hysen	October	13	2011	0.00	0.00	R	Kosovo	Islamism
Pimentel, Jose	November	20	2011	0.00	0.00	L	Dominican Republic	Islamism
Nafis, Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan	October	17	2012	0.00	0.00	F	Bangladesh	Islamism
Osmakac, Sami	January	7	2012	0.00	0.00	R	Kosovo	Islamism
El Khalifi, Sidi Mohamed Amine	February	17	2012	0.00	0.00	T	Morocco	Islamism
Aldosary, Abdullatif Ali	November	30	2012	0.00	0.00	R	Iraq	Unknown/Other
Qazi, Raees Alam	November	30	2012	0.00	0.00	L	Pakistan	Islamism
Qazi, Sheheryar Alam	November	30	2012	0.00	0.00	L	Pakistan	Islamism
Tsarnaev, Dzhokhar	April	15	2013	2.50	140.00	A	Kyrgyzstan	Islamism
Tsarnaev, Tamerlan	April	15	2013	2.50	140.00	A	Kyrgyzstan	Islamism

**Identified foreign-born persons who attempted or committed terrorism on U.S. soil, 1975–2022**

<b>Name of terrorist</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fatalities*</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Visa upon entry</b>	<b>Country of birth</b>	<b>Ideology</b>
Rodger, Elliot Oliver Robertson	May	23	2014	6.00	14.00	L	United Kingdom	Right
El Mehdi, Semlali Fathi	April	7	2014	0.00	0.00	A	Morocco	Islamism
Siddiqui, Asia	April	1	2015	0.00	0.00	L	Saudi Arabia	Islamism
Suarez, Harlem	April	3	2015	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Islamism
Abdulazeez, Mohammad Youssuf	July	16	2015	5.00	2.00	L	Kuwait	Islamism
Kurbanov, Fazliddin	August	12	2015	0.00	0.00	R	Uzbekistan	Islamism
Malik, Tashfeen	December	2	2015	14.00	17.00	K	Pakistan	Islamism
Mohamud, Abdirahman Sheik	April	1	2015	0.00	0.00	R	Somalia	Islamism
Diaz, Miguel Moran	April	2	2015	0.00	0.00	R	Cuba	Islamism
Said, Mahamed Abukar	October	2	2015	0.00	0.00	L	Ethiopia	Islamism
Mumuni, Fareed	August	15	2015	0.00	0.00	L	Ghana	Islamism
Elshinawy, Mohamed Yousef	December	14	2015	0.00	0.00	L	Egypt	Islamism
Mohammad, Yahya Farooq	July	3	2016	0.00	0.00	F	India	Islamism
Barry, Mohamed	February	16	2016	0.00	4.00	L	Guinea	Islamism
Abdulkader, Munir	March	1	2016	0.00	0.00	L	Eritrea	Islamism
Jalloh, Mohamed Bailor	July	3	2016	0.00	0.00	L	Sierra Leone	Islamism
Rahimi, Ahmad Khan	September	20	2016	0.00	29.00	A	Afghanistan	Islamism
Adan, Dahir Ahmed	September	20	2016	0.00	10.00	R	Somalia	Islamism
Artan, Abdul Razak Ali	November	28	2016	0.00	13.00	A	Somalia	Islamism
Sandford, Michael Steven	June	18	2016	0.00	0.00	V	United Kingdom	Left
Das, Nelash Mohamed	September	21	2016	0.00	0.00	L	Bangladesh	Islamism
El Bahnasawy, Abdulrahman	May	1	2016	0.00	0.00	V	Kuwait	Islamism
Alimehmeti, Sajmir	May	1	2016	0.00	0.00	L	Albania	Islamism
Saipov, Sayfullo Habibullaevic	October	31	2017	8.00	11.00	L	Uzbekistan	Islamism
Ullah, Akayed	December	11	2017	0.00	4.00	L	Bangladesh	Islamism
Samson, Emanuel Kidega	September	24	2017	1.00	7.00	R	Sudan	Left
Ftouhi, Amor	June	21	2017	0.00	2.00	V	Tunisia	Islamism
Bolatete, Bernadino Gawala	December	1	2017	0.00	0.00	L	Philippines	Anti-Specific Religion
Solano, Vicente Adolfo	October	1	2017	0.00	0.00	T	Honduras	Islamism
Kourani, Ali	June	1	2017	0.00	0.00	L	Lebanon	Islamism
El-Monty, Ahmed Amin	December	22	2017	0.00	1.00	L	Egypt	Islamism
Sheik Mohamud, Abdirahman	November	15	2017	0.00	2.00	L	Somalia	Islamism
Leveille, Jany	August	1	2018	0.00	0.00	T	Haiti	Islamism
Alshamrani, Mohammed Saeed	December	6	2019	3.00	8.00	G	Saudi Arabia	Islamism

**Identified foreign-born persons who attempted or committed terrorism on U.S. soil, 1975–2022**

Name of terrorist	Month	Day	Year	Fatalities*	Injuries	Visa upon entry	Country of birth	Ideology
Alowemer, Mustafa Mousab	June	19	2019	0.00	0.00	R	Syria	Islamism
Spronsen, Willen Van	July	13	2019	0.00	0.00	L	Netherlands	Left
Saab, Ali Hassan	September	19	2019	0.00	0.00	L	Lebanon	Islamism
Chudhary, Awais	August	30	2019	0.00	0.00	L	Pakistan	Islamism
Alam, Ashiqul	June	9	2019	0.00	0.00	L	Bangladesh	Islamism
Rashid, Salman	November	25	2019	0.00	0.00	L	Bangladesh	Islamism
Ferrier, Pascale	September	20	2020	0.00	0.00	V	Canada	Left
Ahmed, Mohamed Ibrahim	October	20	2020	0.00	0.00	L	Ethiopia	Islamism
Masood, Muhammad Saeed	March	19	2020	0.00	0.00	H-1B	Pakistan	Islamism
Camovic, Dzenan	June	3	2020	0.00	3.00	T	Bosnia	Islamism
Awad, Khaled	July	6	2021	0.00	0.00	F	Egypt	Islamism
Shihab, Shihab Ahmed Shihab	May	24	2022	0.00	0.00	A	Iraq	Islamism
Akram, Malik Faisal	January	31	2022	0.00	0.00	V	United Kingdom	Islamism

Note: A = asylee; F = student on F or M visa; I = illegal; G = A-2 visa; H-1B = H-1B visa; K = K-1 fiancé(e); L = lawful permanent resident; R = refugee; T = tourist on B-visa; U = unknown; V = visa waiver program.

\*If there are multiple attackers, all casualties are spread evenly across all attackers.

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