

## TAU Mass Gatherings &amp; Special Events Assessment: 2025



## Ohio Statewide Terrorism Analysis &amp; Crime Center

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**3 June 2025**

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### **(U//FOUO) Mass Gatherings and Special Events Assessment 2025**

(U//FOUO) This assessment will provide Ohio Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center (STACC) partners with an overview of the threat landscape for events with large gatherings such as festivals, concerts, parades, fairs, sporting events, etc. Partners should use this product as a resource for law enforcement, public safety organizations, and private sector entities in identifying priorities for protective and support measures while developing plans for mass gathering events. Information in this assessment is current and accurate as of 3 June 2025.

### **(U//FOUO) Key Takeaways**

- **(U//FOUO) The STACC has no information to indicate a specific or credible threat, or the planning of any attacks, in Ohio.**
- (U//FOUO) Domestic violent extremists (DVEs), homegrown violent extremists (HVEs), and foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) likely find large public gatherings potential attractive targets.<sup>1</sup>
- (U//FOUO) Online messaging from DVEs, HVEs, FTOs, and threat actors with no specific ideological allegiance continue to call for attacks towards mass gathering events.<sup>2</sup>
- (U//FOUO) Prior attacks have often occurred with little to no warning.<sup>3</sup>

### **(U//FOUO) Threat Overview**

(U//FOUO) Ohio will host a number of events this summer including the 2025 FIFA Club Cup in Cincinnati, Ohio Pride events, and a variety of summer festivals across the state. Violent threat actors remain motivated to conduct attacks against mass gathering targets.<sup>4</sup> Although the STACC TAU has not located any specific credible threats to upcoming events, recent and past incidents in the US suggest persistent risks. Additionally, online messaging from the above groups remains consistent, encouraging potential threat actors to commit acts of violence.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** OHIO STATEWIDE TERRORISM ANALYSIS & CRIME CENTER: TOLL FREE: (844) 55-STACC (557-8222), STACC EMAIL: [stacc@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:stacc@dps.ohio.gov), 24/7 STATEWIDE TIPLINE: 877-OHS-INTEL (647-4683), SCHOOL THREAT TIP LINE: 844-SAFEROH (723-3764)

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- (U//FOUO) On 1 January 2025, an HVE inspired by ISIS, committed an attack by driving a vehicle through crowds in New Orleans during New Year's celebrations. On 22 March 2024, ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) actors conducted an attack on the Crocus City Hall Concert venue in Moscow, Russia. Both events are referenced by pro-ISIS groups to encourage online users to "attack Western countries at any time" rather than waiting for a holiday to act. Further, the Terrorgram Collective, a US Department of State designated transnational terrorist group, publishes "ideological and tactical guidance" to encourage violence in the US.<sup>5</sup>

(U//FOUO) The intelligence community (IC) assess that lone offenders pose a unique challenge to public safety due to difficulty identifying the threat prior to an attack. Additionally, lone offenders are able to mobilize to violence quickly, with a relatively low risk of detection.<sup>6</sup>

- (U) On 4 August 2019, Connor Betts open fire into a crowd of people outside two local restaurants in Dayton, Ohio, killing nine people and injuring dozens.<sup>7</sup>
- (U) On 28 November 2016, Abdul Razak Ali Artan, inspired by ISIS propaganda, committed a vehicle ramming attack against students on The Ohio State University's (OSU) campus, followed by an edged weapon attack, injuring eleven.<sup>8</sup>

(U//FOUO) "Further, in 2021 the IC stated that, "racially motivated violent extremists (RMVEs) and Militia Violent Extremists (MVEs) present the most lethal DVE threats, with RMVEs most likely to conduct mass-casualty attacks against civilians and MVEs typically targeting law enforcement and government personnel and facilities."<sup>9</sup>

### (U) Analytic considerations

(U) Mass violence attacks are often pre-planned, and being able to recognize suspicious activity can help deter an attack. Effective communication with local law enforcement and Ohio's fusion centers is essential for reporting any relevant threats. Public safety partners can enhance security by reviewing for suspicious behavior, conducting sweeps for abandoned items, implementing crowd control measures, and ensuring a visible police presence. Additionally, public awareness campaigns are crucial, as bystander reporting plays a key role in preventing potential attacks, with family members and school officials often best positioned to notice suspicious behavior.<sup>10</sup>

(U//FOUO) The STACC encourages law enforcement, public safety officials, and the private sector to remain alert for potential indicators of pre-operational surveillance and preparation for an attack, and to report any suspicious activity to law enforcement and the Ohio Fusion Center Network.

### OHIO FUSION CENTER NETWORK

- |  |  |                |
|--|--|----------------|
| • Ohio Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center (STACC) | <a href="mailto:stacc@dps.ohio.gov">stacc@dps.ohio.gov</a>         | (877) 647-4683 |
| • Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center (GCFC)                  | <a href="mailto:gcfc@cincinnati-oh.gov">gcfc@cincinnati-oh.gov</a> | (513) 263-8000 |
| • Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center (NEORFC)           | <a href="mailto:info@neorfc.us">info@neorfc.us</a>                 | (216) 515-8477 |

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(U//FOUO) Partners can also use the related products, attached to this document, to drive training/response for such incidents.<sup>11</sup>

- [\(U//FOUO\) DHS/FBI JIB Public Celebration and Large Gathering in Summer 2025 Remain Opportune](#)
- [\(U//FOUO\) US Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators 2021 Edition](#)
- [\(U//FOUO\) First Responder's Toolbox: Large Public Gathering Attractive Targets for Violent Extremists](#)
- [\(U//FOUO\) First Responder's Toolbox: Awareness of Violent Extremist Tactics to Defeat Physical Security Can Improve Response](#)

<sup>1</sup> (U//FOUO) DHS I&A – Joint Intelligence Bulletin: “Public Celebrations and Large Gatherings in Summer 2025 Remain Opportune Targets for Attackers.” 23 May 2025. (Accessed 30 May 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> (U) FBI. *What We Investigate: Terrorism*. Available at: <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>.

<sup>7</sup> (U) Dayton Daily News. Oregon District shooting report: Betts fantasized about killing for a decade. Available at: <https://www.daytondailynews.com/crime/police-close-oregon-district-mass-shooting-investigation-shooter-fantasized-about-killing-for-decade/JF5DTHSMVBF4NKGR7GP2GMBVQQ/>. 29 Nov 2021.

<sup>8</sup> (U) Cincinnati.com. *Ohio State attacker influenced by ISIS propaganda, FBI determines*

<sup>9</sup> (U) Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Domestic Violent Extremism Poses Heightened Threat in 2021. Available at: <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/UnclassSummaryofDVEAssessment-17MAR21.pdf>. 01 Mar 2021.

<sup>10</sup> STACC TAU. “(U//FOUO) Potential for Violence against Targets during Pride Month – Ohio 2025 Update.” 30 May 2025.

<sup>11</sup> (U) DHS. *If you see something, say something: Recognize the Signs*. Available at: <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/recognize-the-signs>. 2022.

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