

Imminent Threat – People Threat Level

Moderate to Substantially High

Union of Saints

Public safety depends upon understanding the many forms of violence, criminal conduct, and other behaviors that place individuals and communities at risk. While the United States does not maintain an official nationwide "people threat level" or "crime threat level" comparable to the National Terrorism Advisory System, understanding the current threat environment helps inform public awareness, prevention efforts, and policy development.

Why People Pose Assault and Grave Danger Today

Violence has many origins, and every case has its own circumstances. Some assaults are driven by personal grievances, criminal motives, financial gain, revenge, ideology, coercion, or a desire to control another person. Alcohol, drugs, organized crime, human trafficking, repeat offending, and violent extremism also contribute to serious threats faced by communities.

The modern environment has introduced additional challenges. Technology allows criminals to communicate, recruit, intimidate, stalk, commit fraud, and coordinate unlawful activity across great distances. Communities also face threats from organized criminal networks, violent gangs, terrorism, cybercrime, and other forms of coordinated criminal conduct that place innocent people at risk.

Strong families, responsible leadership, effective law enforcement, sound laws, community awareness, and timely intervention each play a role in protecting public safety. Recognizing warning signs, reporting criminal activity, supporting victims, and holding offenders accountable remain essential parts of reducing violence and preserving safe communities.

Understanding the reasons assaults occur helps strengthen prevention efforts, improve public policy, and support informed decision making. Public safety depends upon vigilance, accountability, respect for the law, and a commitment to protecting innocent lives.

National Threat Environment

At present, there is no active National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Alert or Bulletin in effect within the United States. The absence of an active bulletin does not indicate the absence of threats. Federal agencies continue to identify a persistent threat environment involving multiple sources of concern.

Publicly identified threats include:

- Lone offenders motivated by personal grievances or violent ideologies.
- Domestic violent extremists.

- Foreign terrorist organizations seeking to inspire attacks.
- Cyberattacks against government, businesses, and critical infrastructure.
- State sponsored espionage and cyber operations.
- Transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, and financial crime.
- Attempts by foreign actors to influence or interfere with United States institutions.

A heightened threat environment means authorities continue to monitor ongoing risks from multiple sources. It does not necessarily indicate a specific, credible, publicly identified threat against a particular person, location, or event.

Crime Threat Assessment

The United States does not maintain an official national crime threat level. Current crime conditions are generally described through crime statistics and intelligence assessments rather than a formal warning system.

Recent national trends indicate:

- Violent crime has generally declined compared with previous years.
- Homicides continue to decrease in many jurisdictions.
- Robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and carjackings have declined in many cities.
- Drug offenses, domestic violence incidents, shoplifting, and sexual assault reports have increased in some jurisdictions.
- Crime varies considerably by state, county, municipality, and neighborhood.

A practical risk framework may be described as follows:

Low

Isolated criminal activity with limited impact upon the general public.

Moderate

Persistent criminal activity requiring routine public awareness and law enforcement response.

High

Frequent serious violent crime or organized criminal activity creating elevated public safety risks.

Critical

Widespread violence or emergencies that overwhelm ordinary public safety resources.

Overall, current national crime conditions are commonly described as moderate, although localized areas may experience substantially higher levels of violent crime.

Understanding Assault

Assault is a legal term whose definition varies among jurisdictions. It extends beyond simply striking another person and generally involves intentional conduct directed toward another individual.

Common categories include:

- Physical assault involving intentional bodily injury or placing another person in reasonable fear of imminent harmful or offensive contact.
- Sexual assault involving sexual conduct without lawful consent.
- Aggravated assault involving serious bodily injury, the use of a deadly weapon, or other aggravating circumstances established by law.

Medical Conduct

Medical related legal claims may include:

- Medical malpractice.
- Medical battery involving treatment performed without consent.
- Lack of informed consent.
- Negligence.
- Reckless endangerment under certain circumstances.
- Criminal assault or battery if a harmful substance is intentionally administered without lawful justification.

Pesticides and Chemical Exposure

Whether exposure to pesticides or chemicals constitutes assault depends upon the facts, intent, applicable statutes, and available evidence.

Potential legal issues may include:

- Intentional poisoning.
- Knowingly exposing another person to a harmful substance.
- Negligence.
- Premises liability.
- Landlord tenant law.
- Environmental regulations.
- Occupational safety requirements.

- Pesticide regulations.
- Failure to warn.
- Failure to follow product labeling or regulatory requirements.

A harmful exposure by itself does not automatically constitute criminal assault. Depending upon the circumstances, conduct may instead be evaluated under negligence, battery, reckless endangerment, poisoning statutes, environmental law, landlord tenant law, or other civil or criminal provisions.

Consent

Consent remains an important legal principle.

Medical treatment generally requires informed consent except where recognized legal exceptions apply.

Property owners and landlords must comply with applicable statutes, lease agreements, and pesticide regulations. Whether consent is legally required before pesticide application depends upon the jurisdiction, applicable statutes, lease provisions, and the specific circumstances involved.

Lifetime Violence Statistics

According to nationally representative surveys conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lifetime estimates include:

Lifetime Experience	Women	Men
Contact sexual violence	Nearly 1 in 2 (approximately 53%)	More than 1 in 4 (approximately 29%)
Physical violence by an intimate partner	About 1 in 3	About 1 in 3
Sexual violence, physical violence, and or stalking by an intimate partner	Nearly 1 in 2	About 2 in 5
Completed or attempted rape	About 1 in 5	Men are more commonly represented in the separate category of being made to penetrate

The "nearly 1 in 2" statistic is commonly used to describe two lifetime findings for women:

- Nearly 1 in 2 women experience contact sexual violence during their lifetime.
- Nearly 1 in 2 women experience sexual violence, physical violence, and or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

For men:

- More than 1 in 4 experience contact sexual violence during their lifetime.

- About 2 in 5 experience sexual violence, physical violence, and or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

These figures describe lifetime prevalence, meaning they estimate whether an individual has experienced one or more of these forms of violence at any point during life.

Conclusion

The current public safety environment presents a complex combination of interpersonal violence, organized crime, cybercrime, transnational criminal organizations, violent extremism, and other criminal conduct. National crime trends have improved in several categories during recent years, yet serious public safety challenges remain.

Understanding the legal definitions of assault, negligence, consent, medical liability, chemical exposure, and other related concepts helps individuals evaluate risk, recognize unlawful conduct, support victims, and strengthen prevention efforts. Public safety depends upon informed citizens, responsible leadership, effective law enforcement, accountability, respect for the law, and continued efforts to reduce violence within our communities.