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Tolerance for Violence Toward Public Servants
Project Overview

- Mapping one dimension of current legitimation crisis and broader assault on US (and global) democracy
- Sectors = Elections/Elected Officials, Education, Health Care, Law Enforcement/Military
- Analyzing federal charges involving threats to public officials (2013-2024*)
- Archived 600+ federal charges
- Coding across three domains
Number of Federal Charges

US Federal Threat Charges* Over Past Decade

*Note: The data includes all federal threat charges irrespective of their nature.
**TYPE OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL**

- Law: 42%
- Enforcement & Military: 20%
- Education: 14%
- Healthcare: 9%
- Election/Elected: 42%

*** Law enforcement includes judges, district attorneys, and attorney generals
Types of Threats & Substantive Nature

“Extreme Partisanship”

- "Well hello there Adam (Schiff), you know what? Your impeachment failed! You're a f****** piece of garbage and we're going to wipe the f****** streets of f****** D.C. with you, you stupid piece of shit. Yea, go ahead and suck George Soros’ c*** while Obama f*** you in the ass (laughing) cause we're going to put a bullet in your head. You're dead."

- "Hi Nancy, I'm coming to kill you c***, Bye." “...There is another civil war brewing because of your stupid socialist assholes. You're dead. So is nutty Nancy.”

- threats communicated between 2019-2021 (hundreds)

- single W/M perpetrator, elderly, military experience, no known group affiliation
Pro and Anti-Trump-Related Threats

Thousands of Threats; Two Federal Cases (AL & CA); 24hr security & forced to leave residence

"Hey you stupid slave n--- -- ... You are in our sights, we want to kill you.”
Federal Case (TX)

Targeted for “helping” former President Trump; Federal Case (TX)
Concluding Remarks

Even though most are never executed, threats are producing concrete consequences.

Ideology plays growing role in the overall volume of threats to public officials.

Ongoing Trump cases combined with November election generating lots of potential for radicalization.
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