

Abstract

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Terrorist Attacks in Latin America from 1970 through 2020: Analysis and Impact from a Counter-Terrorism Medicine Perspective

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Objective: To analyze terror events in Latin America from 1970 through 2020 utilizing the Global Terrorism Database (GTD).

Methods: A retrospective descriptive analysis of data from 17 Latin America Countries from 1970 through 2020 was performed to include number of attacks, deaths, injuries, primary weapon types, location, and primary target types.

Results: A total 30,224 attacks were recorded, resulting in 60,163 deaths and 26,576 injuries. Firearms were the most frequent weapons used (12,651), followed by explosives (12,518), unspecified weapons (3,198), and incendiary devices (1,584). Military-related targets (4,929) were the most frequently targeted entities, followed by private citizens and property (4,906), businesses (4,810), general government facilities (3,994), police (2,955), diplomatic government facilities (604), and religious figures/institutions (464).

Conclusion: The health implications of terrorist attacks are often compounded by violence that pose unique challenges to populations, governments, and aid organizations. Through an understanding of the impact and scope of terrorist activity, Counter-Terrorism Medicine strategies can improve outcomes through all stages of the disaster cycle.

Supplementary material. The supplementary material for this article can be found at <http://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2024.218>.