In the last several years, the United States has experienced a series of extremist attacks, some carried out by white supremacists and others by heavily armed militia groups. Each of these attacks has far-reaching costs that go beyond the immediate physical harm done to victims and their loved ones. These costs range from economic losses to increased access to guns, and also have long-term impacts on the psychological well-being of survivors and communities affected by violence.

What is political violence?
Violence used as political tactics to realize political goals or benefit one particular group, to undermine democratic processes or institutions.

The economic costs of political violence

The costs of political violence

Violence accelerates violence

Within the first week following the Unite the Right attack in Charlottesville, VA research found:

- 200% increase in internet searches indicating a desire to kill Jewish Americans
- 800% increase in internet searches about killing ethnic minorities
- 22,000% increase in internet searches on how to join the Ku Klux Klan
- 22,000% increase in people wanting to donate to the Ku Klux Klan

Six weeks after the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, CA that killed fourteen people:

- 13,950 guns were bought by first-time owners
- 34,950 guns were reported to the FBI from 2016 to 2019, involving hate crimes

Political violence is a whole-of-society problem and requires whole-of-society solutions. Learn more about evidence-based strategies developed by targeted communities that address, prevent and support recovery from acts of political violence and the steps you can take to help build a framework for resilience at:

democracyfund.org/costs-of-political-violence