

Border Crossings and Terrorism in the United States: Lessons for Protecting Against Dangerous Entrants

Erin Miller, START
eemiller@gmail.com

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PARTNERS

START 



GLOBAL TERRORISM DATABASE



BORDERS

A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

Terrorism Research Center
Fulbright College, University of Arkansas

Research Areas:

- Geospatial and Temporal Patterns
- Terrorism Financing
- Sentencing
- Prosecutorial and Defense Strategies



START 

National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism
A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



AIM OF THE PROJECT

The results of these collaborative research projects will enable border control to specify parameters for behavioral sensors and social network analyses to develop passenger/crosser screening questions that will more effectively identify activities that could constitute a security threat.

ANALYTICAL STRATEGIES

- Quantitative Data Collection
 - American Terrorism Study (ATS)
 - Global Terrorism Database (GTD)
 - Newly-developed database of crossing-, crosser-, and incident-level attributes of terrorism-related border crossings
- Qualitative Data Collection
 - Case studies
 - Visits to screening sites (document processes, unique needs; develop performance metrics)
- Evaluation of Technological Tools

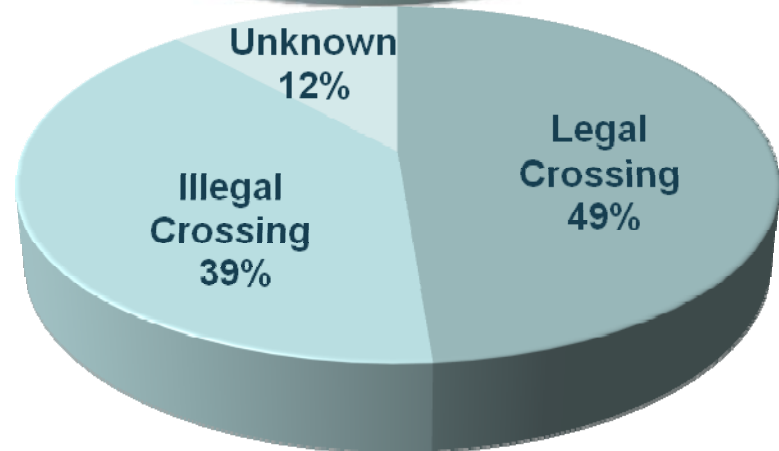
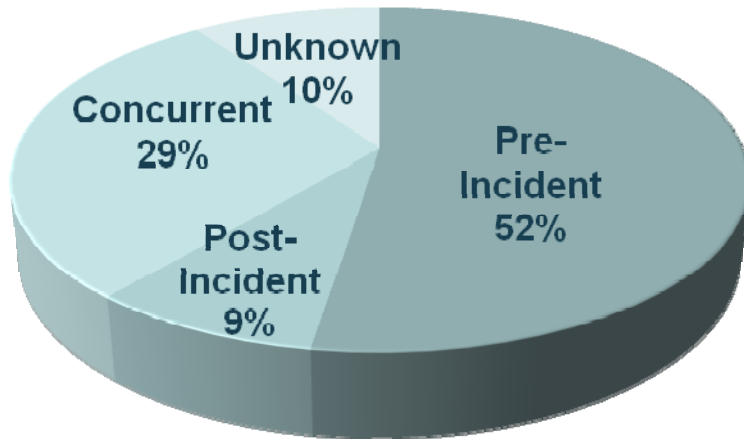
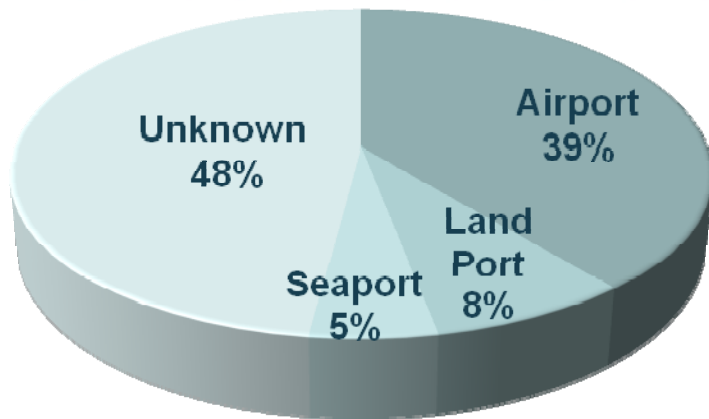
CHALLENGES

- Vast scale of border protection enterprise
- Availability of data
- Investment of public officials

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Codebook Development: 200+ Variables
- Review of 397 ATS court cases from 1980 through 2004 revealed 145 cases with potential border crossings.
- 121 court cases had court documents already collected and were included in the project.
- Once coding was initiated 13 were deleted from the project as border crossings were not able to be identified leaving 108 cases to be coded in this project.
- At this time there are 71 court cases which have been coded or are in the process of being coded.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS



FUTURE PLANS

- Complete data collection/coding
- Develop case studies for key events
- Analyze attributes of border crossing events, crossers, and links to terrorist activity and screening processes.