



## INTRODUCTION

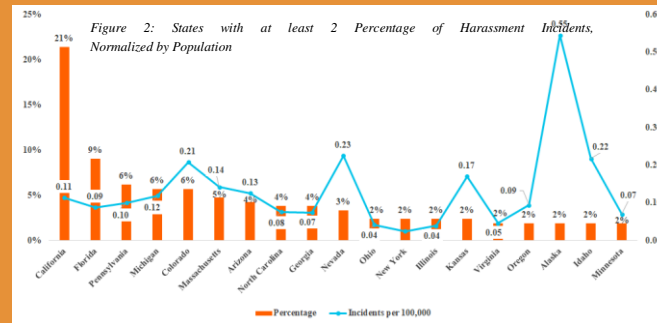
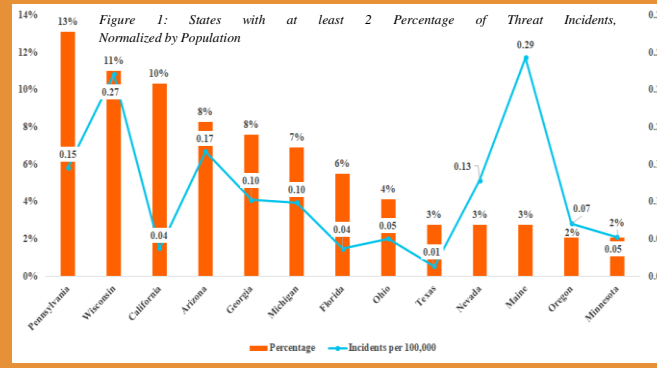
Attention to and coverage of threats and harassment targeting local officials have increased dramatically over the past several years. But exactly **how prevalent have such threats against local public officials become?**

With an empirical lens, we hope to provide greater insight so that policymakers, local leaders, and others can craft mitigation strategies to support officials and their communities.

## DATA & METHOD

- Event-based, longitudinal dataset (N=400).
- Targeted NexisUni boolean search string (Over 10,000 articles & 3,000 incidents analyzed), along with data from partners.
- Focus on collectively felt grievances related to education, health, and elections.
- Dates of Data Collection: Jan. 1, 2020 - Sep. 23, 2022
- **Threats:** instances in which one person communicates to another an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action.
- **Harassment:** instances of knowing and willful conduct that a reasonable person would consider aggressively pressuring, intimidating, alarming, tormenting, or terrorizing, but stopping short of assault.
- We include both criminal and non-criminal incidents of threat and harassment.

THD is an ongoing longitudinal study to systematically evaluate events of threats and harassment across the United States using public event-based data.



## RESULTS

**Tactics:** Across issue areas, threats of death and gun violence are more than twice as common as any other form of threat, comprising 34% of all threats and 13% of all cases. Intimidation accounts for 61% of all harassment cases.

Figure 3: Threat and Harassment Tactics

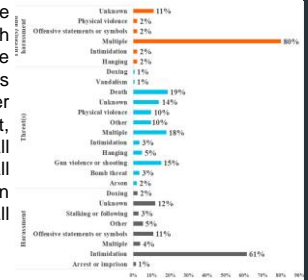
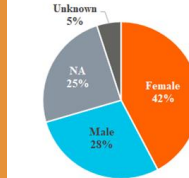
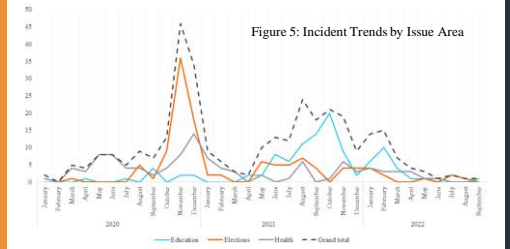


Figure 4: Incidents by Gender



Female officials were targeted at a higher frequency than others, totaling 42% of incidents. Adjusting for the proportion of women in local offices, we estimate that women are targeted **3.4x** more than men.



## FUTURE DATA

Future data collection will 1) add demographic variables including race, partisanship, age. 2) diversify sources including self-reporting, 3) add outcome variables, 4) include all grievances, 5) disaggregate compound events.