

TRENDS IN BLM AND RACIAL JUSTICE PROTESTS

Policing protests is always a challenge. They are more difficult and tense when the protest is about police activity. Protests following the verdict of the Chauvin trial will be about police behavior and about the criminal justice system in general. The data report that the vast majority of racial justice protest activity from its height in the summer of 2020, through today, has been peaceful.

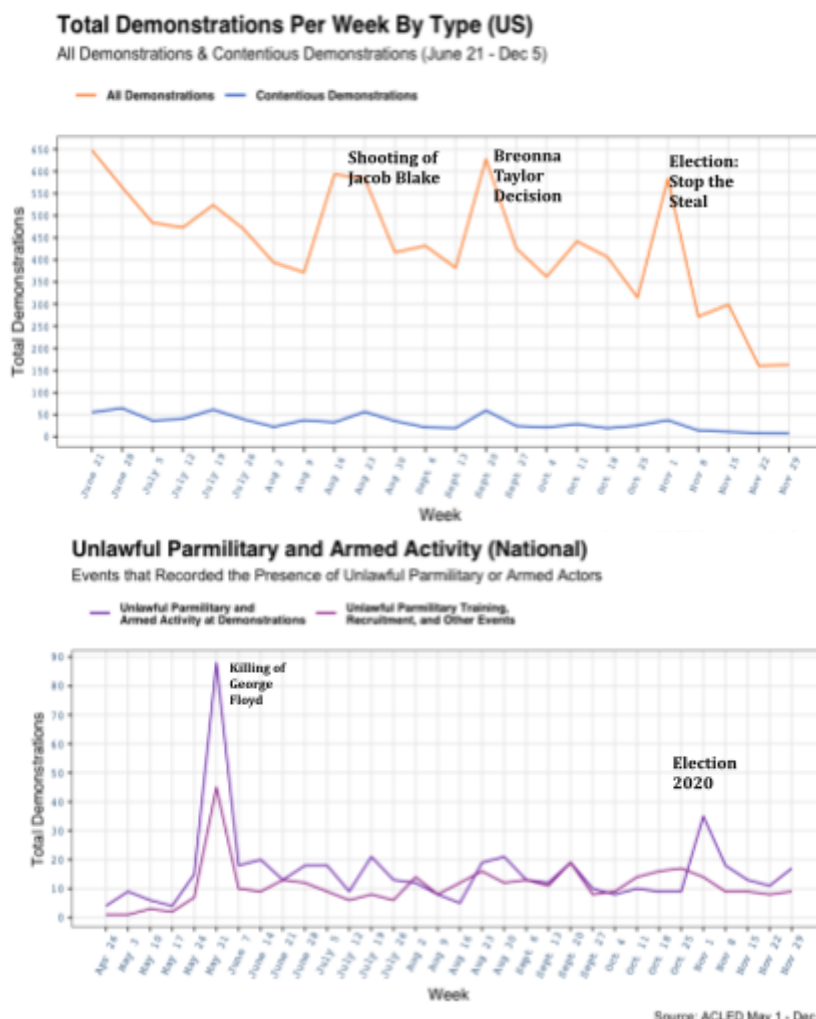
Black Lives Matter and racial justice was the largest mobilizer of political activity in 2020 – making up 44% of activities recorded by the Armed Conflict Location Event Data (ACLED) Project.

Nearly half of all counties, more than 48%, or at least 1486, have held a racial justice protest since January 1, 2020.

Police killings, anniversaries, and key decisions in subsequent court cases are triggers not only for local mobilization, but for national mobilization, none more so than the killing of George Floyd in May 2020.

Unlawful paramilitary and armed protest and counter protest activity was much more prevalent during periods of high BLM mobilization than at any other point, including January 6th.

The majority of car rammings at protests, 87% of the 105 since January 2020, occurred against racial justice protestors.



If patterns from 2020 hold:

- Response to the Chauvin trial is likely to be national
- Most of the mobilization will be peaceful
- Extremist and armed counter protest activity may also mobilize
- Preparation ahead of time to bring in diverse voices and clarify expectations can contribute to violence mitigation