



2024

OnSolve Global Risk Impact Report

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Introduction

Risk continues to increase globally as critical events become more frequent and severe. As a result, managing risk has become more complex. Today's critical events can have a long arm, reaching far beyond the immediate threat and creating unexpected impacts.

We call this dynamic risk.

There are three key factors driving today's dynamic risk landscape.

Increasing severity of events

Critical events are becoming more severe, more costly and the impacts are widespread. In 2023, there were [28 separate billion-dollar natural disasters](#) in the U.S. alone, an unprecedented number. Globally, there were [66 separate billion-dollar natural disasters](#), the highest on record and well above the annual average of 42.

Increasing data

The amount of information is growing, and it travels faster and farther. The volume of the

world's data is projected to [grow to more than 180 zettabytes by 2025](#). Risk leaders are now faced with the challenge of parsing, processing and analyzing volumes of relevant data in near real-time.

Increasing connections via globalization

Despite geopolitical tensions, the world is still tightly interconnected. [Globalization](#) dictates not only the flow of cross-border trade, capital, information and people, but also the widespread ripple effect of risk around the world.

Managing risk can feel more daunting than ever, and the data supports this sentiment. The quantity and diversity of risk is real, it's increasing and it's dynamic. A prevention-only focus is no longer sufficient nor sustainable. Risk and resilience professionals need to adopt a proactive approach to physical threat mitigation built around **rapid discovery and recovery**.

We call this resilience management.



Resilience Management

is a proactive approach to threat mitigation built on rapid discovery and rapid recovery.

To protect organizations and communities, executives, risk leaders and emergency managers must broaden their focus from **risk prevention** to **resilience management**.

In support of this year's Global Risk Impact Report, we analyzed data from OnSolve Risk Intelligence covering more than 50 million reports of global risk events between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2023. The data illustrates trends and identifies both known and emerging risks organizations and government agencies face from physical threats.

Our risk intelligence data reveals that physical threats can have a cascading impact on operations and communities. Critical events are often happening simultaneously, and even singular incidents can create ripple effects that are long-lasting and far-reaching.

To demonstrate the truly dynamic nature of risk, we analyzed historical risk data across four types of physical threats:

- Floods
- Theft
- Geopolitical conflict
- Civil unrest

The results show how quickly one threat can set off a series of unexpected critical events that put people and operations at risk.

In the last four years, **OnSolve detected more than 50 million reports of global risk events** that had the potential to impact customers worldwide.



To validate the results of our historical risk analysis and better understand how business and government leaders are managing the current state of the global risk landscape, OnSolve commissioned Atomik Research, a full-service market research company, to conduct a global survey. The participants included 234 executives at large and enterprise-sized companies; 51 U.S. federal leaders; and 104 U.S. state and local government leaders, public safety chiefs and emergency managers.

The results support the findings uncovered by our data: Every organization and community will experience the impacts of a risk event. It's inevitable despite best practices in risk prevention.

The survey also revealed a **preparedness gap**. Even though many leaders consider preparing for a physical threat a top priority, the **majority of those surveyed said their organization or agency is not taking a proactive approach to identifying risk**. Given the dynamic risk landscape and the speed at which information and the impact of threats can spread, it's imperative that steps be taken now to close the gap.

This starts with a wider focus – a shift from **risk prevention to resilience management**.

To help organizations and agencies close the preparedness gap, this report looks at the current state of the risk landscape and how critical event management technology, including historical data and real-time threat detection, can help risk professionals and emergency managers overcome the challenges they're facing and accelerate discovery to accelerate recovery.



99%
of executives and
100%
of U.S. government
leaders said their
organization or
agency experienced
a physical threat in
the last 24 months.



The Risk Landscape

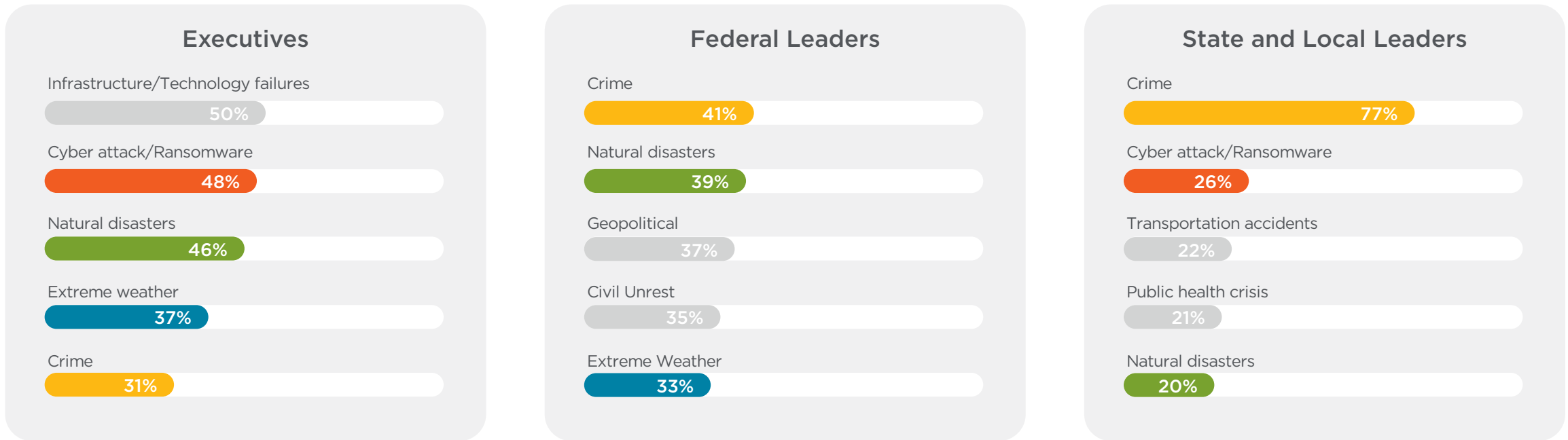
Today, every physical threat has the potential to be a dynamic risk.



Physical Threats and Dynamic Risk

Organizations, agencies and communities experienced various types of physical threats in the last 24 months. Executives reported infrastructure/technology failures as the top physical threat in our survey, while federal, state and local leaders ranked crime first. Several types of physical threats, however, were experienced by all three groups. Natural disasters, for example, was reported as a top physical threat experienced by both executives and government leaders.

Top Physical Threats in the Last 24 Months





These threats affected organizational and agency resilience in multiple areas, most notably safety. Thirty-nine percent of executives who say their organization experienced a physical threat in the last 24 months and 43 percent of federal leaders said physical threats most impacted employee safety. Likewise, local leaders and emergency managers ranked public and employee safety first when asked what areas were most impacted by unexpected physical threats.

The impacts, however, extended beyond employee and public safety, often rippling through various areas of operations. For executives, the other areas impacted the most were supply chain (38 percent) and employee confidence (34 percent), while federal leaders said the top areas impacted by these threats were compliance (37 percent) and agency reputation (35 percent). Local leaders and emergency managers ranked staffing and utilities as the second and third most impacted areas.

The cascading, dynamic impact of physical threats is real.

Since both executives and government leaders said natural disasters was one of the top physical threats their organization or agency faced in the last 24 months, we conducted a historical risk analysis of our data to help leaders better understand the dynamic impacts of one of the most common types of natural disasters — floods.

Top impacts reported from events experienced during the last 24 months:

Executives

1. Employee safety
2. Supply chain disruption
3. Employee confidence

Federal Leaders

1. Employee safety
2. Compliance
3. Agency reputation

State and Local Leaders

1. Public/Employee safety
2. Staffing
3. Utilities

Risk in **F**ocus

The Cascading Impacts of Floods

Flooding is a pervasive threat that can have unexpected and costly impacts on organizations and communities. Globally, 1.81 billion people are directly exposed to 1-in-100-year floods.

Last year, droughts, floods and storms caused economic losses totaling \$224.2 billion worldwide, nearly doubling the 2001-2020 annual average of \$117.8 billion. A recent report forecasted that water risk (caused by droughts, floods and storms) could eat up \$5.6 trillion of global GDP by 2050, with floods projected to account for 36 percent of these direct losses.

A focused analysis of OnSolve data on two specific geographic locations demonstrates the cascading impacts of floods.

Spotlight on New York, United States

There were 1,395 reports of floods in New York in 2023.*

The most common events reported with floods are wind, cyclones, flash floods, river floods and storm surges.

The top cascading impacts reported after these flood incidents were:

- Power outages
- Road accidents
- Structure collapses
- Technical disasters

Spotlight on Chennai, India

Out of the 203 reports of flooding in Chennai in 2023, 170 of those reports were from December.*

The list of cascading impacts is long and includes:

- Mobile network failures
- Oil spills
- Public health issues
- Structure collapses

**OnSolve Risk Intelligence Data*



Refocus on Resilience



- Take proactive steps to prepare for floods and the other types of weather events that occur in tandem. The cascading impacts of floods on infrastructure, supply chains, business continuity, and public health and safety can escalate quickly as continuous days of flooding marked by above average rainfall is becoming more common.
- **Technology Tip:** A mass notification system makes it easy to inform residents and employees about precautions to protect people and operations from floods and their aftereffects.



Read the full case study in the appendix.

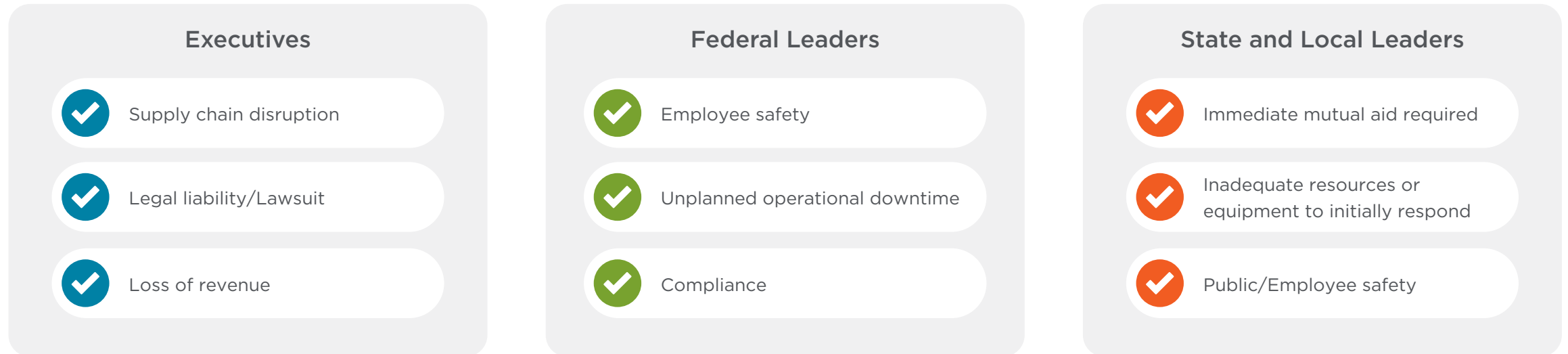


Unanticipated Impacts

Every threat has the potential to become a dynamic risk, resulting in unanticipated impacts. Sixty-three percent of executives and 51 percent of federal leaders said their organization or agency experienced unanticipated impacts “most of the time” or “always” as a result of the physical threats they experienced in the past 24 months. Twenty-six percent of state and local leaders said there were unanticipated impacts on their agency “always” or “most of the time” when they indirectly experienced threats or hazards.

These unanticipated impacts had multiple effects on organizations and agencies.

Top Areas Affected by Unanticipated Impacts





The survey revealed that some executives and government leaders may need to refocus and prepare for the unanticipated impacts of certain threats. For example, while state and local leaders view crime as the top threat, federal leaders and executives are less concerned about crime than other risks.

Overall [crime is decreasing](#), but certain types, such as retail theft and vehicle theft, are on the rise. Theft is a specific type of crime that can have a significant impact on operations, revenue, and public and employee safety.

We analyzed the historical threat data for two specific locations to gain a deeper understanding of the impacts of theft and the risk of not taking proactive measures to respond and recover from this form of crime.

Our analysis demonstrates the importance of taking a deeper look at the data to identify the specific threats that pose the biggest risk to certain locations. Relying on broader trends and statistics can leave organizations and communities unprepared.



72%

of state and local leaders surveyed said crime poses the biggest risk to response and recovery in 2024.

But...

Only

26%

of executives and 35% of federal leaders surveyed said crime poses the biggest risk to resilience in 2024.

Risk in Focus

The Unanticipated Impacts of Theft

While the overall decreases in crime may be a signal that this type of threat poses less of a risk to organizations and communities, a closer look at the data reveals that increases in specific types of crime like theft warrant proactive planning and preparation, including training, upskilling and funding.

Theft poses a major threat to businesses and communities. There were more than one million reports of theft in the contiguous U.S. in 2023, according to our data.

Spotlight on San Francisco

- 29% of all crime reports in 2022 and 2023 were reports of theft.*
- Businesses are closing over safety concerns.
- Increases in vehicle thefts are threatening public safety.

Spotlight on Los Angeles

- 71% of all crime reports in 2022 and 2023 were reports of theft.*
- Retail and package theft are hurting businesses of all sizes, even global corporations.
- Vehicle theft remains a persistent threat.

**OnSolve Risk Intelligence Data*



Refocus on Resilience



- Refocus crime prevention and response efforts on the types of crime becoming more prevalent in local communities and areas of operation.
- **Technology Tip:** A historical analysis of specific locations — down to the neighborhood level — can help identify the most prevalent types of crime. This data can be used to make an informed and proactive resilience management strategy.



Read the full case study in the appendix.

Threats on the Horizon in 2024

Organizations and agencies are expecting the risk landscape in 2024 to be characterized by many of the same threats they experienced in the last 24 months.

36%

of executives surveyed said natural disasters and infrastructure/technology failures pose the biggest risk to their organization in 2024.

39%

of federal leaders surveyed said infrastructure/technology failures and transportation accidents pose the biggest risk to agency resilience in 2024.

While the survey results point to a high focus on threats at home, they also reveal a potential lack of focus on threats in other areas of the world.

Less than 20 percent of all survey respondents said geopolitical threats like military action and terrorism pose the biggest risk in 2024.



OnSolve data, however, shows that geopolitical threats in other regions of the world can have far-reaching cascading impacts — and the ripple effect can happen very quickly. An analysis of the Israel-Hamas conflict is a case in point.

Preparing for the threats on the horizon is a top priority.

56%

of executives and

53%

of federal leaders said their top priority is preparing for a physical threat crisis that puts employee safety or operations at risk.

Risk in **F**ocus

Geopolitical Impacts Are Far-Reaching

Geopolitical unrest around the world can cause a spike in incidents in the U.S. that threaten public safety and business continuity. The rapid spread of mis- and disinformation about geopolitical events in other regions adds another layer of dynamic risk to these types of events.



Spotlight on Israel-Hamas Conflict

- During the week of October 8, 2023, the number of incidents in the U.S. related to the conflict — including assaults, arson and protests — spiked to more than 400.*
- Between October and December 2023, there were 706 unique incidents related to the Israeli-Hamas conflict, most of which were clustered around major cities.
- Incidents included bombings, homicides and other violent events.

**OnSolve Risk Intelligence Data*



Refocus on Resilience



- Mitigation plans should reflect both crime and civil unrest around local issues as well as a rise in hate crimes and protests related to events that take place in other parts of the world.
- **Technology Tip:** AI-powered risk intelligence delivers fast, accurate, relevant intelligence on threats that may happen very quickly when a geopolitical threat occurs in another region of the world. Risk and resilience professionals can make quick, informed decisions based on trustworthy information derived from aggregated data.



Read the full case study in the appendix.



The State of Preparedness

A preparedness gap calls for a more proactive approach.



The majority of organizations and agencies don't have mitigation plans for the threats they are encountering, and fewer than half believe their programs are mature. In addition, most still feel responses are reactive and few feel equipped to be proactive about risk. Key obstacles are having the right technology, adequate funding and appropriately trained or skilled staff.

A preparedness gap exists. Is your organization or agency a part of it?

Only 45 percent of executives have a mitigation plan in place for natural disasters, even though it's the top physical threat on their radar for 2024. Likewise, 72 percent of state and local leaders say the biggest risk in 2024 is crime, yet only 63 percent have a mitigation plan in place for this threat.

For many leaders, **lack of adequate technology and training stand in the way of improving resilience management.** In fact, 45 percent of executives identified inadequate threat monitoring and detection as the biggest challenge or barrier to improving the resilience program at their organization.

Twenty-five percent of federal leaders said lack of technology was the biggest challenge or obstacle to improving resilience. State and local leaders (37 percent) said limited upskilling or training creates the biggest gap and challenge in their agency's planning, response and recovery program.



62%

of state and local government leaders surveyed said their response and recovery program meets more than minimum requirements, but they're challenged to sustain for specific hazards.

Only

23%

of executives and

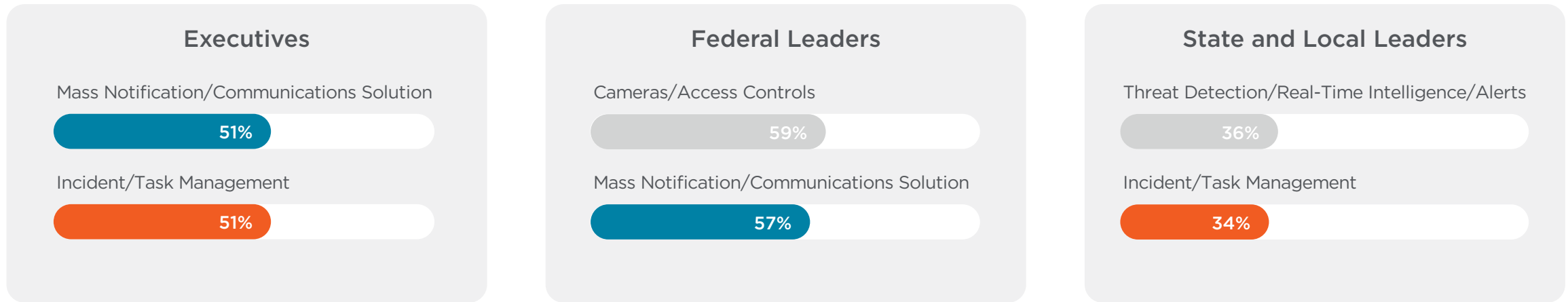
6%

of federal leaders surveyed said they are proactive about identifying risk.



When assessing the current state of the technology used for threat and hazard mitigation, the most common types reported by executives and federal, state and local leaders were the following solutions: mass notification, incident and task management, threat detection, and security and access controls.

What technologies are currently being used for threat/hazard mitigation?



As they look ahead and prepare for the threats on the horizon, executives and agency leaders see value in many of these same technologies, with 28 percent of executives and 22 percent of federal leaders saying that threat detection/real-time intelligence/alerts has the greatest potential to help improve their resilience program. A similar percent of executives (17 percent) and state and local leaders (18 percent) believe incident/task management will help, while 27 percent of federal leaders think historical threat data reporting/analysis holds the most promise when it comes to improving resilience.

To demonstrate how technology can help organizations and agencies close the preparedness gap and improve resilience management, we conducted a case study using our data from the 2020 presidential election. The results showcase the power of historical risk data for a truly proactive approach to mitigating dynamic risk that can help leaders better prepare for anticipated events like the 2024 election.

Risk in Focus

The Power of Historical Data in Preparation for the 2024 Election

The 2024 U.S. presidential election will likely cause protests, some of which may turn violent. Organization and agency leaders need to have a plan in place for civil unrest. Historical threat data is a valuable resource to help leaders understand vulnerabilities, make strategic decisions around resource allocation and identify high-risk locations.



Spotlight on the 2020 U.S. presidential election

- Election-related protests/riots spiked in major cities during November 2020, but were scattered across a larger region in January 2021.*
- The top five threats that appeared most often in conjunction with an election-related protest report were:
 1. Assault
 2. Shooting
 3. Fire
 4. Arson
 5. Homicide

**OnSolve Risk Intelligence Data*



Refocus on Resilience



- Anticipate an increase in other crime/violence, notably assaults, shootings, fires and arson, and create comprehensive mitigation plans in advance.
- **Technology Tip:** Technology can help better understand risk exposure. Historical threat data enables risk leaders and emergency managers to identify the threats likely to occur the weeks before, during and after the 2024 election and make a strategic preparedness plan. As the election unfolds, real-time risk intelligence alerts leaders to threats quickly, so those plans can be carried out swiftly.



Read the full case study in the appendix.



Recommendations to Close the Gap

Make the shift from risk prevention to resilience management.

It's not surprising that for organizations and agencies, keeping employees safe is a top priority for their resilience programs. A resounding majority of executives (90 percent) and federal leaders (96 percent) believe a proactive approach to threat mitigation is important or extremely important.

Organizational and agency leaders understand the importance of overcoming the lack of adequate technology and training to create the comprehensive and effective mitigation plans required to close the preparedness gap.





5 Tips to Shift Focus to Resilience Management

Follow these tips to move away from a prevention-only approach to threat mitigation to one that focuses on rapid discovery and recovery from risk.

- 1 Evaluate your current resilience program.**
Becoming more proactive may require a different combination of people, processes or technology.
- 2 Identify your gaps.**
Take a hard look at the results of your evaluation and take note of the biggest barriers to being proactive.
- 3 Harness the value of data.**
Understanding the prevalence, location and trends of what's happened in the past can help you plan for the future. Use historical data to plan and prepare for physical threats and the unanticipated outcomes.
- 4 Invest in technology that enables you to be proactive and detect threats early.**
AI-powered risk intelligence delivers fast, accurate, relevant information so you can identify threats faster and make proactive decisions.
- 5 Build the right framework to accelerate discovery so you can accelerate recovery.**
This will allow you to control what you can and reduce your time to respond/time to resolve.
([See Figure 1](#))



Accelerate Discovery to Accelerate Recovery

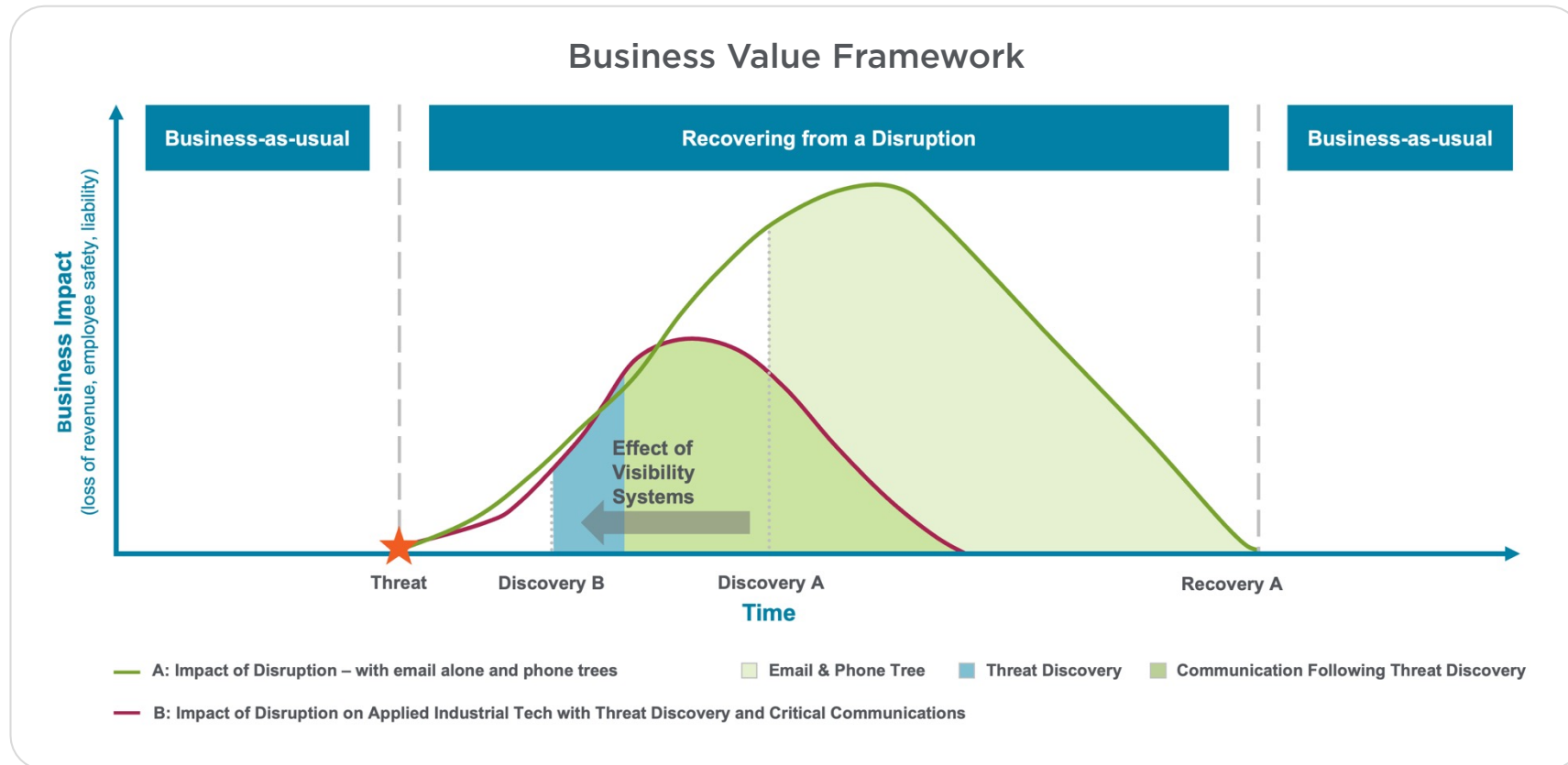


Figure 1. This framework for accelerating threat discovery demonstrates the power of technology to shorten the time between a threat taking place and recovery (represented by the curve). The green line represents the typical curve from threat discovery (Discovery A) to recovering from the disruption (Recovery A). The red line demonstrates that by identifying the threat sooner (Discovery B), an organization can shorten the curve (Recovery B) and recover faster from the disruption.

It's Time to Shift to Resilience Management

The risk landscape is dynamic and harder to manage as critical events increase in frequency and create new threats and risks that cascade throughout organizations and communities in unanticipated ways. Ninety-nine percent of executives and 100 percent of federal, state and local leaders said they experienced a physical threat in the last 24 months.

A mitigation strategy focused solely on risk prevention is not enough in this new reality. A preparedness gap exists. Most organizations and agencies surveyed indicated they don't have mitigation plans for all the threats they're encountering. Many organizations and agencies cite a lack of technology and training as major obstacles to improving resilience management.

Risk and resilience professionals need to take a proactive and broader approach by shifting from risk prevention to resilience management. This report emphasizes the importance of accelerated discovery of threats to accelerate recovery from risk events. Technology is essential for parsing through vast amounts of information and implementing communications and response systems that are smarter, faster and more efficient.

Fortunately, plans to invest in technology for physical threat mitigation are on the agenda for most executives and government leaders we surveyed. With the proper shift in mindset and the right technology in place, organizations and government agencies can successfully make the shift from risk prevention to achieve resilience management.





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Case Study

Natural Disasters

Flooding in New York, United States and Chennai, India



Flooding: A Global and Dynamic Risk

Flooding is a pervasive threat. Globally, [1.81 billion people](#) are directly exposed to 1-in-100-year floods. In September of 2023, [10 countries and territories](#) around the world experienced severe flooding over a 12-day period.

While many organizations and government agencies might have flood on their risk radar, the cascading impacts are often unanticipated — and pose a significant threat. The economic impacts alone can be severe.

It is estimated that extreme weather events related to the water (floods, drought and storms) could result in a [\\$5.6 trillion loss](#) in GDP between 2022 and 2050, with floods accounting for 35 percent of this loss.



In 2023, there were **104,324 reports** of flooding globally, according to OnSolve data.

Top Countries with the Most Flooding Reports in 2023

Country	Reports of Flooding
United States	47,233
Australia	5,602
Spain	4,818
Germany	4,276
Switzerland	3,758
Poland	3,739
UK	3,509
India	2,878

A closer look at two case studies demonstrates the full range of the dynamic impact of floods.



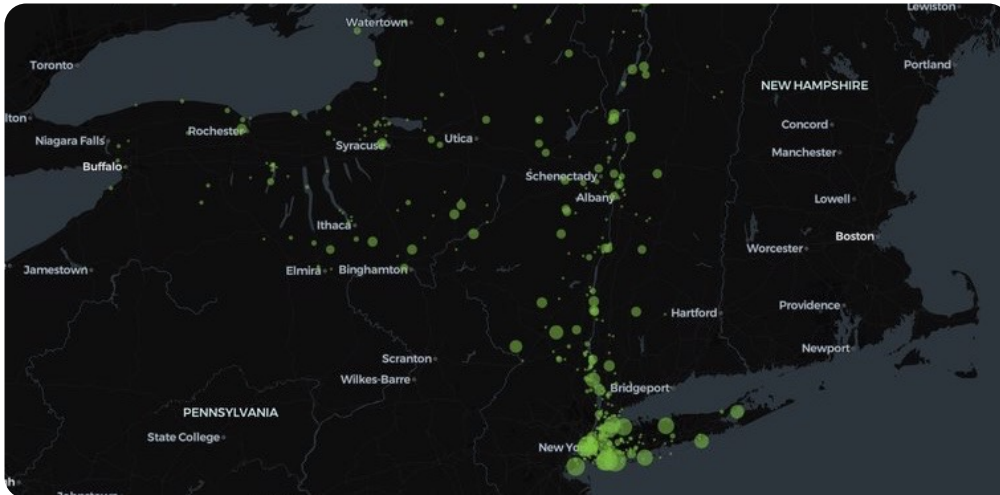
New York, United States

Between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, there were 1,395 reports of floods, according to our data. The major locations impacted were the New York City area and locations along the Hudson River.

Some of the biggest flooding events included:

- **July:** Flooding along the Hudson River. This was part of [a larger billion-dollar weather event](#) that impacted the Northeast.
- **September 29, 2023:** The [wettest day on record](#) at JFK International Airport going back to 1948, with 8.5 inches of rain.

Flooding Locations Across New York in 2023



Our data reveals a potential new trend: New York is seeing continuous days of flooding, which can make response and recovery more difficult to manage.

- 12 locations in the state experienced continuous days of flooding from July 9 – 10, 2023.
- Seven locations had consecutive days of flooding from July 7 – 8, 2023.
- New York City had consecutive flooding from September 28 – 30, 2023.

Lesson: This is not an anomaly. Consecutive days of flooding are becoming more common.

The Cascading and Dynamic Impact of Floods

Flooding typically happens in conjunction with other weather-related threats. The most common events reported with floods are wind, cyclones, flash floods, river floods and storm surges.

In addition, flooding often creates new problems. Reports of events caused by flooding rise along with the water. In 2023, some of the top cascading incidents in New York were:

- Power outages
- Road accidents
- Structure collapses
- Technical disasters

Chennai, India

Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, is a major center for medical tourism and home to a large portion of India's automobile industry. The city has a history of flooding, underscoring the need for a proactive approach for this type of threat. November to December is monsoon season, which can produce cyclones with massive amounts of rainfall.

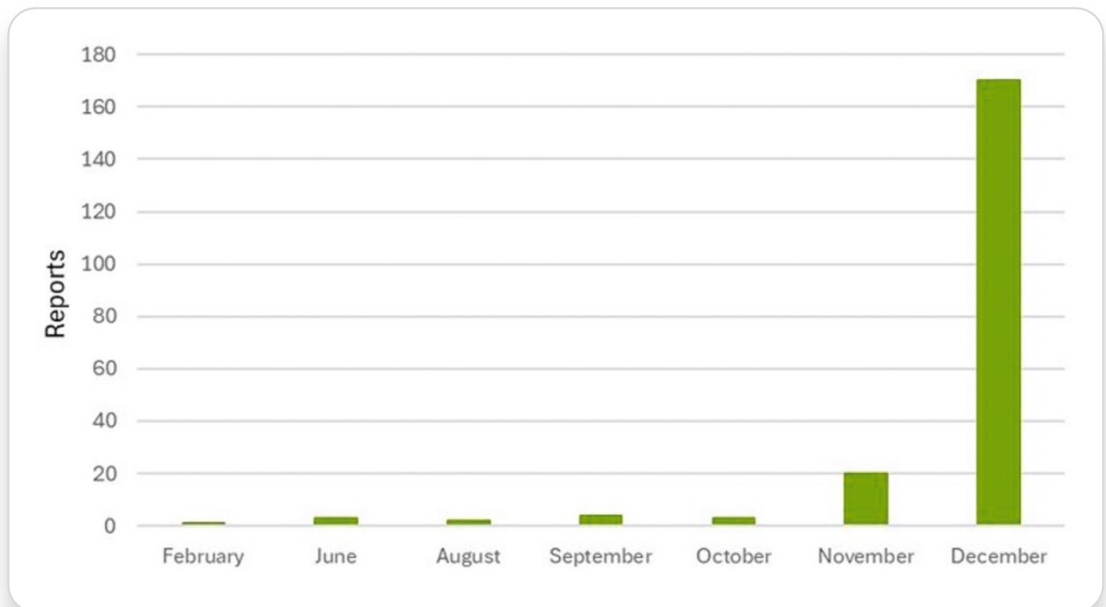
There were 203 reports of flooding in Chennai in 2023, but **170 of those reports were from December**, according to our data. In fact, over a two-day period from December 17 - 18, 2023, Tamil Nadu received almost [15.7 inches of rain](#) – 20 times the normal amount of rain during this time of year.

The flooding in Chennai resulted in a series of cascading effects that impacted organizations and communities:

- Road closures
- Structure collapses
- Power outages
- School, university and office closures
- Mobile network failures
- Flight cancellations
- Oil spills
- Public health issues, including boil water advisories and waterborne diseases

Lesson: The cascading effects of an anticipated physical threat can result in simultaneous and often unanticipated impacts.

Flooding Reports in Chennai in 2023



Key Takeaways

- ✓ Flooding is a growing threat that can have severe, long-lasting impacts on organizations and communities.
- ✓ Government agencies and organizations must take proactive steps to prepare for floods, as well as the other types of weather events that occur in tandem. The cascading impacts of floods on infrastructure, supply chains, business continuity, and public health and safety can escalate quickly as continuous days of flooding marked by above average rainfall is becoming more common.
- ✓ **Technology Tip:** A mass notification system makes it easy to inform residents and employees about the precautions that should be taken to protect your people and operations from floods and their aftereffects.





Case Study Crime

Theft in San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles, California

Theft: A Threat to Businesses and Communities

While [overall crime rates are down](#) in the U.S., specific types of crime are on the rise. Compared to 2022, homicides decreased 10 percent and gun assaults decreased seven percent in 2023. However, motor vehicle thefts increased 29 percent and drug offenses increased four percent.

The most reported crime is theft — and it poses a significant threat to organizations and government agencies. Our data shows there were **more than one million reports** of theft in the contiguous U.S. in 2023.



Top 5 Crime Events in the Contiguous U.S. in 2023

Event	Number of Reports
Theft	1,034,036
Assault	710,280
Shooting	492,635
Homicide	226,714
Mass Shooting	82,624

A focused look at two locations in the U.S. demonstrates the dynamic impact of theft.

San Francisco Bay Area

Theft is a persistent threat. Reports of **theft accounted for 28 percent of all crime reports** in San Francisco for 2022 and 2023 combined, according to our data. The impact on businesses and communities is real.

- Businesses of all sizes – from local diners to chains like [In-N-Out Burger](#) – have been closing over safety concerns due to crime.
- Cars are being stolen or broken into as thieves go after catalytic converters. Social media challenges are also playing a role, with videos of stolen cars going [viral](#) and contributing to spikes in occurrences.
- [Police staffing shortages](#) further exacerbate the issue, with fewer officers available to respond to incidents of crime and theft. This shortage impacts public safety and places an extra burden on businesses dealing with shrinkage and loss.



Los Angeles

Theft accounted for 71 percent of all crime reports in our data for 2022 and 2023 combined, making it the **most common type of crime reported in Los Angeles**.

Our data also revealed patterns in the type of theft occurring in Los Angeles and the cascading impact.

- Retail theft is hurting both large and small businesses. Large chains and [high-end retailers](#) have closed multiple locations due to crime, and [mom-and-pop shops](#) are being targeted by burglars. Organized retail crime also poses a threat in several forms, including [smash-and-grabs](#) and [flash mob robberies](#) that are being organized on social media.
- Similar to San Francisco, [social media](#) is contributing to rising incidents of car theft, with videos demonstrating how to start specific vehicles without a key.
- Package theft is also an issue in Los Angeles. [Freight trains are being looted](#), hurting big name companies like Amazon and UPS, as well as the companies using these carriers to deliver products.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ While the overall decreases in crime may be a signal that this type of threat poses less of a risk to organizations and communities, a closer look at the data reveals that increases in specific types of crime warrant proactive planning and preparation, including training, upskilling and funding.
- ✓ Organizations and agencies should refocus crime prevention and response efforts with a focus on the types of crime becoming more prevalent in their local communities and areas of operation.
- ✓ **Technology Tip:** A historical analysis of specific locations — down to the neighborhood level — can help organizations and agencies identify the most prevalent types of crime. This data can be used to make an informed and proactive resilience management strategy.



Case Study

Geopolitical Unrest

North American Impacts of the Israel-Hamas Conflict

The Far-Reaching Impacts of Geopolitical Unrest

Even though a geopolitical conflict occurs outside of North America, the event can have effects that ripple across the globe. Some of the most common cascading impacts are:

- Crime, specifically assaults, bombings, arson and homicides
- Civil unrest, most notably protests and riots



An analysis of the impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict in North America demonstrates that even though a conflict may be happening on the other side of the world, agencies and organizations still need to proactively prepare for the dynamic impact.



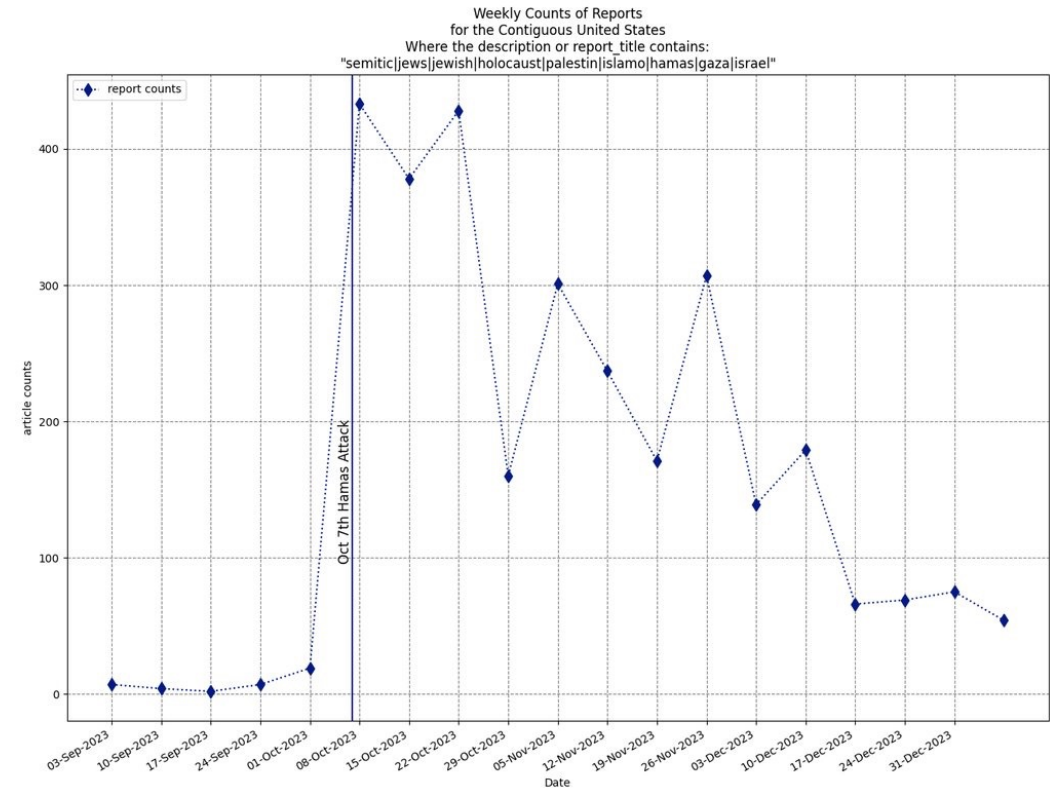
The Israel-Hamas Conflict

In the aftermath of the Hamas terrorist attack on October 7, 2023, there was a significant rise in incidents of crime and civil unrest in North America related to this conflict.

In the month before the attack, there were fewer than 50 reports of incidents related to Israel and Gaza, according to our data. During the week of October 8, 2023, the number of incident reports **spiked to more than 400**. Some of the most common types of incidents reported were **assaults, arson, bombings and protests**.

Specific examples of the dynamic impact point to the threat geopolitical unrest poses to public safety in areas far away from where the conflict occurs.

- In Montreal, a [synagogue and Jewish center](#) were firebombed.
- [Violence erupted at dueling rallies](#) for Israel and Palestine in Skokie, Illinois, outside of Chicago.
- In Miami, a Hamas supporter [threatened to bomb](#) a Jewish school and synagogue.
- A six-year-old Muslim boy [was killed by the family's landlord](#), who was reportedly upset over the Israeli-Hamas conflict.



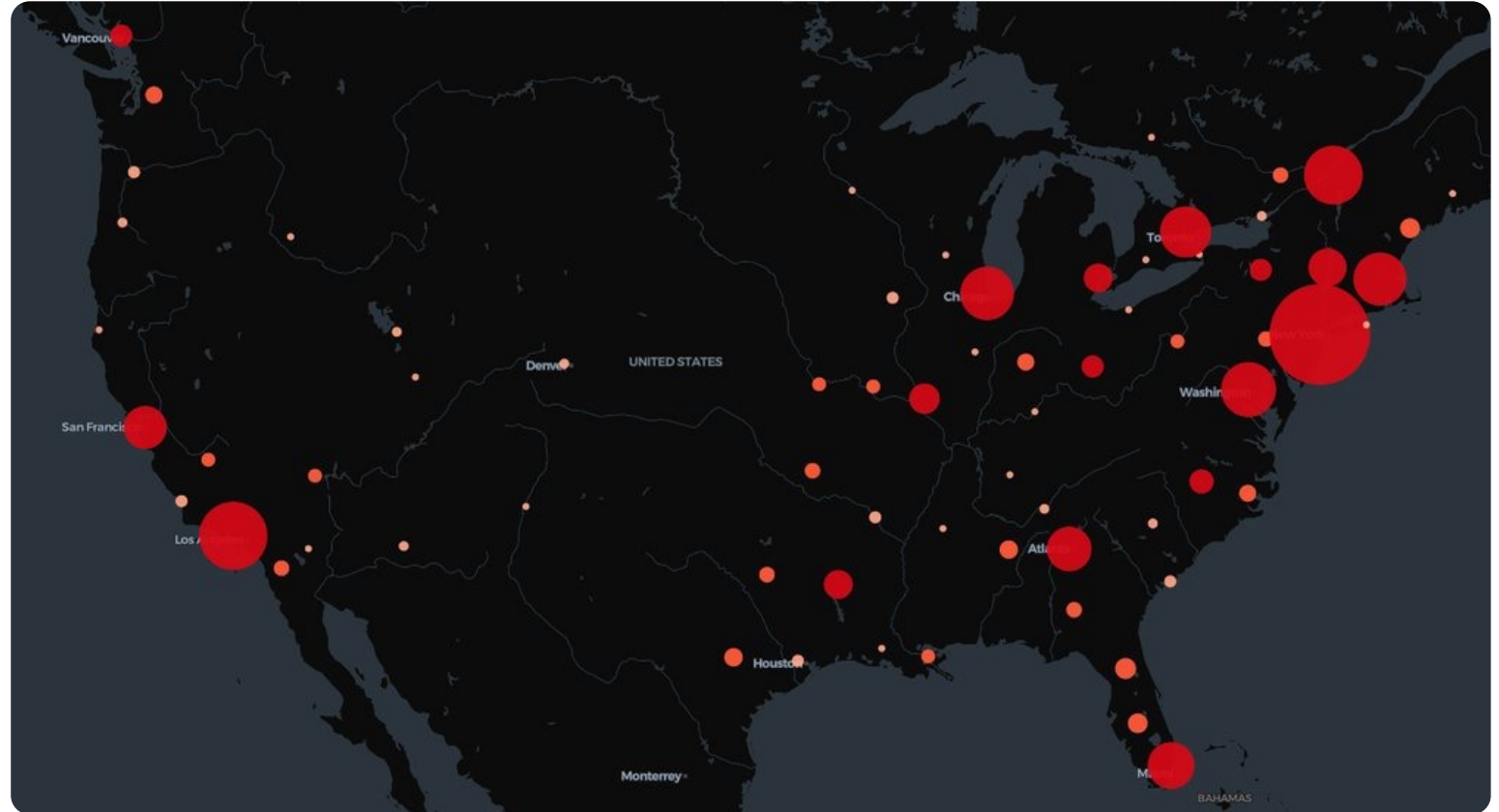
Dynamic risk

Misinformation and disinformation including false claims and videos spread quickly on social media, making it hard to decipher fact from fiction. Real or not, the rapid dissemination of mis- and disinformation contributes to the cascading impact of geopolitical unrest as people react to what they read and see online.

During the timeframe between October and December, there were 706 unique incident reports related to the Israeli-Hamas conflict in the U.S. Many of these were clustered around major cities.

- **New York, Chicago and Toronto** experienced high numbers of violent crime incidents, such as assaults and bombings, that were related to the Israeli-Hamas conflict.
- **Los Angeles, Miami and Washington, D.C.** experienced a higher number of protests related to the conflict.

Hot Spots: October to December 2023



Key Takeaways

- ✓ When a geopolitical threat emerges, the cascading impacts can be swift and significant.
- ✓ Organizations and government leaders need mitigation plans to reflect not only ordinary crime and civil unrest around local issues. They also need to prepare for a rise in hate crimes and protests related to events that take place in other parts of the world.
- ✓ **Technology Tip:** AI-powered risk intelligence delivers fast, accurate, relevant intelligence on threats that may happen very quickly when a geopolitical threat occurs in another region of the world. Risk and resilience professionals can make quick, informed decisions based on trustworthy information derived from aggregated data.





Case Study

2020 U.S. Presidential Election

How to Prepare for the 2024 Election

The Power of Historical Risk Analysis

The 2020 presidential election was a turbulent time in the U.S. Civil unrest in the form of protests occurred around the country, putting citizens and employees at risk. The protests around the election and the subsequent attack on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., become top of mind as we enter a new election cycle in 2024.



Organizations not only need real-time intelligence, but also need historical trends and statistics to become proactive as opposed to reactive.

For instance, looking at historical risk data from the 2020 election can help risk and resilience professionals understand vulnerabilities, make strategic decisions around resource allocation and identify high-risk locations.





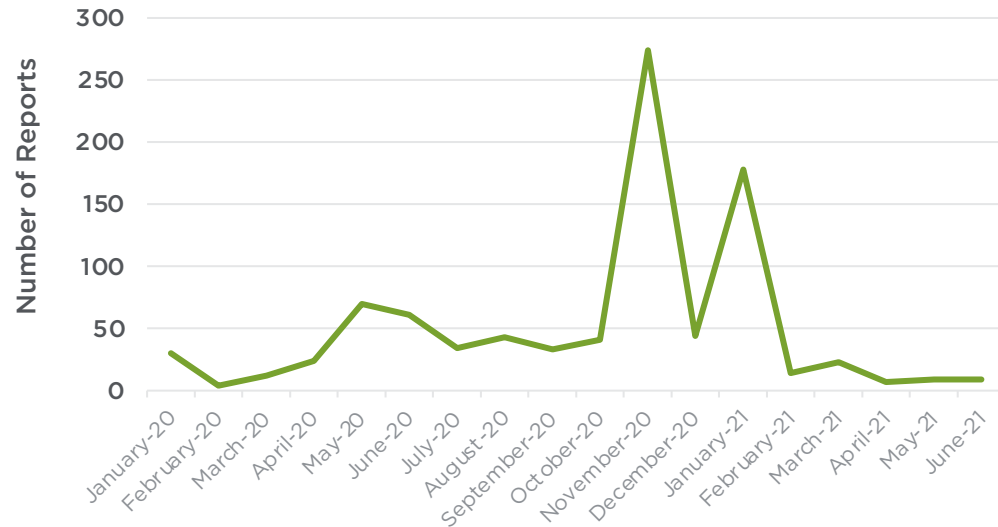
The 2020 U.S. Presidential Election

Our data shows a spike in election-related protests/riots in November 2020 and again in January 2021, with a total of 496 reports of protests related to the election during this period.

Several other physical threats were often reported as part of the protest reports. The top five threats in ranking order that appeared most often in conjunction with an election-related protest report were:

1. Assault
2. Shooting
3. Fire
4. Arson
5. Homicide

Trend of Protest/Riot Reports Over Time



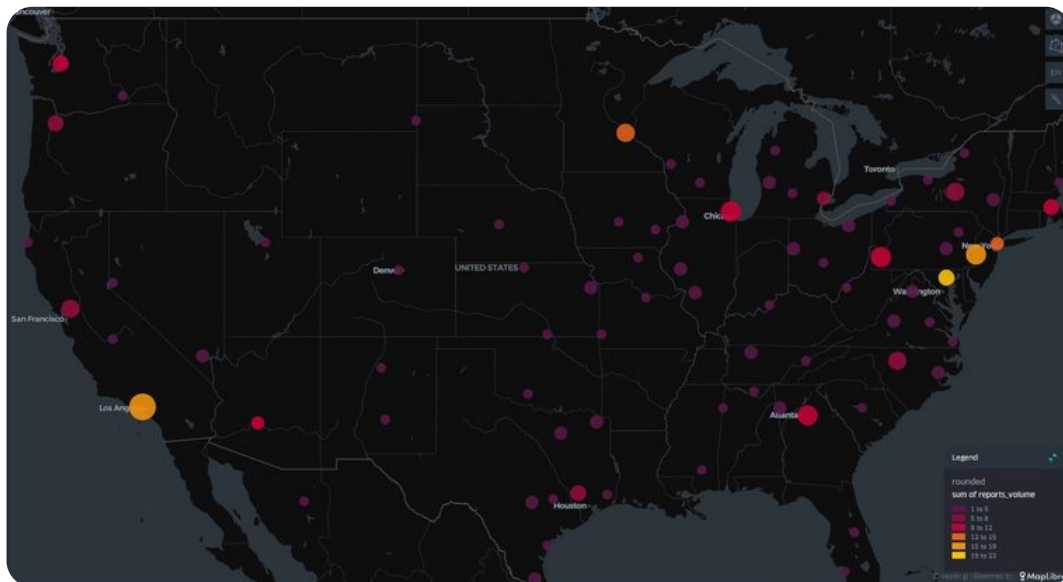
The historical threat analysis of our data also uncovered increases in reports of **assaults, explosions, shootings and homicides**.

Though not directly tied to election-related protests reports, these physical threats spiked during the same timeframe and in the same hot spots.

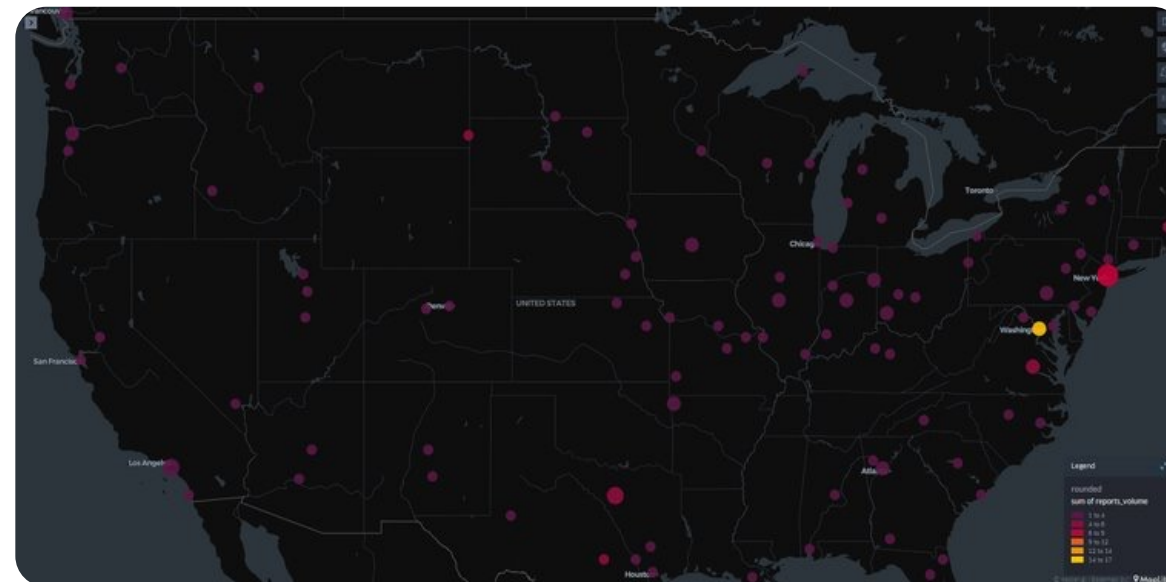


In November 2020, protest reports clustered in major cities, creating **several hotspots**, whereas in January 2021, the reports of protests were **scattered across a larger region**. The scattering in January can be seen as a **dynamic risk**, with protests taking place in unexpected locations outside of major cities.

November 2020



January 2021



Peaceful protests often turned into armed/violent conflicts.

- Clashes broke out [near the White House](#) on election night.
- Opposing groups clashed at [Detroit TCF Center protests](#).
- Protestors were also witnessed [near the homes of key political officials](#).

Key Takeaways

- ✓ The 2024 presidential election will likely cause protests, some of which may turn violent. Risk leaders and emergency managers need to have a plan in place for civil unrest.
- ✓ Leaders should also anticipate an increase in other crime/violence, notably assaults, shootings, fires and arson and create comprehensive mitigation plans in advance.
- ✓ **Technology Tip:** Technology can help organizations and agencies better understand risk exposure. Historical threat data enables risk and emergency leaders to identify the threats likely to occur the weeks before, during and after the 2024 election and make a strategic preparedness plan. As the election unfolds, real-time risk intelligence alerts leaders to threats quickly, so those plans can be carried out swiftly.



Methodology

Global Survey

OnSolve commissioned Atomik Research, a full-service market research company, to conduct online surveys of:

- 234 executives at large- and enterprise- sized companies across various industries located throughout the globe in countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, India, Canada, Australia, South Africa and Brazil. The online questionnaire was available in English, Portuguese, Afrikaans and Hindi. To qualify for participation in the study, participants must indicate they held the following roles within companies consisting of 3,000 or more employees: Chief Executive Officer, Chief Information Officer, Chief Security Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, Chief of Operations, Chief Technology Officer, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Resilience Officer, Vice President of Business Continuity or Vice President of Security.
- 51 federal workers within leadership positions at U.S. federal organizations and agencies. In order to qualify for participation in the study, participants must describe roles with the same title or similar to the following positions: Chief Information Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, Chief Information Systems Officer, Vice President of Business Continuity or Vice President of Security.
- 104 full-time civil servants who work within government organizations or agencies at the state and local levels throughout the United States. Further, civil service employees included in the survey sample all indicate working in emergency manager, city manager, county manager and public safety chief roles within organizations or agencies that serve a population of 50,000 or more people.

Fieldwork took place between December 16, 2023, and January 2, 2024.

OnSolve Risk Intelligence Data

This research study explores risks that OnSolve detected across various timeframes and locations, that had the potential to impact its customers. The data in this report was gathered using OnSolve Risk Intelligence, an AI-powered technology that monitors more than 50 risk categories of physical threats across 159 countries in real time. OnSolve Risk Intelligence detected more than 50 million reports of global risk events from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2023, using AI and analyst-vetted information pulled from data sources that include local fire, police and emergency medical services departments; weather reports and alerts from government and non-government verified sources; federal government agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security and other crisis management entities; local, national and international news; and critical event reports from verified social media feeds.

OnSolve Risk Intelligence monitors global physical threats that have an impact on its base of 30,000 customers, which consists of half of the Fortune 100, nearly half of the Fortune 500 and 10,000 communities across the U.S., including state, regional, local and federal entities. OnSolve programmatically maps events to locations worldwide, determining which part of an organization might be at risk.



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About OnSolve

OnSolve® is the leading provider of AI-powered critical event management technology that enables organizations to proactively mitigate risk and remain agile when a crisis strikes. With powerful and reliable risk intelligence, mass notification and incident management technology, the unified OnSolve Platform allows enterprises, organizations and government agencies to prepare, detect, activate and recover from physical threats. Named a leader in the Forrester Wave™: Critical Event Management Platforms, Q4 2023, OnSolve received the highest possible scores across 12 criteria, including Physical Threat Intelligence, Employee Mass Communication and more.

With billions of alerts sent annually and proven support for both the public and private sectors, OnSolve is used by thousands of entities to save lives, protect communities, safeguard critical infrastructure and enable agility for the organizations that power our economy.

For more information, please visit www.onsolve.com.