

New CPOST Study Shows
Rising Threats against
Members of Congress,
Both Democrats and Republicans

STUDYING THREATS TO US MEMBERS OF CONGRESS



Over 200 charged threats by Dept of Justice from 2001 to 2024

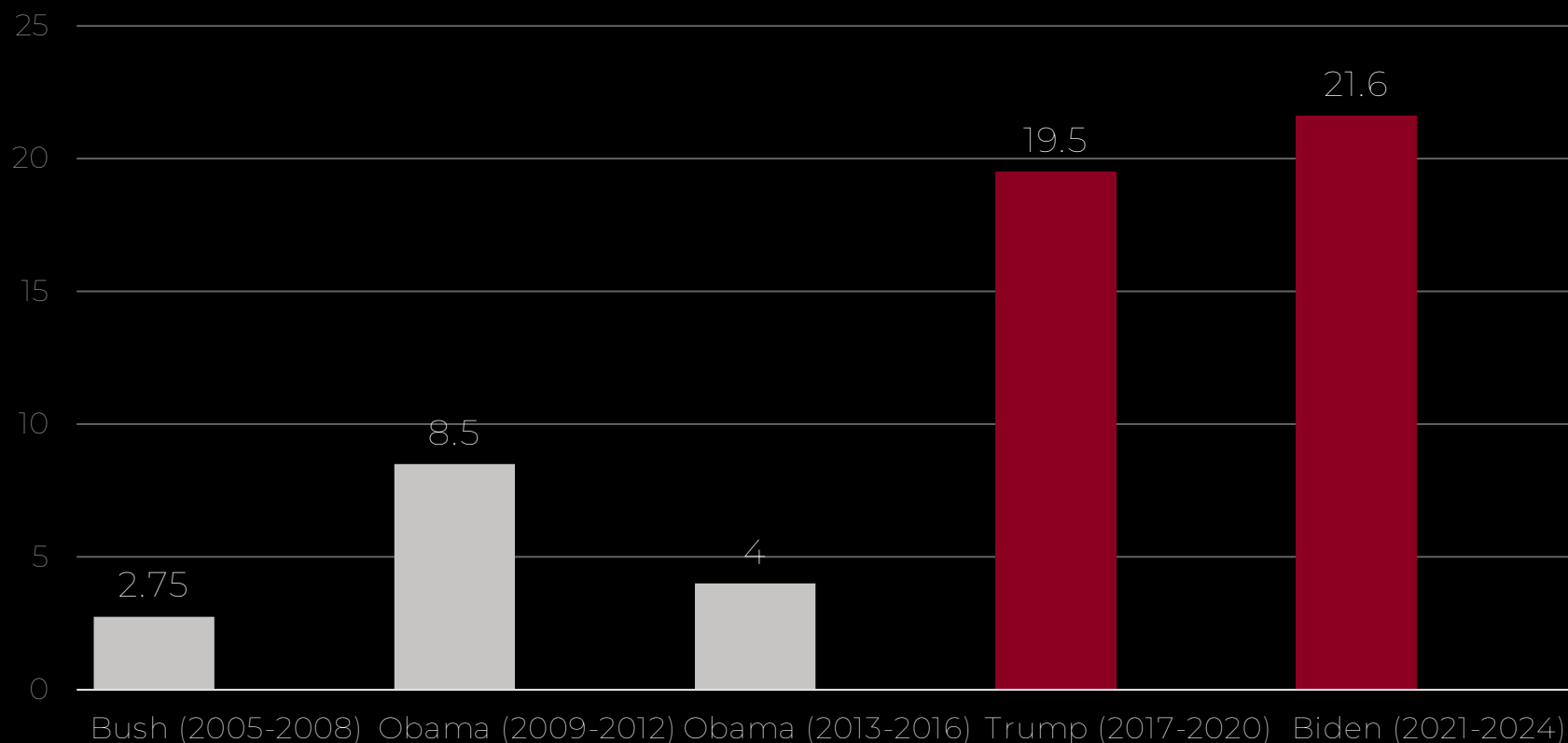
- Developed definition of threat “event” and collected data by event, by target, and by perpetrator.
 - One “event” occurs when:
 - One perpetrator threatens one leader and is charged (77%)
 - One perpetrator threatens multiple leaders and is charged for multiple targets in the same court docket (19.5%)
 - Multiple perpetrators threaten the same leader at the same time and more than one is charged (3.3%)
 - Perpetrator (s) threaten political leader (s) but is killed prior to being charged (<1%)
- Searched for threats to over 1600 members of Congress in legal data bases by:
 - federal charge (eg, 18 U.S.C. § 115 (Assaulting, kidnapping, murdering a US official or their family, or threatening to do so)
 - Google advanced search by name.
- CPOST study seeks to understand the changing trajectory, balance of target political identification, and perpetrator motives.

SPIKE IN PROSECUTED THREAT EVENTS SINCE 2017



DOJ prosecutions increased 5x during the Trump administration and have continued under Biden

Average Annual Number of Threat Events By Presidential Term, 2001 - 2024



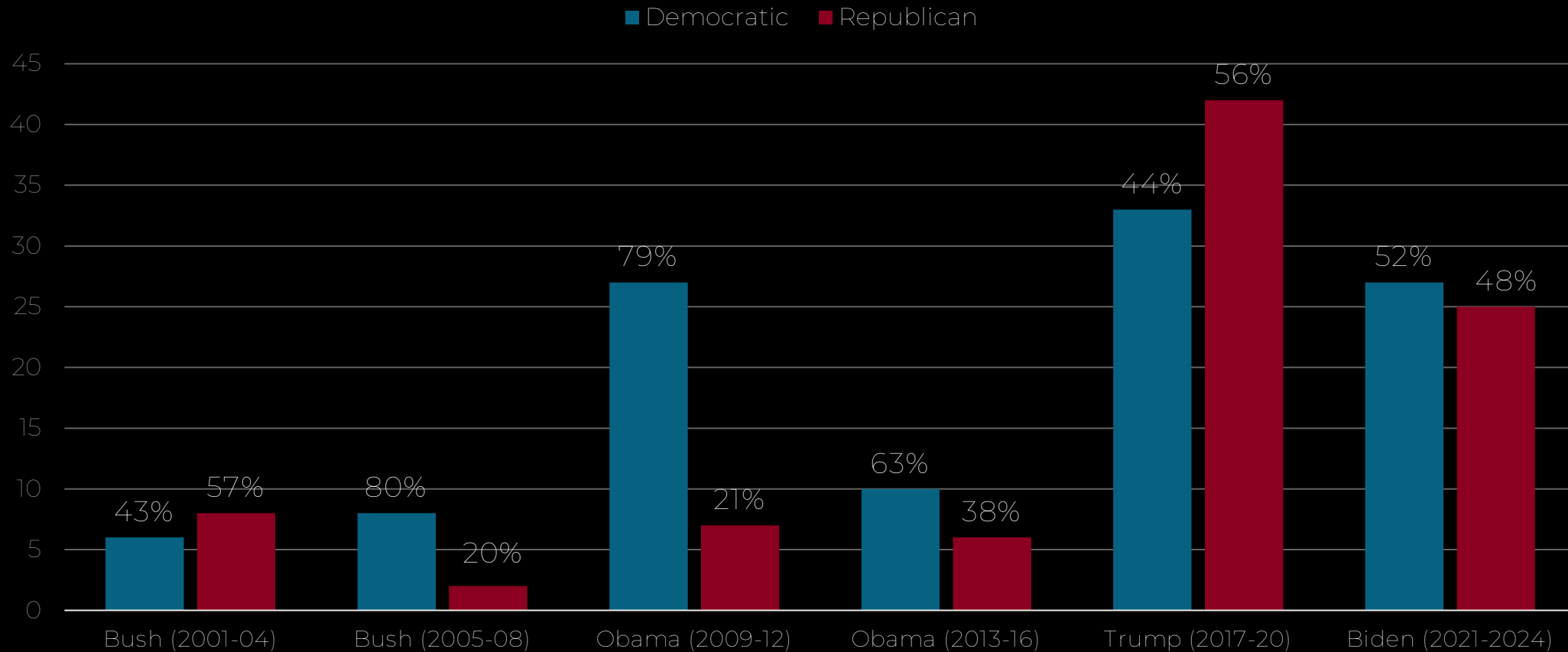
*Event "dates" are determined by start date of an event, not when the perpetrator is prosecuted or charged.

BOTH PARTIES BEING TARGETED



Threat increase since 2017 impacts both Democrats and Republicans

Threat Events by Partisanship of the Target



*Excludes 2 events in which both parties or a nonpartisan official were targeted

*Senator Bernie Sanders is considered a "Democratic" target

OVERALL FINDING

Growing Risks of:

1. Political Violence to Leaders from Both Parties
2. Especially lone wolf and small group, not just violent protests

Strong Evidence America is in a
New Era of Violent Populism



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Political violence

30 years studying political violence

20 years focused on terrorism and propaganda

2020 American Political Violence – 100 cities survey

Past 5 years analyzing the
Political Violence in America:
Jan 6 Demographics analysis
12 Nationally Representative Surveys
US Military Veteran Survey
Ethnographic Focus Groups
Antisemitism and Support for Political Violence
= Deep Undersanding of Violent Dangers to
American Democracy