Methods

3. To present a Case Study of the Aum Shinriko’s use of Religious Violence.

Other articles identified through reference lists:
- Search engines PubMed, ATLA, Google
- Subsequent investigations revealed Aum had previously produced media containing 10–20 metric tons of anthrax spores and several hundred metric tons of botulinum toxin.
- Many complicated historical, cultural, economic, political, psychological, social, ideological and religious factors influence terrorism. This paper focuses on one of these factors: the ideological Motivations for Terrorism (IMT).

Results

Table: Literature Review

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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Years: 1993-2011</th>
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<td>Topic paper, white paper</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Academic article</td>
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Figure 2: Frequency of 6 Key Themes

- Aum Shinriko Case Study
- Recruitment of Persons Experiencing Humiliation
- Isolation of Communities and Individuals
- Use of Symbolic Meaning

Goals

1. To determine the frequency of key IMT themes in the literature.
2. To summarize these themes for a public health audience, and
3. To present a Case Study of the Aum Shinriko’s use of Religious Ideology to recruit and influence members.

Figure 1: Tokyo Subway system

1. Religious Ideology deviates from Mainstream Religion

Key Theme: "Activists...imagined themselves as defenders of ancient faiths. But in fact they had created new religious forms."2

Aum Shinriko Case Study
- "Aum’s concept of cosmic war to a feeling of humiliation."3
- "Terrorists...try to strengthen it and urge their followers to take action against the entity purportedly responsible for humiliating them."4

2. Recruitment of Persons Experiencing Humiliation

Key Theme: "One of the primary tasks of a religious terrorist leader is to capitalize on some feeling of humiliation."5

Aum Shinriko Case Study
- "Aum’s concept of cosmic war...in order to create...extreme paranoia among the movement.”

3. Isolation of Communities and Individuals

Key Theme: "Charismatic leaders who...Face humiliation...Such groups...can be susceptible to extreme acts of violence."6

Aum Shinriko Case Study
- "Terrorists...seek to avoid reading or listening to reports from the news media because of the impermanence of the data that one receives about the world."7

Figure 3: 1995 Tokyo Sarin Attack

Conclusion: Public Health Implications

1. In addition to preparing for large-scale emergencies (e.g., pandemics), public health should prepare for small-scale attacks that may have symbolic meaning to perpetrators.
2. Exercise planning may benefit from input from sociologists, religious scholars, former cult members, and affected communities familiar with terrorist ideologies to increase likelihood that exercise scenarios reflect potential threats.
3. Public health staff should be vigilant in monitoring access to potential bioterrorism agents to prevent unauthorized individuals from obtaining these pathogens.
4. Factors influencing terrorism are multifaceted and complex. Future studies should investigate other effects (e.g., political, economic, psychological) influencing terrorism.

Select References:

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.