



INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 21-016

5 March 2021

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1. CURRENT SITUATION

Large multinational and transnational corporations have found themselves facing new regulatory challenges across many jurisdictions. For example, in Europe the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became enforceable in 2018. The GDPR is a long list of regulations for consumer data handling. The regulation was implemented to protect user's personal data such as e-mail, phone number, address, GPS location from predatory online practices. The GDPR legislation gives EU citizens more control over their personal data. Not meeting regulatory compliance set out by the GDPR means risking a fine of 4% OR 20 million Euro. The first major fine, of €50 million (US\$54 million), was issued in January 2019 to Google by the French data protection authority CNIL for showing insufficient control, consent and transparency over the use of personal data for behavioral advertising. Despite the regulation coming from EU, all companies who conduct business within the EU must comply with the regulation, even if they are not physically present within the EU borders. Some of the key items outlined in the GDPR are that in many cases companies need consent to process user information, they are not allowed to store the data for longer than necessary and they must respond to requests from customers who want their data deleted. Companies may also have to prove they are handling data correctly; meaning increased monitoring and documentation, and the increased need for data protection and compliance officers.

The implementation of GDPR turned out to be costly and confusing to the point where small US businesses dropped their EU customers because it made financial sense to do so. For example, Uber Entertainment, which makes online games, shut down its Super Monday Night Combat game as it would cost too much to rewrite the game, or migrate it onto a different platform. Companies that use legacy systems to store their client's data also find the experience of migrating from one system to another difficult and costly. Smaller business argue that the changes favor large corporations with deep pockets. Others argue that GDPR started the conversation of protecting user data which quickly spread across the globe.

While companies faced the challenges of GDPR implementation, the regulation without a doubt changed the global privacy landscape. The legislation placed privacy at the forefront of compliance and regulatory efforts in companies across the globe. Countries and states such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Japan, Kenya, South Korea and California used GDPR as a base model for their own legislation. For example, California passed the California Consumer Privacy Act, which was signed into law on June 28, 2018 and came in effect on January 1, 2020. The law has a clear and strong GDPR influence and extends to Californians the most robust data privacy rights in the US.

GDPR covers many industries and healthcare is one of them. In the US for example, most of the data privacy regulations are part of the relatively straightforward Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Elsewhere, these regulations are handled by various regulatory bodies. According to GDPR, there are three types of personal data that are particularly relevant to the healthcare industry:

- **Data concerning health:** Any data that is related to a person's physical or mental health is considered personal and protected data under GDPR. This includes any information related to the type of care they have received (as the patient's health status may be inferred).
- **Genetic data:** Information related to a person's genetic makeup is also subject to GDPR protections. This includes any lab results relating to an analysis of a biological sample, as well as any characteristics that might reveal details of the patient's physiology or health.

- **Biometric data:** Biometrics refer to data related to someone's physical or behavioral characteristics. Such information is considered personal per GDPR (and must therefore be protected) since it can be used to identify a specific person. These include facial images, fingerprints, gait traits, and more.

As one of the countermeasures against the spread of the Coronavirus, governments across the globe began implementing Covid-19 tracing apps. Using the app, contact researchers trace and identify those who have been in contact with an infected person and advise them to self-quarantine, limiting the spread of the virus. From Australia's COVIDSafe app to Canada's CovidAlert app to Poland's ProtegoSafe, these apps have proven to be efficient in mitigating Covid risks. While GDPR and similar laws alike showed that safely handling user data proves to be difficult, recently leaked documents reveal that safely handling user information in a pandemic is extremely difficult. Pubs and restaurants in the U.K were asked to carry out contact tracing calls to customers in breach of data protection rules. The U.K's NHS Test and Trace, with over £40 billion spent or committed, is one of the most expensive public schemes ever undertaken, consuming as much money as the annual defence budget. Yet, an internal report found that lack of guidance from Test and Trace for local public health teams on how to handle the data left businesses "being asked to, or volunteering, to contact customers and visitors". It added: "This is a breach of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and leaves businesses and venues open to potential legal challenge."

The U.K's contact tracing app has been criticized for employing a central computer server to store data, with opponents saying it increases the likelihood of hackers or bad actors accessing and using personal information for malicious purposes. It would certainly not be the first time that attackers have successfully infiltrated apps gathering personal data with the 2017 MyHeritage hack setting a dangerous precedent.

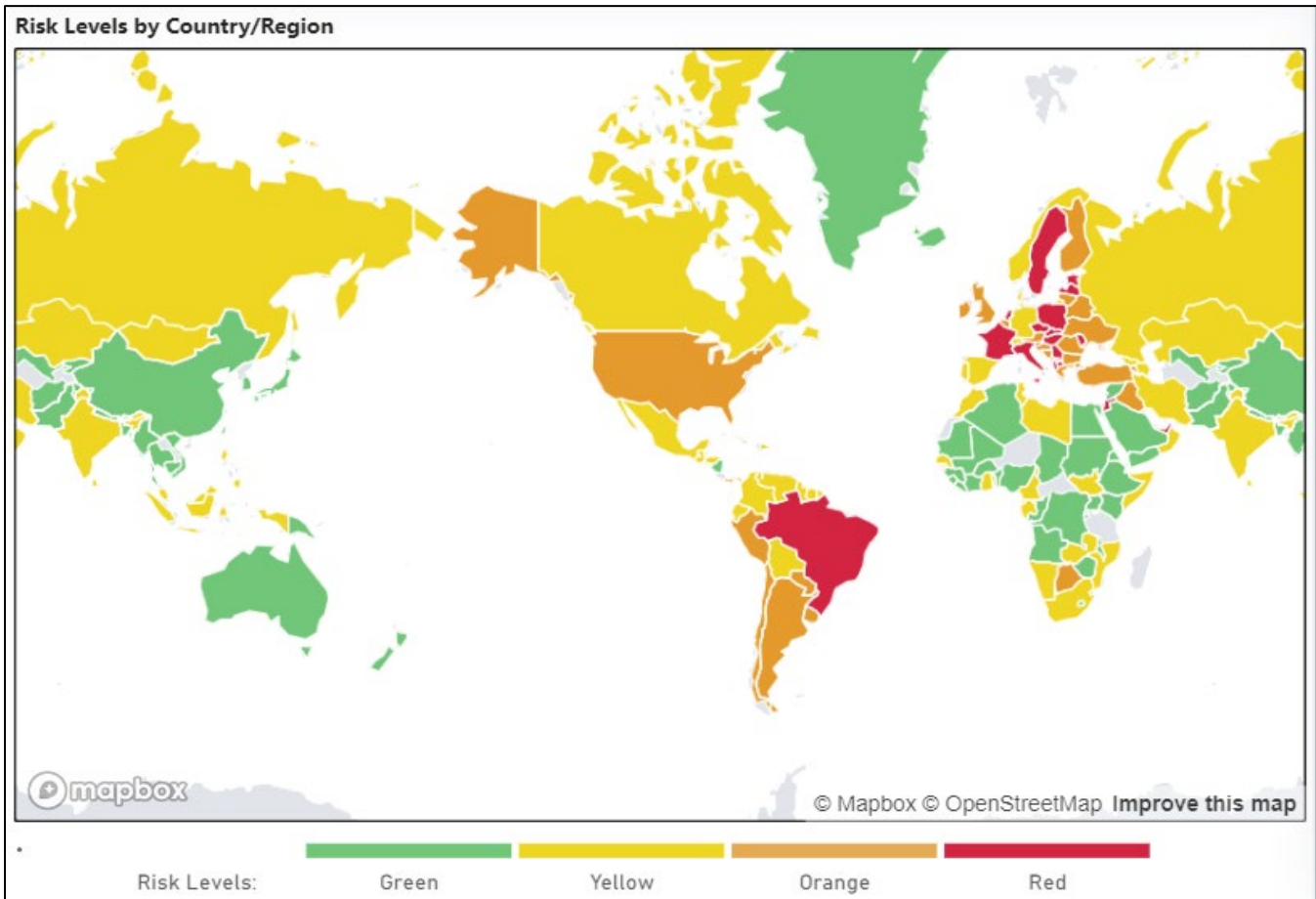
According to the Intertrust report, 71% of healthcare and medical apps have at least one serious vulnerability that could lead to a breach of medical data. Additionally, the report concluded that the vast majority of medical apps (91%) have mishandled and/or weak encryption that puts them at risk for data exposure and IP (intellectual property) theft. Another interesting statistic was that 34% of Android apps and 28% of iOS apps are vulnerable to encryption key extraction and that when looking specifically at Covid tracking apps, 85% of these apps leak data.

It appears that COVID will stick around for a while longer and during this time, the healthcare industry will undergo many challenges, and one of these challenges is reassuring its patients and users that the global healthcare industry competently handles user data. In terms of actual process implementation, it will be particularly peculiar to see how the industry will scale to the growing costs of compliance.

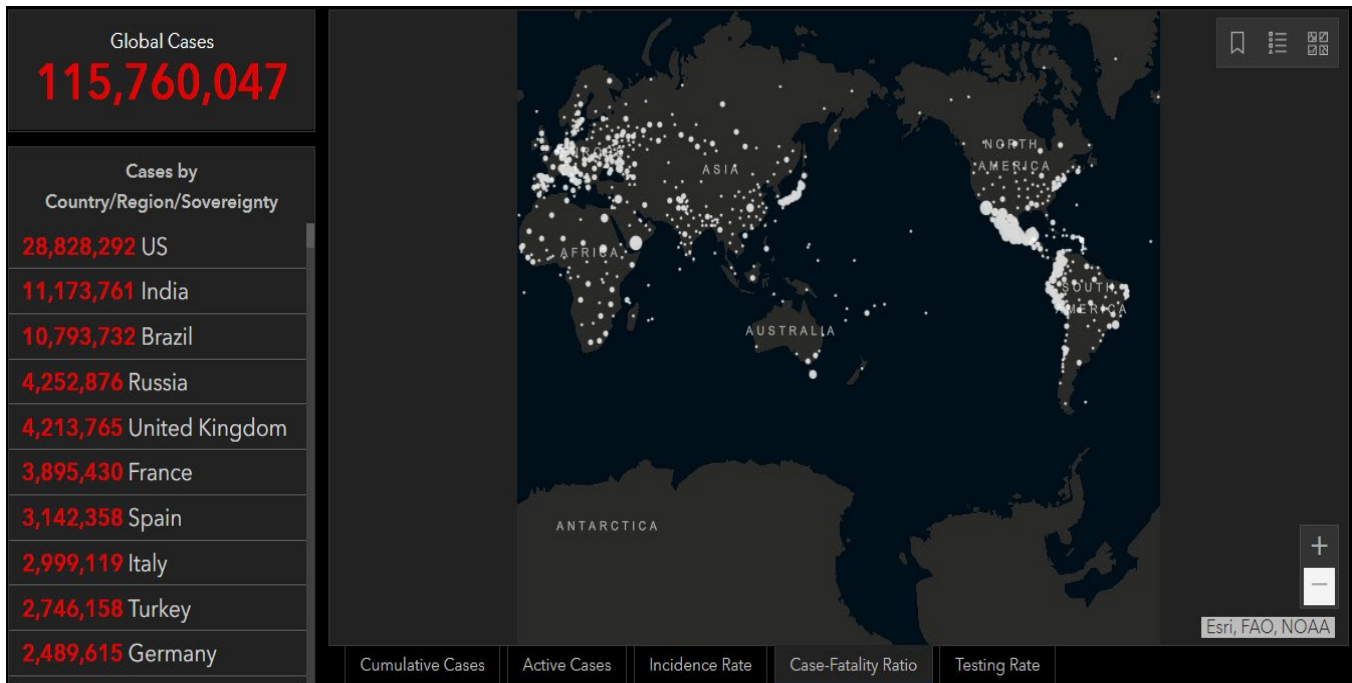
2. GLOBAL

2.1 COVID UPDATE

Country/Region	United States	Country/Region	Canada
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	19.9	Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	7.8
Risk level	Orange	Risk level	Yellow
Total cases	28,803,876	Total cases	872,747
Total deaths	518,111	Total deaths	22,045



#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	World	116,419,051	+206,252	2,584,582	+3,685	92,026,114	21,808,355	89,793	14,935	331.6			
1	USA	29,529,369	+3,283	533,680	+44	20,094,343	8,901,346	13,945	88,861	1,606	365,103,124	1,098,683	332,309,730
2	France	3,835,595		87,835		262,690	3,485,070	3,633	58,674	1,344	53,959,451	825,435	65,370,939
3	UK	4,201,358		124,025		3,096,564	980,769	1,647	61,670	1,821	93,148,314	1,367,290	68,126,222
4	Brazil	10,796,506		261,188		9,637,020	898,298	8,318	50,551	1,223	28,600,000	133,910	213,576,312
5	Belgium	780,251	+2,643	22,196	+27	53,027	705,028	434	67,126	1,910	9,637,230	829,108	11,623,613
6	Italy	3,023,129	+24,036	99,271	+297	2,467,388	456,470	2,525	50,050	1,644	41,716,485	690,650	60,401,757
7	Spain	3,142,358		70,501		2,722,304	349,553	2,615	67,192	1,507	39,313,189	840,618	46,767,004
8	Russia	4,301,159	+11,024	88,285	+462	3,885,321	327,553	2,300	29,465	605	112,500,000	770,671	145,976,706
9	Mexico	2,112,508	+7,521	188,866	+822	1,655,549	268,093	4,798	16,270	1,455	5,555,699	42,788	129,842,915
10	Poland	1,766,490	+15,829	44,912	+263	1,459,564	262,014	1,675	46,710	1,188	10,130,094	267,860	37,818,609
11	Ireland	221,649		4,396		23,364	193,889	102	44,554	884	3,590,079	721,648	4,974,833
12	Iran	1,673,470	+8,367	60,512	+81	1,428,008	184,950	3,767	19,754	714	11,151,509	131,636	84,714,448
13	India	11,190,651	+17,079	157,689	+105	10,851,094	181,868	8,944	8,056	114	219,940,742	158,331	1,389,123,461
14	Ukraine	1,384,917	+10,155	26,763	+172	1,191,022	167,132	177	31,796	614	7,062,386	162,145	43,555,898
15	Czechia	1,299,002	+14,554	21,325	+90	1,115,172	162,505	1,735	121,149	1,989	8,510,157	793,681	10,722,385

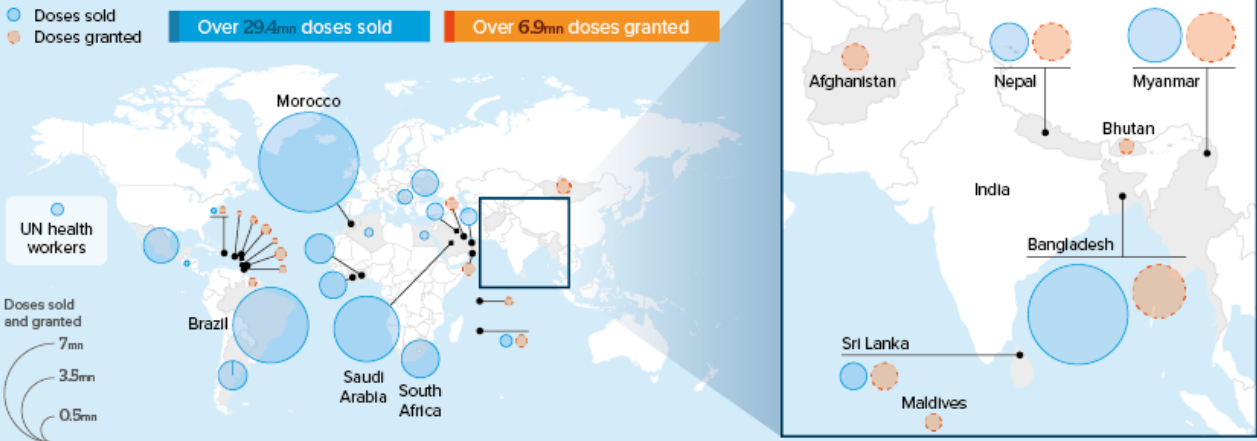


2.2 COVID-19 World News

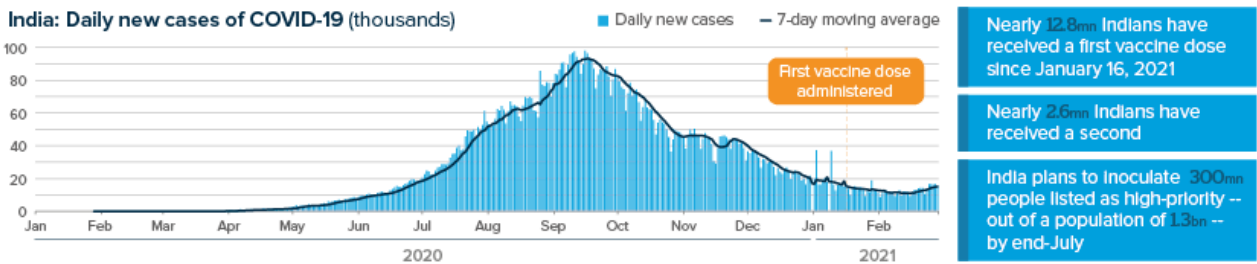
- [Much of the world is seeing coronavirus cases fall. But Brazil's outbreak is worse than ever](#)
Brazil has one the highest COVID death tolls in the world with 256,000 deaths and the third-highest number of infections. Hospitals across the country are already either at capacity or reaching it very soon. The global implications of Covid severity in Brazil are significant. Earlier this year, variant known as P.1 was discovered in the country, the variant is potentially more dangerous mutation of the coronavirus. According to Miguel Nicolelis, an epidemiologist and neuroscientist at Duke University it's the first time in Brazilian history that two-thirds of the medical systems in the Brazilian capitals are collapsing at the same time, adding that in Sao Paulo, hospitals have two weeks until a total collapse. As the unemployment in Brazil reaches record highs, the economy shrank by 4.1% in 2020, resulting in millions of Brazilians plunging into poverty, a country wide lockdown remains unlikely. The 2020 plunge was also the worst since a 4.35% fall in GDP recorded in 1990, according to central bank data going back to 1962, and the third-steepest in that series. Lígia Bahia, a public health professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, said the tragedy of Brazil has been the triumph of doubt over reason, politics over science.
- [EU, under pressure over vaccine rollouts, considers switch to emergency approvals](#)
The European Commission said that it was considering emergency approvals for COVID-19 vaccines as a faster alternative to more rigorous conditional marketing authorizations which have been used so far. This potential change comes as the EU executive and the bloc's drug regulator come under increasing pressure for what some consider slow vaccine approvals, which have contributed to a slower rollout of COVID-19 shots in member states. A spokesman for the EU Commission had stated that one option could be "an emergency authorization of vaccines at EU level with shared liability among member states". If the idea is supported, the work on this can begin imminently. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) cannot currently issue emergency approvals but in exceptional circumstances has recommended the compassionate use of drugs before marketing authorization. This change of strategy is also viewed as a response to talks in which some Eastern European countries, including Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, approved or said they were considering approval of Russian and Chinese vaccines with national emergency procedures.
- [Vaccine exports will boost India's neighbourhood ties](#) (Oxford Analytica) India is exporting sizeable quantities of its locally manufactured COVID-19 vaccines
Outlook. India will look to quicken the pace of its vaccine roll-out, which involves two locally made shots that have secured emergency approval. The Oxford/AstraZeneca jab, marketed in India as 'Covishield', is being manufactured by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India.
'Covaxin', still in late-stage trials, has been developed by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in conjunction with the Indian Council of Medical Research.
Exporting COVID-19 vaccines will help Delhi strengthen relations with countries around the world.
India's vaccine diplomacy will be especially good for its regional ties; many doses have been gifted as well as sold to other South Asian states and neighbouring Myanmar.
Impacts. Ramping up vaccine production should help India increase exports of Covishield and Covaxin while meeting local requirements. Orders for Indian-made vaccines will rise sharply once Covaxin secures approval from regulators abroad. Indian firms will manufacture and export other coronavirus vaccines that become available.

India has exported more than 36 million doses of locally made coronavirus jabs

COVID-19 vaccine doses granted and sold to other countries



While India's own vaccine roll-out continues, the authorities are trying to avert a second wave of infections



Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering

- [New data show vaccines reduce severe COVID-19 in older adults](#)
- [Greece extends lockdown, tightens restrictions to stem surge in COVID-19 cases](#)
- [Why COVID – 19 “vaccine passports” could be “Pandora’s box” for data privacy and ethical issues](#)
- [China make Covid anal swabs mandatory for all foreign arrivals after Japan and US blasted ‘humiliating’ procedure](#)
- [Saudi Arabia says COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for Hajj 2021](#)

2.3 Global Awareness

- [France's Sarkozy convicted of corruption, sentenced to jail](#)
Former president of France, Nicolas Sarkozy was found guilty of corruption and influence peddling and was sentenced to a year in prison. Sarkozy had firmly denied all the allegations against him and confirmed plans to appeal the decision. Until the appeal is reviewed, the former President will remain free. The ruling is unprecedented in France’s modern history that a former president has been convicted of corruption — and given a prison term. His predecessor, Jacques Chirac, was found guilty in 2011 of misuse of public money during his stint as a mayor of Paris but was given a two-year suspended sentence. This sentence is one of many that Sarkozy might potentially face, as another trial will start in 2 weeks over claims of illegal funding for his 2012 campaign. It is alleged that in 2012, his party, Les Républicains, created a

system to hide the true costs of the elections, as campaign spending is capped to a strict limit in France. The scheme allowed Sarkozy and his party to spend 42.8 million euros (\$50.7 million) on the campaign – almost twice the maximum allowed.

- [Alexei Navalny: US imposes sanctions on Russians](#)

US officials said intelligence had concluded that the Moscow government was behind the Novichok attack on Navalny last year. The term Novichok - applies to a group of nerve agents developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. These nerve agents paralyse muscles and can lead to death by asphyxiation. The US has imposed sanctions on 7 senior Russian officials and 14 entities. Under the sanctions, the assets of the officials in the US are frozen. In a co-ordinated move, the EU announced on Tuesday that it had targeted four Russian government officials. Navalny is currently the most high-profile critic of President Vladimir Putin. Navalny was able to rally some of the largest protests Russia had seen in years, but despite the support from the Russian public and the international community, a Moscow court sentenced Navalny to two years and eight months in a penal colony. Navalny, 44, was detained on Jan. 17 when he returned to Moscow from Berlin, where he had spent months recovering from a near-fatal poisoning attack in August he blames on President Vladimir Putin. Further political unrest is expected to take place in Russia.

- [Global CO₂ pollution returns to pre-COVID levels](#)

2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Myanmar sees deadliest day as 38 protesters killed](#)

Protests in Myanmar began in early February of this year, when the country's military, led by the commander-in-chief of the armed forces - Min Aung Hlaing, staged a coup to overthrow the recently elected democratic government. For the majority of Myanmar's independent history, the country was controlled by either a dictatorial regime or a military junta. The 2020 elections showed a glimpse of hope for a democratic future, when the National League for Democracy won the majority of the vote in the country. As a result of the coup, Myanmar's military declared a year-long state of emergency and deposed the leader and the members of the National League for Democracy Party. The army has been carrying out nightly mass arrests and gave itself sweeping powers to detain people and search private property, about 1,200 people have been detained to date. First large-scale protests took place on February 6th, with 20,000 people taking part and by February 7th this number grew to 150,000 protesters across the country. The immediate response from the military included the use of rubber bullets, water cannons and tear gas to disperse large crowds, but as the protests grew, live rounds of ammunition were deployed. UN Secretary-General António Guterres called the army's move a "serious blow to democratic reforms", as the security council prepared for an emergency meeting. The UN demanded the release of what it said were at least 45 people who had been detained. The United Nations said the total death toll since the coup has risen to 50, though activists put that total as higher.

- [Explosion hits Dutch coronavirus testing center](#)

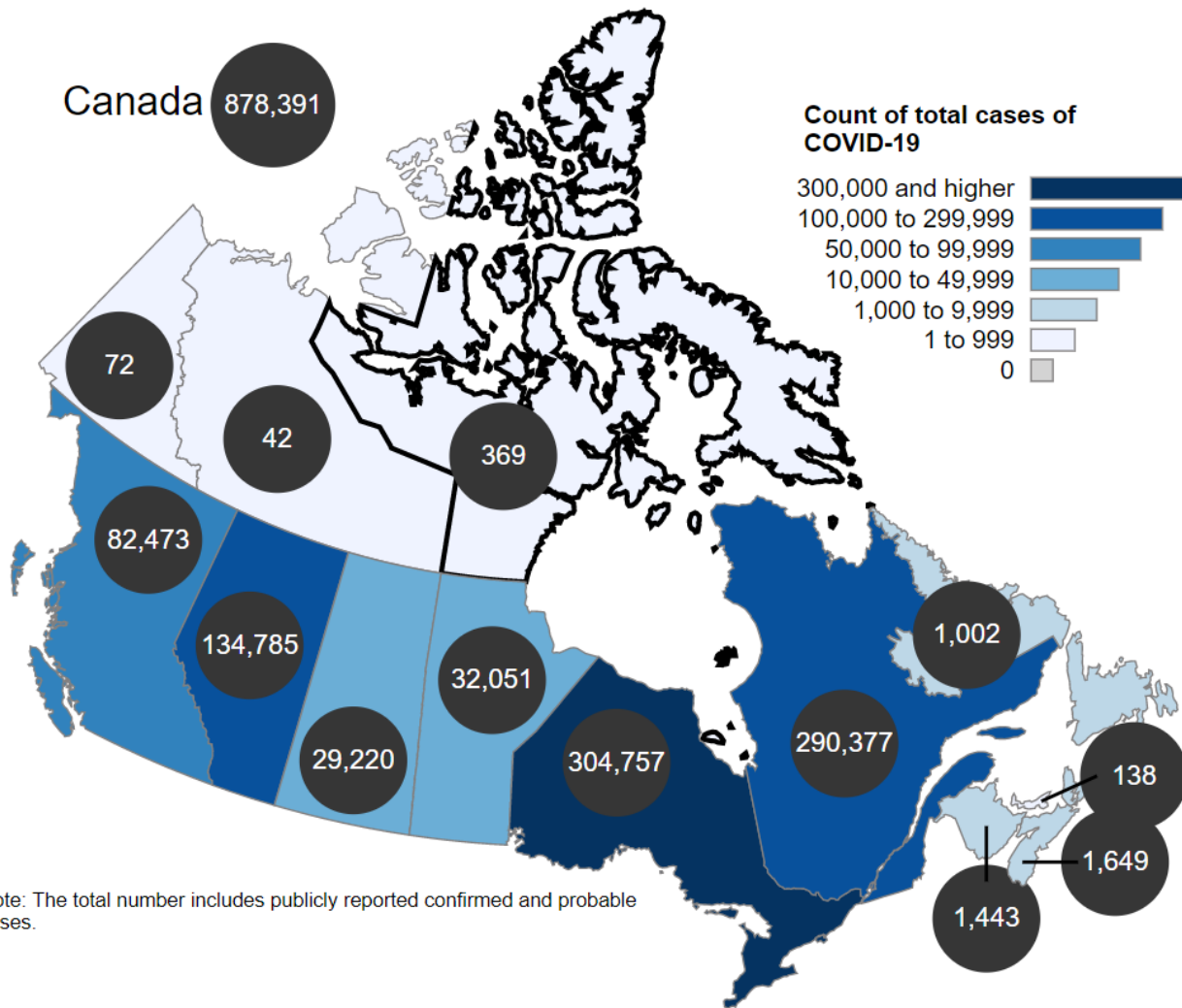
A targeted explosion went off at a Coronavirus testing center north of Amsterdam. The explosion happened in the early morning and no casualties were reported. In January, another testing center in the community of Urk, north of Amsterdam, was set on fire during a protest against coronavirus measures. Dutch bar owners and sex workers took to the streets, as the tourism and the service industry in the country were extremely hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, with sales dropping 34% and hotel revenue down 51%. March 3rd marked the first day in several months in which lockdown measures have been slightly eased, with


hairdressers reopening and non-essential stores allowed to accept a small number of visitors by appointment. A night-time curfew from 9 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. remains in place. The Netherlands is one of many countries that experienced the growing lockdown fatigue as anti-lockdown measures took place across Europe, in Budapest, Brussels, Vienna, among others.

- [Man armed with axe injures eight in possible terrorist attack in Sweden](#)
- [Lebanese currency plunges to new low fueling nationwide protests](#)
- [President Lukashenka: There will be 'no transfer of power' in Belarus](#)

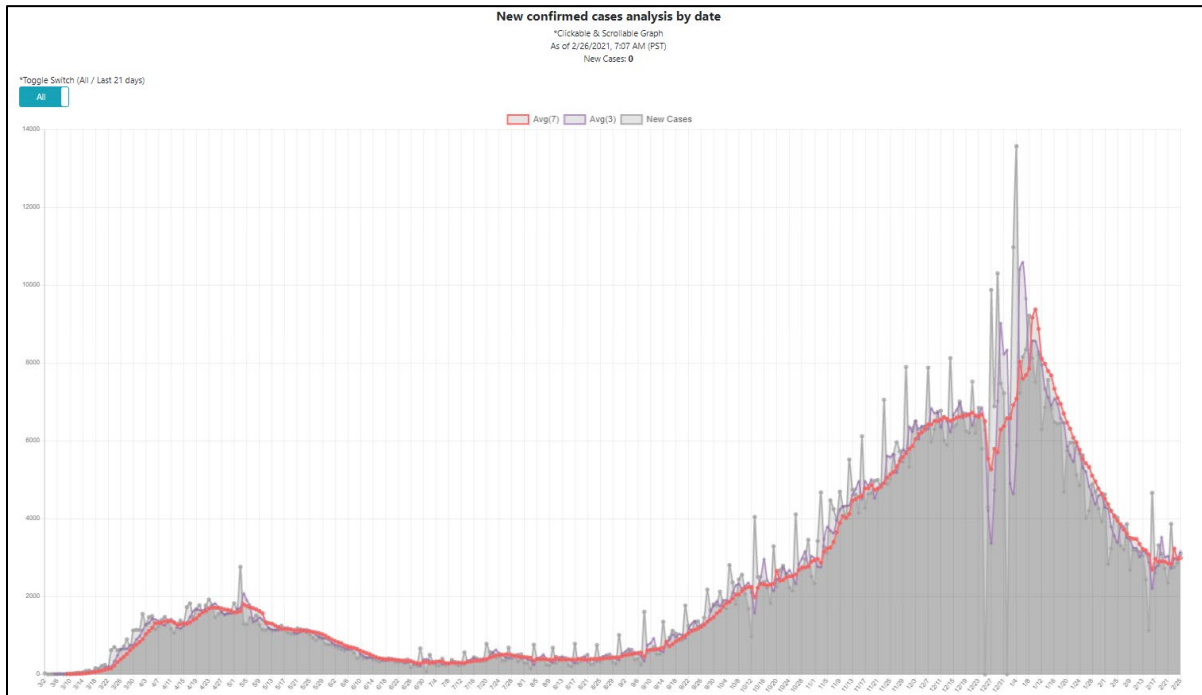
3. CANADA

3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
Total	878,394	22,151	826,341	29,902
BC	82,473	1,376	76,289	4,808
ON	304,757	7,024	287,424	10,309
QC	290,377	10,445	272,553	7,379
AB	134,785	1,911	128,261	4,613
MB	32,051	903	30,005	1,143
NB	1,443	28	1,378	37
SK	29,220	391	27,407	1,422
PEI	136	0	114	22
NL	1,002	6	871	125
NS	1,649	65	1,555	29
YT	72	1	71	0
NT	47	0	46	1
NU	369	1	354	14
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	↑ 0.0%	↑ 0.0%	0.0%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
Total	25,345,685	-	-	-
BC	1,964,262	-	248	64
ON	11,229,191	42,723	649	281
QC	6,754,423	-	626	115
AB	3,444,062	-	245	47
MB	531,949	-	62	9
NB	231,307	-	3	2
SK	585,820	-	146	20
PEI	104,271	-	-	-
NL	113,929	-	8	0
NS	356,689	-	5	2
YT	8,147	19	-	-
NT	14,787	41	0	0
NU	6,848	351	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	-	-	-



Source: <https://www.covid-19canada.com>

3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [B.C. defends plan to delay second dose as Ontario, Alberta consider following suit](#)

Federal and provincial health officials are actively discussing the emerging data on the advantages and disadvantages of extending the time between shots of two-dose COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine-makers tested their shots in clinical trials with certain times between doses. Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine is meant to be given as two doses, 21 days apart, while Moderna recommends 28 days. For AstraZeneca-Oxford's, the interval is eight to 12 weeks. Health Canada approved the vaccines based on that clinical trial data. Both Pfizer and Moderna acknowledge that, in a pandemic, health authorities will make their own recommendations. British Columbia health officials say their plan to delay the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to four months is based on scientific evidence and real-world experience, as Ontario and Alberta consider following the province's lead. Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, responded to criticism from Canada's chief science adviser. Henry said the decision was made in the context of limited supply and based on strong local and international data. Henry says Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has also been looking into delaying the interval of doses and says it is expected to make the same recommendation for all of Canada "imminently." NACI currently advises that the time between the first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine should be four weeks, three weeks for Pfizer, and 12 weeks for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.
- [First AstraZeneca doses on their way, will be part of nearly 945K doses delivered this week](#)

Procurement Minister Anita Anand confirmed that the first shipment of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines is scheduled to arrive in Canada on March 3rd, as part of the 944,600 vaccine doses arriving this week. A weekly shipment of 444,600 of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines are also expected to arrive. Canada is on track to receive approximately 945,000 doses of vaccines this week and another 900,000 doses of vaccines next week. With

the addition of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Canada's list of authorized vaccines, the federal government has said that shipment sizes are set to continue to increase. The government has also reassured its commitment to have at least 14.5 million Canadians fully vaccinated by the end of June. Maj.-Gen. Dany Fortin confirmed that Canada is expecting to receive around 23 million doses of Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna between April and June. As Canada begins to receive additional doses of the vaccines, the pressure mounts on the provincial health authorities to distribute the vaccines in a timely manner as all doses have expiry dates.

- [International air travel to Canada fell 90% from pre-Covid-19 times](#)
- [COVID-linked deaths in Ontario top 7,000 as record-high number get vaccine shots](#)
- [Alberta confirms first long-term care outbreak linked to coronavirus variant](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination ramps up in several provinces as supply worries ease](#)

3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Trudeau says China invented charges for Canadian detainees after Meng's arrest](#)
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that China concocted national security charges to pin on Canadians Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig following the arrest of Huawei telecom executive Meng Wanzhou in Vancouver — in response to a claim by China's ambassador that the cases are not linked. "It is obvious that the two Michaels were arrested on trumped-up national security charges days after we fulfilled our extradition treaty responsibilities toward our ally, the United States," Trudeau told reporters during a news conference. Kovrig, a former diplomat who was working for an international non-profit group, and Spavor, an entrepreneur who promotes tourism and investment in North Korea, are Canadian citizens who were detained separately by China more than two years ago. The two Michaels were arrested in December 2018 shortly after Huawei telecom executive Meng Wanzhou was arrested by Canadian officials in Vancouver. The two men stand accused of spying on China.
- [Toronto's housing market continues to blaze, with average prices now topping \\$1 million](#)
- [Toronto van attack: Judge finds Minassian guilty of killing 10, injuring 16](#)
- ['Vancouver Model' money laundering connects B.C., Las Vegas and Macau casinos, inquiry hears](#)
The Cullen Commission heard new details on Monday about the RCMP's E-Pirate investigation into suspected drug-money laundering in BC Lottery Corporation casinos involving organized crime suspects named Paul King Jin, Jian Jun Zhu and Caixuan Qin. The commission was told hundreds of police officers and regulators worked from April to October 2015 on a massive joint operation dubbed Project E-Pirate — involving RCMP, municipal cops, the B.C. Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre (Fintrac), B.C. Lottery Corp., and others. As a result of the operation Jian Jun Zhu and Caixuan Qin were charged with running a \$220-million-a-year operation catering to B.C., Mexican and Chinese crime rings. Eight months later, the charges were stayed. On Sept. 18, 2020, Zhu was fatally gunned down and his associate Paul King Jin seriously wounded in a gang hit. A related RCMP investigation called E-Nationalize and B.C. government civil forfeiture actions against Jin's network and its so-called "Vancouver Model" money laundering continued. Simply put, the "Vancouver Model" is when one takes illicit funds to a casino, exchanges the funds for casino chips, makes couple of bets to make the transaction look legitimate and cashes out chips for clean money. The E-Pirate probe alleged that Silver was operating as a drug trafficking organization by laundering cash for drug dealers in China, Latin America and Canada, an affidavit filed by RCMP officer Melvin Chizawsky said. Jin

and Silver would arrange for Chinese nationals to deposit funds to Chinese banks and pay them Canadian cash which they used to gamble in B.C. Allegedly, Jin was raking in \$32 million a year from the illegal casinos, at which people played on credit after signing promissory notes to cover any losses.

- [Surrey councilors warn other communities about increased burden from city's transition from RCMP](#)

3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

During the week of 25 February - 4 March 2021, the majority of activist activity noted by Welund in Canada took place in the government sector (59%), followed by oil and gas (12%) and finance (7%). Protests made up the majority of activity (35%), followed by critical commentary (16%).

Activist activity in Canada increased this week. The majority of the activity focused on land defence campaigns opposing the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) project. Multiple arrests during Indigenous-led protests targeting TMX insurers perpetuated a new series of response actions from solidarity groups. Additionally, campaign groups targeted major Canadian banks for their perceived support of fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

Weekly anti-lockdown campaigns gave an ultimatum, suggesting that members and supporters would no longer be compliant with lockdown measures after a national day of action on 1 March.

Protests:

Multiple campaign groups held direct actions in solidarity with activists arrested during protests against insurance companies that support the TMX pipeline. Protesters established a series of blockades in Vancouver disrupting traffic at key intersections in high-traffic areas. Multiple arrests were made by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), and one set of protesters stated that it would hold the intersection until an arrested Braided Warriors protester was released. Members of the Braided Warriors also indicated intent to file a complaint with the United Nations (UN) over the TMX project and perceived human rights violations by the VPD. The activists plan to collect testimonials from protesters and sending to the UN as 'evidence'.

Additionally, activists gathered outside the BC Supreme Court in Vancouver and the courthouse in Kamloops to support activists arrested during protests opposing TMX. The activists asserted they would be present at future court dates as well.

In a separate action, divestment campaign groups protested outside of an RBC branch in Montreal demanding the bank completely divest from the TMX and other fossil fuel infrastructure projects. The protest was organized by the same group who executed a similar protest against RBC and other major Canadian banks during a coordinated day of action on 29 January.

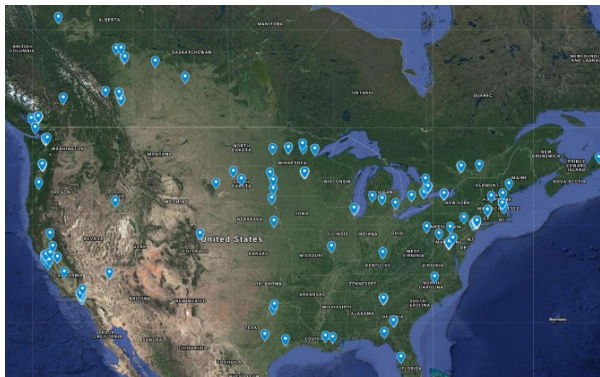


Figure 1: Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 24 February – 10 March

Complete details on upcoming protests as of 4 March 2021 can be requested [here](#).

Outlook:

Anti-TMX protests will likely continue over the coming weeks, with opposition to insurance companies and banks perceived to be supporting the TMX project a continued focus. These actions may see an increase in activity as the renewal date for the project’s insurance and loan approaches. Activists have also asserted continued court support for the Braided Warriors and Tiny House Warriors in BC, and intend to support an appeal for Stacy Gallagher, who was sentenced to 90-days in prison. Activism along the TMX construction route may also increase as construction crews prepare to remove trees in Burnaby, including those being occupied by a tree-sit protester. Activists have called for a ‘mass mobilization’ at the tree-sit to prevent its removal.

In addition to weekly scheduled marches and rallies, Canadian anti-lockdown protesters plan to participate in a ‘worldwide rally for freedom and democracy’ on 20 March.

Other upcoming actions include marches and protests in solidarity with those opposing the forestry industry and climate change.

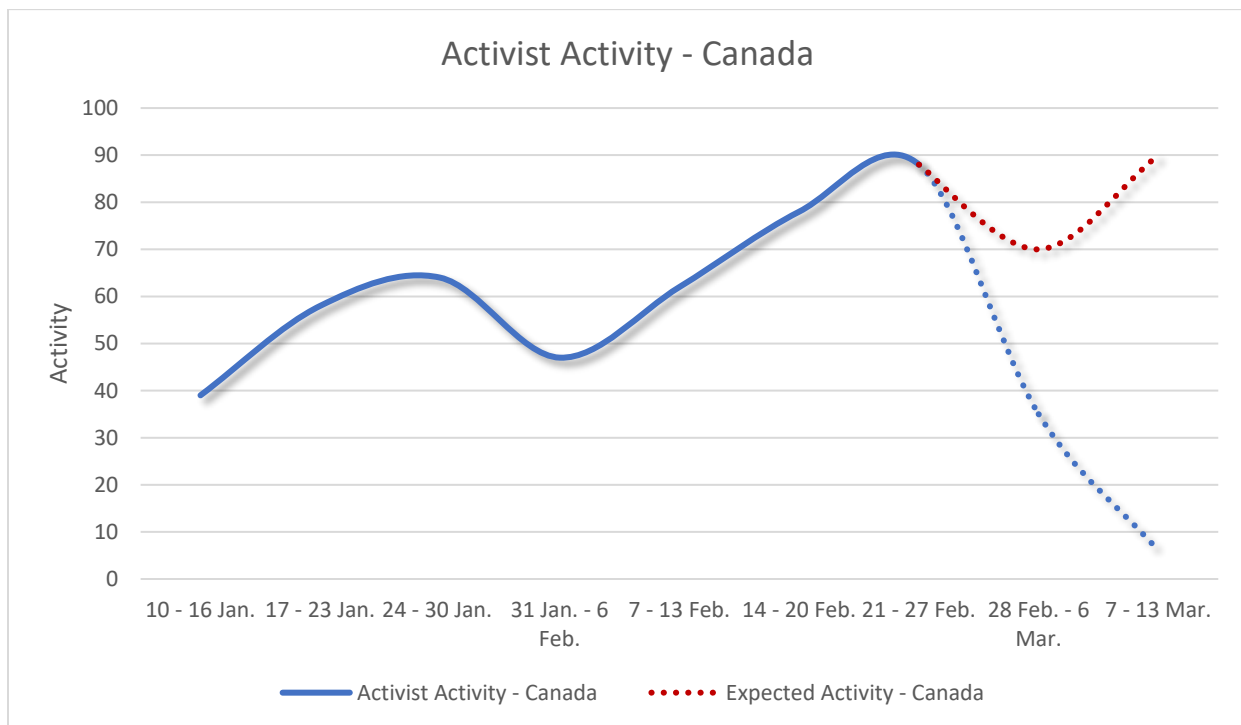


Figure 2 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

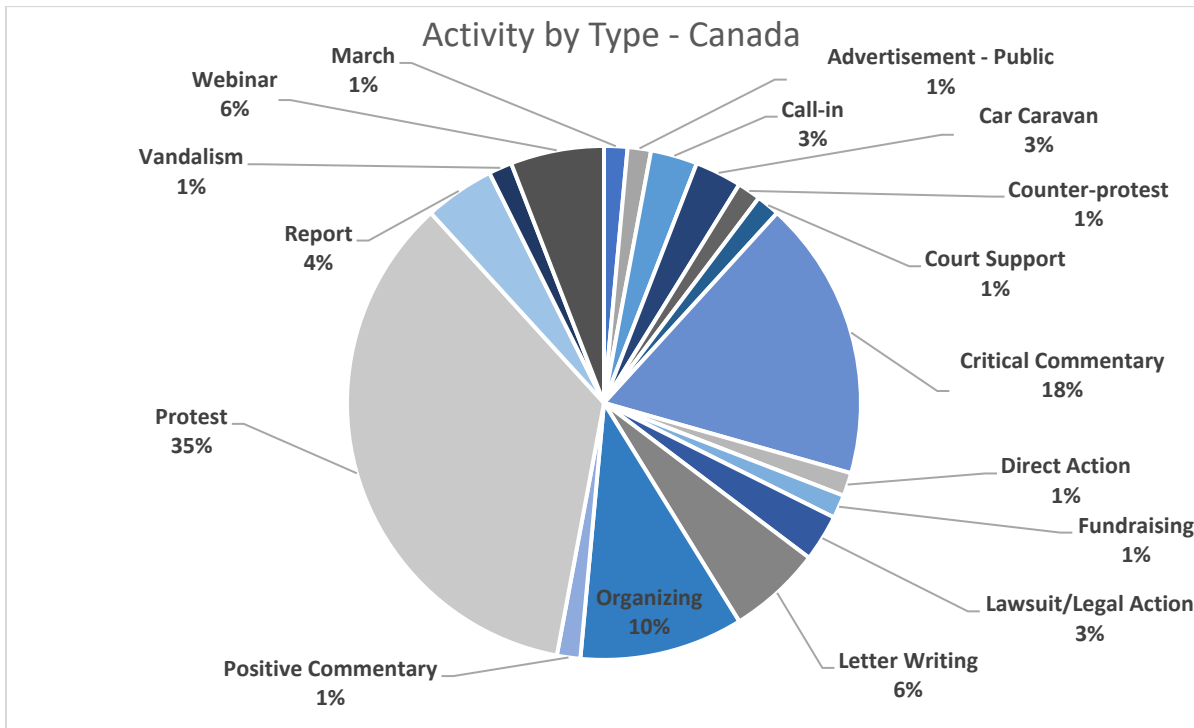


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

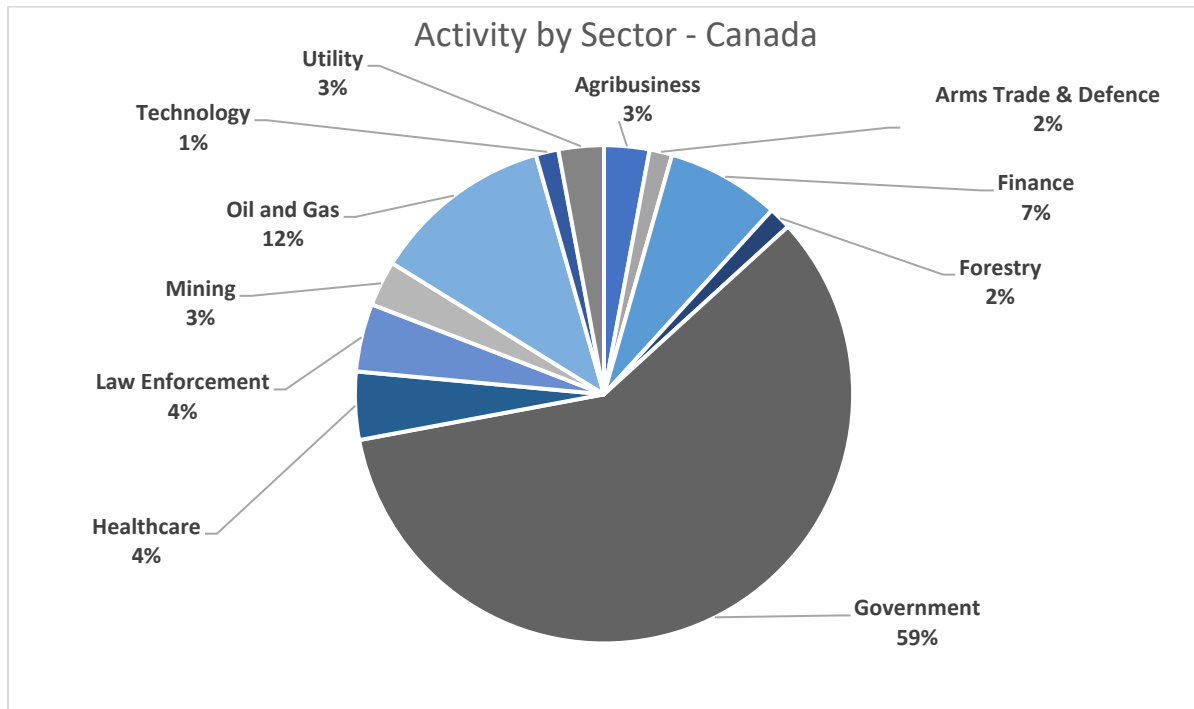
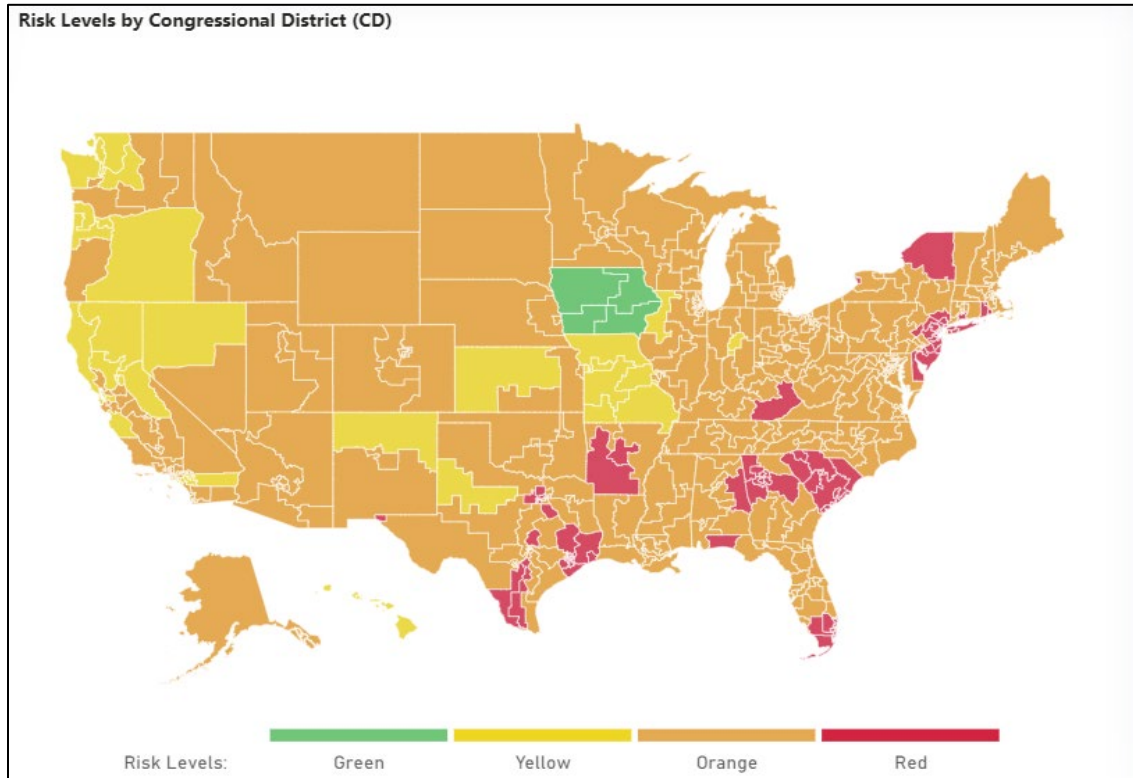


Figure 4 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

4. USA

4.1 COVID UPDATE



#	USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	29,586,979	+60,556	535,368	+1,595	20,171,296	8,880,315	89,386	1,617	366,606,529	1,107,564	
1	California	3,590,252	+2,349	53,718	+257	1,877,124	1,659,410	90,864	1,360	49,294,503	1,247,576	39,512,223
2	New York	1,717,526	+8,241	48,410	+101	796,345	872,771	88,289	2,488	39,194,200	2,014,757	19,453,561
3	Florida	1,936,207	+5,975	31,523	+133	1,178,646	726,038	90,149	1,468	22,079,838	1,028,034	21,477,737
4	Arizona	823,384	+2,276	16,269	+84	114,855	692,260	113,122	2,235	4,260,114	585,284	7,278,717
5	Virginia	583,060	+1,652	9,428	+71	47,561	526,071	68,310	1,105	7,654,794	896,816	8,535,519
6	Georgia	1,019,509	+2,081	17,815	+65	514,468	487,226	96,022	1,678	7,795,933	734,258	10,617,423
7	Maryland	385,678	+913	7,930	+8	9,701	368,047	63,794	1,312	8,024,078	1,327,242	6,045,680
8	Kentucky	409,345	+905	4,754	+22	48,038	356,553	91,624	1,064	4,587,752	1,026,877	4,467,673
9	New Jersey	806,370	+3,701	23,521	+30	557,172	225,677	90,785	2,648	10,902,830	1,227,493	8,882,190
10	Indiana	665,285	+839	12,697	+34	434,018	218,570	98,821	1,886	8,171,222	1,213,749	6,732,219
11	Alabama	498,887	+811	10,122	+28	295,690	193,075	101,748	2,064	2,435,132	496,643	4,903,185
12	Missouri	524,393		8,731		326,278	189,384	85,442	1,423	5,553,519	904,861	6,137,428
13	Colorado	433,021		5,974		247,883	179,164	75,194	1,037	2,597,695	451,088	5,758,736
14	Washington	346,269		5,099		170,978	170,192	45,473	670	5,344,402	701,835	7,614,893
15	Connecticut	285,330	+830	7,704	+11	111,829	165,797	80,030	2,161	6,919,288	1,940,738	3,565,287

4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [US 'on track' to have enough vaccines for all adults by May](#)
U.S. President Joe Biden said that the U.S. expects to take delivery of enough coronavirus vaccines for all adult Americans by the end of May, two months earlier than anticipated. Biden also said that he was confident the country would reach his goal of delivering 100 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in 100 days. As part of his administration's efforts to reopen schools across the country, the U.S. president challenged states to administer at least one dose of the vaccine to all teachers by the end of March.
- [Texas becomes biggest US state to lift COVID-19 mask mandate](#)
Texas Gov. Greg Abbot said the state is lifting its mask mandate, making it the largest U.S. state to end the order. The repeal will take effect March 10. In Texas, the virus took more than 43,000 lives, and only California and New York have reported more COVID-19 deaths than Texas. "Removing statewide mandates does not end personal responsibility," said Abbott, surrounded by several people not wearing masks, "it's just that now state mandates are no longer needed," he added. Abbott joins a growing number of governors across the U.S. who are easing coronavirus restrictions. Like the rest of the country, Texas has seen the number of cases and deaths plunge recently. Hospitalizations are at the lowest levels since October, and the seven-day rolling average of positive tests has dropped to about 7,600 cases, down from more than 10,000 in mid-February. Dr. Joseph Varon, chief medical officer at Houston's United Memorial Medical Center, said he called the hospital's top leaders immediately after Abbott's announcement and said they will need more staff and ventilators. "I am just concerned that I am going to have a tsunami of new cases," Varon said. "I truly hope I am wrong. But unfortunately, history seems to repeat itself."
- [Biden criticizes Texas and Mississippi for lifting restrictions: 'Neanderthal thinking'](#)
President Joe Biden sharply criticized Texas and Mississippi for lifting Covid-19 restrictions against pleas from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other top public health officials, accusing those in power of "Neanderthal thinking." "I think it's a big mistake. Look, I hope everybody's realized by now, these masks make a difference. We are on the cusp of being able to fundamentally change the nature of this disease because of the way in which we're able to get vaccines in people's arms," Biden said when asked about the decisions by GOP Governors. Greg Abbott of Texas and Tate Reeves of Mississippi to relax restrictions. "It's critical -- critical, critical, critical -- that they follow the science: Wash your hands, hot water, do it frequently. Wear a mask and stay socially distanced. And I know you all know that. I wish the heck some of our elected officials knew it," added Biden. The Republican governor has also faced sharp criticism from his party over the mandate — which was imposed eight months ago — and other COVID-19 restrictions. The mandate was only ever lightly enforced, even during the worst outbreaks of the pandemic. Abbott's press secretary, Renae Eze, in a statement said that Abbott "was clear in telling Texans that COVID hasn't ended, and that all Texans should follow medical advice and safe practices to continue containing COVID." "It is clear from the recoveries, the vaccinations, the reduced hospitalizations, and the safe practices that Texans are using, that state mandates are no longer needed. We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans," Eze's statement said.
- [White House on whether U.S. will share vaccines with Canada](#)
- [Influenza cases appear to have disappeared in some US cities amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Drug overdose deaths surge among black Americans during pandemic](#)

- [Merck will help make Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine as rivals team up to help Biden accelerate shots](#)

4.3 USA Awareness

- ['Embarrassed' Cuomo Apologizes But Won't Resign Over Sexual Harassment Allegations](#)
In his first press briefing since three women came forward with claims of sexual harassment, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo apologized for acting "in a way that made people feel uncomfortable," but denied touching anyone inappropriately and said he would not resign. New York's attorney general is conducting an investigation into the sexual harassment allegations, which were raised in the past week by two former aides and a woman who met Cuomo at a wedding. Cuomo — who is facing mounting calls to resign — reiterated that he will fully cooperate with that investigation and asked New Yorkers to wait for the full report before forming an opinion. Cuomo did not directly address the allegations about inappropriate comments to subordinates during the briefing, though he issued a statement over the weekend acknowledging that some of the things he said have been "misinterpreted as an unwanted flirtation."
- [US warned of possible militia plot to attack Capitol on Thursday](#)
Federal authorities on Wednesday warned that people associated with identified militia groups have been discussing plans for another attack on the US Capitol with the aim of removing Democratic politicians on or about 4 March. The warnings prompted lawmakers to change the voting schedule in the House. Steny Hoyer, the House majority leader, confirmed the chamber will vote on Democrats' police reform bill on Wednesday evening, instead of Thursday. The Capitol police statement noted that it had already made "significant security upgrades" at the Capitol.
- [US Inflation Expectations Hit Decade High as Yields Resurge](#)
- [US jobless claims rise to 745,000 as layoffs remain high with economy still under pressure from virus](#)
- [Biden administration announces \\$125 military aid package for Ukraine](#)

4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund)

During the week of 25 February – 4 March 2021, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (56%), followed by and oil and gas (15%) and finance (10%). Protests made up most activity (50%), followed by webinars (10%) and marches (7%).

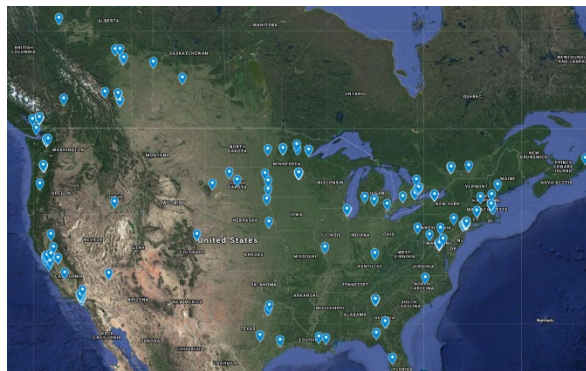
Environmental, climate change, and social justice campaigners continue to highlight power outages in Texas to criticize the current system of private utilities, the grid operator (ERCOT), and state and local politicians. Activists claim the outages were the result of climate change exacerbated by other justice issues.

The 'Defund Line 3' campaign continues to target the financial institutions invested in Enbridge and the Line 3 pipeline. JPMorgan Chase, Citi, Bank of America, TD Bank, and Union Bank/MUFG were identified as the primary targets.

Protests:

Despite the pandemic, activists continue to organize in-person protests to broadcast their campaigns and demands. Many organizers have incorporated physical distancing and mask-wearing adaptations to limit the risk of gathering for protests. New York, California, and Georgia saw the most protests this week.

There has been continued opposition, direct actions, and protests against Enbridge's Line 3 in Minnesota. On 1 March, there were protests against Chase Bank to demand that it divest from Line 3. Protests occurred at several Chase branches in St. Paul and Minneapolis.



Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 24 February – 10 March

Complete details on upcoming protests as of 4 March 2021 can be requested [here](#).

Outlook:

As some US states fully reopen, Welund will continue to monitor covid-19 numbers and whether the reimposition of restrictions will drive protests and demonstrations. Analysts are also watching how the vaccine rollout will affect in-person protests. On 6 March 2021, Full-Stop Affinity, a “youth liberation anarchist environmentalist affinity group” has called for an “autonomous day of action.” It has promoted tactics that seek to create ‘chaos’ to address climate change rather than relying on protests such as marches and youth strikes.

Minnesota authorities are preparing for the murder trial of ex-Minneapolis cop Derek Chauvin in George Floyd's death in Hennepin County. On 8 March 2021, the trial will begin with jury selection. In addition to protests at and around the courthouse, campaigners have called for a ‘national day of action’ to mark the start of the trial and in solidarity with social and racial justice movements in the US. The trial is expected to last two to four weeks.

Extinction Rebellion (XR) groups across the US have expressed opposition to Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline, promoted an XR week of action on 8-14 March 2021, and criticized the financial institutions supporting the project as part of the ‘Defund Line 3’ campaign.

In a major strategic realignment, the youth climate activist movement in the US will shift its focus to financial institutions as part of the wider fossil fuel divestment campaign. The new target represents a change from the 2019 youth climate strikes, building on the Fridays for Future movement and its focus on compelling government policies to address climate change.

The organizing by XR groups in the US is a shift in the network's activity. Unlike the XR movement in Europe, the US movement is made up of groups based in regions or major cities that operate with a great deal of independence.

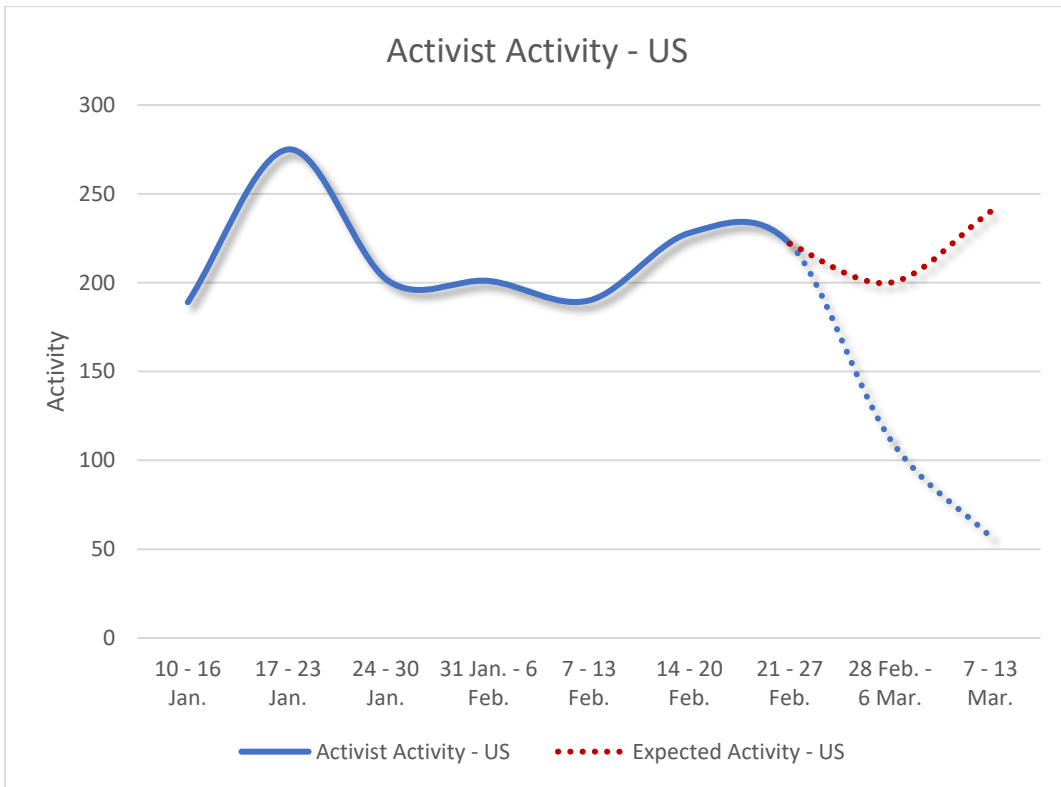


Figure 5 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund.

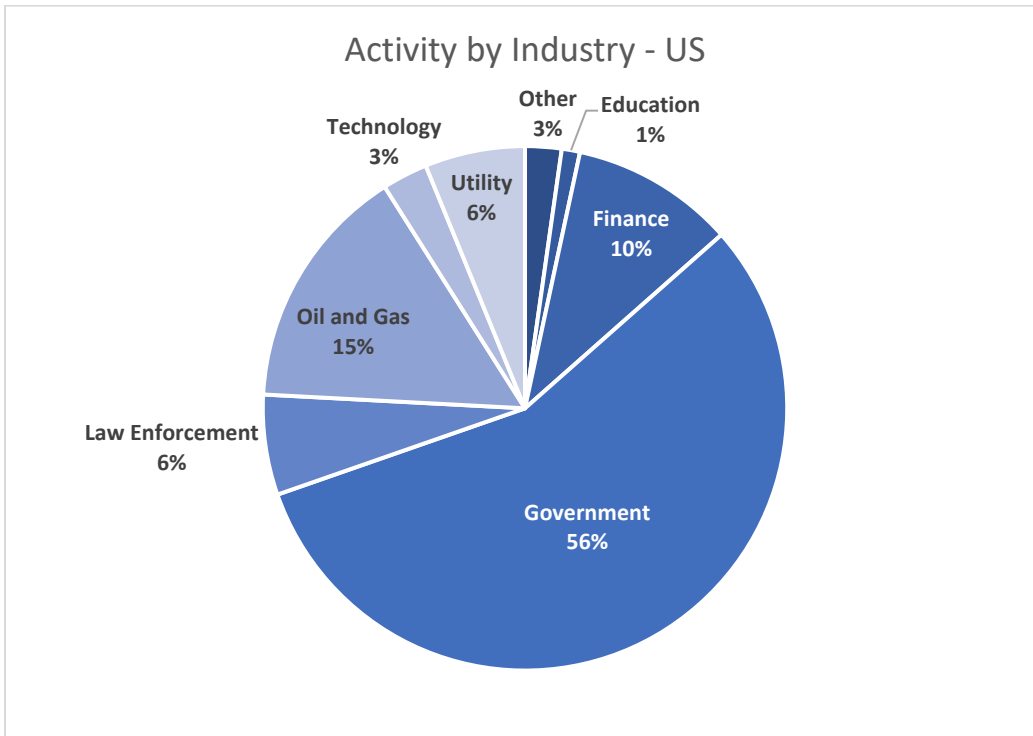


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

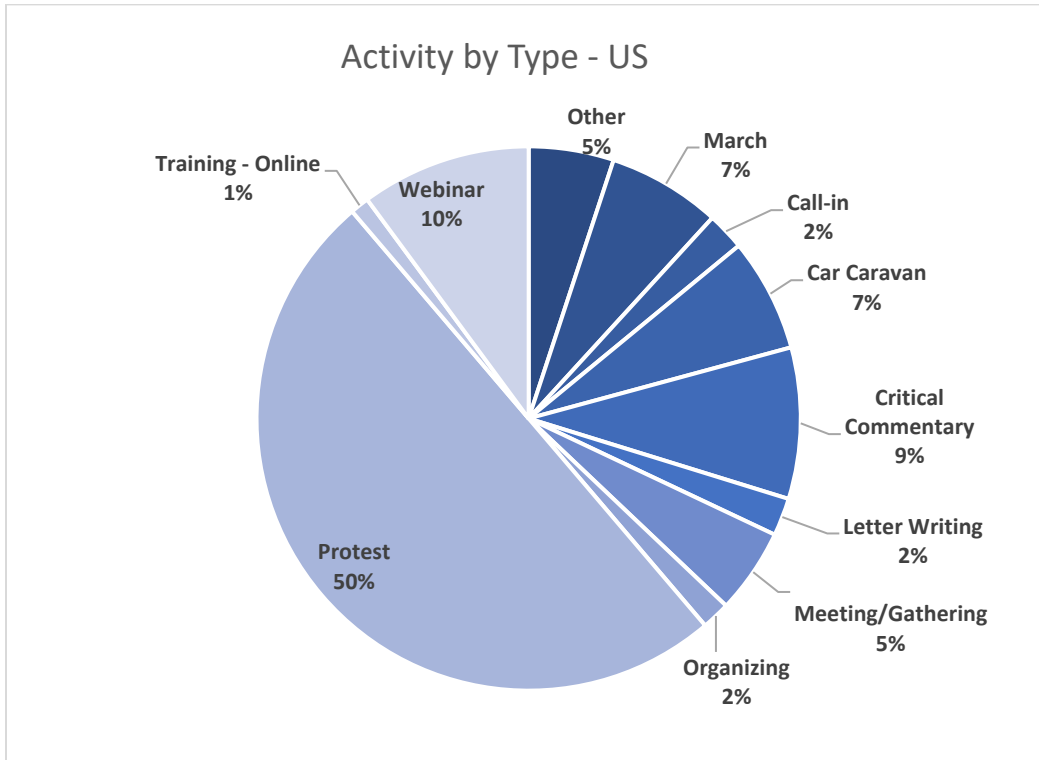



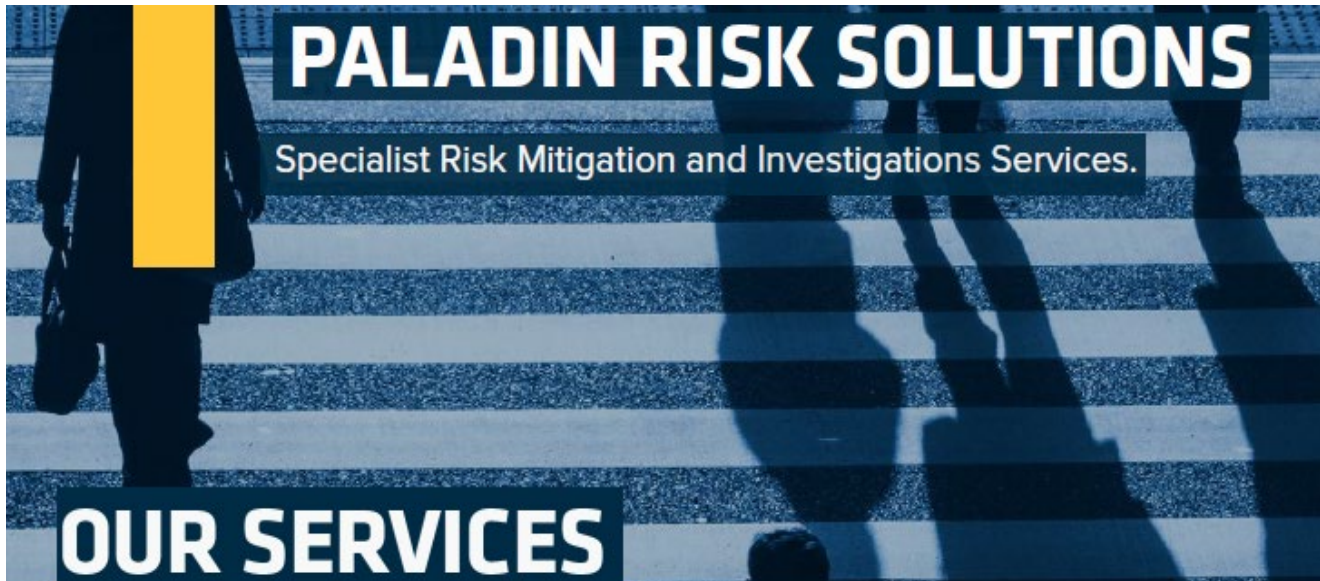
Figure 7 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund.

End Report

Please submit feedback to:

 <p><i>Local Experts. Global Experience.</i></p>	<p>Scott McGregor <i>Head of Intelligence</i> Paladin Risk Solutions Inc</p>	<p>Mobile: 604-910-7781 Email: smcgregor@paladinrisksolutions.com Website: paladinrisksolutions.com</p>
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