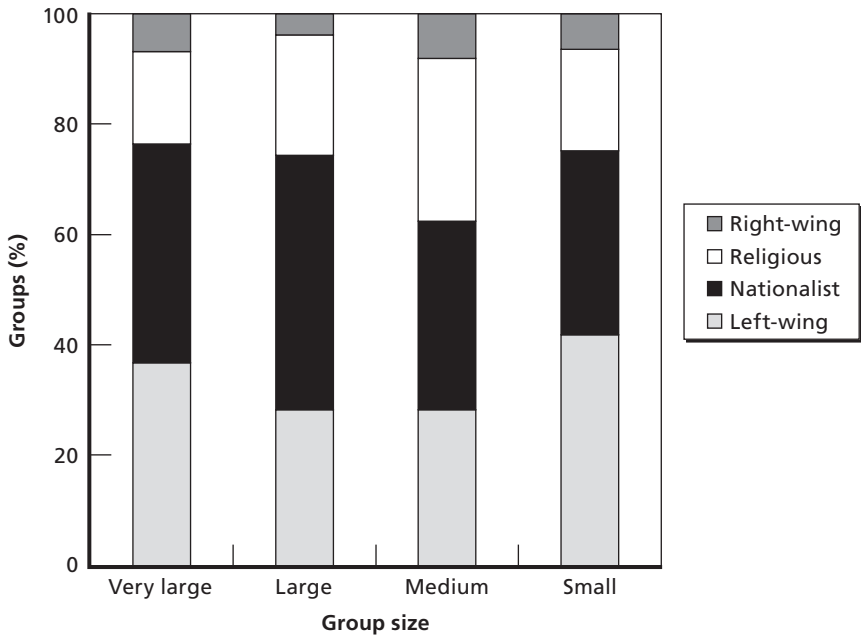


**Figure 2.9**  
**Size and Type of Groups**



RAND MG741-2.9

1,000 members. A terrorist group often has to become large to win. The inability to grow, conversely, is a harbinger of defeat. Splintering (or absorption into other groups) is a bane of small groups, again for straightforward reasons: Larger groups are ones that have stood the test of time and can stand on their own. The tendency of large and very large groups to end by becoming part of the political process is striking. Policing is quite effective for groups that have yet to reach 1,000 members and almost never effective when groups are larger. Conversely, military force has claimed roughly 10 percent of the large and very large groups, but it is rarely used against medium-sized and small groups.

Our statistical analysis, which is included in Appendix A, showed that there is no correlation between the duration of terrorist groups and ideological motivation, economic conditions, regime type, or the breadth of terrorist goals. The best single-factor correlation was with