

# Mass Casualty Shootings

Mass casualty crimes are rare; however, they constitute an important subset of homicides because they garner a great deal of media and policy attention. The exact number of these events varies by the definition used, but the trend is that these events have increased both in terms of frequency as well as the number of casualties. While there is no comprehensive definition of a mass shooting, the U.S. government uses the term **ACTIVE SHOOTER**, defined as "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area." Violence involving gang or drug activity or killings that involve only the shooter's family members are not included.

**NOTE:** Hover for data hyperlinks to source material.

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## Federal Bureau of Investigation

Active shooter incidents from 2000-2013

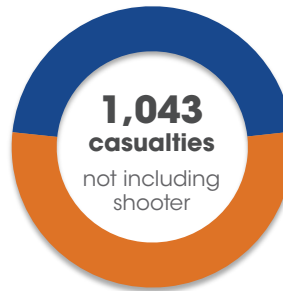


### Location of Incident:<sup>A</sup>

- Business (45.6%)
- School property (24.4%)
- Open space (9.4%)
- Government property, non-military (6.9%)
- Residence (4.4%)
- House of worship (3.8%)
- Military property (3.1%)
- Health-care facility (2.5%)

### Type of Casualty:<sup>A</sup>

- Fatal (46.6%)
- Non-fatal (53.4%)



At least **66.9%** of all incidents ended **before police arrived**<sup>A</sup>

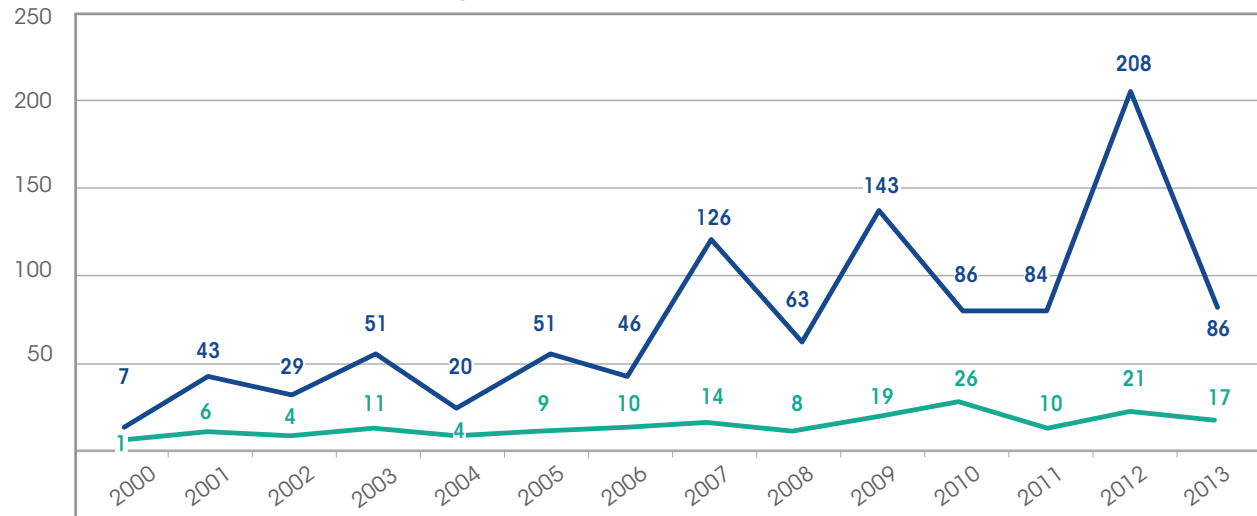


Of the **63 incidents** in which the duration was known:

- > **69.8%** (44 incidents) ended in **5 minutes** or less
- > **36.5%** (23 incidents) ended in **2 minutes** or less

- > **98.8%** of incidents involved **single shooters**<sup>A</sup>
- > In **40%** of incidents, shooters **killed themselves**<sup>A</sup>
- > **6** shooters were **women**; all others were men<sup>A</sup>
- > **5** shooters remain **at large**<sup>A</sup>

### Number of Mass Shooting Incidents and Casualties over Time<sup>A</sup>



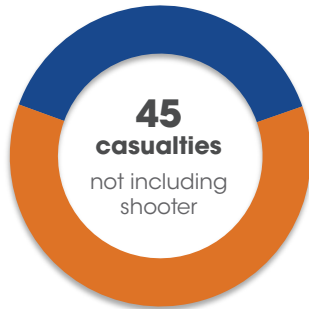
2014

4 incidents<sup>B</sup>

Alturas, CA > Fort Hood, TX > Isla Vista, CA > Marysville, WA

Type of Casualty:<sup>B</sup>

Fatal (37.8%) ●  
Non-fatal (62.2%) ●



Sex of Shooter:<sup>B</sup>

● Men (3)  
● Women (1)

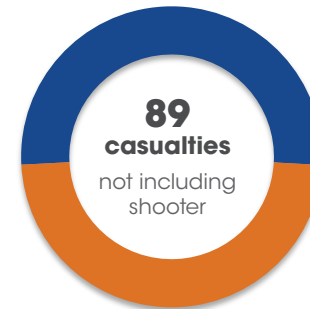
2015

7 incidents<sup>B</sup>

Menasha, WI > Charleston, SC > Chattanooga, TN > Roseburg, OR  
Colorado Springs, CO (Oct.) > Colorado Springs, CO (Nov.) > San Bernardino, CA

Type of Casualty:<sup>B</sup>

Fatal (51.7%) ●  
Non-fatal (48.3%) ●



Sex of Shooter:<sup>B</sup>

● Men (7)  
● Women (1)

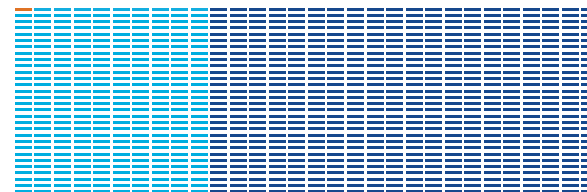
A Note about Mass Casualty Crimes

What defines a mass casualty crime? That is the first question that media, government, and nonprofit agencies must answer when attempting to track these crimes. A **2013 federal statute** revised the definition of “mass killing” to “3 or more killed,” down from 4; accordingly, *Mother Jones* data from 2013 to present is based on 3 deaths, while the *Washington Post*, among others, still uses 4.

In addition to the challenge of defining a mass casualty crime, the

effect of these incidents is difficult to quantify. Statistics are limited primarily to victim fatalities. Yet the actual harm from mass violence encompasses a much broader circle, including victims with non-fatal injuries and those who experience ongoing trauma and mental injury. This impact also extends to victims’ families and to witnesses, first responders, medical professionals, and the larger community.

Mass shootings compared to other incidents involving firearms:<sup>C</sup>



● Mass shooting deaths (39)  
● Gun deaths (12,000)  
● Gun-related injuries (25,000)

NOTES

\*Mass shooting fatality totals differ depending on criteria of the tracking agency. For more, see “A Note about Mass Casualty Crimes” as well as the sources below.

SOURCES

A J. Pete Blair and Katherine W. Schweit, *A Study of Active Shooter Incidents, 2000 - 2013*, (Washington, DC: Texas State University and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department

of Justice, 2014), <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents/pdfs/a-study-of-active-shooter-incidents-in-the-u.s.-between-2000-and-2013>

B “U.S. Mass Shootings, 1982-2016,” *Mother Jones* <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/12/mass-shootings-mother-jones-full-data>

C “The Math of Mass Shootings,” *Washington Post*, Feb. 26, 2016, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/mass-shootings-in-america>