

Mass Casualty Shooting Venues, Types of Firearms, and Age of Perpetrators in the United States, 1982- 2018

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Review of Findings

Published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, the study's object was to determine the connection between mass casualty shooting locations, types of gun or guns used, and the age of the shooters. The authors used data from shootings that occurred between August 1982 and February 2018 during which a minimum of three victims were killed from August 1982-February 2018.

According to data employed by the authors for the purposes of this study, there were 97 mass casualty shooting incidents between 1982 and 2018. The median age of the gunman who carried out those shootings was 35 years old for all across all incidents evaluated. That median age rose to 39.5 years old for incidents involving a handgun and fell to 31 years for events that featured an assault rifle. There were 16 mass casualty shootings in schools during this window of time. Individuals younger than 18 committed four of the 16 school shootings. Of those four, three used assault weapons to carry out their acts.

The average number of deaths in incidents using handguns was 7.5. The average number of fatalities in incidents during which an assault weapon was used increased to from 7.5 to 11.6.

The average and median number of injuries in a shooting involving a handgun was 7.7 and 3 injuries, respectively. The average and median number of injuries in an incident during which an assault weapon was used was 9 and 29.9 injuries, respectively.

In the school shootings noted in the report, 31.1% of the victims were murdered by individuals between the ages of 18 and 21. In all mass shootings, one in eight victims was murdered by a perpetrator in this age range.

This study made specific note of proposed legislation that would restrict firearm purchases made by individuals in the 18 to 21 age range. The researchers contend that such legislation and similar measures would reduce the number of gun deaths. The study contends that it is the finding of the authors that said reduction would be especially pronounced in the context of shootings in which an assault weapon is used and / or carried out in schools.

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