



Gun Violence and Murder

Lecture 4

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Do you like to have a gun, if it is allowed in your country

Why????????????????

Global Scenario

Gun violence is a growing concern all over the world

In 2019 alone, more than 250,000 people died as a result of firearms worldwide

Nearly 71% of gun deaths were homicides, about 21% were suicides, and 8% were unintentional firearms-related accidents

A smaller subset of gun deaths occur as the result of mass shootings and school shootings, which are often highly publicized.

Cont...

- Particularly prevalent in many South American and Central American countries,
 - due to either civil unrest or drug lobbies, which battle both law enforcement agencies and one another.
- It is also high in several developing countries in Africa and the Middle East.
- Finally, gun violence is considered an epidemic in the United States, which leads the world in mass shootings and has the highest levels of gun violence of any developed country by a wide margin.

Top 10 Countries with the most Total Gun Deaths, 2016

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gun-violence-by-country>

Rank	Country	Total Gun Deaths	Homicides	Suicides	Unintentional
1	Brazil	43,200	40,600	1,730	867
2	United States	37,200	12,400	23,800	909
3	India	26,500	11,600	13,400	1,540
4	Mexico	15,400	13,800	841	740
5	Colombia	13,300	12,600	595	160
6	Venezuela	12,800	10,900	959	937
7	Philippines	8,020	7,600	183	239
8	Guatemala	5,090	4,430	107	550
9	Russia	4,380	1,670	1,920	785
10	Afghanistan	4,050	3,150	228	667



Case of the US

- 20 Americans die by gun violence every day
- 45% of men own a gun in the US
- The second amendment of the US constitution says
- “ A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed”
- The majority of all homicides in the US are committed with a firearm, a majority are handguns



Mass murder

- Mass murder is defined as when someone kills four or more victims in one location at one general point in time
- The killings may stretch over a period of hours, but they are all part of the same emotional experience (with no cooling-off period)
- In general, mass murders take their lives after their rampage
- In the US, very frequent in Schools, Universities, and Workplaces

For more information

- <https://abcnews.go.com/US/mass-school-shootings-history/story?id=17975571>

Columbine High School Massacre



- April 20, 1999
- Columbine High School
Columbine, CO
- Two students shot and killed
12 students and 1 teacher
during school hours.
- 21 other students were injured.

**Evidence of Gun Violence
in American Schools**



Connecticut

- Twenty children and six staff members were killed in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 14, 2012.
- It was the deadliest mass shooting at an elementary school in US history.
- The 20-year-old (Adam Lanza) gunman also killed his mother that day and shot himself after the massacre

Marysville Pilchuck High School Shooting



- October 24, 2014
- Marysville Washington
- 15-year-old freshman student shot 5 students killing 4.

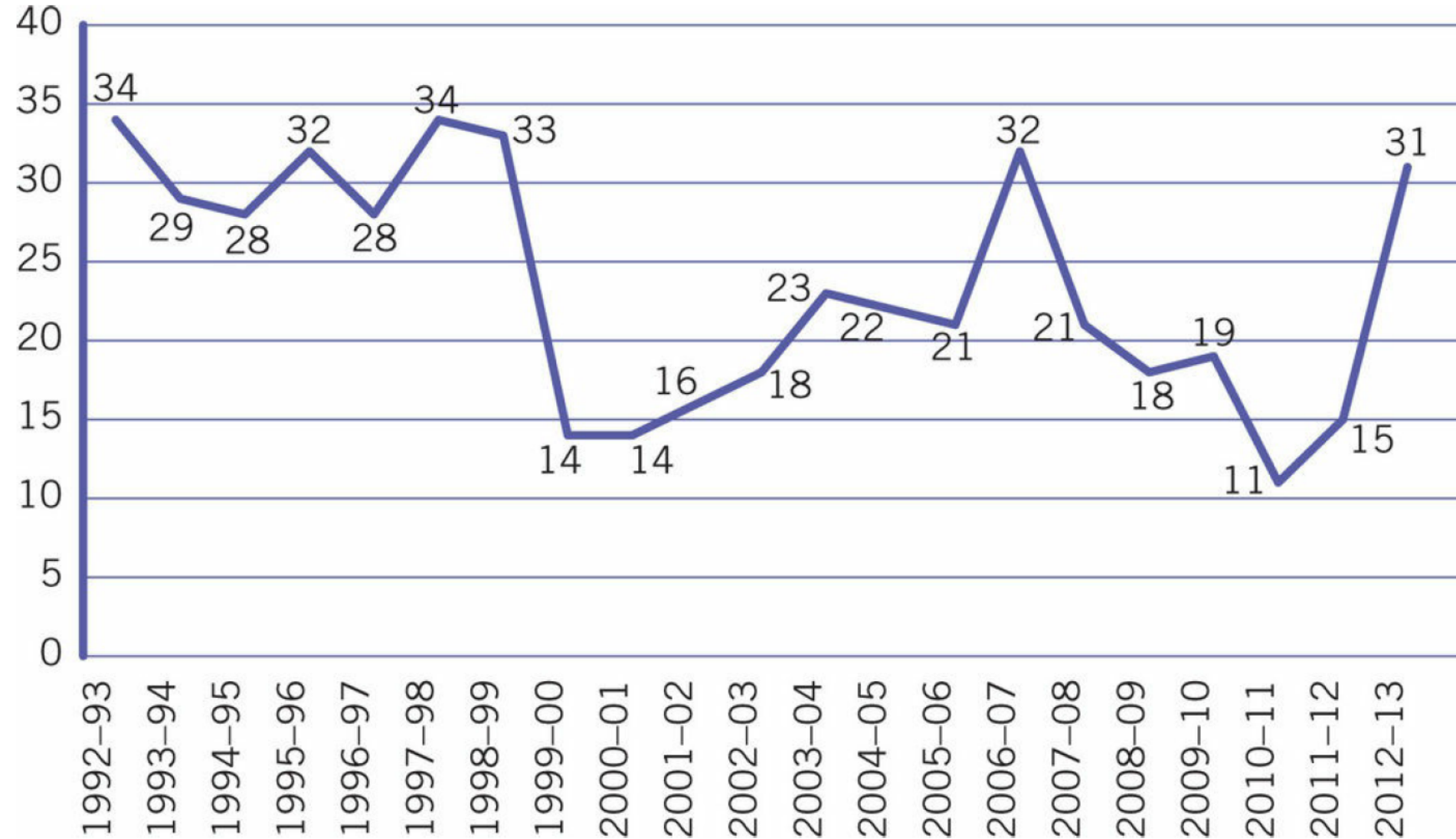
**Evidence of Gun Violence
in American Schools**

The New York Times

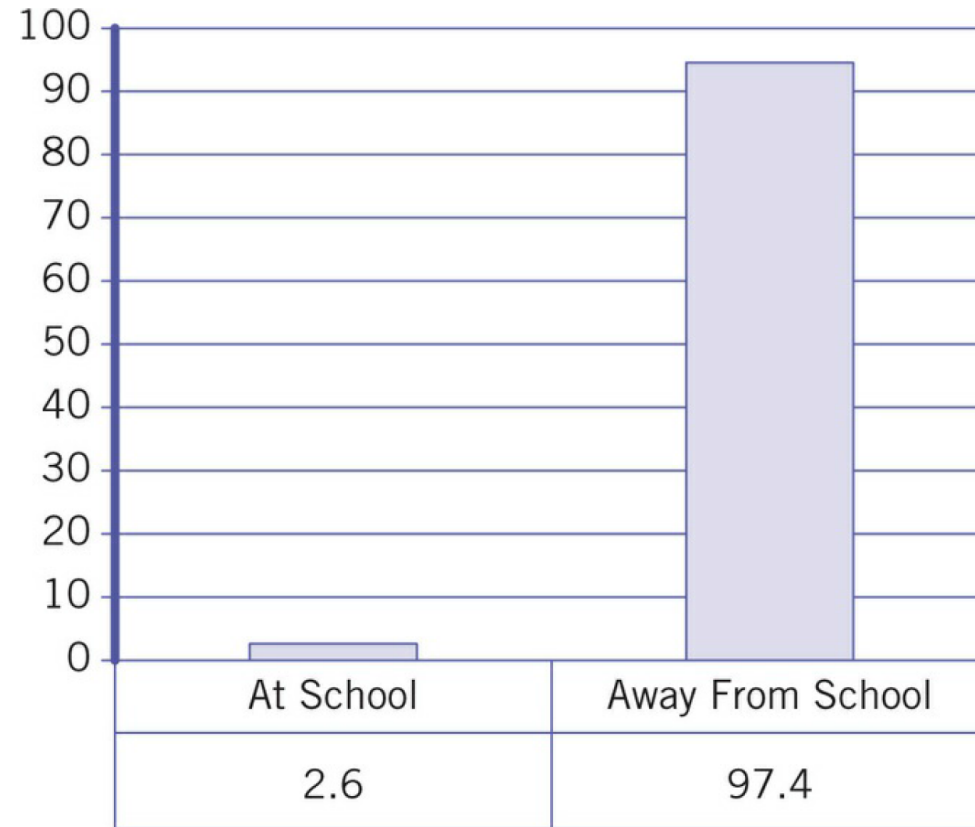



- The Gun Violence Archive has counted at least 531 mass shootings so far this year, through mid-October.
- The deadliest mass shooting in the country so far this year was the massacre in which 19 children and two teachers were killed at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24.
- 692 mass shootings were reported in the last year

Number of School Homicides for Students Aged 5–18



Percentage distribution for school-associated homicides for youth 5-18 by location, 2012-13





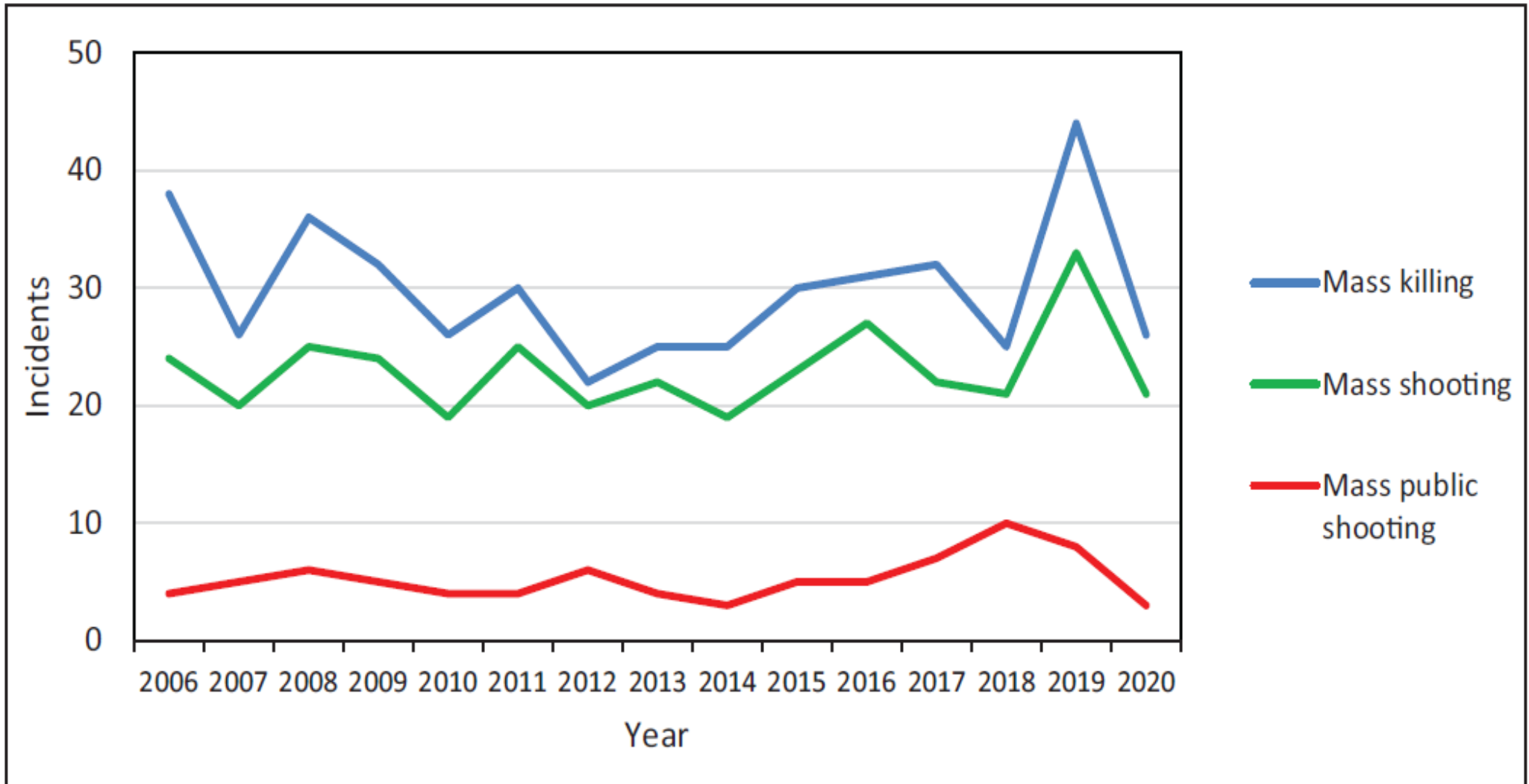
• **On March 22, 2021, a mass shooting occurred at a King Soopers supermarket in Boulder, Colorado**

- The alleged shooter, 21-year-old Ahmad Al Aliwi Al-Issa

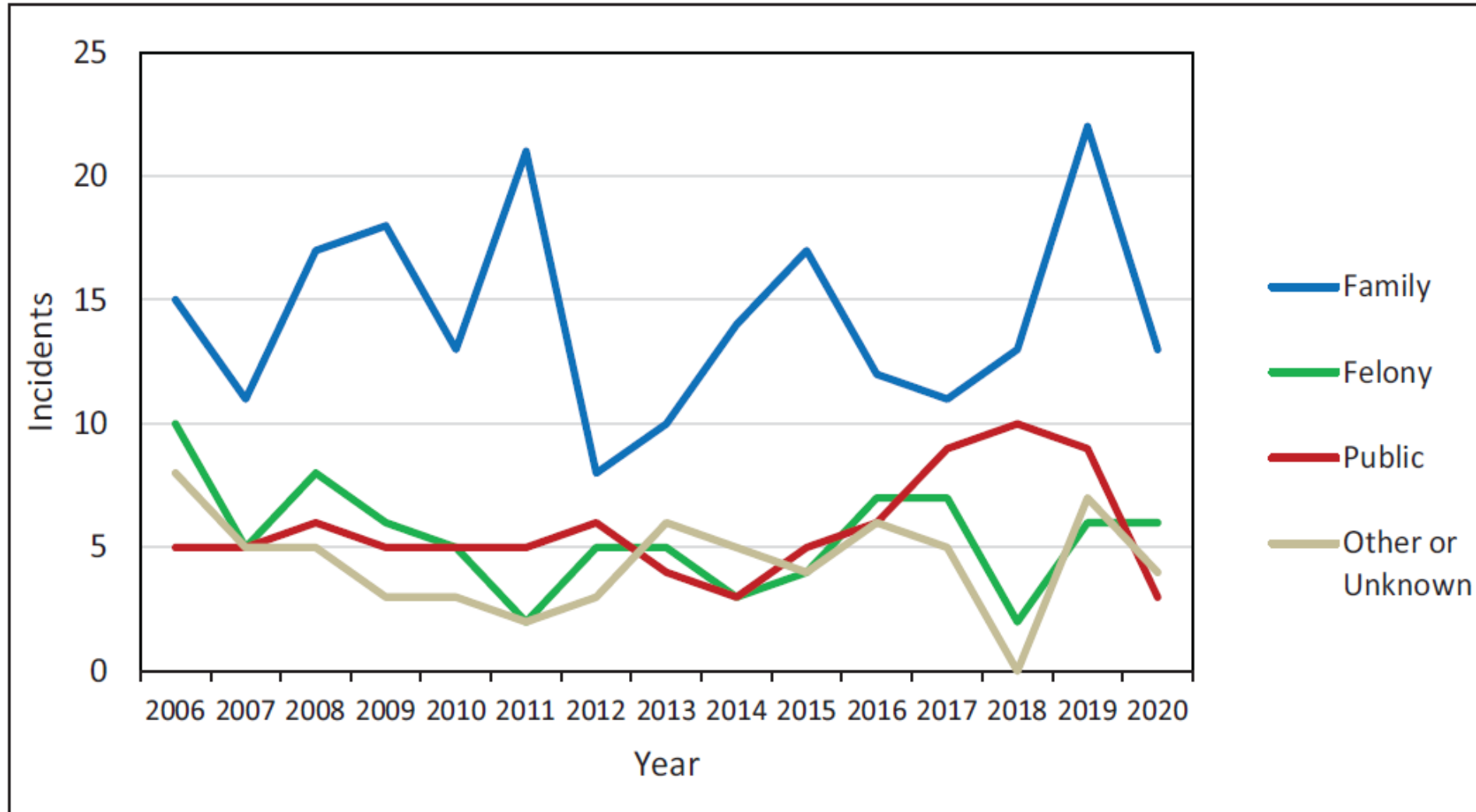
Workplace shooting

Incident	Fatalities	Injured	Total
El Paso Walmart mass shooting (El Paso, Texas, 2019)	22	26	48
San Bernardino mass shooting (San Bernardino, California, 2015)	14	21	35
Atlanta day trading spree killings (Atlanta, Georgia, 1999)	9	13	22
United States Postal Service shooting (Edmond, Oklahoma, 1986)	15	6	21
Standard Gravure shooting (Louisville, Kentucky, 1989)	9	12	21
Excel Industries mass shooting (Hesston, Kansas, 2016)	3	14	17
Virginia Beach municipal building shooting (Virginia Beach, Virginia, 2019)	12	4	16
Lockheed Martin shooting (Meridian, Mississippi, 2003)	7	8	15
Buffalo supermarket massacre (Buffalo, New York, 2022)	10	3	13
FedEx warehouse shooting (Indianapolis, Indiana, 2021)	8	5	13
Planned Parenthood clinic (Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2015)	9	3	12
Hartford Beer Distributor shooting (Manchester, Connecticut, 2010)	9	2	11

Trends in mass killing, 2006-2020



Trend of mass killing incidents by type, 2006-2020



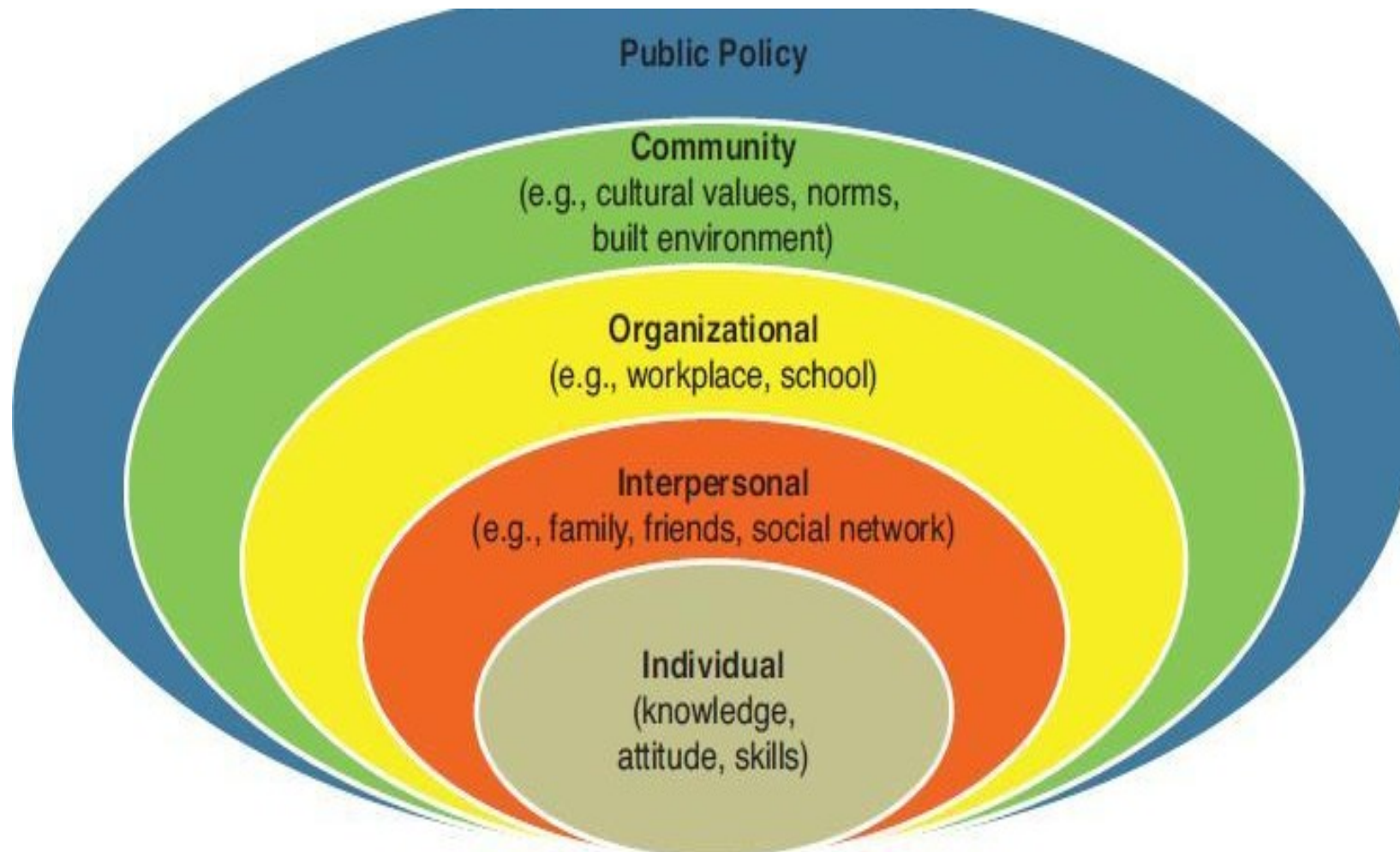
Characteristic	Type of incident				Total
	Family	Felony	Public	Other	
Number of offenders	227	185	89	65	567
Age of offender (%)					
Under 20	6.2	15.2	5.7	17.4	10.0
20–29	26.4	49.1	45.5	32.6	37.4
30–39	35.2	29.2	13.6	23.9	28.8
40–49	23.3	5.3	21.6	8.7	16.0
50+	8.8	1.2	13.6	17.4	7.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Race of offender* (%)					
White	52.3	17.1	54.4	54.3	41.8
Black	29.0	57.1	26.6	31.4	37.6
Hispanic	11.4	16.4	8.9	8.6	12.3
Asian	6.7	5.7	5.1	2.9	5.8
Other	0.5	3.6	5.1	2.9	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex of offender (%)					
Male	89.9	95.4	94.3	91.5	92.5
Female	10.1	4.6	5.7	8.5	7.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Offender suicide (%)					
No	56.8	99.5	62.2	86.3	74.5
Yes	43.2	0.5	37.8	13.7	25.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Characteristics of Mass Killing Offenders

What are the characteristics highlighted ????

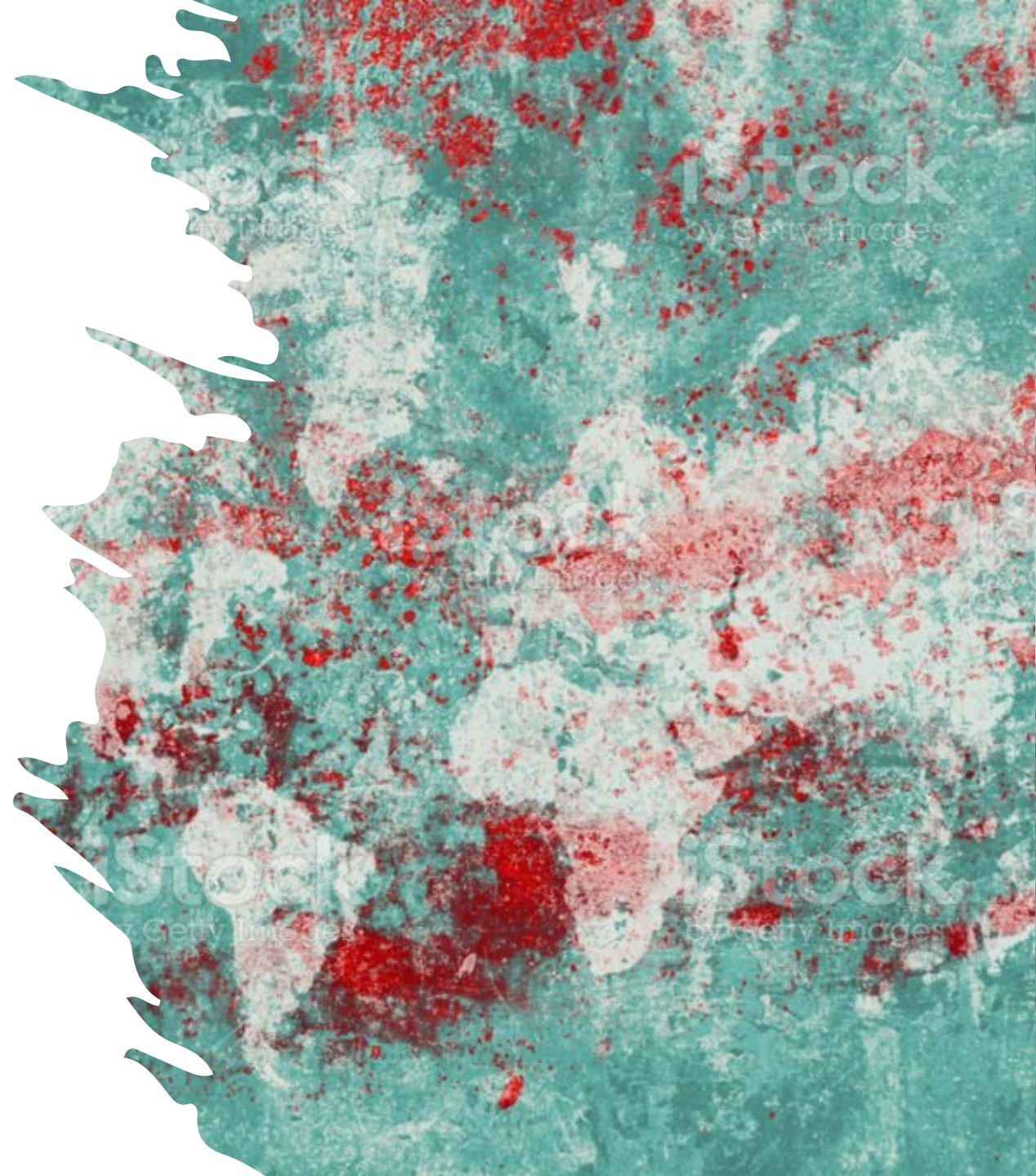
Causes of Mass Murder

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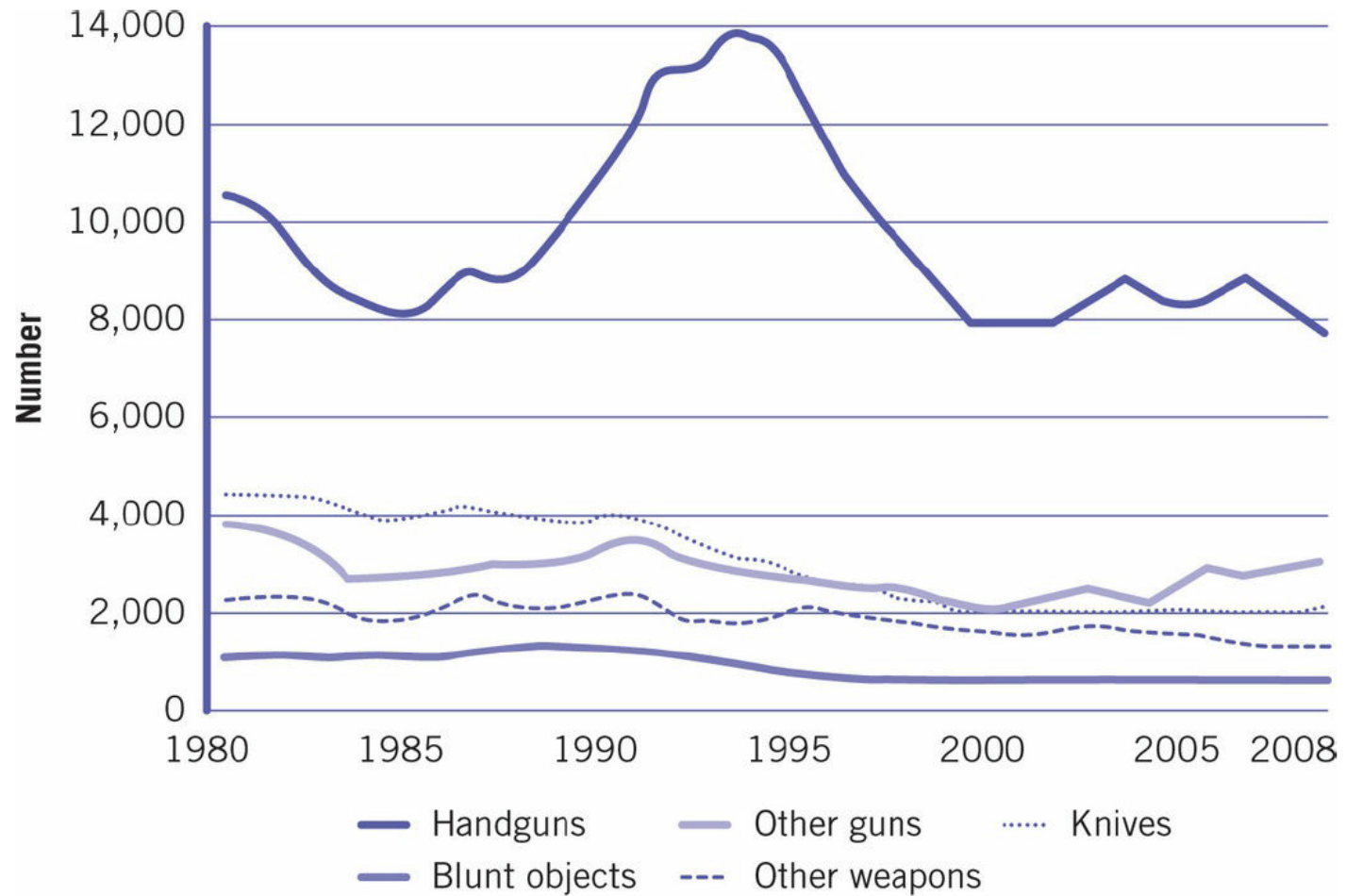


Causes of Mass Murder

- Easily accessible weapons
- Cyber Abuse/Bullying
- Environmental Impact
 - School environment-50 of teenagers believe schools are becoming more violent
 - Increasing the number of students in gangs by 24%
- Neglect and abusive family life

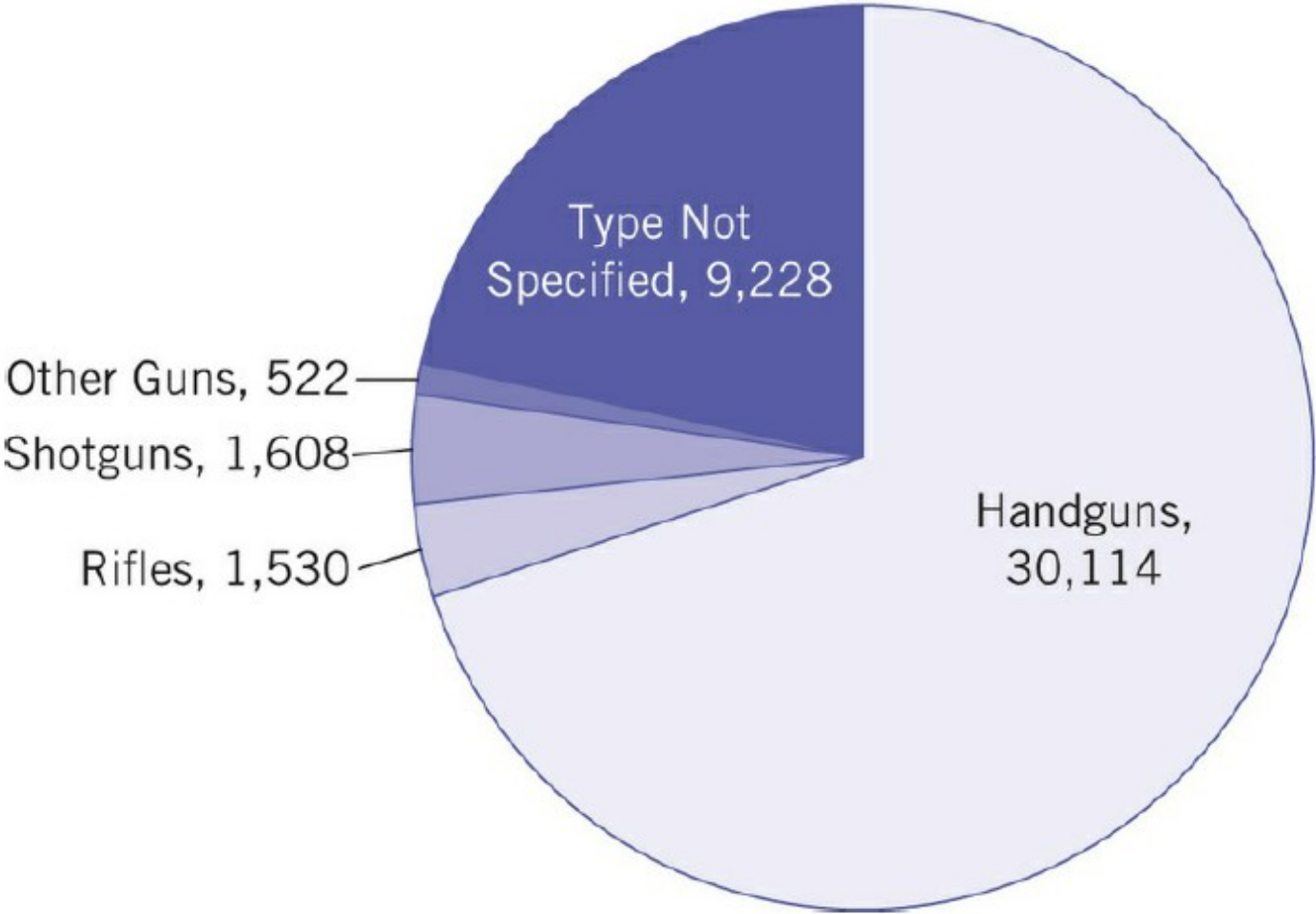


Homicides by Weapon Type, 1980–2008

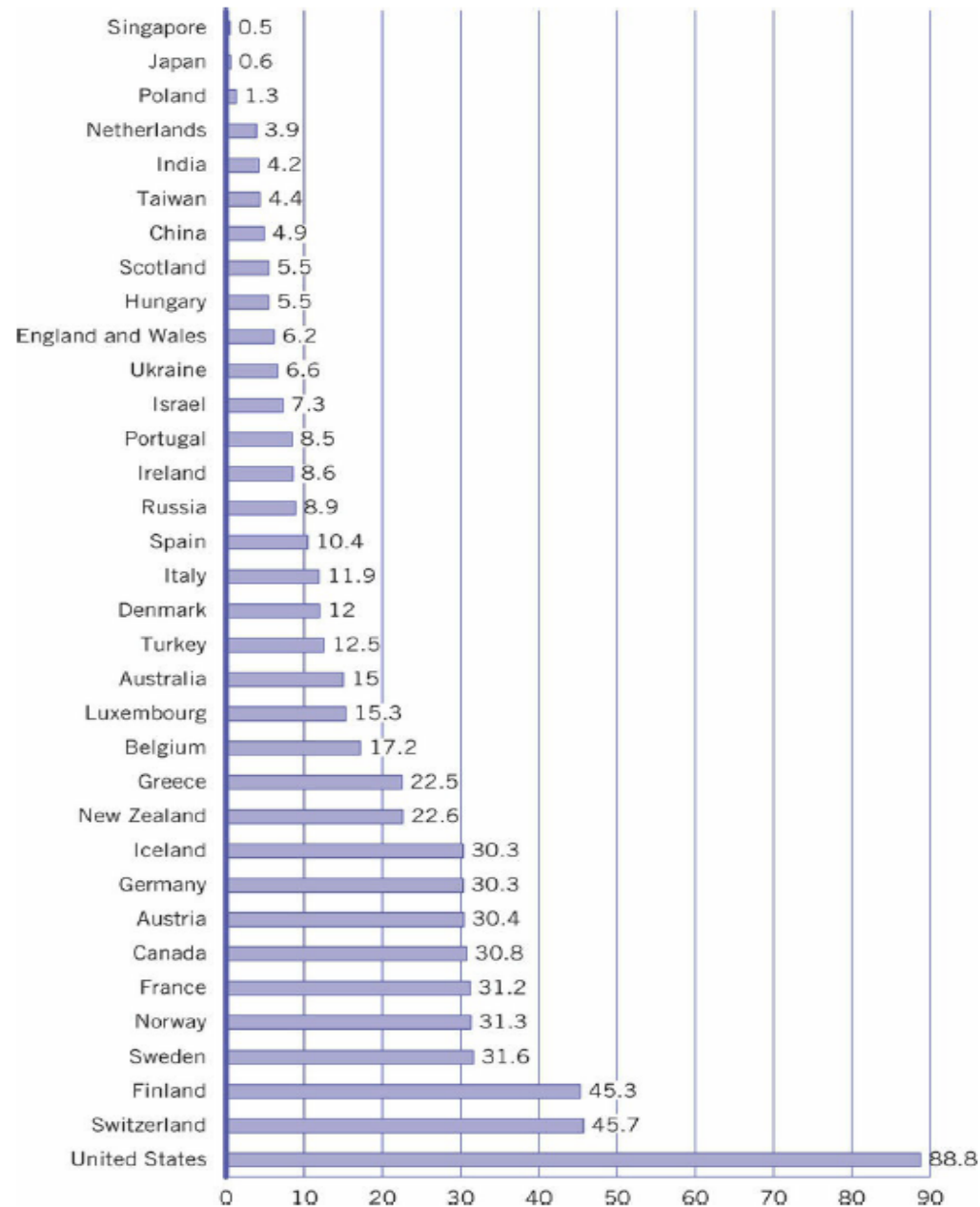


Firearm Homicides, 2010–2014, by Type of Gun

Homicide by Gun Type



How does the United States' availability and ownership of guns compare with that of other nations?



- **Case examples**

- Doug Williams—who eventually went on a workplace killing rampage—was a known racist and often taunted and threatened African American employees at the Lockheed plant where he worked. In fact, many of his coworkers had predicted that he would one day do something terrible.
- Matthew Beck, who killed four of his superiors at the Connecticut State Lottery, had filed a grievance contending that he was being assigned jobs outside of his work classification and that he deserved a raise. Just days before his killings, he told coworkers that he planned to sue the lottery. Larry Hensel was given various warnings about his inappropriate comments and rants about religion and politics, and when layoffs were forced on the company by hard economic times, Hensel was let go

Guns, Culture and Violence

- Gun remains a part of US history, pride, sport shooting, hunting, slavery, personal protection
- Some collect various types of guns as a hobby
- Gun owners prefer to have a variety of guns
- White males prefer to own a gun than women and nonwhite males
- Follow the links
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxGrsxpcqeA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWPb0f9wCwQ>
- <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2017/06/22/americas-complex-relationship-with-guns/>



Do increases in gun availability actually lead to more violence

- Many research demonstrate that they do
- For example, one study found that increases in gun density did increase the rate of robberies with guns and the rate of robbery homicides
- Also, studies found that the presence of a gun in the house greatly increases the likelihood of successfully attempting suicide
- Some have argued that, instead of increasing rates of violence, guns allow citizens to protect themselves against predatory criminals

Hyper individualization

- The real culprit in explaining mass murder can be found in society itself and in a trend that has affected almost everyone. During recent years, there has been an eclipse of community, a dwindling of the social relationships—family ties and neighborliness—that had protected former generations of Americans from succumbing to disaster. . . . For too many Americans who suffer, their misery has no company (Alvarez & Bachman, 2017)

More talks, little actions- lack of political will

- Gun regulation is a hot political debate in the SU senate from time to time
- But little success is achieved
- Federal government and states follow various regulations
- “After the rash of shootings in the fall of 2006 at Amish school, the White House held a conference on school safety on October 10, where many topics were discussed, including metal detectors, school bullies, the value of religious beliefs, and good communication between parents and schools. There was not one mention by the panelists or from President Bush of guns or gun control

(Alvarez & Bachman, 2017)

- ***“We cannot and will not be passive in the face of such violence. We should be willing to challenge old assumptions in order to lessen the prospects of such violence in the future.”***

- <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/issues/preventing-gun-violence>



- Gun control is frequently debated after a mass shooting like school or workplace shooting, but the debate rarely leads to action
- This inaction motivated President Obama to enact a series of executive actions designed to help reduce gun violence. The actions are really quite modest with the most significant actions being the following:
 - 1 Provide “federal guidance” that seeks to clarify who is “in the business” of selling guns; the goal is to increase the number of “private sellers” who must run background checks.
 2. Provide funds for the FBI to hire new examiners to process background checks to prevent delays.
 3. Provide funds to research smart gun technology.
 4. Provide funds to improve mental health care

Gun regulations

- People who have been convicted of crime, which sentence is over one year
- Fugitives for justice
- People addicted to illegal substances
- Illegal immigrants
- People subject to restraining orders

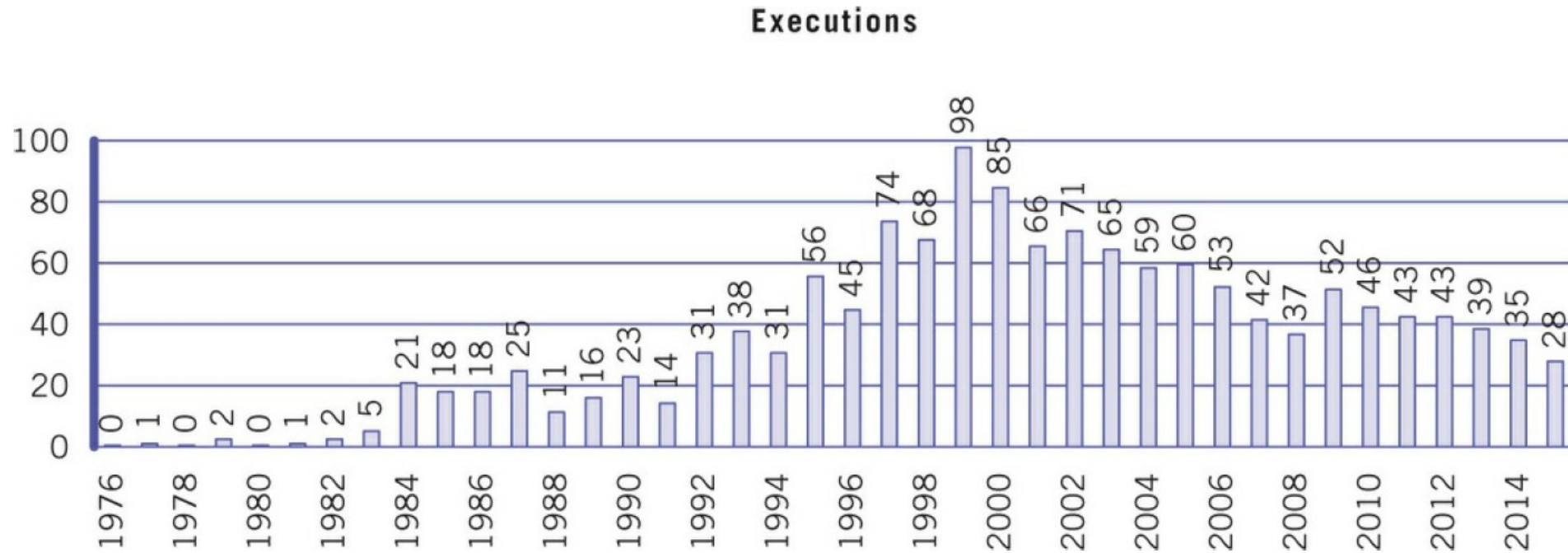


Offender and offense characteristics of a nonrandom sample of mass murderers by [A G Hempel](#) , [J R Meloy](#), [T C Richards](#) (N=30, In Canada and the US)

Research findings

- such individuals are single or divorced males
- Suffered from anxiety disorders (such as panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder) and personality disorders
- The mass murder is triggered by a major loss related to employment or relationship.
- A warrior mentality permeates the planning and attack behavior of the subject
- Alcohol plays a very minor role.
- 20 percent directly threatened their victims before the offense.
- Death by suicide or at the hands of others is the usual outcome for the mass murderer.

Number of executions 1976-2015



Discussion

- Do you think the death penalty is a suitable method to control homicide ???

- THANK YOU