ANALYSIS OF School Shootings





DECEMBER 15, 2012 – FEBRUARY 10, 2014

- In the fourteen months since the mass shooting in Newtown, CT, there have been at least 44 school shootings including fatal and nonfatal assaults, suicides, and unintentional shootings an average of more than three a month.¹ In the first six weeks of 2014 alone, there were 13 school shootings including one eight-day period in which there were four shootings in K-12 schools.
- **These school shootings resulted in 28 deaths and 37 non-fatal gunshot injuries.** In 49 percent of these incidents at least one person died.
- Of the K-12 school shootings in which the shooter's age was known, 70 percent (20 of 28 incidents) were perpetrated by minors. Among those shootings where it was possible to determine the source of the firearm, three-quarters of the shooters obtained their guns from home.
- In 16 cases more than a third of all incidents at least one person was shot after a schoolyard argument or confrontation escalated and a gun was at hand.

The shooters ranged from 5 to 53 years of age.



¹ Incidents were classified as school shootings when a firearm was discharged inside a school building or on school or campus grounds, as documented in publicly reported news accounts. Incidents in which guns were brought into schools but not fired, or were fired off school grounds after having been possessed in schools, were not included.

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44 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN 14 MONTHS

The 44 school shootings occurred in 24 states across the country. Sixty-four percent of the shootings took place at K-12 schools and thirty-six percent took place on college or university campuses.

Thirty-three shootings (75 percent) involved an assault or homicide; of these, 12 incidents resulted in at least one homicide. In 11 incidents, the shooter attempted or completed suicide — in 4 incidents after shooting someone else. In 4 other incidents, no one was injured.

School Confrontations Lead to Shootings

At least 16 of the shootings — more than a third of total incidents — occurred after a confrontation between students intensified and shots were fired. Among the shootings that occurred after an altercation escalated:

January 9, 2014, Liberty Technology Magnet High School, Jackson, Tennessee Two male students, ages 16 and 17, got into a disagreement over a female student. After classes were dismissed, the two boys got into a fight, and one student shot the other in the thigh.

January 30, 2014, Eastern Florida State College, Palm Bay, Florida

A verbal argument between students escalated into a fight in the parking lot of the main academic building, and a 24-year-old student pulled a handgun from his car and shot another student in the chest.

August 23, 2013, North Panola High School, Sardis, Mississippi

A 15-year-old was killed by a single gunshot to the chest after a fight broke out at a high school football game. Three people involved in the fight were arrested for the shooting, including a 17-year old.

January 16, 2013, Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois

After a basketball game between two rival high schools at Chicago State University, a fight erupted during the post-game handshake and a 17-year-old high school student was fatally shot.

January 22, 2013, Lone Star College, Houston, Texas

A confrontation that began when two young men bumped into each other in the doorway of an academic building ended when one fired at least 10 shots. Three people were wounded, including two students and a 55-year-old maintenance worker who was shot in the leg.

April 15, 2013, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana

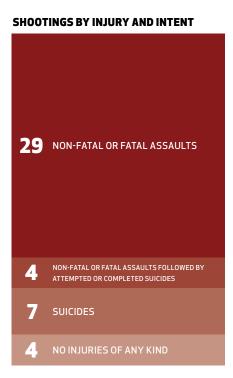
Three students, ages 19 to 21, were treated for gunshot wounds after a fight broke out outside a school dormitory.

December 4, 2013, West Orange High School, Winter Garden, Florida

A 17-year-old student shot a 15-year-old classmate during a fight that began as classes were being dismissed.







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K-12 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN FOCUS

An average of two school shootings took place at K-12 schools each month between December 15, 2012 and February 10, 2014.

Among shootings at K-12 schools in which the shooter's age was known, 70 percent (14 of 20 incidents) were perpetrated by minors.

Many of the students who perpetrated these shootings had easy access to guns at home. In several cases, investigators declined to comment on how the child obtained a firearm because the incidents are under active investigation. But in the eight incidents where the source of the firearm was known, three-quarters of the shooters used a gun they obtained from home. This includes three cases where a minor used a gun to attempt or complete suicide in his school.

The incidents included the following:

January 10, 2013, Taft Union High School, Taft, California

Sixteen-year-old Bryan Oliver walked into his science classroom with a 12-gauge Winchester shotgun that belonged to his brother, aimed at a 16-year-old classmate he said had bullied him, and fired a single shot that struck the boy in the chest. Bryan fired one more shot, but no one else was harmed.

March 21, 2013, Davidson Middle School, Southgate, Michigan

Just before classes started one morning, 13-year-old Tyler Nichols walked into the bathroom at his school, pulled out a handgun, and committed suicide. Police reported that the gun was legally owned by a family member but had not been safely secured.

April 29, 2013, La Salle High School, Cincinnati, Ohio

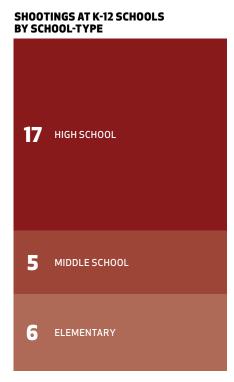
Joseph Poynter, age 17, was sitting at his desk in a computer lab with about two dozen other students at just after 9:00 AM one morning when he pulled out a .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun and fired a single shot at his head. Joseph had acquired the gun from home, where it was ordinarily stored in a safe.

October 21, 2013, Sparks Middle School, Sparks, Nevada

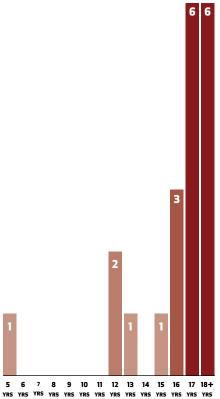
Shouting "Why are you laughing at me? Why are you doing this to me?" 12-yearold Jose Reyes fatally shot a teacher and wounded two 12-year-old students with a 9mm semiautomatic Ruger handgun. His parents told investigators that the gun had been stored in a case on a shelf above the refrigerator. The case was not locked.

January 14, 2014, Berrendo Middle School, Roswell, New Mexico

During cold or inclement weather, students at Berrendo Middle School gather in the school gymnasium to wait for school to start. They were there one morning when Mason Campbell, age 12, walked into the gym and pulled out a 20-gauge shotgun that he'd taken from home. The boy opened fire on his fellow students, critically wounding an 11-year-old boy, seriously injuring a 13-year-old girl, and slightly wounding an adult staff member. After Mason fired all three rounds in the gun, a teacher stepped forward and persuaded him to put it down.



SHOOTINGS AT K-12 SCHOOLS BY AGE OF SHOOTER



SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA SINCE DECEMBER 15, 2012