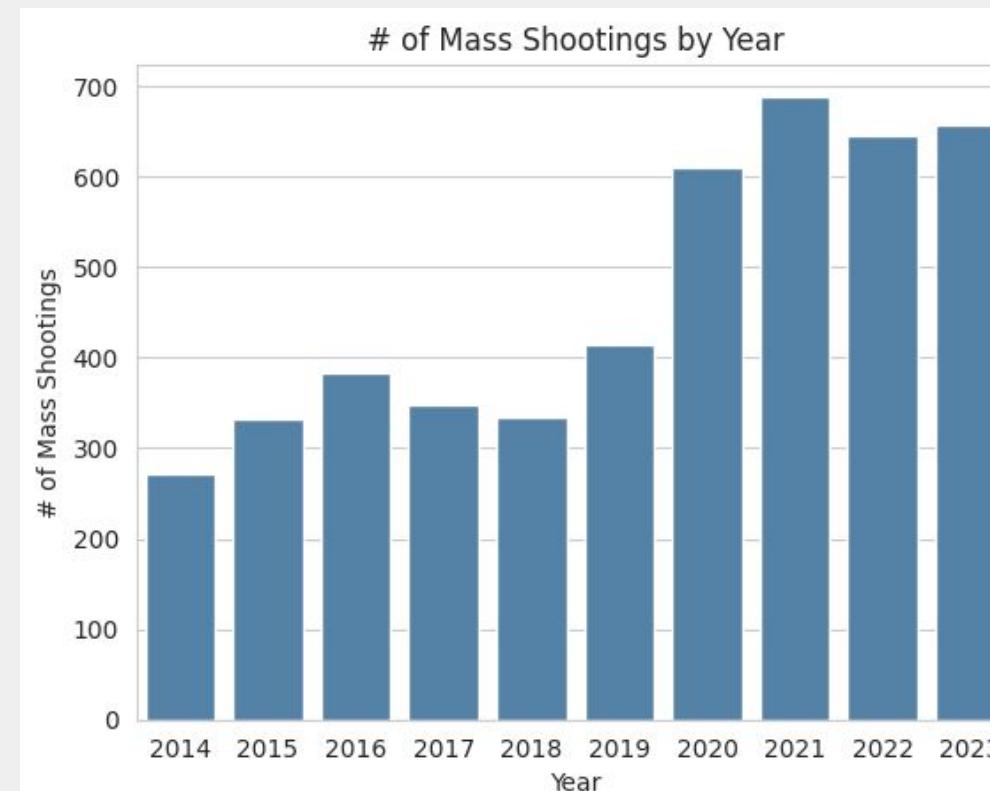


# Mass Shootings in America

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## Introduction

For my social justice project, I decided to research mass shootings in America. Mass shootings are a unique issue to America and with this research and data, I hope to find out more about this topic and how it can be prevented. The graph below shows the total number of mass shootings per year. The data shows that the amount of mass shootings have spiked in 2020, hovering over 600 mass shootings in following years.



## Questions

- ★ What trends are happening concerning mass shootings in America?
- ★ What's the correlation between gun laws, the population, and the number of mass shootings?
- ★ Which states have the most gun laws and how do those states fare in mass shooting frequency?

## Sources

<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/mass-shooting>  
<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/peretzcohen/2019-census-us-population-data-by-state/data>  
<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/iboyesen/state-firearms>

## Observations

I used three databases for these graphs in an attempt to find a correlation between the # of gun laws a state has and the amount of mass shootings they've had.

The graph above shows the # of gun laws a state had in 2017 (concealed weapon law, mental health evaluations, background checks, etc). The top five and bottom five states with gun law strength are highlighted with red and purple (respectively) across all graphs to evaluate a connection between population and mass shooting frequency.

The graph below was made using GVA data and the US Census Data. I divided the total # of mass shootings that occurred (from 2014-2023) to the population (2019).

I noticed that the top 5 leaders in gun legislature have a lower mass shooting per capita compared to other state, however the bottom five states usually had even less mass shootings per capita. This result isn't what I expected when I started this topic, because I usually hear that stronger gun laws make a large difference.

I suspect that the reason for this outcome is that places with less gun laws usually have lower populations and naturally less mass shootings. For example, Montana has only had 5 mass shootings with ~1 mil, Idaho had 3 with ~1.7 mil, and Alaska had 5 with 730K. Compared to California's 420 mass shootings with a population of 39 mil, it's hard to compare. Larger states need more gun laws because the potential to cause harm is much larger.

