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Tracking mass gun violence in America

There have been 450 mass killings with guns since 2006

MOST RECENT



Five people shot and killed on Oct. 25 in Sampson County, N.C.

By Washington Post Staff

Data updated as of Nov. 2, 2023

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Since the beginning of 2023, guns have been used in 35 mass killings in the United States. We use the term “mass killing” to describe events in which four or more people died, not including the perpetrators. These violent episodes have occurred on average 24 times per year since 2006, killing 2,411 people in all.

Some shooters target strangers in public, firing at children in schools, shoppers in stores, worshipers in sacred spaces. Many of these events are so familiar that the locations are now shorthand for the horrors that occurred there: [Parkland](#), [Virginia Tech](#), the [El Paso Walmart](#), the [Tree of Life synagogue](#).

However, many more mass shooters strike in homes, intentionally killing people they know, love or once loved, and few outside the immediate community may hear about it or remember it. Do you recall a Chicago man who fatally shot

neighbors in his condominium building as they sat down to dinner in 2019? Or the father in Gustine, Calif., who killed his four children then himself in 2006?

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There are also mass killings that happen during the commission of other crimes, such as drug deals or robberies.

Since 2006, guns have been used in 450 mass killings. Shootings make up 79 percent of all types of mass killings. The Post is calling these events “mass killings with guns” because it is more specific than the term “mass shooting.” There is no standard definition of a mass shooting, and some news organizations and gun violence trackers include events in which multiple people are injured but no one dies.

This project explores the people lost, the shooters and the circumstances surrounding mass killings using data compiled by the Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University.

The numbers reveal most mass killings are not random bursts of public violence but private ones that are not random at all.

2,411 people have died in mass shootings since 2006

At least 58% of victims were family members or acquaintances of the shooter.

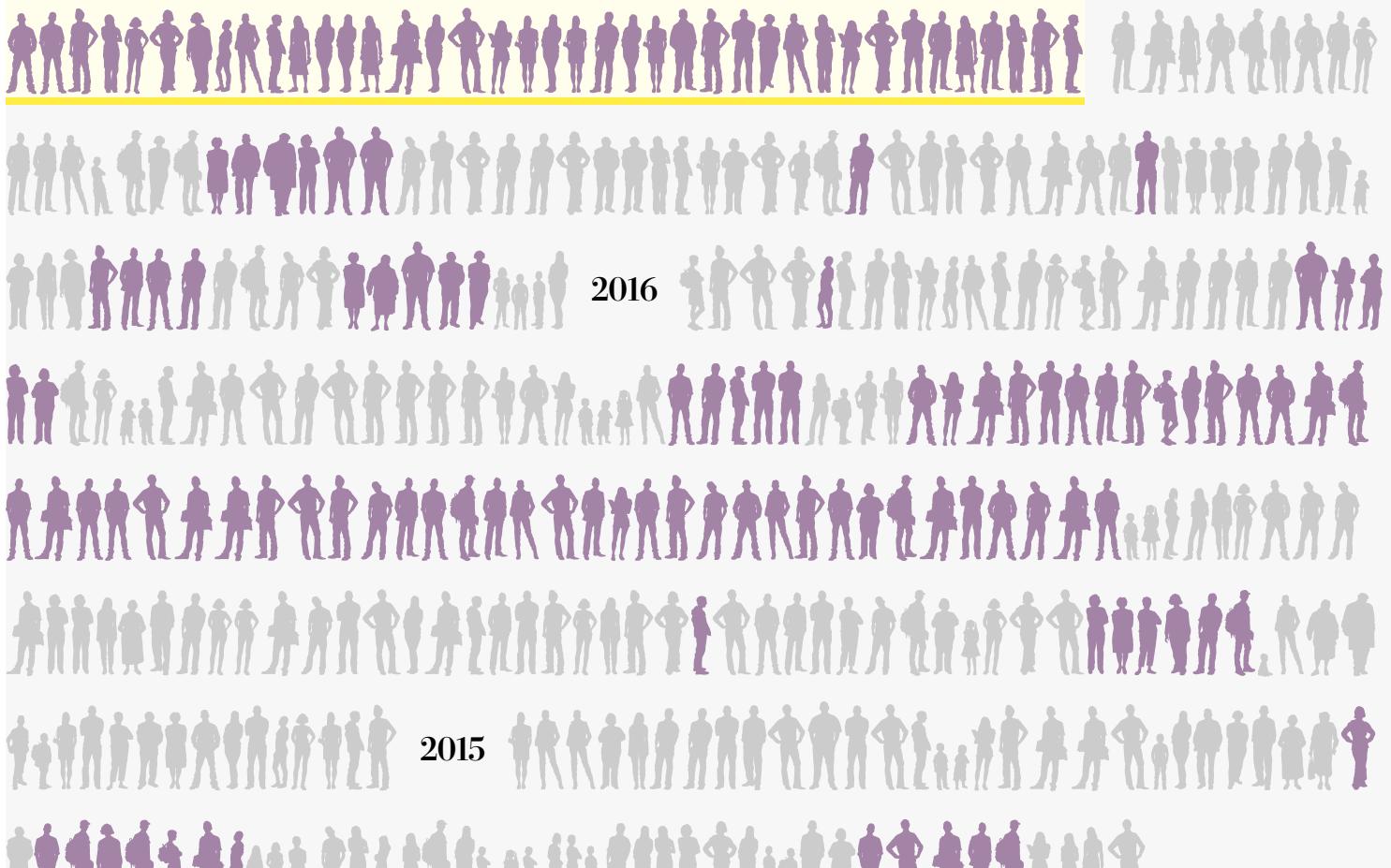
Only 28% were confirmed to be **strangers**, although these killings tend to receive the most attention.

 Hover over a person for more information





A gunman committed the deadliest U.S. shooting in Las Vegas, firing more than 1,000 rounds at concertgoers from a 32nd-floor hotel suite before killing himself amid a cache of 24 legally purchased guns. [Read more](#)



A white supremacist killed Black churchgoers who welcomed him to their Bible study in **Charleston, S.C.**, one of at least 12 mass killings in which people were targeted based on race, religion or sexual orientation. [Read more](#)



2014



2013



2012



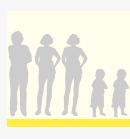
2011



2010



A man killed his mother, two nieces, his pregnant wife and their 7-month-old son at his sister's home in **Chicago**. Police said he told them he was sorry he ran out of bullets. Forty-five percent of mass killings with guns are related to domestic violence.



2009





A team of data scientists in 2015 found that mass shootings are temporarily contagious and sometimes occur in clusters, with two or more within a few days, then none for weeks.

There were 36 mass killings with guns in 2022, and nine occurred in the month of October. Seven occurred in January 2023.

How many mass shootings happen each year

Shootings as of Nov. 3 of each year Shootings during the entire year

As of
Nov. 3

2023

35



While gun violence overall tends to increase in the summer, mass killings with guns seem to have no pattern. Dozens have occurred in every month of the year.

Explore this series



Where do mass shootings happen?



What do we know about the **shooters**?



How common are **other types** of mass killings?

Search for a mass shooting

Search for a shooting by date or location
Ex: Sampson County, North Carolina | Oct. 25, 2023



Oct. 25, 2023

Lewiston, Maine

The shooting took place at another type of location, and the victims' relationships to the shooter is unknown.

18 victims killed

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Aaron Young, 14 | | Thomas Conrad, 34 | | Maxx Hathaway, 35 | | Joshua Seal, 36 |
| | Peyton Brewer-Ross, 40 | | Bryan MacFarlane, 41 | | Arthur Strout, 42 | | William Young, 44 |
| | Steven Vozzella, 45 | | William Brackett, 48 | | Jason Walker, 51 | | Michael Deslauriers, 51 |
| | Tricia Asselin, 53 | | Ronald Morin, 55 | | Joseph Walker, 57 | | Keith McNair, 64 |
| | Lucille Violette, 73 | | Robert Violette, 76 | | | | |

1 shooter

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| | Robert Card, 40 |
|--|--------------------|

We hear most about the shootings in which many people are killed, but they represent a small slice of U.S. gun deaths and an even smaller part of everyday gun violence.

Nearly 49,000 people were killed by gunfire in 2021, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and about 54 percent of those were suicides. Anti-gun-violence organization Brady United calculated that more than 325 people are shot on an average day in the United States.

About this story

The Post analyzed mass killings data collected by the Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University. For more information on how mass killings are tracked and counted, read our methodology [here](#).

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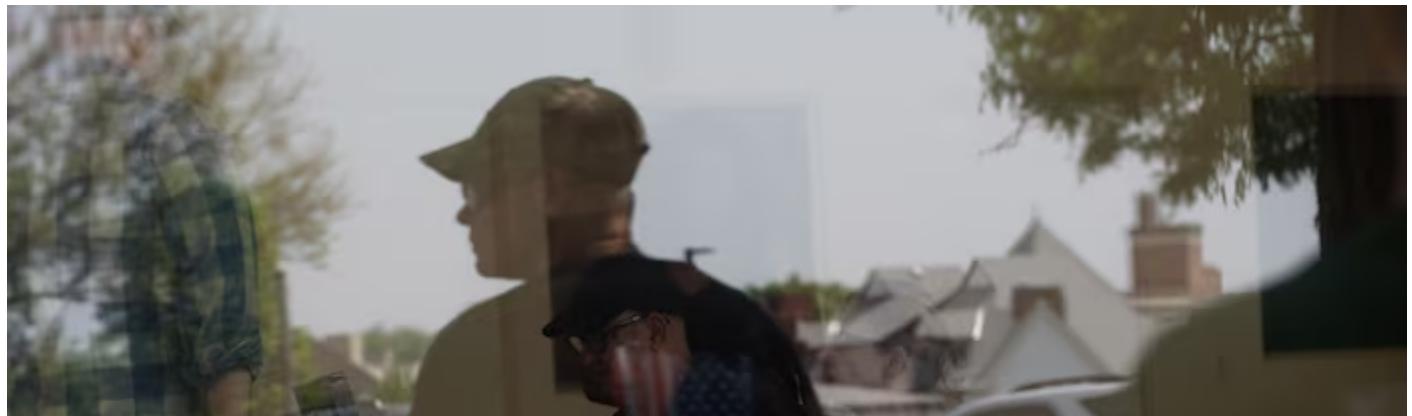
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