CSSS (Comprehensive Statistics: K-12 School Shootings)

Tagline: Visualizing and Understanding K-12 School Shootings

Site Purpose

This site will provide a navigable source for information of specific or collective school shooting information in the U.S. K-12 public school system in order to recognize patterns in school shootings and promote discussion with the vision of finding possible solutions.

Summary of the Dataset

This data is composed of open-source information dating from the 1970's to present-day. It is updated daily, however, the version downloaded was last updated on 1/20/2020 and was downloaded on 1/27/2020. It provides specific information about each recorded incident in the United States including total victims, gender of victims, race of victims, weapon used, among other things. The data was collected by the CHDS (Center for Homeland Defense and Security) and is formatted in an Excel spreadsheet.

Audience and Goals

Our audience includes any person or organization who benefits from observing general trends within past and recent incidents.

Potential audiences may include:

- Educational Researchers
  - Educational Researchers typically work in universities and perform educational research projects and develop research programs. They recommend and incorporate existing research knowledge into academic programs and propose independent research projects for potential classes. Educational researchers using this site will specifically be looking for,
    - Collecting data relevant to their current research.
    - Data that is organized and ready to present to the general public.
    - Specific information for each incident including outside sources.
- Teachers
  - Teachers are anyone that takes a higher role in education. They directly interact with kids and they want to see if they can come up with an effective plan to protect their students. Teachers using this site will specifically be looking for,

- ■ Look at area specific school shooting cases to check the trends within their school district.
- ■ Look at recent school shooting incidents to see the national trends.
- Students
  - ○ Students will include anybody currently in the education system. They may need this data for assignments, curiosity, etc. Students using this site will specifically be looking for,
    - ■ Easy to use, organized data of school shooting incidents.
    - ■ Specific data for each incident.
- Left-Leaning Politician
  - ○ Left-leaning politicians are elected individuals who represent a more liberal constituent base. They seek to provide more liberal solutions to modern problems. These particular politicians may expect to find:
    - ■ Valuable information to raise public awareness for the gun violence problem in schools, both locally and nationally.
    - ■ Dangerous trends in this epidemic in order to use as evidence to propose legislation for gun control.
- Right-Leaning Politician
  - ○ Right-leaning politicians are elected individuals who represent a more conservative constituent base. They prefer to maintain the status quo as opposed to supporting radical changes. These particular politicians will be looking for:
    - ■ Evidence to suggest that there are more effective ways to reduce school shootings instead of gun-control.
    - ■ Relevant data within their local voting district in order to remain in office and understand the needs and wants of the majority of their voting base.
- Gun Rights Activist
  - ○ Gun rights activists include any individual who advocates for stricter gun laws in order to hopefully lower overall gun violence. They will be especially more vocal for change in the midst of the increase of school shootings. These individuals will be looking for:
    - ■ Discernable patterns in recent school shootings to incite discussion about the place of guns in society and how to prevent further gun violence.
    - ■ Particular weapons that have been widely used in school shootings. Using this, they will suggest gun-control as an effective solution to prevent school shootings.
- Gun Rights Advocate
  - ○ This group is comprised of any individual who advocates for the expansion of gun rights or disagrees with stricter forms of gun-control. These individuals will seek to bring other solutions to the increasing problem of school shootings and will be looking for:
    - ■ Stories or statistics that provide evidence for the investment of other solutions instead of enforcing stricter gun laws.
    - ■ Trends that show smaller gun concessions are plausible and more effective than enforcing a wider gun control piece of legislation.

Requirements

Functional Requirement

- Have search filters for the data by weapon type, area, and other categories
- Have an interactive map to get specific state information if prompted
- Allow users to download needed information in multiple forms
- Create Visual Diagrams and data sets of refined data
- Create links to police reports on the incident for further investigation
- The hyperlinks to other web pages outside of our site open in a new tab
- Have an option to reformat data table with bigger text
- Ability to export data table in a printer friendly format
- Keep page accessible as possible

Non-Functional Requirements

- Present data in an easy to understand fashion.
- Provide descriptive information without cluttering the data table
- Make sure that links to other sources are clearly displayed as links when toggled
- Provide several broad categories in refine search with specific refinements in each category, for example: the category weapons has refinements to search by assault weapons, sidearms, rifles, etc.
- Ensure that visuals accurately represent the data and trends over time
- Not show inappropriate/extreme information
- Ensure that data presented is factual and unbiased
- The web page's color scheme contrasts nicely and does not distract the user, provides monochrome (black and white) data table to make it easy to read

Collaboration Plan

We will hold frequent team meetings to discuss the project. Our team has created a group chat to discuss the time and place of our meetings.

Before we make any changes to the project as an individual, we will bring it up at a meeting. Most of the major tasks we will perform will be discussed in person at the meeting but the discussion can take place in the group chat for small and quick edits.

At this point we have not decided on which role we will be filling. This will be decided as we progress in the project and learn more in class.

Most of our work is currently shared on Google Drive and anyone on our team can see and edit the files. We will stay in communication in order to reduce conflicts, especially when working in Git. We will later incorporate Git to the file sharing process.