

Law Enforcement Innovation Center  
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

## Response to an Active Shooter

University of Tennessee  
Law Enforcement Innovation Center

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### Objective

- Gain in understanding of reasons for an Active Shooting incident
- Learn potential response to these situations
- Be able to develop a plan of action in a moment of crisis


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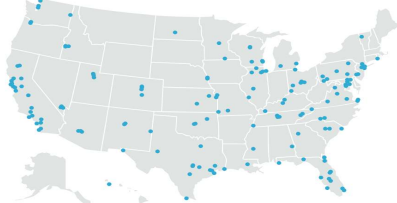

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### 2016-2020 Statistics\*

*Locations of the 173 Mass Attacks in the U.S., 2016 - 2020*

\*Statistics gathered by the United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center

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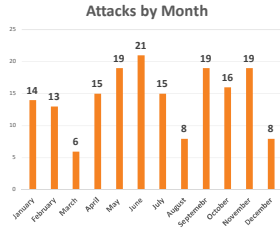
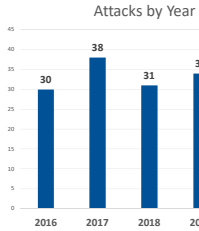
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### 2016-2020 Statistics



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\*Statistics gathered by the United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center

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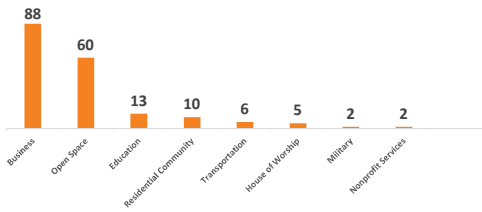
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### Locations



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\*Statistics gathered by the United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center

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### 2021 & 2022 Active Shooter Statistics

- 61 incidents (2022: 50)
- 103 deaths/ 140 casualties (2022: 100 deaths/213 wounded)

*Incidents have decreased 18% since 2021, however, increased 66.7% since 2018.*

- Locations
    - Commerce- 32 (14)
    - Education- 2 (4 w/ resd.)
    - Government- 3 (2 w/ worship)
    - Open Space- 19 (23)
    - Residence- 3
    - Worship- 1
    - Health Care- 1 (1)
- TOTAL : 61 (17 combined)

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Gathered by the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation

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## Who are/were they?

• 233 men / 5 women / 3 other

**Ages of the 180 Attackers**

Age Group	Count
14-24	44
25-34	63
35-44	36
45-54	21
55-64	11
65+	5

RACE	n	%
White	103	57%
White (non-Hispanic/ethnicity unknown)	84	47%
Black/African American	62	34%
Hispanic	19	11%
Asian	7	4%
American Indian	1	1%
Multiracial	1	1%
Undetermined	5	3%
Hispanic ethnicity	22	12%

**2021 Active Shooters by Age Group**

**2021 Active Shooters by Age Group**

Age Group	Count
< 18	2
19-24	14
25-34	18
35-44	10
45-54	9
55-64	6
> 65	1
UNK	1

Gathered by the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center

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## Indicators

- History of criminal behavior
- A history of substance abuse
- A history of having been abused or bullied
- Witnessing violence between parents
- Misogyny
- Fixations (guns, person, activity, belief); poor control of anger
- Social isolation

**Watch for Pre-attack Indicators**

- “Leakage” of violence- social media, speaking, etc.
- Anger
- Change in behavior- aggressive, work performance, confrontations
- Pre-planning

Gathered by the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center

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## Indicators

Most attackers:

- Exhibited behavior that *elicited concern* in others, and in many cases, those individuals *feared for the safety of themselves or others*.
- Had a history of physically aggressive or intimidating behaviors, evidenced by prior *violent criminal arrests/charges, domestic violence, or other acts of violence toward others*.
- Half the attackers were motivated by grievances and were *retaliating for perceived wrongs related to personal, domestic, or workplace issues*.
- Used firearms and many were *possessed illegally* at the time of the attack.
- ¼ of the attackers *subscribed to a belief system involving conspiracies or hateful ideologies*.
- Experienced stressful life events across various life domains, including family/romantic relationships, personal issues, employment, and legal issues. In some cases, there was a specific triggering event prior to the attack.
- Experienced mental health symptoms prior to or at the time of their attacks, including depression, psychotic symptoms, and suicidal thoughts.

*Many of these pre-attack behaviors are not suspicious on their own and some involve constitutionally protected activity. Most individuals who exhibit these types of behaviors will not commit acts of targeted violence.*

Gathered by the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center

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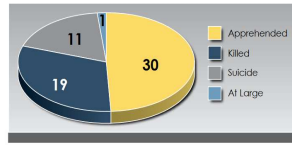
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### How it ended

2016-2020 (173 total)

- 97- Stopped on their own
- 38- LE intervened
- 19- Weapon stopped working
- 18- Bystander intervened
- 1 Circumstances unclear

2021 Active Shooters by Incident Resolution



Gathered by the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation

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### Reporting Suspicious Activity

**Report Suspicious Activity**

877-250-2333

**Tennessee Suspicious Activity Reporting**

CALL 911 IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY OR A CRIME IN PROGRESS

<https://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security.html>  
**SafeTN app**  
 Consider mental health options (988)

**School safety in the palm of your hand.**

**How Does It Work?**

**What To Report**

**Download SafeTN today!**

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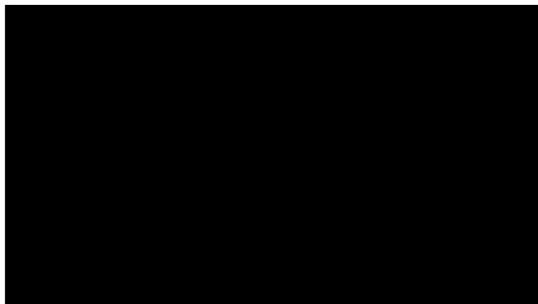
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### Your Response



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### Run/Escapes

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
- Leave your belongings behind
- Help others escape, if possible
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the shooter may be
- Keep your hands visible
- Follow the instructions of any police officers
- Do not attempt to move wounded people
- Call 911 when you are safe

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### Hide

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you.

Your hiding place should be:

- Be out of the active shooter's view.
- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (an office with a closed and locked door)
- Not trap you or restrict your options for movement.

To prevent the shooter from entering your hiding place:

- Lock the door
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture

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### Hide

If the active shooter is nearby:

- Lock the door
- Silence your cell phone or pager
- Turn off any source of noise (i.e. radios, television)
- Hide behind large items (cabinets, desks)
- Remain quiet

If evacuation and hiding out are not possible:

- Remain calm
- Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter's location
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen




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### Fight

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against them
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Yelling
- Committing to your actions




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### Response

• Cover vs. Concealment

• Concealment merely hides you

- Sheet rock
- Thin metal
- Plastic tables

• Cover will stop bullets/ rounds

- Brick/ concrete walls
- Solid metal
- Heavy, dense wood

Weapons

- Hands/fists, feet, knees, elbows
- Coffee mugs
- Books
- Pens/ pencils
- Keys
- Anything

When

- Reloading/ around corner
- Entering room




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### First Aid

- Basic techniques
  - Take care of self before tending to others
  - Pressure to wounds- clothes, feminine hygiene products, etc.
  - Tourniquets can be made out of belts, strong cord/string etc.
- Call 911 ASAP
  - Provide the following information
    - Location of shooter*
    - Number of shooters*
    - Physical description*
    - Number and types of weapons*
    - Number of potential victims*




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### Reminders

#### Before

- Be aware of surroundings and potential exits
- Memorize at least 2 phone numbers of loved ones in case you lose cell phone

#### During

- Run/ Hide/ Fight
- Remain silent if hiding (think tactical)
- Improvised weapons
- Basic First aid
- Show hands to responding LE
  - Give description if you have knowledge
  - Follow all instructions
  - Avoid making quick movements
  - Remain on scene until told to leave

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### Questions???

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## Resources

- FEMA Active Shooter Answer Key. Retrieved from [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema\\_scenario\\_1\\_active\\_shooter\\_TTX\\_answer\\_key-01102020.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema_scenario_1_active_shooter_TTX_answer_key-01102020.pdf)
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- Peterson, J and Densley, J (2019). Op-ed: We have studied every mass shooting since 1966. Here's what we've learned about the shooters. The Los Angeles Times. Retrieved from <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-08-04/el-paso-dayton-gilroy-mass-shooters-data>
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- Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016-2020. United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center. Retrieved from <https://www.secretsservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2023-01/uss-ntac-maps-2016-2020.pdf>

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