

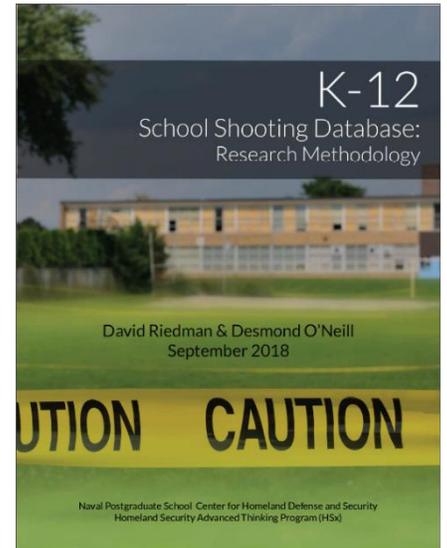


K-12 School Shooting Database:

Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security
Homeland Security Advanced Thinking Program (HSx)
David Riedman and Desmond O'Neill
September 2018, <https://www.chds.us/ssdb/category/graphs/>

K-12 School Shooting Statistics, Reference; Campus Safety Summary o.

- There have been 1,300 school shooting incidents since 1970.
- 2018 had the greatest number of incidents since 1970, with 82 recorded incidents. The next highest year was 2006 with 59 incidents.
- 2018 was the highest year for the number of victims killed, including the shooter, with 51 killed.
- California, Texas and Florida are the top three states in the U.S. with the most incidents.
- 669 incidents occurred outside on school property and 588 occurred inside the school building.
- Most school shootings occurred in the morning.
- Incidents By School Type; 903 High School, 173 Elementary, 170 Middle/Junior High, 61 Other



Introduction Research Methodology

“How many times per year does a gun go off in an American school? We should know, but we don’t.” These two sentences, taken from a widely-publicized August 2018 NPR investigative report, ¹ underscore a significant problem: when it comes to school shootings within the United States, there is a dire lack of accurate and consolidated statistical data.

The current landscape of publicly available information compiled on school shootings comes from a wealth of sources including, but not limited to, peer-reviewed studies, government reports, archived newspapers, mainstream media, non-profit enquiries, private websites, personal blogs, and crowd-sourced lists. Individually, however, these platforms fail to capture the magnitude of the problem.

For example, government reports on school shootings by the US Secret Service, FBI, and Department of Education provide an explanation of factors contributing to shootings, but do not catalogue a comprehensive list of the incidents.^{2,3,4} Lists of shootings reported by the media identify a large number of incidents, but provide few details beyond the date and location. Databases of school shootings on blogs and crowd-sourced websites have extensive lists of school shootings, but lack citations to any primary source.

Without a common methodology for data collection, individual data sources are limited in both validity and utility. Furthermore, there is no consensus for what actually defines a school shooting to serve as the inclusion/exclusion criteria across the different datasets. Based on the differences among all available reporting platforms, there is currently no single source for objective and accessible data from which school administrators, law enforcement, and public officials can draw to inform their decisions.

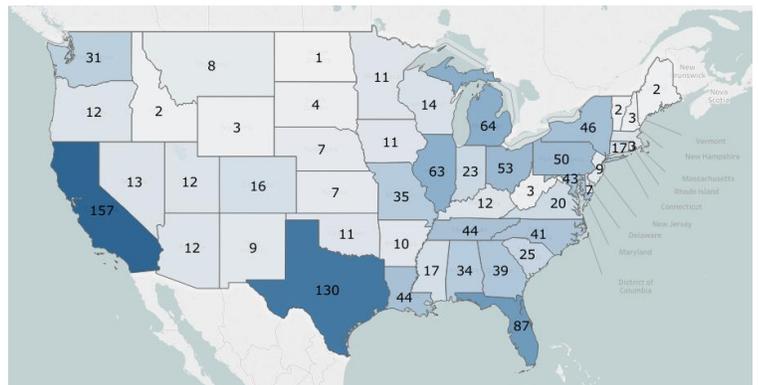
As a result, there is a need for a widely inclusive K-12 school shooting database that documents each and every instance in which a gun is brandished, fired, or a bullet hits school property^{5,6,7} for any reason, regardless of the number of victims (including zero), time, day of the week, or reason (e.g., planned attack, accidental, domestic violence, gang-related). The

breadth of this dataset would allow for a comprehensive view of the issue while providing users with the ability to filter between specific subsets within the data (e.g., number of victims, pre-planning, and type of weapon used). Through the inclusion, rather than exclusion, of criteria that are cross-referenced, unfiltered, and agnostic, users could conduct a more detailed analyses of specific incidents within their area(s) of interest from which to make better informed decisions and generate more accurate reports.

To answer the question “How many school shootings have occurred” and address the void of centralized and available data, the K-12 School Shooting Database (K-12 SSDB) has been created as a research product of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security. The product is a filtered, deconflicted, and cross-referenced database of more than 1,300 K-12 school shootings from 1970 to the time of publication (updates will be made as new incidents occur) collated from the previously referenced sources⁸ as well as new and continued research by the authors. The K-12 SSDB includes detailed information about each incident, a reliability score that quantifies the dependability of the information, and the verified primary source citation(s) (e.g., newspaper article, court records, interviews, police reports) to allow for further academic research.

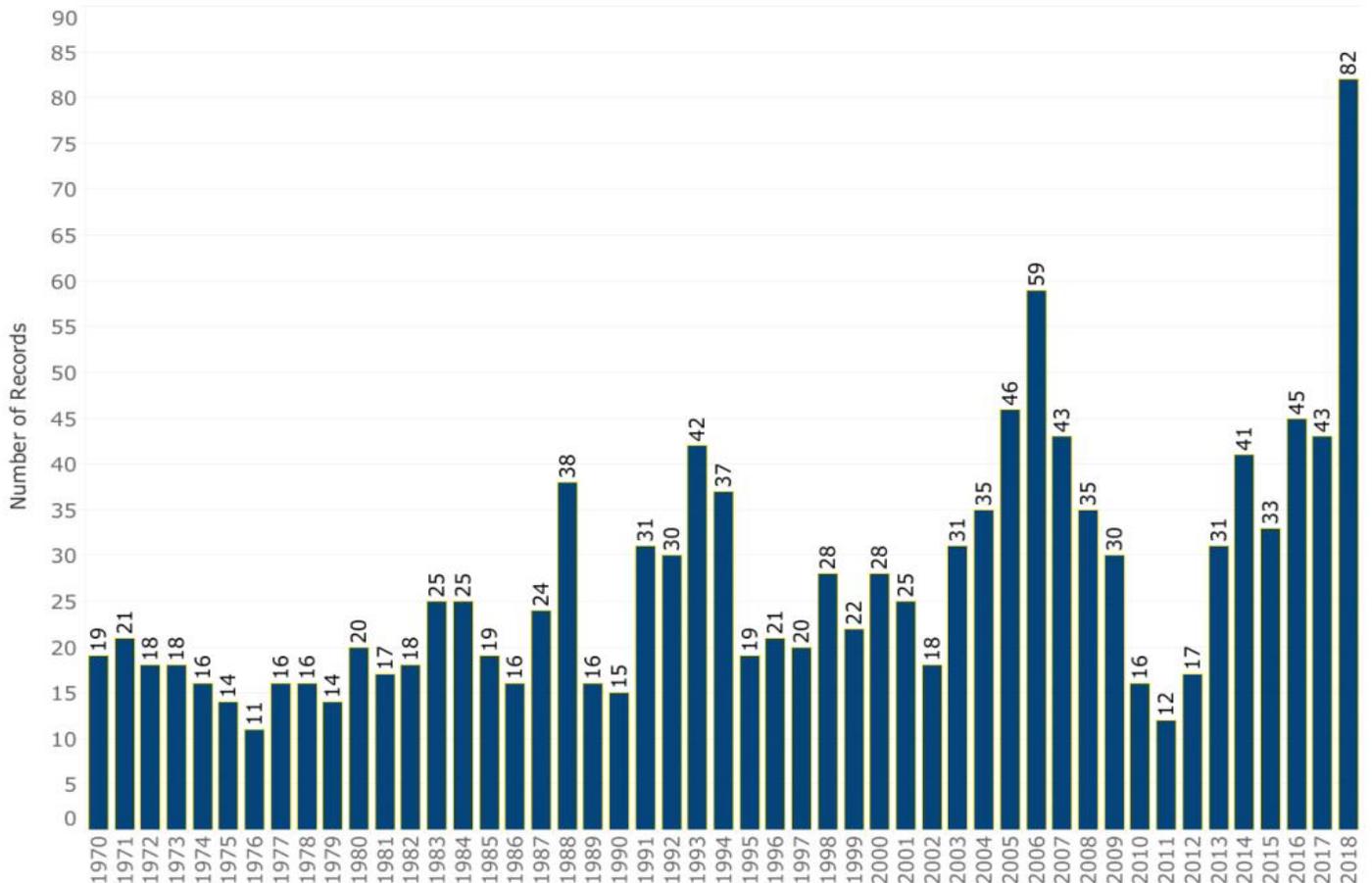
Incidents By State:

- 157 California
- 130 Texas
- 87 Florida
- 64 Michigan
- 63 Illinois
- 53 Ohio
- 50 Pennsylvania

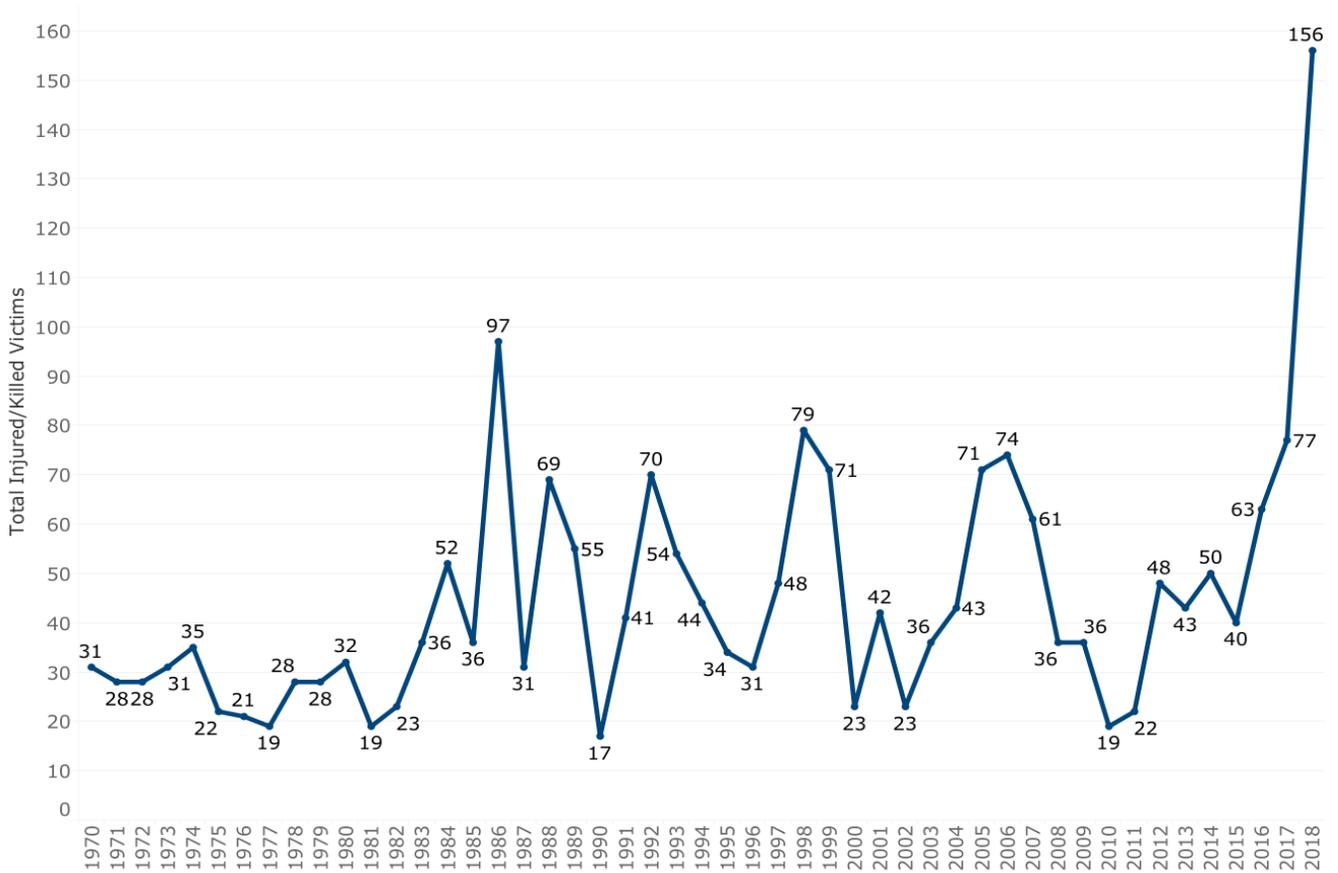


Incident Trends:

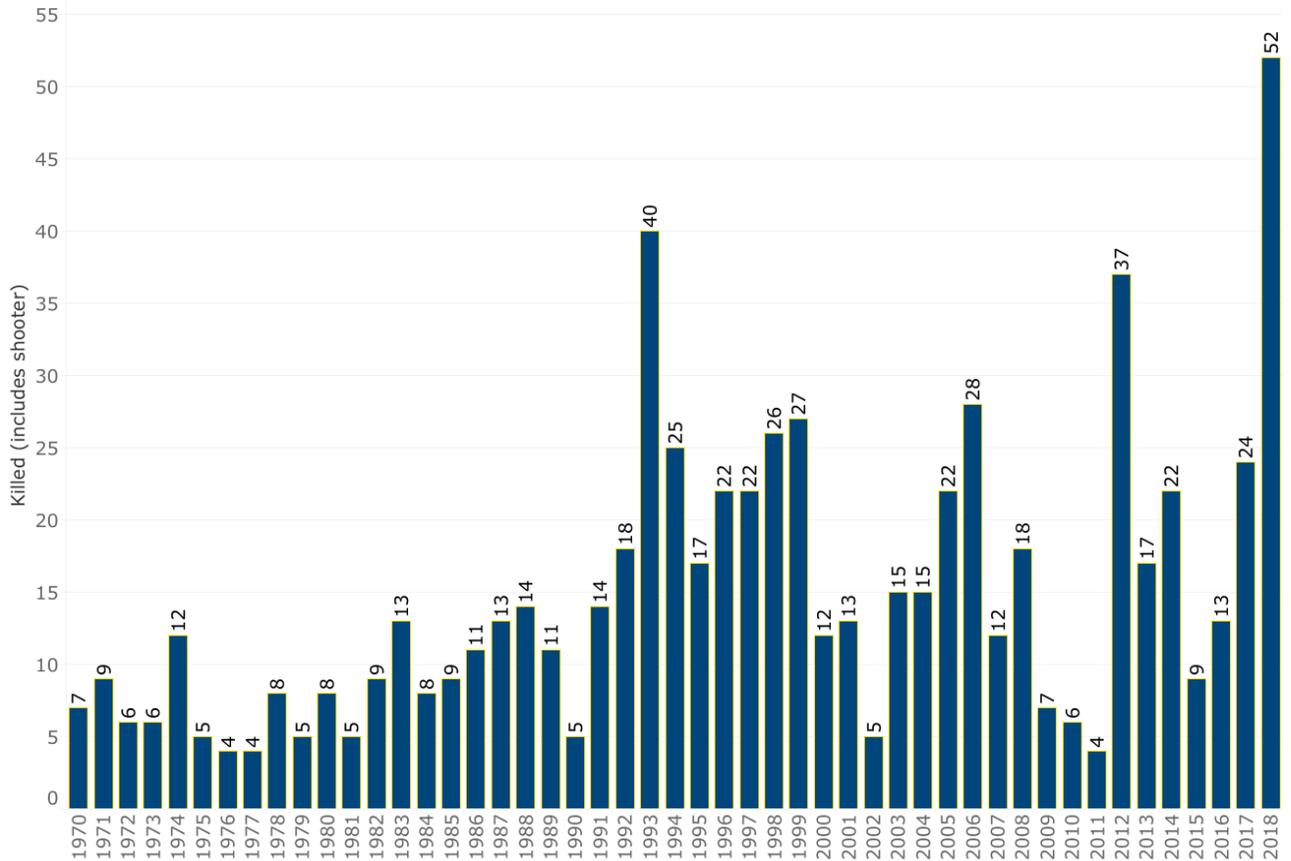
INCIDENTS BY YEAR



Trends of Injured/Killed Victims:



Number of Killed (includes shooter) by Year



0 https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/safety/k-12-school-shooting-statistics-everyone-should-know/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=content&eid=432705686&bid=2271700

1 <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/08/27/640323347/the-school-shootings-that-werent>

2 USSS Report; 37 incidents; <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/preventingattacksreport.pdf>

3 USSS Report; Case study of 11 incidents, cites 37; https://www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/USSS_NTAC_Enhancing_School_Safety_Guide_7.11.18.pdf

4 FBI; 39 incidents; <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-study-2000-2013-1.pdf>

5 Includes school buses but excluding school bus stops because the delineation of school property versus the surrounding area is subjective (e.g., is 50 yards from a bus stop or a student walking to the school bus stop a school shooting?). The research team made the decision to include only school property and the school bus as an extension of school property.

6 Includes when the shooting occurs off of school property but the victim and/or suspects end up on school property (e.g., victim was shot two blocks away from school and ran to school for assistance)

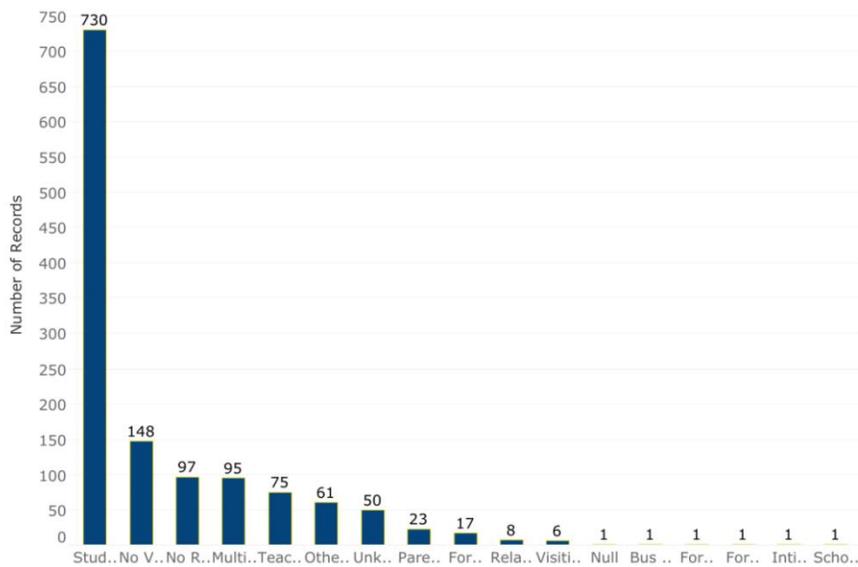
7 In urban areas, school property includes the streets and alleys adjacent to school property and public parks used for school activities (e.g., public basketball court next to school used for gym class)

8 See Appendix 1: Current Open Source Databases of School Shootings

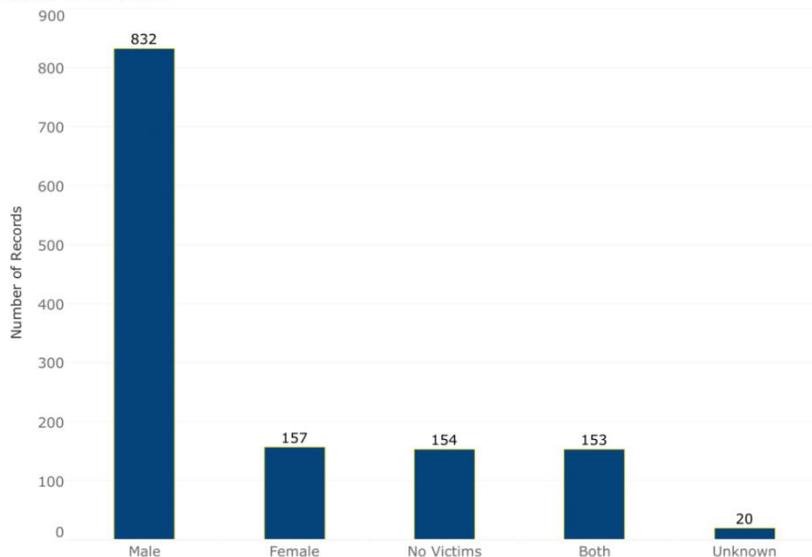
Appendix

Victim Profile

VICTIM'S AFFILIATION WITH SCHOOL

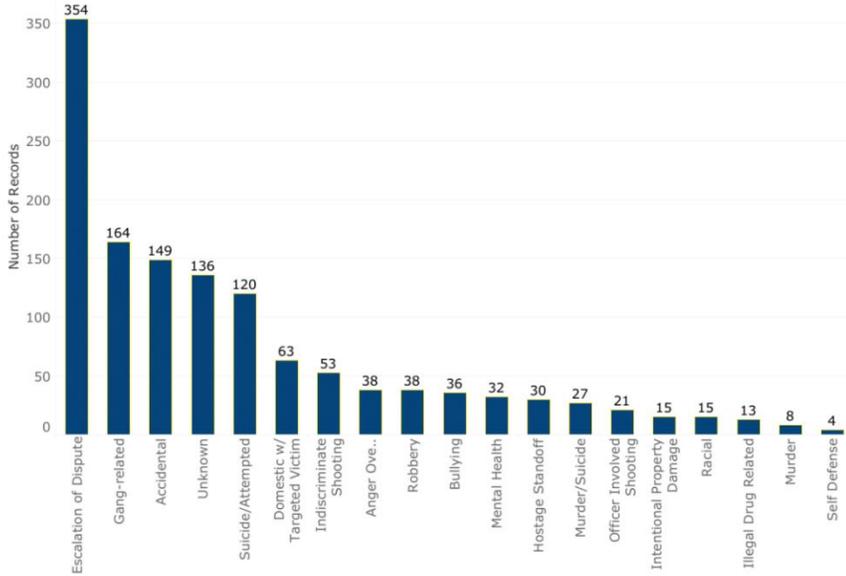


Gender of the Victim

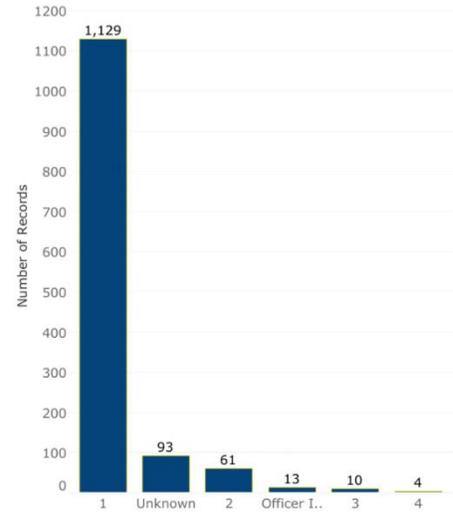


Shooter Profile

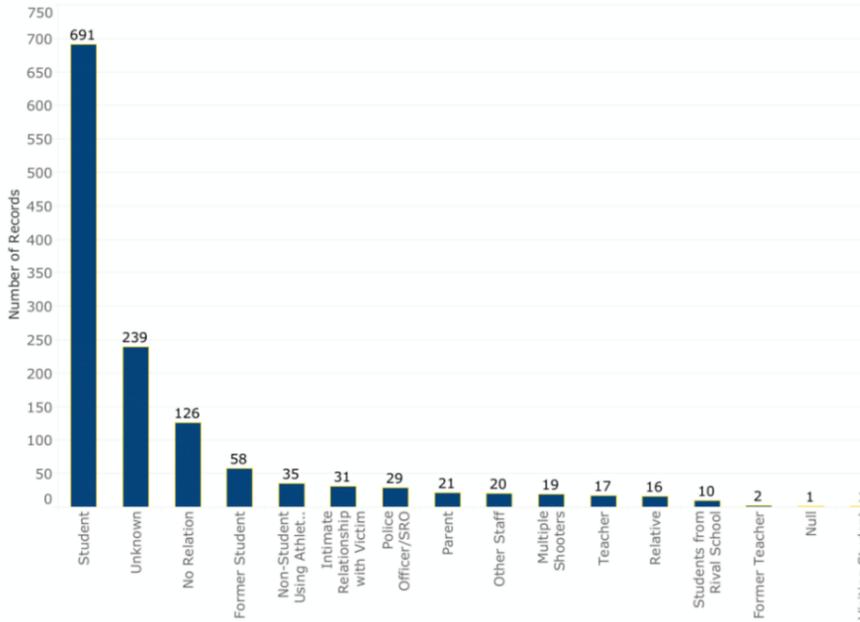
INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY



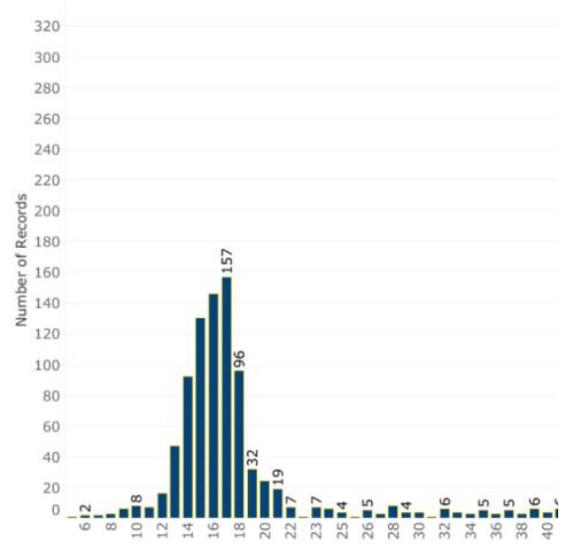
INCIDENTS BY NUMBER OF SHOOTERS



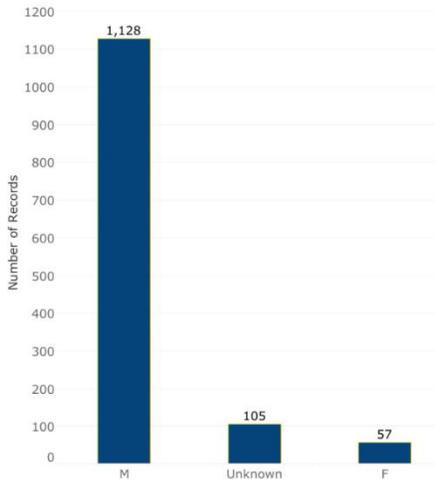
SHOOTER'S AFFILIATION WITH SCHOOL



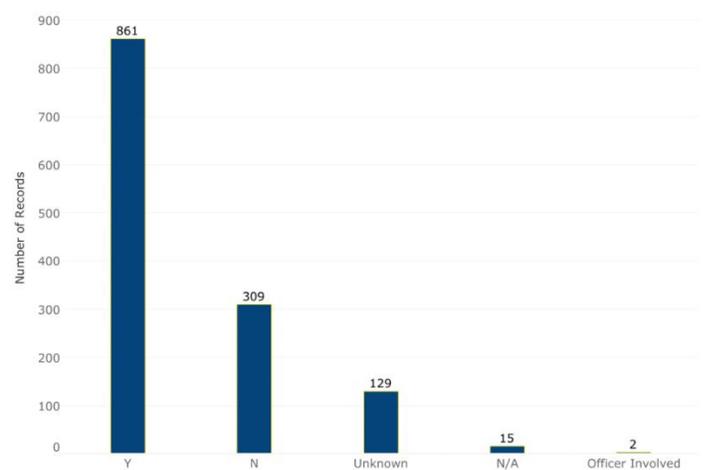
INCIDENTS BY AGE OF SHOOTER



INCIDENTS BY SHOOTER'S GENDER

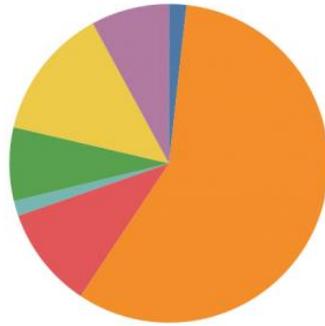


TARGETED SPECIFIC VICTIMS



Intendent Profile:

HOW THE INCIDENT ENDED?

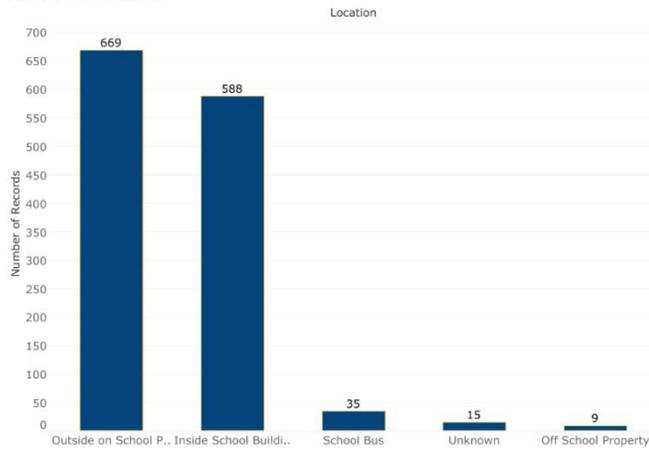


Number of Records
1,316

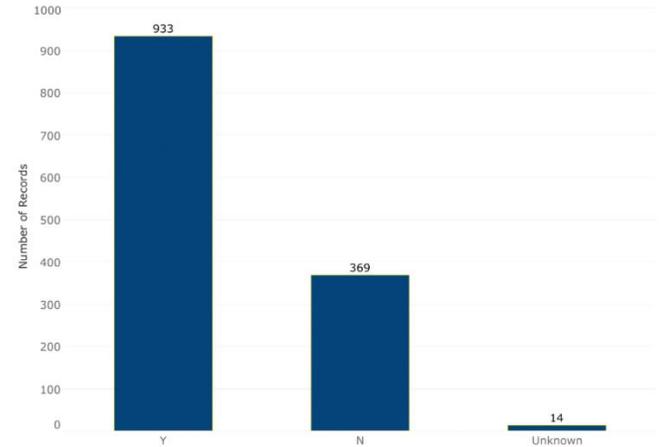
Shooter's actions immediately after shots fired

- Barricaded
- Fled
- Immediately Surrendered
- Officer Involved
- Subdued/Apprehended
- Suicide/Attempted
- Unknown if Subdued Surrendered or Fled

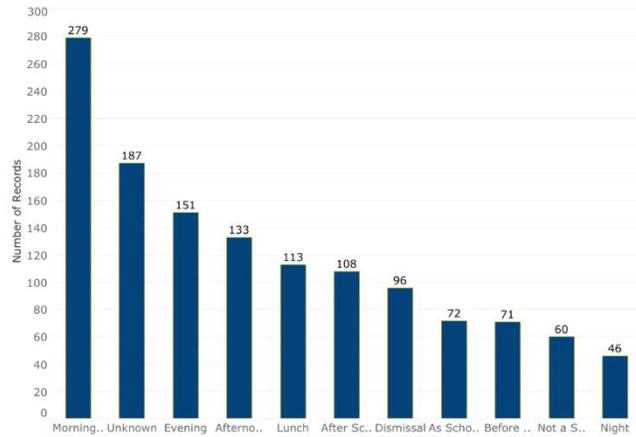
INCIDENTS BY LOCATION



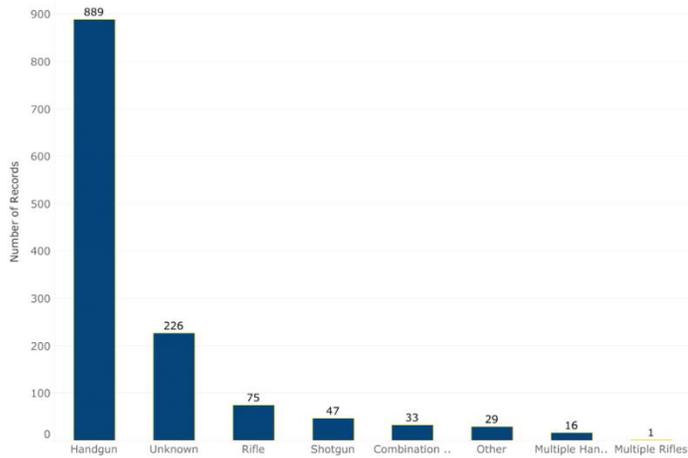
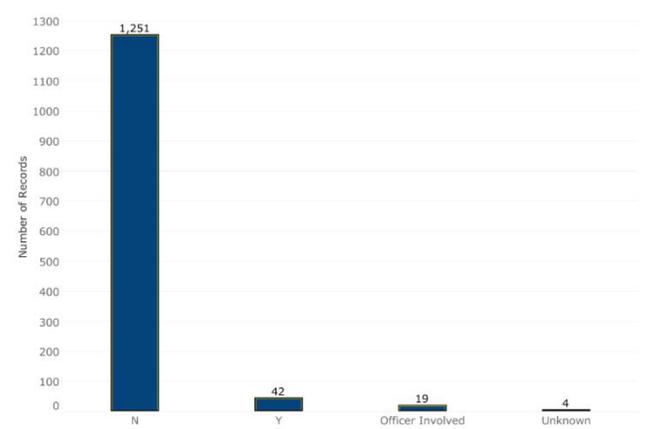
INCIDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY



INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY



WERE HOSTAGES TAKEN?



INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK

