

# **School Shootings in America: Fears, Facts, and Drills**

James Alan Fox  
Northeastern University

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# There were school shootings years ago, but not the panic



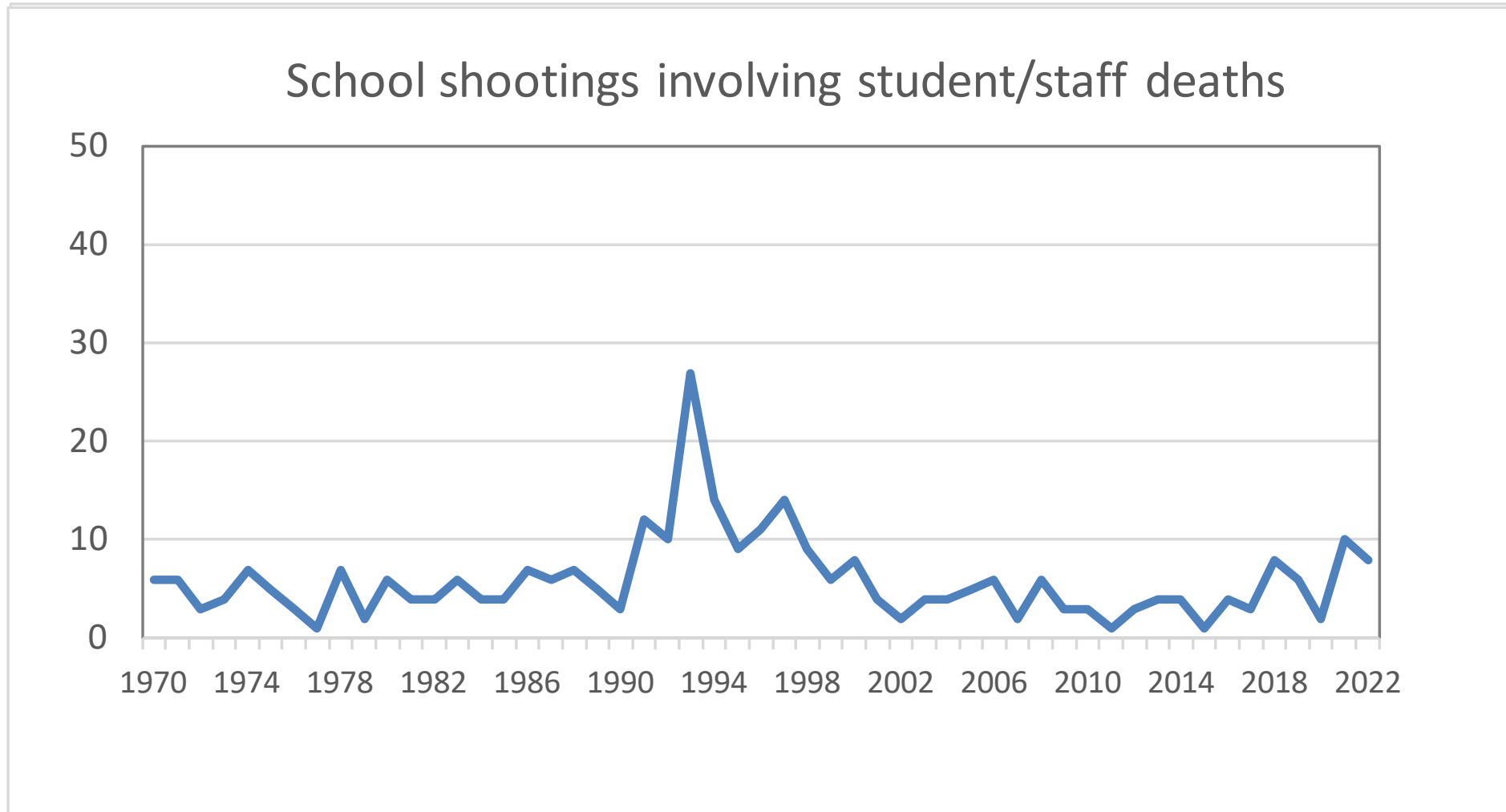
**Jan. 17, 1989**

**Celveland Elementary School  
Stockton CA**

**Five children (ages 6-9) killed  
and thirty others (including  
one teacher) wounded**

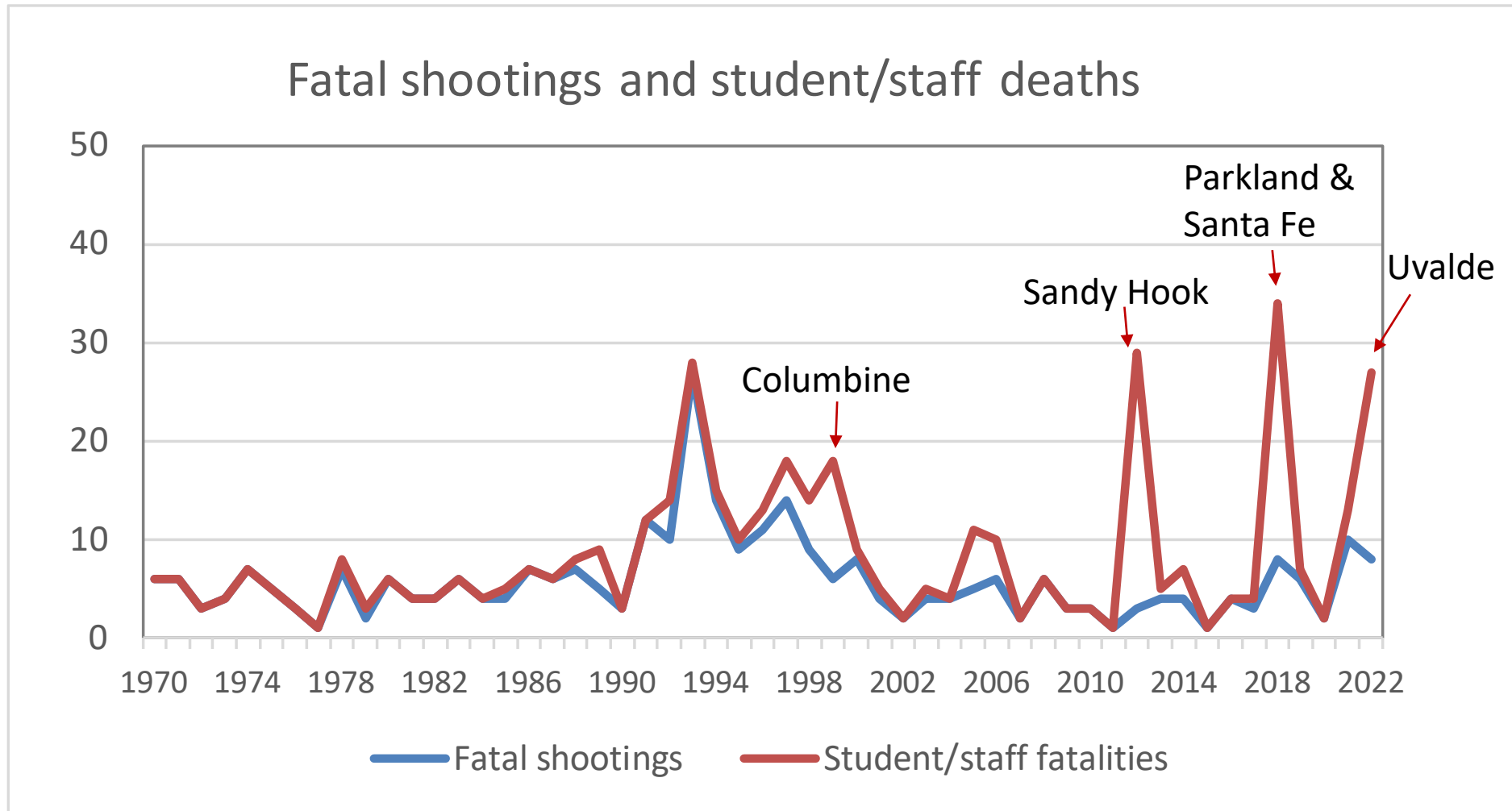
**But not seen on TV!**

# Fifty-year trend in school fatal shooting



Source: CHDS K=12 School Shooting Database

# Fifty-year trend in fatal shootings and fatalities



Source: CHDS K=12 School Shooting Database

# “I want to go to my graduation, not to my grave”

## Majority of U.S. teens worry a shooting could happen at their school

*% of teens saying they are \_\_\_ about the possibility of a shooting happening at their school*

	Very worried	Somewhat worried	NET
All teens	25	32	57
Boys	22	29	51
Girls	28	35	64
White	20	31	51
Black	27	34	60
Hispanic	37	36	73

Note: Whites and blacks include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to net total due to rounding.

Source: Survey of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 conducted March 7-April 12, 2018.

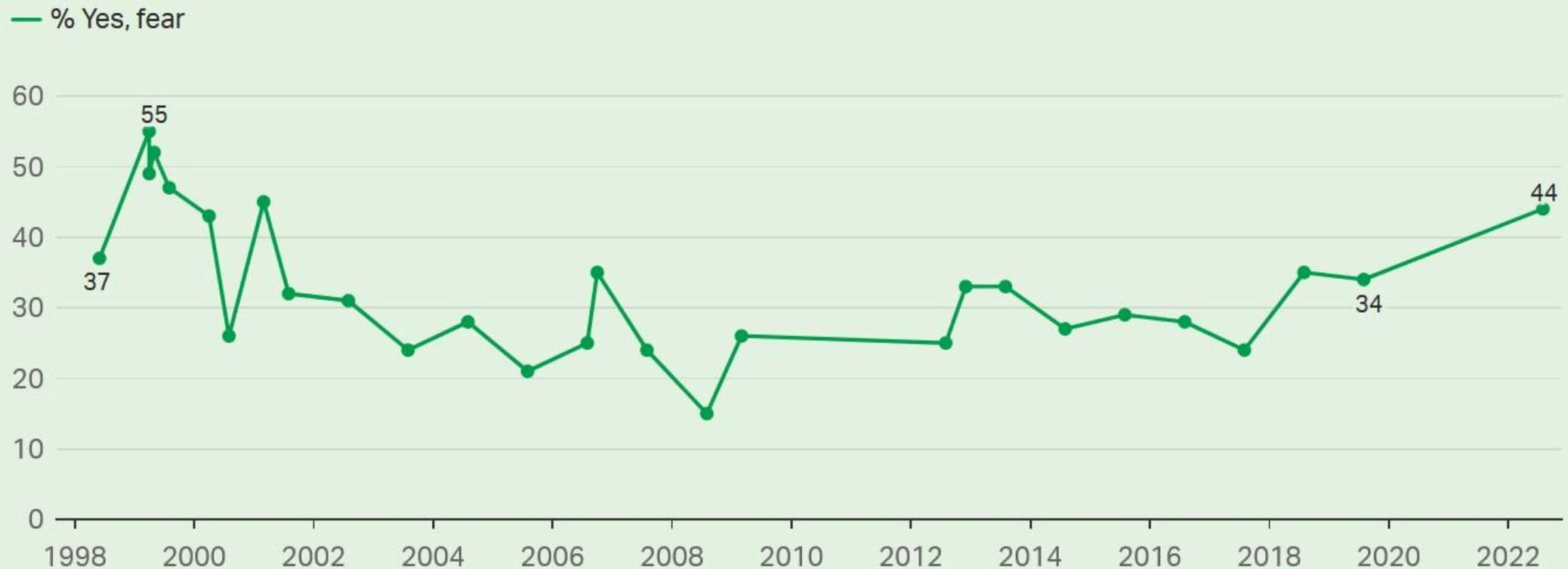
PEW RESEARCH CENTER



# Parents' fears are rebounding

## U.S. K-12 Parents' Concern About Their Child's Safety at School

Thinking about your oldest child, when he or she is at school, do you fear for his or her physical safety?



Source: Gallup polls



# Unpacking data on shootings incidents and victims

From 2012/2013 through 2021/2022, there were **1,123** shootings on school property, of which **202** were inside the school and of those **171** were during school hours.

- |   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| • Victims injured by gunfire              | 1,039 | 64 of the student fatalities were from 4 incidents: Sandy Hook, Parkland, Santa Fe & Uvalde |
| • Victims injured in school during school | 271   |   |
| • Victims killed in school during school  | 98    |   |
| • Student killed in school during school  | 83    |   |

**Only 15% of shootings and 27% of injuries occurred inside the school building during school hours. The vast majority would not be impacted by lockdown drills and other in-school security measures.**

# Active shooter events (ASEs) in educational settings

- FBI definition: An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.
- The definition does not require death or even injury
- From 2000-2022, **48 ASEs in K-12**, averaging about two per year. That is out of about 130,000 schools.
- From 2000-2022, **18 ASEs in colleges/universities**, averaging about one per year. That is out of more than 5,000 colleges/universities.



# Two Decades in Rhode Island

Date	Killed	Injured	School	Location	Time Period	Summary
3/18/2022	0	0	Central High School	Parking Lot	Dismissal	Two students fired pellet gun in parking lot from their vehicle
10/13/2020	1	2	Rhode Island School for the Deaf	Parking Lot	After School	Three adult males shot in the school parking lot
9/5/2018	1	0	Providence Career and Technical Academy	Front of School	Dismissal	Shots fired during fight outside school
7/6/2012	1	0	Nathaniel Greene Elementary School	Beside Building	Night	A 20 yo male fatally shot another 20 yo male behind the school
5/23/2007	0	1	Oak Haven Elementary School	Playground	After School	Shot bully with BB gun

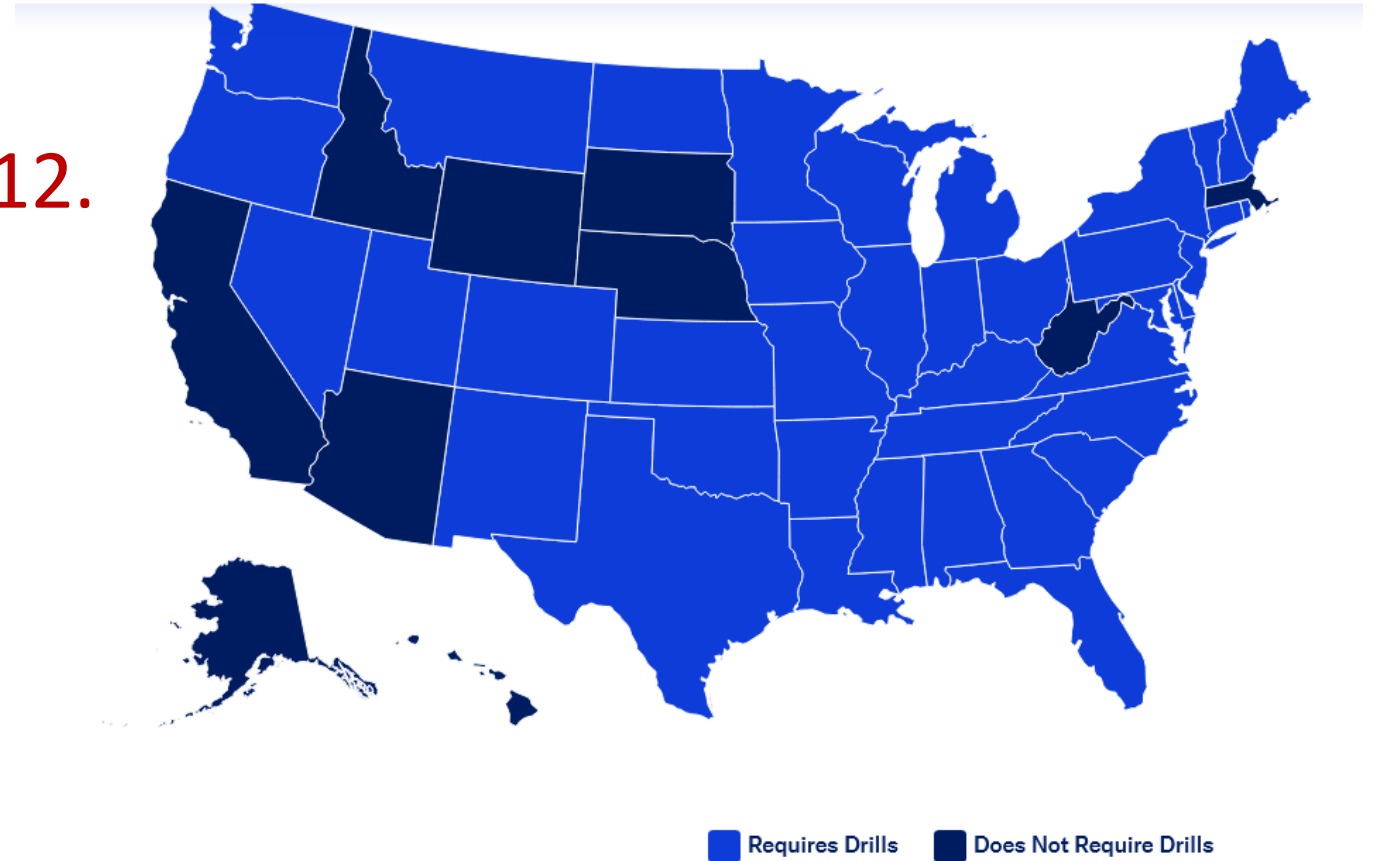
**None of these incidents occurred inside the school building**

# Active Shooter Drills

# Widespread use of drills

Active shooter drills in schools

All but 10 states require active shooter drills for K-12.



#Drills	#States
1	12
2	12
3	4
4	3
5	2

Source: Everytown for Gun Safety

# Active shooter simulations v. drills

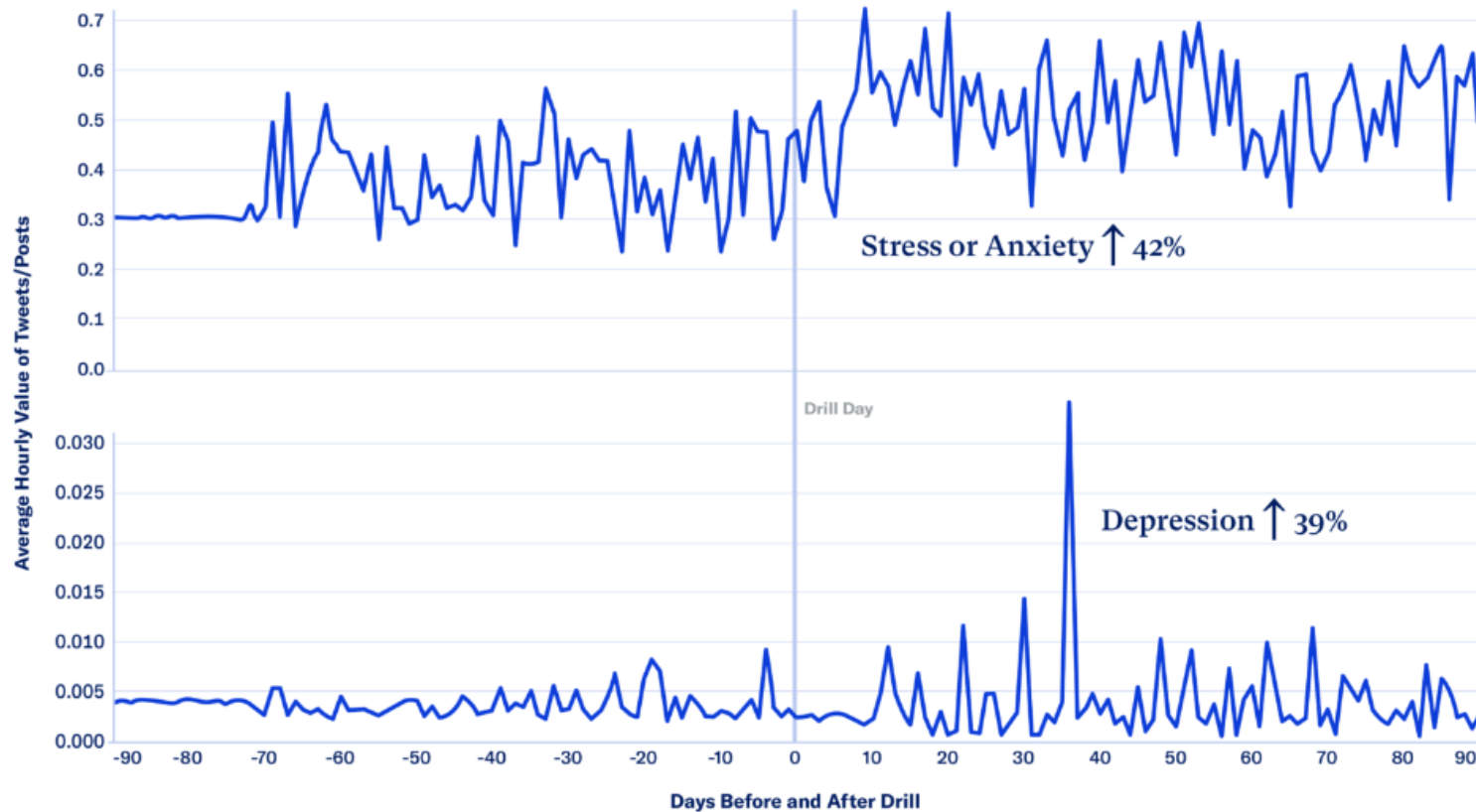
Schools sometimes:

- Unannounced drills
- Told “Not a drill”
- Fake blood for realism
- “Assailant” with camouflage clothing and assault rifle



# Traumatizing effect of drills

## Analysis of tweets before/after active shooter drills



The **American Federation of Teachers** and the **National Education Association** as well as the **American Academy of Pediatrics** have expressed deep concerns over the negative effects of active shooter drills.

Source: Georgia Tech University



# Sugar-coating doesn't necessarily help



The kids at Superhero School imagine a lockdown caused by fire-breathing dragons, supervillains, even wild animals. They know **what to do** and **who to trust** because ...

**Superheroes are prepared!**

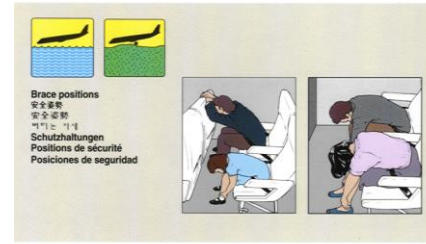
Students use their superhero skills to get out of sight, keep quiet, and stay calm in a Lockdown Drill.

 Pull a Wagon Publishing  
www.PullaWagon.com

ISBN 978-1-7348262-0-3  
9 781734 826203



# Lesson from the Airlines and Cruise Lines and History



If you see the flash, duck and cover!

# Recommendations

- Simulations should involve staff and local police, but not the students
- Never do unannounced drills
  - (IL, KY, MN, NY, TX mandate announcement)
- Inform parents on scheduling
- Allow students and parents on behalf of their children to opt-out
  - (GA, IL, KY, ME, MN allow parental opt-out)
- Make the drill as low-key as possible and, of course, age-appropriate
- Minimize the frequency of drills, so as not to suggest danger; one or two drills per year are sufficient for learning
- Do more verbal instruction and less physical activity
- The lockdown drill frequency requirement under R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-4 is generally acceptable, but could be reduced to 1, especially for younger students

# Rise and fall of social contagion (and public obsession)

- Eight multiple victim school shooting in 1996-2001
- “School shootings are an epidemic.” Dan Rather, March 5, 2001
- Not another for 4 years

Date	Shooter, Age	School	Location	Killed	Injured
2/2/1996	Barry Loukaitis, 14	Frontier Junior H.S.	Moses Lake, WA	3	1
2/19/1997	Evan Ramsey, 16	Bethel Regional H.S.	Bethel, AL	2	2
10/1/1997	Luke Woodham, 16	Pearl H.S.	Pearl, MS	3	7
12/1/1997	Michael Carneal, 14	Heath H.S.	West Paducah, KY	3	5
3/24/1998	Mitchell Johnson, 13 & Andrew Golden, 11	Westside M.S.	Jonesboro, AR	5	10
5/21/1998	Kipland Kinkel, 15	Thurston H.S.	Springfield, OR	4	25
4/20/1999	Eric Harris, 18 & Dylan Klebold, 17	Columbine H.S.	Littleton, CO	13	23
3/5/2001	Charles "Andy" Williams, 15	Santana H.S.	Santee, CA	2	23
3/21/2005	Jeffrey Weise, 16	Red Lake H.S.	Red Lake, MN	9	5

*Note: Incidents with 4+ victims and at least two deaths (not including the assailant)*

## At the end of the (school) day

- No real evidence of effectiveness
- Traumatizing for many students
  - Not the same as fire drills
- Reminder of vulnerability
- Fueling swatting hoaxes
- Suggests an option for an angry or dispirited student (and strategic approach)
- Alternative ways to protect students





# Safety without alarming

- Unobtrusive security (e.g., acoustic sensors)
- Environmental design limiting access and enhancing escape
- More teachers, guidance counselors school psychologists and smaller classes



SANDY HOOK SCHOOL  
Site Plan



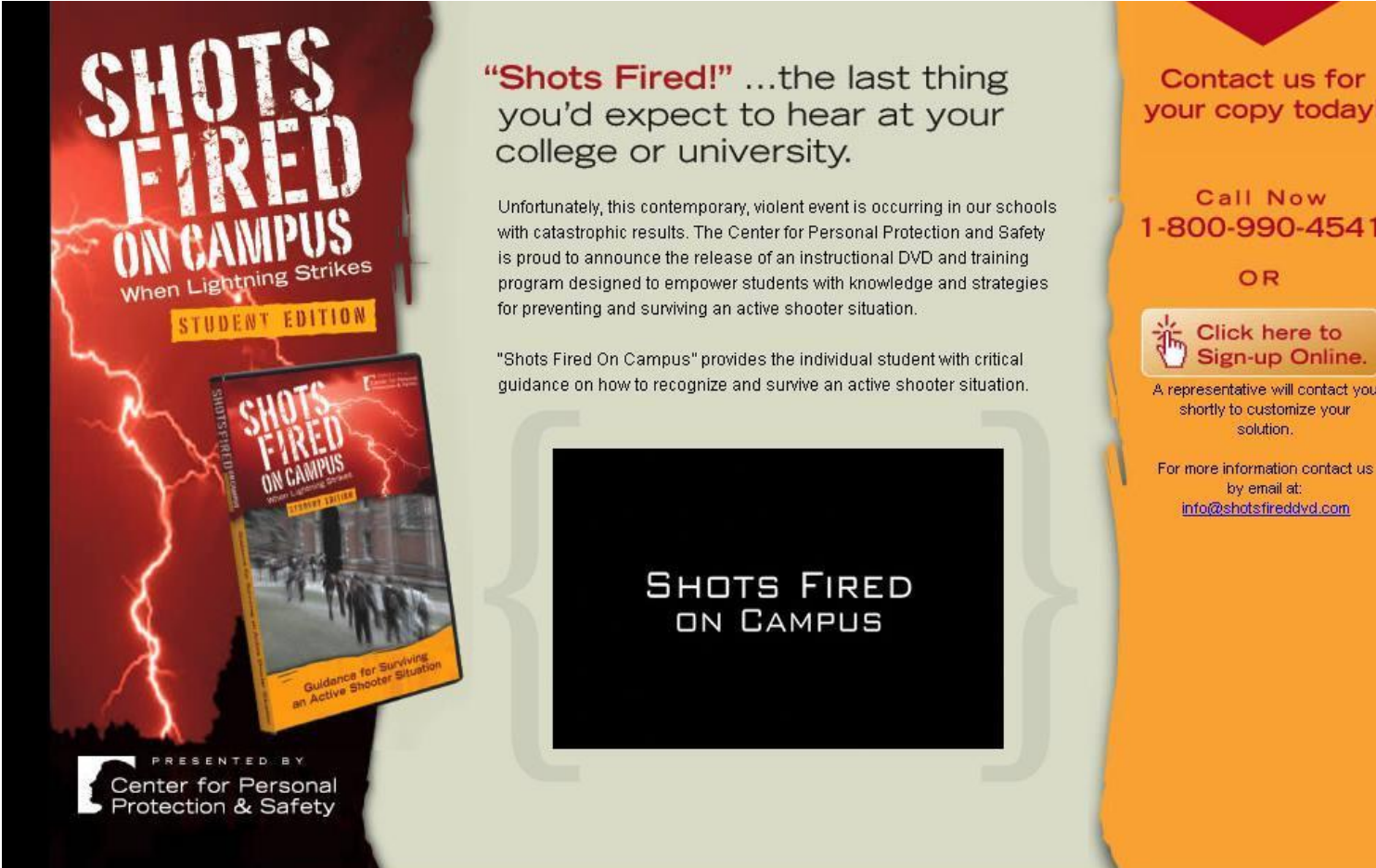
New Sandy Hook Elementary School

# On to College





# How we send the wrong message



**SHOTS FIRED ON CAMPUS**  
When Lightning Strikes  
STUDENT EDITION

SHOTS FIRED ON CAMPUS  
When Lightning Strikes  
STUDENT EDITION  
Guidance for Surviving an Active Shooter Situation

PRESENTED BY  
Center for Personal Protection & Safety

**“Shots Fired!”** ...the last thing you'd expect to hear at your college or university.

Unfortunately, this contemporary, violent event is occurring in our schools with catastrophic results. The Center for Personal Protection and Safety is proud to announce the release of an instructional DVD and training program designed to empower students with knowledge and strategies for preventing and surviving an active shooter situation.

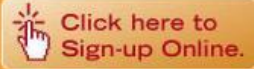
"Shots Fired On Campus" provides the individual student with critical guidance on how to recognize and survive an active shooter situation.

**SHOTS FIRED ON CAMPUS**

Contact us for your copy today!

Call Now  
**1-800-990-4541**

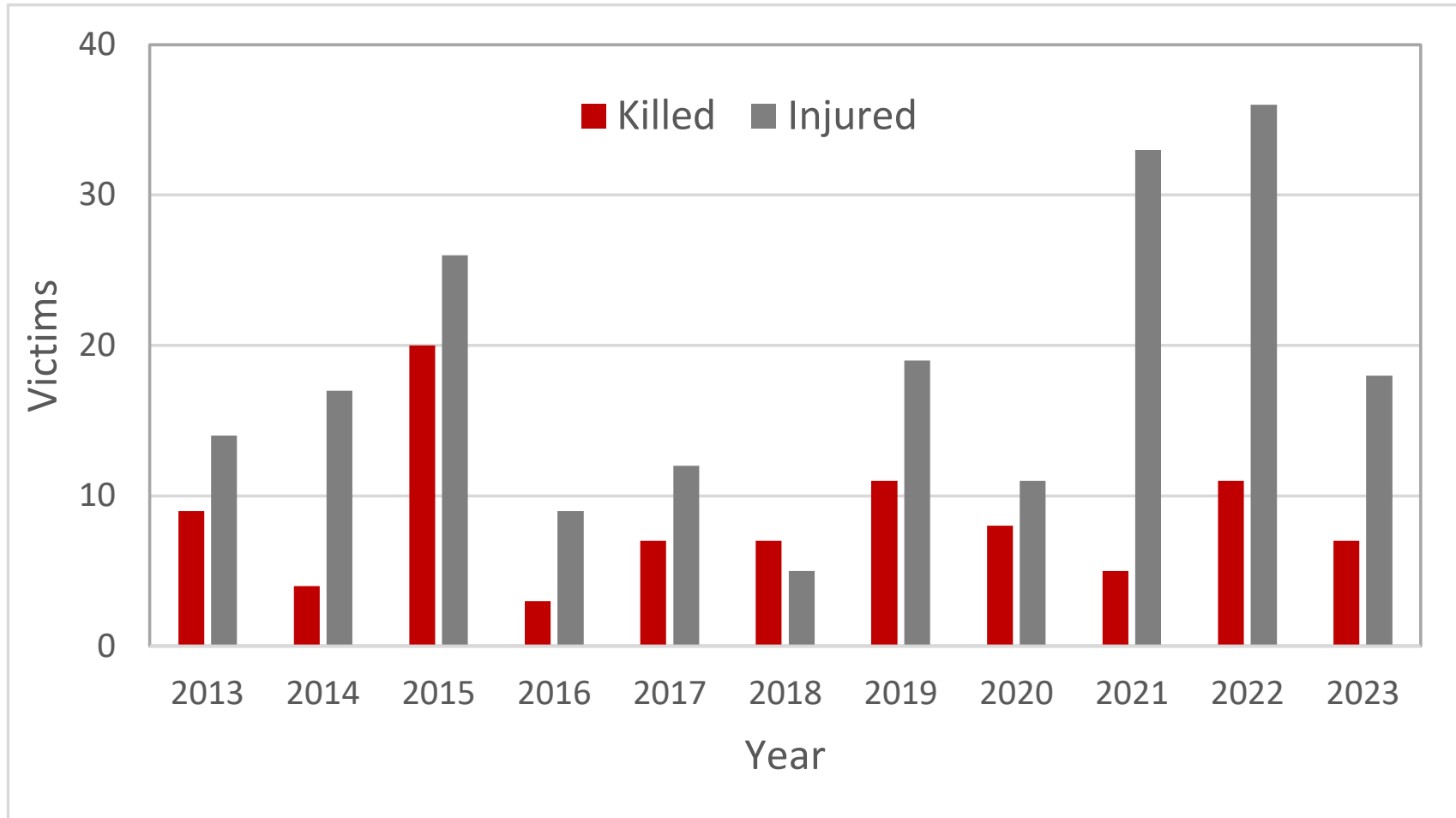
OR

 Click here to Sign-up Online.

A representative will contact you shortly to customize your solution.

For more information contact us by email at:  
[info@shotsfiredvd.com](mailto:info@shotsfiredvd.com)

# College/University Campus Shootings



	Average
Incidents	17.2
Killed	8.4
Injured	18.2

**But most of these are targeted, not indiscriminate rampages**

Source: Everytown for Gun Safety

# Concealed Carry on Campus

Virginia Tech prohibits peaceable wearing of sidearms for self-protection

**“THIS WILL HELP PARENTS,  
STUDENTS, FACULTY AND  
VISITORS FEEL SAFE  
ON OUR CAMPUS”**

Larry Hincker, VT Public Relations

**ABILITY TO CARRY SIDEARMS  
WOULD HAVE MADE THEM SAFE.**



**Students for Concealed  
Carry on Campus** 

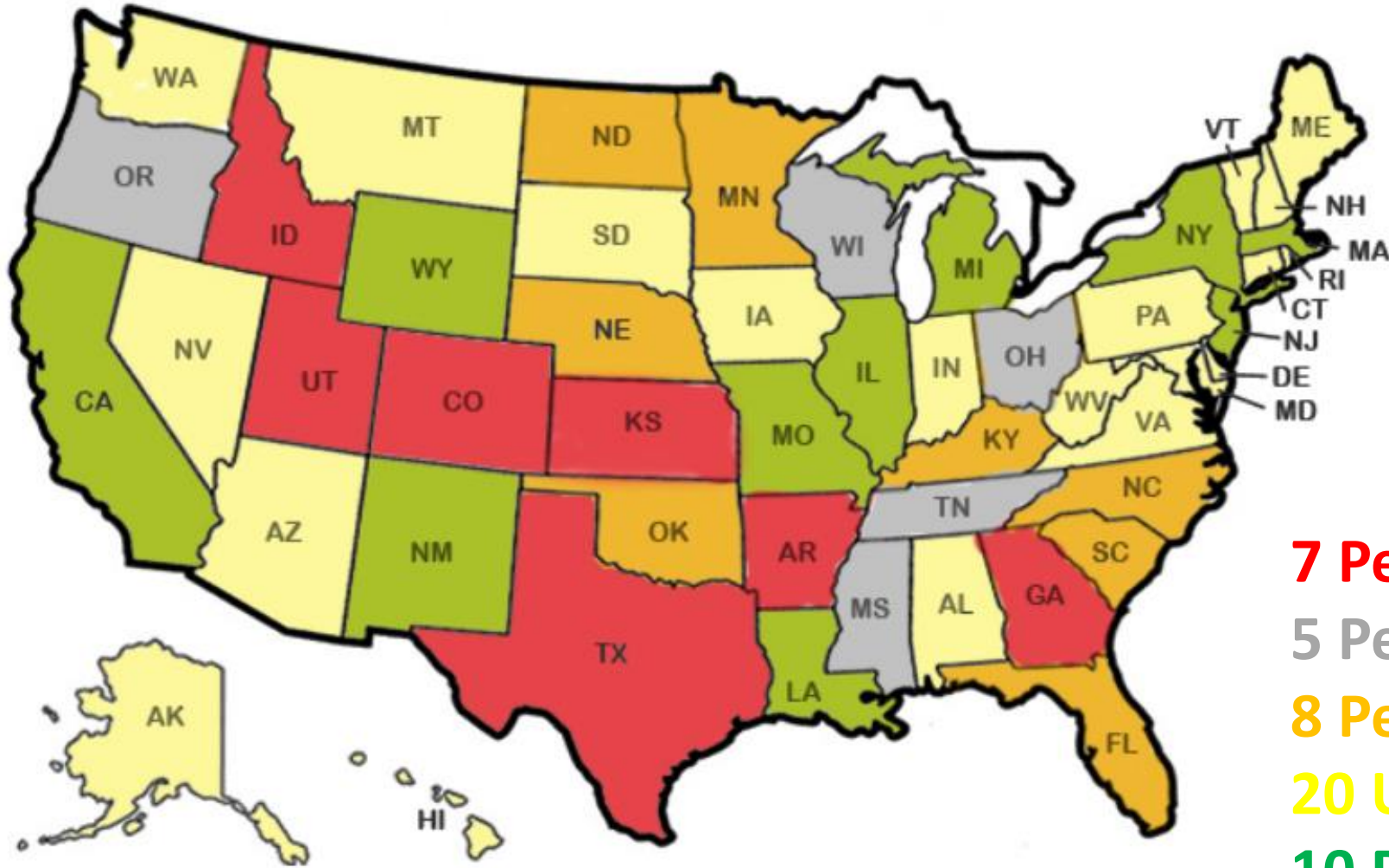
**Signs can't stop  
acts of violence.**



**Armed citizens can.**

**ConcealedCampus.com**

# Campus carry



**7 Permit universally**

5 Permit with exclusions

**8 Permit in parked cars**

**20 University discretion**

**10 Prohibit**

# Recommendations

- Low-key instruction or video during orientation
- Reconsider the requirements under R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-4
- Active shooter simulations without student involvement
- Favor unobtrusive security measures
- Prohibit campus carry
- Duly sworn campus safety officers should be armed
- Student centeredness is more than just words
- Require faculty to be trained in dealing effectively with difficult situations and difficult students and colleagues.

**Thank you!**



# Unpacking School Shooting Data

From 2012/13 through 2021/22, there were more than nearly 800 K-12 school-related shootings involving **1,285 victims** (1,039 of whom were injured in any way), according to a database from the **Center for Homeland Defense and Security**.

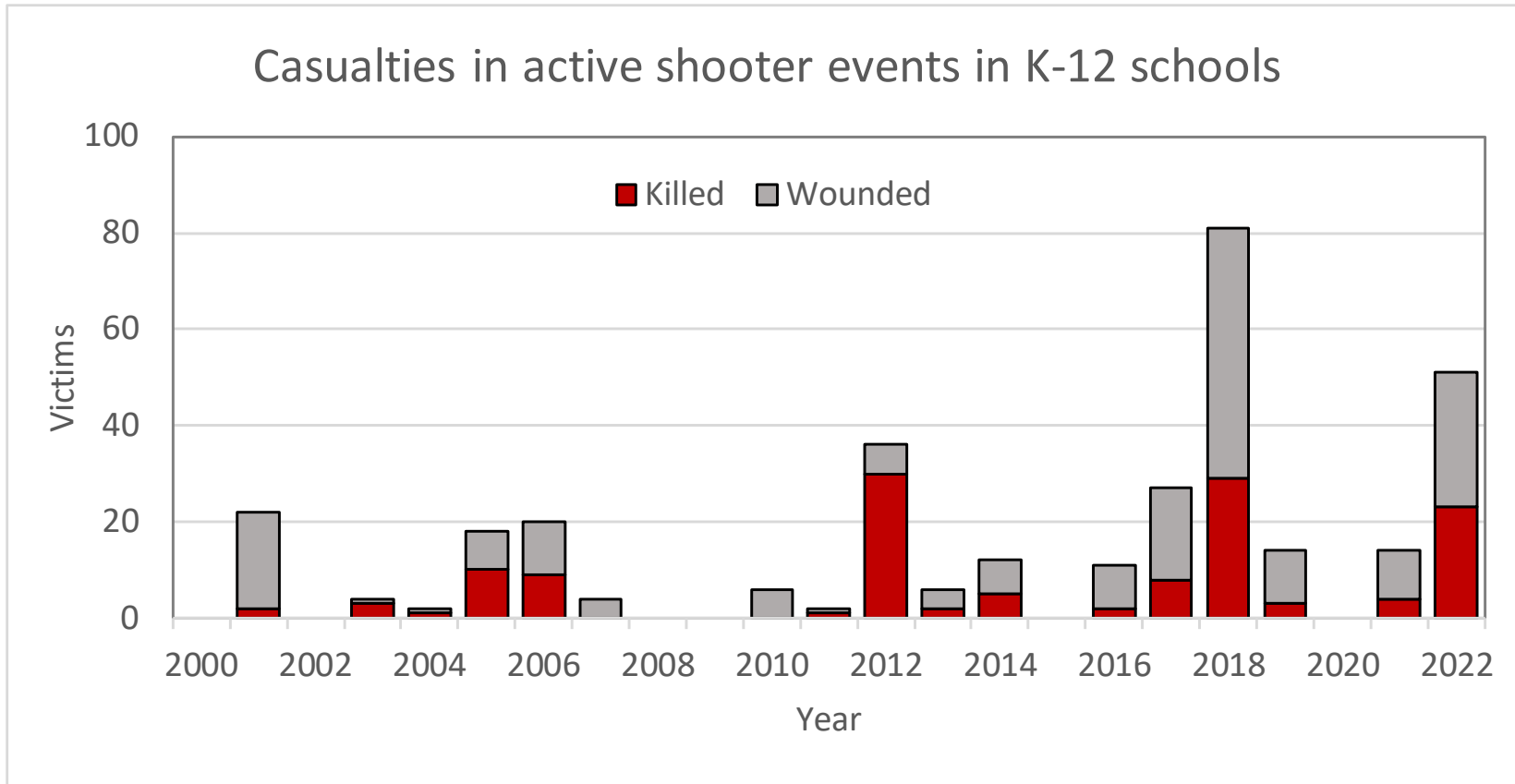
Where and who	Killed	Wounded	Minor or no injury	Total
All victims	266	716	303	1285
Inside school building	104	175	92	371
During school hours	98	147	83	328
Students during school hours	83	120	41	244

**Only 15% of school shootings and 27% of injuries occurred inside the school building.**

**Eight students on average fatally shot at school annually (out of 54 million enrollment in K-12)**

**64 of the student fatalities were from 4 incidents: Sandy Hook, Parkland, Santa Fe & Uvalde**

# Active shooter events 2020-22 in K-12 schools



- In total, 132 killed and 198 wounded in the 48 incidents.
- More than half of the fatalities (74) we linked to four incidents: Sandy Hook (26); Parkland (17); Santa Fe (10); and Uvalde (21).
- One-third of ASE had no fatalities and some had no casualties

Source: FBI. Active shooter events database

# Active Shooter Drills

- ECSU's blunder in its "active shooter" exercise
- Training is fine, but do not involve the students



"That was really scary actually," said Karina Muro a student at Cal State Univ-Sonoma "When they came in, I thought they had real guns."



# What about multiple-victim campus shootings

## Multiple-victim college campus shootings in the U.S., 1990-2023

Date	School	Shooter Name and Age	Victims Killed	Role at School
November 1, 1991	University of Iowa	Gang Lu, 28	5	Graduate student
December 14, 1992	Simon's Rock College	Wayne Lo, 18	2	Undergraduate student
January 26, 1995	University of North Carolina	Wendell Williamson, 26	2	Former law student
August 15, 1996	San Diego State University	Frederick Davidson, 36	3	Graduate student
January 16, 2002	Appalachian School of Law	Peter Odighizuwa, 42	3	Former law student
October 28, 2002	University of Arizona	Robert Flores, 40	3	Nursing student
September 2, 2006	Shepherd University	Douglas Pennington, 49	2	Parent of students
April 16, 2007	Virginia Tech	Seung-Hui Cho, 23	32	Undergraduate student
February 8, 2008	Louisiana Tech	Latina Williams, 23	2	Nursing student
February 14, 2008	Northern Illinois University	Steven Kazmierczak, 27	5	Former graduate student
October 26, 2008	University of Central Arkansas	Four teenagers	2	None
February 12, 2010	University of Alabama Huntsville	Amy Bishop, 45	3	Faculty member
May 10, 2011	San Jose State University	Napoleon Lavarias Caliguiran, 54	2	None
April 2, 2012	Oikos University	One L. Goh, 43	7	Former nursing student
January 15, 2013	Hazard Community College	Dalton Lee Stidham, 21	3	Former undergraduate
June 7, 2013	Santa Monica College	John Samir Zawahri, 23	3	None
May 23, 2014	University of California Santa Barbara	Elliot Rodger, 22	6	None
October 1, 2015	Umpqua Community College	Chris Harper-Mercer, 26	9	Undergraduate student
July 7, 2016	El Centro College	Micah Xavier Johnson, 25	5	None
October 25, 2017	Grambling State University	Jaylin Wayne, 18	2	Undergraduate student
March 2, 2018	Central Michigan University	James Eric Davis, Jr., 18	2	Student
April 30, 2019	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Trystan Andrew Terrell, 25	2	Former undergraduate
February 3, 2020	Texas A&M--Commerce	Jacques Dshawn Smith, 21	2	Former undergraduate
February 1, 2022	Bridgewater College	Alexander Wyatt Campbell, 27	2	Former undergraduate
November 13, 2022	University of Virginia	Christopher Darnell Jones Jr.	3	Undergraduate
February 13, 2023	Michigan State University	Anthony McRae, 43	3	None

26 incidents (and 115 victims fatally shot) in more than more than 30 years.