



COLUMBINE
911 CALL
APRIL 20, 1999



NEWTOWN
911 CALL
DECEMBER 14, 2012









PARKLAND
911 CALL
FEBRUARY 14, 2018



Gun Violence in our Schools



School Shooting Defined

- ▶ Shooting at a K-12 school that occurs immediately before, during, or after the school day.
- ▶ Excluded are shootings at after hours events (dances, athletic events, extracurricular activities, etc.), accidental discharges that cause no injuries, and suicides that do not pose a threat to students.

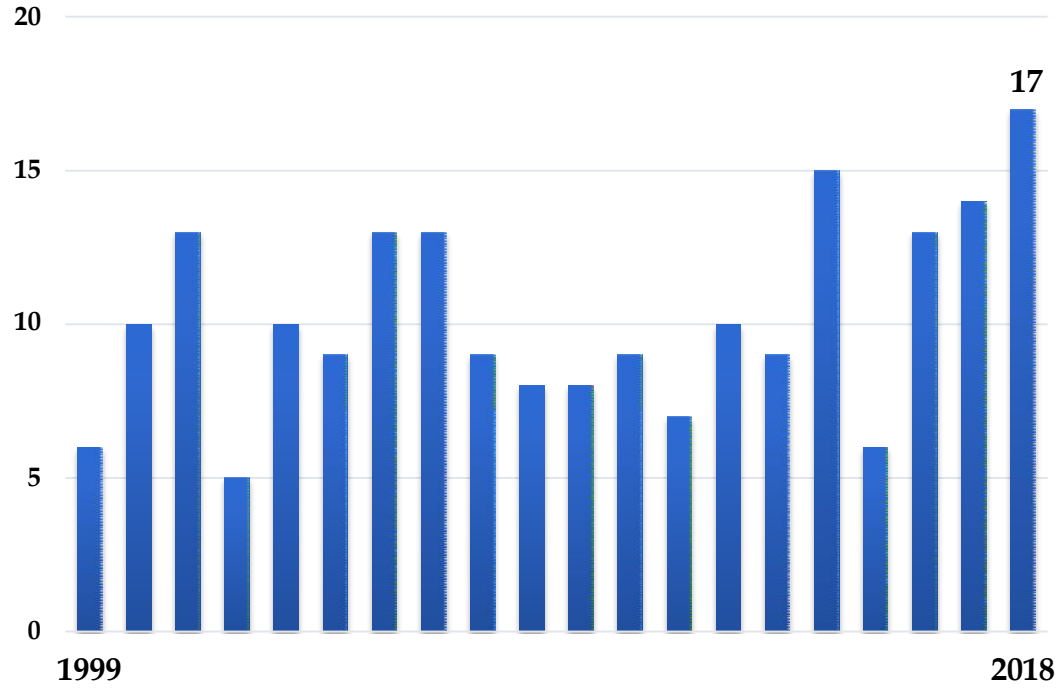
April 20, 1999



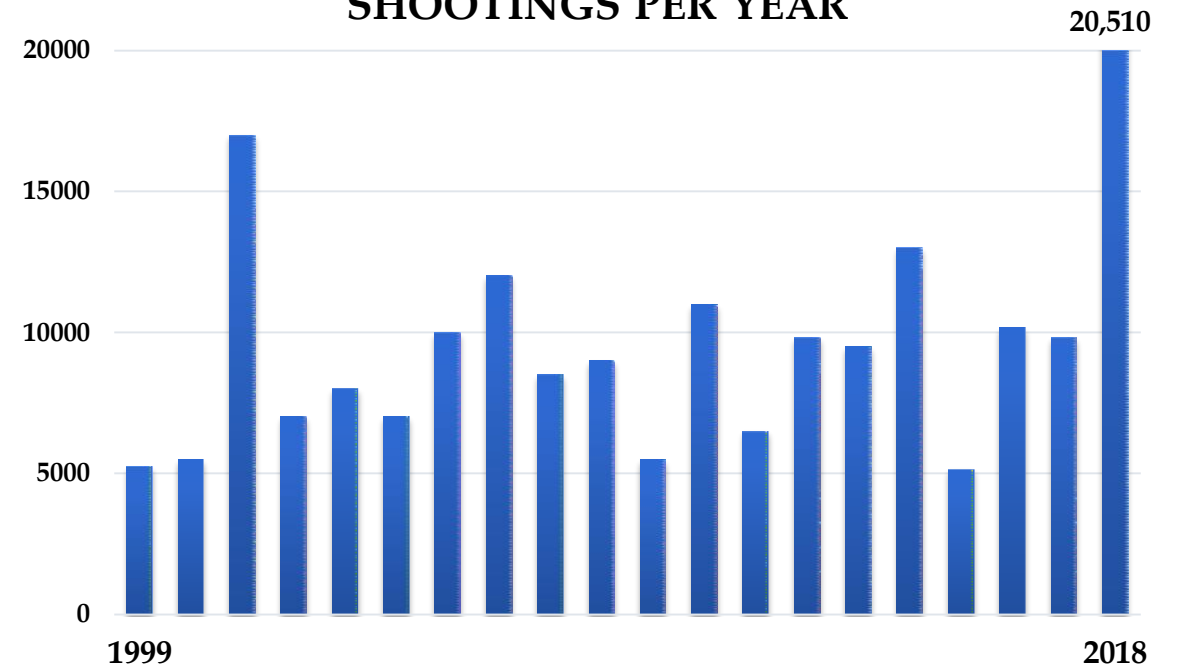
Extremely Rare

- ▶ Odds there will be a shooting at your child's school are 1 in 13,000
- ▶ Odds student will be shot at school are 1 in 2.77 million
- ▶ Odds student will die in a school shooting are 1 in 8 million
- ▶ Odds of being struck by lightning are 1 in 700,000

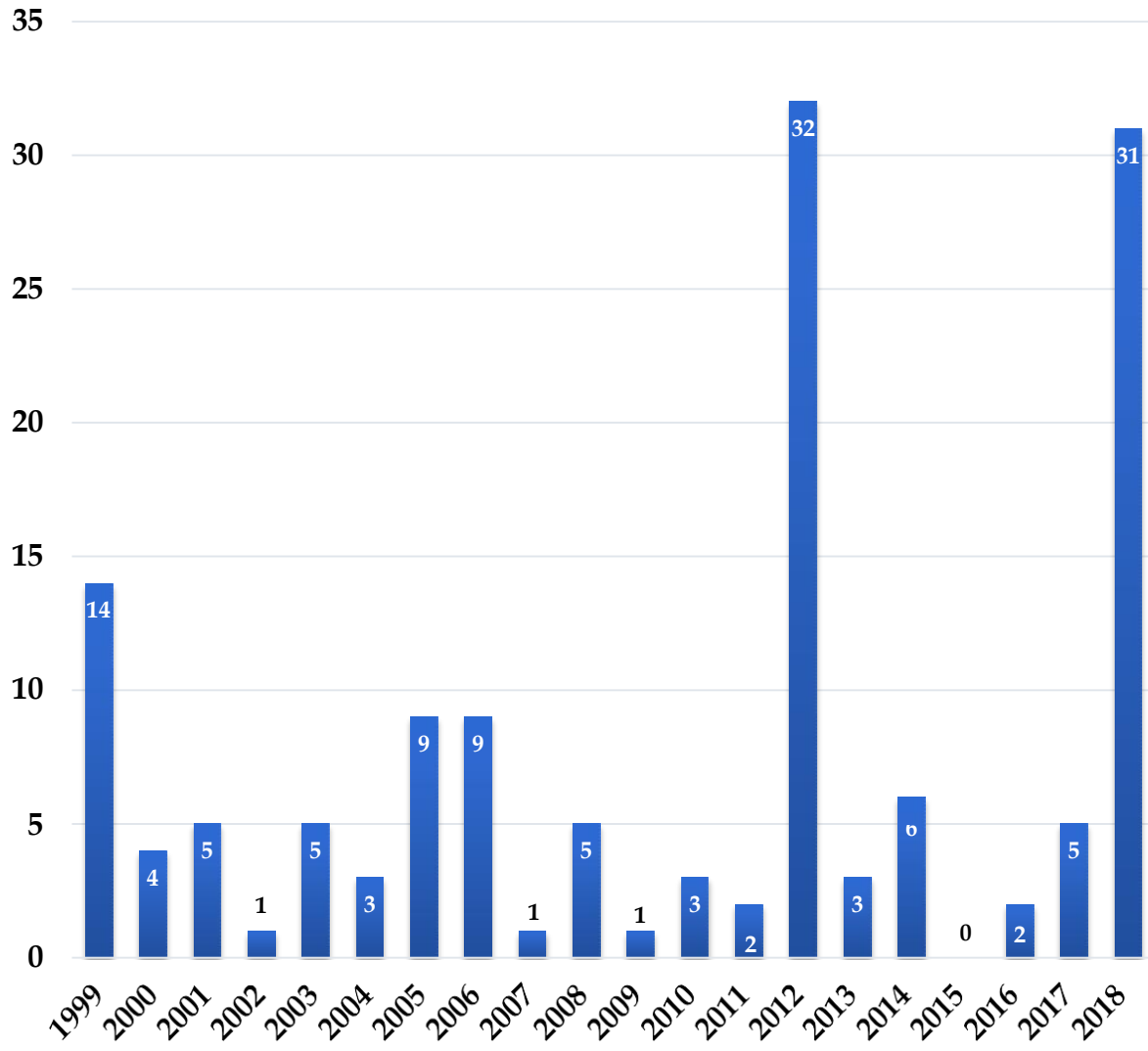
SCHOOL SHOOTINGS PER YEAR



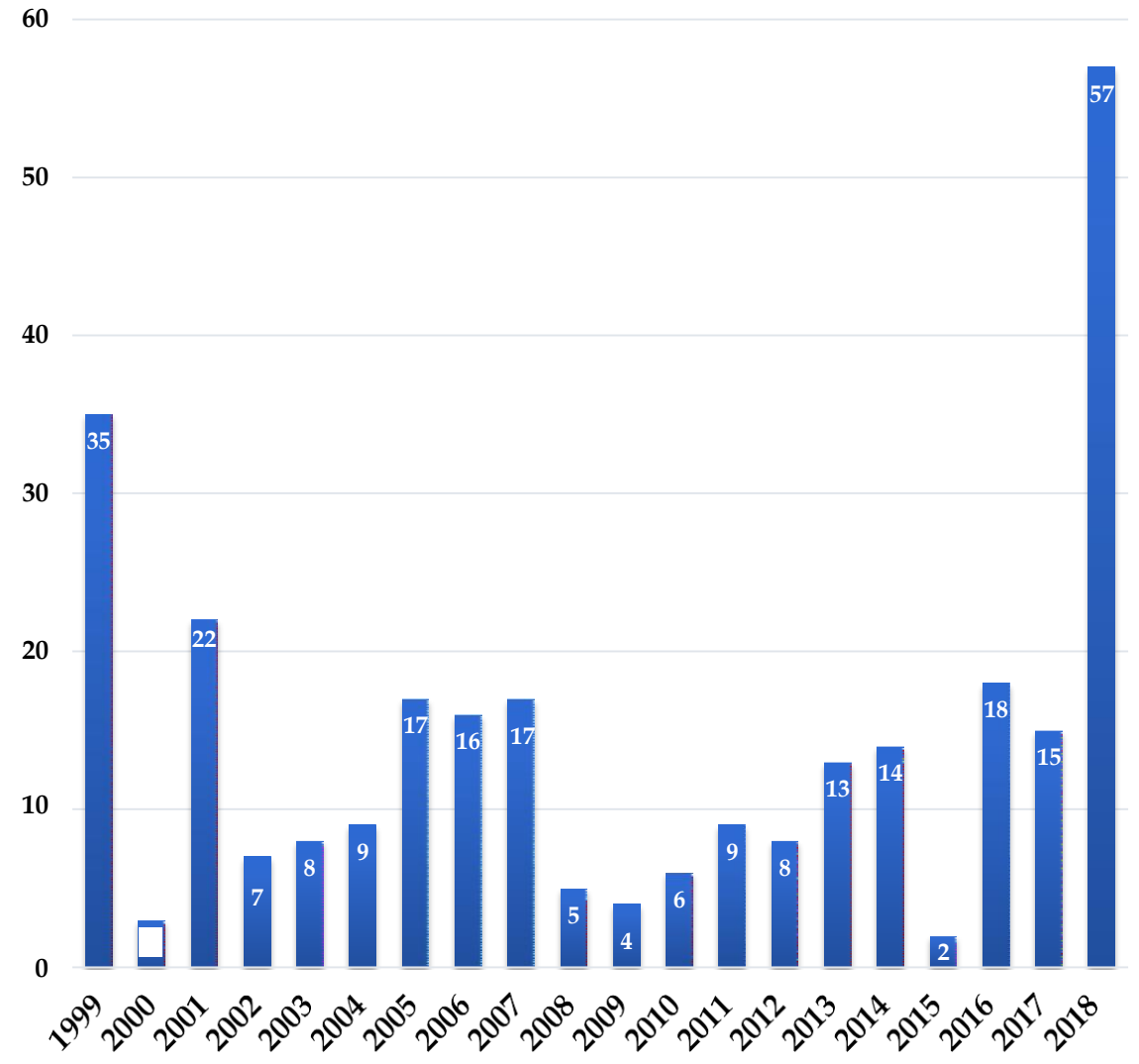
STUDENTS PRESENT FOR SCHOOL SHOOTINGS PER YEAR



DEAD

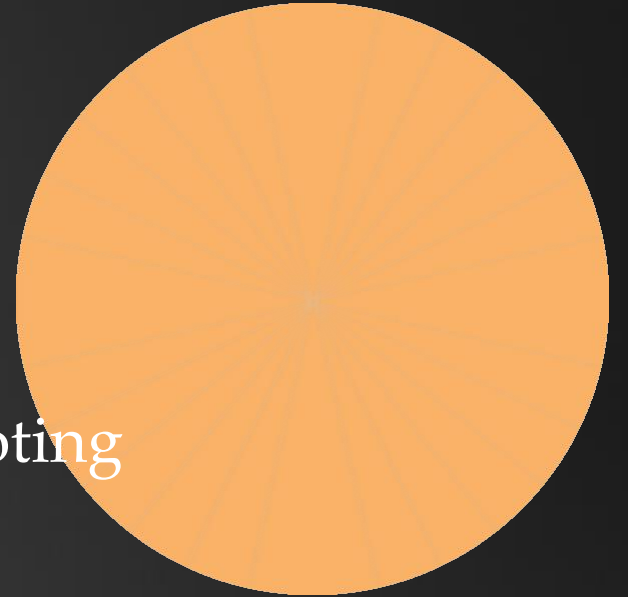


INJURED



Since Columbine

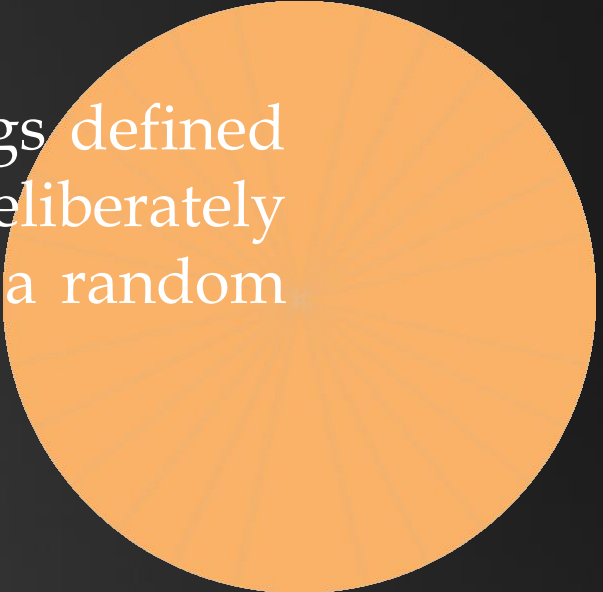
- ▶ 221 school shootings in 217 different schools
- ▶ 36 states, including Alabama
- ▶ 141 fatalities, 287 casualties
- ▶ More than 215,000 students exposed to a school shooting



Before Columbine

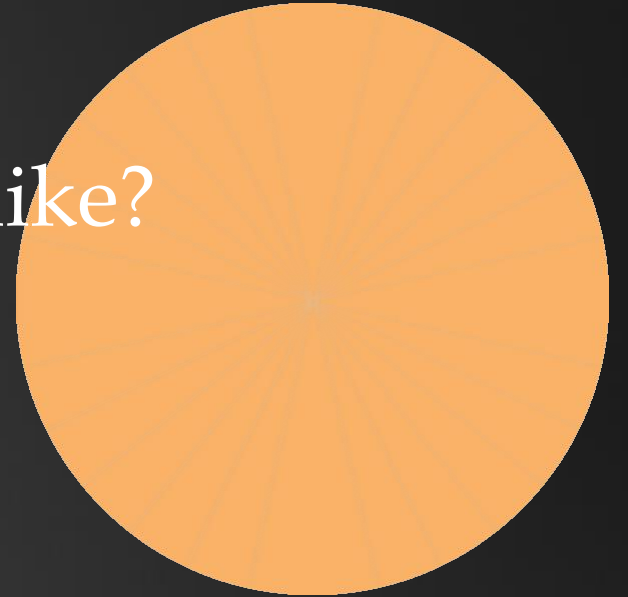


From 1974 to May 2000 there were 37 school shootings defined as acts of “targeted violence,” where the school was deliberately selected as the location for an attack and not simply a random site of opportunity.



Identifying the Threat

What does a school shooter look like?





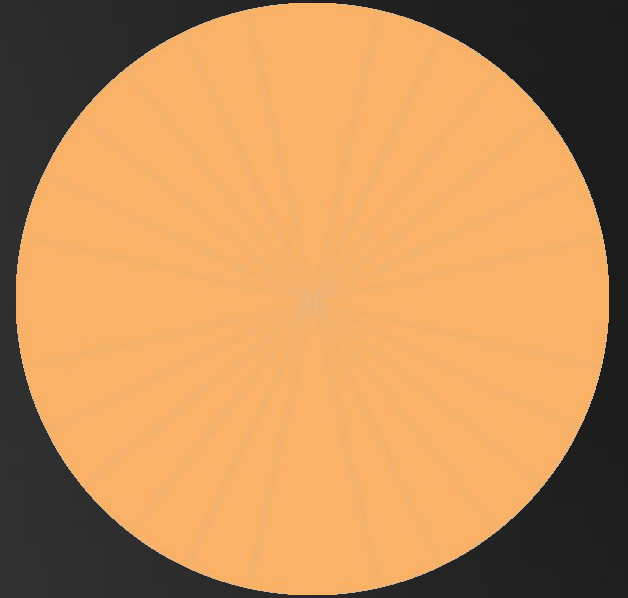
Eric Harris

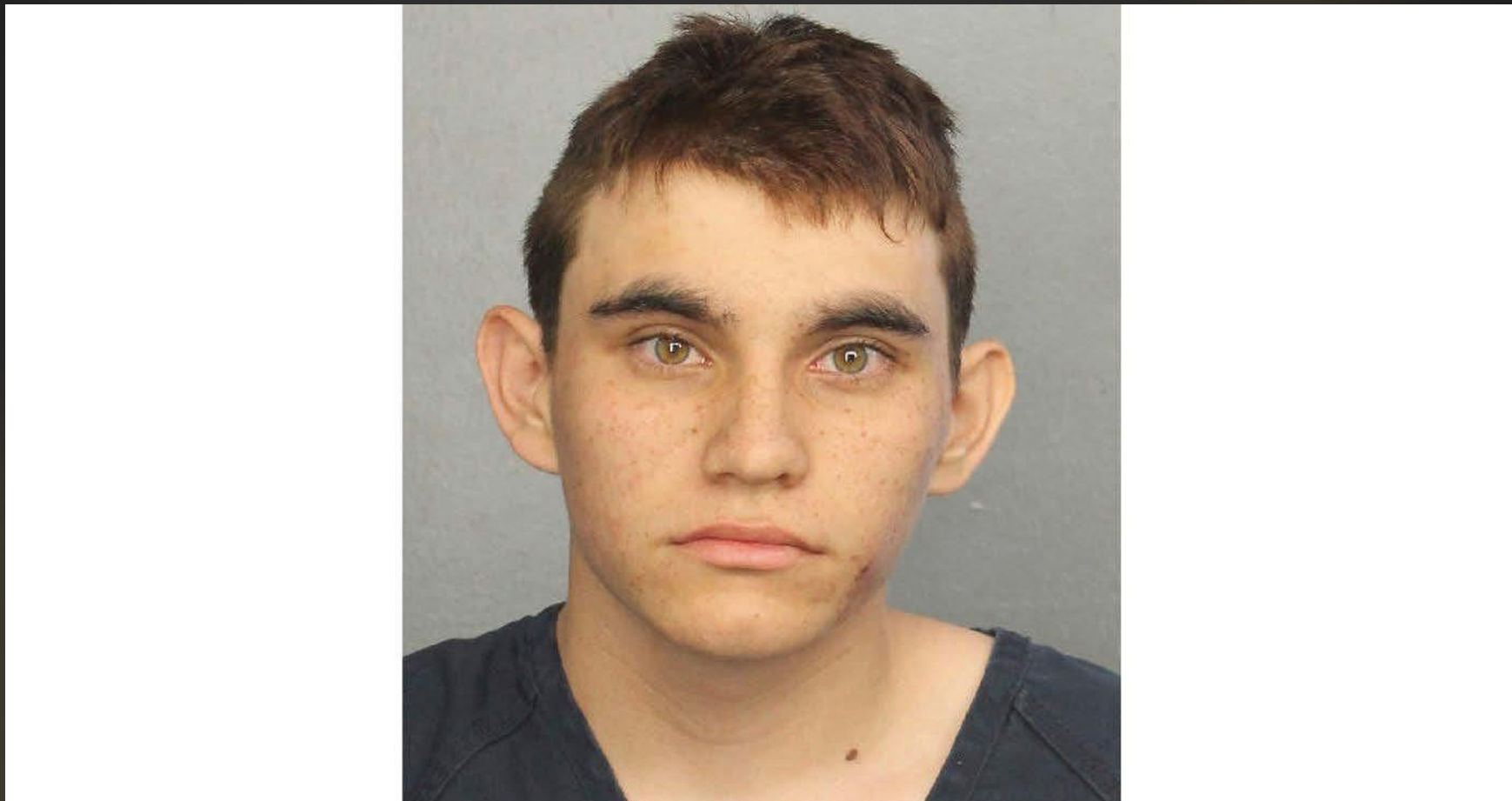


Dylan Klebold



Adam Lanza





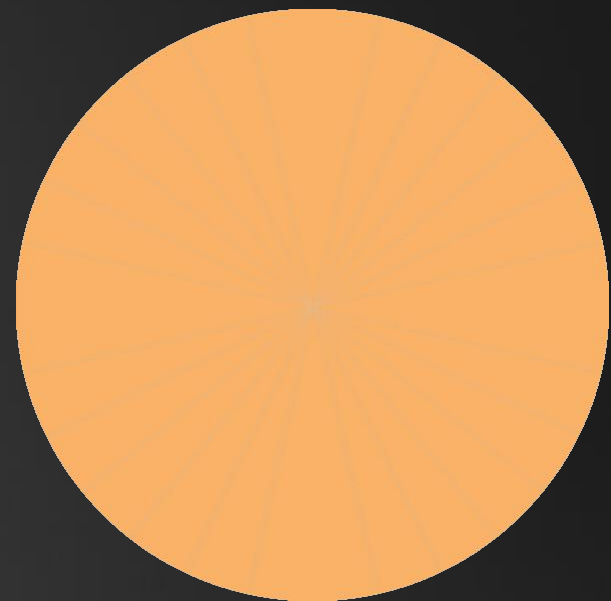
Nikolas Cruz



Dimitrios Pagourtzis



Elizabeth Catherine Bush



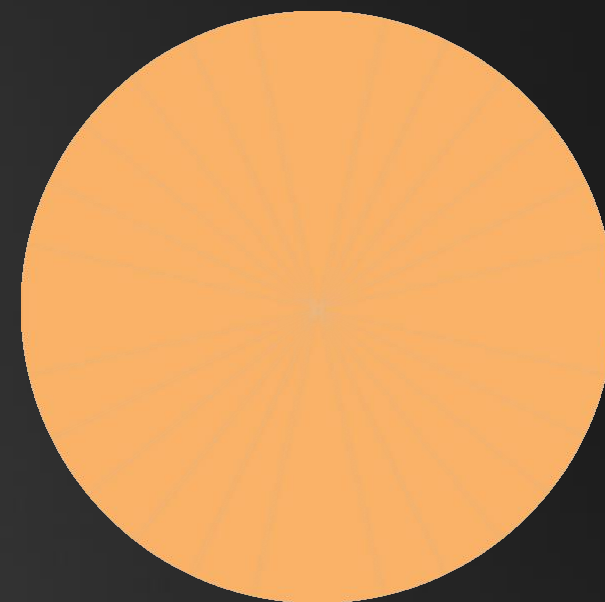


Hamad Memon





Cedric Charles Anderson





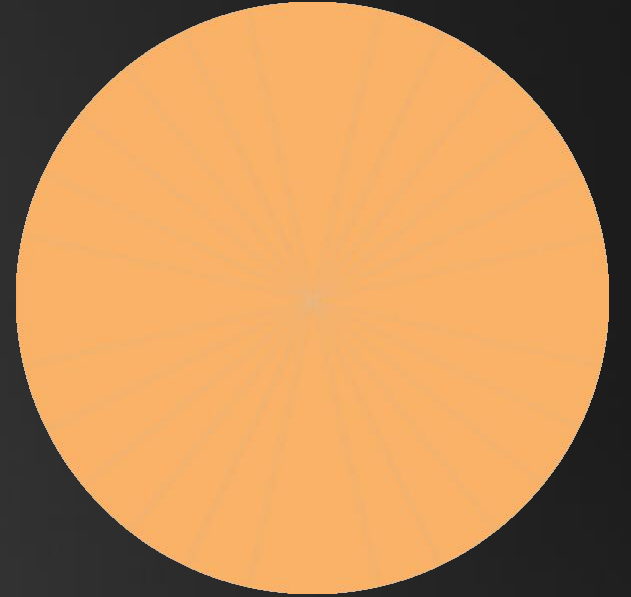
Dorothy Dutiel



Mason Campbell

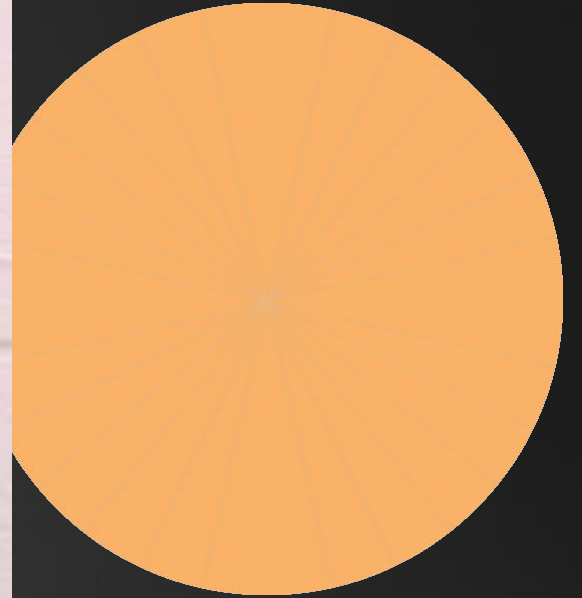


Alvaro Castillo



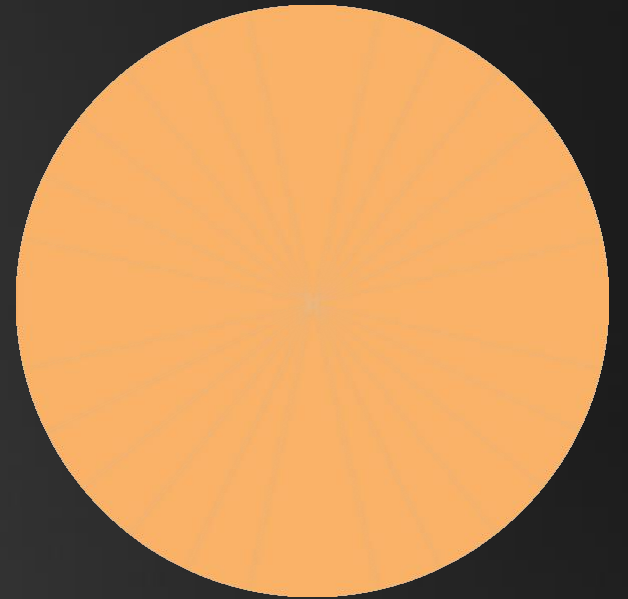


Michael Jerome Barber



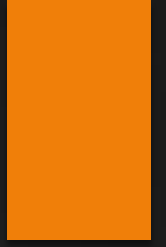
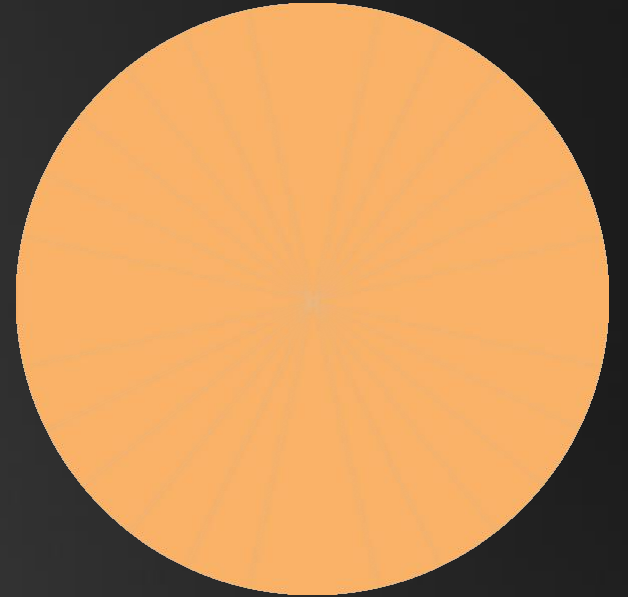


Jeffrey Weise





Dedrick Owens



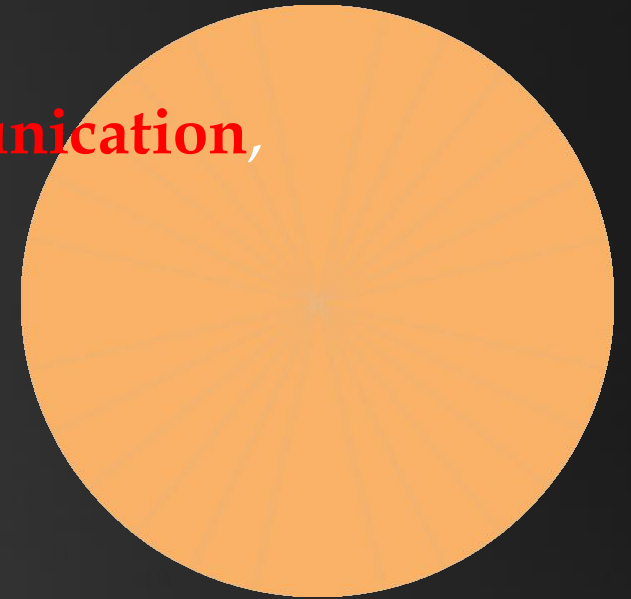
What does a school shooter look like?

- ▶ There is no accurate or useful “profile” of a school shooter.
- ▶ There is no correlation to age, race, social isolation, grades, diagnosis of mental health or behavior disorders, or prior acts of violence.

-U.S. Secret Service

What does a school shooter look like?

Focus should be on a student's **behavior** and **communication**, not “type” of student or what they look like.



What does a school shooter look like?

- ▶ Predominantly male 17 to 1
- ▶ Median age is 16 (not old enough to own a gun)
- ▶ More than 80% are **current** students at the school where they carried out the attack





What are we doing?

What is working?

What isn't working?

What else can we do?



Threat Assessment Teams



Establish threat assessment teams to assess, intervene and manage individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of school staff or students. (Legislation)


Virginia's K-12 program, which is require by law:

<https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/sites/dcjs.virginia.gov/files/publications/law-enforcement/threat-assessment-model-policies-procedures-and-guidelinespdf.pdf>

Threat Assessment Teams



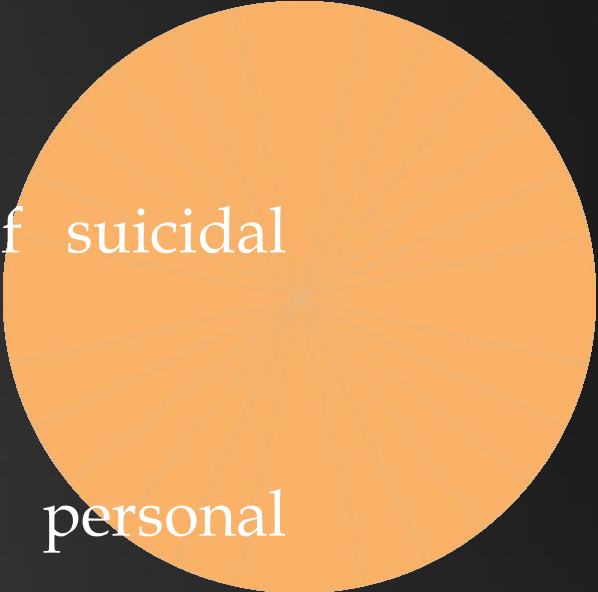
Employees and students are **required** to report any express threat, or behavior representing a threat, to building administrator or member of threat assessment team.
(Policy/Code of Conduct)



Threat Assessment Teams



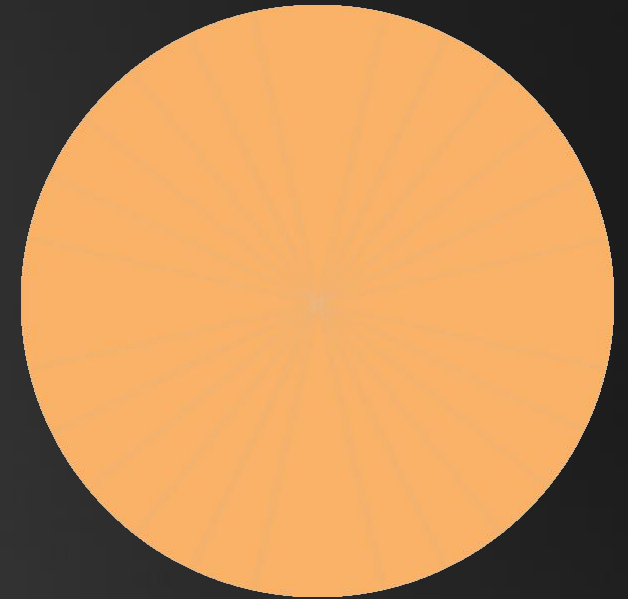
Examples of behavior representing a threat:

1. 78% of school shooters exhibited history of suicidal thoughts or had attempted suicide
 2. 71% of school shooters “felt” bullied
 3. Difficulty coping with a significant loss or personal failure
 4. Access to guns through family or friends
 5. Engaged in behaviors that caused concern or indicated a need for help
- 

Threat Assessment Teams

Composition:

1. Mental health professional
2. Instructor
3. Administrator (team leader)
4. Human resource representative
5. Law enforcement representative



Threat Assessment Teams

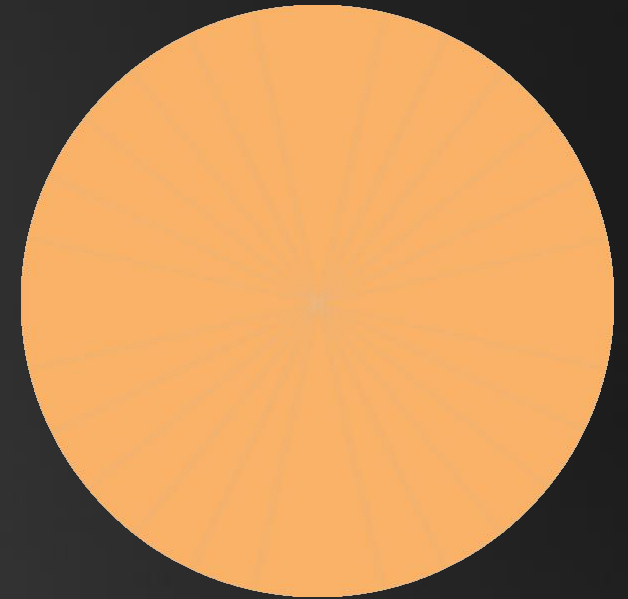


Larger system's may need a central threat assessment committee to oversee threat assessment teams. Should include representatives from the same 5 disciplines as the team with the Superintendent or his/her designee as the committee chair.

Threat Assessment Teams

How will threat reports be received:

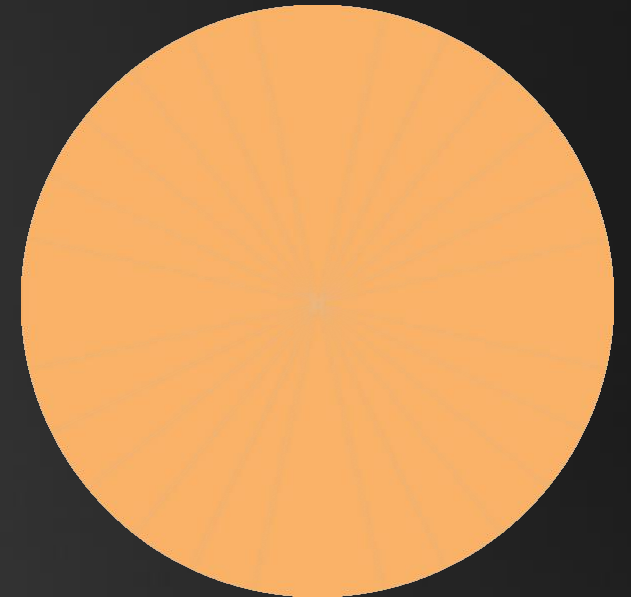
1. Verbally
2. Written intake form
3. Online written intake form
4. App (Utah)



Threat Assessment Teams

Imperative that students & staff know:

1. They have **responsibility** to report
2. **What** to report
3. **How** to report
4. **To whom** to report
5. That reports are **wanted**, will be **investigated**, and **acted on** appropriately.




Threat Assessment Teams

- ▶ At least one person is aware of a school shooter's plan to attack 81% of the time.
- ▶ Two or more people were aware of plan to attack 59% of the time.
- ▶ Las Vegas is only mass shooting where there was not some advance indication of attack.

Threat Assessment Teams



There must be clear lines of mandatory communication and responsibility to ensure reports are submitted to threat assessment teams and acted upon. (Board policy)



Threat Assessment Teams



Threat reported – Immediately screened by administrator or designated team member to determine if threat is imminent.

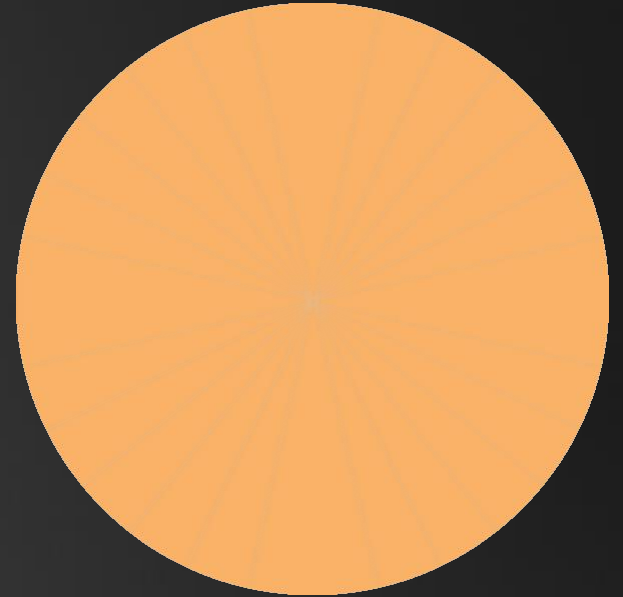
If yes – Call law enforcement and initiate Crisis Management Response

Threat Assessment Teams

Threat is not imminent, or is contained.

Team investigates & classifies threat

- ▶ Review school records
 - Prior disciplinary issues
 - Prior interaction with threat assessment team
 - Complaints of bullying
 - Suicidal thoughts/threats
- ▶ Interviews
 - Student
 - Target of threat
 - Witnesses to threat



Threat Assessment Teams



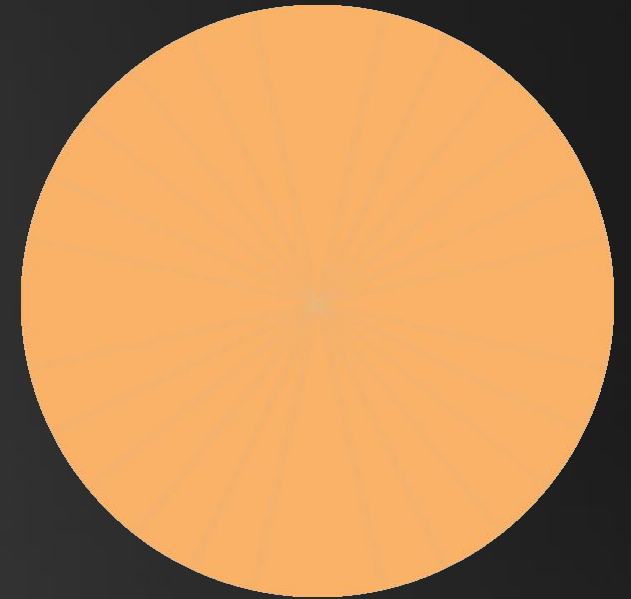
If no threat, or low risk –

- ▶ Document
 - ▶ Refer to appropriate school or community based service
- 

Threat Assessment Teams

School or Community Based Services

- Counselor
- Social Worker
- Psychiatrists/Psychologist (Journey Program)
- Suicide prevention training and protocol
- Anti-bullying policies/procedure
- Employee Assistance Program
- Juvenile Court Programs
- District Attorney Programs (Help)
- Helping Families Initiative



Threat Assessment Teams

If threat is determined to be moderate or high, additional investigation is required:

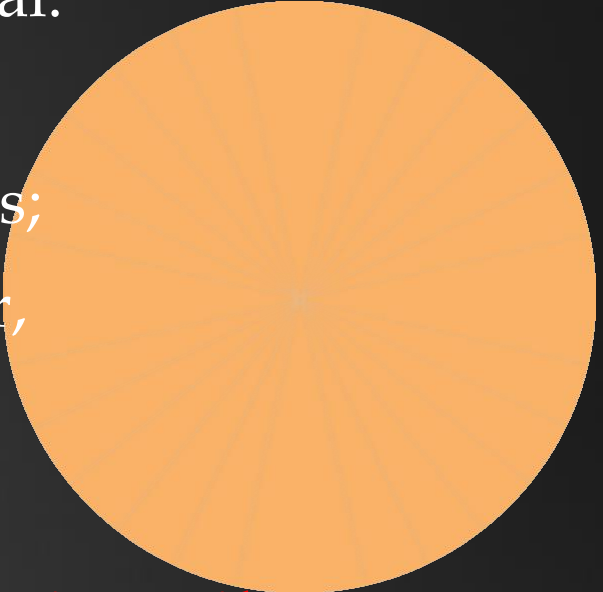
- ▶ Court records
- ▶ Health records
- ▶ Home safety inspection
- ▶ Interview
 - Family
 - Neighbors
 - Teachers
 - Friends
 - Court officials
 - Health care professionals



Threat Assessment Teams



Upon a preliminary determination that an individual:

1. Poses a threat of violence to himself or others;
 2. Exhibits significantly disruptive behavior; or,
 3. Needs assistance.
- 


Team may access criminal records for adult or juvenile subjects, and obtain health records, including mental health records.

(legislation required)

Threat Assessment Teams



Assign case manager

- ▶ Monitor compliance with intervention strategies
 - ▶ Report change in status to team, including need for re-assessment or intervention strategies
 - ▶ Update team on status at least every 30 days until team determines individual is no longer a threat
- 

Threat Assessment Teams



Consider school discipline/criminal prosecution.

- ▶ Terroristic threats (Alabama Code)
- ▶ Threats of violence (Code of Conduct)
- ▶ Intimidation (Code of Conduct)

School Boards have jurisdiction off school property, and outside of instructional time, if the conduct interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operations of a school sponsored activity or event.


MAKE SURE THIS IS CLEARLY STATED IN YOUR CODE OF CONDUCT.

Threat Assessment Teams



Offer support/resources to identified target.


Monitor and address environmental/systemic causes of violence.

- ▶ Bullying prevention/intervention
 - ▶ Suicide prevention policies/procedures
 - ▶ Conflict management
 - ▶ Behavioral Management Plan/Intervention Strategies
 - ▶ School environment/culture
 - ▶ Intervene with peers that encourage violent behavior
- 

Threat Assessment Teams



Civil immunity for system employees, team members, students, witnesses, record providers, that act in good faith in threat assessment process. (Legislation)



Physical Security

Once a gun is fired on a school campus – we have failed.

Physical Security

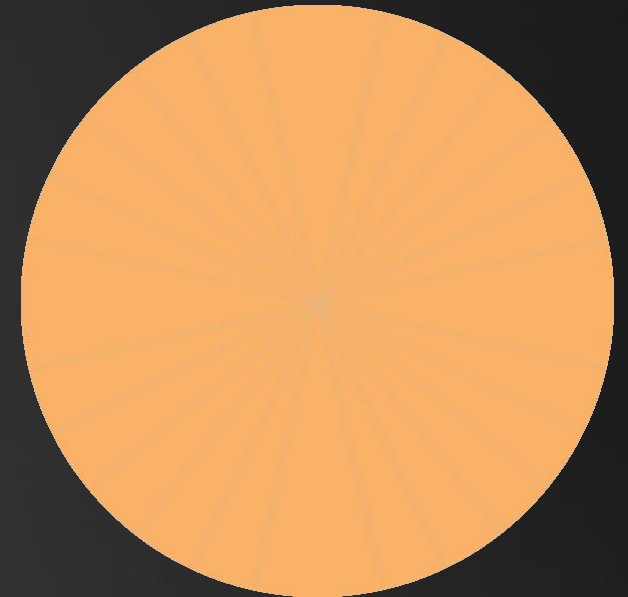


- ▶ Crisis communication management systems
- ▶ Emergency Information System
(floor plans, emergency contacts, drills, operation plans, safety audits)
- ▶ A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront, Escape)
- ▶ Run, Hide, Fight

Physical Security

Perimeter Defenses


- ▶ Two barriers at most schools
- ▶ Cameras
- ▶ School Visitation Management System
- ▶ Metal detectors, searches
- ▶ School Resource officers
- ▶ Communication System



Physical Security



Admission barriers

- 83% of school shooters are current students or employees.
They're already in your building.
 - Multiple entrances/exits
 - Students responsible for buzzing in visitors
 - Doors propped open
- 



Physical Security



School Resource Officers

- Present at 75 school shootings
- Present at 5 of the 6 worst school shootings, in terms of casualties, since 1999 (Columbine, Parkland, Marshall Co., Santana High School, Santa Fe High School)
- Only once has an SRO shot and killed an active shooter

School Shootings by Type



Physical Security



School Resource Officers

- Despite prompt response, overwhelming majority of attacks were stopped by means other than law enforcement intervention.
- Gunfire usually lasts only a few seconds
- Newtown 264 seconds from first shot to last
- Parkland 229 seconds from first shot to last

Physical Security



Parkland Timeline (13 buildings, 45 acres)		
SHOOTER		SRO
2:21:23	Enters building	
2:21:30	2 students dead	
2:21:43	4 dead, 4 wounded	Report of firecrackers by 1200 building - In another building few hundred yards away
2:22:43	8 dead, 11 wounded	
2:23:20	11 dead, 13 wounded	Arrives as building 1200 -Locks down school -Reports shots fired to police department -Takes defensive position, scans for shooter
2:23:28	Moving up stairwell	
2:24:30	Arrives on 3 rd floor	
2:25:19	Fires last shot at student 17 dead, 17 wounded	
2:27:30		Asking for location of shooter
2:32		Police enters building 1200

Physical Security



Arm teachers/administrators

Alabama legislature has proposed allowing teachers to carry concealed pistols in schools after 40 hours of training with the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission and submitting to a mental health evaluation. Bill did not come up for a vote but will likely be re-filed, in some form, in the next legislative session.

Safe Sentry

- ▶ Voluntary program for schools without an SRO
- ▶ Permits school sentry to maintain a secured weapon at school
- ▶ School Sentry authorized to use lethal force
- ▶ Must be an active school administrator and meet screening criteria
- ▶ Complete ALEA training
- ▶ Wear distinctively marked bullet proof vest

Physical Security



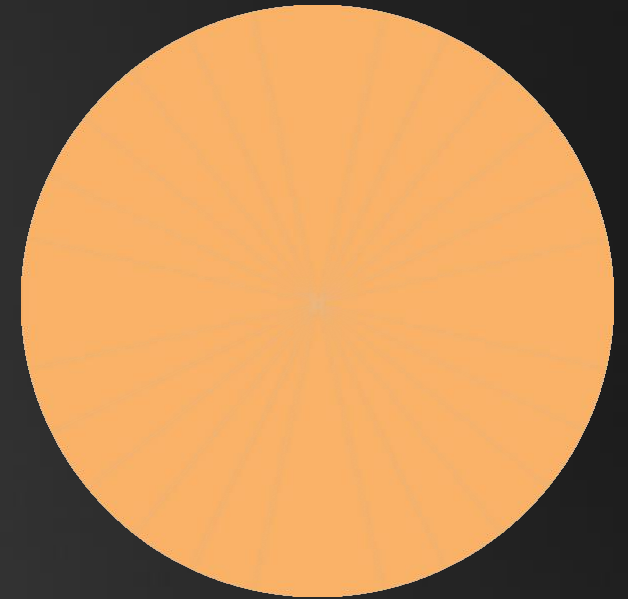
Arming teachers/administrators

- Access to guns is one of the most common characteristics of a school shooter. Eighty-five percent of school shooters have access to guns at home or through family/friends.
- Arming teachers eliminates access as a barrier to a school shooting.

Physical Security

Arming teachers/administrators

- Gun in a home increases the risk of:
 - Homicide 300%
 - Suicide 300% - 500%
 - Accidental Shooting 400%
- Will putting guns in schools have a similar effect?



Physical Security



Arming teachers/administrators

- NYPD has the most comprehensive and sophisticated firearms training of any police force in the world.
- NYPD accuracy rate when live fire is being returned
18%
- NYPD accuracy rate when suspect does not return fire
30%
- What will be teachers' accuracy rate?

Physical Security



Arming teachers/administrators

- More than 80% chance teacher will be called to fire on a current or former student or co-worker.
- First responders training: run directly toward gunfire, neutralize shooter. How will armed teachers be identified for first responders?

Guns



Where do they get the guns?

85% - home, friends, relatives

70% - under age 18

Only 14 states impose a criminal liability when a minor is likely to gain access to a negligently stored firearm. Alabama isn't one of them.

Alabama needs a Child Access Prevention law.

Guns

57% of school shootings involved a pistol

49% of school shootings involved a rifle or shotgun

4.5% of school shootings involved an AR-15 style weapon

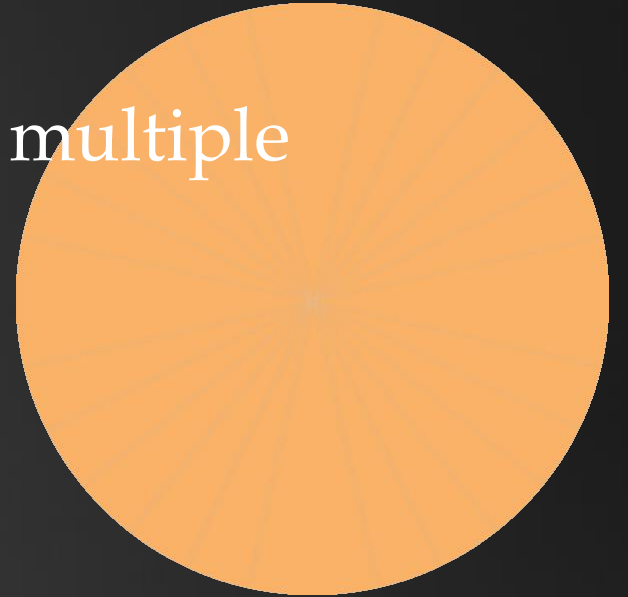


AR-15



AR-15

A weapon designed to deliver fatal wounds to multiple individuals within a short period of time.



AR-15

Used at Sandy Hook Elementary and at Parkland. Less than 1% of school shootings.

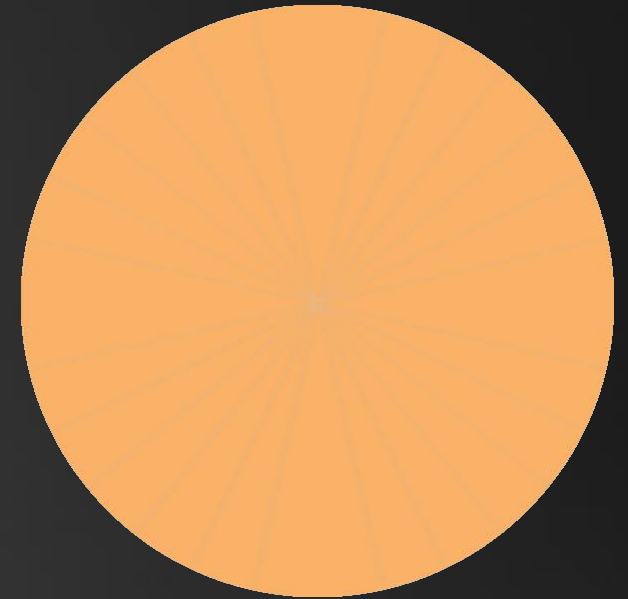
Responsible for 27% of fatalities

Why?



AR-15

- ▶ Semi-automatic rapid firing sequence
 - Newton: 154 rounds/264 seconds
 - Parkland: 120 rounds/229 seconds
- ▶ High velocity bullet
- ▶ Easy to operate, mitigates recoil
- ▶ Large capacity magazines
- ▶ Extremely accurate



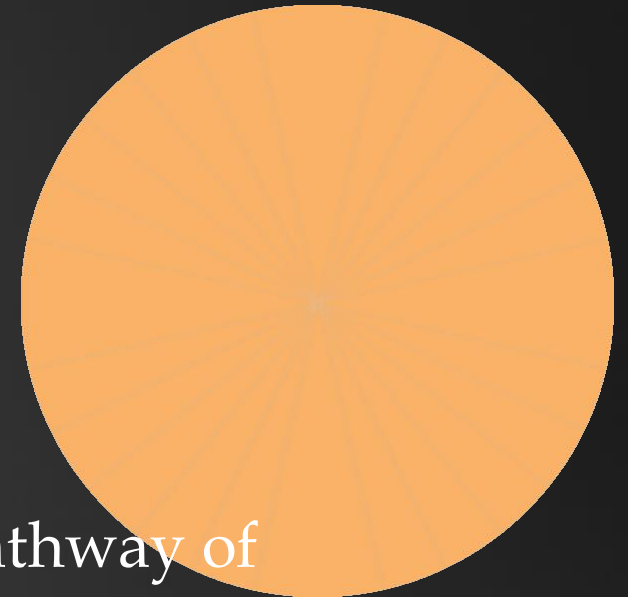
AR-15

Kinetic Energy (stopping power)

9mm kinetic energy = 400 pounds

AR-15 kinetic energy = 1300 pounds

Cavitation – destruction of tissue beyond the direct pathway of the bullet.



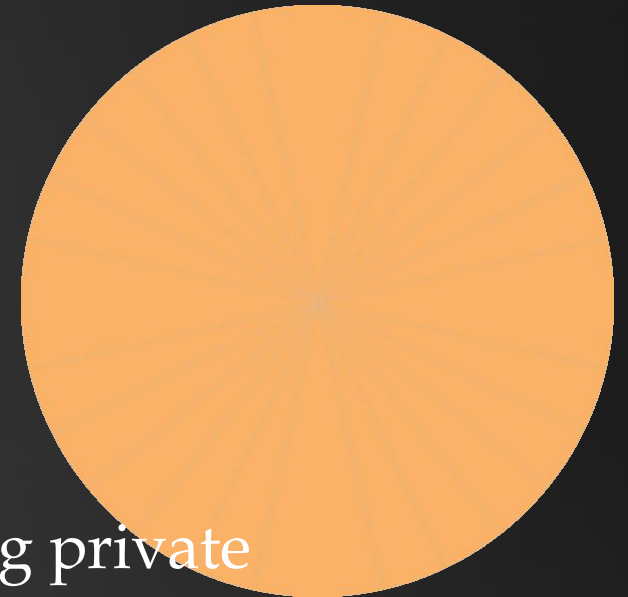
AR-15

Manufacture

2001 production - 60,500

2012 production - 1,270,000

2016 estimated 8,500,000 AR-15s in circulation among private
U.S. citizens.



Guns

Gun Violence Protections Orders

- Court may restrain individual from purchasing firearms or ammunition;
- When there is clear and convincing evidence that an individual is planning to carry out violent acts against others or themselves; and,
- Permit law enforcement to recover that individual's firearms and ammunition.

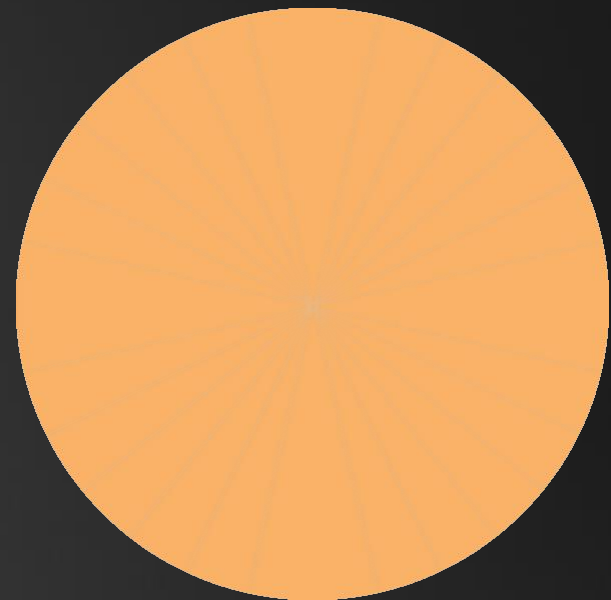
Guns

- ▶ Ban semi-automatic weapons capable of delivering a bullet with a kinetic energy more than 500 pounds.
- ▶ Ban any modification that will allow semi-automatic weapon to function as an automatic weapon.
- ▶ Ban high capacity magazines

Guns

- ▶ Require background checks for all gun sales, even between private individuals.
- ▶ Strengthen background checks to include any individual listed on the “no-fly” or terror watch list or any individual hospitalized for threats of violence toward others or themselves.
- ▶ Make reporting to the NICS mandatory and failing to do so punishable as a crime.

It can't happen here.





D AVID RYAN
dryan@pjgf.com
(205) 345-5100

helpsQlenkins
G1bsonLXFowler L.LP
Attorney.; At Law