

Key Themes of the 28 Mass Attacks In the U.S. in 2017

U.S. Secret Service Study

Part 1

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These findings aid in understanding what to look for

They stress the importance of data collection:

Backgrounds

Potential target(s)

Current and past behaviors

Situational factors – the environment

Corroborating this information from multiple sources

Although this study is not clinically validated, it's an important step in helping and validating the threat assessment process.

Incident Overviews

- **46% occurred at businesses**
- **82% used firearms**
- **61% occurred between 7am-3pm**
- **50% ended in under 5 minutes**
- **61% ended in suicide or leaving**
- **57% were taken into custody**
- **14% were killed by law enforcement**

The Attackers



- All attackers were male
- They ranged in age from 15-66
- 54% had a history of drug and/or substance abuse
- 71% had a history of criminal charges, beyond traffic violations
- 32% had a history related to DV
- 64% had a history of mental health (most common – psychosis & suicide)

MOTIVES & TARGETING

- 46% - personal grievances were the main motivating factor (perceived wrongs, DV, bullied or disliked)
- 25% subscribed to a specific belief system (ideologies or racial biases)
- 39% developed a fixation on a person, activity or belief
- 57% resulted in harm to random persons
- 14% resulted in harm to pre-selected targets
- 21% resulted in harm to specific and random targets

Discovered Themes Discussed in Part 2

1. The most common theme
2. How does mental health figure into the equation
3. Were there warning signs
4. Did past behaviors indicate potentials for violence
5. Did any engage in warning

communications

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