



## Where'd They Get Their Guns?

An Analysis of the Firearms Used in High-Profile Shootings, 1963 to 2001



Violence Policy Center

## Introduction

On October 16, 1991, George Hennard drove his Ford Ranger through the plate-glass window of a crowded Luby's cafeteria in Killeen, Texas. Armed with two legally purchased 9mm handguns—a Glock and a Ruger—Hennard climbed out of his pickup truck and proceeded to methodically gun down 23 of the restaurant's patrons and employees. Wounded by police gunfire, he then ended his own life with the Glock pistol.<sup>a</sup>

Ten years later, Hennard's attack stands as America's deadliest shooting. The Luby's massacre marked the beginning of a decade that would leave as its legacy the palpable fear among Americans that no place outside the home is guaranteed safe. Restaurants, post offices, public transportation, and office buildings would soon be joined by schools, houses of worship, and day care centers as sites remembered for the suffering and death imposed by handguns.

Mass-shooting victims comprise only a fraction of the thousands of Americans who die in gun homicides each year. Yet the effects of mass shootings are immeasurable. Day-in and day-out handgun shootings ending in the death of a single victim are routinely relegated to the back pages of local newspapers. While many Americans are able to dismiss the bulk of handgun deaths by viewing them through an "it can't happen to me" prism colored by race, class, personal beliefs, or lack of information, it is the very randomness of mass shootings—that they can happen at any time, anywhere, and to anyone—that gives them such an inordinately powerful effect on the overall quality of our national life.

This report looks at 65 high-profile shootings over the past four decades. The bulk of the shootings are from 1980 onwards; of these 59 shootings—

- A handgun was used in 71 percent of the shootings (42 cases) as the only or primary weapon, while in 29 percent (17 cases) a rifle or shotgun was used as the only or primary weapon.
- In 62 percent of the handgun shootings (26 cases), the handguns were acquired legally.
- In 71 percent of the long-gun shootings (12 cases), the guns were acquired legally.

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<sup>a</sup> Mark Wrolstad, "Mass Killer Led Life of Contradictions," *The Gazette* (Montreal), 30 November 1991, sec. H, p. 9; Todd J. Gillman, "A Time to Heal; Anniversary of Luby's Massacre Marked," *Dallas Morning News*, 17 October 1992, sec. A, p. 1.

For this study, the determination as to whether a gun was obtained legally or illegally was made based on the law in effect at the time the firearm was acquired. (See Table, p. 5)

The shooters in these killings included school-aged children, disgruntled employees, lone-wolf assassins, domestic terrorists, jilted lovers, and people solely noted for their utter colorlessness—acting out of a wide range of motives. The one constant factor among them was the use of firearms, usually handguns. The attraction of the handgun to this class of shooter is that it is highly concealable and, in recent incarnations, boasts increased firepower in terms of ammunition capacity and caliber. Trying to prevent mass shootings without taking into account the central role of handguns is an exercise in futility.

## School Shootings

From October 1997 to March 2001 there were 10 high-profile shootings in America's schools. Handguns were among the weapons used in nine of the 10 shootings. Despite the fact that school-aged children cannot legally purchase handguns, obtaining a handgun is often as easy as opening a parent's dresser drawer. In eight of the 10 school shootings the guns were obtained from a family member or friend of the shooter. In the remaining two cases, the gun was taken from a neighbor's garage in one instance and, in the other, the gun was already owned by the shooter. Kip Kinkel of Springfield, Oregon, was *given* a 9mm Glock pistol by his father in order to help the aimless youth develop an interest in something.<sup>b</sup> Kinkel shot his parents and two schoolmates to death in May 1998.

A common question heard after these shootings, with Columbine as the most infamous example, is: "How do these kids get guns?" Often the question is recited with a tone verging on wonder, but just as in the cases cited above, survey data consistently show that the majority of children and teens who carry guns get them from the people they know best: their family and friends. In a national survey of male 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders conducted for the National Institute of Justice in 1996, 52 percent of those who carried a handgun outside the home had obtained it from a family member or friend, while an additional 19 percent had purchased a handgun from a family member or friend.<sup>c</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> Joseph B. Frazier, "Before Kinkel Killed, His Psychologist Said He Should Not Have Guns," *Associated Press*, 18 January 2000.

<sup>c</sup> Joseph F. Sheley and James D. Wright, *High School Youths, Weapons, and Violence: A National Survey* (Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, 1998), 4.

In addition, an October 2000 study of school shootings by the United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center looked at 37 violent incidents in schools. The study found that the weapons of choice were firearms, and that in nearly two-thirds of the incidents the attackers obtained the guns from their own home or that of a relative. In some instances, the guns had been gifts from their parents. The study also determined that more than half of the attackers had a history of gun use.<sup>d</sup>

Recent school shootings have garnered greater publicity than in previous years, with one clear reason being the larger number of victims. Perhaps just as important is the demographic profile of the victims and shooters: mostly white, from either the suburbs or rural America. As a result of the high rates of violence seen among urban, primarily black, youths in the late 1980s and early 1990s, such violence came to be seen by many as solely a plague of the cities. Viewing the issue literally in terms of black and white, rural, white youth were portrayed as having “respect” for guns, using them only for hunting or other sporting activities. Shootings among black youths were often falsely portrayed as a virtually inevitable, almost normal, component of the urban environment. And when “good” kids go bad, the gun lobby is quick to blame virtually anything—television, movies, bad parenting, even an undefined “wave of evil”—except the one thing that comes up time and time again: the easy availability of handguns.

It is an indisputable fact that most school shooters obtain their guns from their own home or that of relatives. Therefore, the most important and immediate step that parents can take to help prevent school shootings is to remove all firearms—especially handguns—from the home.

## **Workplace Shootings**

Since 1986 there have been 14 high-profile mass shootings in workplaces by current or former employees. As with school shootings, the one virtually constant factor has been the use of handguns. Handguns were the primary weapon used in nine of the 14 shootings. Rifles were the primary weapon used in the remaining five shootings. In 11 of the shootings, the guns were legally obtained, in three cases they were obtained illegally. In the 1999 killing of seven at a Xerox Corporation office in Honolulu, not only was the handgun purchased legally, the owner was licensed and the gun was registered with the state of Hawaii.

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<sup>d</sup> United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, Safe School Initiative, *An Interim Report on the Prevention of Targeted Violence in Schools*, October 2000.

Mass shootings in the workplace have imprinted themselves onto the public consciousness and even entered the language. “Going postal,” for example, is a reference to a series of shootings beginning with the 1986 handgun murder of 14 employees at an Edmond, Oklahoma, post office. In the 1997 novel *Going Postal*, the protagonist “bears a grudging admiration for...those frustrated and overworked postal workers who finally snap and start shooting.”<sup>e</sup>

## Conclusion

After Columbine, our nation, supposedly utterly jaded by gun violence, showed that it still had the capacity to be shocked and sickened. And yet after each mass shooting, the unspoken public hope is that it can’t possibly get any worse. But it always does. From George Hennard in Killeen, Texas, to Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold in Littleton, Colorado. And when the next shooting occurs, violating a previously safe haven—a ballpark, concert hall, supermarket, or shopping mall—what will our reaction be?

Lawmakers must be accountable to the public for the lack of health and safety regulation of the firearms industry. Guns are virtually the last unregulated consumer product. Specific firearm design characteristics—concealability, high capacity, and large caliber, among others—make certain guns more prone to use in multiple shootings. Today, the gun industry is virtually free of any government oversight regarding the design, manufacture, and distribution of firearms. The result is the ready availability of assault weapons; ultra-concealable, high-capacity, high-caliber “pocket rockets;” and, junk guns small and light enough for six-year-olds to carry and fire. The Firearms Safety and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 671 and S. 330) would end the firearms industry’s deadly exemption from health and safety regulation. The bill would empower the Department of the Treasury to set minimum safety and design standards, issue recalls, and ban specific firearms in extreme cases when no other remedy is sufficient. Shootings such as those described in this study are America’s future until the firearms industry is held accountable for its deadly products.

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<sup>e</sup> Editorial review of Stephan Jaramillo, *Going Postal* (Berkley Publishing Group, 1997), downloaded March 13, 2000, from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); INTERNET.

## Selected High-Profile Shootings in the United States, 1963-2001

*Information for the chart has been gathered from a wide variety of publicly available news sources, which are often unclear and contradictory. Although every effort has been made to obtain the most accurate information possible, contradictions may exist between this chart and other sources. The determination as to whether a gun was obtained legally or illegally was made based on the law in effect at the time the firearm was acquired.*

Description	Casualties	Firearm(s)	Status of Firearm(s)
Santee High School Santana, California March 5, 2001	2 dead 13 wounded	.22 Arminius eight-shot revolver	Legal
The White House Washington, DC February 7, 2001	1 wounded	.38 revolver	Legal
Navistar International Corporation Melrose Park, Illinois February 5, 2001	5 dead 4 wounded	SKS 1954R rifle Remington 12-gauge shotgun Winchester .30 rifle .38 revolver	Legal
Edgewater Technology office Wakefield, Massachusetts December 26, 2000	7 dead	AK-47 assault rifle 12-gauge pump-action shotgun .32 pistol	Legal
Backstreet Café Roanoke, Virginia September 22, 2000	1 dead 6 wounded	Ruger 9mm pistol	Legal
Santos Linguisa sausage factory San Leandro, California June 21, 2000	3 dead	Beretta 9mm pistol Walther .380 pistol	Legal
Lake Worth Middle School Lake Worth, Florida May 26, 2000	1 dead	Raven .25 pistol	Legal
Wendy's Restaurant Queens, New York May 24, 2000	5 dead 2 wounded	Bryco .380 pistol	Illegal
Pittsburgh Suburbs Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania April 28, 2000	5 dead 1 wounded	Smith & Wesson .357 revolver	Legal

Description	Casualties	Firearm(s)	Status of Firearm(s)
National Zoo Washington, DC April 24, 2000	7 wounded	9mm pistol	Illegal
Mi-T-Fine Car Wash Irving, Texas March 20, 2000	5 dead 1 wounded	9mm pistol	Illegal
Theo J. Buell Elementary School Mt. Morris Township, Michigan February 29, 2000	1 dead	Davis Industries .32 pistol	Illegal
Radisson Bay Harbor Inn Tampa, Florida December 30, 1999	5 dead 3 wounded	Lorcin 9mm pistol Charter Arms .38 revolver	Legal
Fort Gibson Middle School Fort Gibson, Oklahoma December 6, 1999	4 wounded	Taurus 9mm pistol	Legal
Northlake Shipyard Seattle, Washington November 3, 1999	2 dead 2 wounded	Glock 9mm pistol .32 pistol .22 rifle	Illegal
Xerox Office Building Honolulu, Hawaii November 2, 1999	7 dead	Glock Model 17 9mm pistol	Legal
Wedgewood Baptist Church Fort Worth, Texas September 15, 1999	8 dead 7 wounded	Ruger P85 9mm pistol .380 pistol	Legal
Laurel, Maryland September 9, 1999	2 dead	Smith & Wesson 9mm pistol	Illegal
North Valley Jewish Community Center Los Angeles, California August 10, 1999	1 dead 5 wounded	Fully automatic Uzi machine gun Glock Model 26 9mm pistol	Illegal
Atlanta brokerage offices Atlanta, Georgia July 29, 1999	13 dead 13 wounded	Glock Model 17 9mm pistol Colt 1911A1 .45 pistol	Legal
Illinois and Indiana July 4 <sup>th</sup> weekend, 1999	3 dead 9 wounded	Bryco .380 pistol Ruger .22 pistol	Illegal

Description	Casualties	Firearm(s)	Status of Firearm(s)
Heritage High School Conyers, Georgia May 20, 1999	6 wounded	.22 rifle .357 Magnum revolver	Legal
Columbine High School Littleton, Colorado April 20, 1999	15 dead 23 wounded	Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistol Hi-Point 9mm Carbine Savage 67H pump-action shotgun Savage 311-D 12-gauge shotgun	Illegal
LDS Church Family History Library Salt Lake City, Utah April 15, 1999	3 dead 4 wounded	Ruger .22 pistol	Legal
Triad Center Salt Lake City, Utah January 13, 1999	1 dead 1 wounded	9mm pistol	Legal
U.S. Capitol Building Washington, DC July 24, 1998	2 dead 2 wounded	Smith & Wesson .38 revolver	Legal
Los Angeles, California May 28, 1998	2 dead	Two .38 revolvers	Legal
Thurston High School Springfield, Oregon May 21, 1998	4 dead 25 wounded	Glock 9mm pistol Ruger .22 rifle Ruger .22 pistol	Legal
Westside Middle School Jonesboro, Arkansas March 24, 1998	5 dead 10 wounded	Remington Model 742 .30-06 rifle Universal .30 M1 Carbine replica Davis Industries .38 two-shot derringer Double Deuce Buddie .22 two-shot derringer Charter Arms .38 revolver Star .380 pistol FIE .380 pistol Ruger Security Six .357 revolver Smith & Wesson .38 revolver	Legal
Connecticut State Lottery Headquarters Newington, Connecticut March 6, 1998	5 dead	9mm pistol	Legal



<b>Description</b>	<b>Casualties</b>	<b>Firearm(s)</b>	<b>Status of Firearm(s)</b>
Caltrans Maintenance Yard Orange, California December 18, 1997	5 dead 2 wounded	Chinese-made 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifle	<b>Legal</b>
Heath High School West Paducah, Kentucky December 1, 1997	3 dead 5 wounded	Ruger .22 pistol	<b>Illegal</b>
Pearl High School Pearl, Mississippi October 1, 1997	3 dead 7 wounded	.30-30 rifle	<b>Legal</b>
R.E. Phelon Company Aiken, South Carolina September 15, 1997	4 dead 3 wounded	9mm pistol	<b>Illegal</b>
Four states (MN, IL, FL, NY) April 27 - July 15, 1997	6 dead	Taurus .40 pistol	<b>Illegal</b>
North Hollywood, California February 28, 1997	2 dead 16 injured	Multiple fully automatic assault rifles including an AK-47 type	<b>Illegal</b>
Empire State Building New York, New York February 23, 1997	2 dead 6 wounded	Beretta .380 pistol	<b>Illegal</b>
Albertson's Supermarket Lakewood, Colorado April 28, 1995	3 dead 1 wounded	Grizzly .50 sniper rifle SKS 7.62mm assault rifle 9mm pistol .32 pistol	<b>Legal</b>
Walter Rossler Company Corpus Christi, Texas April 3, 1995	6 dead	Ruger 9mm pistol .32 revolver	<b>Legal</b>
Corpus Christi, Texas March 31, 1995	1 dead	Taurus .38 revolver	<b>Legal</b>
DC Police Headquarters Washington, DC November 22, 1994	4 dead 1 wounded	Cobray M-11 assault pistol	<b>Illegal</b>
White House Washington, DC October 29, 1994	none	Norinco SKS 7.62mm assault rifle	<b>Illegal</b>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Casualties</b>	<b>Firearm(s)</b>	<b>Status of Firearm(s)</b>
Seattle, Washington April 5, 1994	1 dead	Remington Model 11 20-gauge shotgun	<b>Legal</b>
Brooklyn Bridge New York, New York March 1, 1994	1 dead 3 wounded	Cobray 9mm fully automatic machine pistol Glock Model 17 9mm pistol	<b>Illegal</b>
Long Island Railroad Long Island, New York December 7, 1993	6 dead 19 wounded	Ruger P-89 9mm pistol	<b>Legal</b>
Lumberton, North Carolina July 23, 1993	1 dead	Smith & Wesson .38 revolver	<b>Illegal</b>
Pettit & Martin Law Offices San Francisco, California July 1, 1993	9 dead 6 wounded	Two Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistols Colt .45 pistol	<b>Illegal</b>
CIA Headquarters Langley, Virginia January 25, 1993	2 dead 3 wounded	Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle	<b>Legal</b>
Royal Oak Post Office Royal Oak, Michigan November 14, 1991	5 dead 5 wounded	Ruger .22 rifle	<b>Illegal</b>
Luby's Cafeteria Killeen, Texas October 16, 1991	24 dead 20 wounded	Ruger P-89 9mm pistol Glock 9mm pistol	<b>Legal</b>
GMAC Office Jacksonville, Florida June 18, 1990	10 dead 4 wounded	Universal .30 M1 rifle .38 revolver	<b>Legal</b>
Standard Gravure Corporation Louisville, Kentucky September 14, 1989	9 dead 12 wounded	Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle Two MAC-11 assault pistols .38 revolver Sig Sauer 9mm pistol	<b>Legal</b>
Cleveland Elementary School Stockton, California January 17, 1989	6 dead 30 wounded	Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle Taurus 9mm pistol Unidentified pistol	<b>Legal</b>
Hubbard Woods Elementary School Winnetka, Illinois May 20, 1988	2 dead 6 wounded	Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver Smith & Wesson .32 revolver Beretta .22 pistol	<b>Legal</b>

<b>Description</b>	<b>Casualties</b>	<b>Firearm(s)</b>	<b>Status of Firearm(s)</b>
Edmond Post Office Edmond, Oklahoma August 20, 1986	15 dead 6 wounded	Two .45 pistols .22 pistol	Legal
Springfield Mall Springfield, Pennsylvania October 30, 1985	3 dead 7 wounded	.22 rifle	Illegal
McDonald's Restaurant San Ysidro, California July 18, 1984	22 dead 19 wounded	Browning P-35 Hi-Power 9mm pistol Winchester 1200 pump-action 12-gauge shotgun Israeli Military Industries 9mm Model A Carbine (Uzi)	Legal
Washington Hilton Hotel Washington, DC March 30, 1981	4 wounded	RG Industries RG-14 .22 revolver	Legal
New York, New York December 8, 1980	1 dead	Charter Arms .38 revolver	Legal
New York, New York Summer 1976 - Summer 1977	6 dead 7 wounded	Charter Arms Bulldog .44 revolver	Illegal
Senator Hotel Sacramento, California September 5, 1975	none	Colt .45 pistol	Legal
Lorraine Motel Memphis, Tennessee April 4, 1968	1 dead	Remington Gamemaster Model 760 30.06 rifle	Legal
University of Texas Tower Austin, Texas August 1, 1966	17 dead 31 wounded	Remington .35 pump rifle Remington 6mm bolt-action rifle .30 M-1 Carbine .25 pistol Luger 9mm pistol Smith & Wesson .357 magnum pistol Sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun	Legal
Jackson, Mississippi June 12, 1963	1 dead	Enfield 1917 30.06 rifle	Legal
Dallas, Texas November 22, 1963	2 dead 1 wounded	Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5mm rifle .38 revolver	Legal

# Shooting Summaries

**Date:** March 5, 2001

**Location:** Santana High School, Santee, California

**Alleged Shooter:** Charles "Andy" Williams

**People Killed:** Two

**People Injured:** 13

**Firearm(s):** .22 Arminius eight-shot revolver

### **Circumstances**

Williams, a skinny 15-year-old high school student, allegedly opened fire on his classmates at Santee High School reportedly because he was tired of being picked on. Williams fired 30 rounds from his eight-shot revolver, stopping to reload three times before being arrested by police. Williams allegedly killed two of his classmates and wounded 11 other students and two adults.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm was legal. Williams took the handgun from his father's locked gun cabinet. Police removed seven additional rifles from the Williams' apartment following the shooting. Williams told friends that he wanted to open fire on Santana High School, and at least one adult was made aware of his threats, but no one took them seriously.

1. Leonard Novarro, "Police: High School Shooting Could Have Been Worse," *Reuters*, March 2001.
2. Jeff Dillon, Untitled Wire Report, *Copley News Service*, March 6, 2001.

**Date:** February 7, 2001

**Location:** The White House, Washington, DC

**Alleged Shooter:** Robert W. Pickett

**People Killed:** None

**People Injured:** One (shooter wounded by Secret Service)

**Firearm(s):** .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Pickett was shot in the leg by a Secret Service officer after allegedly firing his .38 revolver just outside the south fence of the White House. Secret Service officers ordered Pickett to drop his revolver, but instead he allegedly pointed his weapon at the uniformed officers, apparently intending to commit suicide by forcing the officers to shoot him. He was shot in the knee.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The revolver was purchased legally on February 24, 2000, from Casey's Pawn Shop in Evansville, Indiana, after Pickett passed the instant criminal background check. Pickett had a history of mental illness and had made at least one previous suicide attempt, but had never been committed to a mental institution involuntarily, so he was not legally prohibited from purchasing a handgun.

1. "Pickett Passed Gun Check Despite Mental Problems," *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, 9 February 2001, sec. A, p. 4.
2. Bill Miller, "White House Suspect Faces Federal Charge," *Washington Post*, 10 February 2001, sec. B, p. 1.
3. David Montgomery and Serge Kovaleski, "Depression Plagued White House Gunman," *Washington Post*, 9 February 2001, sec. A, p. 1.
4. Kimberly Hefling, "Gunman Passed Background Checks," *Associated Press*, 8 February 2001.

**Date:** February 5, 2001

**Location:** Navistar International Corporation, Melrose Park, Illinois

**Alleged Shooter:** William D. Baker

**People Killed:** Five (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Four

**Firearm(s):** SKS 1954R rifle, Remington 12-gauge shotgun, Winchester .30 rifle, and a .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

The day before he was scheduled to begin a five-month prison term for his role in stealing truck engines worth more than \$195,000, Baker, a former Navistar employee, forced his way at gunpoint into the Navistar plant and opened fire on his former co-workers. Police believe he did not target specific individuals as he fired 25 to 30 rounds with the revolver and SKS, killing four and wounding four others, before taking his own life with the revolver.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The Remington shotgun and Winchester rifle were purchased legally in 1993 from Pepper Sports, a gun dealer in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Baker was issued an Illinois Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOID) on February 19, 1993, and purchased the rifle and shotgun that December. It is unclear how the other two firearms were acquired. Baker's FOID card was renewed on May 8, 1998, two weeks before he was convicted of criminal sexual assault, a felony.

1. Alex Rodriguez, et al., "Navistar Gunman Got Past Cracks in Gun Law," *Chicago Tribune*, 7 February 2001, p. 1.
2. "Chief Vito Scavo Talks About the Events Surrounding the Navistar Shooting," *The Early Show*, 6 February 2001.
3. "Former Navistar Employee Kills Four at Melrose Park Engine Plant," *NPR Morning Edition*, 6 February 2001.
4. William Claiborne, "Illinois Shooter Had Gun Owner ID, Was a Felon," *Washington Post*, 7 February 2001, sec. A, p. 5.
5. "Felon's Possession of Guns Illegal," *Chicago Sun-Times*, 6 February 2001, p. 3.

**Date:** December 26, 2000

**Location:** Edgewater Technology office, Wakefield, Massachusetts

**Alleged Shooter:** Michael McDermott

**People Killed:** Seven

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** AK-47 assault rifle, 12-gauge pump-action shotgun and a .32 pistol

### **Circumstances**

McDermott allegedly brought his weapons and ammunition to the empty Edgewater Technology office on Christmas Day and retrieved them the next day, killing seven of his co-workers. McDermott allegedly fired 49 shots from the AK-47 and six from the shotgun, stopping the killing only when he ran out of ammunition. Police arrived and discovered McDermott sitting in the reception area holding the guns used in the shooting as well as a loaded .32 pistol. Investigators believe that McDermott was motivated by his anger that his wages were to be garnished to collect back taxes that he owed to the IRS.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Despite a history of mental instability including a suicide attempt in 1987, McDermott received a gun permit from the Rockland, Massachusetts, police in 1989. Investigators believe he legally purchased the weapons used in the shooting before letting his permit expire in 1998.

1. Karen E. Crummy, "Pol Rips Gun Loophole; Wants Tighter Security in Permits for Mentally Ill," *Boston Herald*, 8 January 2001, p. 5.
2. "Shooting Suspect Showed Hints of Mental Stress," *Associated Press*, 13 January 2001.
3. Jay Lindsay, "Judge Orders Release of Documents in Wakefield Office Shooting," *Associated Press*, 22 February 2001.



4. Carey Goldberg, "7 Die in Rampage at Company; Co-Worker of Victims Arrested," *New York Times*, 27 December 2000, sec. A, p. 1.
5. Greg Sukiennik, "Office Massacre Suspect Indicted," *Associated Press*, 16 February 2001.
6. Dave Wedge, "Indicted; 'Mucko' Fired 30 Shots in Fatal Rampage," *Boston Herald*, 16 February 2001, p. 1.
7. Douglas Belkin, "Worker Indicted in Office Killings; Suspect Allegedly Stored Guns by Desk," *Boston Globe*, 16 February 2001, sec. B, p. 1.

**Date:** September 22, 2000

**Location:** Backstreet Café, Roanoke, Virginia

**Alleged Shooter:** Ronald Gay

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** Six

**Firearm(s):** Ruger 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Gay, a Vietnam veteran who was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, asked a restaurant employee where he could find the nearest gay bar. Minutes later, he allegedly entered the Backstreet Café and opened fire with his Ruger 9mm pistol, killing one person and wounding six. He was arrested 10 minutes later, confessed to the shootings, and said that he was distressed about the homosexual connotation associated with his last name.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The pistol was purchased legally in the fall of 1999 from a gun store in Roanoke, Virginia. Despite his mental health history, Gay had never been committed involuntarily, so there was no legal reason to prevent the purchase.

1. Tad Dickens, "Murder Suspect Grouses About Jail; Gay Wants Transfer to the VA in Salem," *Roanoke Times & World News*, 24 January 2001, sec. B, p. 1.
2. Kimberly O'Brien, "'I Saw the Fire Come Out of the Gun, I Heard the Bam...I Knew I'd be Next,'" *Roanoke Times & World News*, 1 October 2000, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Zeke Barlow, "Untangling the Twisted Path of Ronald Gay," *Roanoke Times & World News*, 2 October 2000, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** June 21, 2000

**Location:** Santos Linguisa sausage factory, San Leandro, California

**Alleged Shooter:** Stuart Alexander

**People Killed:** Three

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Beretta 9mm pistol and a Walther .380 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Alexander developed a grudge against federal meat inspectors after his sausage factory was shut down in January 2000 for sanitation problems. On June 19, 2000, inspectors visited the factory again to serve Alexander warning of new violations. When the inspectors returned two days later for a surprise inspection, Alexander allegedly killed three, while one, who was waiting outside the building, escaped.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Alexander's guns appear to have been possessed legally as they were recorded as being purchased by him. Alexander had no criminal record or involuntary mental health hospitalization that would have precluded him from purchasing guns. Alexander had previously been charged with beating a 75-year-old neighbor, but the charges were dismissed after Alexander paid the man \$10,000.

1. Matthai Chakko Kuruvila, "Friends Say Sausage Factory Owner Had Made Private Threats to Kill Inspectors," *San Jose Mercury News*, 28 June 2000.
2. Brian Anderson and Scott Marshall, "Suspect in Meat Factory Shootings Charged With Four Counts of Homicide," *Contra Costa Times*, 24 June 2000.
3. Demian Bulwa, "Inspector's Tingle of Fear; Inspector Sought Cops' Aid," *San Francisco Examiner*, 23 June 2000, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** May 26, 2000

**Location:** Lake Worth Middle School, Lake Worth, Florida

**Alleged Shooter:** Nathaniel Brazill

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Raven .25 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Thirteen-year-old Nathaniel Brazill was sent home from Lake Worth Middle School on the last day of school for throwing water balloons. Brazill walked to his grandmother's house where he took his surrogate grandfather's pistol and returned to the school, appearing at teacher Barry Grunow's classroom. Brazill asked Grunow if he could speak to two girls in the class and when the teacher refused, Brazill allegedly pulled the gun and it went off. Brazill claims the gun went off unintentionally, but he was charged as an adult with first-degree murder.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm was legal. Brazill took the handgun from Elmore McCray, who was a grandfather figure to him. The gun was stored by McCray in an Oreo cookie tin in one of his desk drawers. The gun was stored unloaded, but the ammunition was in a box also in the cookie tin.

1. Tim O'Meilia, "Gun Owner Won't be Charged," *Palm Beach Post*, 30 June 2000, sec. A, p. 4.
2. Mel Melendez, "Vigil Tries to Rally Support for Owner of the Deadly Gun," *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, 6 June 2000, sec. B, p. 3.
3. "Trial Date Changed in School Shooting," *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, 16 February 2001, sec. B, p. 3.
4. "13-Year-Old Boy is Indicted as an Adult in Shooting Death of Teacher," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 13 June 2000, sec. A, p. 3.
5. Jon Burstein, "Grunow Family Makes Deal With Pawnshop," *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, 28 December 2000, sec. B, p. 2.

**Date:** May 24, 2000

**Location:** Wendy's Restaurant, Queens, New York

**Alleged Shooters:** John Taylor and Craig Godineaux

**People Killed:** Five

**People Injured:** Two

**Firearm(s):** Bryco .380 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Taylor and Godineaux planned to rob the Wendy's where Taylor previously worked and to kill the employees to eliminate witnesses. Taylor confronted the manager in the restaurant's basement office and ordered him to summon the rest of the employees. Godineaux followed the employees down to the office where he bound, gagged, and blindfolded them with duct tape. Taylor and Godineaux then allegedly took turns shooting the victims, killing five and wounding two. Godineaux pleaded guilty to multiple murder and robbery charges and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Taylor is scheduled to go to trial in 2001.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Taylor purchased the gun illegally from a street dealer. The gun was originally purchased from a Bedford Heights, Ohio, gun dealer on March 19, 1999. The gun's owner reported it stolen on April 2, 2000. Bernard Gardier, the owner's roommate, took the gun to Long Island, New York, where he sold it on the street for \$250. The gun was sold at least three times on the street, the last time to Taylor. Gardier pleaded guilty to transporting a stolen weapon across state lines in January 2001.

1. Robert D. McFadden, "2 Charged in Wendy's Case as Confession Details Emerge," *New York Times*, 29 May 2000, sec. B, p. 1.
2. Sarah Kershaw, "Life Without Parole for Wendy's Killer," *New York Times*, 22 February 2001, sec. B, p. 3.
3. Lou Grieco, "Burglary on Wilmington Pike Puts 100 Guns in Circulation," *Dayton Daily News*, 11 December 2000, sec. A, p. 6.
4. Mike Claffy and Maki Becker, "Gun Provider Pleads Guilty, Faces Prison," *New York Daily News*, 18 January 2001, p. 4.

**Date:** April 28, 2000

**Location:** Suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Alleged Shooter:** Richard Baumhammers

**People Killed:** Five

**People Injured:** One

**Firearm(s):** Smith & Wesson .357 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Baumhammers, an immigration lawyer, allegedly went on a shooting spree in the Pittsburgh suburbs, killing five people—a Jewish woman, a black man, and natives of China, Vietnam, and India—and also wounding one who was from India. The shootings took place over a span of less than two hours in an area of 15 miles before Baumhammers was arrested. Baumhammers was charged with five counts of homicide and ethnic intimidation, which is Pennsylvania's term for a hate crime.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The revolver was purchased legally from Ace Sporting Goods in Washington, Pennsylvania. Baumhammers had a history of mental illness, but had never been involuntarily committed.

1. Jeffrey Bair, "Judge to Limit Testimony About Insanity, May Bring in Jury for Suspect in Spree," *Associated Press*, 20 February 2001.
2. "Accused Killer of 5 Said to be Mentally Ill," *Chicago Tribune*, 1 May 2000, p. 6.
3. Jeffrey Bair, "Spree Suspect Called for Keeping 'Foothold on This Nation,'" *Associated Press*, 2 May 2000.
4. "5 Dead in Shooting Spree; White Lawyer Apparently Targeted Minorities on Long Trail of Death," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 29 April 2000, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** April 24, 2000

**Location:** National Zoo, Washington, DC

**Alleged Shooter:** Antoine Jones

**People Killed:** None

**People Injured:** Seven

**Firearm(s):** 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

As a group of teenagers was leaving the National Zoo's annual African-American Family Celebration a fight broke out and Antoine Jones fired a 9mm pistol at another group of teens, wounding seven, including five teens ranging in age from 12 to 16. Jones was sentenced to 25 years in prison without the opportunity for parole plus five years probation.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The pistol was never recovered, but police did collect 9mm shell casings at the scene and ammunition at the home of Jones' grandparents. It is unclear how Jones acquired the firearm, but due to his age and Washington's strict gun laws, it was most likely obtained illegally.

1. John Drake, "Teen-Ager Indicted in Zoo Shootings," *Washington Times*, 10 August 2000, sec. C, p. 1.
2. Ellen Gammerman and Tom Bowman, "6 Children Shot at Zoo in Capital; Boy, 11, Suffers Life-Threatening Wound to Head," *Baltimore Sun*, 25 April 2000, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Arlo Wagner, "Zoo Gunman Gets 25 Years in Prison," *Washington Times*, 17 March 2001, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** March 20, 2000

**Location:** Mi-T-Fine Car Wash, Irving, Texas

**Alleged Shooter:** Robert Wayne Harris

**People Killed:** Five

**People Injured:** One

**Firearm(s):** 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

According to Harris's confession, he went to the Mi-T-Fine Car Wash to try to get his job back and a fight broke out when the manager refused to rehire him. According to Octavio Ramos, the only survivor of the shootings, Harris forced him to kneel on his knees and then shot him in the back of the head. Five people were killed and Ramos was wounded. Harris was convicted of capital murder on September 26, 2000, and sentenced to death by lethal injection.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The handgun was illegal. Police did not reveal how Harris acquired the pistol, but Harris had three felony convictions for burglary, so he was prohibited from possessing firearms.

1. Tim Wyatt, "Harris' Violent Past Detailed in Trial Testimony; Records Go Back to Grade School," *Dallas Morning News*, 28 September 2000, sec. A, p. 1.
2. "Death Sentence Issued in Texas Car Wash Murders," *United Press International*, 29 September 2000.
3. Matt Curry, "Former Car Wash Employee Found Guilty on Two Counts of Capital Murder," *Associated Press*, 27 September 2000.



**Date:** February 29, 2000

**Location:** Theo J. Buell Elementary School, Mt. Morris Township, Michigan

**Alleged Shooter:** Not revealed due to his age

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Davis Industries .32 pistol

### **Circumstances**

A six-year-old at Buell Elementary just outside Flint, Michigan, allegedly brought a Davis Industries .32 pistol to school and shot fellow first-grader Kayla Rolland. The two children had reportedly quarreled the day before the shooting.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The gun was acquired illegally. The six-year-old took the gun from a shoebox in his uncle Jamelle James' bedroom. The gun was originally sold at a Flint, Michigan, gun store in 1999 to Stanley E. Mayo. According to a police report, the gun was stolen from Mayo's home on December 6, 1999. According to police interviews, James purchased the gun from Robert Lee Morris for \$40 and a bag of marijuana. James was sentenced to two to 15 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter because he provided the six-year-old access to the gun.

1. Debbie Howlett, "The Shooting of Kayla Rolland," *USA Today*, 2 March 2000, sec. A, p. 1.
2. John Bacon, "Mich. shooting by 6-year-old draws prison for gun owner," *USA Today*, 12 September 2000, sec. A, p. 3.
3. Ron French, et al., "'I'm Going to Die,' Kayla Told Classmate After Boy Shot Her," *Detroit News*, 10 December 2000, p. 4.

**Date:** December 30, 1999

**Location:** Radisson Bay Harbor Inn, Tampa, Florida

**Alleged Shooter:** Silvio Leyva

**People Killed:** Five

**People Injured:** Three

**Firearm(s):** Lorcin 9mm pistol and a Charter Arms .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Leyva, an employee of the hotel, allegedly walked up to the front entrance and opened fire. Two people were shot outside the entrance, two in the lobby, one in a hallway, one by the pool, and one in the restaurant. Four of them died. Another woman was killed when Leyva allegedly tried to steal her car. There was no apparent motive.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The Lorcin was purchased legally from Big E's, a gun dealer at Tampa's Floriland Flea Market. Leyva also carried a .38 Charter Arms revolver, however, it is unknown how Leyva acquired this firearm.

1. Adam C. Smith, "Common, Legal Weapons Used in Hotel Slayings" *St. Petersburg Times*, 1 January 2000, sec. B, p. 1.
2. "Five Die as Hotel Gunman Opens Fire," *Birmingham Post*, 31 December 1999, p. 10.
3. "Tampa Hotel Shootings Claim Five Lives," *Sun-Sentinel*, 31 December 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
4. "Gunman Kills Five in Florida; Four Victims Worked With Suspect at Hotel," *The Dallas Morning News*, 31 December 1999, sec. A, p. 3.

<b>Date:</b>	December 6, 1999
<b>Location:</b>	Fort Gibson Middle School, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma
<b>Alleged Shooter:</b>	Seth Trickey
<b>People Killed:</b>	None
<b>People Injured:</b>	Four
<b>Firearm(s):</b>	Taurus 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Seth Trickey, a 13-year-old student at the Fort Gibson Middle School, allegedly opened fire on a group of students waiting outside for the morning bell, emptying the pistol's 15-round clip, wounding four. The motive remains a mystery—Trickey was a popular, friendly, and intelligent young man, according to friends and classmates.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm belonged to Trickey's father who bought it legally at a Wal-Mart in 1993.

1. Mark A. Hutchison and Don Diehl, "Father's Gun Used in School Shooting; 15 Rounds Shot Before Weapon Surrendered," *The Daily Oklahoman*, 8 December 1999.
2. Renee Ruble, "Four Wounded in Oklahoma School Shooting," *Associated Press*, 6 December 1999.
3. Tim Talley, "Prosecutors Face Choices in School Shooting Case," *Associated Press*, 7 December 1999.

**Date:** November 3, 1999

**Location:** Northlake Shipyard, Seattle, Washington

**Alleged Shooter:** Kevin Cruz

**People Killed:** Two

**People Injured:** Two

**Firearm(s):** Glock 9mm pistol, .32 pistol, and a .22 rifle

### **Circumstances**

Cruz, wearing camouflage clothing and sunglasses, allegedly walked into a boat repair company in Seattle's Northlake Shipyard and shot four employees with a Glock 9mm pistol, killing two of them. After a two-month manhunt, police captured Cruz after receiving a tip from David Anderson, whom Cruz had stayed with earlier that year.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Cruz stole the Glock, as well as the .32 pistol and the .22 rifle, from David Anderson who owned them legally. Anderson had reported the theft to police, but the investigation stalled due to a computer glitch.

1. Peggy Andersen, "Two Killed, Two Wounded in Shootings at Seattle Boat Company," *Associated Press*, 3 November 1999.
2. Tracy Johnson, "Cruz Accused of Stealing Gun From Friend," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 8 January 2000, sec. A, p. 4.

**Date:** November 2, 1999

**Location:** Xerox office, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Alleged Shooter:** Byran Uyesugi

**People Killed:** Seven

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Glock Model 17 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Uyesugi entered a Xerox office building and shot seven coworkers. Uyesugi was an avid gun enthusiast. Police found a collection of 11 handguns, five rifles, and two shotguns at his house in addition to the pistol used in the shooting. Uyesugi was sentenced to a minimum of 235 years in prison for the shootings.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The gun used in the attack was legally purchased in 1989 and was registered in Hawaii. Uyesugi was subsequently denied a permit for another handgun after a 1993 incident in which he destroyed an elevator door and was arrested for criminal property damage.

1. Jaymes K. Song, "Uyesugi Registered Glock Pistol a Decade Ago," *Star-Bulletin*, 11 November 1999.
2. "Gunman in Hawaii Kills 7 of his Xerox Colleagues; Surrenders After 5-Hour Standoff," *The Commercial Appeal*, 3 November 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
3. "Uyesugi Gets 235-Year Minimum Term," *Associated Press*, 22 November 2000.

**Date:** September 15, 1999

**Location:** Wedgewood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas

**Alleged Shooter:** Larry Gene Ashbrook

**People Killed:** Eight (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Seven

**Firearm(s):** Ruger P85 9mm pistol and a .380 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Ashbrook, who had a history of paranoia and mental instability, shot three people in the Wedgewood Baptist Church lobby before entering the sanctuary where more than 150 people were waiting for a concert to begin. He shot 11 more in the sanctuary before shooting himself, killing eight in all. He also threw a pipe bomb, with no injuries.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Both weapons were acquired legally at a flea market from federally licensed firearms dealers in 1992.

1. Jim Cummins, "Investigation Into Mass Shooting at Ft. Worth Church," *NBC News Transcripts, NBC Nightly News*, 16 September 1999.
2. Paul Duggan, "On Tape, A 'Methodical' Massacre; In Footage of Church Shooting, Police See Gunman Pick Targets," *The Washington Post*, 18 September 1999, sec. A, p. 2.
3. Jim Yardley, "Death in a Church: The Overview," *The New York Times*, 18 September 1999, sec. A, p. 12.

**Date:** September 9, 1999

**Location:** Near Laurel, Maryland

**Alleged Shooter:** Richard Wayne Spicknall, II

**People Killed:** Two

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Smith & Wesson 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Spicknall, who was embroiled in a divorce with his wife, took his two children out for a drive, telling friends that he was taking them on vacation. Soon after, he shot his son and daughter, then told police that he had been the victim of a carjacking. He later confessed to the killings.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm was illegal. Spicknall was able to buy the handgun even though his wife had obtained a restraining order against him. The pistol was purchased from a pawn shop in College Park, Maryland, on September 2, 1999. Under federal law, anyone who has a domestic violence restraining order is prohibited from possessing firearms. However, because of a backlog in the Maryland police computer system, Spicknall's name did not come up during a background check.

1. Craig Whitlock, "Lapses in Gun Check Decried; Legislators Scold Md. Police Agencies," *The Washington Post*, 23 November 1999.
2. Brian M. Schleiter "Family, Friends Remember Slain Children," *The Capital*, 15 September 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
3. "Lawyers for Spicknall Seek CT Scan, Gag Order," *Associated Press*, 15 September 1999.
4. Raja Mishra, "Outpouring of Affection for Slain Children; Family and Friends Say Goodbye to Boy and Girl Believed Killed by Their Father," *The Washington Post*, 15 September 1999, sec. B, p. 3.
5. Christopher Thorne, "Father Confesses to Shooting Children, One Fatally," *The Associated Press*, 10 September 1999.

**Date:** August 10, 1999

**Location:** North Valley Jewish Community Center, Los Angeles, California

**Alleged Shooter:** Buford Furrow, Jr.

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** Five

**Firearm(s):** Fully automatic Uzi machine gun and a Glock Model 26 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Furrow, a gun enthusiast, bigot, former federally licensed firearms dealer, and member of a neo-Nazi group, opened fire at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles, firing more than 70 shots from a fully automatic Uzi machine gun and wounding five. He then killed a Filipino-American postal worker with his 9mm pistol as a "target of opportunity." Police later found documents and maps indicating Furrow had intended to attack other Jewish targets around Los Angeles, such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Skirball Cultural Center.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The Glock Model 26 was purchased by Furrow illegally from an unlicensed dealer at a gun show in Spokane, Washington. The Glock was originally purchased by the Cosmopolis, Washington, police department in 1996. The police traded in the gun for a more powerful model and the firearm changed hands at least five times before Furrow purchased it. The purchase was illegal because Furrow was prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law due to a felony conviction.

1. "How Furrow Managed To Acquire His Guns" *ABC News, World News Tonight With Peter Jennings*, 13 August 1999.
2. Barry Meier, "Tracing Twisted Path of Pistol Used in California Killing," *The New York Times*, 14 August 1999.



3. "Suspect Buford Furrow: Was He 'Motivated by Hate'?" *CNN Burden of Proof*, 12 August 1999.
4. James Sterngold, "U.S. Indicts Supremacist in Mailman's Killing," *The New York Times*, 20 August 1999, sec. A, p. 18.
5. David Olinger, "Police Guns in the Hands of Criminals," *Denver Post*, 20 September 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
6. Tom Diaz, *Pocket Rockets: The Gun Industry's Sale of Increased Killing Power*, (Washington, DC: Violence Policy Center, 2000), p. 1.

**Date:** July 29, 1999

**Location:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Alleged Shooter:** Mark O. Barton

**People Killed:** 13 (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** 13

**Firearm(s):** Glock Model 17 9mm pistol and a Colt 1911A1 .45 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Mark O. Barton, a 44-year-old day trader, killed his wife and two children, then nine people in two brokerage offices. He left a long, rambling letter at his home saying that he hated life, suffered unnamed terrors, and wanted to kill as many as possible of those who "greedily sought my destruction."

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Barton legally purchased the Glock 9mm handgun in 1993 in a gun shop (which is now out of business) in Warner Robins, Texas. The Colt .45 was bought in 1983 by a man in Richardson, Texas. Police believe this gun was legally sold to Barton in a private sale because it has never been reported missing or stolen. Police also found a .25 Raven pistol and a .22 Harrington & Richardson revolver in Barton's van.

1. "U.S. Needs Gun Controls," *The Gazette (Montreal)*, 5 August 1999, sec. B, p. 2.
2. "Atlanta Assailant Had 2 More Guns, Ammo in His Van," *The Orange County Register*, 1 August 1999, sec. A, p. 29.
3. Lyda Longa, "The Day After: Weapons; Barton Left Two Handguns Unused," *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 31 July 1999, sec. D, p. 7.
4. Lyda Longa, "Police Slow to Release Barton Investigative File; Delays Over Possible Violation of Public Records Law Explained by Claims That Probe Wasn't Finished," *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 1 September 1999, sec. B, p. 3.
5. Terri Langford, "Gunman Lived in Texarkana; Pistol Bought in Dallas; Houston-based Firm Says He Lost \$105,000 Day Trading," *Associated Press*, 31 July 1999.

**Date:** July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, 1999

**Location:** Multiple locations in Illinois and Indiana

**Alleged Shooter:** Benjamin Nathaniel Smith

**People Killed:** Three (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Nine

**Firearm(s):** Bryco .380 pistol and a Ruger .22 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Benjamin Smith, a 21-year-old member of a white supremacy group, went on a shooting rampage over the Fourth of July weekend across Illinois and Indiana. Smith targeted Jews, blacks, and Asian-Americans, shooting 11 and killing two in three days. After an interstate manhunt, Smith killed himself.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Smith illegally purchased the two guns used in the shooting from an unlicensed dealer who had purchased them from the Old Prairie Trading Post in Pekin, Illinois. Donald R. Fiessinger bought 65 handguns from the gun store over a period of two years, and was advertising them for sale in newspapers. The high volume of purchases of cheap handguns by Fiessinger from the Old Prairie Trading Post alerted federal agents and prompted them to begin an investigation. However, it was too late to recover the weapons that Fiessinger had already sold to Smith on June 26, 1999. During the investigation, agents discovered that Fiessinger was dealing firearms without a Federal Firearms License and arrested him. Police later learned that on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Smith had attempted to purchase two 9mm handguns and a shotgun from a Peoria Heights gun dealer, but was turned down when his background check turned up an "order for protection" filed by an ex-girlfriend. Smith was able to get an Illinois Firearm Owner's Identification Card, however, because of several errors in the order for protection, including an incorrect listing for his middle initial. The card was revoked on June 30<sup>th</sup>, two days before the shooting spree.

1. "Illegal Dealer Sold Guns to Smith; Licensed Shop Turned Slaying Suspect Away," *Chicago Tribune*, 6 July 1999.
2. Vanessa O'Connell, "Legally Sold Gun Ended Up in Killer's Hand," *The Wall Street Journal*, 13 July 1999, sec. B, p. 1.
3. David Olinger, "How a Killer Got His Guns," *Denver Post*, 21 December 1999.

**Date:** May 20, 1999

**Location:** Heritage High School, Conyers, Georgia

**Alleged Shooter:** Thomas J. Solomon, Jr.

**People Killed:** None

**People Injured:** Six

**Firearm(s):** .22 rifle and a .357 magnum revolver

### **Circumstances**

On the morning of May 20, 1999, Solomon allegedly walked into his high school and began shooting. After firing 11 shots from his rifle, and three from his revolver, he kneeled outside the school, allegedly pointing the revolver at his head. An assistant principal was able to take the gun away from him without any further shots being fired.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearms were legal. Both weapons were taken from his parents' locked gun cabinet. Several friends and classmates said that Solomon was fascinated with guns, and one said that he had mentioned shooting people at school before. Another friend said that Solomon had "lots of guns" all over his house.

1. Sue Ann Pressley, "Student Got Guns From His Home," *The Buffalo News*, 22 May 1999, sec. A, p. 5.
2. James Pilcher, "Gunman Wounds Six in High School Attack One Month After Columbine," *Associated Press*, 20 May 1999.
3. Joey Ledford, "School Shooting in Rockdale; Terror Strikes on Seniors' Last Day of Classes; Gunfire Started a Mad Rush as Students Ran in All Directions, Leaving a Trail of Bookbags and Shoes in Their Wake," *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 20 May 1999, sec. A, p. 14.
4. Sue Anne Pressley, "GA Teenager's Motivation is Still a Mystery; Classmate Says He Told School of Gun Incident," *The Washington Post*, 23 May 1999, sec. A, p. 3.

<b>Date:</b>	April 20, 1999
<b>Location:</b>	Columbine High School, Littleton, Colorado
<b>Alleged Shooters:</b>	Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold
<b>People Killed:</b>	15 (shooters committed suicide)
<b>People Injured:</b>	23
<b>Firearm(s):</b>	Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistol, Hi-Point 9mm Carbine, Savage 67H pump-action shotgun, and a Savage 311-D 12-gauge shotgun

### Circumstances

The two students walked through their high school at lunchtime on April 20, 1999, shooting at classmates and teachers before killing themselves. Twelve students and one teacher were killed. In addition to their firearms, they had scattered an assortment of explosive devices throughout the school, many of which did not detonate.

### How Firearm(s) Acquired

Robyn Anderson, a friend of Klebold and Harris, bought the shotguns and the Hi-Point 9mm Carbine at The Tanner Gun Show in December of 1998 from unlicensed sellers. Because Anderson purchased the guns for someone else, the transition constituted an illegal "straw purchase." Klebold and Harris bought the TEC-DC9 from a pizza shop employee named Mark Manes, who knew they were too young to purchase the assault pistol, but nevertheless sold it to them for \$500.

1. David Olinger, "Following the Guns," *The Denver Post Online*, 1 August 1999.
2. David Olinger et al., "Arrests Possible in Pistol Sale; Authorities to Interview Suspected Gun Provider," *The Denver Post*, 30 April 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Mark Obmascik et al., "Tracing a Deadly Trail; Officials Say Girlfriend Bought Guns," *The Denver Post*, 27 April 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
4. David Ottaway, "With Often Arcane Tools, U.S. Agency Traces Littleton Guns," *The Washington Post*, 30 April 1999, sec. A, p. 6.
5. David Olinger and Peter Chronis, "Guns Used in Attack Believed Bought Through Private Deals," *The Denver Post*, 24 April 1999, sec. A, p. 13.

**Date:** April 15, 1999

**Location:** LDS Church Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Alleged Shooter:** Sergei Babarin

**People Killed:** Three (shooter killed by police)

**People Injured:** Four

**Firearm(s):** Ruger .22 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Babarin entered the LDS Church Family History Library and allegedly shot six people, killing two of them. Though there was no apparent motive, Babarin had a history of depression and dementia.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The gun was legally purchased at a gun store. Babarin was on probation for misdemeanor weapons charges, but that crime is not a prohibited category under federal law. Babarin had a history of mental instability, including paranoid schizophrenia, but had never been involuntarily committed by a court, so his purchase was legal.

1. Steve Fidel, "LDS Leader Says Limit Gun Access," *The Deseret News*, 20 April 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
2. Amy Joi Bryson, "Getting a Gun All Too Easy," *The Deseret News*, 17 April 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Ray Rivera, "S.L. Police Chief Calls for Tougher Gun Laws," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 17 April 1999, sec. A, p. 4.
4. Jim Spencer, "Control Mandate by Gun Maker a Welcome Effort," *Daily Press*, 30 January 2000, sec. B, p. 1.
5. Paul Duggan, "Inside Texas Church, A Loner Snapped; Neighbors Saw Fort Worth Shooter as Angry and Disheveled, But Not a Threat," *Washington Post*, 17 September 1999, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** January 13, 1999

**Location:** Triad Center office building, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Alleged Shooter:** Di-Kieu Duy

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** One

**Firearm(s):** 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Di-Kieu Duy stormed into a Salt Lake City office building claiming that someone in the KSL-TV newsroom was harassing her. However, she ended up on the fourth floor and allegedly shot an AT&T employee and the building manager. Duy had a history of schizophrenia and erratic behavior, as well as numerous misdemeanor arrests.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm used in the shooting was attained legally at a Taylorsville gun shop hours before the shooting. Despite being treated for schizophrenia through an outpatient mental health treatment program, and accumulating a criminal history that included stalking, disorderly conduct, interfering with an arrest, and illegally carrying a concealed weapon, Duy was not prohibited from buying a firearm. Her mental health treatment had not been involuntary and all of her arrests were misdemeanors, therefore Duy was not prohibited from purchasing a firearm.

1. "Charges Filed Against Woman Accused in KSL Shooting," *Associated Press*, 20 January 1999.
2. Ray Rivera, "S.L. Police Chief Calls for Tougher Gun Laws," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 17 April 1999, sec. A, p. 4.



**Date:** July 24, 1998

**Location:** U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC

**Alleged Shooter:** Russell Weston, Jr.

**People Killed:** Two

**People Injured:** Two (shooter wounded by police)

**Firearm(s):** Smith & Wesson .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Weston, a man with a history of serious mental illness who often fantasized that he was being pursued by government agents, allegedly shot his way into the U.S. Capitol building. After allegedly killing Jacob Chestnut, a uniformed U.S. Capitol police officer, he ran into the building and allegedly killed John Gibson, a Capitol police special agent assigned to protect Majority Whip Rep. Tom DeLay (R-TX). Weston was subsequently wounded by police and captured.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The handgun used in the shooting was legal. Weston had taken the revolver from his father, along with a shotgun. Authorities found a .22 caliber handgun, gunpowder, and ammunition in Weston's Montana cabin. Though Weston had once been in a mental institution in Montana, he was still able to obtain a firearms permit in Illinois.

1. Ray Rivera, "Should Mentally Ill Have Right To Guns? Tricky Question Stumps Psychiatrists, Police, Lawmakers," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 24 January 1999, sec. C, p. 1.
2. "Guns, Spy Manual At Weston's Cabin," *Chattanooga Free Press*, 4 August 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Garry Wills, "Awash in Guns," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 4 August 1998, sec. B, p. 7.
4. David Von Drehle, et al., "Descent Into Fear, Rage Ended at Capitol; A Troubled Mind Drifts to Violence at the Capitol; Shooting Suspect Lived a Life Adrift," *The Washington Post*, 26 July 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
5. Pam Belluck, "Capitol Hill Slayings: The Family," *New York Times*, 27 July 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
6. Michael Grunwald and Cheryl Thompson, "Weston Charged With Murder in Rampage; Ex-Mental Patient Downgraded to Critical Condition," *Washington Post*, 26 July 1998, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** May 28, 1998

**Location:** Los Angeles, California

**Alleged Shooter:** Brynn Hartman

**People Killed:** Two (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Two .38 revolvers

### **Circumstances**

Actor/comedian Phil Hartman was shot and killed by his wife Brynn with a .38 revolver. She had a history of substance abuse and mental instability, and had been through several rehabilitation programs. Toxicologists found that Brynn Hartman had consumed alcohol and cocaine the night of the shooting. After shooting Hartman, she confessed to a neighbor who called the police. After the police arrived, she killed herself with the second revolver.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

One gun was a recent birthday gift from Phil Hartman to his wife—she wanted a gun to protect their family while he was away from home. The other belonged to Hartman. Both handguns were legal.

1. Marilyn Beck, "Hartman Gave Wife Gun; Pistol as B'day Gift, 'LA Thing,'" *Daily News* (New York), 30 May 1998, p. 5.
2. Keith Morrison,, "What Went Wrong? Friends of Brynn Hartman Discuss her Darker Side That May Have Caused Her to Kill Her Husband, Phil, and Herself," *Dateline NBC*, 8 June 1998.
3. "Comedian Slain; Wife Kills Herself," *The Houston Chronicle*, 29 May 1998, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** May 21, 1998

**Location:** Thurston High School, Springfield, Oregon

**Alleged Shooter:** Kip Kinkel

**People Killed:** Four

**People Injured:** 25

**Firearm(s):** Glock 9mm pistol, Ruger .22 rifle, and a Ruger .22 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Kinkel allegedly killed his parents, then drove to his high school in their SUV. He then entered the crowded cafeteria and allegedly opened fire, killing two and wounding 25 others. Kinkel had been suspended from school on May 20<sup>th</sup> after a loaded .32 pistol was found in his locker. Police found five bombs and 15 inactive explosives at his house. Kinkel, who was known to be fascinated by bombs and guns, also had an "anger management" problem and had been treated by a psychologist.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearms were legal. The Glock and the .22 rifle were purchased for Kinkel by his father. Police believe Kinkel took the .22 pistol from his father.

1. Jeff Barnard, "US: Parents Knew of Son's Fascination With Bombs," *Associated Press*, 25 May 1998.
2. Jeff Barnard, "Arms Cache Found in Home of Oregon Teen Shooter," *The Bergen Record*, 23 May 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Joseph B. Frazier, "Before Kinkel Killed, His Psychologist Said He Should Not Have Guns," *Associated Press*, 18 January 2000.
4. Joshua Hammer, "'Kip is Out of Control,'" *Newsweek*, 8 June 1998, p. 32.
5. "The Killer at Thurston High," *PBS Frontline*, 18 January 2000.

**Date:** March 24, 1998

**Location:** Westside Middle School, Jonesboro, Arkansas

**Alleged Shooter:** Andrew Golden and Mitchell Johnson

**People Killed:** Five

**People Injured:** 10

**Firearm(s):** Remington 742 .30-06 rifle, Universal .30 M1 Carbine replica, Smith & Wesson .38 revolver, Double Deuce Buddie .22 two-shot derringer, Star .380 pistol, FIE .380 pistol, Ruger Security Six .357 revolver, Davis Industries .38 two-shot derringer, and a Charter Arms .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

After excusing himself from his classroom to use the bathroom, Golden pulled a fire alarm and ran outside to join Johnson at a nearby construction site. From there, they allegedly opened fire on the students and teachers as they filed out of the school. Four students and a teacher were killed, and nine students and a teacher were wounded. The boys later surrendered to police.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Seven weapons were taken from Golden's grandfather, and three were taken from his father. All of the weapons were owned legally. Golden owned his own firearms, but was unable to break into the steel safe where they were kept. Instead, the two boys broke into the home of Golden's grandparents and stole the guns hanging on display on the wall.

1. John Kifner, "Tragic Day Started With Theft of Guns, Van," *The New York Times*, 29 March 1998, sec. A, p. 4.
2. "Stolen Van, Stolen Guns and Five Stolen Lives; Jonesboro's Day of Tragedy Ended With the Words: 'Grandpa, I Took Your Guns,'" *The New York Times*, 29 March 1998,

- sec. A, p. 1.
3. Julie Cart, "Painful Burials Begin in Grieving Arkansas Town," *Los Angeles Times*, 28 March 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
  4. Farrell Kramer, "Ark. Suspects Used Powerful Rifles," *Associated Press*, 3 April 1998.
  5. "Clinton Announces on Radio Grant Targeting Youth Violence," *Associated Press*, 11 September 1999.
  6. Brian Cofer and Kenneth Heard, "Husband Says 'Oldest of These 2' Shot Wife," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, 9 August 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
  7. Gerrard Aziakou, "Alleged Sniper Boys Appear at Juvenile Hearing on Murder Charges," *Agence-France Presse*, 26 March 1998.
  8. David A. Lieb, "Grandfather: Suspect in School Shooting Admits Stealing Guns," *Associated Press*, 25 March 1998.
  9. Jenny Price, "Shooting Suspects Had Hunting Rifles; Guns Made to Kill Big Animals From Afar," *Associated Press*, 28 March 1998.
  10. "Arkansas School Shootings: Authorities Provide Further Details at Press Conference," *CNN*, 27 March 1998.

**Date:** March 6, 1998

**Location:** Connecticut State Lottery Headquarters,  
Newington, Connecticut

**Alleged Shooter:** Matthew Beck

**People Killed:** Five (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Beck had been in and out of psychiatric hospitals and had attempted suicide several times in the past. He had been on "stress related" leave from work at the lottery for several months, and was feuding with his boss over back pay and other issues. On March 6, 1998, he walked into the lottery headquarters and shot four top lottery officials including his boss, before killing himself.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Despite his history of mental problems, Beck had been a legal gun owner for years. Beck had been issued a permit for the 9mm pistol used in the shooting.

1. "CT Shooting," *All Things Considered*, 6 March 1998.
2. Blaine Harden, "Worker Kills Four at Conn. Lottery; Accountant Shoots Executives, Self," *The Washington Post*, 7 March 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Ric Kahn, "Shootings Put Microscope on Holes in Conn. Gun Law," *The Boston Globe*, 10 March 1998, sec. B, p. 2.

**Date:** December 18, 1997

**Location:** Caltrans Maintenance Yard, Orange, California

**Alleged Shooter:** Arturo Reyes Torres

**People Killed:** Five (shooter killed by police)

**People Injured:** Two

**Firearm(s):** Chinese-made 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifle

### **Circumstances**

Torres, an avid hunter and gun collector, had recently been fired from his job at Caltrans for allegedly stealing and selling government-owned materials. He believed he was set up by his supervisor and returned to Caltrans seeking revenge. Torres killed four people—including his former supervisor—and wounded two others, firing 144 rounds from his AK-47 in just over two minutes. Torres was shot and killed by police.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The rifle was purchased legally on April 30, 1988, from B&B Gun Sales in Orange County, California. Torres was a gun enthusiast whose collection included two AK-47s, three 12-gauge shotguns, six handguns, and six rifles. According to police, all his guns were legally owned and kept in a five-foot-tall metal safe.

1. Esther Schrader, "A Rifle's Journey, From Import to O.C. Assault," *Los Angeles Times*, 25 January 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
2. David Haldane, "Gun Battle in Orange; The Aftermath," *Los Angeles Times*, 20 December 1997, sec. A, p. 28.

**Date:** December 1, 1997

**Location:** Heath High School, West Paducah, Kentucky

**Alleged Shooter:** Michael Carneal

**People Killed:** Three

**People Injured:** Five

**Firearm(s):** Ruger .22 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Carneal opened fire on students holding a morning prayer circle at his high school. In addition to the pistol, Carneal had two rifles and two shotguns, which he did not use. After the shooting, Carneal dropped his weapons and surrendered. His motive unknown, Carneal pleaded guilty but mentally ill to murder and attempted murder charges and is serving a life sentence.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The weapons were taken by Carneal from a neighbor's garage. The neighbor owned them legally.

1. James Malone, "Teen-age Gunman Opens Fire in Kentucky School, Killing 2, Wounding 6," *Gannett News Service*, 1 December 1997.
2. "Judge OK's \$42 million Accord in Case Against Teen Slayer," *Associated Press*, 6 August 2000.
3. "Report: Teen Gunman Offers \$42 million Settlement," *Associated Press*, 3 August 2000.



**Date:** October 1, 1997

**Location:** Pearl High School, Pearl, Mississippi

**Alleged Shooter:** Luke Woodham

**People Killed:** Three

**People Injured:** Seven

**Firearm(s):** .30-30 rifle

### **Circumstances**

Woodham killed his mother with a kitchen knife, then drove to school. Wearing a long black coat to conceal the rifle, Woodham entered Pearl High School, then opened fire on his ex-girlfriend. After shooting her, he continued firing in the hallway. After shooting nine people, Woodham exited the building and attempted to leave school grounds but was stopped by the assistant principal, who ran Woodham's car off the road and held him until police arrived. In 1998 Woodham was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Woodham took the rifle from his older brother who owned it legally.

1. NBC Nightly News, "Mississippi Teen Kills Mother at Home and Then Goes to School and Kills Ex-Girlfriend and Another Girl Over Relationship Problems," *NBC News Transcripts*, 1 October 1997.
2. Thomas B. Edsall, "Mississippi Boy Held in School Killing Spree; Teenager is Also Accused in Mother's Stabbing Death," *The Washington Post*, 2 October 1997, sec. A, p. 3.
3. C. Ray Hall, "4 Schools, 5 Shooters, 59 Victims; Shootings Muddle the Gun Debate," *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 9 December 1998, sec. A, p. 10.

**Date:** September 15, 1997

**Location:** R.E. Phelon Company, Aiken, South Carolina

**Alleged Shooter:** Arthur Hastings Wise

**People Killed:** Four

**People Injured:** Three

**Firearm(s):** 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Wise had recently been fired from the R.E. Phelon Company manufacturing plant where the shooting occurred. Following his dismissal, Wise had unsuccessfully applied for other jobs at the plant. One of his alleged victims had received a job he wanted. After his alleged shooting spree, SWAT team members found Wise on the floor of an office, apparently having ingested a toxic substance.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The gun was acquired illegally. Wise had previous convictions for bank robbery, interstate transportation of stolen property, and receiving stolen property. He had spent three and a half years in prison. His criminal background made it illegal for him to own firearms.

1. Clif LeBlanc, Michelle R. Davis, and Lisa Greene, "Gunman Kills Three, Wounds Four at Plant Where He Was Fired Just Weeks Before," *Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service*, 15 September 1997.
2. Tracie Powell, "Criminals Have Access to Weapons; Police, Dealers Say a Convicted Felon Like Wise Would Have Had Little Difficulty Getting a Gun," *The Augusta Chronicle*, 21 September 1997, sec. C, p. 2.
3. Eric Frazier, et al., "'He's Got a Gun; Victims Recount Horrors,'" *The Charleston Post and Courier*, 17 September 1997, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** April 27 through July 15, 1997

**Location:** Minneapolis, Minnesota; East Rush Lake, Minnesota; Chicago, Illinois; New York, New York; and, Miami Beach, Florida

**Alleged Shooter:** Andrew Philip Cunanan

**People Killed:** Six (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Taurus .40 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Over a period of nearly three months, Cunanan roamed from Minnesota to Florida via New York, running from the police. During that period, he killed five people including fashion designer Gianni Versace, before killing himself. Police characterized Cunanan's activities as a "spree killing," and his reasons remain unknown.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm was stolen from the first murder victim, Jeff Trail.

1. Judy Pasternak and Tony Perry, "Fugitive's Death Leaves a Trail of Contradictions," *Los Angeles Times*, 25 July 1997, sec. A, p. 1.
2. Luisa Yanez, "Why Was Versace a Victim?," *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, 12 July 1998, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Ardy Friedberg, "Police Close Versace Case; Motives Remain a Mystery," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 31 December 1997, sec. A, p. 7.

**Date:** February 28, 1997

**Location:** North Hollywood, California

**Alleged Shooters:** Emil Dechebal Matasareanu and Larry Eugene Phillips, Jr.

**People Killed:** Two (shooters killed by police)

**People Injured:** 16

**Firearm(s):** Multiple fully automatic assault rifles including an AK-47 type

### **Circumstances**

On February 28, 1997, Matasareanu and Phillips tried to rob a Bank of America branch office in North Hollywood, California. While trying to escape, the two men engaged in a shootout with police. Though vastly outnumbered, the two men—armed with automatic weapons and wearing body armor—successfully held off law enforcement personnel for hours before being shot and killed by police.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The weapons were originally bought at a gun show and then illegally resold to Matasareanu and Phillips.

1. Jaxon Van Derbeken, "The Gunmen; Glendale Police Alerted FBI to Pair," *The Daily News of Los Angeles*, 2 March 1997, sec. N, p. 1.
2. Terri Hardy and Dorothy Korber, "Capitol Notebook: Newsworthy Guns Acquired Through Shows," *The Daily News of Los Angeles*, 2 May 1999, sec. V, p. 3.
3. Dennis Prager, "Perspective on Ethics: Whom Should We Save First?," *Los Angeles Times*, 26 April 1998, sec. M, p. 5.

**Date:** February 23, 1997

**Location:** Empire State Building, New York, New York

**Alleged Shooter:** Ali Hassan Abu Kamal

**People Killed:** Two (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Six

**Firearm(s):** Beretta .380 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Less than two months after arriving in the U.S., Abu Kamal traveled from New York to Florida to buy a gun. After acquiring a Florida picture ID, he bought the gun, returned to New York, and shot seven people in the Empire State Building. Family members described Kamal as “unbalanced” after having lost his life savings in a failed business venture. According to a note found in his pocket, he may also have been motivated by anger at the U.S. for using Israel as “an instrument” against Palestine.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Abu Kamal illegally acquired the gun. Kamal went to Florida to purchase a firearm, taking advantage of Florida’s more lenient gun laws. Although federal law restricts immigrants from buying a gun if they have been in the country fewer than 90 days, Kamal was able to evade this law because there was no record of his residency status in the federal computer database when he went through a background check. Kamal needed a picture ID issued by the state of Florida to purchase the gun. To get the picture ID card, he merely needed proof of residency and immigration papers. He stayed in a motel for a couple of weeks and then used that address as proof of his residency.

1. Clifford Krauss, “Rampage at the Empire State Building: the Weapon; Loophole Let Gun Buyer in Florida Evade Waiting Period for Foreigners,” *The New York Times*, 25 February 1997, sec. A, p. 23.
2. Blaine Harden, “Shooter Bought Gun By Using New Florida ID,” *The Washington Post*, 25 February 1997, sec. A, p. 1.
3. John M. Goshko, “Death Atop Empire State Building,” *The Washington Post*, 24 February 1997, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** April 28, 1995

**Location:** Albertson's supermarket, Lakewood, Colorado

**Alleged Shooter:** Albert Petrosky

**People Killed:** Three

**People Injured:** One

**Firearm(s):** Grizzly .50 sniper rifle, SKS 7.62mm assault rifle, .32 pistol, and a 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Albert Petrosky walked into an Albertson's supermarket in suburban Colorado, gunning down his estranged wife and the manager of the store. Earlier in the week, Petrosky's wife had told him that she "cared for someone else." Petrosky then walked out of the store backwards into the parking lot, where he began spraying gunfire. Upon its arrival, a patrol car responding to 911 calls was fired on by Petrosky. The sheriff's deputy driving the car was fatally shot in the chest, face, and abdomen.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Petrosky legally bought the .50 Grizzly rifle from a Northglenn gun dealer for \$2,500—no background check was required. Petrosky's .32 pistol had been returned to him after being seized by police following an arrest for drunk driving and illegally carrying a concealed weapon.

1. Mark Stevens, "Death of Sergeant Infuriates Sheriff," *The Denver Post*, 29 April 1995, sec. A, p. 8.
2. Barbara Vobejda and David Ottaway, "The 50-Caliber Rifle; On Streets, Firepower For an Army; Police Fear Weapon is Falling Into Wrong Hands," *The Washington Post*, 17 August 1999, sec. A, p. 1.
3. Charlie Brennan, "Authorities Investigate Gun Sale, Rifle Used in Albertson's Slaying Wasn't Illegal, but Cops Want to Know Details of its Purchase," *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, 1 May 1995, sec. A, p. 4.
4. Lynn Bartels, "Suspect Failed Handgun Check, but Man Held in Albertson's Killings Was

- Able to Buy Rifle Not Covered By Brady Law's Background Check Provision," *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, 2 May 1995, sec. A, p. 5.
5. Steven Boland, "Petrosky Eluded Arrest Tries," *The Denver Post*, 1 May 1995, sec. B, p. 1.
  6. Guy Kelly, "Supermarket Gunman Kills 3, Hurts 1, Suspect's Wife, Store Manager and Deputy Slain; Bystander Shot in Leg During Rampage," *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, 29 April 1995, sec. A, p. 4
  7. Steve Jackson, "A Shock to the System," *Denver Westword*, 11 June 1998.

**Date:** April 3, 1995

**Location:** Walter Rossler Company, Corpus Christi, Texas

**Alleged Shooter:** James Daniel Simpson

**People Killed:** Six (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Ruger 9mm pistol and a .32 revolver

### **Circumstances**

James Simpson entered his former workplace, Walter Rossler Co., systematically shooting employees at point-blank range before going out the back door and fatally shooting himself in the head. He had worked as a metallurgist for a year at the company before quitting in September 1994. According to police, the motive for the shooting was Simpson's apparent depression.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearms were purchased legally, however, police would not release any information to the public. Simpson had no criminal record or mental illness history that would have prevented him from buying firearms.

1. T.J. Milling and Lynwood Abram, "Corpus Christi Police Seek Clues to Rampage," *The Houston Chronicle*, 5 April 1995, sec. A, p. 1.
2. Kelley Shannon, "Gunman Kills Five, Then Himself, at Refinery Inspection Company," *Associated Press*, 4 April 1995.



**Date:** March 31, 1995  
**Location:** Corpus Christi, Texas  
**Alleged Shooter:** Yolanda Saldivar  
**People Killed:** One  
**People Injured:** None  
**Firearm(s):** Taurus .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Saldivar, founder of the Selena Fan Club and personal assistant to the 23-year-old Grammy winner, had been fired the day before the shooting. Apparently, Selena went to confront Saldivar about financial irregularities in the singer's two specialty boutique shops, which Saldivar helped manage. A witness said there was an argument, and Saldivar shot and killed Selena. She then held off police for almost 10 hours before surrendering.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The gun was purchased legally at a San Antonio gun shop.

1. James E. Garcia, "Gun Expert Casts Doubt on Saldivar's Defense," *The Austin American-Statesman*, 20 October 1995, sec. B, p. 3.
2. Armando Villafranca and Thaddeus Herrick, "Fans Make Selena Pilgrimage; Pistol Reportedly Bought Recently in San Antonio," *The Houston Chronicle*, 3 April 1995, sec. A, p. 1.

**Date:** November 22, 1994

**Location:** Metropolitan Police Headquarters, Washington, DC

**Alleged Shooter:** Bennie Lee Lawson

**People Killed:** Four (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** One

**Firearm(s):** Cobray M-11 assault pistol

### **Circumstances**

Bennie Lee Lawson entered Washington, DC, police headquarters, walked into the office of the homicide "cold case" squad, shot and killed two FBI agents and a DC police sergeant, and wounded another FBI agent before killing himself.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Lawson illegally bought his gun from Rodney Finklea, who was later convicted of gun trafficking conspiracy and possession of firearms by a convicted felon. In addition to the Cobray M-11 assault pistol, Finklea dealt Chinese versions of AK-47 assault rifles.

1. Nancy Lewis, "Man Convicted of Providing Gun Used to Kill Agents, D.C. Officer," *The Washington Post*, 26 June 1995, sec. B, p. 3.
2. "Slain Agent's Husband Awarded \$1.7 Million," *The New York Times*, 9 March 1997, sec. A, p. 27.

**Date:** October 29, 1994

**Location:** The White House, Washington, DC

**Alleged Shooter:** Francisco Martin Duran

**People Killed:** None

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Norinco SKS 7.62mm assault rifle

### **Circumstances**

Duran, a convicted felon, fired 20 to 30 rounds from a Chinese-made assault rifle at the White House before being apprehended. He had also reportedly made threatening phone calls to Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's office because of his vote in support of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which banned specific models of assault weapons.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm was purchased illegally from High Country Wholesale Firearms in Colorado Springs on September 13, 1994, the day the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act was signed into law. On September 30, 1994, a background check turned up his past conviction and prevented him from buying a handgun, but there was no check required for the rifle purchase.

1. "Gun Sale Was Foiled Before Shooting at White House," *Los Angeles Times*, 11 November 1994, sec. A, p. 29.
2. Frank J. Murray, "Assassination Attempt Not Ruled Out in Probe; Capital Charge Could Be Filed," *The Washington Times*, 31 October 1994, sec. A, p. 1.
3. *U.S. Newswire*, "Transcript of Oct. 30 Press Briefing by Myers, Noble, Griffin," 31 October 1994.
4. "Buying Assault Weapon Was Easy, Thanks, in Part, to the Gun Lobby," *Omaha World Herald*, 4 November 1994, p. 24.

<b>Date:</b>	April 5, 1994
<b>Location:</b>	Seattle, Washington
<b>Alleged Shooter:</b>	Kurt Cobain
<b>People Killed:</b>	One (shooter committed suicide)
<b>People Injured:</b>	None
<b>Firearm(s):</b>	Remington Model 11 20-gauge shotgun

### **Circumstances**

After two days in a California drug-treatment clinic, Cobain returned to his Seattle home and shot himself. Police had confiscated weapons from Cobain twice in the previous 10 months, so Cobain had a friend buy the shotgun for him.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The firearm was legal. Cobain's best friend, Dylan Carlson, purchased the shotgun at Stan's Gun Shop in Seattle, Washington. Cobain did not want the gun to be purchased in his name because he thought the police might seize it from him for his own protection. The police had taken away his guns twice in the past 10 months. The first time was in response to a domestic disturbance at his home, but Cobain was not charged and the weapons were returned to him. On the second occasion, police seized four weapons from Cobain—including the three that had been returned to him—after his wife reported he was suicidal.

1. Steven Goldsmith and Dan Raley, "Friend Innocently Bought Shotgun For Cobain," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 15 April 1994, sec. A, p. 1.
2. Steven Goldsmith and Scott Maier, "At War With Himself: Cobain Endured Intense Physical Pain, Which Resulted in Self-Destruction," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 16 April 1994, sec. B, p. 1.

**Date:** March 1, 1994

**Location:** Brooklyn Bridge, New York, New York

**Alleged Shooter:** Rashid Baz

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** Three

**Firearm(s):** Cobray 9mm fully automatic machine pistol and Glock Model 17 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

On March 1, 1994, Baz opened fire on a van carrying Hasidic students across the Brooklyn Bridge, killing one and wounding three. He used an illegally converted machine pistol and an illegally purchased semiautomatic pistol.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Baz illegally purchased both the Glock and the assembled, fully automatic Cobray from street dealers in New York City. The Glock was originally purchased by Albert Jeanniton from a firearms shop in Homestead, Florida. Jeanniton was a gun trafficker who hired youths to bring his guns into New York City by car to be resold to customers in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. The machine pistol was assembled from a kit sold through mail order by Wayne Daniel of Tennessee. The kit was legal because it did not include a finished receiver. The conversion to the receiver making the weapon fully automatic was illegal.

1. Clifford Krauss, "Gun Used in Bridge Attack Is Tracked," *The New York Times*, 12 March 1994, sec. 1, p. 25.
2. Bob Liff, "The Gun-Kit Defense Hits its Bullseye; Court Victory in the Mail," *Daily News*, 30 March 1998, sec. Suburban, p. 3.
3. Tom Hays, "Van Carrying Hasidic Jews Fired Upon; Four Wounded," *Associated Press*, 1 March 1994.
4. Marilyn Henry, "New York Yeshiva Student Drive-By Slaying Re-Opened," *Jerusalem Post*, 29 August 1999, p. 3.

**Date:** December 7, 1993

**Location:** Long Island Railroad, Long Island, New York

**Alleged Shooter:** Colin Ferguson

**People Killed:** Six

**People Injured:** 19

**Firearm(s):** Ruger P-89 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Ferguson, a native of Jamaica, opened fire on commuters inside a Long Island Railroad train as they were returning home from New York City. On Ferguson, police found angry rants jotted on pieces of paper detailing the shooter's rage toward various ethnic groups, including blacks, whites, Asians, as well as New York State officials.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Ferguson legally purchased the handgun at Turner's Outdoorsman, a California sporting goods store. To purchase the handgun, Ferguson had to show proof of residency. After having acquired a California driver's license using the address of the motel where he was staying, Ferguson passed the background check and waited the mandatory 15 days before picking up his gun.

1. James Barron, "Death on the L.I.R.R.: The Overview; Portrait of Suspect Emerges in Shooting on L.I. Train," *The New York Times*, 9 December 1993, sec. A, p. 1.
2. Mike Mokrzycki, "Massacre on Commuter Train: Gunman Was Driven By Racial Hatred," *Associated Press*, 9 December 1993.
3. "Pistol Bought Legally, Says California Dealer," *Chicago Sun Times*, 9 December 1993, p. 7.
4. "25 Days Until 2000; This Day in History," *Daily News*, 7 December 1999, p. 3.
5. Joseph B. Treaster, "16 Days in California and a Fateful Purchase," *New York Times*, 9 December 1993, sec. B, p. 10.

**Date:** July 23, 1993

**Location:** Lumberton, North Carolina

**Alleged Shooter:** Larry Demery and Daniel Green

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Smith & Wesson .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Demery and Green killed James Jordan, the father of basketball star Michael Jordan, in a botched robbery attempt after Jordan had stopped his car near U.S. Highway 74 to rest. Eventually realizing who their victim's son was, Demery and Green left the body in a South Carolina swamp and abandoned the car near Fayetteville, North Carolina. The gun was later found in Green's trailer in North Carolina.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The handgun was illegal. It had been stolen during a robbery at Lowry's Short Stop near Pembroke, North Carolina, on July 15, 1993. After Demery and Green robbed the convenience store of \$300, Green shot the clerk three times and stole his revolver.

1. "Arguments Begin in Killing of Father of Michael Jordan," *The New York Times*, 4 January 1996, sec. A, p. 19.
2. "James Jordan: Shock and Sadness Follow Shooting Death of Michael Jordan's Father," *Jet*, 30 August 1993, p. 4.
3. Craig Whitlock, "Testimony Clarifies Treacherous Time Around Jordan's Death," *The News and Observer*, 29 January 1996, sec. A, p. 1.
4. Craig Whitlock, "Witness Tells of Riding in Jordan's Car," *The News and Observer*, 23 January 1996, sec. A, p. 3.
5. Craig Whitlock, "Doubts Raised Over Gun," *The News and Observer*, 13 February 1996, sec. A, p. 3.

**Date:** July 1, 1993

**Location:** Pettit & Martin Law Offices, San Francisco, California

**Alleged Shooter:** Gian Luigi Ferri

**People Killed:** Nine (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Six

**Firearm(s):** Two Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistols and a Colt .45 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Ferri, a 55-year-old mortgage broker, entered the Pettit & Martin law offices in San Francisco and opened fire with two assault pistols and a .45 pistol. Moving through the office, he fired his assault pistols, which were loaded with a mix of Black Talon and standard ammunition. Ferri ended the lives of some of the wounded with Black Talon rounds from his Colt pistol. After expending 75 to 100 rounds, Ferri turned the gun on himself. Faced with financial problems, Ferri held a grudge against Pettit & Martin because the firm had represented him in a 1980s trailer-park deal that had gone bad.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

All three weapons were acquired from licensed dealers by illegal means. A California resident with a still-valid Nevada driver's license, Ferri traveled from California to Nevada to buy the TEC-DC9s. Because he lied about his residency, the guns were purchased illegally. Both of Ferri's TEC-DC9s were equipped with Hellfire trigger activators, a small spring device which mimics the speed of fully automatic fire.

1. Karyn Hunt, "Gunman Had an Arsenal—and a Grudge," *Associated Press*, 2 July 1993.
2. Robert B. Gunnison and Susan Sward, "Highrise Killer Used Mushrooming Bullets in Attack," *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 13 July 1993, sec. A, p. 17.
3. Pam Lambert, et al., "Falling Down; A Middle-Aged Man With a Gun and a Grudge Goes Berserk," *People*, 19 July 1993, p. 30.



**Date:** January 25, 1993

**Location:** Outside Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters, Langley, Virginia

**Alleged Shooter:** Mir Aimal Kansi

**People Killed:** Two

**People Injured:** Three

**Firearm(s):** Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle

### **Circumstances**

Kansi, a 28-year-old Pakistani living in Virginia, opened fire on cars waiting to enter the grounds of Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia. He killed two people, both employees of the agency, and wounded three others. He then fled to Pakistan, where he was captured in 1997.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Kansi legally purchased the gun from David Condon Inc., a dealer in Chantilly, Virginia just three days before the shooting. He produced identification to prove his Virginia residency and passed a Virginia State Police computerized background check.

1. Bill Miller, "New Report Out on CIA Shootings; Gun Shop Employee Gets Some Support," *The Washington Post*, 13 May 1994, sec. C, p. 5.
2. "An Alien With an AK-47," *U.S. News and World Report*, 22 February 1993, p. 8.
3. Bill Miller and Robert O'Harrow, Jr. "Criminologists Ponder Killer's 'Strange Mission'; Perceived Injustice Might Have Sparked Rampage," *The Washington Post*, 27 January 1993, sec. A, p. 9.
4. Maria Koklanaris, "Pakistan Focus of Search; CIA Suspect's Home Country to Assist Police," *Washington Times*, 11 February 1993, sec. A, p. 1.
5. Pierre Thomas and Peter Baker, "CIA Killings Prompt Scrutiny on Two Fronts; Fairfax Loophole Expedited Gun Purchase," *The Washington Post*, 11 February 1993, sec. C, p. 1.
6. Kevin Johnson and Gary Fields, "FBI Gets its Man, But it Didn't Catch Him; Luck Can Play as Much a Role as Hard Work," *USA Today*, 15 July 1999, sec. A, p. 3.

**Date:** November 14, 1991

**Location:** Royal Oak Post Office, Royal Oak, Michigan

**Alleged Shooter:** Thomas McIlvane

**People Killed:** Five (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Five

**Firearm(s):** Ruger .22 rifle

### **Circumstances**

McIlvane had been fired from the postal service for alleged time-card fraud. His dismissal was upheld by an arbitrator less than a week before the shooting. According to coworkers, McIlvane was seeking revenge when he returned to the post office and opened fire, killing four of his former colleagues and wounding five, before turning the gun on himself.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The rifle was illegal. McIlvane was prohibited from owning firearms because he was dishonorably discharged from the Marines, allegedly for running over a car with a tank. Because there was no background check required at the time, McIlvane was able to buy the gun at a gun store by simply not disclosing his dishonorable discharge.

1. Doron P. Levin, "Slayings at Michigan Post Office Spur a Review of All Employees," *New York Times*, 16 November 1991, sec. A, p. 6.
2. "Other Shootings at U.S. Workplaces," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 27 December 2000, sec. A, p. 15.
3. "Shooting Kills 3 at Post Office; Fired Worker Also Wounds Himself," *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 15 November 1991, sec. A, p. 5.
4. Doron P. Levin, "Ex-Postal Worker Kills 3 and Wounds 6 in Michigan," *New York Times*, 15 November 1991, sec. A, p. 14.

**Date:** October 16, 1991

**Location:** Luby's Cafeteria, Killeen, Texas

**Alleged Shooter:** George Hennard

**People Killed:** 24 (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** 20

**Firearm(s):** Ruger P-89 9mm pistol and a Glock 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Hennard, who had a history of mental instability and was described by friends and family as paranoid and troubled, drove his pickup truck through the window of a Luby's Cafeteria restaurant and opened fire, killing 23 people and wounding 20 others, then killed himself.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Both guns were purchased legally from Mike's Gun Shop in February and March of 1991 in Henderson, Nevada. Although he had a history of mental illness, Hennard was never committed by court order to a mental health institution. Federal law prohibits firearms purchases only by people who have been committed to a mental health facility under court order.

1. Mark Wrolstad, "Mass Killer Led Life of Contradictions," *The Gazette (Montreal)*, 30 November 1991, sec. H, p. 9.
2. "Luby's Chain Closes Cafeteria in Killeen Where 23 Were Killed," *Austin American-Statesman*, 9 September 2000, sec. B, p. 4.

**Date:** June 18, 1990

**Location:** General Motors Acceptance Corporation Office,  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Alleged Shooter:** James Edward Pough

**People Killed:** 10 (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Four

**Firearm(s):** Universal .30 M1 rifle and a .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Pough's 1988 Pontiac Grand Am was repossessed by the General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) in January 1990. This apparently led Pough to enter the GMAC office on June 18, armed with an M1 rifle and a handgun, and open fire, killing nine and wounding four before killing himself.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Pough's guns were acquired legally. In 1971 Pough pleaded guilty to aggravated assault in the death of David Lee Pender. Adjudication was withheld, so when Pough successfully completed his five years of probation, his record was cleared.

1. Ron Word, "Family Members, Co-Workers Mourn Victims of Finance Office Massacre," *Associated Press*, 23 June 1990.
2. "Florida Loan Office Death Toll Reaches 10," *Los Angeles Times*, 28 June 1990, sec. A, p. 26.
3. Chris Lavin, "Gunman Kills 8, Himself in Jacksonville Auto Loan Office," *St. Petersburg Times*, 19 June 1990, sec. A, p. 1.
4. "Debate: Better Gun Control Will Save More Lives," *USA Today*, 21 June 1990, sec. A, p. 8.
5. Jacob Sullum, "Tactical Tragedies: The Lone Gunman Theory of Firearm Regulation," *Reason*, March 1994, p. 41.
6. "Other Shootings at U.S. Workplaces," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 27 December 2000, sec. A, p. 15.

**Date:** September 14, 1989

**Location:** Standard Gravure Corp., Louisville, Kentucky

**Alleged Shooter:** Joseph T. Wesbecker

**People Killed:** Nine (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** 12

**Firearm(s):** Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle, two MAC-11 assault pistols, .38 revolver, and a Sig Sauer 9mm pistol

### **Circumstances**

Wesbecker had a long history of mental instability and was placed on permanent disability leave due to mental illness by the printing plant where his killing spree eventually took place. Wesbecker went from floor to floor, killing eight and wounding 12 with his AK-47, before taking his own life.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Wesbecker acquired all of his weapons legally. He bought his principal firearm, the AK-47, from Tilford's Gun Sales in Louisville. Despite his mental condition, the purchases were legal because his treatment had been voluntary.

1. Ted M. Natt, Jr., "Disgruntled Employee Kills Seven, Wounds 13, Takes Own Life," *Associated Press*, 15 September 1989.
2. "Mentally Disabled Killer of 7 Bought Rifle Legally," *The Los Angeles Times*, 16 September 1989, p. 22.
3. Nicholas M. Horrock and Michael Tackett, "Louisville Gunman Got Arsenal Legally; Mental Instability Difficult to Trace," *Chicago Tribune*, 18 September 1989, p. 4.
4. "Union Officials Ask for Workplace Violence Task Force," *Associated Press*, 23 September 1999.

<b>Date:</b>	January 17, 1989
<b>Location:</b>	Cleveland Elementary School, Stockton, California
<b>Alleged Shooter:</b>	Patrick Edward Purdy
<b>People Killed:</b>	Six (shooter committed suicide)
<b>People Injured:</b>	30
<b>Firearm(s):</b>	Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle, Taurus 9mm pistol, and another unidentified pistol

### Circumstances

Purdy, who had expressed his dislike for Asian immigrants and Asian-Americans, opened fire on an elementary schoolyard full of Asian-American children, firing 106 rounds, killing five and wounding 30 before taking his own life.

### How Firearm(s) Acquired

All firearms were purchased legally, despite Purdy's criminal record. Because he had not been convicted of any felonies—his one felony charge, a robbery, was plea-bargained to a misdemeanor—Purdy was able to purchase his guns. Purdy bought the AK-47 rifle at the Sandy Trading Post, in Sandy, Oregon, on August 3, 1988. State law in Oregon at the time allowed assault rifles to be sold without any waiting period and with minimal paperwork. The 9mm pistol was bought at Hunter Loan and Jewelry Co., a Stockton, California, pawn shop, on December 28, 1988.

1. Jay Mathews, "Schoolyard Massacre Refuels Drive for Stricter Gun Control," *The Washington Post*, 20 January 1989, sec. A, p. 3.
2. Jay Mathews and Matt Lait, "Rifleman Slays Five at School," *The Washington Post*, 18 January 1989, sec. A, p. 1.
3. John Hurst and Stephen Braun, "Rifle Used in Carnage 'Easier to Buy Than Handguns,'" *Los Angeles Times*, 18 January 1989, sec. 1, p. 3.
4. Josh Sugarmann, *National Rifle Association: Money, Firepower & Fear*, (Washington, DC: National Press Books, 1992): 201.

**Date:** May 20, 1988

**Location:** Hubbard Woods Elementary School, Winnetka, Illinois

**Alleged Shooter:** Laurie Dann

**People Killed:** Two (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Six

**Firearm(s):** Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver, Smith & Wesson .32 revolver, and a Beretta .22 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Dann went on a rampage when told she was being fired from her baby-sitting job because the family was moving. She set several fires, tried to poison a variety of people with arsenic, and opened fire at the Hubbard Woods Elementary School, killing an eight-year-old boy and wounding four other children. Dann then fled to a nearby home, where she wounded a 20-year-old man as he tried to disarm her, before killing herself.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Dann's three guns were purchased legally at Marksman Police and Shooter Supply in Glenview, Illinois, on three separate occasions in 1986 and 1987. Illinois law requires a Firearm Owner's ID (FOID) card to purchase guns or ammunition and Dann was apparently a FOID holder.

1. "Police Follow Shooter's Trail of Poisonings; Woman Left Arsenic-Laced Juice at Homes," *The Orange Country Register*, 22 May 1988, sec. A, p. 1.
2. William C. Hidlay, "Woman Shoots Seven, Terrorizes Wealthy Suburb Before Killing Herself," *Associated Press*, 21 May 1988.
3. Roger Flaherty, "Shattering the Peace," *New York Times*, 11 August 1991, sec. 7, p. 24.

**Date:** August 20, 1986

**Location:** Edmond Post Office, Edmond, Oklahoma

**Alleged Shooter:** Patrick Henry Sherrill

**People Killed:** 15 (shooter committed suicide)

**People Injured:** Six

**Firearm(s):** Two .45 pistols and a .22 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Pat Sherrill, a loner and former marksman in the Marines, was on the verge of being fired from his job as a postal worker. In response, Sherrill went on a shooting rampage at his office, killing 14 coworkers.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

All weapons were acquired legally. According to the District Attorney in Oklahoma City, Sherrill had no criminal record or history of mental instability.

1. Owen Canfield, "Postal Employee Kills 14, Wounds Six; Takes Own Life," *Associated Press*, 20 August 1986.
2. "Gun Laws Held Useless in Mass Murder," *Los Angeles Times*, 25 August 1986, sec. 1, p. 4.
3. Jacob V. Lamar, Jr. "'Crazy Pat's Revenge,'" *Time*, 1 September 1986, p. 19.
4. Gil Broyles, "Carnage Leaves 15 Dead, Questions About Motive," *Associated Press*, 21 August 1986.
5. "Rampage in Oklahoma; Laboring at Home; Order of Silence," *The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour*, 20 August 1986.



**Date:** October 30, 1985

**Location:** Springfield Mall, Springfield, Pennsylvania

**Alleged Shooter:** Sylvia Seegrist

**People Killed:** Three

**People Injured:** Seven

**Firearm(s):** .22 rifle

### **Circumstances**

Seegrist, who had a history of mental problems, opened fire at a Springfield, Pennsylvania mall, killing three people and wounding seven.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Seegrist purchased her rifle illegally at a catalog showroom. When she filled out the form to purchase her rifle, she indicated that she had never been committed to a mental institution. However, she had been committed to mental hospitals 12 times in the previous 10 years, disqualifying her from owning a firearm.

1. Tim Darragh and David Herzog, "Laws Do Little to Keep Weapons From the Seriously Mentally Ill," *The Morning Call*, 28 June 1994, sec. A, p. 1.
2. "Suspect in Mall Rampage Described as Violent, Unstable," *Associated Press*, 31 October 1985.

<b>Date:</b>	July 18, 1984
<b>Location:</b>	McDonald's Restaurant, San Ysidro, California
<b>Alleged Shooter:</b>	James Oliver Huberty
<b>People Killed:</b>	22 (shooter killed by police)
<b>People Injured:</b>	19
<b>Firearm(s):</b>	Browning P-35 Hi-Power 9mm pistol, Winchester 1200 pump-action 12-gauge shotgun, and an Israeli Military Industries 9mm Model A Carbine (Uzi)

### **Circumstances**

Huberty, a self-professed hater of "children, Mexicans and the United States," told his wife, "I'm going hunting humans," then walked into a suburban McDonald's and opened fire. He shot 40 people, killing 21, before he was killed by a police sharpshooter.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

All three weapons were acquired legally, however, law enforcement officers offered no further information on the weapons' sales history.

1. John Mintz, "Guns Like Those In McDonald's Case Legal Most Places," *The Washington Post*, 21 July 1984, sec. A, p. 5.
2. "The Gun Collector," *The New York Times*, 22 July 1984, sec. 4, p. 20.
3. Frank J. Prial, "Weapons Used by Killer Said to be Easy to Obtain," *The New York Times*, 20 July 1984, sec. B, p. 5.
4. Alan Adler, "McDonald's Massacre," *Associated Press*, 20 July 1984.
5. Martin P. Houseman, "Expert Says Good Guards Don't Need Guns," *United Press International*, 3 August 1984.
6. Kelly Thornton, "Police Put Huberty's Guns to Work in Crime Lab," *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 17 July 1994, sec. A, p. 5.

**Date:** March 30, 1981

**Location:** Washington Hilton, Washinton, DC

**Alleged Shooter:** John W. Hinckley, Jr.

**People Killed:** None

**People Injured:** Four

**Firearm(s):** RG Industries RG-14 .22 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Hinckley, a mentally unstable man hoping to gain the attention of actress Jodie Foster, shot President Reagan, his press secretary, James Brady, and two members of the President's security detail. One of them, Thomas K. Delahanty, a DC police officer, was wounded as he helped to wrestle Hinckley to the ground.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The gun used in the shooting and another like it were purchased legally for \$47 each from Rocky's Pawn Shop in Dallas, Texas. Hinckley had no criminal record and had never been committed to a mental institution. Though his family lived in Colorado, he had been attending Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, on and off since 1974 and had a valid Texas driver's license.

1. "FBI Says Hinckley Had Twin Revolvers," *Associated Press*, 31 March 1981.
2. Dan Collins, "Hinkley's Bizarre Monologue: 'It Blew My Mind,'" *United Press International*, 15 May 1981.
3. "Gun Purchased in Dallas," *United Press International*, 30 March 1981.
4. "Boyhood Friend Says Hinckley Had 'Bland Personality,'" *United Press International*, 31 March 1981.
5. "Personality Spotlight: Thomas K. Delahanty; Police Officer Wounded by Reagan's Side," *United Press International*, 31 March 1981.
6. John M. Crewdson, "Denver Neighbors Reveal Little on Suspect," *New York Times*, 31 March 1981, sec. A, p. 2.

**Date:** December 8, 1980

**Location:** New York, New York

**Alleged Shooter:** Mark David Chapman

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Charter Arms .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Mark David Chapman, who had a history of severe emotional problems, traveled from his home in Hawaii to New York City to kill John Lennon. Chapman had been a Beatles fan in his youth and was described by a former classmate as a "Jesus freak."

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Chapman purchased the gun legally in Hawaii. Because he had no criminal record and had never been committed to a mental institution, he was issued a permit. At the time of the shooting, Hawaii had some of the most stringent gun regulations in the nation.

1. Bill Prochnau, "A Strange Young Man Who Stopped the Music," *The Washington Post*, 10 December 1980, sec. A, p. 18.
2. Rick Hampson, "John Lennon's Death Still Touches Many Lives," *Associated Press*, 5 December 1981.
3. Rick Hampson, "Former Beatle John Lennon Slayed by Gunman," *Associated Press*, 9 December 1980.
4. David Cobb Craig, "Arsenal: Moments of Madness Came Far Too Often," *Time*, Fall 1989 special issue.

**Date:** Summer 1976 to Summer 1977

**Location:** New York, New York

**Alleged Shooter:** David Berkowitz

**People Killed:** Six

**People Injured:** Seven

**Firearm(s):** Charter Arms Bulldog .44 revolver

### **Circumstances**

David Berkowitz, the "Son of Sam" serial killer, stalked young women from the summer of 1976 through the summer of 1977. Berkowitz told police that he was ordered to commit his crimes by "Sam," a 6000-year-old voice that spoke to him through a dog. In addition to the six murders and seven attempted murders, he was charged with assault and possession of a deadly weapon.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The handgun was illegal. It was acquired through a "straw purchase" for Berkowitz by an old Army friend, Billy Daniel Parker, on June 12, 1976, in a Houston, Texas gun shop. Berkowitz asked Parker to buy the revolver so he would have protection on his drive back to New York City. He could not have legally purchased a gun in Texas himself, as he did not have the proper identification.

1. Arthur Everett, Untitled Wire Report, *Associated Press*, 11 August 1977.
2. Rob Wood, Untitled Wire Report, *Associated Press*, 12 August 1977.

**Date:** September 5, 1975

**Location:** The Senator Hotel, Sacramento, California

**Alleged Shooter:** Lynette (Squeaky) Fromme

**People Killed:** None

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Colt .45 pistol

### **Circumstances**

Fromme, a member of the Manson Family, attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford outside a Sacramento Hotel. Apparently unfamiliar with how to use the pistol, she had not chambered a round from the magazine. Thus, the gun did not fire when she pointed it at President Ford, and Fromme was captured immediately.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The pistol was legal. Fromme borrowed it from a friend in July 1975. Though she was known to be a member of the Manson Family, and Sacramento police had been warned of her presence by her landlord, Fromme was not under surveillance or on any Secret Service list.

1. Tom Matthews, et al., "Ford's Brush with Death," *Newsweek*, 15 September 1975, p. 16.

**Date:** April 4, 1968

**Location:** Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee

**Alleged Shooter:** James Earl Ray

**People Killed:** One

**People Injured:** None

**Firearm(s):** Remington Gamemaster Model 760 30.06 rifle

### **Circumstances**

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated as he stood on the balcony of his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Soon after the shooting, a rifle was found wrapped in a bed sheet down the street from the motel. Fingerprints on the rifle led police to James Earl Ray.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Ray bought the rifle legally at a store. Ray claimed that he was told to buy the rifle by a man named "Raoul," though no such man was ever found.

1. Scripps Howard News Service, "Chronicle of Ray's Day and the Killing," *St. Petersburg Times*, 4 April 1993, sec. A, p. 29.
2. Christopher Sullivan, "25 Years After King Assassination, Questions Nag: Who? How? Why?," *Associated Press*, 4 April 1993.

<b>Date:</b>	August 1, 1966
<b>Location:</b>	University of Texas Tower, Austin, Texas
<b>Alleged Shooter:</b>	Charles Whitman
<b>People Killed:</b>	17 (shooter killed by police)
<b>People Injured:</b>	31
<b>Firearm(s):</b>	Remington .35 pump rifle, Remington 6mm bolt-action deer rifle, .30 M-1 Carbine; .25 pistol, 9mm Luger pistol, Smith & Wesson .357 magnum pistol, and a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun

### **Circumstances**

Whitman, a former Marine, and a graduate student at the University of Texas in Austin, killed 16 people in the largest mass killing at the time. After killing his mother and wife, and leaving cryptic and rambling notes by their bodies, Whitman lugged a footlocker filled with weapons, ammo, food, and assorted equipment up to the top of the tower in the middle of the University of Texas campus. Arranging his seven weapons on the observation deck, Whitman began shooting, continuing until he was killed by two Austin police officers.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

All of the firearms were legal, although it is not clear how all of them were acquired. Whitman was known as a firearms enthusiast, and none of the weapons he used were illegal or difficult to procure in 1966.

1. Charles Bowden, "Houston and Ramiro; Heroes from a Shooting Massacre in Austin, 1966," *Esquire*, 1 February 1999, p. 74.
2. "Two Austin Men Seek to Buy Some of Sniper's Arsenal," *United Press International*, 27 July 1989.
3. Renee Haines, "Memories Still Vivid of the Madman on the Tower," *United Press International*, 28 July 1986.
4. Richard A. Serrano, "Massacre and Myth in Texas," *Los Angeles Times*, 29 July 1994, sec. A, p. 1.
5. "Secret File Reveals Information About Mass Murderer," *Associated Press*, 7 July 1986.



**Date:** June 12, 1963  
**Location:** Jackson, Mississippi  
**Alleged Shooter:** Byron De La Beckwith  
**People Killed:** One  
**People Injured:** None  
**Firearm(s):** Enfield 1917 30.06 rifle

### **Circumstances**

Byron De La Beckwith, an outspoken racist and white supremacist, killed civil rights leader Medgar Evers at his home as he was getting out of his car. Though Beckwith was not convicted in the 1960s (two juries could not reach a verdict), the case was reopened in 1990 and he was convicted of the crime in 1994, 31 years after the shooting.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

The gun was obtained legally through a trade with a friend, Ennis Thornton McIntyre, III, in 1960. De La Beckwith was a gun collector and legally owned a variety of weapons.

1. "Witness Describes Gun Tied to Evers Slaying," *The Legal Intelligencer*, 31 January 1994, p. 38.
2. "Byron De La Beckwith Will Face Another Jury in 1963 Evers Slaying," *Orlando Sentinel Tribune*, 19 December 1990, sec. A, p. 8.
3. Eric Harrison, "Beckwith is Convicted of Killing Medgar Evers," *Los Angeles Times*, 6 February 1994, sec. A, p. 1.
4. "Evers Murder Case: Possible to Reopen, but Unlikely," *United Press International*, 17 August 1987.

**Date:** November 22, 1963

**Location:** Dealy Plaza, Dallas, Texas

**Alleged Shooter:** Lee Harvey Oswald

**People Killed:** Two

**People Injured:** One

**Firearm(s):** Italian made 2766 Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5mm rifle and a .38 revolver

### **Circumstances**

Oswald purportedly fired the shot or shots that killed President John F. Kennedy from a window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building. Kennedy was killed and Texas Governor John B. Connally was wounded. During his escape, Oswald also killed a Dallas police officer, J.D. Tippit, with the revolver. About an hour later, Oswald was arrested in a movie theater. He was never tried. Jack Ruby, a local nightclub owner with ties to organized crime, shot Oswald in the basement of a Dallas police station.

### **How Firearm(s) Acquired**

Oswald ordered the rifle legally from Klein's Sporting Goods in Chicago through an advertisement in the National Rifle Association's *American Rifleman* magazine. The revolver was purchased legally by mail from a Los Angeles company.

1. George Lardner, Jr. and Walter Pincus, "The Assassination Files: Thirty Years After JFK's Death," *The Washington Post*, 15 November 1993, sec. A, p. 1.
2. Robert Greene, "JFK: The Assassination, The Conspiracies, The Obsession," *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 25 January 1992, sec. A, p. 16.
3. Kenneth Klein, "Perspectives on Conspiracy," *The Los Angeles Times*, 24 December 1991, sec. B, p. 7.
4. Robert Sherrill, *The Saturday Night Special* (NY: Charterhouse, 1973), 165.