Where’d They Get Their Guns?
An Analysis of the Firearms Used in High-Profile Shootings, 1963 to 2001
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.a

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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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. 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 10th and 11th 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.

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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.\(^d\)

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.

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.”

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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*Editorial review of Stephan Jaramillo, Going Postal (Berkley Publishing Group, 1997), downloaded March 13, 2000, from 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
<th>Firearm(s)</th>
<th>Status of Firearm(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santee High School, Santana, California, March 5, 2001</td>
<td>2 dead 13 wounded</td>
<td>.22 Arminius eight-shot revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White House, Washington, DC, February 7, 2001</td>
<td>1 wounded</td>
<td>.38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgewater Technology office, Wakefield, Massachusetts, December 26, 2000</td>
<td>7 dead</td>
<td>AK-47 assault rifle, 12-gauge pump-action shotgun, .32 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstreet Café, Roanoke, Virginia, September 22, 2000</td>
<td>1 dead 6 wounded</td>
<td>Ruger 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santos Linguisa sausage factory, San Leandro, California, June 21, 2000</td>
<td>3 dead</td>
<td>Beretta 9mm pistol, Walther .380 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Worth Middle School, Lake Worth, Florida, May 26, 2000</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Raven .25 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy’s Restaurant, Queens, New York, May 24, 2000</td>
<td>5 dead 2 wounded</td>
<td>Bryco .380 pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Suburbs, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 28, 2000</td>
<td>5 dead 1 wounded</td>
<td>Smith &amp; Wesson .357 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
<td>Firearm(s)</td>
<td>Status of Firearm(s)</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Zoo</td>
<td>7 wounded</td>
<td>9mm pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, 2000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mi-T-Fine Car Wash</td>
<td>5 dead</td>
<td>9mm pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irving, Texas</td>
<td>1 wounded</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20, 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theo J. Buell Elementary School</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Davis Industries .32 pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Morris Township, Michigan</td>
<td></td>
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<td>February 29, 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radisson Bay Harbor Inn</td>
<td>5 dead</td>
<td>Lorcin 9mm pistol Charter Arms .38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa, Florida</td>
<td>3 wounded</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 30, 1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Gibson Middle School</td>
<td>4 wounded</td>
<td>Taurus 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Gibson, Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6, 1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northlake Shipyard</td>
<td>2 dead</td>
<td>Glock 9mm pistol .32 pistol .22 rifle</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle, Washington</td>
<td>2 wounded</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3, 1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xerox Office Building</td>
<td>7 dead</td>
<td>Glock Model 17 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii</td>
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<td>November 2, 1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wedgewood Baptist Church</td>
<td>8 dead</td>
<td>Ruger P85 9mm pistol .380 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Worth, Texas</td>
<td>7 wounded</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15, 1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel, Maryland</td>
<td>2 dead</td>
<td>Smith &amp; Wesson 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9, 1999</td>
<td>5 wounded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Valley Jewish Community Center</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Fully automatic Uzi machine gun</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
<td>5 wounded</td>
<td>Glock Model 26 9mm pistol</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 10, 1999</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta brokerage offices</td>
<td>13 dead</td>
<td>Glock Model 17 9mm pistol Colt 1911A1 .45 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>13 wounded</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29, 1999</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois and Indiana</td>
<td>3 dead</td>
<td>Bryco .380 pistol Ruger .22 pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4th weekend, 1999</td>
<td>9 wounded</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>Firearm(s)</td>
<td>Status of Firearm(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage High School</td>
<td>6 wounded</td>
<td>.22 rifle, .357 Magnum revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers, Georgia, May 20, 1999</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbine High School</td>
<td>15 dead 23 wounded</td>
<td>Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistol, Hi-Point 9mm Carbine, Savage 67H pump-action shotgun</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleton, Colorado, April 20, 1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDS Church Family History Library</td>
<td>3 dead 4 wounded</td>
<td>Ruger .22 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah, April 15, 1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triad Center</td>
<td>1 dead 1 wounded</td>
<td>9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah, January 13, 1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Capitol Building</td>
<td>2 dead 2 wounded</td>
<td>Smith &amp; Wesson .38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC, July 24, 1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, California, May 28, 1998</td>
<td>2 dead</td>
<td>Two .38 revolvers</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurston High School</td>
<td>4 dead 25 wounded</td>
<td>Glock 9mm pistol, Ruger .22 rifle, Ruger .22 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
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<td>Springfield, Oregon, May 21, 1998</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westside Middle School</td>
<td>5 dead 10 wounded</td>
<td>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 &amp; Wesson .38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonesboro, Arkansas, March 24, 1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut State Lottery Headquarters</td>
<td>5 dead</td>
<td>9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newington, Connecticut, March 6, 1998</td>
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<td>Description</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caltrans Maintenance Yard Orange, California</td>
<td>5 dead 2 wounded</td>
<td>Chinese-made 7.62mm AK-47 assault rifle</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18, 1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath High School West Paducah, Kentucky</td>
<td>3 dead 5 wounded</td>
<td>Ruger .22 pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 1997</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl High School Pearl, Mississippi</td>
<td>3 dead 7 wounded</td>
<td>.30-30 rifle</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1, 1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.E. Phelon Company Aiken, South Carolina</td>
<td>4 dead 3 wounded</td>
<td>9mm pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15, 1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four states (MN, IL, FL, NY)</td>
<td>6 dead</td>
<td>Taurus .40 pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27 - July 15, 1997</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Hollywood, California</td>
<td>2 dead 16 injured</td>
<td>Multiple fully automatic assault rifles including an AK-47 type</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28, 1997</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire State Building New York, New York</td>
<td>2 dead 6 wounded</td>
<td>Beretta .380 pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23, 1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albertson’s Supermarket Lakewood, Colorado</td>
<td>3 dead 1 wounded</td>
<td>Grizzly .50 sniper rifle SKS 7.62mm assault rifle 9mm pistol .32 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28, 1995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Rossler Company Corpus Christi, Texas</td>
<td>6 dead</td>
<td>Ruger 9mm pistol .32 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3, 1995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Christi, Texas</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Taurus .38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 1995</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC Police Headquarters Washington, DC</td>
<td>4 dead 1 wounded</td>
<td>Cobray M-11 assault pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White House Washington, DC</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Norinco SKS 7.62mm assault rifle</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 29, 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
<td>Firearm(s)</td>
<td>Status of Firearm(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seattle, Washington April 5, 1994</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Remington Model 11 20-gauge shotgun</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Bridge New York, New York March 1, 1994</td>
<td>1 dead 3 wounded</td>
<td>Cobray 9mm fully automatic machine pistol, Glock Model 17 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Island Railroad Long Island, New York December 7, 1993</td>
<td>6 dead 19 wounded</td>
<td>Ruger P-89 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumberton, North Carolina July 23, 1993</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Smith &amp; Wesson .38 revolver</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pettit &amp; Martin Law Offices San Francisco, California July 1, 1993</td>
<td>9 dead 6 wounded</td>
<td>Two Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistols, Colt .45 pistol</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIA Headquarters Langley, Virginia January 25, 1993</td>
<td>2 dead 3 wounded</td>
<td>Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Oak Post Office Royal Oak, Michigan November 14, 1991</td>
<td>5 dead 5 wounded</td>
<td>Ruger .22 rifle</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luby’s Cafeteria Killeen, Texas October 16, 1991</td>
<td>24 dead 20 wounded</td>
<td>Ruger P-89 9mm pistol, Glock 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMAC Office Jacksonville, Florida June 18, 1990</td>
<td>10 dead 4 wounded</td>
<td>Universal .30 M1 rifle, .38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Gravure Corporation Louisville, Kentucky September 14, 1989</td>
<td>9 dead 12 wounded</td>
<td>Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle, Two MAC-11 assault pistols, .38 revolver, Sig Sauer 9mm pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleveland Elementary School Stockton, California January 17, 1989</td>
<td>6 dead 30 wounded</td>
<td>Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle, Taurus 9mm pistol, Unidentified pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hubbard Woods Elementary School Winnetka, Illinois May 20, 1988</td>
<td>2 dead 6 wounded</td>
<td>Smith &amp; Wesson .357 Magnum revolver, Smith &amp; Wesson .32 revolver, Beretta .22 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
<td>Firearm(s)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmond Post Office</td>
<td>15 dead 6 wounded</td>
<td>Two .45 pistols .22 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmond, Oklahoma August 20, 1986</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield Mall</td>
<td>3 dead 7 wounded</td>
<td>.22 rifle</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield, Pennsylvania October 30, 1985</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald’s Restaurant San Ysidro, California July 18, 1984</td>
<td>22 dead 19 wounded</td>
<td>Browning P-35 Hi-Power 9mm pistol Winchester 1200 pump-action 12-gauge shotgun Israeli Military Industries 9mm Model A Carbine (Uzi)</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York, New York December 8, 1980</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Charter Arms .38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York, New York Summer 1976 - Summer 1977</td>
<td>6 dead 7 wounded</td>
<td>Charter Arms Bulldog .44 revolver</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator Hotel Sacramento, California September 5, 1975</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Colt .45 pistol</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Motel Memphis, Tennessee April 4, 1968</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Remington Gamemaster Model 760 30.06 rifle</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Tower Austin, Texas August 1, 1966</td>
<td>17 dead 31 wounded</td>
<td>Remington .35 pump rifle Remington 6mm bolt-action rifle .30 M-1 Carbine .25 pistol Luger 9mm pistol Smith &amp; Wesson .357 magnum pistol Sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, Mississippi June 12, 1963</td>
<td>1 dead</td>
<td>Enfield 1917 30.06 rifle</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas, Texas November 22, 1963</td>
<td>2 dead 1 wounded</td>
<td>Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5mm rifle .38 revolver</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### 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.

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.

**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.

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.

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.

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.

Date: December 6, 1999

Location: Fort Gibson Middle School, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma

Alleged Shooter: Seth Trickey

People Killed: None

People Injured: Four

Firearm(s): 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.

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.

### 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.

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.


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.

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.

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.

2. “Atlanta Assaultant Had 2 More Guns, Ammo in His Van,” The Orange County Register, 1 August 1999, sec. A, p. 29.
Date: July 4th 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 23rd, 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 30th, two days before the shooting spree.
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 knelted 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.

Date: April 20, 1999
Location: Columbine High School, Littleton, Colorado
Alleged Shooters: Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold
People Killed: 15 (shooters committed suicide)
People Injured: 23
Firearm(s): 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 20th 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.

### 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
- 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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

4. Lynn Bartels, “Suspect Failed Handgun Check, but Man Held in Albertson’s Killings Was


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.

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.

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.

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.

Date: April 5, 1994  
Location: Seattle, Washington  
Alleged Shooter: Kurt Cobain  
People Killed: One (shooter committed suicide)  
People Injured: None  
Firearm(s): 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

**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.

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.

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.

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.

Date: July 18, 1984
Location: McDonald’s Restaurant, San Ysidro, California
Alleged Shooter: James Oliver Huberty
People Killed: 22 (shooter killed by police)
People Injured: 19
Firearm(s): 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.

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.

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.

**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.

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.

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.

Date: August 1, 1966
Location: University of Texas Tower, Austin, Texas
Alleged Shooter: Charles Whitman
People Killed: 17 (shooter killed by police)
People Injured: 31
Firearm(s): 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.


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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 Thorton McIntyre, III, in 1960. De La Beckwith was a gun collector and legally owned a variety of weapons.

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. Connelly 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.