The Insider
THE THREAT LAB NEWSLETTER

the ThreatLab
Integrating Research Into Practice

From the Editor

I was at a holiday party in my office on December 14, 2012 when someone mentioned there had been a school shooting. I asked, "Where?" and she replied, "Connecticut." I immediately left the party and ran to my computer to find out exactly where in Connecticut, hoping it wasn't where my niece and nephew attended school. I called my family and asked if everyone was okay. My sister-in-law said everyone was safe, including my nephew's best friend who attended Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Alongside our memories of weddings, birthdays, and graduations are days like December 14, September 11, and April 16. As people, we remember exactly where we were, how we felt, and how we moved forward together. As insider threat professionals, we must augment our prevention, detection, and mitigation efforts based on what we can learn from loss and recovery.

In this issue, we feature the work of five organizations that maintain databases, publish reports, and provide resources related to kinetic violence. Thank you to the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, START, The Violence Project, the National Police Foundation, and CDSE for sharing their important work with us. As always, I hope **The Insider** inspires collaboration, innovation, and research-based practices across the mission space, and I encourage our readers to reach out to the organizations featured in this issue.
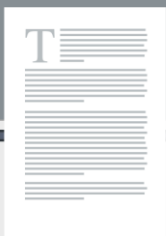
Onward & Upward,

Stephanie Jaros
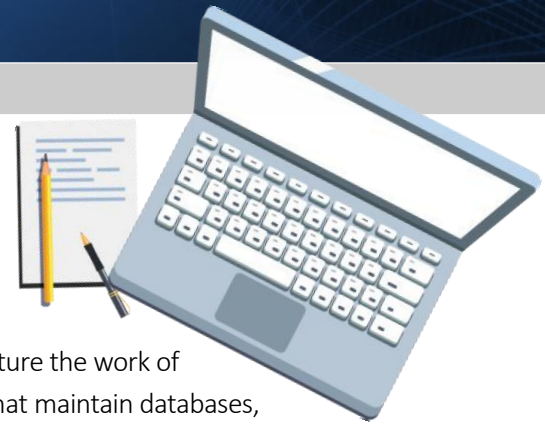
FORTHCOMING IN 2020
Kinetic Violence Research from The Threat Lab

Research Note
PAR Capabilities and the Convergence of Workplace Violence Prevention, Counter-Insider Threat, and Personnel Vetting Policies in DoD

PRIME White Paper
An Overview of Violence Risk Assessment

Long Read
Exploring the Relationship Between Harm and Individual Adverse Outcomes in the Workplace

K-12 School Shooting Database

CENTER FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND SECURITY
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
NPS
PRAESTANTIA PER SCIENTIAM

The K-12 school shooting database documents each and every instance a gun is brandished, is fired, or a bullet hits school property for any reason, regardless of the number of victims, time of day, or day of the week from 1970 to present.

The development of the project started as part of the Advanced Thinking in Homeland Security (HSx) program at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS). The database compiles information from more than 25 different existing databases, reports, and lists that have been analyzed, filtered, deconflicted, and cross-referenced for accuracy. Users can filter between subsets within the data (e.g., cause, number of victims, pre-planning, type of weapon used,

demographics, location). Through the inclusion, rather than exclusion, of criteria that are cross-referenced, unfiltered, and agnostic, users can conduct a more detailed analysis of incidents within their area of interest to make better informed decisions and generate more accurate reports.
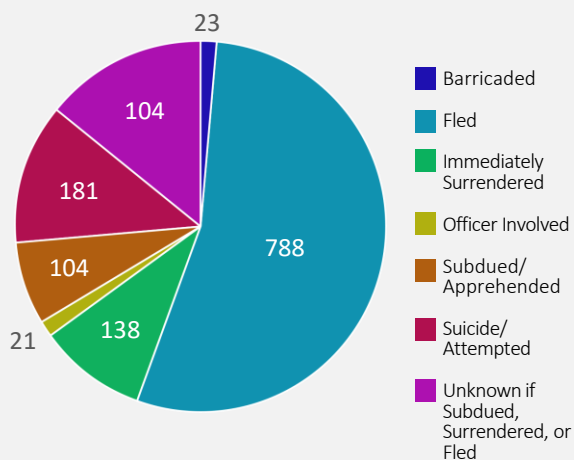
The database is available for download as a .csv file from the CHDS website. All of the information is based on open-source information and third-party reporting allowing it to be shared without restriction.

Website: www.chds.us/ssdb Twitter: @k12ssdb

Featured Research

HOW THE INCIDENTS ENDED
Based on publicly available data on incidents from 1970-present.

- Barricaded
- Fled
- Immediately Surrendered
- Officer Involved
- Subdued/ Apprehended
- Suicide/ Attempted
- Unknown if Subdued, Surrendered, or Fled

23, 104, 181, 104, 21, 138, 788

The objective of the database is to systematically record every K-12 school shooting, regardless of circumstance, injuries, or deaths, because there is value in being able to collectively study the universe of incidents.

Incidents have occurred in every state and geographic region across the country. Each datapoint is geocoded to allow for mapping and GIS analysis.

Information about each incident includes a reliability score that quantifies the dependability of the information and the verified primary source citation(s) (e.g., newspaper article, court records, interviews, and police reports).

Example of Application (left): Findings indicate that 58% of shooters flee the school building and property. Only 23 cases ended in a barricade situation. These data should help inform many planning assumptions, policies, and resource investments.

COMING SOON

Interactive graphics representing the full dataset, filtered for "active shooter" incidents, and filtered for incidents since 2010 are available here: https://www.chds.us/ssdb/category/graphs/

General Questions: k12ssdb@chds.us

POC: David Riedman (david.riedman.ctr@nps.edu)

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Research Methodology: https://www.chds.us/ssdb/methods/

The Homeland Podcast – Facts, Emotions, and the K-12 SSDB: https://www.chds.us/ed/items/19803

New York Times article featuring the K-12 SSDB: www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/05/11/us/school-shootings-united-states.html

Global Terrorism Database

GTD

START ▶▶▶
NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR THE
STUDY OF TERRORISM AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM
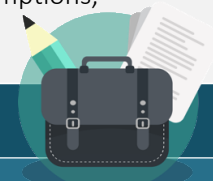
The Global Terrorism Database™ (GTD) is maintained by a multidisciplinary team of researchers at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland. The team applies the fundamentals of social sciences and computer and information sciences to document more than 190,000 international and domestic terrorist attacks that occurred worldwide since 1970. With details on various dimensions of each attack, the GTD familiarizes analysts, policymakers, scholars, and journalists with patterns of terrorism and supports advanced modeling of complex relationships.

The database—sourced by unclassified media articles—contains more than 100 structured variables that describe each attack's:

- Location
- Tactics and Weapons
- Targets
- Perpetrators
- Casualties and Consequences
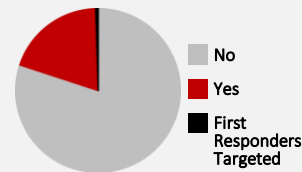- General Characteristics

Unstructured data include summary descriptions and details on the weapons used, specific motives, property damage, and ransom demands (where applicable).

## Featured Research: Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks

In 2019, START researchers used the GTD to analyze characteristics of complex coordinated terrorist attacks (CCTA) in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe, post-9/11. To inform training for first responders, we examined patterns of synchronized attacks, attacks with multiple assailants, coordinated attacks within a city, the use of readily available weapons, multiple types of weapons, and non-traditional tactics. Key findings:

- CCTA tactics were used rarely among the 3,214 attacks analyzed (see graph at right). The most common CCTA tactic was the use of readily available weapons that provided little or no advance warning (43%).
- CCTA tactics did not correspond directly to worse attack outcomes in terms of likelihood of tactical success or higher casualties.
- Attacks that were not CCTA caused extensive harm due to tactical strategies that were not especially complex or coordinated—like timing an attack to target dense crowds, stockpiling weapons, and assailants' special access to targets, disguised as authorities, or known to victims.
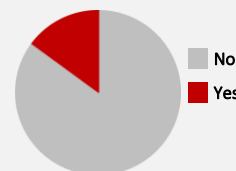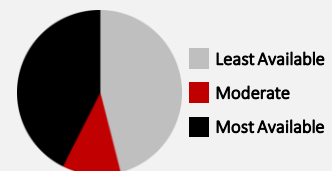
Synchronized Attack

- No
- Yes
- First Responders Targeted

Multiple Attackers

- 1 Attacker
- 2-4 Attackers
- 5+ Attackers
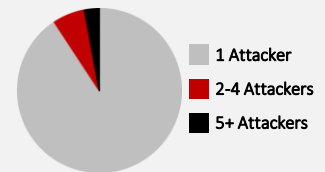
Multiple Attacks in a City

- No
- Yes

Readily Available Weapons

- Least Available
- Moderate
- Most Available

Multiple Weapon Types

- No
- Yes

Non-Traditional Methodologies

- No
- Yes

ACCESS THE GTD

Since 2007, START has made the GTD publicly available for analysts to search, browse, and download. The GTD team continually improves the data and welcomes questions and feedback.

Web: www.start.umd.edu/gtd Email: gtd@start.umd.edu

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

GTD technical reports, background reports, and fact sheets can be found on the GTD website.

The full CCTA report will be added soon!
www.start.umd.edu/gtd/analysis

The Violence Project

THE VIOLENCE PROJECT

OUR MISSION

The Violence Project is a nonpartisan think tank dedicated to reducing violence in society and improving related policy and practice through research and analysis. We conduct high-quality, high impact, research for public consumption. We also develop and deliver education and training to share research findings and prevent violence. We provide media commentaries and support concerned citizens, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, workplaces, houses of worship, and other public or private clients in their strategic response to violence. Our areas of expertise include gun violence, violent extremism, cyber violence, trauma and mental illness, street gangs and youth violence. Our research on mass shootings, funded by the National Institute of Justice, has received global media attention.

OUR HISTORY

Founded in 2017 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Jillian Peterson, a psychologist, and James Densley, a sociologist, discovered that by working together they can bridge disciplinary divides and develop both a common language for understanding violence and a holistic approach to addressing it. Together, Jillian and James have developed a new crisis intervention and de-escalation training for law enforcement (The R-Model) that has changed the way officers think about community policing. They also have published multiple peer-reviewed articles, co-authored over a dozen newspaper op-eds, made hundreds of media appearances, delivered TEDx talks, and co-facilitated countless community forums and practitioner trainings about violence.

Featured Research

Funded by the National Institute of Justice (award number 2018-75-CX-0023), and recipient of international media attention, The Violence Project's database of 171 mass shooters in the United States is the most comprehensive and detailed database of mass shooters to date, coded to 100 different variables. There are basic demographic variables: age, education, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, military service, immigrant status, and any criminal, gang, or terrorist affiliation. And there are not so basic variables: Whether they grew up with a single parent. Whether any parents committed suicide. If they'd gone through a recent breakup or employment trouble. There's a significant portion on mental health: Whether they'd been hospitalized for mental illness, or prescribed anti-psychotics. Any evidence of suicidal tendencies or substance abuse. And there's also a component on the firearms used: whether they were purchased legally, illegally, or stolen. The method of purchases, such as private sales, gun shows, or stores.

The database delivers a number of arresting findings. Mass shootings are becoming much more frequent and deadly: Of the 167 killings of four or more people in a public place since 1966, 20% have occurred in the last five years, and half since 2000. Shootings in the last five years also are increasingly motivated by racial, religious, or misogynist hatred.

The data show that nearly all mass shooters have four things in common: (1) early childhood trauma and exposure to violence at a young age; (2) an identifiable grievance or crisis point; (3) validation for their beliefs, have studied past shootings to find inspiration; and (4) the means to carry out an attack.

ADDITIONAL READING

Peterson, J. & Densley, J. (2019). The Violence Project Database of Mass Shootings in the United States, 1966-2019. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net/publication/337261684_The_Violence_Project_Database_of_Mass_Shootings_in_the_United_States_1966-2019

Peterson, J. & Densley, J. (2019, Nov. 14). There is no single profile of a mass shooter. Our data show there are five types. Los Angeles Times.

Densley, J. & Peterson, J. (2019, Sept. 1). We analyzed 53 years of mass shooting data. Attacks aren't just increasing, they're getting deadlier. Los Angeles Times.

Peterson, J. & Densley, J. (2019, Aug. 4). We have studied every mass shooting since 1966. Here's what we've learned about the shooters. Los Angeles Times.

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National Averted School Violence (ASV) Database

NATIONAL POLICE FOUNDATION
Advancing Policing Through Innovation and Science

CENTER FOR MASS VIOLENCE RESPONSE STUDIES

BACKGROUND

In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, Congress appropriated funds to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct research on school violence, especially mass casualty attacks. The NIJ convened a working group of subject matter experts to make recommendations on research that could be applied to school violence prevention. One of the recommended strategies was to create the National Averted School Violence (ASV) Database.

The ASV Database is administered by the National Police Foundation's Center for Mass Violence Response Studies (CMVRS) with funding from the U.S. Department of Justice.

PURPOSE

The ASV Database tracks averted and completed school attacks that are identified in the media or entered into the database (www.avertedschoolviolence.org) by law enforcement officers, teachers, school administrators, staff, parents, and community members.

CMVRS researchers and subject matter experts analyze the incidents in the database to produce evidence-based reports (*A Comparison of Averted and Completed School Attacks from the Police Foundation Averted School Violence Database*); present at conferences; and testify before national, state, and local commissions to inform policy, strategy, training, and procurement decisions that protect our children, teachers, and school staff from school attacks.

DEFINITION

An averted school violence incident is a shooting, bombing, stabbing, or other violent attack that was prevented either before or after a potential perpetrator arrived on school grounds, or before an injury or loss of life occurred at an educational institution.

Fast Facts

The ASV Database includes more than 200 cases of completed and averted attacks.

Many cases are identified by CMVRS staff through open source searches.

Cases are submitted anonymously by law enforcement, school officials, mental health professionals, parents, and community members.

CMVRS staff produce reports and other materials to inform policy, strategy, training, and procurement decision to protect our schools.

TAKE ACTION

Go to www.avertedschoolviolence.org to submit a report and register as an authorized user in order to review cases in the ASV Library.

Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA)

ABOUT

CDSE is a nationally accredited, award-winning directorate within DCSA and is located at Linthicum, MD. CDSE provides security education, training, and certification products and services to a broad audience supporting the protection of National Security and professionalization of the DoD security enterprise.

MISSION

CDSE provides DoD with a security center of excellence for the professionalization of the security community and so served as the premier provider of security education and training for the DoD and industry under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). CDSE provides development, delivery, and exchange of security knowledge to ensure a high-performing workforce capable of addressing our Nation's security challenges.

Resources and Products

CDSE INSIDER THREAT KINETIC VIOLENCE TRAINING AND AWARENESS RESOURCES

As part of its mission, CDSE provides insider threat training and serves as the central training facility for insider threat for the Department of Defense Enterprise. CDSE has created toolkits that provide access to repositories of role-based resources that serve as a one-stop shop for security essentials. Featured in this issue is CDSE's insider threat kinetic violence toolkit tab, which contains policy, training and awareness, and best practices.

KINETIC VIOLENCE PRODUCTS

These kinetic violence resources come in various formats, to include eLearning courses, video shorts, job aids, and case studies, some of which are featured below:

- CDSE Speaker Series Webinar: PERSEREC Kinetic Violence Studies
- Active Shooter Awareness Short
- Pathway to Violence Video
- Potential Risk Indicator Job Aid
- Awareness In Action Case Study
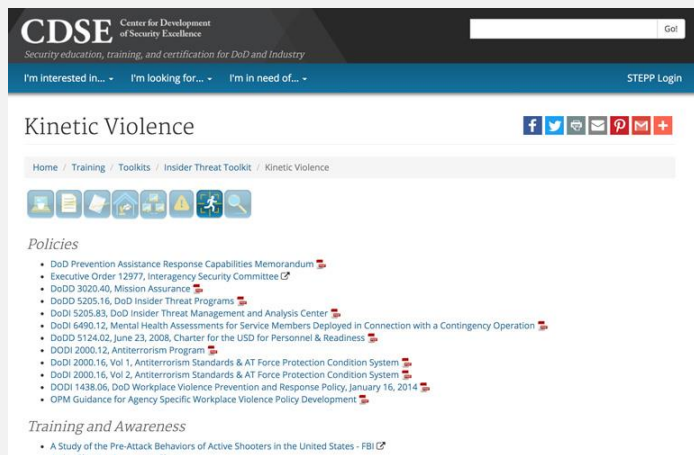
WEBSITE AND CONTACT

CDSE Website: www.cdse.edu

POC: Rebecca Morgan, Chief, Insider Threat Center of Excellence – CDSE Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency.
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