

The Escalating Crisis of Guns in U.S. Schools

A data-driven look at the alarming rise of weapon-related incidents and their profound impact on students and communities across the nation.

A Record-Breaking Surge

The 2021-22 school year saw the highest number of school shootings since data collection began, signaling a dramatic and urgent acceleration of the crisis.

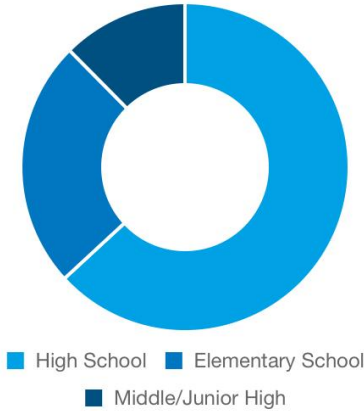
327

Total School Shootings in the 2021-22 School Year

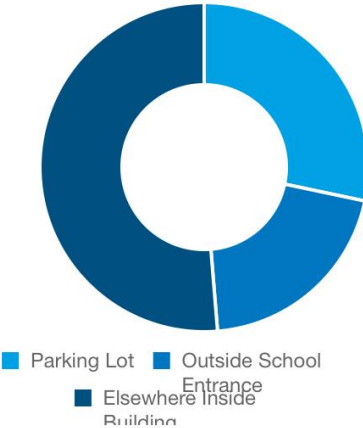
Where Incidents Occur

Analysis shows that high schools are the most common sites for shootings. Surprisingly, over half of all incidents happen outside the school building, often in parking lots or near entrances.

By School Level

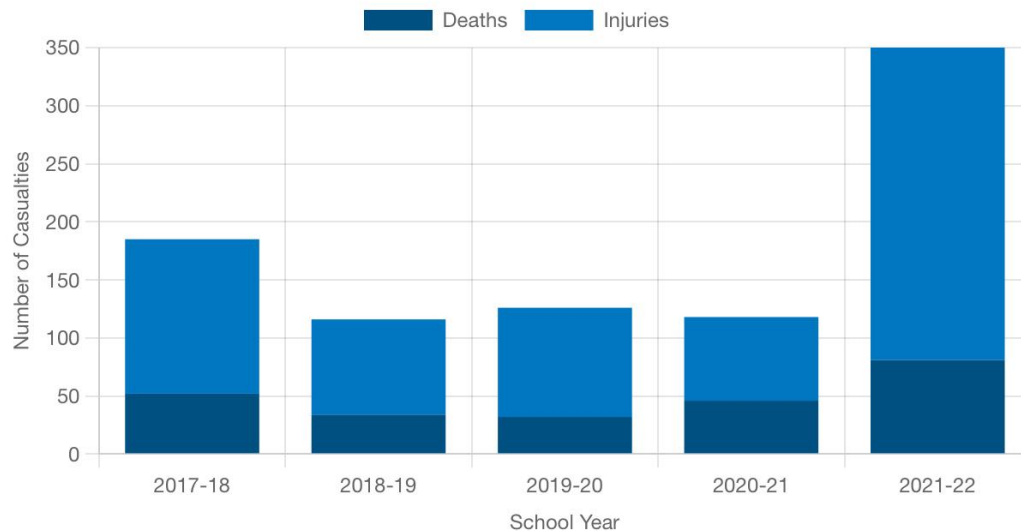


By On-Campus Location



The Human Toll of School Shootings

Each incident carries a heavy price. The number of deaths and injuries from school shootings also peaked in the 2021-22 school year, reflecting the increasing severity of these events.



The Weapon Possession Paradox

A critical distinction has emerged: while fewer high schoolers report carrying *any* weapon (like a knife or club), the specific threat of firearms is growing. Schools are confiscating guns at a sharply increasing rate, indicating a shift from general altercations to a more lethal danger.

↓ **75%**

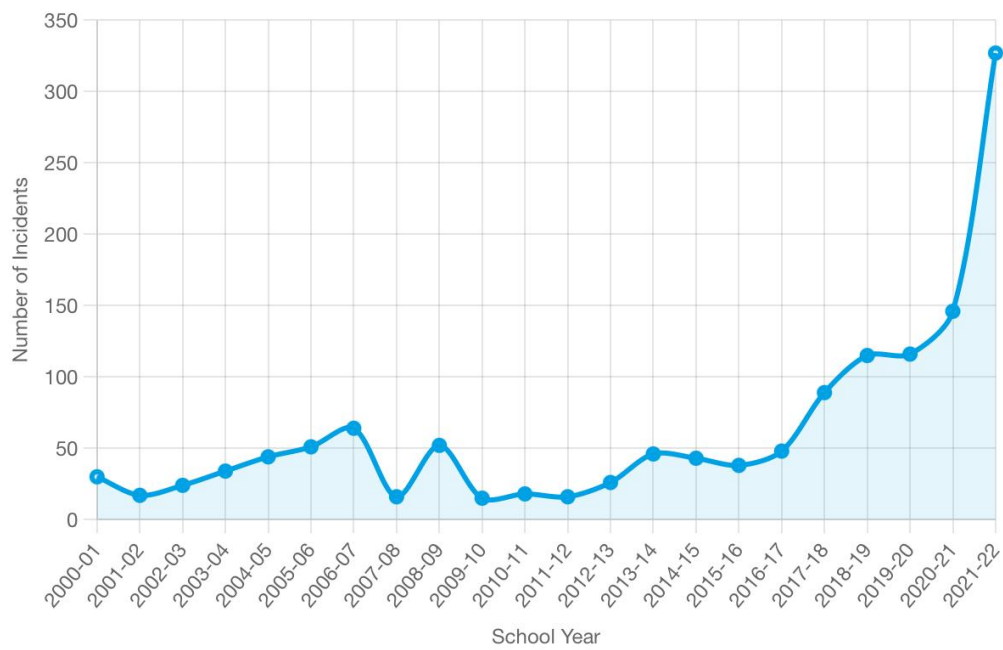
Decline in Student-Reported
Weapon Carrying (1993-
2021)

↑ **79%**

Increase in Firearm Seizures
in Major School Districts (2019-
2023)

A Rising Tide of Gunfire

The frequency of school shootings has escalated dramatically over the past two decades. While earlier years saw fluctuations, the trend since 2017 reveals a steep and sustained increase, culminating in an unprecedented number of incidents.



The Lasting Scars: Beyond the Headlines

The impact of school gun violence creates a devastating ripple effect that lasts a lifetime. Students exposed to these events face significant setbacks in education, mental health, and future economic stability.

-\$115,550

Estimated Lifetime Income Loss Per Exposed Student

This is driven by higher rates of chronic absenteeism, lower graduation rates, and reduced college enrollment and completion.