

Violence in America

The NRA isn't the only reason

Cincinnati Railroad Sale

- Issue 22 on the ballot
- <https://www.wvXu.org/politics/2023-10-04/how-cincinnati-could-spend-new-revenue-if-voters-approve-selling-the-cincinnati-southern-railway>

Does music encourage violence?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DOv0-2yyfE>
- Is Pumped Up Kicks a school shooting song?
- “Pumped Up Kicks” tells the story of a troubled kid named Robert, who's “got a quick hand” and sits around plotting his revenge in the form of a school shooting. He sings about the gun that he found in his father's closet, and warns the other kids that they better “run, better run, faster than my bullet”.
- This song has been playing on the radio.

Second Amendment

- Text: A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed
- The controversy is about whether it protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms or only applies to militia organizations such as the national guard
- The Supreme Court has interpreted to mean the individual's right to possess weapons

U.S. accounts for most mass shootings

- Between 1998 and 2019, the U.S. accounted for 73 percent of 139 mass shootings and 62 percent of casualties.
- <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/us-accounted-for-73-percent-of-global-mass-shootings-12787908>
- As of August 27th, there had been 476 mass shootings in the U.S. in which four or more people had been killed, an increase over 2020
- Shooting at 5/3 Bank Fountain Square September 6, 2018

Mass shootings in 2023

- <https://abcnews.go.com/US/mass-shootings-days-2023-database-shows/story?id=96609874>
- Video on warning signs

Firearms

- We are the number one country in the world for number of firearms per capita
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estimated_number_of_civilian_guns_per_capita_by_country
- Also noteworthy: a very small percentage of firearms in America are registered

Gun control in other countries

- Canada
- 1989 student armed with a semiautomatic rifle killed 14 students and injured more than a dozen others at a Montreal engineering school
 - As a result, major gun reforms
 - 28 day waiting period for purchases
 - Mandatory safety training courses
 - More detailed background checks
 - Bans on large-capacity magazines
 - Three classes of firearms
 - Non-restricted weapons such as ordinary rifles and shotguns
 - Restricted such as handguns and semiautomatic weapons
 - Fully automatic weapons not registered before 1978 are prohibited
 - Restricted weapons must be registered

Australia

- 1996 Port Arthur massacre when a young man killed thirty-five people and wounded nearly two dozen others – worst mass shooting in the country’s history
- Fundamental changes less than 2 weeks later
- National Agreement on Firearms
 - All but prohibited automatic and semi-automatic assault rifles
 - Mandated registration and licensing
 - Temporary gun buyback program took 650,000 assault weapons out of public circulation
 - Licensees must demonstrate a “genuine need” for a particular type of gun and take a firearm safety course.

Israel

- Military service is compulsory and most of the population has indirect access to an assault weapon either by being in the military or related to someone who is
- Once discharged from two or three years in the military, most Israelis are subject to civilian gun laws.
- Israel has an assault weapons ban and requires gun ownership be registered with the government
- Gun ownership must be registered and ownership is limited to Israeli citizens or permanent residents over 21 and have a genuine cause to have a firearm.

United Kingdom

- 1987 Hungerford massacre: a lone gunman with two semiautomatic rifles and a handgun went on a six hour shooting spree killing more than a dozen people
- Britain introduced the firearms act which expanded the list of banned weapons including certain semiautomatic rifles and increased registration requirements for other weapons
- 1996 incident in Scotland where a man with four handguns killed sixteen schoolchildren and one adult resulted in legislation banning handguns with few exceptions
- The government sponsored a gun buyback program

Japan

- Under Japan's firearm and sword law, the only guns permitted are shotguns, air guns, guns with specific research or industrial purposes or those used for competitions. Access to these weapons requires formal instruction and passing a battery of tests and pass a background check.
- Gun homicide rate is the lowest in the world at one in ten million

American response

- <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/05/politics/violent-video-game-shooting-fact-check/index.html>
- Note: scroll down to video

NRA influence

- 2017 North Carolina Rep. Richard Hudson is angry over NJ's failure to recognize a conceal carry permit issued by Pennsylvania
- <https://hudson.house.gov/issues/second-amendment?page=7>
- The following story, recorded in the wake of the Uvalde shooting, indicates NRA influence may be waning.
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/nra-remains-key-player-in-battle-over-gun-laws-but-is-its-unbreakable-grip-diminishing>
- Some gunowners reluctant to oppose the NRA
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/06/06/1103252636/many-gun-owners-are-hesitant-to-express-support-for-stricter-gun-control-measure>

Media Coverage

- Does media coverage of mass shootings result in copycat crimes?
- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/may/12/news-social-media-effect-mass-shootings>
- <https://www.ted.com/talks/tom-teves-a-call-to-end-the-media-coverage-mass-shooters-want?language=en>
- Mass shooters may be acting out of the desire for notoriety
- The number of mass shootings has continued to increase but has the focus on shooters changed?

Role of Video Games

- The following video asserts that violent video games do not make people mentally ill and aren't major contributors to mass shootings
- <https://www.kxan.com/stop-mass-shootings/do-video-games-violent-media-really-contribute-to-mass-shootings/>

Were red flags ignored?

- Often the perpetrator of a mass shooting has shown a propensity to violence before committing the act.
- Red flags before Uvalde incident
- [How Uvalde killer's family and officials missed red flags before massacre | Texas school shooting | The Guardian](#)
- [8 warning signs of a mass shooter, according to experts \(usatoday.com\)](#)
- Pathway (preparation such as acquiring ammunition)
- Fixation a person becomes fixated on someone or a cause
- Identification – shooter assumes dark identity – In Parkland, Florida the shooter posted six months before that he was going to become a professional school shooter

Red Flags

- Energy burst – increase of on the ground behavior and decrease in online behavior before the attack
- Leakage – A person communicates their intent to attack to a third party (occurs in 60% to 90% of targeted attack cases – days or hours before the attack)
- Directly communicated threat – this is rare
- Novel aggression – A potential attacker tests their ability to be violent ahead of the attack
- Last resort the potential attacker indicates an urgent need to act violently
- [Red Flags.pdf \(usf.edu\)](#)
- [Warning signs in online postings missed before recent mass shootings - CBS News](#)
- Why are warnings ignored?

Ricochet: An American Trauma

- A PBS documentary about gun violence in America
- Covers three topics: culture of gun violence in the inner city, suicides by guns mostly in rural areas and victims of mass shootings
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLfWagzcee0>
- Minute 18:30-26

Next week

- Police incidents (George Floyd)