

Gun epidemic intensifies

Definition
A mass shooting incident is one in which four or more persons are killed or injured, excluding the perpetrator, at a public place

People at a vigil on Saturday for the victims of the mass shooting incident in El Paso, Texas. ■ AFP

Counting the incidents in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, there have been a total of 251 mass shooting incidents in the U.S. this year

Deadliest incidents (2019)
Two of the three deadliest incidents this year have happened in the last two days

Date	Location	Number of killed	Number of injured
Feb. 15	Aurora, Illinois	6	6
May 31	Virginia Beach, Virginia	13	5
July 28	Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin	6	2
August 3	El Paso, Texas	20	26
August 4	Dayton, Ohio	10	16

There are only 12 U.S. States which have not had a mass shooting incident this year

Deadliest incidents since 2013

Date	Location	Killed	Injured
Dec. 2, 2015	San Bernardino, California	16	19
June 12, 2016	Orlando, Florida	50	53
Oct. 1, 2017	Las Vegas, Nevada	59	441
Nov. 5, 2017	Sutherland Springs, Texas	27	20
Aug. 3, 2019	El Paso, Texas	20	26

Total no. of gun incidents (2019)

Incidents

Deaths

Injuries

32,687

8,614

17,076

381*

Number of mass shooting incidents in 2019

27

21

20

34

49

53

44

2

January February March April May June July August

Since 2013, there have been a total of 60 incidents when at least 10 people were killed

Studying shooter behaviour

The **FBI in 2018** released a report on the behaviour of "active shooters". Its study was based on incidents that occurred in the 2000-2013 period and covered 63 shooters

Key findings

- Shooters took time to plan the attack. At least **77%** of them spent a **week or longer** in planning and 46% spent a week or longer actually preparing for the attack
- A majority of them obtained firearms **legally**
- Only **25%** of them had been diagnosed with a **mental illness**
- About **38%** of the shooters were **unemployed**
- Active shooters experienced **multiple stresses** in the year prior to their carrying out the attack
- In a majority of the cases (**64%**), at least one victim was actually **targeted** by the shooter
- 35%** of them had **adult criminal convictions** prior to the incident

FBI study (%) | Age of shooter

12-17 years

18-29 years

30-39 years

40-49 years

50-59 years

60-69 years

13

25

9

29

13

9

63% of the shooters were between 18 and 49 years old

Race of shooter (%)
61% of the shooters studied by the FBI were white

White

Asian

Black

Hispanic

West Asian

Native American

63

10

16

6

3

2

SOURCE: GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE, FBI | GRAPHIC: B. SRINIVASAN

Carnage unleashed in border city over fear of ‘Hispanic invasion’

Gunman kills 20 people at a Walmart store in Texas while another murders nine, including his sister, in Ohio

REUTERS
EL PASO

Thirty people died and dozens were wounded in two mass shootings within just 13 hours of each other in the U.S., shocking the country and prompting calls from some politicians for tighter gun control.

The first massacre occurred on Saturday morning in the Hispanic border city of El Paso, where a gunman killed 20 people at a Walmart store before surrendering to police. Authorities investigating the motive behind the attack said they are treating it as a case of domestic terrorism.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott said the rampage appeared to be a hate crime, and police cited a “manifesto” they attributed to the suspect, a 21-year-old white man, as evidence that the at-

Cycle of violence: Bodies being removed from the scene of the mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, on Sunday. ■ AP

from homegrown white nationalist terrorism,” Mr. Buttigieg said in Las Vegas.

President Donald Trump branded the shooting “an act of cowardice,” saying in a Twitter post, “I know that I stand with everyone to condemn today’s hateful act. There are no reasons or excuses that will ever justify killing innocent people.”

Pope Francis condemned the spate of attacks on “defenceless people” in the U.S.

‘Hate crime’
In Texas, police and FBI investigators searched for clues as to what motivated the suspect, who is from Allen, a Dallas suburb some 1,046 km east of El Paso, which lies on Rio Grande across the U.S.-Mexico border from Ciudad Juarez.

A State prosecutor said they will seek death penalty for the suspect, Patrick Crusius, 21.

Police said the suspect opened fire with a rifle on shoppers, many of them bargain-hunting for school supplies, then surrendered to officers who confronted him outside the store.

In Dayton, Ohio, a gunman dressed in body armour opened fire in a downtown district, unleashing carnage that could have been much worse if not for the rapid intervention of police.

Officers on routine patrol nearby were on the scene in less than a minute and shot the attacker dead, likely preventing a much higher toll.

Assistant police chief Matt Carper named the gunman as Connor Betts, a 24-year-old white male from Bellbrook, Ohio, and said his sister Megan Betts, 22, was among those killed.

Manifesto appears online

Hate-filled screed draws inspiration from Christchurch attack

TIM ARANGO
NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS
KATIE BENNER

Nineteen minutes before the first 911 call alerted authorities to a mass shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, a hate-filled, anti-immigrant manifesto appeared online. It spoke of a “Hispanic invasion of Texas.” It detailed a plan to separate America into territories by race. It warned that white people were being replaced by foreigners.

The authorities were scrutinising the 2,300-word screed and attempting to determine whether it was written by the same man who killed 20 people and injured more than two dozen others near the Mexican border.

Police are questioning the suspect, Patrick Crusius, a 21-year-old white man from Allen, Texas, a 10-hour drive to the Walmart.

‘Threat to white race’
The manifesto that may be linked to Crusius described an imminent attack and railed against immigrants, saying, “if we can get rid of enough people, then our way of life can be more sustainable.”

The unsigned manifesto, titled “The Inconvenient Truth,” draws direct inspiration from the mass murder of Muslims at two mosques in New Zealand in March that left 51 people dead.

In that attack, the alleged killer published a manifesto online promoting a white supremacist theory called “the great replacement.”

The theory argues that elites in Europe have been working to replace white Europeans with immigrants from the West Asia and North Africa.

The manifesto linked to the El Paso killings begins, “In general, I support the Christchurch shooter and his manifesto. This attack is a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas.”

The gunman who opened fire at a synagogue in Poway, near San Diego, in April, posted an anti-Semitic diatribe on 8chan, the same online message board where the El Paso document surfaced. **NY TIMES**

ELSEWHERE

China destabilising Indo-Pacific, says U.S.
SYDNEY
China is destabilising the Indo-Pacific, U.S. Defence Secretary Mark Esper said on Sunday, charging Beijing with predatory economics, intellectual property theft and “weaponising the global commons”. **REUTERS**

U.S., Taliban push for peace on day 2 of talks
DOHA
The U.S. and the Taliban were thrashing out elements of a deal to bring a close to Afghanistan’s 18-year conflict at the second day of renewed talks in Doha on Sunday. The talks, now in their eighth round, began on Saturday with no end date issued publicly. **AFP**

Sudan military, protesters sign deal for civilian rule

Elections to be held after joint council’s rule for three years

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO

Sudan’s pro-democracy movement signed a power-sharing agreement with the ruling military council on Sunday aimed at paving the way for a transition to civilian rule following the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in April.

Representatives initialled a Constitutional document that would establish a joint military and civilian council to rule for a little over three years until elections can be held. The agreement would establish a Cabinet appointed by the activists, as well as a legislative body.

The military overthrew al-Bashir in April following

Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the deputy head of the military council, right, and protest leader Ahmad Rabie. ■ AP

months of mass protests against his three-decade-long autocratic rule. The protesters remained on the streets, demanding a rapid transition to a civilian authority. They have been locked in tense negotiations with

the military for weeks.

Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the deputy head of the military council, told a joint news conference that the deal has ended an era in Sudan’s history “characterized by rivalry and fighting.”

Iran seizes third foreign tanker in Gulf

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran has seized a foreign tanker in the Gulf, State media said on Sunday, in what would be the third such seizure in a month amid heightened tensions with its foe the United States.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps “seized this ship around Farsi Island which was carrying around 700,000 litres of smuggled fuel”, said a Guards statement quoted by the official news agency IRNA.

Seven foreign crew were arrested in the operation, said Fars news agency.

The Guards had earlier captured Panama-flagged MT Riah and British-flagged Stena Impero.

Riot police fire tear gas at Hong Kong protesters

China warns it ‘will not sit by idly’

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Riot police fired tear gas at pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong on Sunday during a second consecutive night of clashes, as China delivered fresh warnings over the unrest.

The semi-autonomous southern Chinese city is reeling from two months of protests and violence triggered by opposition to a planned extradition law.

In the latest unrest, police fired tear gas shells at protesters who were approaching their lines in Sheung Wan district.

The clashes were short-lived as protesters rushed into the subway and moved to a new location – the bustling shopping district of Causeway Bay.

The latest unrest came as China’s official Xinhua news agency published a commentary saying “ugly forces” were threatening the country’s “bottom line”.

“The Central government will not sit by idly and let this situation continue,” the agency wrote.

Protesters focus laser beam on riot police during the protest in Hong Kong. ■ AP

31 dead after 3 ferries capsize in Philippines

REUTERS
MANILA

The death toll after three Philippines ferries capsized in bad weather rose to 31 on Sunday as rescuers found more bodies, a Coast Guard official said.

The motorised, wooden-hulled boats were carrying a total of 96 passengers and crew when harsh weather conditions caused the vessels to overturn off the central island of Guimaras and Iloilo provinces on Saturday.

The search continues for three more people still missing, Philippines Coast Guard spokesman Commander Armand Balillo said.

The rest of the crew members and passengers were rescued.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12696

■ **ACROSS**

1 As danger develops, half of them go back to the French officer (8)

6 Blackleg in second taxi (4)

9 Upset, I’m leaving the other woman in tension (6)

10 French city’s capacity to bond (7)

13 Smart Ali’s driving away scaremongers (9)

(set by Gridman)

14 Approaches new listeners (5)

15 Vision mentioned browser’s destination (4)

16 Research panel that must come to a point (5,5)

19 A man’s felt a need to squelch criminal (10)

21 Powder in metal container (4)

24 Author Carl backing Assamese natives (5)

25 Flexible, holies met freely (9)

26 Work’s big problem for marsupial (7)

27 Correct about clamp (6)

28 It’s Gridman conforming (4)

29 One whose relation will be revealing (8)

■ **DOWN**

2 One in a race went without complaint (7)

3 Cheerless? Not right! Mother’s given to reverie (6)

4 Parts of circuits get rupees cast around crazy stories (9)

5 Roof features women mentioned (5)

7 US coin and a very old coin from Cuba (7)

8 Where a gentleman keeps something close to his heart (6,6)

11 Correspondent’s payment – nothing coming up for a long period! (6)

12 Mean Indian sect member one day gets debt notices (12)

17 Contrived U-turn Lana pulled off (9)

18 Reportedly anticipates head count (6)

20 The French tend to get extra space (7)

22 Awakening from a never-ending spin around the States (7)

23 Smooth winnings to a gambler (6)

25 Keep down maid oddly in Paris bed (5)

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle 12695

ORM	OLU	T	EMER	ITY				
I	D	S	I	E	H			
R	A	D	G	A	N	G	I	L
T	M	G	H	U	I	P	E	
S	N	S	R	N	U			
O	T	O		O	L	D	H	A
O	U	C	P	S	S	E		
P	O	S	T	P	O	N	E	
J	U	L	I	U	S	C	A	E
P	R	E	E	P	A	T	T	
A	F	F	A	I	R	K	E	E
O	Q	V	E	C	I	P		
F	R	O	I	D	E	U	R	

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

5	4	6	3	1	8	7	9	2
7	2	9	4	6	5	8	3	1
3	8	1	2	7	9	6	4	5
8	7	5	1	4	3	9	2	6
1	6	2	9	5	7	3	8	4
9	3	4	6	8	2	5	1	7
2	5	7	8	3	1	4	6	9
6	9	8	7	2	4	1	5	3
4	1	3	5	9	6	2	7	8

FAITH

Greed leads to troubles

In his Deivamani Malai, Vallalar says his mind is in a state of intoxication. It is like the potter’s wheel. The wheel keeps spinning till pots are made. The mind keeps wavering and is in a state of confusion, because of desires, said M.A. Manickavelu, in a discourse.

We chase after something or the other, and this leaves the mind restless. Ramakrishna Paramahansa used to narrate a story about a how a man’s greed led to misery. A man was walking along, when a yaksa on a tree asked him if he wanted seven jars full of gold coins. The man told the yaksa that he would be glad to be the recipient of such an unexpected boon. The yaksa told him to go home, where seven pots of gold would be waiting for him. The man hurried home. There, as the yaksa had said, were seven pots of gold. But there was just one small problem. Six of the jars were full. The seventh jar was only half full. The man could have been content with the six full jars and the half full jar. But such is the nature of greed, that the man wanted to fill up the half empty jar. So, he sold whatever he owned in order to fill the jar. He almost lost his mental balance, as he lost all his possessions and could still not fill the seventh jar. The King heard about his predicament, and said to him, “The yaksa made the same offer to me. I asked the yaksa, ‘When you talk about seven jars of gold, are you talking about what I will gain or what I will lose. What seem like benefits come hidden with dangers. So, we should not be greedy.’ So we should keep the mind under control, so that it does not constantly dwell on material possessions. If we do not, we will lose our peace of mind. That is why Vallalar likens the mind to a bouncing ball. When we are controlled by our desires, our mind loses focus.

A ND-NDE