

# The Deadliest School Shootings in U.S. History

<https://www.ranker.com/list/deadliest-school-shootings-100215/loganrapp>

## 1. Virginia Tech – 2007

Death toll: 33

Injured: 25

Sueng-Hui Cho, a senior at Virginia Tech, had been diagnosed with severe anxiety disorder, even so far as having a Virginia special justice order him to seek treatment. But because he was not institutionalized, he was able to purchase firearms. Virginia Tech was unable to know about any of this due to medical privacy laws. Cho committed two separate shootings, even going so far as to pause after the first, change his clothes, and then continue his rampage. Cho then committed suicide.

## 2. Sandy Hook – 2012

Death toll: 28

Injured: 2

After shooting and killing his mother in their home, 20-year-old Adam Lanza proceeded to go to Sandy Hook Elementary School, firing on the students and faculty within. So far, evidence has shown that Lanza was obsessed with mass shootings, but authorities have not found evidence to suggest why he went to Sandy Hook specifically.

This incident was the deadliest mass shooting at a high school or grade school in U.S. history.

## 3. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School – 2018

Death toll: 17

Injured: 14

On February 14, 2018, teenager Nikolas Cruz opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with a semi-automatic rifle. Cruz had been expelled earlier in the year. He took an Uber to campus in the morning, entered the school, and began shooting. Cruz concealed himself in the crowd fleeing the school, but was later arrested and taken into police custody. Cruz's motivation was not immediately clear, but there was a YouTuber by the name of "Nikolas Cruz" who reportedly posted a comment saying, "I'm going to be a professional school shooter" online.

## 4. UT Austin – 1966

Death toll: 17

Injured: 31

Charles Whitman, 25, was an engineering student and former U.S. Marine studying at the University of Texas - Austin. After being honorably discharged for gambling while in the Corps, he killed his wife and mother, then proceeded to climb atop an observation deck at his school and fire on students during a 96-minute rampage until he was shot dead by police.

## 5. Columbine High School – 1999

Death toll: 15

Injured: 21

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, calling themselves the Trench Coat Mafia, fired upon their fellow students at Columbine High School, as well as using firebomb attacks to distract firefighters. It's largely thought that Harris and Klebold were targets for bullying, leading to the massacre. Both Harris and Klebold committed suicide in the attack.

## 6. Umpqua Community College Shooting – 2015

Death toll: 10

Injured: 9

Chris Harper-Mercer, 26, fatally shot nine people before being killed by police at Umpqua Community College in Oregon. According to law enforcement sources, he had anti-religion, anti-government and white supremacist leanings.

#### **7. Red Lake – 2005**

Death toll: 10

Injured: 7

Jeffrey Weise, 16, killed his grandfather and a companion before going to Red Lake High School in Minnesota, opening fire on students. After an exchange of gunfire with police, he retreated to a vacant classroom and committed suicide. Weise had depression and behavioral issues in the years after, which may have led to the shooting.

#### **8. CSU Fullerton – 1976**

Death toll: 7

Injured: 2

Edward Charles Allaway, a custodian for CSU Fullerton, had a history of violence. In June, 1976 he opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle in the library on campus. Afterward, he fled to Anaheim, CA calling police to say, "I went berserk at Cal State Fullerton, and I committed some terrible act. I'd appreciate it if you people would come down and pick me up. I'm unarmed, and I'm giving myself up to you."

After his arrest, he was declared legally insane.

#### **9. Oikos University – 2012**

Death toll: 7

Injured: 3

This tragedy occurred when One L. Goh, a 43-year old former student at this Korean Christian college in Oakland, CA, walked into a class, ordered classmates to line up, and proceeded to execute them with a pistol. He then fled the scene, and was later arrested by police. It is believed that he was angered at being expelled from Oikos and had intended to find a specific administrator, but when he couldn't, he targeted victims at random.

#### **10. Cleveland School – 1989**

Death toll: 6

Wounded: 29

Patrick Purdy, after a long criminal history, attacked predominantly South Asian and Vietnamese refugee students at Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, CA. Purdy descended upon the school, firing 106 rounds in three minutes. He killed 5 children and wounded 29 others, including one teacher.

He was identified as a misanthrope and reportedly hated Asian immigrants. He had carved the words "freedom", "victory", "Earthman", and "Hezbollah" on his rifle, and his flak jacket read "PLO", "Libya", and "death to the Great Satan" [sic].

#### **11. University of Iowa – 1991**

Death toll: 6

Injured: 1

Gang Lu, a 28-year-old former graduate student and doctorate recipient, shot students and faculty during a research meeting at the university before committing suicide. He was considered to be abusive and aggressive toward people whenever challenged.

#### **12. West Nickel Mines School – 2006**

Death toll: 6

Injured: 3

Charles Carl Roberts IV, a 32-year-old milk truck driver, went to a one-room Amish schoolhouse, took hostage of the students and shot ten of them, killing five before he killed himself. His motives for the killings are still unknown.

### **13. Norther Illinois University – 2008**

Death toll: 6

Injured: 21

Steven Kazmierczak, 27, entered a large lecture hall in North Illinois University with an assault rifle, three handguns and a shotgun, kicking the door in and opening fire on the auditorium. He was a former student, reported to have recently ceased his psychiatric medication. He used the same online firearms dealer as the Virginia Tech shooter. He committed suicide at the scene.

### **14. Santa Monica College – 2013**

Death toll: 6

Injured: 4

John Zawahri, after a domestic dispute, shot and killed two men in his home, setting the house on fire, and then proceeding to the college with an AR-15 and opened fire on campus, shooting at students and motorists. He was killed by police on the scene.

### **15. Westside Middle School – 1998**

Death toll: 5

Injured: 10

Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden, students at Westside Middle School in Craighead County, Arkansas, were friends who claimed they wanted to join the Bloods street gang. They had a fascination with firearms. With nine weapons and camping supplies, they opened fire on their fellow students who were filing out of their classrooms after Golden intentionally set off the fire alarm. Both were captured and Golden was released after turning 21. Johnson remains in prison.

### **16. Marysville Pilchuck High School – 2014**

Death toll: 5

Injured: 1

Jaylen Fryberg, a 15-year old freshman student, shot five other students at his high school near Seattle, before fatally shooting himself. Prior to the shooting, he had been announced as homecoming prince. One of his victims was a girl who turned him down, and he had been violent with an ex-girlfriend previously.

### **17. Lindhurst High School – 1992**

Death toll: 4

Injured: 10

Eric Houston, a 20-year old former student of the high school, surrendered to police after committing a mass shooting and subsequent siege of the high school. He was reportedly upset after losing his job and failing to graduate from the school. He is currently on death row.

### **18. University of Arizona Nursing School – 2002**

Death toll: 4

Injured: 0

Robert Flores Jr., 41, a Gulf War veteran, specifically targeted instructors at the University of Arizona after flunking out of nursing school. He then proceeded to kill himself. Students found him very aggressive and to have anger issues.

### **19. Olean High School – 1974**

Death toll: 4

Injured: 11

Seventeen-year old Anthony F. Barbaro, an honor student and member of the school's rifle team, indiscriminately shot at people from the third floor windows of the school building. Police never appeared to find a specific motive, but Barbaro claims he was trying to get himself killed. He was arrested and then later committed suicide in his jail cell.

## **20. Frontier Middle School – 1996**

Death toll: 3

Injured: 1

In Moses Lake, Washington, 14-year old Barry Dale Loukaitis, killed his algebra teacher and two students, before a gym coach subdued him. He is sentenced to two life terms, but could be released after a US Supreme Court case.

## **21. San Diego State University – 1996**

Death toll: 3

Injured: 0

This tragedy occurred when graduate student Frederick Martin Davidson opened fire on a small group of professors and students who had assembled to watch him defend his Master's thesis. Davidson claimed that the professors were apart of a conspiracy against him, and he killed all 3 professors. Davidson was convicted and sentenced to three consecutive life sentences without parole.

## **22. Heath High School – 1997**

Death Toll: 3

Injured: 5

14-year old Michael Carnea opened fire on a group of students in prayer, after which he dropped his gun and surrendered to the principal. Through a plea deal, he was convicted but declared mentally ill, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole for 25 years.

## **23. Appalachian School of Law – 2002**

Death toll: 3

Injured: 3

In Grundy, Virginia, the American Bar Association accredited private law school was attacked by former student, 43-year-old Peter Odighizuwa, who opened fired with a handgun. He had previously flunked out of the school and, despite being diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, was declared mentally competent to stand trial and was sentenced to six life terms plus 28 years.

## **24. Louisiana Technical College – 2008**

Death toll: 3

Injured: 0

Latina Williams, a 23-year old nursing student, killed two of her fellow students with a revolver before turning the gun on herself. Her motives were never reported.

## **25. University of Alabama in Huntsville – 2010**

Death toll: 3

Injured: 3

During a routine meeting of the biology department, Amy Bishop, one of the professors, stood up and began shooting her fellow professors. She was considered wildly unpopular by students and had lost her tenure. She plead guilty to avoid the death penalty, serving a life sentence.

## **26. Chardon High School – 2012**

Death toll: 3

Injured: 3

Thomas "T.J." Lane III, a 17-year old student, opened fire on his fellow students, claiming to have done so at random. Motives were for a time unknown, but after Facebook and Twitter rants were revealed, his anger about his misunderstood genius seemed to have fueled the attack.