



## Mass Violence Victimization: The Facts

Cristal N. Hernandez, M.A.

### What is Mass Violence Victimization?

Mass violence has no universal definition. However, there is general agreement that mass violence refers to victimization resulting in multiple deaths and/or injuries.[1] Some definitions focus on the method used to kill and injure, while others focus on the perceived motive of the perpetrator (e.g., hate, terrorism, or a desire to kill strangers) or who was attacked.[2] The most common descriptors of homicide styles used in definitions of mass violence include number of victims killed and/or injured, location(s) of incident(s), length of time between the first and the last person injured or murdered, and weapon(s) used.[1]

### Have you Heard? [3]

- 2022 saw the second most mass killings in a single year since tracking began in 2006.
- Mass killings in the United States take place far more often in private homes than in schools, supermarkets or churches.
- Victims of mass killings are more likely to have been killed by someone they know.
- Most mass killings are committed using handguns.

### What are the Consequences? [4]

Incidents of mass violence are human-caused tragedies that can impact whole communities and entire countries. These types of disasters, which include shootings and acts of terrorism, typically occur without warning and can happen anywhere. They can instill feelings of confusion, fear, and helplessness in survivors and disturb our collective sense of order and safety. Incidents of mass violence can even impact those with no personal connections to the event. Because of the unpredictable nature of mass violence, it is normal for survivors to experience emotional distress. Feelings such as overwhelming anxiety, trouble sleeping, and other depression-like symptoms are also common responses to incidents of mass violence. Symptoms of distress may appear before, during, and after such an event and could even manifest years after it occurred.

### How to Support Survivors of Mass Violence [5,6]

- The path to recovery is different for every victim of a mass violence incident. Familiarizing yourself with online resources and tip sheets can help you understand common trauma reactions that people may have after a mass violence incident which may be useful as a way to begin your own healing process or to provide help to someone close to you.
- Encourage survivors to begin the healing process—physically, emotionally, and financially— by seeking out crisis counseling, victim assistance services, and legal assistance.

### Resources

#### 9-1-1

#### Texas

- Texas Department of Public Safety -- <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/victim-employment-support-services-vest/victims-mass-violence-disasters>
- Texas' Crime Victims' Compensation Program -- 800-983-9933 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims/crime-victims-compensation-program>

#### National

- Disaster Distress Helpline-- 1-800-985-5990 <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/contact-us>
- OVC Helping Victims of Mass Violence and Terrorism: Planning, Response, Recovery, and Resources Toolkit -- <https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/mvt-toolkit/index.html>

#### References

- [1]Huff-Corzine, L., & Corzine, J. (2020). The devil's in the details: Measuring mass violence. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 19(1), 317-333.
- [2]National Mass Violence Victimization Research Center [NMVVR]. (2023). *About Mass Violence*. NMVVR. <https://nmvvr.org/learn/about-mass-violence/>
- [3]USA Today. (2023). *Mass killing database: Revealing trends, details and anguish of every US event since 2006*. USA Today. <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/graphics/2022/08/18/mass-killings-database-us-events-since-2006/9705311002/>
- [4]Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA]. (2023). *Incidents of Mass Violence*. <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/disaster-types/incidents-mass-violence>
- [5]National Mass Violence Victimization Research Center [NMVVR]. (2023). *Self-Help*. NMVVR. <https://nmvvr.org/survivors/self-help/>
- [6]Office for Victims of Crime [OVC]. (2023). *Terrorism & Mass Violence Overview*. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/terrorism-mass-violence/overview>

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## Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 +) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>  
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988