

Police and Civilian Response to Violence in Gathering Places



*Howard County Police Department
Community Outreach Division*

Housekeeping

- Food and Drink Policy
- Restrooms
- Questions
- Informational Packets



Objectives

- Examine History of Violence in Gathering Places
- Discuss Response to Active Threat
- Interactive Exercise
- Provide Active Threat Prevention Information
- Q&A

Disclaimer

- This presentation should not be relied upon as legal advice and is designed as a guide only.
- You should consult with your own legal advisor prior to implementing a particular plan.

History of Violence in Gathering Places

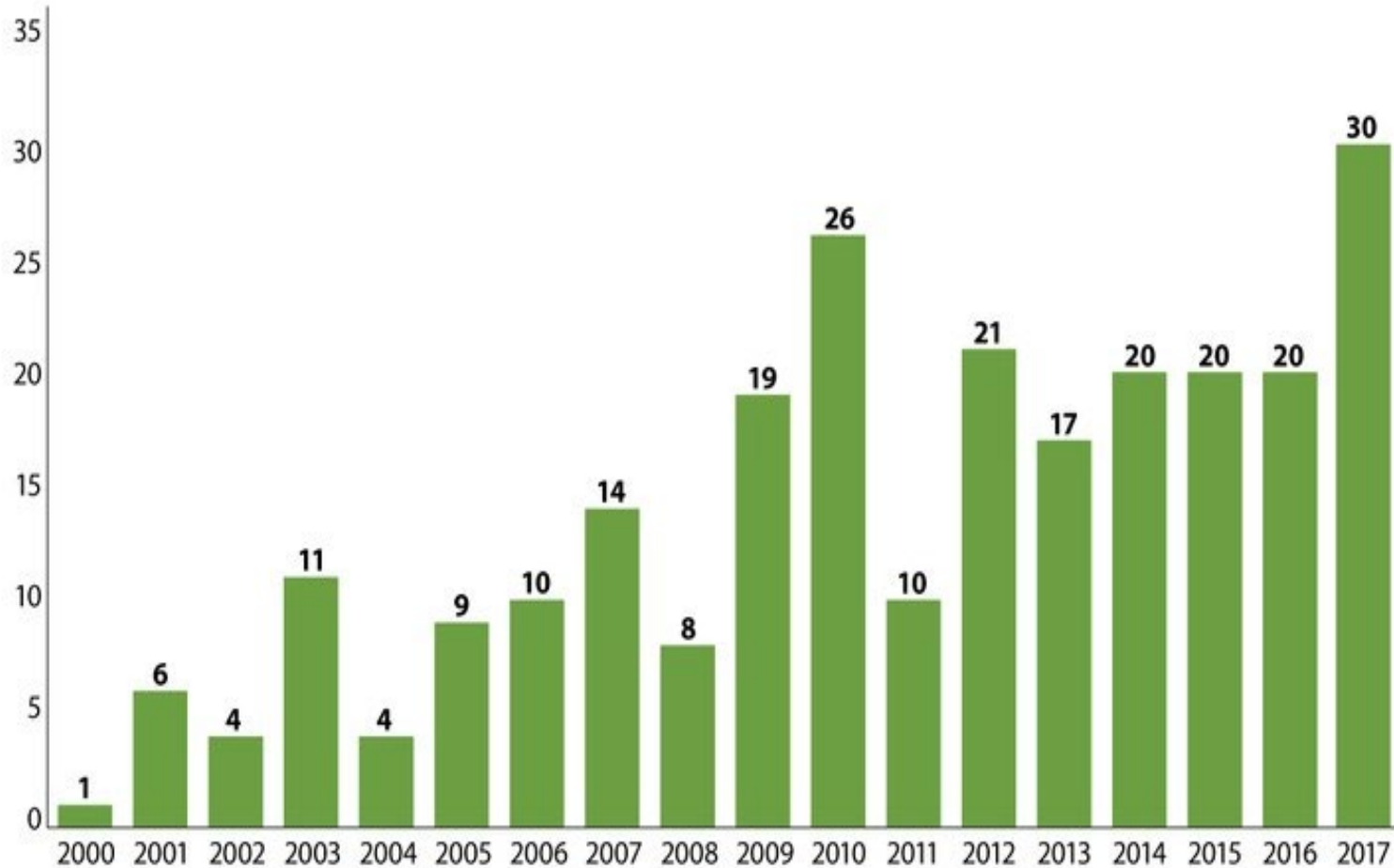


250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 to 2017



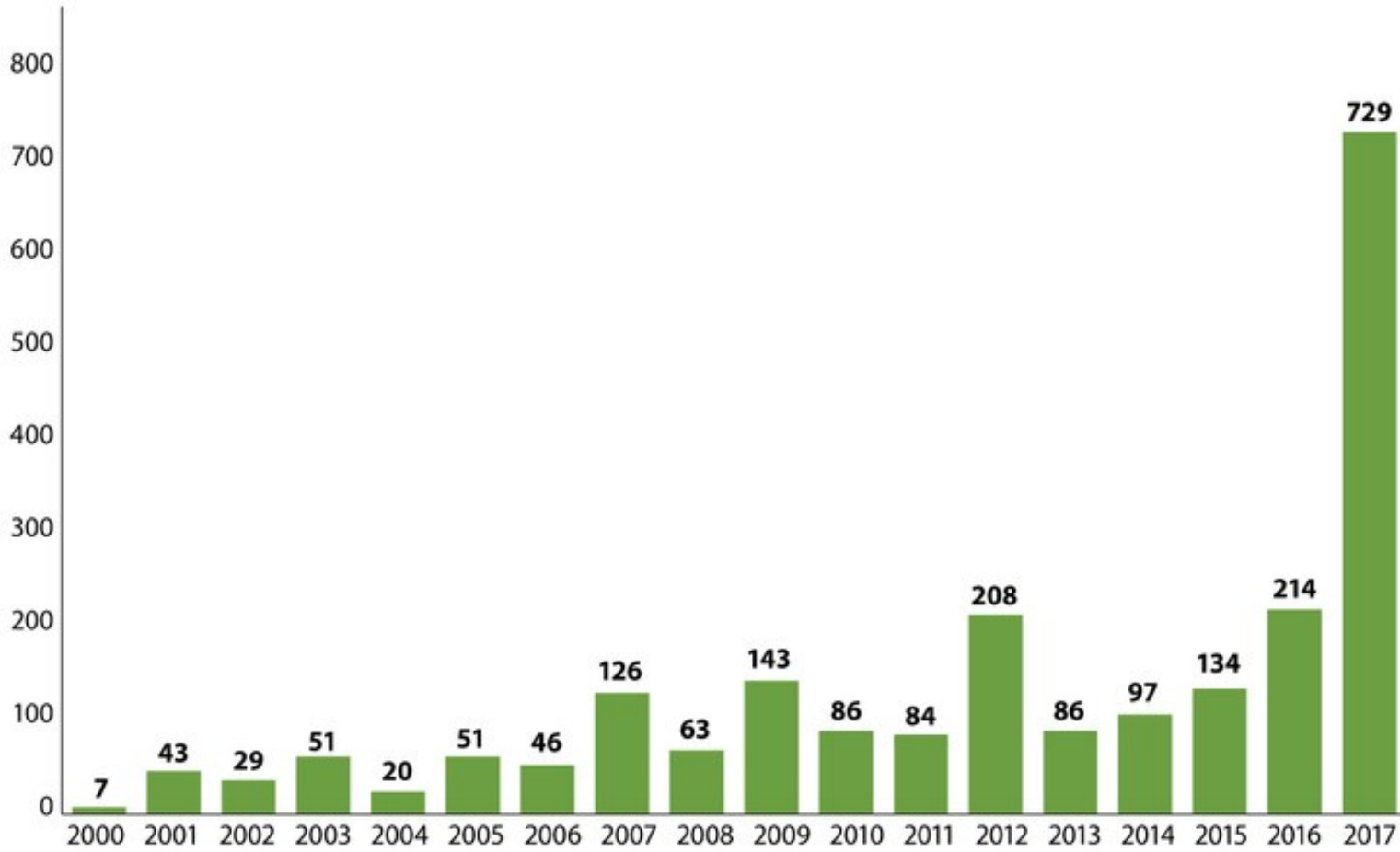
Quick Look: 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 - 2017

Incidents Per Year



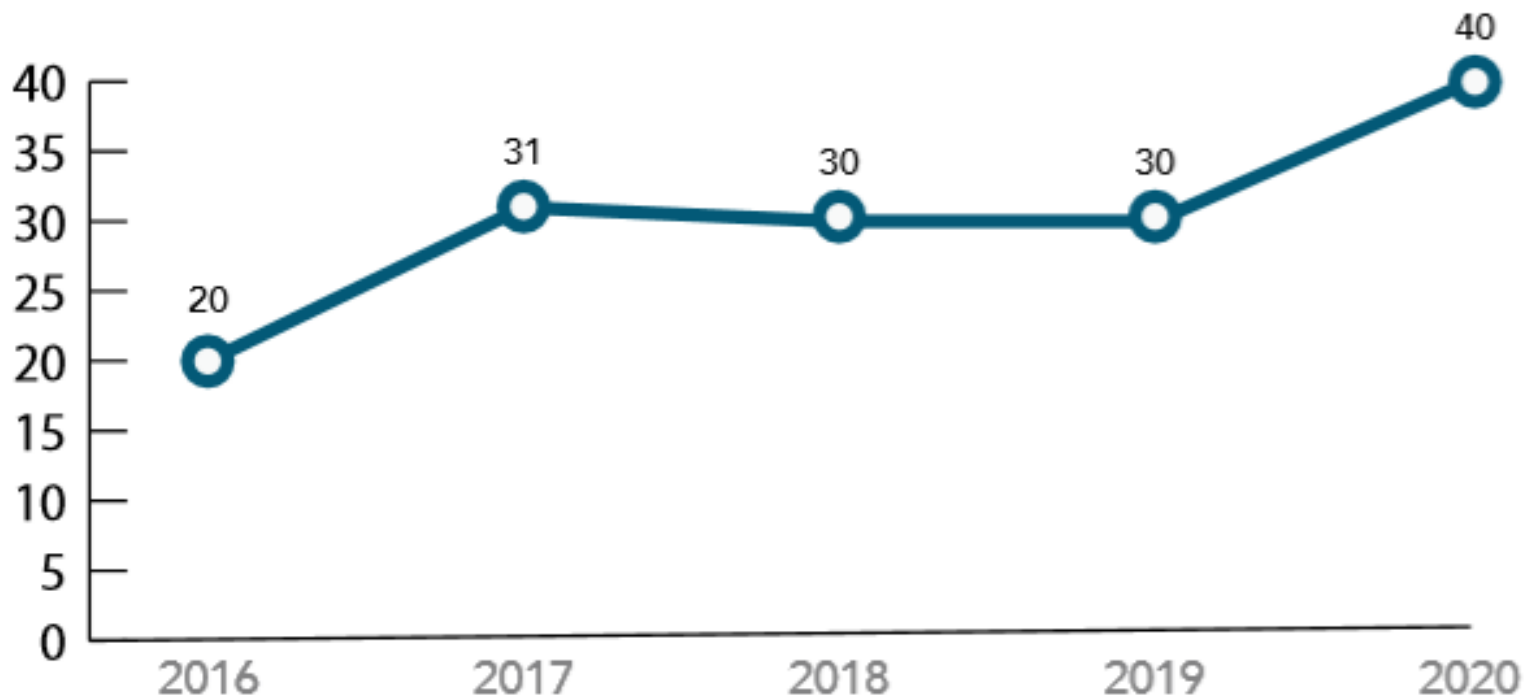
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2017

Quick Look: 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 - 2017
Casualties Per Year



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2017

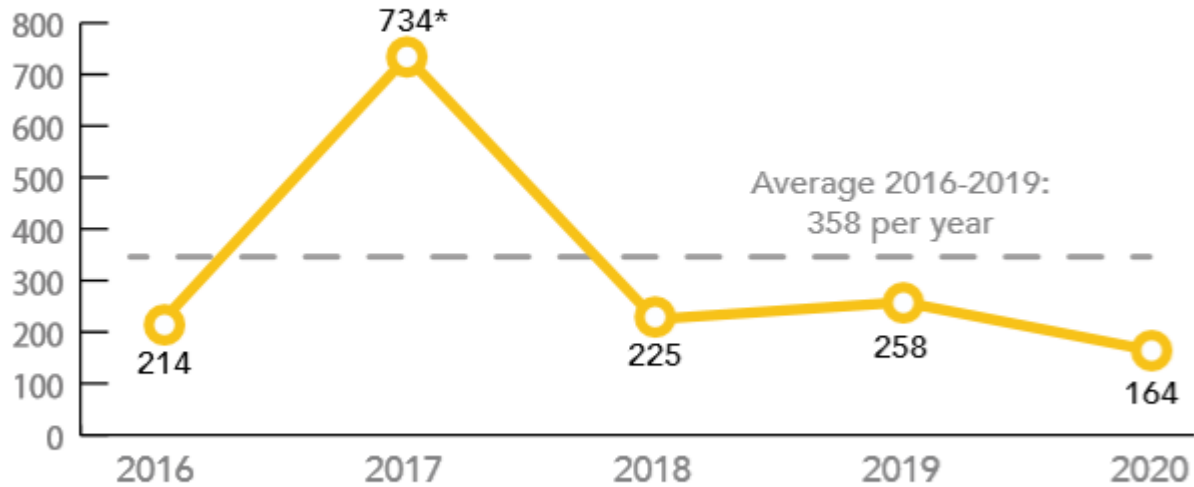
Active Shooter Incidents 2016-2020



By the Numbers Comparison of 2020 and 2019 Statistics

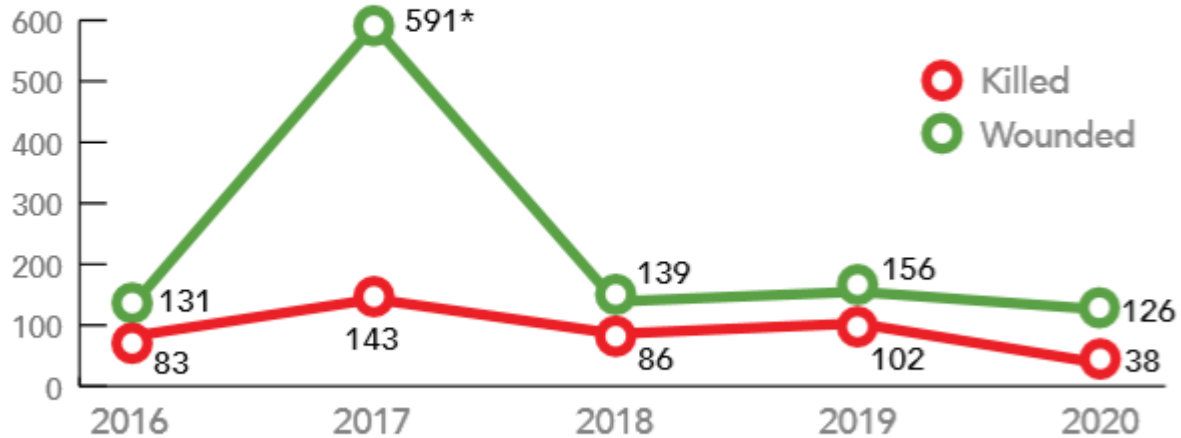
	2020	2019
	40 Incidents in 19 states	30 Incidents in 17 states
	164 casualties (excluding the shooters): 38 killed, 126 wounded	258 casualties (excluding the shooters): 103 killed, 155 wounded
	1 law enforcement officer killed	2 law enforcement officers killed
	11 law enforcement officers wounded	15 law enforcement officers wounded
	5 met "mass killing" definition	13 met "mass killing" definition
	8 incidents where law enforcement engaged the shooter	11 incidents where law enforcement engaged the shooter
	42 shooters: 35 male, 3 female, 4 Unspecified	33 shooters: 32 male, 1 female
	1 shooter wore body armor	4 shooters wore body armor
	7 shooters committed suicide	6 shooters committed suicide
	4 shooters killed by law enforcement	9 shooters killed by law enforcement
	2 shooters killed by a citizen	1 shooter killed by a citizen
	24 shooters apprehended by law enforcement (5 at large)	17 shooters apprehended by law enforcement

Active Shooter Incidents 2016-2020 Total Casualty Count



*2017 includes the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada (56 killed, 489 wounded)

Active Shooter Incidents 2016-2020 Killed and Wounded



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Close to Home



Security Vulnerabilities

- Buildings are rarely designed with security issues as an important feature. Subsequently, by their very design they are often vulnerable.
- Usually not perceived as a serious crime risk, thus, security measures are frequently minimal and inadequate.
- “Who would want to cause harm against us?” mentality



Security Vulnerabilities

- Presents Target-Rich environment to assailant looking to cause harm
- Key control and access management may be weak.
- May have an icon status that is often a flash point to a variety of hate groups or terrorists.



Active Threat Event

An **active threat** is defined as any incident, which by its deliberate nature, creates an immediate **threat** or presents an imminent danger to the community.



What Are Active Threats?

Active Shooter

Subject Armed with a Weapon

Bomb Threats

Threat of Arson

Combative Subject



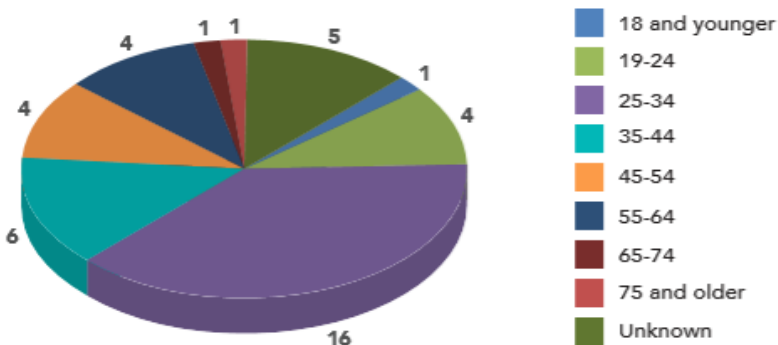
A person who is actively attempting to kill others

The Assailant

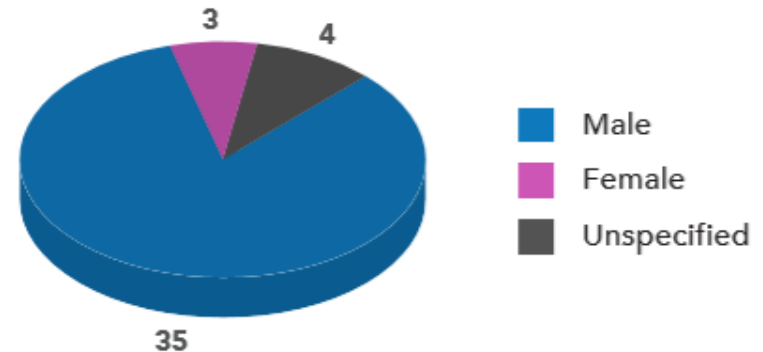
- No "Profile"
- Most incidents involved a single shooter
- Predominantly male, rarely female
- May have previously broadcast intentions
- Deliberate, Focused, Detached



2020 Active Shooters by Age Group



2020 Active Shooters by Gender



Assailant Contributing Factors

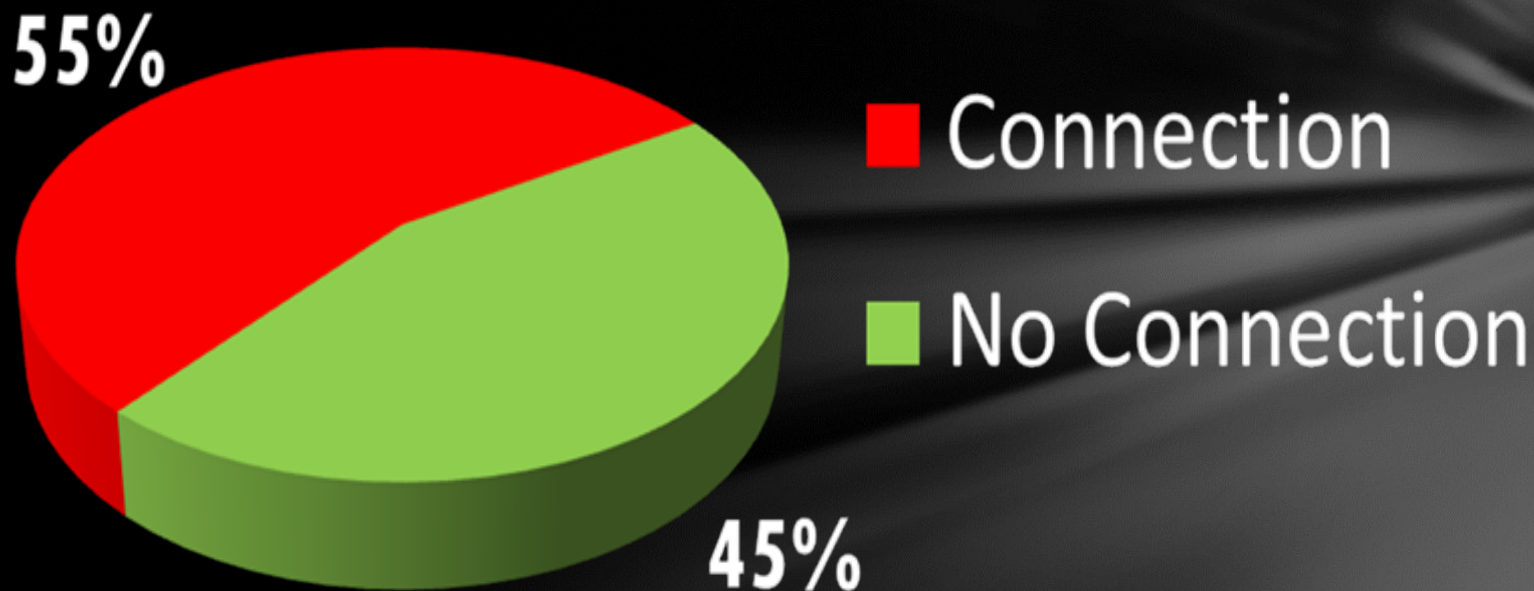
- Mental Health
- Financial strain
- Job related
- Conflicts with friends/peers
- Marital problems
- Abuse of illicit drugs/alcohol
- Other (e.g. caregiving responsibilities)
- Death of friend/relative
- Hate-based



- Conflict at school
- Physical injury
- Conflict with parents
- Conflict with other family members
- Sexual stress/frustration
- Criminal problems
- Civil problems



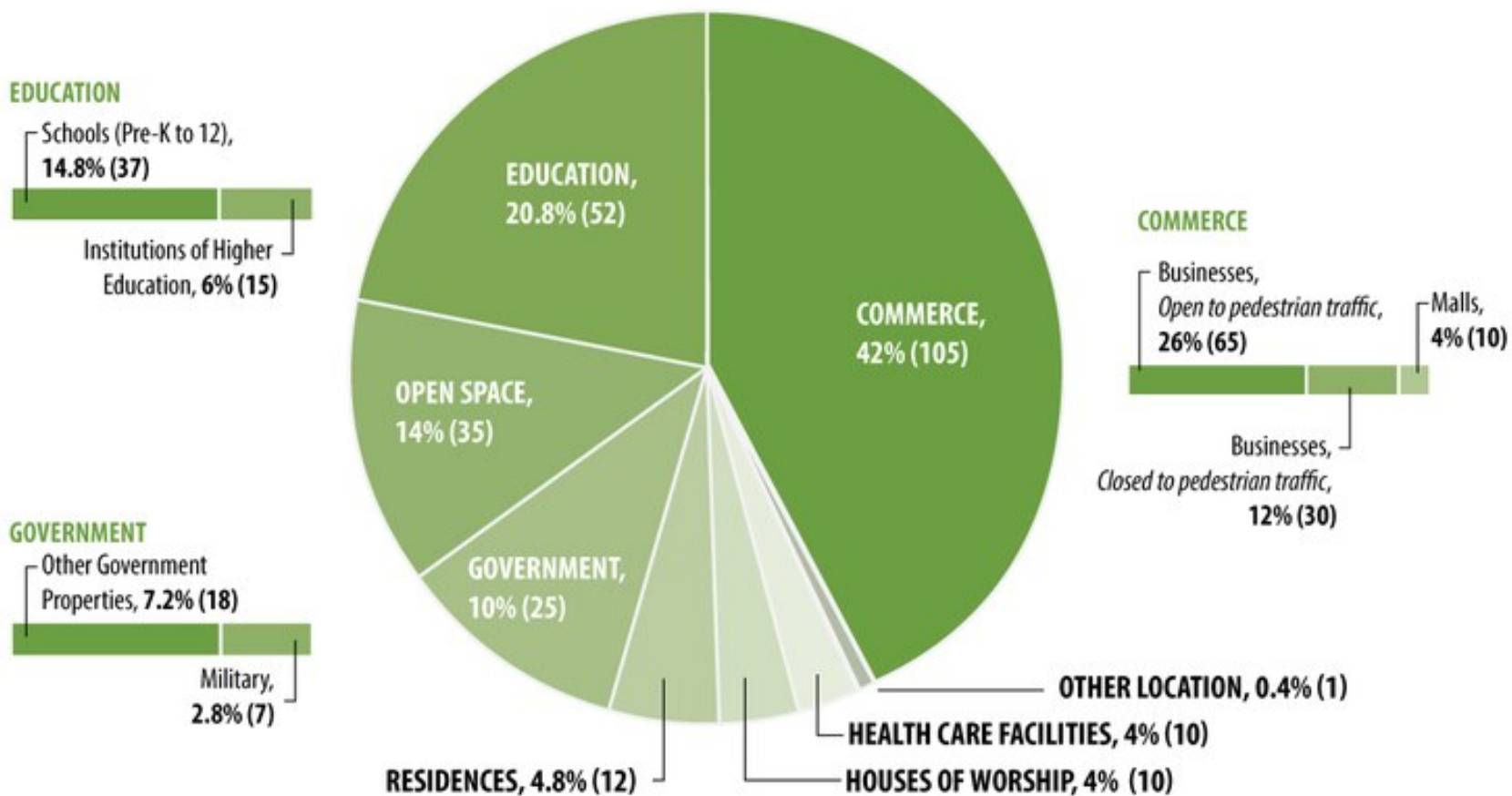
The Assailant Connection to a Facility



*Refers to incidents involving active shooters

The Assailant Targets

Quick Look: 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 to 2017
Location Categories



Police Response to Active Threats

Average law enforcement response time to these events is approximately **3 minutes**. In the law enforcement world, this is amazingly fast.

“In 67 incidents where the duration of the incident could be ascertained, 44 (69.0%) of 67 incidents ended in 5 minutes or less, with 23 ending in 2 minutes or less.” (FBI)

That means our best way for reducing fatalities is to improve civilian response.



Civilian Response to an Active Threat Incident

Normal human emotional response:

Denial

Deliberation

Action

RUN, HIDE, FIGHT



RUN

- Call 911
- Leave ASAP
- Know your exits
- Consider Secondary Exits



If you can't run...

HIDE

- Lock the door
- Lights out
- Out of sight
- Silence cellular phones



HIDE

- Barricade
 - Heavier = Better
 - More = Better
 - Doorstops = Better



HIDE

- Outward opening
 - Ropes
 - Tactical Knots

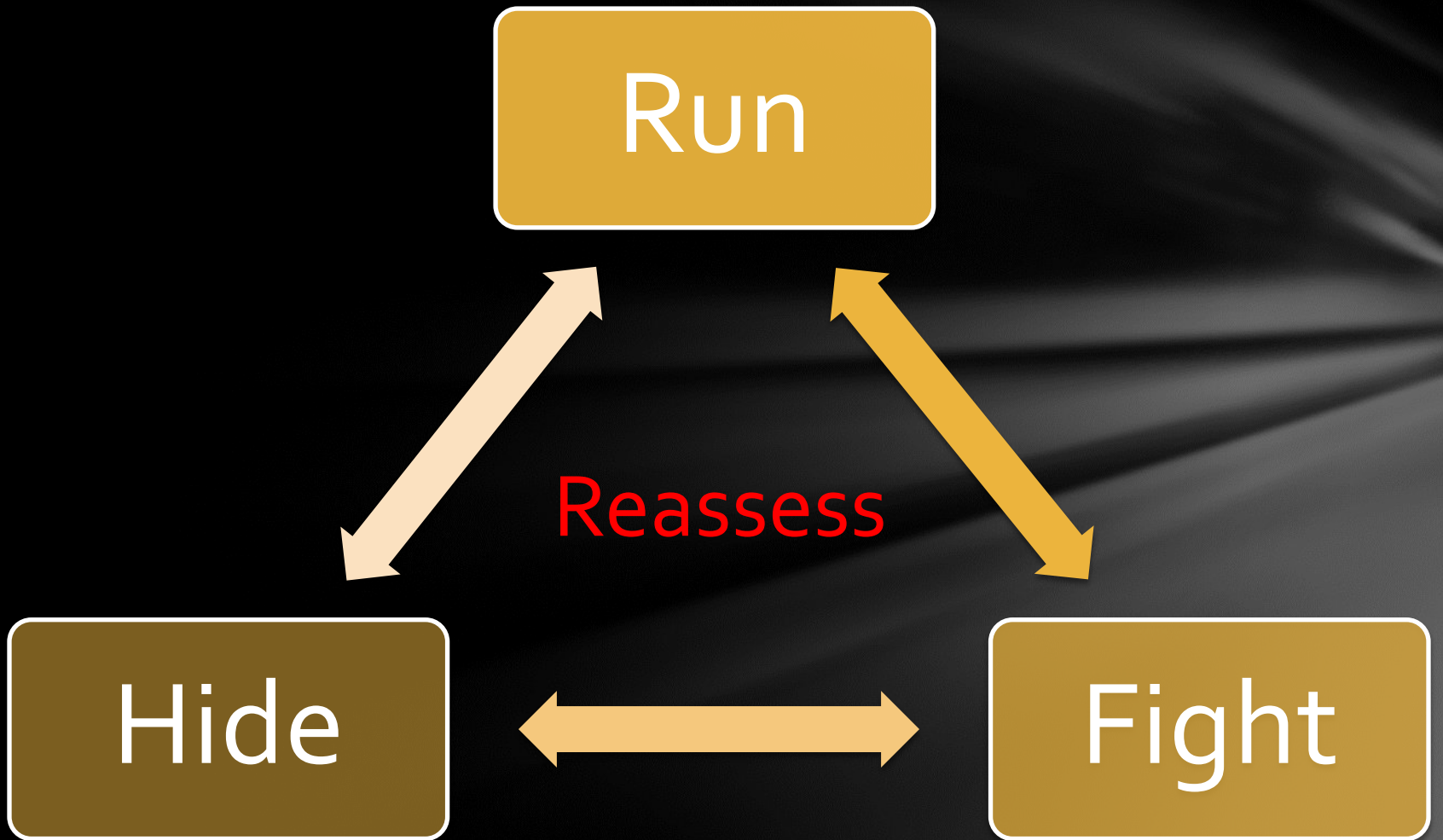


If you can't run or hide...

FIGHT

- Positioning
- Disarm, if possible
- Fight for your life





Survival Mindset

- “I'm not going out in a parking lot. I'm not going out like this. I'm not gonna let my wife down. I'm not gonna let my daughter down, and I'm not letting my step-kids down.” – Lt Brian Murphy



When Police Arrive

- Victim or Assailant?
- Follow commands
- Show your palms
- Do not make any sudden movements
- Avoid yelling or pointing



During Active Threat **Key Points**

- Most incidents are over in minutes
- Call 911 as soon as possible
- **Run, Hide, Fight** when faced with an active assailant
- **Reassess** Situation Constantly
- Follow Police Commands when they arrive



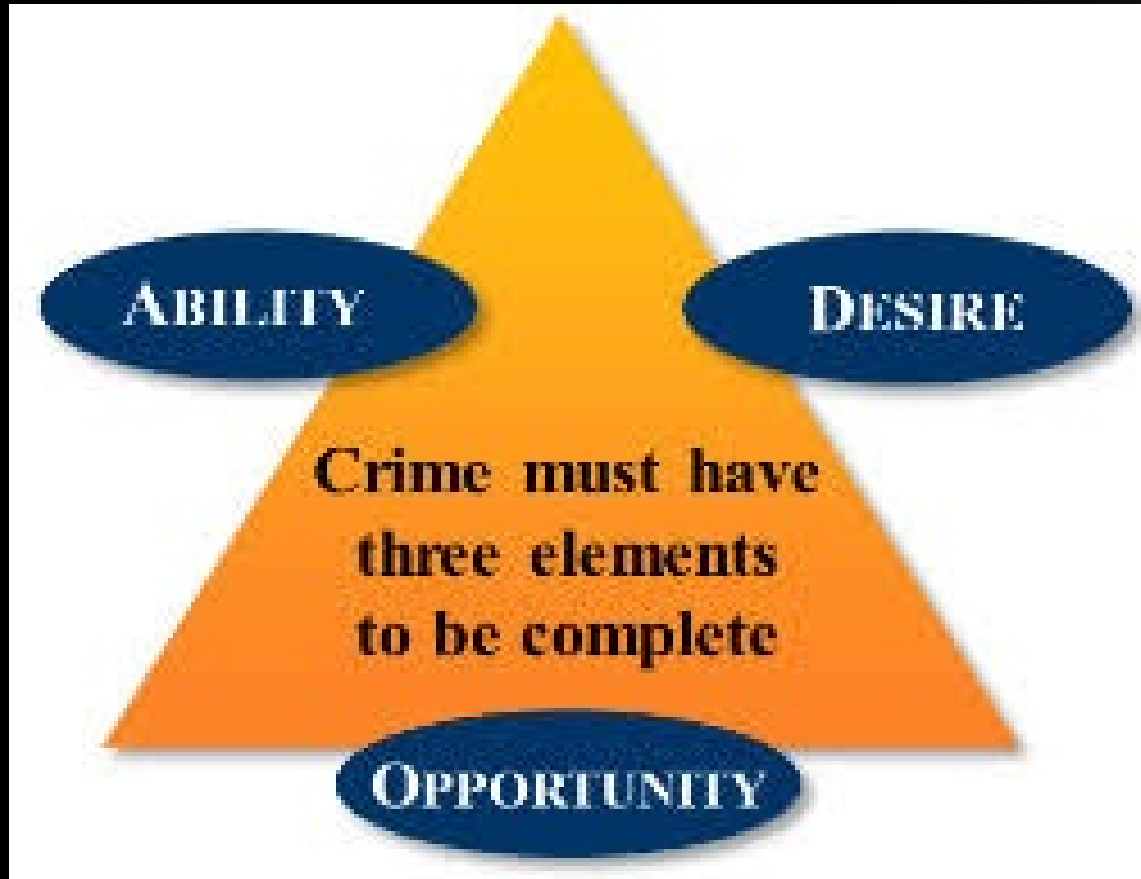
Interactive Exercise



Prevention and Planning



Removing Opportunity



What You Should Do

Establish a Critical Incident Safety Team

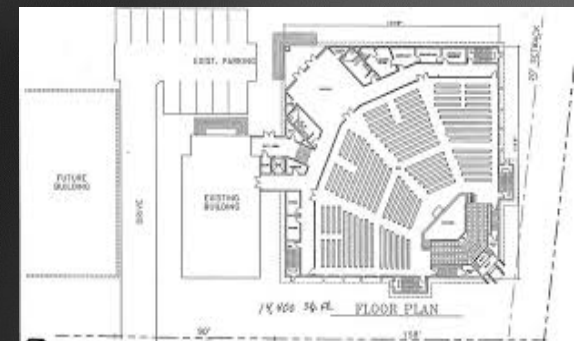
This Team Should

- Plan and carry out drills (evacuation, shelter in place, lockdown) / Meet regularly
- Develop a communication system (phone tree, email, text message/ alarm system)
- Develop a facility notification system
- Set up members of team to have a specific duty/function during a critical incident
- Consider Interior/Exterior Monitoring
- Review site security



What You Should Do

- **Review site security**
 - Basic facility security measures (cameras, alarms, lighting, hiding places, door locking procedures, etc.)
 - Professional site assessment (private security or LE)
 - Collaborate with Law Enforcement (pre-planning: walk through, entrances and exits, remote access to cameras, etc.)
 - Provide floor plans of facility to LE





What You Should Do

- **Establish Lockdown Protocol**
 - Safe Room
 - Separate buildings
 - Medical Supplies/GO Bags
 - Phone (landline)
 - Adequate barricades
 - Color coded/numbered to assist LE arrival

What You Should Do

Train your Staff

- Share information learned here
- Hang active shooter posters at visible locations as reminders
- Host meetings where info is shared and drills can be done
- Talk about active assailants and drill during in-service training/ staff meetings



What You Should Do

Establish "Lookout" Program

This Program Should:



- Ask members of the organization to exercise situational awareness and be aware whenever possible.
- Contact neighbors of the organization and request they watch its property for any unusual or suspicious activity and/or person(s).
- Possibly have volunteers (security team) or local law enforcement make a nighttime security check of the property.
- Have a parked motor vehicle on the premises at different times and locations.

What You Should Do

- Consider demographics (children, seniors, persons with disabilities, law enforcement, military, etc)
- Firearms Policy (concealed carry permits...who can or may be carrying a firearm)
- Banning individuals who may be a threat



What You Should Do



- **Establish Evacuation Procedure**
 - Does your staff know all the exits?
 - Assigning employees to exits to prevent funneling at one exit location
 - Handicap access
 - Multiple exits if one is locked
 - Visible reminders (signs, lights above exits)
 - Audible alarms (fire alarm)
 - Drills



Evacuation Planning: Know ALL Available Exits



Wrapping up...

- Preparation, planning and practice is key
- **Run, Hide, Fight** when facing an incident is how to survive and minimize fatalities

Discussion &



Questions

Contact Us

- For Meeting/Presentation Requests/Security Surveys:
 - Email us at: HCPDOutreach@howardcountymd.gov
- Or Call Howard County Police Dept. Community Outreach at:
 - 410-313-2207

