

Mass Shootings Involving Concealed Handgun Permit Holders

Research from the Violence Policy Center (VPC) has identified 35 mass shootings (three or more victims killed) since May 2007 involving private individuals with permits to carry concealed handguns, resulting in the deaths of 167 victims. These incidents were identified as part of the VPC's ongoing "Concealed Carry Killers" project, which has identified 1,371 people killed in non-self defense incidents involving concealed handgun permit holders since May 2007. These victims represent only the very tip of the iceberg, as the gun lobby consistently resists efforts to collect comprehensive data on crimes and killings perpetrated by concealed handgun permit holders.

To read the full details of these and other incidents, please visit concealedcarrykillers.org.



Iowa: On June 15, 2019, concealed handgun permit holder Chandrasekhar Sunkara, 44, shot and killed his wife Lavanya Sunkara, 41, and their two sons Prabhas, 15, and Suhas, 11, before taking his own life in their home in Des Moines, Iowa. A family friend told media, "We are told that Chandrasekhar (Chandu) had purchased the gun 10-15 days ago when he apparently planned the homicide."



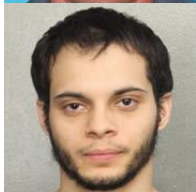
Pennsylvania: On January 24, 2019, concealed handgun permit holder Jordan Witmer, 21, fatally shot Dean Beachy, 61, and his son Steven Beachy, 19, at P.J. Harrigan's Bar and Grill at the Ramada Inn in State College, Pennsylvania. After fleeing the scene and crashing his car roughly a mile away, Witmer then shot through a sliding glass door of a nearby house. Once inside, he shot and killed George McCormick, 82, before killing himself.



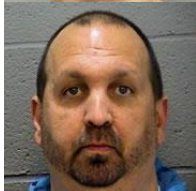
Illinois: On November 19, 2018, concealed handgun permit holder Juan Lopez, 32, shot and killed his former fiancée Dr. Tamara O'Neal, 38, at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago. Lopez also shot and killed Dayna Less, 25, a first-year pharmacy resident, and Officer Samuel Jimenez, 28, who was responding to the shooting. Lopez was found dead at the hospital.



Pennsylvania: On October 27, 2018, concealed handgun permit holder Robert Bowers, 46, allegedly opened fire at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh during Saturday-morning services, killing 11 people and injuring six, including four law enforcement officers. Bowers, who was armed with a Colt AR-15 assault rifle and three Glock pistols, was wounded and captured by police. Upon his capture, he told a SWAT officer, "I just want to kill Jews."



Florida: On January 6, 2017, concealed handgun permit holder Esteban Santiago, 26, opened fire in the baggage claim area of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport killing five and wounding six others. A witness said that the shooter reloaded his Walther 9mm pistol before running out of ammunition. The shooter had arrived on a Delta flight from Alaska and had his handgun in his checked baggage. Santiago reportedly had a history of mental health problems.



North Carolina: On February 10, 2015, concealed handgun permit holder Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, allegedly shot and killed Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, Barakat's wife, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, 21, and her sister, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19. Hicks turned himself in to authorities and was charged with three counts of murder.



Kentucky: On September 20, 2013, concealed handgun permit holder Kenneth Allen Keith, 48, allegedly shot and killed Michael Hockensmith, 35, his wife Angela Hockensmith, 38, and Daniel Smith, 60, at Gold Games and More, a store owned by the Hockensmiths. Keith, a Pulaski County minister, was charged with three counts of murder and one count of robbery.



Washington, DC: On September 16, 2013, concealed handgun permit holder Aaron Alexis, 34, shot and killed 12 people at an office building at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. Alexis entered the building with a Remington 870 shotgun hidden in his backpack. Alexis was shot and killed by police. Alexis had a concealed carry permit from Texas and had previously held one issued in the state of Washington.



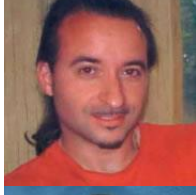
Florida: On July 27, 2013, concealed handgun permit holder Pedro Vargas, 42, shot and killed six people at an apartment complex in Hialeah, Florida, before being shot and killed by a police SWAT team.



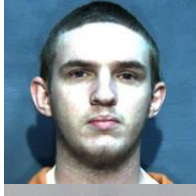
Washington: On April 21, 2013, concealed handgun permit holder Dennis Clark III, 27, shot and killed four people before being killed by police.



Michigan: On February 15, 2013, concealed handgun permit holder Ferdarius Shine, 28, shot and killed his 68-year-old grandmother, Geraldine Bates, his aunt, Santangela Williams, 49, and his seven-year-old daughter Amera Jones. Shine was found guilty of first-degree murder.



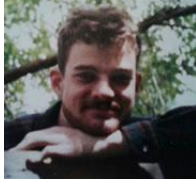
Minnesota: On September 27, 2012, concealed handgun permit holder Andrew Engeldinger, 36, armed with a 9mm semiautomatic Glock pistol, shot and killed six people and wounded two at Accent Signage Systems in Minneapolis before killing himself.



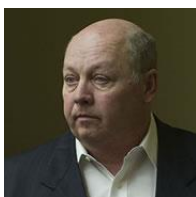
Alabama: On August 9, 2012, concealed handgun permit holder Ryan Clark Petersen shot and killed Cameron Eubanks, 20, Tiffany Grissett, 31, and Thomas Robins, Jr., 39, at Teasers, a nightclub located near Dothan, Alabama. Surveillance videos showed Petersen leave the club after an altercation inside. He retrieved his handgun from his vehicle, returned to the club, pulled the Glock pistol from his pocket and fired.



Pennsylvania: On July 27, 2012, concealed handgun permit holder Kevin M. Cleeves, 35, shot and killed his wife, Brandi N. Cleeves, 25, her boyfriend, Vincent Luke Santucci, Jr., 28, and Rosemary Holma, 55, in the driveway of the home that Santucci shared with his mother. Cleeves pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and was sentenced to three consecutive life sentences without parole.



Washington: On May 30, 2012, concealed handgun permit holder Ian Stawicki, 40, opened fire at Café Racer in Seattle, killing four of the restaurant's patrons. Stawicki then left the restaurant and confronted Gloria Leonidas. Stawicki fatally shot Leonidas and stole her SUV. While searching the area law enforcement came upon Stawicki, who, when ordered to drop his weapon, put the gun to his head and fatally shot himself.



Tennessee: On May 21, 2012, concealed handgun permit holder Paul Clifford Moore, Jr., 53, shot and killed his wife, Christina Moore, 39, her twin sister, Bridgette Stagnolia, 39, and his wife's lover, Amber Snellings, 24. Moore was convicted of three counts of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.



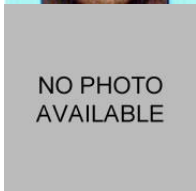
Texas: On July 23, 2011, concealed handgun permit holder Tan Do, 35, opened fire at his son's 11th birthday party being held at the Forum Roller World in Grand Prairie, Texas, killing the boy's mother and four members of her family before killing himself.



Connecticut: On August 3, 2010, concealed handgun permit holder Omar Thornton, 34, went on a shooting rampage at the beer distributorship where he worked, killing eight co-workers before killing himself.



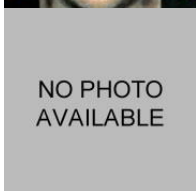
Florida: On June 6, 2010, concealed handgun permit holder Gerardo Regalado, 38, killed four women and wounded three others at the Yoyito Cafe-Restaurant before killing himself. Authorities said that Regalado specifically targeted women and shot them at close range.



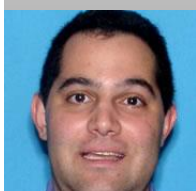
Tennessee: On March 27, 2010, concealed handgun permit holder Michael Joe Hood, 49, shot and killed his sister Susan Hood Binkley, 44, her ex-husband Dale Binkley, 42, and their 13-year-old son Jackson Binkley. Hood pleaded guilty to the three murders and received three consecutive life sentences.



Virginia: On January 19, 2010, concealed handgun permit holder Christopher Speight shot and killed eight people including his sister and her husband, their 15-year-old daughter and four-year-old son, as well as two teenagers aged 15 and 16. Speight pleaded guilty to three counts of capital murder, one count of attempted capital murder of a police officer, and five firearms counts.



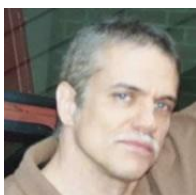
Utah: On December 17, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder Justin Matern shot and killed his wife and two sons, ages six and four, before killing himself.



Florida: On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder Paul Michael Merhige opened fire at his family's Thanksgiving dinner shooting six relatives, killing four. Merhige pled guilty and was sentenced to seven consecutive life sentences.



North Carolina: On November 2, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder William Maxwell shot and killed his wife Kathryn and their teenage children Conner and Cameron before killing himself.



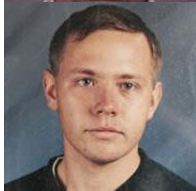
Pennsylvania: On August 4, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder George Sodini, 48, opened fire at an LA Fitness Center in Collier, Pennsylvania, killing three women and wounding nine others before killing himself.



Pennsylvania: On April 4, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder and white supremacist Richard Poplawski shot and killed police officers Stephen Mayhle, Paul Sciallo, and Eric Kelly while injuring another officer. Poplawski was found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder as well as 25 other crimes. He was sentenced to death.



New York: On April 3, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder Jiverly Wong, 41, walked into the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York, where he had recently taken an English class, and opened fire, killing 13 former classmates before killing himself.



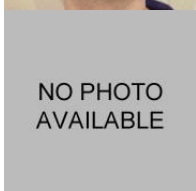
Alabama: On March 10, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder Michael McLendon, a self-proclaimed survivalist, killed his mother at their family home. By the time McLendon killed himself in the midst of a police shootout, he had shot and killed four more relatives, including his 74-year-old grandmother, and five strangers, including the wife and 18-month-old daughter of a local sheriff's deputy.



New York: On February 14, 2009, concealed handgun permit holder Frank Garcia opened fire in the Lakeside Memorial Hospital parking lot in Brockport, New York. He killed two people there, before killing a couple at their home nearby. Garcia was denied a carry permit three times in the previous 15 years before a judge granted him a permit in 2007. Garcia was convicted and received a life sentence without possibility of parole.



Michigan: On September 29, 2008, concealed handgun permit holder Troy Brake, 31, shot to death 52-year-old Sharmaine Zimmer, her sons, Tyler, 17, and Jeremy, 20, and beat to death Jeremy's girlfriend, university student Katherine Brown, 18. Brake was convicted of first-degree murder in the deaths of the Zimmer family and Katherine Brown.



Virginia: On May 5, 2008, concealed handgun permit holder Aaron Poseidon Jackson, 24, shot and killed his two children, one-year-old Aaron Neptune Jackson and two-year-old Nicole Aaron Jackson, and their mother, Latasha Nicole Thomas, before killing himself.



Georgia: On March 27, 2008, concealed handgun permit holder Charles Johnston went to Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Georgia, carrying three handguns: a .32, a .380, and a 9mm. Johnson, apparently angered over the care his mother had received while she was in the hospital, shot and killed three people before being shot by police and arrested. Johnston pled guilty to murder.



Florida: On September 22, 2007, concealed handgun permit holder Guillermo Zarabozo and a second man hired the 47-foot charter boat *Joe Cool* to take them from Miami Beach to Bimini. When the boat did not return to Florida, the Coast Guard was contacted and they found it abandoned. Zarabozo was found guilty for his part in the murders of the four-member crew and was sentenced to five consecutive terms of life imprisonment.



Ohio: On July 4, 2007, concealed handgun permit holder and firefighter Terrance Hough, Jr., shot and killed three people as a result of a dispute over fireworks the three were setting off. Hough's fellow firefighters described him as a "ticking time bomb that finally exploded." One noted, "I hope I'm off the day Hough snaps." Hough was convicted of three counts of aggravated murder and was sentenced to life in prison with no parole.



Idaho: On May 19, 2007, concealed handgun permit holder Jason Kenneth Hamilton, 36, a member of the white supremacist group Aryan Nations, shot and killed his wife, a police officer, and a church sexton, and wounded three others in a shooting spree in Moscow, Idaho, before killing himself. Hamilton had a concealed handgun permit "despite a [previous] domestic violence conviction that should have barred him from owning guns."