

Mass Violence and Research

DISCUSSION



Despite the gravity of the problem of mass violence and increasing public concern, there is little research available regarding the efficacy of violence prevention interventions. This is partly because mass violence events are relatively rare, but more due to limitations in research

funding. The increased public demand for stemming this growing and disturbing problem should move government to action but has yet to do so.

There has also been limited retrospective research on the mental health status of mass violence perpetrators, which likely underestimates the proportion that may have suffered from a mental illness and the role the illness may have played in their crime.

In many cases, the goal of the recommendations of the Expert Panel is to use policy development as a laboratory for research. While there is a need for evidence-based policy, there is also a need for policy-informed research.

RECOMMENDATIONS



- Explore the neurobiological, psychological, sociological and epidemiological factors contributing to mass violence.
- Determine methods and instruments to identify and predict perpetrators of mass violence.
- Establish methods of intervention and prevention of mass violence.
- Create a standardized, mandatory investigation/analysis of each mass violence incident conducted by a multiagency team led by the Department of Justice.
- Evaluate and assess the implementation and effectiveness of extreme-risk protection orders.

EXPERT PANEL



An expert panel appointed by the National Council for Behavioral Health Medical Director Institute examined the issue from multiple perspectives and found the solutions are as complex as the problem.

The insightful and evidence-based response, “Mass Violence in America: Causes, Impacts and Solutions,” provides a call to action to respond to this complex issue.

Membership of Expert Panel

- Medical Directors of mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations
- CEOs of mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations
- Members from the American Psychiatric Association
- Members from the American Psychological Association
- Member from the American Association of Emergency Psychiatrists
- Members representing law enforcement/courts
- Members from National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
- Content experts on mass violence and trauma
- Mental health consumer/patient representatives/parents of a mass shooter