

Mass Gun Killings in Australia and New Zealand, 1987-2015*

Date	Location	T	F	G	V	P	S	K	W	Name	A	C	M	L
09/09/14	Lockhart, NSW	MS	Y	S	4	1	5	5	0	Geoff Hunt	44	N	N	Y
08/02/97	Raurimu, NZ	M	Y	S	6	0	6	6	5	Stephen Anderson	24	U	Y	N
28/04/96	Port Arthur, TAS	M	N	M	35	0	35	35	19	Martin Bryant	28	N	N	N
25/01/96	Hillcrest, QLD	MS	Y	R	6	1	7	7	0	Peter May	32	N	N	Y
20/06/94	Dunedin, NZ	M	Y	R	5	0	5	5	0	Bain Family	22	N	N	Y
31/03/93	Cangai, NSW	MS	N	R	5	1	6	6	0	Leabeater/Steele**	41	N	Y	N
27/10/92	Terrigal, NSW	M	Y	S	6	0	6	6	1	Malcolm Baker	45	N	N	Y
20/05/92	Paerata, NZ	MS	Y	S	4	1	5	7	0	Brian Schlaepfer	64	N	N	Y
17/08/91	Strathfield, NSW	MS	N	M	6	1	7	8	7	Wade Frankum	33	N	N	Y
13/11/90	Aramoana, NZ	MS	N	M	13	1	14	14	3	David Gray	33	N	N	Y
30/08/90	Surry Hills, NSW	M	Y	S	5	0	5	5	0	Paul Evers	35	Y	Y	Y
25/09/88	Oenpelli, NT	M	Y	S	6	0	6	6	0	Dennis Rostron	25	N	N	N
08/12/87	Queen St, VIC	MS	N	M	8	1	9	9	5	Frank Vitkovic	22	N	Y	Y
10/10/87	Canley Vale, NSW	MS	N	R	5	1	6	6	1	John Tran	23	N	N	Y
09/08/87	Hoddle St, VIC	M	N	M	7	0	7	7	19	Julian Knight	19	N	N	Y
19/06/87	Top End, NT/WA	M	N	M	5	1	6	6	0	Josef Schwab	26	Y	N	N
23/01/87	West Pymble, NSW	M	N	S	4	0	4	4	0	Richard Maddrell	27	N	Y	Y
Totals					130	9	139	142	60					

T	Homicide Type:	M = Murder	MS = Murder/Suicide
F	Homicide occurred during family violence		
G	Gun used (primary weapon):	R = Rifle	S = Shotgun
V	Victims shot dead		
P	Perpetrators shot dead		
S	Total shot dead		
K	Total killed by any means (3 additional victims were knifed)		
W	Victims wounded		
A	Age of perpetrator		
C	Perpetrator had a previous conviction for violent crime:	Yes / No / Unconfirmed	
M	Perpetrator had a previous history of mental illness:***	Yes / No / Unconfirmed	
L	Perpetrator was a licensed gun owner:	Yes / No / Unconfirmed	

* Definitions of mass homicide, including those in USDoJ/FBI reports, seem to have settled at a threshold of four victims killed.

** These homicides were committed by two perpetrators, Leabeater and Steele. The histories of both men are counted.

*** A history of mental illness is defined as a detectable DSM IV psychiatric illness either diagnosed, reported to authorities or in any way established prior to the shooting – i.e. minimum sufficient cause to justify legal seizure of firearms.

Summary

In the past 28 years, 17 mass shootings in Australia and New Zealand left 139 dead and 60 wounded by gunfire. All the perpetrators were men. Police files, judges' summations and coroners' reports show that:

- 56% of the victims were shot by a licensed gun owner
- 88% of the victims were shot by a killer with no previous history of violent crime
- 78% of the victims were shot by a killer with no previous history of mental illness
- 57% of the victims died in a shooting in which a military-style semi-automatic weapon was used

While 28 victims of mass shootings were killed by men with a known history of mental illness, 73 out of 126 victims were shot by previously law-abiding, licensed gun owners using legally held firearms.

This table first appeared as Appendix 2 to an article published in [The Conversation](#) on 7 October 2015: *If Lawful Firearm Owners Cause Most Gun Deaths, What Can We Do?* Periodic updates will be added.

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