

Tally of Shooters' Use of Psychiatric Medications and Substance Abuse

Compiled by Peter Langman, Ph.D.

There are numerous websites devoted to the belief that psychiatric medications have caused school shootings and other acts of mass violence. I have seen claims that virtually all rampage shooters were on (or had recently been on) psychiatric medications. Based on my research, these claims are not accurate. This document summarizes my findings. For a discussion of each shooter's medication history, see my article "Psychiatric Medications and School Shooters" (www.schoolshooters.info).

None those shooters who as far as I can determine never took psychiatric medications

Past those shooters who used psychiatric medication at some point in their lives, but not in the weeks leading up to their attacks

Recent those shooters who used psychiatric medications within a month of their attacks, and thus may have still had traces in their bodies and/or experienced withdrawal symptoms at the time of their attacks

Current those shooters who were using psychiatric medications at the time of their attacks

Even when perpetrators were known to have used medications, exact information was not always available, so there was subjectivity in classifying certain shooters. In ambiguous cases, I was guided by what was known rather than what might have been the case. For example, Alvaro Castillo's journal documented medication use within three weeks of his attack; it isn't known if he was on it at the time of the attack. Thus, he is placed in the "recent" column rather than the "current" column. Though I have sought to be thorough, I may have missed some facts along the way. If I come across new information, the chart will be updated accordingly.

I have also attempted to identify all those shooters who used alcohol or illegal drugs, or abused prescription medications. This substance abuse may have impaired their judgment; exacerbated their depression, anxiety, anger, or psychotic symptoms; and otherwise impaired their relationships, academic performance, employment, and general ability to function. It is possible that additional perpetrators used drugs or alcohol without this having been reported anywhere, so these results are subject to change as new information is found.

The information regarding substance use was often too vague to utilize the four categories I created for psychiatric medication use, so I have simply indicated whether or not the perpetrator was known to have used illegal drugs or alcohol. In nearly every case I have studied, even those who had a history of using drugs or alcohol were not under the influence at the time of their attacks. They were virtually all clean and sober when they carried out their rampages (the exception is Andy Williams, who reportedly smoked marijuana the morning of his attack). Also, as with prescription medications, some of the shooters may have engaged in substance abuse long before their attacks. The relevance of their substance use to understanding their rampages remains unknown.

For an explanation of the three populations of shooters (secondary school, college, and aberrant adult), please see "About the Site" on www.schoolshooters.info or my book *School Shooters: Understanding High School, College, and Adult Perpetrators*.

P.L. · September 2015

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION USE

Name, Age	None	Past	Recent	Current	Drugs / Alcohol
SECONDARY SCHOOL SHOOTERS					
Michael Slobodian, 16	X				X
Robert Poulin, 18	X				
Brenda Spencer, 16	X				X
Eric Houston, 20	X				X
Scott Pennington, 17	X				
Jamie Rouse, 17	X				X
Barry Loukaitis, 14	X				
Evan Ramsey, 16	X				X
Luke Woodham, 16	X				
Michael Carneal, 14	X				X
Andrew Golden, 11	X				X
Mitchell Johnson, 13	X				X
Andrew Wurst, 14	X				X
Kip Kinkel, 15		X			X
Eric Harris, 18				X	X
Dylan Klebold, 17	X				X
T.J. Solomon, 14				X	X
Seth Trickey, 13	X				
Nathaniel Brazill, 13	X				
Andy Williams, 15	X				X
Jason Hoffman, 18		X			
Robert Steinhäuser, 19	X				X
John McLaughlin, 15	X				
Jeffrey Weise, 16				X	X
Alvaro Castillo, 18			X		
Eric Hainstock, 15		X			X
Asa Coon, 14		X			
Pekka-Eric Auvinen, 18		X			
Tim Kretschmer, 17	X				X
Robert Butler, Jr., 17	X				X
T.J. Lane III, 17	X				
Bryan Oliver, 16	X				

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION USE

Name, Age	None	Past	Recent	Current	Drugs / Alcohol
Jose Reyes, 12				X	
Karl Pierson, 18		X			X
Mason Campbell, 12	X				
Jared Padgett, 15	X				
Jaylen Fryberg, 15	X				
Total = 37	27	6	1	4	20
Percentage	73%	16%	3%	11%	54%

COLLEGE SHOOTERS

Charles Whitman, 25	X				X
Edward Allaway, 37	X				
Gang Lu, 28	X				X
Valery Fabrikant, 52	X				
Wayne Lo, 18	X				
Frederick Davidson, 36	X				
Peter Odighizuwa, 43		X			X
Robert Flores, 41	X				
Biswanath Halder, 62	X				X
Seung Hui Cho, 23		X			
Steven Kazmierczak, 27			X		X
Matti Saari, 22				X	X
Amy Bishop, 44	X				
One Goh, 43	X				
Total = 14	10	2	1	1	6
Percentage	71%	14%	7%	7%	43%

ABERRANT ADULT SHOOTERS

Tyrone Mitchell, 28	X				X
Laurie Dann, 30				X	
James Wilson, 19		X			X
Patrick Purdy, 24		X			X
Marc Lépine, 25	X				
Thomas Hamilton, 43	X				
Jillian Robbins, 19		X			

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION USE

Name, Age	None	Past	Recent	Current	Drugs / Alcohol
Kimveer Gill, 25	X				X
Duane Morrison	X				X
Jiverly Wong, 41	X				
Bruco Eastwood, 32	X				X
Brendan O'Rourke, 41	X				
Wellington de Oliveira, 23	X				
Adam Lanza, 20		X			
Elliot Rodger, 22				X	X
Aaron Ybarra, 26		X			X
Myron May, 31				X	X
Total = 17	10	5	0	3	9
Percentage	59%	29%	0%	18%	53%

TOTALS

Secondary school shooters:

Total = 37	27	6	1	4	19
Percentage	73%	16%	3%	11%	51%

College school shooters:

Total = 14	10	2	1	1	6
Percentage	71%	14%	7%	7%	43%

Aberrant adult shooters:

Total = 17	10	5	0	3	9
Percentage	59%	29%	0%	18%	53%

Grand totals:

Total = 68	47	13	2	8	35
Percentage	69%	19%	3%	12%	52%