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# Tally of Shooters' Use of Psychiatric Medications and Substance Abuse

*Compiled by*

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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 taken psychiatric medications at the time of their attacks. Based on my research, these claims are false. This document summarizes my findings.<sup>1</sup> For a discussion of each shooter's medication history, see my article "Psychiatric Medications and School Shooters," available at *School Shooters .info*. The following designations are used in the table:

*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 in instances when perpetrators were known to have used medications, exact information has not always been available, so there was subjectivity involved in classifying certain shooters. In ambiguous cases, I was guided by documented facts rather than speculation. For example, Alvaro Castillo's journal documented medication use within three weeks of his attack; it is not known whether he was taking 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.

1 [This document includes incidents through 2014; we hope in a future revision to extend the coverage up to the present. — Ed., 2026]

I have also attempted to identify 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.

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 each perpetrator was known to have used illegal drugs or alcohol at any time. 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 on the morning of his attack.) Also, as with the use of 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.

Within each category, the perpetrators are ordered chronologically by attack date. For an explanation of the three populations of shooters (secondary school, college, and aberrant adult), please see the page “Dr. Langman’s Model” at *School Shooters.info* or my book *School Shooters: Understanding High School, College, and Adult Perpetrators*. Percentages are rounded to the nearest integer.

Perpetrator, age	Psychiatric medication use				Drugs/alcohol	
	None	Past	Recent	Current	No	Yes
<i>Secondary school shooters</i>						
Michael Slobodian, 16	✓					✓
Robert Poulin, 18	✓				✓	
Brenda Spencer, 16	✓					✓
Eric Houston, 20	✓					✓
Scott Pennington, 17	✓				✓	
Jamie Rouse, 17	✓					✓
Barry Loukaitis, 14	✓				✓	
Evan Ramsey, 16	✓					✓
Luke Woodham, 16	✓				✓	
Michael Carneal, 14	✓					✓
Andrew Golden, 11	✓					✓
Mitchell Johnson, 13	✓					✓
Andrew Wurst, 14	✓					✓
Kip Kinkel, 15		✓				✓
Eric Harris, 18				✓		✓
Dylan Klebold, 17	✓					✓
T.J. Solomon, 14				✓		✓

Perpetrator, age	Psychiatric medication use				Drugs/alcohol	
	None	Past	Recent	Current	No	Yes
Seth Trickey, 13	✓				✓	
Nathaniel Brazill, 13	✓				✓	
Andy Williams, 15	✓					✓
Jason Hoffman, 18		✓			✓	
Robert Steinhäuser, 19	✓					✓
John McLaughlin, 15	✓				✓	
Jeffrey Weise, 16				✓		✓
Alvaro Castillo, 18			✓		✓	
Eric Hainstock, 15		✓				✓
Asa Coon, 14		✓			✓	
Pekka-Eric Auvinen, 18		✓			✓	
Tim Kretschmer, 17	✓					✓
Robert Butler, Jr., 17	✓					✓
T.J. Lane III, 17	✓				✓	
Bryan Oliver, 16	✓				✓	
Jose Reyes, 12				✓	✓	
Karl Pierson, 18		✓				✓
Mason Campbell, 12	✓				✓	
Jared Padgett, 15	✓				✓	
Jaylen Fryberg, 15	✓				✓	
Total = 37	27	6	1	4	17	20
Percentage	73%	16%	3%	11%	46%	54%

*College shooters*

Charles Whitman, 25	✓					✓
Edward Allaway, 37	✓				✓	
Gang Lu, 28	✓					✓
Valery Fabrikant, 52	✓				✓	
Wayne Lo, 18	✓				✓	
Frederick Davidson, 36	✓				✓	
Peter Odighizuwa, 43		✓				✓
Robert Flores, 41	✓				✓	
Biswanath Halder, 62	✓					✓
Seung Hui Cho, 23		✓			✓	
Steven Kazmierczak, 27			✓			✓
Matti Saari, 22				✓		✓
Amy Bishop, 44	✓				✓	
One Goh, 43	✓				✓	
Total = 14	10	2	1	1	8	6
Percentage	71%	14%	7%	7%	57%	43%

Perpetrator, age	Psychiatric medication use				Drugs/alcohol	
	None	Past	Recent	Current	No	Yes
<i>Aberrant adult shooters</i>						
Tyrone Mitchell, 28	✓					✓
Laurie Dann, 30				✓	✓	
James Wilson, 19		✓				✓
Patrick Purdy, 24		✓				✓
Marc Lépine, 25	✓				✓	
Thomas Hamilton, 43	✓				✓	
Jillian Robbins, 19		✓			✓	
Kimveer Gill, 25	✓					✓
Duane Morrison	✓					✓
Jiverly Wong, 41	✓				✓	
Bruco Eastwood, 32	✓					✓
Brendan O'Rourke, 41	✓				✓	
Wellington de Oliveira, 23	✓				✓	
Adam Lanza, 20		✓			✓	
Elliot Rodger, 22				✓		✓
Aaron Ybarra, 26		✓				✓
Myron May, 31				✓		✓
Total = 17	10	5	0	3	8	9
Percentage	59%	29%	0%	18%	47%	53%
<i>Totals</i>						
Secondary school shooters						
Total = 37	27	6	1	4	17	19
Percentage	73%	16%	3%	11%	46%	51%
College school shooters						
Total = 14	10	2	1	1	8	6
Percentage	71%	14%	7%	7%	57%	43%
Aberrant adult shooters						
Total = 17	10	5	0	3	8	9
Percentage	59%	29%	0%	18%	47%	53%
Grand totals						
Total = 68	47	13	2	8	33	35
Percentage	69%	19%	3%	12%	49%	52%

[SS.I]