AN EXPLORATION OF
Female Mass Shooters

This research provides an exploratory examination of female mass shooters in the United States (1979-2019).

Methods
We identify all female mass shooters who carried out attacks against random victims in public locations within a 24-hour period. We then identify common perpetrator, motivation, and incident characteristics.

Findings
- A small population of 20 female mass shooters were identified over 41-years.
- They were not motivated by relationship disputes or grievances.
- Attacks predominately occurred within the workplace.
- They sometimes worked with co-offenders, especially when engaging in ideologically motivated attacks.
- Female mass shooters more closely aligned with male mass shooters than other female homicide and mass murder offenders.

Implications
- Female mass shooters are especially rare compared to male mass shooters and other female homicide offenders.
- Despite their rarity, scholars risk losing knowledge about female mass shooters when they are not uniquely considered.
- As research continues to examine female mass violence, evidence-based policies and practices for prevention and response should continue to develop.

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