

# 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.**

**Authors: Dr. Jason R. Silva & Dr. Margaret A. Schmuhl**

**For more information, please visit: [www.jmvr.org](http://www.jmvr.org)**