**School Violence Class Project**

**Assignment Overview**

In this course, we will learn about risk assessment, threat assessment and the FBI typology of warning behaviors. We will first begin with examining incidents of school shootings. Towards the end of the course, we will examine incidents of workplace shootings.

We will build an interactive map and timeline of school shootings between 2004 and 2014. This map and timeline will be the dataset that you will analyze in the first reflective paper assignment.

For your final paper, you will be asked to individually write up a case analysis of an assigned incident of workplace violence. The process that you will complete for the school shooting project will help you with your final assignment.

**Objectives:**

At the completion of this project the student should be able to:

1. Identify the factors related to incidents of school shootings from a 10 year period in the United States (2004-2014).
2. Identify and discuss the major theories and research on the causes of school violence.
3. Learn to enter data in a google sheets and generate a map for incidents of school shootings and workplace shootings.
4. Discuss the role of contextual factors, such as time, place, culture, race,and SES in understanding school shootings.
5. Identify patterns in incidents of school shootings.

**Assignment Instructions:**

**Data Collection Process (first for school shooting map, then for workplace map)**

Phase I: Identify potential incidents

Phase II: Select relevant cases

Phase III: Open source data collection

Phase IV: Coding on Google sheets (and professor on SPSS spreadsheet)

**Mapping**

Google maps

**Definition of incident for inclusion:**

For this assignment, an incident of school or workplace shooting is defined as an event in which one or more individuals actively engage in killing or attempting to kill multiple people in a school or workplace setting using a gun.

At the core of this definition is the intent of the offenders to kill at least multiple victims and, at most, kill as many people as possible. Given that a large portion of offenders die during the attack, it is impossible to know their intent. However, for the purpose of this assignment, we will rely on the observable implications of the attack itself to collect evidence for or against this key criterion. **These observable implications** include factors such as:

1. the number of shots fired,
2. number of people targeted,
3. number of people killed,
4. And weapons used.
5. Prior statements, confessions, and witness accounts are also examined to examine the intent of the offender(s).

**Data Collection of Specific Variables**

**Social Effects:**

1. **Neighborhood effects.** The underlying assumption here is that the risk of experiencing a school or workplace shooting for each state will be directly influenced by the presence or absence of events in other states. This risk is presumed to increase if other states have experienced an event and to decrease if they have not.

In case of neighborhood effects, the strength of the effect is assumed to be bigger if the event occurred closer in space to that state.

1. **Time effects:** For time effects, the influence will be stronger and closer in time.

**Demographic Community Factors:**

1. Size of population in location of incident.
2. Percent of the population in the 15-29 age bracket in that location.
3. Average household size in the community.
4. Median household income.
5. Percent of population with a Bachelor’s degree
6. Percent of population 16 and over who are unemployed.
7. Racial breakdown of the community.

**Offender Characteristics:**

1. Race/Ethnicity
2. Gender
3. Age
4. Marital Status
5. Familiarity with firearms
6. Mental health status
7. Education level
8. Criminal Record
9. Gun ownership

**Preparation Stage:**

1. Precipitator (offender experienced an event or crisis that led to the attack)
2. Acquired firearm: in preparation for the attack
3. Training: engaged in some type of training for the attack
4. Knowledge of location
5. Level of planning

**Execution state:**

1. Date of event
2. Location of event
3. Relationship to target
4. Offender’s relationship to the location
5. Offender has authorized access to location
6. Duration of event
7. Number injured
8. Number killed
9. Number of firearms used by offender
10. Type of firearm
11. Offender used additional non-firearm weapons during attack
12. Assault rifle used

**Conclusion Stage:**

1. Surrenders
2. Killed
3. Suicide
4. Encounters lethal force during event (whether or not led to death)
5. Encountered non-lethal force during event

**Typology based on FBI threat criteria:** this data will be gathered and used for the student’s individual case analysis that will be due at the end of the semester**.**

**Sources of data:**

1. Government reports

1. Peer-reviewed articles
2. News organizations
3. Research organizations
4. Blogs
5. School-sponsored reports
6. Online encyclopedias
7. Other sources of data for this project will come from the United States Decennial Census for the years 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010; as well as the American Community Survey (ACS) for the years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The census is conducted once every ten years; hence, some data will be missing in the years between decennial censuses.