



Parent PRiMER

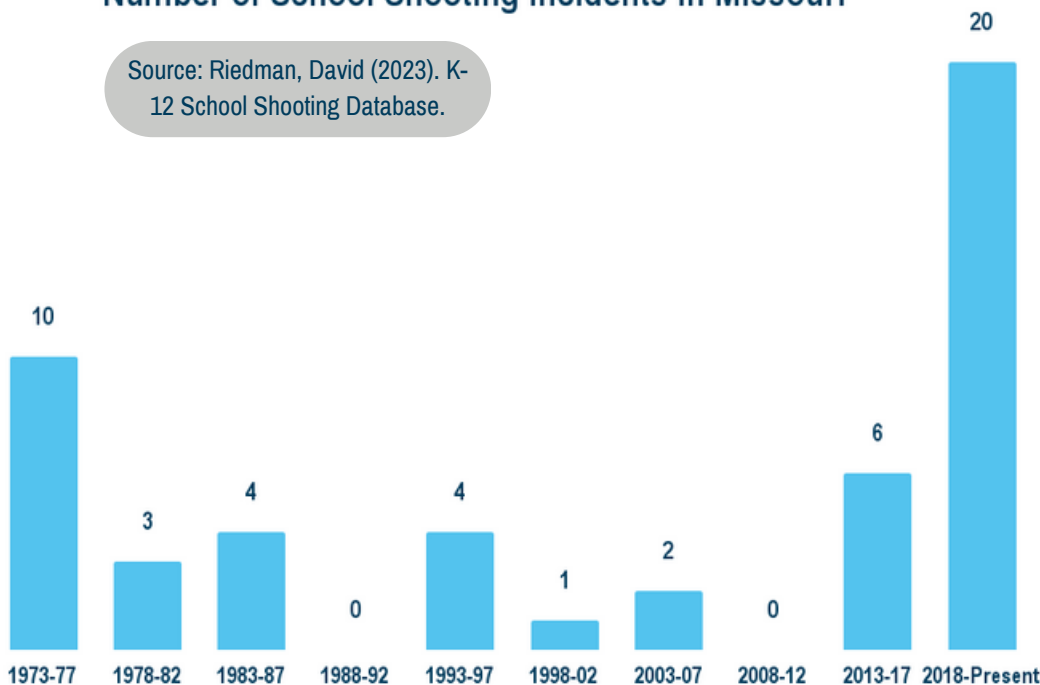
School Safety: Gun Violence

How common are school shootings in Missouri?

Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Missouri. In the last five years, there were 2x more school shooting incidents than there had been in any previous five-year period.

Number of School Shooting Incidents in Missouri

Source: Riedman, David (2023). K-12 School Shooting Database.



A SLU/YouGov poll found that 75% of Missourians are at least slightly worried about a shooting happening in their local public school.

What are states doing to stop school shootings?

- 17 states require you to be 21 to purchase a handgun
- 10 states require you to be 21 to possess a firearm
- 14 states require a background check to purchase a firearm
- 19 states have Red Flag Laws allowing loved ones to petition law enforcement to temporarily confiscate the guns of someone in crisis

Missouri has none of these laws in place.

Missouri recently approved \$50 million for school safety grants, increasing upon last year's \$20 million allocation. These funds have gone to efforts like new surveillance systems and a school emergency response app.



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School Safety: Gun Violence

Policies Missourians Support:

79%

support requiring criminal background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales

77%

support requiring public schools to have a police officer on campus (often referred to as school resource officers)
When an armed guard is present, the rate of deaths in a school shootings has been shown to be 2.83 times greater.

69%

support requiring mental health background checks for all those buying guns

69%

support requiring people to be 21 years old before purchasing a gun

60%

support requiring people who purchase handguns to wait 72 hours before they receive that gun

60%

support passing red flag laws that allow a court to temporarily remove guns from people that are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others

Source: SLU/YouGov Poll



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