

- My experience
 - Assistant Professor of Criminology at St. Vincent College in Latrobe
 - 11 years as a high school educator and school counselor
 - Study school violence and mass/active shooting event
- Research
 - Doctoral research studied active and mass shootings between 1966-2012
 - 251 shooters who perpetrated 245 events
- The twofold problem
 - Small percentage of people in the US who experience social, academic, and professional failure, tragedy, and threats to masculinity
 - Respond with symbolic, lethal violence
 - Sense of safety in public places threatened
 - Helplessness of American public
- Fear at school
 - Children in school have been victimized for years
 - From fights to threats and bullying
 - 65 percent of principals reported incidents of violent crime in their school
 - Higher rates in urban areas compared to suburban and rural areas
 - Now fear of school is common for all students
 - Theories of crime and victimization are constant despite differences in root causes
- Criminological theory
 - Relates to problem, research, and policy solutions
 - Strain theory
 - Stressors and negative experiences create pressure to engage in criminal coping
 - Can explain gang membership, bullying, and school shootings
 - Routine activities
 - Elements necessary for a crime to occur:
 - A motivated offender
 - A suitable target
 - A lack of capable guardianship
 - Social bond theory
 - Attachment, commitment, belief, and involvement in prosocial relationships create social controls that prevent crime
- Responses to school violence
 - Examples: closed circuit security cameras, metal detectors, armed officers
 - Especially since Columbine
 - Research shows that enhanced security measures increase fear among students
 - Also, profoundly expensive and often ineffective or marginally effective

- Zero-tolerance policies
 - Contrary to adolescent development in terms of deterrence and impulsivity
 - Negatively affect social bonds and contribute to school-to-prison pipeline
- Experience as a counselor
 - Busy days, overwhelming responsibilities, and unmanageable caseloads made preventative measures nearly impossible
 - Similar problem among teachers and other school employees
- Solutions
 - Conduct thorough exploratory research before considering arming teachers
 - School employees would be better served with warning signs and threat assessment training
 - Add more counselors in school to lower the student-to-counselor ratio
 - Would allow for more positive prevention and lessen likelihood for the future
 - Can monitor more for strains and stressors
 - Incentivize program implementation in schools
 - Free programming and easy implementation through Sandy Hook Promise organization
 - Speaks to social bonds and decreases social isolation
 - Implement Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOs) at the state-level
 - Already implemented in Indiana, California, Connecticut, Oregon, and Washington
 - Allows law enforcement and family members to petition a court to suspend a person's access to firearms
 - Many school shooters exhibited warning signs including threats
 - ERPOs would likely have prevented some of those incidents

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