



Research In the News

Questions About the Article ?

A SCHOOL SHOOTING EVERY WEEK?

This article investigates a quote by Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn) who said, “Since Sandy Hook, there has been a school shooting, on average, every week.” He made this statement on the Senate floor after the killing of nine people at a prayer meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. This is not the first time this statistic has been used, but where did it come from? The article reports that it was calculated by a group called “Everytown for Gun Safety” that has counted the tally of school shootings since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting as 126 as of June 8, 2015. How does the group define a school shooting? Any incident in which a firearm was discharged inside a school building or on school or campus grounds, as documented by the press or confirmed through further inquiries with law enforcement, was deemed a school shooting.

1. Does this definition of *school shootings* capture what we typically mean by a school shooting? For example, it would include accidental shootings as well as suicides or attempted suicides.
2. What other types of incidents would be included in this definition that we don't typically associate with school shootings? What definition would you use if you were going to measure the incidence of school shootings?

Source: Lee, M. Y. H. (2015, June 29). Has there been one school shooting per week since Sandy Hook? *The Washington Post*. Retrieved August 2, 2015, from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/wp/2015/06/29/has-there-been-one-school-shooting-per-week-since-sandy-hook/>