



## Law Enforcement Against Mass Shootings in United States

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### ABSTRACT

The occurrence of mass shootings in the United States is a major issue due to its complexity and controversy, representing a serious problem or incident. In this study, we investigate the challenges faced by law enforcement in handling mass shootings, including interagency coordination and risk management for societal security. We analyze various policy approaches taken to enhance law enforcement effectiveness in preventing and reform efforts needed to prevent similar incidents in the future, addressing gun laws and solutions to response to mass shootings. A review of literature methods and case studies that will present a research approach using written sources such as journals, books, articles, and other documents as a basis for compiling, analyzing, synthesizing knowledge and data on identifying cases of mass shootings in the United States or a specific case.

## INTRODUCTION

Law enforcement against mass shootings in the United States is a complex challenge amid increasing concerns about gun violence. Every mass shooting incident shakes society and demands stronger action from the authorities. Tragic incidents that occur in schools, workplaces, and other public places have caused loss of life and created deep feelings of trauma for the people of the United States. These incidents not only triggered feelings of sadness and anger but also raised awareness about the complexity of security in an increasingly connected society. Behind each coordinated attack, there is an intensive effort by law enforcement agencies to identify, arrest, and prosecute the perpetrators. However, in the face of easy access to firearms and motives, one is often faced with challenges beyond simply implementing the law.

Mass shootings in the United States often raise deep questions about a variety of issues, including gun regulation, mental health, school safety, social inequality, and policing policies in law enforcement. These debates reflect deep differences in views among people in the United States, from the need to strengthen gun regulations to maintaining a balance between human rights and public safety. In this context, we will understand more deeply the factors that influence mass shootings and efforts to prevent and deal with such incidents, which are very important and take lives. Through comprehensive analysis, we can identify behavioral patterns, formulate effective prevention strategies, and strengthen the law enforcement system to protect society from the threat of firearm violence.

## THEORETICAL REVIEW

### *Law Enforcement*

Law enforcement is the process of implementing and complying with the laws and regulations that apply in a country or region. As in the opinion of Soerjono Soekanto (1983: 3) regarding law enforcement: namely an activity that aims to harmonize the relationship between the values contained in the rules, the final stage values for creating, maintaining and maintaining peaceful social life. Law enforcement according to Satjipto Raharjo: Law enforcement is essentially the enforcement of ideas or concepts of justice, truth, social benefit, and so on. In this case it does not only include enforcement and supervision actions, but also involves the function of education and socialization of legal values in society. Thus, law enforcement is not only about upholding justice but also about building awareness of the law and changing or improving the behavior of society or individuals towards compliance and compliance with the law. Utilitarianism theory, is a form of theory that understands ethics based on good actions are actions that produce profits, are useful, and produce the most and good consequences for most people. This theory was developed by philosophers such as Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. Rational Choice Theory was developed by James S. Soleman: it is a school of thought based on the assumption that individuals choose the action that best suits their personal preferences. And, individuals try to actively maximize their profits in any situation, and consistently minimize the losses they will incur.

Meanwhile, according to this research, why mass shootings occur in the United States is because most of the perpetrators have mental disorders and there are social factors that encourage these shootings, according to data from Lankford. However, in another study the number of mental disorders in the United States did not increase significantly, while the number of mass shootings continued to increase.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research uses literature and case study methods. The application of the two methods is the literature method, the first is literature analysis of journals, articles, books, and reports as well as data related to mass shootings in the United States. Systematic reviews conduct reviews of relevant literature to identify trends, key findings, and knowledge gaps in research on mass shootings. Then there are 2 applications of the case study method, namely case analysis, selecting several significant mass shooting cases and analyzing them in depth to understand the context, motive, law enforcement response, and impact on society. Then the second is a Longitudinal Study, following the development of mass shooting cases from overtime to evaluate law enforcement responses, policy changes, and organizational learning from each incident.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Acts of terrorism are a form of crime that not only threatens the safety of individuals but also the country. Terrorism can be said to be action or action. Etymologically, the word 'terror' itself as the root of terrorism is taken from the Latin word 'terrere' which means to cause trembling or fear. Terrorism causes the murder of innocent people. The magnitude of the losses resulting from criminal acts of terrorism, namely life, property, and even psychological problems for victims and the community, means that the death penalty is very appropriate to be imposed on perpetrators of terrorism. So, terrorism is an act that always contains elements of unlawfulness where the actions carried out contain threats that cause anxiety in society, this can also contain acts of threat against the government, ethnic groups, political parties, or certain groups. Terrorism is an act that usually has political, religious, or coercive aims in implementing an ideology. The characteristics of terrorism are as follows:

- a.) Acts of terrorism can be aimed at intimidating or influencing state government policy.
- b.) Acts of terrorism are carried out through actions that do not respect international law or international ethics.
- c.) The short-term goal of acts of terrorism is to attract the attention of the NASA media and public attention.

Experts explain the difference between terror and terrorism, some argue that "terror" is a form of thought, while "terrorism" is an act or act of terror that is organized in such a way. Of the many opinions about the differences between the two, most agree that terror can occur without terrorism because terror is the original element inherent in terrorism. Security issues are a special form of study

in political science, but not all political conflicts are security issues. This means that the solution to a dispute is achieved using an agreement or agreement that contains rules principles or institutions to resolve their problem or it also means non-violence. In this discussion, there are various important aspects to the role of shootings in the United States. Law enforcement in the United States regarding mass shootings in the United States involves various institutions and legal entities at the local, state, and federal levels, namely as follows:

1. Local Police, local police departments are responsible for handling law enforcement in their respective areas. They are often the first units to respond to mass shooting incidents in their communities.
2. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the FBI has an important role in investigating mass shooting cases involving transnational or international criminal elements. They can also provide technical assistance and forensic analysis to local law enforcement agencies.
3. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the ATF is responsible for the regulation of firearms in the United States. They are involved in investigating the circulation of illegal firearms and carrying out law enforcement against violations related to firearms.
4. District Attorney's Office, namely the public prosecutor's office at the local or state level is responsible for prosecuting criminals, including perpetrators of mass shootings in court.
5. United States Department of Justice (Department of Justice), the US Justice Department has various agencies and agencies, including the Weapons and Violence Enforcement Division which focuses on law enforcement against crimes involving firearms and violence.
6. United States Department of Homeland Security (Department of Homeland Security), DHS has a role in protecting the country from domestic threats, including acts of violence such as mass shootings. They can assist law enforcement agencies in investigating and handling these incidents.

Collaboration between these various agencies is important to effectively address mass shootings and ensure public safety. Although each institution has its own role and authority, cooperation and coordination between institutions are very necessary to respond to this complex challenge. In the United States, there is no single federal law that specifically addresses mass shootings. But there are a number of federal laws and state regulations that can be relevant in the context of mass shootings, including the following:

1. Gun Control Laws, there are a number of federal laws that regulate the purchase, ownership, and use of firearms in the United States. An example is the Gun Control Act of 1968, which has been amended several times since then.

2. The Gun Violence Victim Protection Act, known as the “Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act” of 1993 regulates the background check process for firearms buyers.
3. Mental Health Information Protection Act, several laws such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Protects individual health information, but there is debate about how this information should be organized and used in the context of violence risk assessment.
4. Terrorism Law, there are laws relating to the prevention and prosecution of acts of violence caused by terrorist motives, including mass shootings.
5. State Regulations, many states in the United States have their own laws and regulations governing firearms, violence and public safety, which can be relevant in cases of mass shootings.

Due to the complexity of law in the United States, as well as the various political and social interests involved. No single law specifically targets mass shootings by itself. Efforts to address these problems often involve a series of policies and regulations at the federal, state, and local levels. Response Evaluation examines how the community, including victims, victims' families, and local residents are doing. Reacting to mass shootings and the support and recovery efforts provided to them. Public responses to mass shootings in the United States can vary depending on many factors, including location, cultural background, and personal experiences. These include: Public debate, grief and trauma, demands for action, activism, raising awareness.

Meanwhile, the victim's perspective is on the level of trauma, the social support they receive, and the resources available to support their recovery. Some victim responses include:

1. Seeking Emotional Support. Many victims will seek support from their family, from friends, and mental health professionals to help them overcome grief and trauma.
2. Physical and Mental Healing Process. Victims who suffer physical injuries may require intensive medical care and long-term rehabilitation. Additionally they may need mental health support to deal with the psychological impact of the experience.
3. Legal Process. Victims and their families may be involved in legal proceedings related to shootings, including investigations, trials and compensation.
4. Recovery and Adaptation. Although the recovery process may be long and difficult, many victims of mass shootings manage to survive and find ways to adjust to their new lives after the tragedy.

5. Trauma and Grief. Victims of mass shootings often experience deep levels of trauma and grief resulting in serious injuries. They may experience post-traumatic stress symptoms such as anxiety, depression, and persistent fear.

Law enforcement's discussion of mass shooting fatalities in the United States covers a wide range of aspects, involving efforts to identify, prosecute, and prevent gun violence as well as providing support to victims and their families. The psychology of the perpetrator is the main thing that will be examined. And several psychological factors of the perpetrators, namely mental or personality disorders, some perpetrators of mass shootings have a history of undiagnosed or untreated mental disorders, despair or confusion, namely using violence as a way to express their anger or frustration, emotional instability, narratives of revenge or glorification of some perpetrators may be exposed to retaliatory or glorifying narratives that justify violence as a way to solve problems or gain attention, loss of control and the influence of environmental factors such as social isolation, economic instability, or past experiences of violence may also play a role in shaping the perpetrator's psychology.

Evaluation of the Prevention Program for mass shootings in the United States involves an analysis of the various efforts that have been made to reduce the risk and impact of mass shootings, namely as follows:

1. Implementation of Prevention  
Programs Evaluation of the implementation of these programs that have been adopted and implemented in the community, as well as their effectiveness in reducing the risk of mass shootings.
2. Community Awareness  
Analysis of the level of public awareness about the risk of mass shootings and available prevention efforts. This evaluation can include the extent to which the community understands warning signs, knows how to act in emergency situations, and supports prevention efforts.
3. Policy accuracy  
Evaluate policies that have been implemented to prevent mass shootings, such as fire regulations, violence prevention programs or efforts to increase security in public places. Questions that need to be asked include whether the policy is appropriate, effective and well implemented
4. Collaboration and Partnership  
Evaluation of the level of collaboration and partnership between law enforcement agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in efforts to prevent mass shootings. This includes evaluation of inter-institutional coordination, information exchange, and support provided by each party.

5. Long Term Impact

Evaluate the long-term impact of efforts to prevent mass shootings, including changes in levels of gun violence, reductions in the number of victims, and changes in public behavior in response to warning signs.

6. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

The importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of prevention programs. This makes it possible to identify weaknesses in systems, adjust countermeasures, and improve responses to evolving threats.

*Legal and Constitutional Aspects*

Some aspects that need to be considered include: First, namely the Second Amendment, the United States Constitution gives individuals the right to own and carry firearms. This has been the subject of intense debate, with arguments between the need for regulation to prevent the misuse of firearms. Second, gun regulation, although the Second Amendment places restrictions on gun ownership, the federal and state governments have the authority to regulate and supervise the ownership, sale and use of firearms. A number of laws and regulations have been enacted to regulate access to firearms, including background checks and bans on certain weapons. Third, the criminal law of perpetrators of mass shootings is usually faced with a criminal legal process that includes prosecution for their violent actions. The criminal justice system in the United States focuses on punishment and rehabilitation while ensuring the protection of the rights of the accused. Fourth, Prevention and Intelligence. Law enforcement is also involved in efforts to prevent mass shootings through intelligence gathering, monitoring potential threats and timely intervention. However, prevention efforts must be in line with the law and civil liberties guaranteed by the constitution. Fifth, Legal Challenges. Policies and law enforcement actions against mass shootings are often tested in court on the basis of constitutionality. For example, regulations regarding background checks or certain gun bans could be disputed by groups who consider them to violate individual rights under the Second Amendment. Sixth, Protection of Human Rights. Regardless of the seriousness of mass shooting crimes, every defendant still has constitutional rights, including the right to a fair defense, the right not to be tortured, and the right not to suffer inhumane or unreasonable punishment.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Conclusions from the research journal "Law Enforcement Against Mass Shootings in the United States" which uses literature and case study methods can summarize the important findings revealed in the research. This research reveals the complexity of the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in responding to mass shootings in the United States. In the context of prevention and law enforcement efforts, researchers highlight the importance of collaboration between agencies, the need for effective firearms regulations, and

prevention efforts that focus on mental health and public awareness. Through literature analysis and case studies, these findings reveal that interagency partnership coordination between government, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations is key in improving responses to mass shootings. Apart from that, the importance of implementing appropriate and effective policies in regulating firearms ownership is the main focus, while still paying attention to individual constitutional rights. The case studies included in the research show the various approaches that law enforcement agencies have taken in handling mass shooting cases, as well as the challenges they have faced in the process. The results of this study provide valuable insights for policymakers, legal practitioners, and researchers to understand the complexities and support prevention and “law enforcement efforts against mass shootings in the United States.”

### ADVANCED RESEARCH

In writing this article the researcher realizes that there are still many shortcomings in terms of language, writing, and form of presentation considering the limited knowledge and abilities of the researchers themselves. Therefore, for the perfection of the article, the researcher expects constructive criticism and suggestions from various parties.

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