

Mass Violence in Oregon: Remembering Tragedies and Exploring Opportunities for Prevention

Data from the Gun Violence Archive were used to summarize mass shooting incidents in Oregon from 2018-2023. Data from Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law were examined to understand threats of mass violence, including mass shootings, in the state.

IN OREGON FROM 2018 TO 2023:¹

18

mass shooting
incidents* occurred

13

individuals
were killed

73

individuals
were injured

*A mass shooting incident is defined as 4+ people being injured or killed, not including the shooter.



2/3 of the incidents occurred
on weekends (Fri.-Sun.)



All but 1 incident occurred
between 6 PM and 6 AM



4 incidents were drive-by
shootings



8 incidents involved shooting
into large crowds



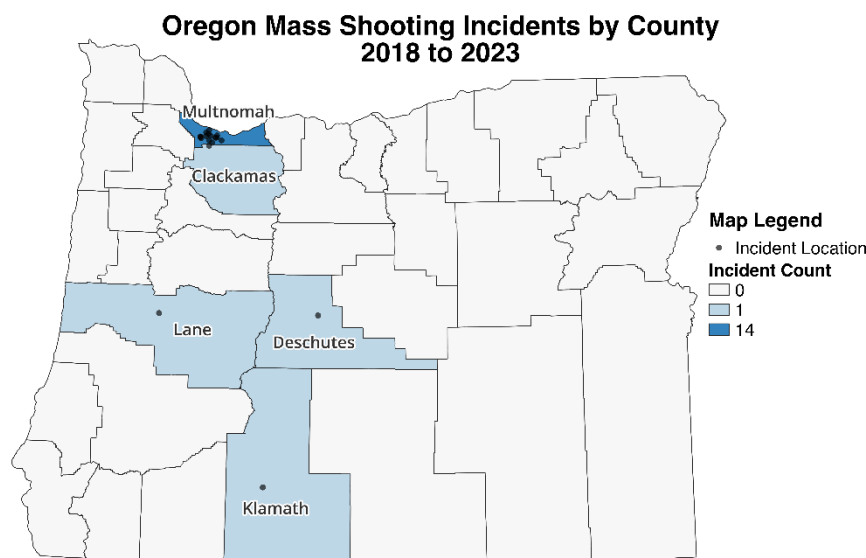
2 incidents started as
apparent robbery attempts



2 incidents occurred at vigils
for victims of gun violence

Where did these mass shooting incidents occur?

- 14 of the 18 mass shooting incidents occurred in **Multnomah County**.
- The **most common locations** of the incidents included:
 - **Public streets/sidewalks and motor vehicles** (n=5);
 - **Commercial establishments** (e.g., grocery store, gas station, bar; n=4); and
 - **Public gatherings** (e.g., concert, protest; n=3).



Data Source: Gun Violence Archive

Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Law Provides an Opportunity for Prevention

Oregon's ERPO law allows family/household members or law enforcement officers (LEOs) to petition a civil court for an order to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms and other deadly weapons if the court determines that the person is at **imminent risk of harming themselves or others**.¹ Our team analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records² from January 1, 2018, when the law took effect, through December 31, 2023. Of the **835 ERPO petitions filed** from 2018-2023, **92 (11%) cited mass violence threats**.

Of the 92 ERPO petitions that cited mass violence threats:

90%

were granted
at the initial
hearing

88%

were filed by
LEOs

58%

also cited risks
of suicide or
self-harm

28%

also cited risks
of domestic
violence

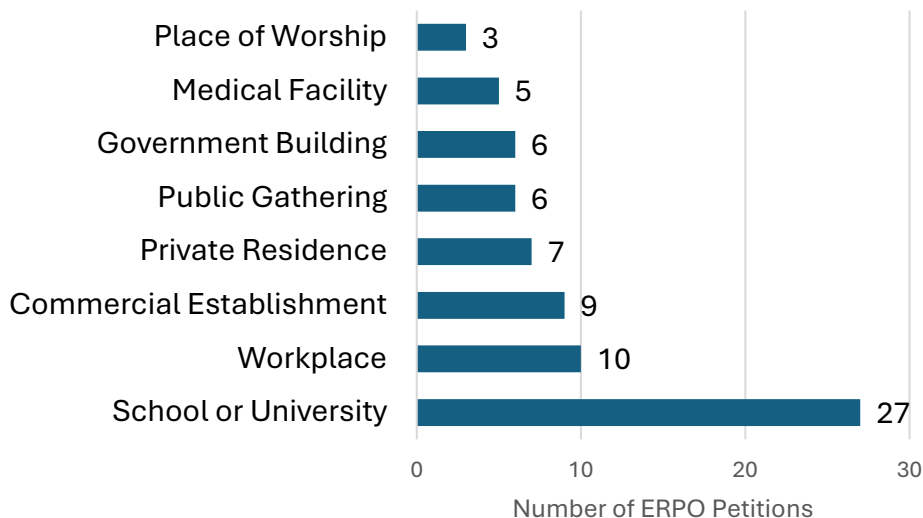
Example scenario from ERPO petition demonstrating threats of mass violence

The respondent was experiencing homicidal thoughts, saying that **voices were telling them to commit a school shooting**. The respondent **reported identifying with and idolizing perpetrators of school shootings** and expressed a **desire to become famous for committing a school shooting**. The petitioner was a law enforcement officer. The ERPO was granted.

What were the primary targets of these mass violence threats?

- **72%** were filed in **Washington, Deschutes, Clackamas, and Multnomah Counties**.
- Among mass violence threats with a known target (67), most targeted **schools/universities** or the respondent's **current or former workplace**.
- When respondents threatened specific people or groups, most threats targeted **family members** (19), **co-workers** (14), or **medical professionals/caregivers** (11).

Locations Named as Targets in Threats of Mass Violence*



* Some petitions included threats to multiple location types. There were 25 petitions that did not specify a location.

1. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Available at: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_166.525.
2. Data were extracted from court records provided by the Oregon Judicial Department.