“Society is not becoming more violent. It is just becoming more televised.”

(Brian Warner aka Marilyn Manson)
FBI Statistics

• Violent Crime is DOWN
• Your chance of being the victim of a violent crime is less than 1/2 than it was in the 1990s
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All Violent Crime</th>
<th>Murder</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>729.6</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>256.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>404.5</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>119.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>386.9</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>112.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>365.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>102.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>386.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>102.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>382.9</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>98.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Media Effects

• **Agenda Setting**: When the mass media pay attention to particular events or issues, they determine, or set the agenda for, the major topics of discussion for individuals or society. They don’t tell us what to think, but they tell us what to think *about*.
  
  • Example:
Media Effects – Cont’d

• **Cultivation:** Heavy viewing of television leads individuals to perceive reality in ways that are consistent with the portrayals they see on television. The more time an audience spends watching TV, the more likely the audience’s view will be “cultivated” by the images and portrayals seen on TV.
Media Effects

• This now includes consumption of social media to a lesser degree.
What is Framing?

• Think of the messages that you get from media. What part of them do you see/hear? What is happening in this photo?
Framing

• Here is another angle: This famous photograph was on the cover of many newspapers. What seems to be happening here?
Media Framing

Watch this video and see what actually happened after the Stanley Cup playoffs in Vancouver, BC, a few years ago. How has your perception changed?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mtURc7mkUg

This is media framing. When you only see or hear part of a story, you form an opinion based on how the event is “framed” for you.
No Existing Laws Would Have Disarmed Synagogue Attacker

• The accused synagogue gunman, Robert Bowers, legally purchased the four guns — an AR-15 assault rifle and three Glock .357 handguns — he allegedly used in his shooting spree in Pittsburgh on Saturday morning.

• Bowers had a handgun license and did not fall into any category barred from gun ownership under federal law, according to ATF

• Bowers owned 10 guns in total, all purchased and possessed legally: the four found at the synagogue; three handguns and two rifles recovered from his residence; and a shotgun recovered from his car outside the synagogue.
Synagogue Shooter

- 1993, the city councils of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia banned assault weapons within their city limits.
- State legislators responded by passing a law that effectively repealed the ordinances.
- A push this year in Pennsylvania to pass a so-called red flag law that would allow the police or relatives to petition a judge to temporarily take weapons away from people who appear to be a threat to themselves or others, even if they have not been adjudicated mentally ill, stalled in the legislature.
8,300 Children and Teens Treated Each Year for Gun Injuries

- Estimated $270 million a year in medical costs (Johns Hopkins)
- Average emergency room and inpatient charges of $2,445 and $44,966 per visit, respectively.

Sample: 75,086 people younger than 18 who arrived alive at a hospital emergency room with a firearm-related injury

86% of the young people in the study group were males with an average age of 15, the report said, and the most common reason for the injury was assault (49 percent) followed by unintentional injuries (38.7 percent).
Cost of Gun Injuries

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Red Flag Laws

- Five states: California, Connecticut, Indiana, Washington and Oregon
- Laws empower relatives and close friends, as well as law enforcement officers, to ask judges to issue “gun violence restraining orders” or “extreme risk protection orders.”
- Guns may be temporarily confiscated – usually lasts a year but can be renewed
- As many as 18 other states have proposals
Connecticut’s Law

• Duke University researchers looked at the application of Connecticut’s red flag law between 1999 and 2013, they found that police served 762 “risk warrants” during that period and estimated that a gun suicide was prevented for every 10 to 20 seizures.

• The police found guns in 99% of the cases in which they served the warrants, seizing an average of 6 firearms from each person. Twenty-one people went on to commit suicide anyway, six by firearms.
State Confiscation Laws

- CA, OR, WA, a family member or law enforcement officer must petition a court about someone who appears to be a threat. Relatives often go to the police and ask them to do so, experts said.

- A judge can quickly order the weapons surrendered if convinced of the threat. Within a few weeks, a full hearing is held on longer-term restrictions, which can last a year. Judges must allow people who want their weapons back to revisit the ruling.

- In Connecticut, only law enforcement agents can ask for a risk warrant. And in Indiana, law enforcement can confiscate weapons without a judge’s order. The gun owner must ask the court to get the weapons returned.
Intimate Partner Violence (IPH)

• Some states go beyond federal law to require people with restraining orders to relinquish firearms in their possession.
• They found IPH rates were 9.7 percent lower in states with these laws, and firearm-specific IPH rates were 14 percent lower.
• “There were 75 fewer IPH deaths in the US in 2015 among states with firearm relinquishment laws than would have been expected in the absence of these laws,” the authors wrote. “Also based on the model, if all 50 states had such laws in place, there would have been an additional 120 fewer IPH deaths across the nation in 2015.”

(from Annals of Internal Medicine, 2017)
Changing attitudes of 18 to 29-year-olds in the US

- Control gun ownership
- Protect gun rights

Source: Pew Research Center
An international comparison of gun-related killings as a % of homicides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US (2016)</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England and Wales (2015/16)</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada (2015)</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia (2013/14)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FBI, Homicide Index Home Office, Statistics Canada, Australia Crime Statistics
Who Owns the World’s Guns?

Top 10 civilian gun-owning countries
Firearms per 100 residents

United States
Yemen
Switzerland
Finland
Cyprus
Saudi Arabia
Iraq
Uruguay
Canada
Austria

Source: Small Arms Survey (2011)
Gun Deaths, 2016

Mass shootings account for a tiny proportion of all gun deaths

Of the total 33,594 who died in 2016 there were...

- 22,938 Suicides
- 14,415 Homicides
- 1,305 Other*

*Other includes accidental deaths and war casualties

Source: CDC/Mother Jones. All figures 2016
Mass Shootings

Worst mass shootings in the US since 1991
Victims killed

- Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017: 58
- Orlando, Florida, 2016: 49
- Virginia Tech, Virginia, 2007: 32
- Sandy Hook, Connecticut, 2012: 27
- Sutherland Springs, Texas, 2017: 26
- Killeen, Texas, 1991: 23
- Parkland, Florida, 2018: 17
- San Bernardino, California, 2015: 14
- Fort Hood, Texas, 2009: 13
- Columbine, Colorado, 1999: 13

Source: FBI/Las Vegas police
Types of guns used in US murders

- Handguns
- Rifles
- Shotguns
- Other guns

Source: FBI (2016)
Americans unhappy with US gun laws want stricter rules

Source: Gallup
Public opinion is most divided over 'concealed carry' policy

% who support each policy

- Preventing the mentally ill from purchasing guns
- Barring gun purchases by people on no-fly or watch lists
- Allowing concealed carry in more places
- Allowing teachers and officials to carry guns in schools

Source: Pew Research Center
• Between 1990-2000 about 400 children were killed with a gun per year
• The U.S. firearm homicide rate in children is 16 times higher than other developed nations
• The U.S. firearm suicide rate in children is 11 times higher than other high income countries
• “The U.S. regions and the states with the most guns have the highest rates of homicide, suicide, and accidental gun deaths of children.”
• The chance of a firearm protecting a child under the age of fourteen is slim to none
Women

• American women account for 70% of all female homicide victims and 84% of all female firearm homicides in the U.S.
• Evidence indicates that guns in the home pose a threat on women's lives
• Guns are used against women to intimidate, wound, and potentially kill
• Few women strike back when they are attacked, most of the time they use firearms.
  • Mostly for self-defense
Which states have ‘red flag’ laws?

A proposed federal law would encourage states to adopt laws that allow seizure of guns from people under specific circumstances — before they commit violent acts.

- **Has law**
- **Considering law**
- **No current proposal**

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Source: Everytown for Gun Safety

THE WASHINGTON POST