

# The Cost Of Mass Shooting

An Analysis Of The United States Of America

## Summary

Mass shooting incidents influence and impact the societal as well as economic paradigm of a country with several factors governing the same. In this report, we at WoRisGo, discuss about them by incorporating the case studies of mass shootings in Buffalo in United States and Christchurch in New Zealand.

Michael Ferkol  
*Principal Consultant - Europe*

Sujata Endaw  
*Risk Analyst*

**27 Aug 2022**



# Cause Effect Analysis



## Cause

### Psycho-Social

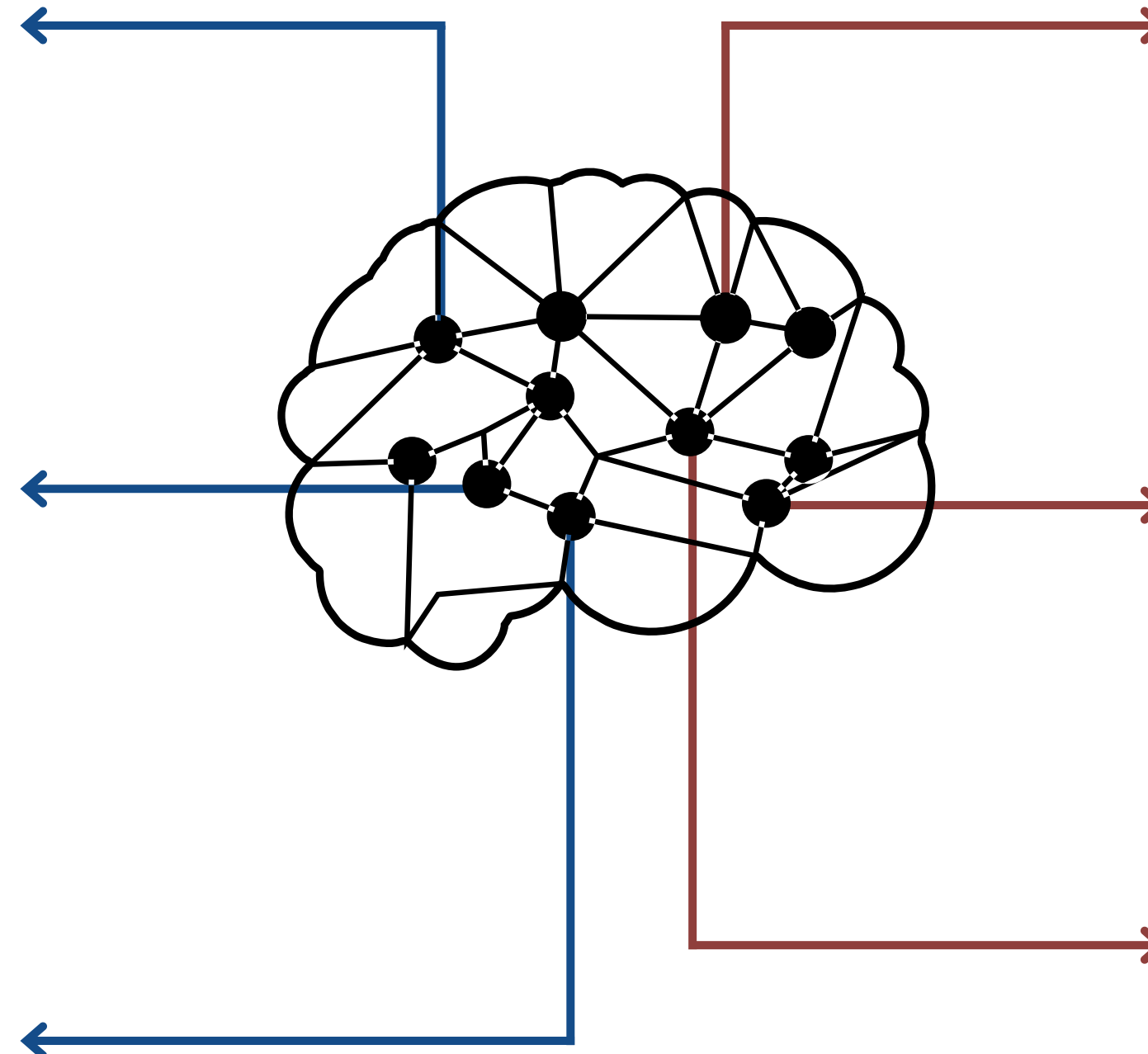
- References to anti-multiculturalism-shootings within last 5 years increasingly incorporate social media chatters.
- Multi-modal mediums of communication that appeal to wider audiences through uncomplicated messaging.

### Pol-Eco

- The perspective behind white supremacy finds a compatriot in the notion of 'us vs them' as was witnessed during the tenure of Donald Trump, Brexit et cetera.

### Regulatory

- Questions of Free speech pertaining to the government having the authority to regulate in hopes of preventing extremist material from proliferating on public forums.



## Effect

### Psycho-Social

- 4chan, 8chan, Reddit, and Twitch allow collective identity to exist amongst mass shooters through similar tropes.
- Leads to imitation by other individuals/groups who connect with the tropes being shared by such public forums.

### Pol-Eco

- Anti-immigration, police protocols/incentivization of politics, political polarization, economic mobility across demographics are mobilized in all extremes during political campaigns and policy-making

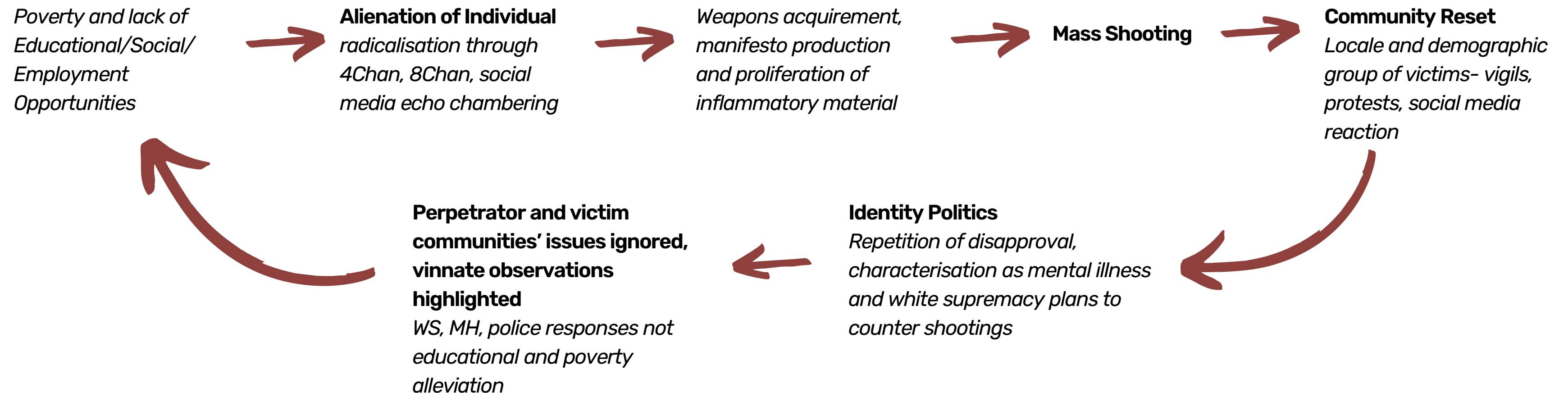
### Regulatory

- Debates on Censorship- individual corporate purview on acceptable material versus government mandated permission

# Case Study - Buffalo



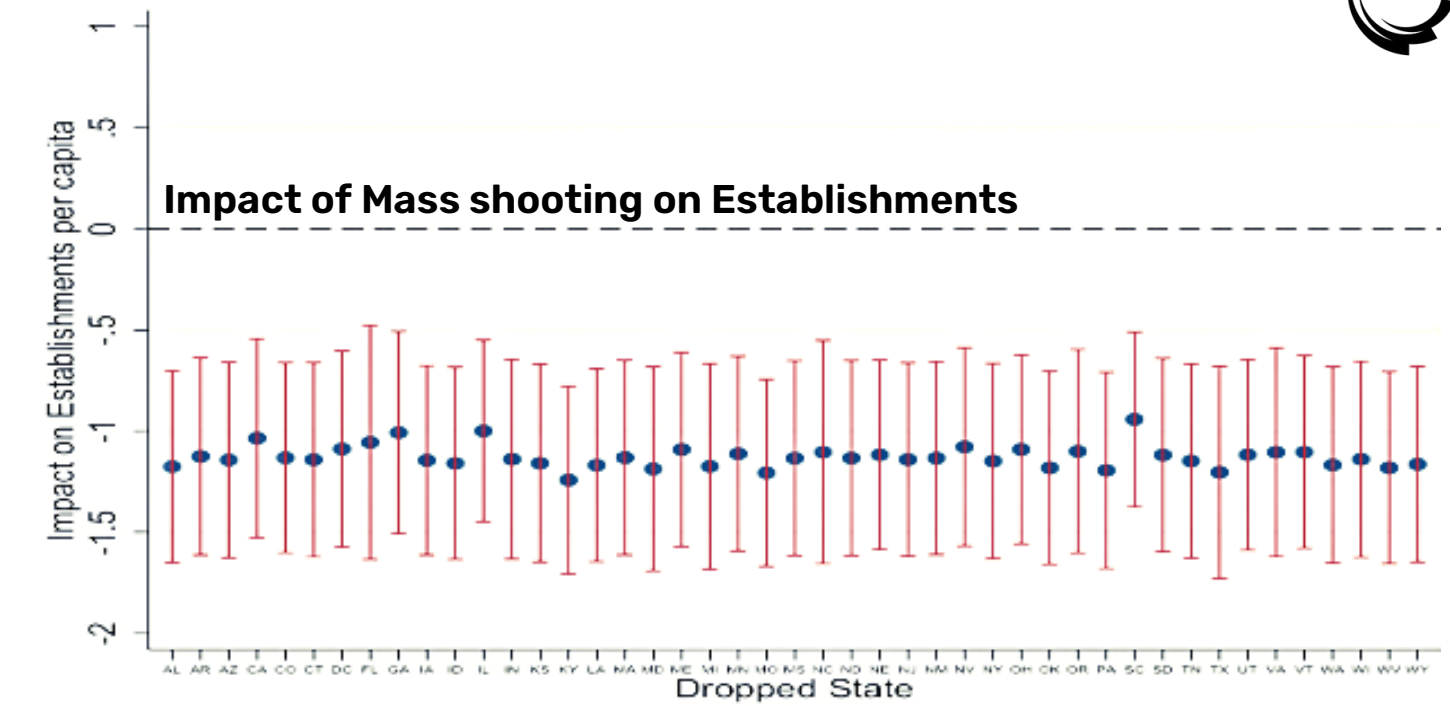
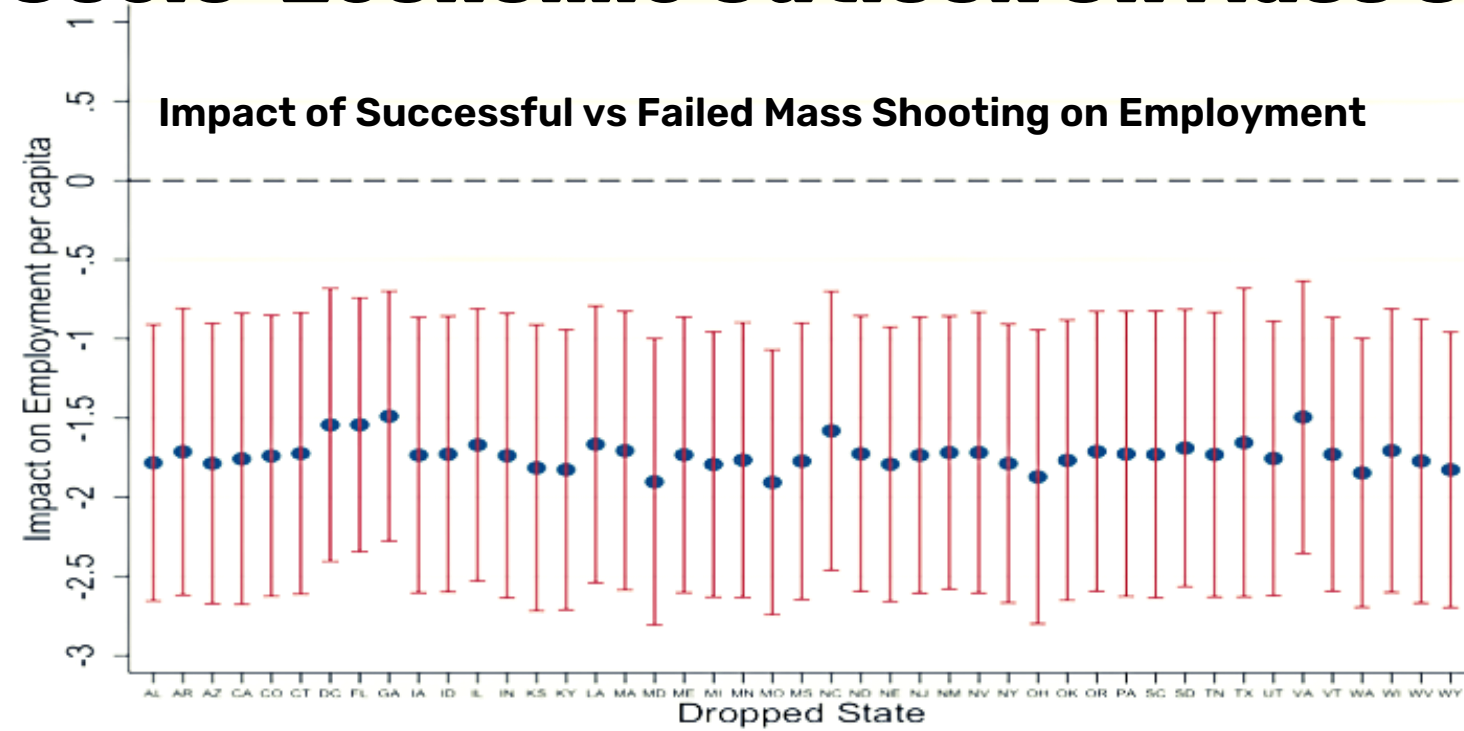
Mass shootings becomes a playing field for extremist ideologies that find roots in impoverished and socially alienated individuals-creating communities that target other impoverished demographics, particularly those that differ in race, creed, and sexuality-discouraging social inclusivity and economic mobility. Online communication aids and enhances it.





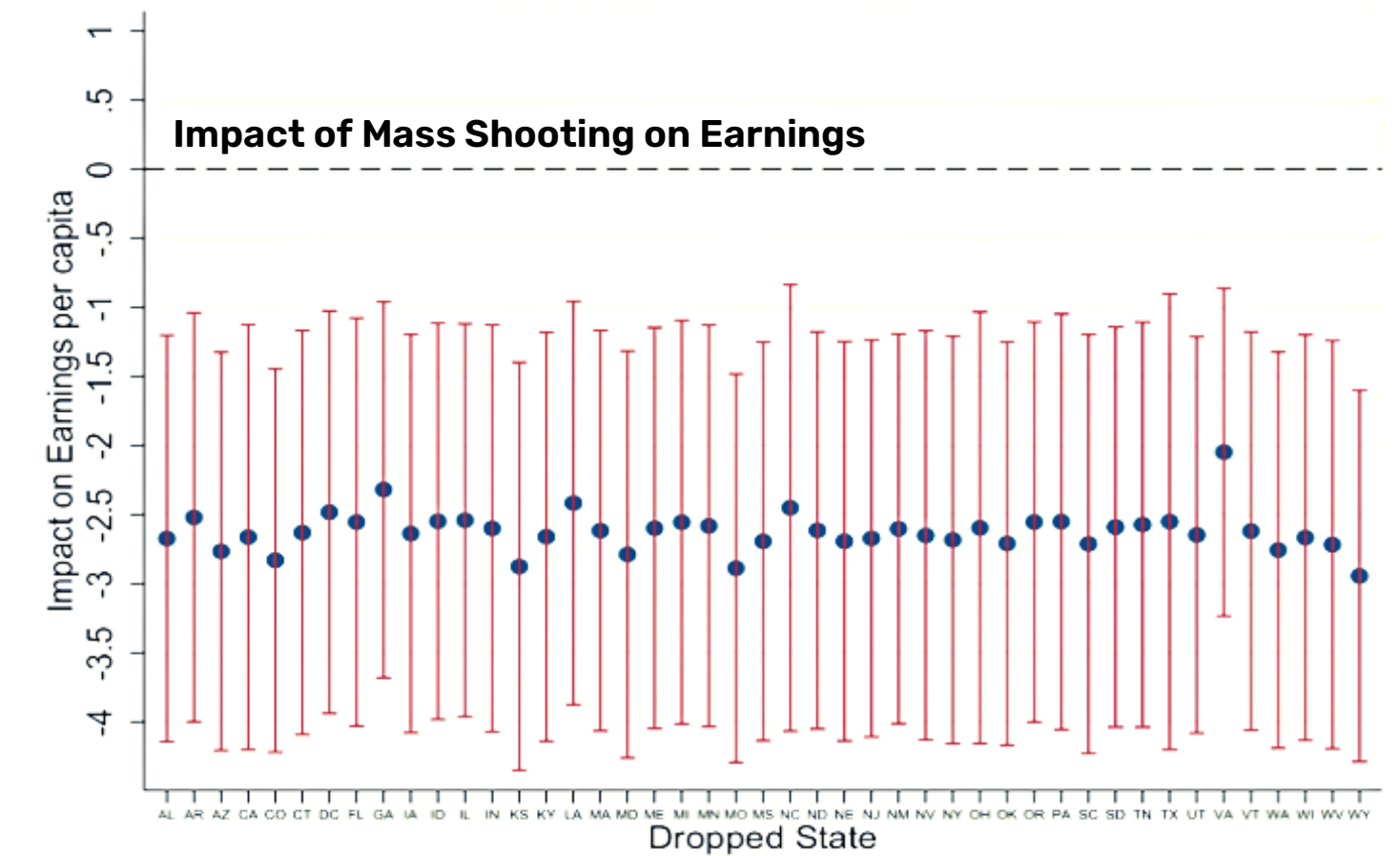


# Socio-Economic Outlook On Mass Shootings



## Socio-Economic Characteristics of Shooters

	All	School Related	Workplace Related	Other Type
<b>Risk Factors</b>				
Financial Distress	39%	18%	67%	49%
Family Violence	39%	9%	24%	71%
Religious/Racial	17%	9%	14%	29%
Political	4%	0%	14%	2%
Social Rejection	4%	27%	5%	0%
School Failure	4%	27%	0%	2%
Unknown	13%	9%	14%	20%

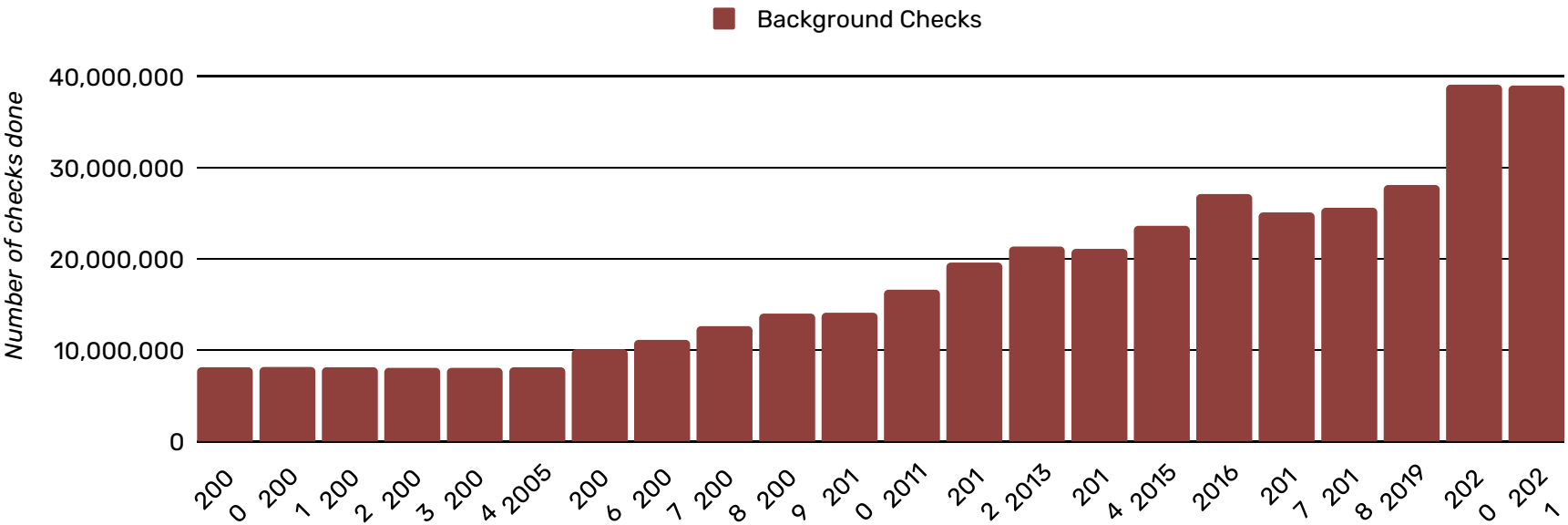


# Diligence & Vetting - Political Bias



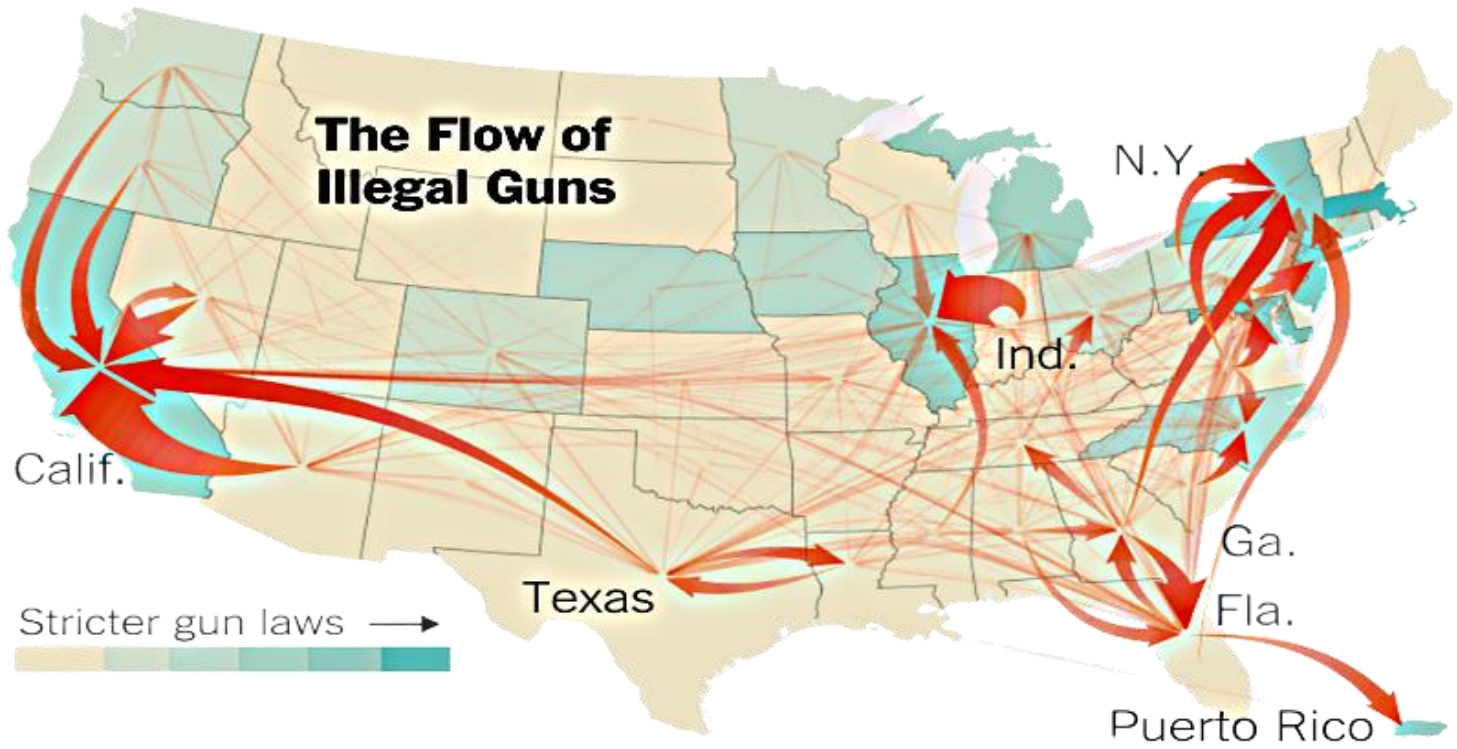
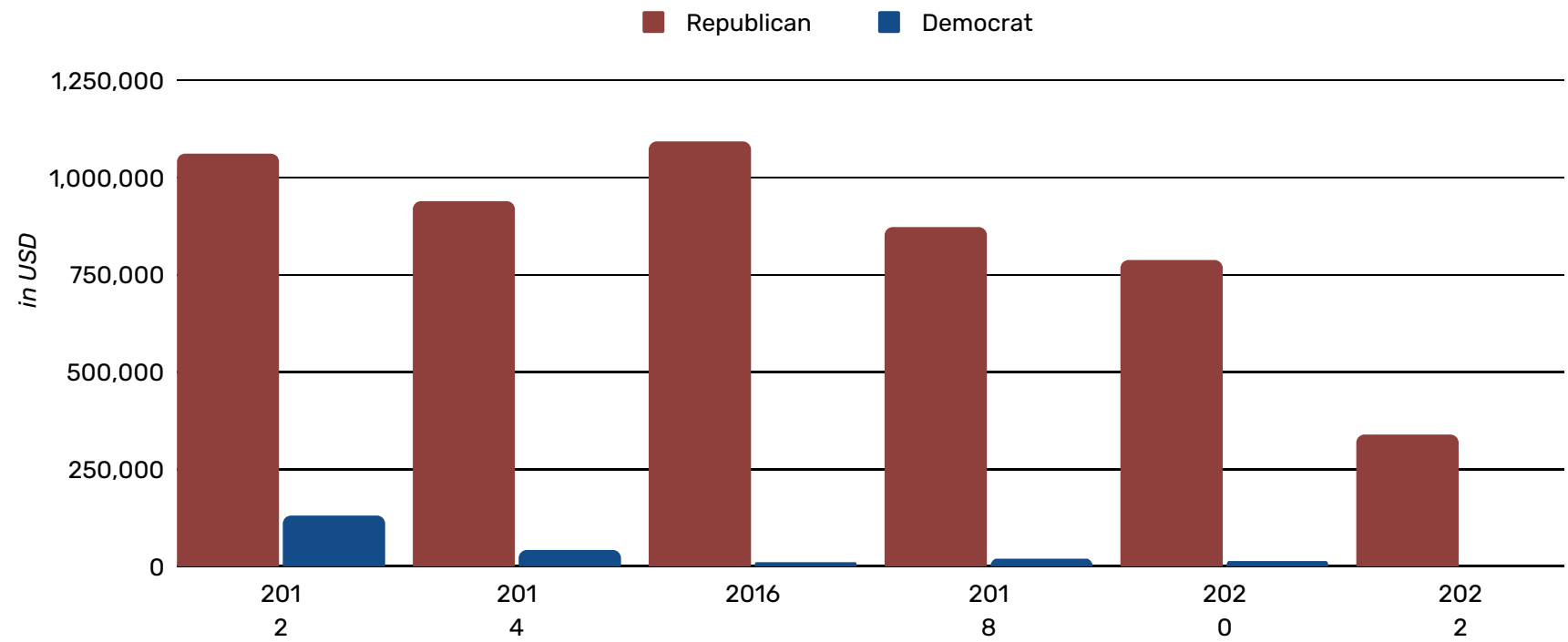
## Firearms Background Checks via NICS reach record levels

Source: FBI



## National Rifle Association Contributions To Parties

Source: OpenSecrets



## Restrictions and oversight breed pendulum responses

The sheer volume as dictated by the firearm background checks is met by an increase in sales of firearms, feeding illegal trafficking as well as the cyclical response of requiring further responses by the government



# Federal Strategy For Mass Shooting

1

**Out of the consortium of differing governing bodies that respond and legislate to mass shootings** - be it FBI, local law enforcement, Homeland Security, or the Senate, there is a severe lack of predictive and preventive measures- following cyclic pattern of incident, social reaction, legislative calls, firearm sales, and repeat

2

Average response time for mass shooting events are of a median time of 3 minutes by local law enforcement- fast by any metrics- but does not ensure social security

3

Sale of 'ghost firearms'- or firearms that have lack of transparency for tracking purposes-without serial numbers, 3D printed weapons, etc

4

There are insufficient resources to process these considerations and rather increase funding of subsidiary components, i.e. IT analysis, contractors, etc.

5

Self-sufficiency- evade, survive, and fight- is the predominant prescription from the FBI towards the general public aside from law enforcement response

For instance, weapons trafficking from less strict states to high incident states, banning high-capacity magazines, increase in police force and background checks are the main foci of the American government, but these are antiquated and have been touted for each and every publicised mass shooting event

# Crisis Preparedness



1

## Check your Active Shooter Programmes

- Corporate guidelines for mass shooting events largely follow federal precautions which can be found here:
  - Situational awareness, cognizance of nearest exits, unusual behaviour, contacting authorities are but a few critical points.
  - Check to see if there are any training initiatives with your organisation to be better prepared.

Click for more info

1

2

2

## Check your Workplace Violence Protocols

- If you see something, say something—any unusual behaviour, however minimal or grandiose, can signify the potentiality to commit violence.
- Communicate any concerns to the Security Officer, Supervisor, or legal authorities.
- You could save lives.

3

## Check Employee Assistance Programmes

- Emotional and social support are important during hard times, especially in the aftermath of an attack.
- If you feel as though you are negatively affected, seek help from your HR or Employee Outreach departments.
- Having a healthy workplace starts with you and can prevent attacks from happening before they even start.

# Analysing Impact Of Mass Shootings



- Firearms manufacturers, law enforcement (increase in funding), and security companies- whether private or intrusion prevention organizations directly benefit from mass shootings.
- Local businesses follow a 'two-week wave' of decrease in tempo of business especially when it is related to that environment of incident
- Insufficient resources dictate an influx of funding to increase resources- FBI averages a 2% increase in budget alone per annum.

## Mass Shooting Tertiary Regional Effect

- The same accessibility to firearms that allows attackers in the United States to carry out shootings also contributes to gang violence in Haiti- illegal weapons smuggling from the US is responsible for the marked increase in power and violence that Haitian gangs exert
- In light of the prevalence of mass shootings in the United States, Canada has banned the transport of hand-guns across the border to combat feasibility of purchase and subsequent incidents
- Systematic illegal weapons smuggling not only contributes to the aforementioned issues, but also Mexican and Central American drug cartels trade illicit substances for American firearms, accounting for a vast majority of their armaments.

Poverty and societal malaise directly contribute towards the production of mass shooters, in addition to access to inflammatory material through social media and access to weapons.



American society is largely reactionary citing mental illness and guns themselves as primary factors but the strategy is shifting slowly towards the penetrative factors



Most mass shooting events occur in strict firearm controlled states- legislation is not enough to tackle this. – Especially with ideologically agnostic funding of political groups by the National Rifle Association on both sides



# Best Practices from Abroad



## Lessons from New Zealand post-Christchurch Shooting

- Christchurch shootings in 2019 left 51 people dead in New Zealand
- Although different in many aspects, New Zealand still has one of the highest gun ownership levels in the world proportionally
- Immediately following, 4 actions were taken by New Zealand society to prevent this occurrence and the unique technological factors from contributing to another incident
  - **Media coverage of event**- twofold, no coverage of the attacker himself (nameless, faceless) to prevent a cult like imitating process, and no negative attribution to government agencies in order to promulgate a unified front
  - **Sociological focus point with “high threat salience”**- immediacy and severity in language aimed at event leads to social cohesion among general populace with an increasing focus towards the feasibility of acquiring arms.
  - After media coverage followed aforementioned structure, **call to action in legislation** was unanimously agreed upon, targeting loopholes in purchasing firearms (while sale was legal the minute purchasing practices were not) which attackers directly benefit from both in NZ and the US
  - **Social media backlash** – Although Facebook was seen as not diligently screening the live stream that was produced by the attacker, it was boycotted from ads and other revenue streams in order to bring stringent controls in place and prevent replication from other potential attackers.



[www.worisgo.com](http://www.worisgo.com)



[risk.services@worisgo.com](mailto:risk.services@worisgo.com)



1800- 572- 8600

Prepared at the Risk Assessment and Analysis Centre, Bangalore

@COPYRIGHT-WoRisGo

Terms of Use - The business continuity, compliance and security risk advisory contained above is based on analysis of information in public domain and our expertise in the domains. For certain verifications, we have also depended on due diligence with officials wherever necessary or feasible. The analysis and information are provided on as-is basis with no liability. Various organizations may arrive at different outcomes, business continuity plans and other decisions based off on these inputs. Our analysis is just one of the several data points towards enabling such decisions. This analysis should be consumed in the context of your organization's risk appetite, business practices, governance policies and bearing other situational and relevant factors in mind.



**Your GRC Partner:  
our assurance during  
uncertainties**