

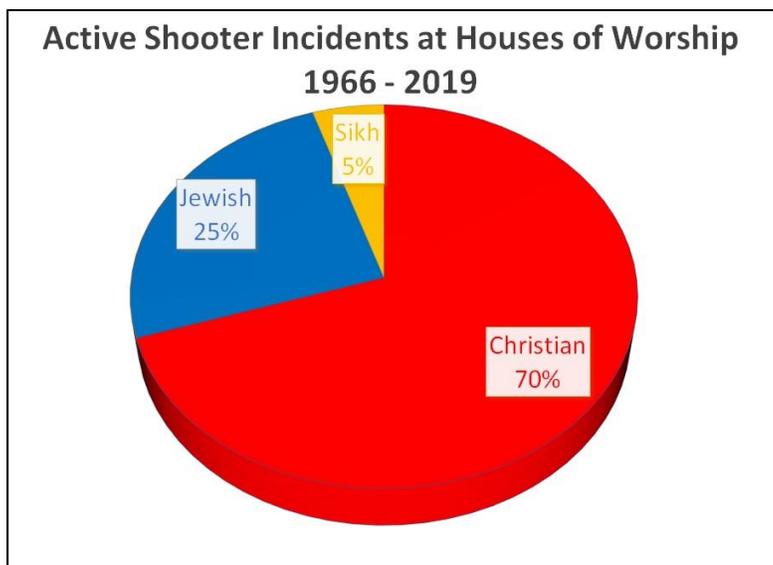


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Quick Facts: Active Shooter Incidents at Houses of Worship

Houses of Worship are places of peace, and are increasingly under attack. Any House of Worship may become a potential target of those seeking to do harm. Houses of Worship are soft targets because of how welcoming they are to others. When a House of Worship is attacked it can devastate individuals and entire communities. Since 1966 there have been 20 Active Shooter incidents in the United States targeting different faiths.

By The Numbers:



- **94** have been killed and **96** others have been wounded in 20 Active Shooter Incidents targeting Houses of Worship.
- The average number of victims in AS Incidents targeting Houses of Worship is 4.75.
- The average age of a shooter targeting a House of Worship is 38-years-old.
- 30% of shooters expressed support for white supremacists and/or Neo-Nazis. 25% of other shooters had a grievance against the target.
- 60% of shooters were later arrested or surrendered to authorities.



Incident Examples:

On August 5, 2012, at 10:25 a.m., Wade Michael Page, 40, armed with a handgun, began shooting outside the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and then moved inside. After exiting the building, he confronted the responding police officer, wounding him. He fired on a second responding police officer, who returned fire and wounded the shooter, who then committed suicide. **Six** people were killed; **four** were wounded.

On June 17, 2015, at 9:00 p.m., Dylann Storm Roof, 21, armed with a rifle, was welcomed into prayer service at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, opening fire afterwards. The shooter was a committed white supremacist and deliberately targeted a predominately African-American church. **Nine** people were killed; **one** was wounded. The shooter fled the scene and law enforcement apprehended him the next day.

On September 24, 2017, at 11:15 a.m., Emanuel Kidega Samson, 25, armed with two handguns, began shooting in the parking lot of the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ in Antioch, Tennessee. After killing one person, the shooter entered the church and shot six people. A citizen who attempted to subdue the shooter was pistol-whipped. During the altercation, Samson accidentally shot himself. While he was preoccupied, the citizen, who possessed a valid firearms permit, retrieved a handgun from his car and held Samson at gunpoint until law enforcement arrived and apprehended him. **One** person was killed; **seven** were wounded.

On November 5, 2017, at 11:20 a.m., Devin Patrick Kelley, 26, armed with a rifle, began shooting outside the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. He then entered the church and continued shooting at members of the congregation. He exited the church and was confronted by a citizen who shot Kelley twice, causing him to drop his rifle and flee in his vehicle. The armed citizen, together with the owner of a pickup truck, pursued the shooter. The chase ended when the shooter's vehicle struck a road sign and overturned. **Twenty-six** people were killed; **20** were wounded. The shooter committed suicide before police arrived.

On October 27, 2018, at 9:54 a.m., Robert Bowers, 46, armed with an AR 15 and three handguns, opened fire during morning worship services at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Eleven** were killed and **six** others were wounded, including four police officers. Shortly before the shooting, Bowers posted an anti-Semitic message on social media. He surrendered after a shootout with SWAT officers and was treated at a hospital with multiple gunshot wounds.

On April 27, 2019, at 11:23 a.m., John T. Earnest, 19, armed with a rifle opened fire inside the Chabad of Poway synagogue in Poway, California during a service celebrating last day of the Jewish Passover holiday. **One** was killed and **three** others, including the rabbi, were wounded. An off-duty U.S. Border Patrol officer who was working as a security guard engaged Earnest as he fled the synagogue, striking his vehicle multiple times. Earnest was arrested after being pulled over by a responding police officer.