



**SB 173**

# **The Safe Schools Act**

Sponsor: Senator Shelley Hughes

Staff: Stephen Knouse



# Purpose

**To save lives during an active shooter incident on school grounds by providing an immediate response by an on-site, highly-trained, stable, responsible individual as an augmentation to local law enforcement.**



# What The Safe School Act Does

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*The Center Square Contributor*

Published: January 17, 2024 11:00pm

Alaska lawmaker wants to allow concealed carry weapons on school grounds | Just The News

**“The bill sets clear guidelines for training, qualifications, and hiring personnel for concealed carry on school grounds to trusted, stable, respected, and well-trained individuals.”**

<https://justthenews.com/nation/states/center-square/alaska-lawmaker-wants-allow-concealed-carry-weapons-school-grounds>

# Why SB 173 is needed

Whether you are anti-gun, pro-gun control, pro-Second Amendment, or describe yourself some other way, if you breathe and you don't want to see student and staff lives lost on school grounds, SB 173 is for you. Keep an open mind.



# Why SB 173 is needed

## FRONT-END VS. BACK-END

### FRONT-END

- ➡ Intervention for mentally troubled individuals
- ➡ Hardening of physical school environment

### BACK-END

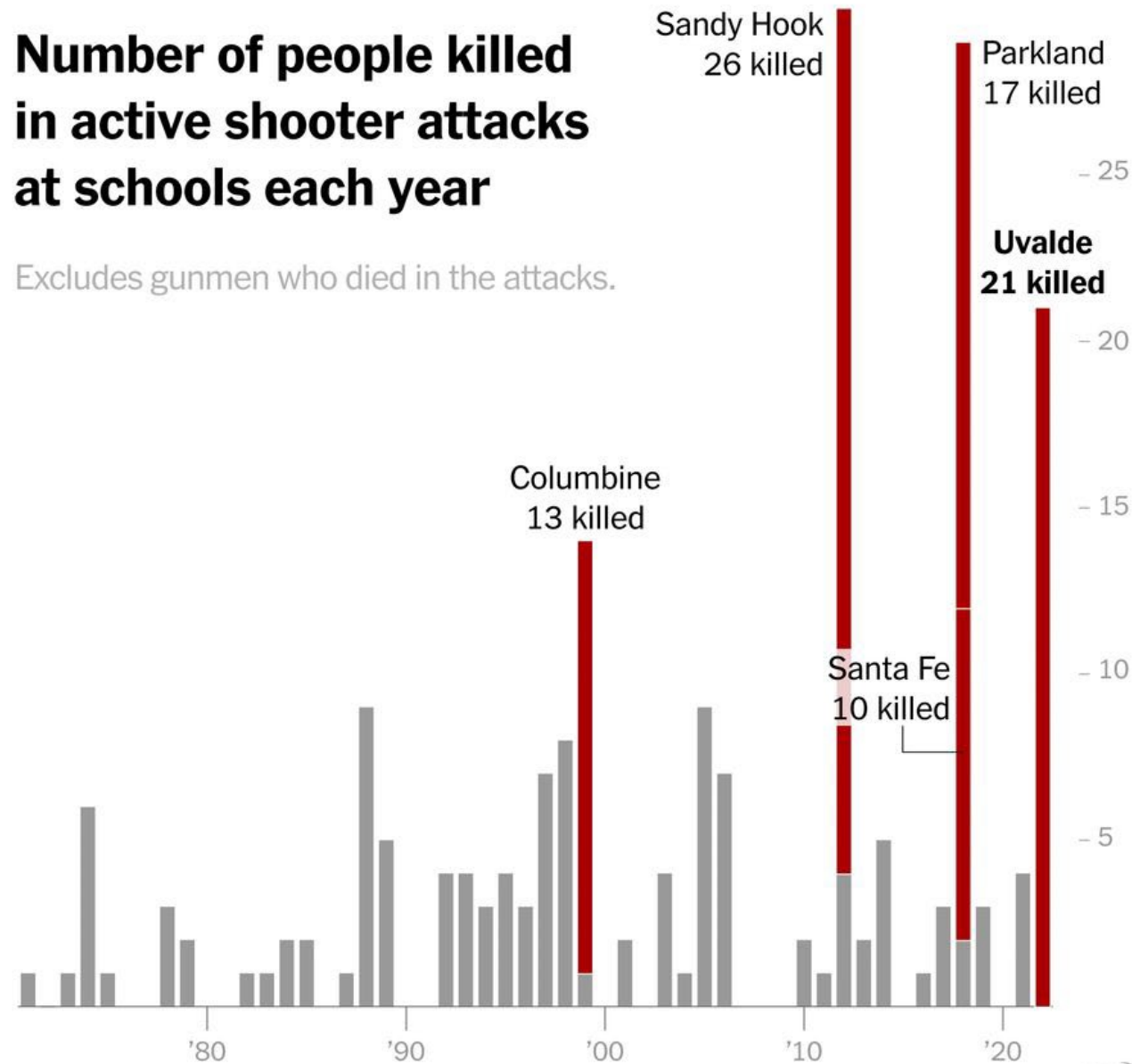
- ➡ Immediate on-site response by highly trained, stable individual (SB 173)
- ➡ As timely as possible response by law enforcement

***SB 173 Safe Schools Act is the missing stopgap.***



## Number of people killed in active shooter attacks at schools each year

Excludes gunmen who died in the attacks.

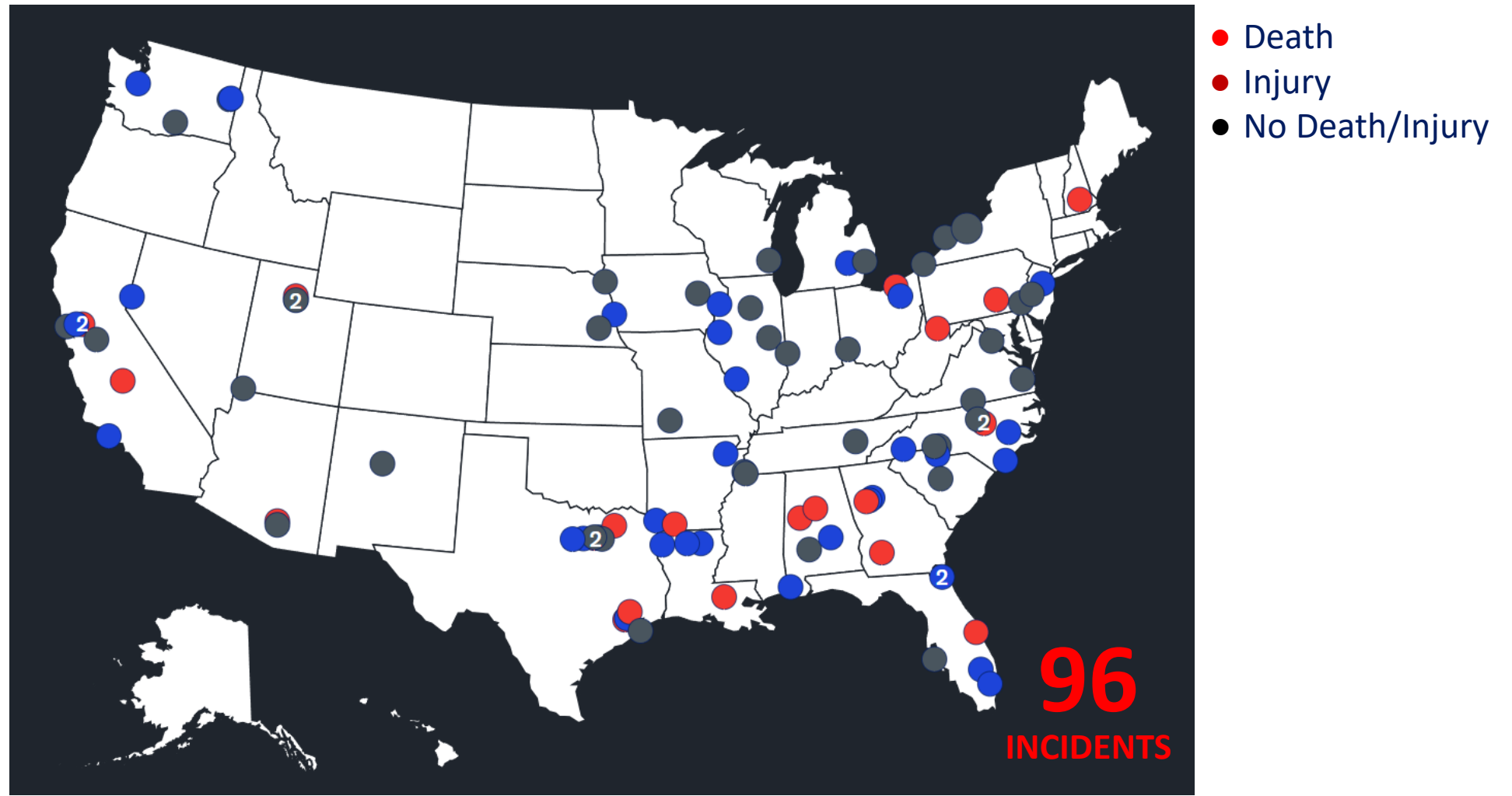


Source: K-12 School Shooting Database

SB 173



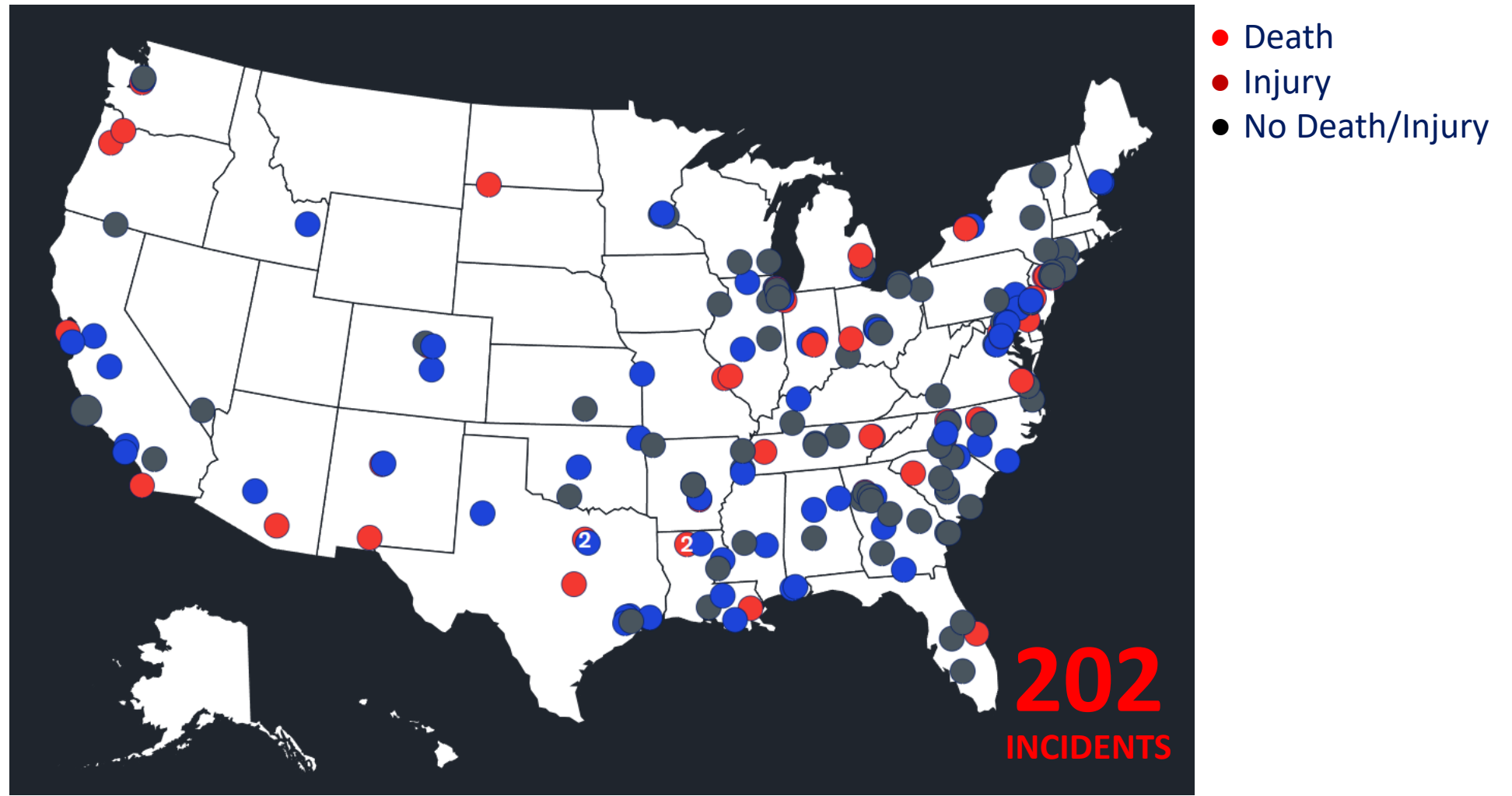
# 2020



Data is up to date as of: October 4, 2023

Sources: Everytown for Gun Safety and the K-12 School Shooting Database

# 2021

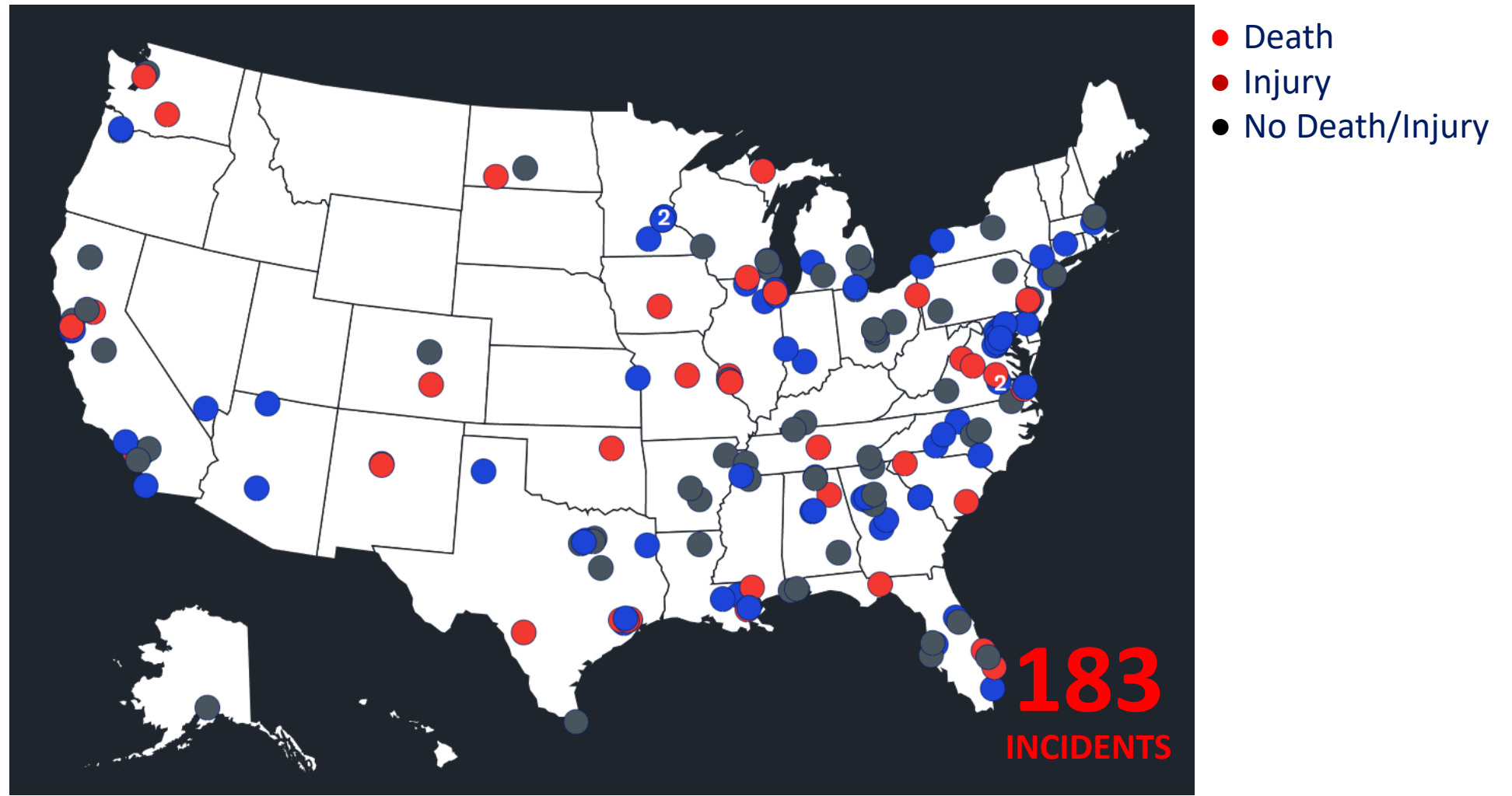


Data is up to date as of: October 4, 2023

Sources: Everytown for Gun Safety and the K-12 School Shooting Database



# 2022



Data is up to date as of: October 4, 2023

Sources: Everytown for Gun Safety and the K-12 School Shooting Database



# The Problem is Real

## Just last year

- 346 shooting incidents in schools in US
- 248 victims wounded or killed

## In the past five years

- 1073 victims wounded or killed

US News & World Report



# **Goal of SB 173 The Safe Schools Act**

**At least one highly trained responsible individual assigned the job duty of concealed carry per school to help ensure an on-site immediate response to save lives.**

## **How do we get there?**

# Sections Worth Noting



Sec. 2

- Defines intent as augmentation to current law enforcement during crisis

Sec. 4

- Outlines requirements of school districts and qualified individuals to enact duties

Sec. 5

- Protects sensitive crisis plan information from general public access



# Requirements » District

- **Grant assigned CC duty to one or more individuals**
  - District employee
  - Respected member of community
- **Cover costs\* of training and employee training time**
  - *\*Note: bill sponsor supports state providing funding for this requirement*
- **Adopt written policy to include**
  - Training requirements (initial and continuing)
  - Physical\* and mental standards (not less stringent than Alaska Police Standards Council)
    - *\*Note: Teachers are requesting physical requirements be less than military/police, i.e., don't need to be able to climb a mountain in record time!*



# Requirements » District *(cont.)*

- **Provide annually to law enforcement**
  - active shooter plan
  - floor plan
    - locked/unlocked entrances
    - accessible windows
    - safe huddle areas
    - gun-storage lockers if any
    - room assignment of each qualified person if applicable
  - contact information for each qualified person
  - dates available for training or on-site drills
    - during academic year: school building and school employees
    - dates outside academic year: school buildings, school administrators and qualified persons

# Requirements » District *(cont.)*

- Except for training/drill dates, information provided to law enforcement on this topic is not to be made public
  - *\*Note: committee may wish to strengthen language pertaining to confidentiality*
- May install biometric identification lockers for storage of handguns (cost reimbursable by state)
- May revoke or suspend assigned duty at discretion of district or at request of individual

# **Requirements » Individual**

- Agrees to accept assigned duty
- Has concealed carry permit
- Has completed initial and continuing education training courses
- Meets physical & mental standards established by district policy
- Has completed any training required by district's insurance policy
- Has committed to continuing employment if required by district



# State Comparison from 1997-2023

## ALASKA

POPULATION	608,846 – 733,406
Population growth	≈20%
Total Number of Shooting Incidents at K-12 Schools	6
Recorded Injuries	4
Recorded Fatalities	2
AVG Incident/year	.23
% of Incidents resulting in death	16.67%
Size Comparison to UT	29.5% - 21.5%

## UTAH

POPULATION	2,065,397 – 3,417,734
Population growth	≈65%
Total Number of Shooting Incidents at K-12 Schools	12
Recorded Injuries	2
Recorded Fatalities	2
AVG Incident/year	.46
% of Incidents resulting in death	16.67%
Size Comparison to AK	339.2% - 466.0%



# It's Not a Matter of **If...**

- Since Columbine in 1999, more than 360,000 students in the U.S. have experienced gun violence at school.
- There were more school shootings in 2022 -46- than in any year since Columbine.
- School shootings lead to drops in student enrollment and a decline in average test scores.
- In 4 out of 5 school shootings, at least one other person had knowledge of the attacker's plan but failed to report it.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/interactive/school-shootings-database/> (2024-01-22)

<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/preventingattacksreport.pdf>

<https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/health/surviving-school-shooting-impacts-mental-health-education-and-earnings-American>



**93% of school shooters planned the attack in advance.**

**Shouldn't we have a plan too?  
Shouldn't we be prepared?**

**Pass SB 173 Safe Schools Act**



SB 173 **Thank You**  
The Safe Schools Act

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