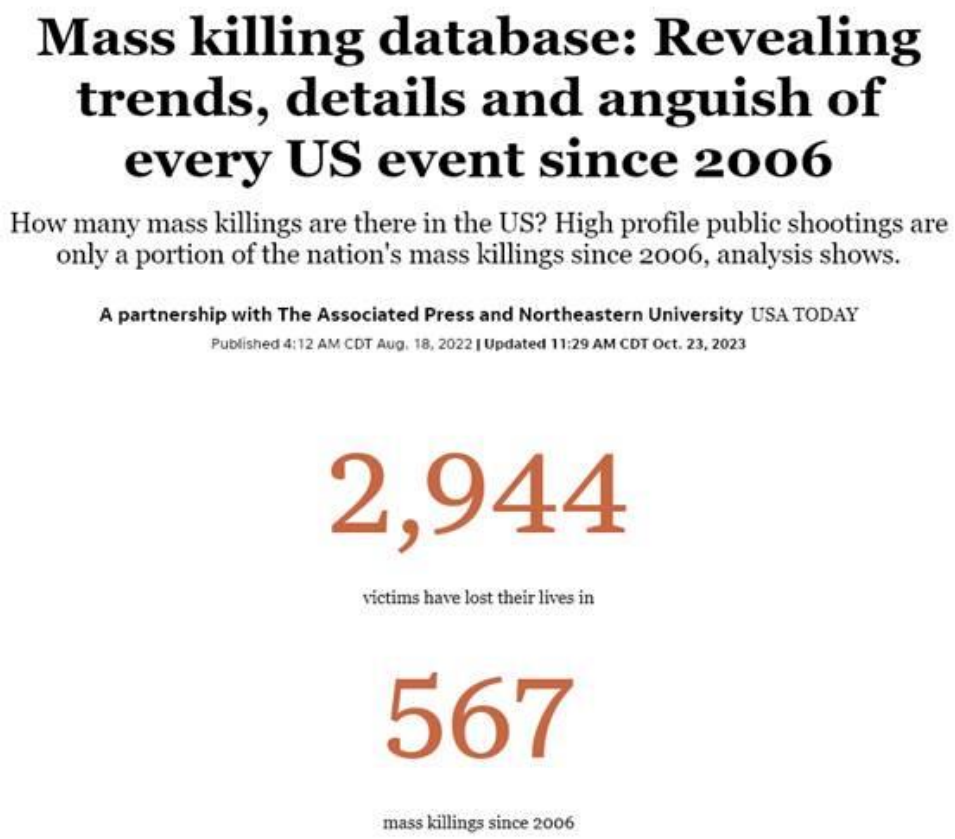
Mass killings?

(October 2023)

I would venture that if I learned a loved one had just been murdered I would not be too concerned about the total number of other victims around him, and it is not so sure that said number could in any way lead to either comforting solace or further aggravation.

However, how should one understand the figures provided by the Associated Press below?



Mass killing database: Revealing trends, details and anguish of every US event since 2006

How many mass killings are there in the US? High profile public shootings are only a portion of the nation's mass killings since 2006, analysis shows.

A partnership with The Associated Press and Northeastern University USA TODAY

Published 4:12 AM CDT Aug. 18, 2022 | **Updated 11:29 AM CDT Oct. 23, 2023**

2,944

victims have lost their lives in

567

mass killings since 2006

REMARKS:

1. It seems a "*mass killing*" starts at **5 victims per event**;
2. If so, how should one refer to an event such as the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima?
3. In the same time period, and in the United States alone, this many people were killed:
    a. **9,000,000 (nine million)** by tobacco (**250 million worldwide**);
    b. **2,500,000 (two and a half million)** by alcohol (**60 million worldwide**);

c. **1,250,000 (one and a quarter million)** by opioids;
d. **750,000** by suicide;
e. **750,000** by accidental poisoning;
f. **700,000** by automobiles;
g. **650,000** by a fall from a tree or a ladder;
h. **300,000** by non-"*mass*" killers (**10 million worldwide**, bearing in mind that **no one has access to legal firearms anywhere outside the U.S.**).

4. Also, within the same period:

   a. **50,000,000 (50 million)** died of all causes in the United States, and
   b. **1,450,000,000 (1,450 million)** died worldwide.

5. It is also noteworthy that during the same period, worldwide:

13,662 victims have lost their lives in **2,307** aviation accidents since 2006

while

2,944 victims have lost their lives in **567** mass killings since 2006

Considering the figures above, it would seem that the likelihood that an American be killed in a mass murder is **0.0000001%** in any given day, **0.00005%** in any given year, and **0.0035%** over a lifetime.

The probability that he be murdered one day in a non-mass killing is **0.6%** over his lifetime.

For reference, the probability of dying in an airline crash for any given flight was **0.000024%** *(13,662 fatalities of 57.6 billion passengers)*. For a moderately frequent flyer taking 10 flights a year during a 40 year active life the probability becomes **0.01%**, or 3 times the probability of being killed by a mass murderer.

The probability that he will die one day is believed to be **100.0%**.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WHAT IS EXACTLY THE POINT IN REPORTING THE FIGURES IN BOLD FACE?

COULD IT BE ONLY POLITICAL?

SURELY, IT IS OF LITTLE STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE.