

Current update: **18th February 2008**

Check for updated list [HERE](#).

School Related Homicides / Attempted Homicides on Prescription

1966 UNITED STATES Charles Whitman, 29, (**Valium and Dexedrine**) student at University of Texas who killed his wife and mother then went to the 27 storey high tower of the university firing down at passers-by on the campus and in the city, killing 15 people and wounding 31 others before being fatally shot down by police. Early in 1966 he was prescribed Valium when he complained of depression. In March he then saw the campus psychiatrist and remarked that he was getting urges to shoot people. By summer, shortly before the killings, he was prescribed Dexedrine. [*Dexedrine can cause "suicidal or even homicidal tendencies" in overdose, but toxicity "varies widely according to the degree of tolerance present" and so blood tests to measure drug toxicity levels are "of little value":* [RXMED DEXEDRINE](#)]

1986 UNITED STATES Rod Mathews aged 14, (**Ritalin**) beat a classmate to death with a bat. [*A follow-up study of children who had been prescribed Ritalin showed that 34% of children had threatened to kill: See: [AUDIBLOX2000](#) which summarises the follow-up studies done]*

1988 UNITED STATES James Wilson, aged 19, (**Haldol, Xanax, Thorazine, Valium**) Breenwood, South Carolina, took a .22 calibre revolver into an elementary school killing two young girls, and wounding seven other children and two teachers. James had been on prescribed drugs for 5 years.

1989 UNITED STATES Patrick Purdy, 25 (**Amitriptyline and Chlorpromazine**) in California, opened fire on a school playground killing 5 children and wounding 30 others before killing himself.

1993 UNITED STATES Steven Leith (**Prozac**), teacher of Chelsea, Michigan, shot dead the school superintendent and wounded two others including a fellow teacher. He had been prescribed Prozac after slowly losing his wife to cancer. [In this [VIDEO](#) *Moira Dolan MD, internal medicine physician with **the Medical Accountability Network** discusses Antidepressants and Violence.*]

1997 UNITED STATES Luke Woodham aged 16 (**Prozac**) who killed his mother and then killed two students at his Pearl Mississippi school, wounding six others.

1997 UNITED STATES Michael Carneal, aged 14, (**Ritalin**) opened fire on students at a high school prayer meeting in West Paducah, Kentucky in 1997. Three teenagers were killed, five others were wounded, one of whom was paralyzed.

1998 UNITED STATES Laurie Dann, 30, (**Lithium and Anafranil**) on a shooting rampage at an Illinois school, killed one child and wounded 5 others before killing herself.

1998 UNITED STATES Andrew Golden, aged 11, (**Ritalin**) and Mitchell Johnson, aged 14, (**Ritalin**) shot 15 people in Jonesboro Arkansas, killing four students and one teacher, and wounding 10 others.

1998 UNITED STATES Kip Kinkel, 15, (**Prozac**) shot his parents while they slept then went to school and opened fire killing 2 classmates and injuring 22, shortly after beginning Prozac treatment.

1998 UNITED STATES Boy in Pocatello, ID (**Zoloft**) who in seizure activity from Zoloft had a stand off at the school. [In a clinical trial of Zoloft, a trial participant was recorded as having been taken off the study on day eleven due to nausea and other relatively mild side effects but was in fact removed because he expressed **homicidal and suicidal ideation**. This is recorded in a leaked 1983 Pfizer [INTERNAL DOCUMENT](#) (PDF file). How many more incidents have not yet come to light involving homicidal and suicidal ideation in Zoloft clinical trials?

1999 UNITED STATES Eric Harris, 17, (**Zoloft then Luvox**) and Dylan Klebold, 18, (Zoloft & Paxil) in Columbine school shooting at Littleton, Colorado, killed 12 students and 1 teacher, and injured 23 others, before killing themselves.

1999 UNITED STATES Neal Furrow, (**Prozac**) LA Jewish school shooting reported to have been court-ordered to be on Prozac along with several other medications. He was said by neighbours to have loved children.

1999 UNITED STATES Shawn Cooper, 15, (**An SSRI**) Notus, Idaho, stand off at school.

1999 UNITED STATES TJ Solomon, aged 15, (**Ritalin and antidepressants**) high school student in Conyers, Georgia opened fire on and wounded six of his class mates.

1999 UNITED STATES Steven Abrams (**Lithium**) of California rammed his car into a preschool playground killing two children and wounding five. He was taking Lithium under court order.

1999 UNITED STATES Todd Smith, 14, (**Dexadrine**), at his high school in Taber, Alberta, shot and killed one child and wounded another. He had been prescribed Dexadrine just prior to the incident. [*"Long-term effects of amphetamines in children have **not** been well established"* [RXMED DEXEDRINE](#)]

1999 UNITED STATES Seth Trickey, 13, (**Several Prescription Medicines**) opened fire at the Fort Gibson Middle School in Oklahoma, injuring 5 students. During his certification hearing, it was testified that "although he seemed to have a model life at home and at school, he suffered from recurrent severe headaches, for which he took several prescription medicines and received treatment from a psychologist for 9 months prior to the shooting."

2001 UNITED STATES Cory Baadesgaard, 16, (**Paxil then 300 mgs Effexor**) Matawa, WA school standoff. This was not long after being taken off Paxil cold turkey and changed over to Effexor.

2001 UNITED STATES Elizabeth Bush aged 13 (**Paxil**) was responsible for a school shooting in Pennsylvania.

2001 UNITED STATES Jason Hoffman, 18, (**Effexor and Celexa**) - school shooting in El Cajon, California, wounded five. Jason later hung himself in prison. [*See side effect of Homicidal Ideation in [WYETH'S EFFEXOR INFORMATION SHEET](#) currently on page 43 under the heading "Nervous System". Page number is **subject to change**, Wyeth have moved the reference to homicidal ideation to different pages in the sheet more than once.*]

2001 JAPAN Mamoru Takuma, 37 (**Antidepressants**) burst into an elementary school in Osaka, Japan, slashing eight children to death and wounding 18 other children and three adults before unsuccessfully attempting suicide by knife wounds. Takuma told police he had taken 10 times his daily dose of an unspecified anti-depressant before heading out to the school.

2002 UNITED STATES Peter Odighizuwa, 42, (**Treatment for Depression & Stress**) went on a rampage at the Appalachian Law School he attended, killing the dean, a professor and a student and seriously wounding three others. The doctor who first attended the scene described the killings as "executions". He was the same doctor that had treated Odighizuwa for depression and stress in the previous six months.

2005 UNITED STATES Jeff Weise, 16, (**Prozac**) Minnesota School shootings, killed his Grandfather and Grandmother, and then went on a rampage at the school. He killed a teacher, a security officer and 5 students, wounding 7 others (2 critically), before exchanging gunfire with police and shooting himself.

2007 UNITED STATES John Ogdren, 16, (**Several Psychoactive Medications**) killed 15 year old classmate James Alenson with a knife at Lincoln-Sudbury School, Princeton. He had no history of violence. He allegedly told a teacher, "**I just snapped. I don't know why**". His lawyer testified that he had been taking "several medications", had "a history of fairly serious psychological diagnoses and has also suffered from hyperactivity dysfunction for many years" and was also being treated for "Asberger's Syndrome".

2007 UNITED STATES Cho Sueng Hui, 23, ("**Medication for Depression**") went on a shooting rampage at Virginia Tech University killing 32 fellow students and injuring 29 others, some seriously, before committing suicide by shooting himself in the head. He had allegedly previously shown disturbed behaviours and had tried to set fire to the school. It was reported that "investigators believe that Cho....had been taking medication for depression". See [NEWS ARTICLE](#). Officials stated that "prescription medications said to be related to the treatment of psychological problems" were found among Cho's effects [NEWS ARTICLE](#). A fellow student at Virginia Tech, Karan Grewal, said that on the morning to the shootings "Cho calmly applied lotion, inserted his contact lenses and took his medication" and "He did not seem like a guy that would do anything like this" [NEWS ARTICLE](#).

2007 FINLAND Pekka-Eric Auvisen, 18, (**Antidepressants or Withdrawal**) Finland, went on a shooting massacre at Jokela School, killing the Headmistress and 7 fellow students then shot himself in the head and died a few hours later. He had also attempted to set the school on fire. Pekka had posted on a website in Finland that he had been taking antidepressants for the past year and they "made him feel aggressive" and on another occasion that he had "stopped taking the pills at least temporarily". [FINNISH NEWS ARTICLE](#) (in English). Not long before the school massacre, he made a video featuring SSRIs, Columbine & Virginia shootings. The video was taken down but a [TRANSCRIPT](#) relates what Pekka said in that video.

2007 UNITED STATES Robert Hawkins, 19, (**Antidepressants**) Omaha Shooting: KSFY reported in their [NEWS ARTICLE](#): "One of them [Robert Hawkin's friends], Shawn Saunders, says he never saw something like this coming... although he knew hawkins was troubled. "I was shocked. It didn't seem like something he would do. He was kind of a funny, goofy kid, you know. He's been depressed for the last couple of months and on a bunch of anti-depressants and what not. He got fired recently. Everything kind of sucked for him I guess."

2008 UNITED STATES Steve Kazmierczak, 27, (**Prozac Withdrawal**) at Illinois University shot and killed 5 students and then himself. His girlfriend said on [CNN VIDEO](#) "It was **Prozac**" (Baty) that she said he used to battle **anxiety and obsessive-compulsive** tendencies. "He was on medication and he **stopped taking it. And he stopped taking it because he said that he felt.. it made him feel like a zombie**, and that he, you know, was just lazy, that's why he stopped taking it". More about the video in this [NEWS ARTICLE](#). She described him as "probably the ... **niciest, (most) caring person ever.**" This is very much in line with how his professors viewed him. According to this [NEWS ARTICLE](#), professors who taught him said it was hard to imagine he was the same person authorities identified as the gunman in Thursday's classroom shootings and described him as a "**warm, sensitive, very bright student**" and the most **gentle, even** guy." To those who really knew Steve Kazmierczak he was **NOT** the violent person portrayed by much of the 'media frenzy'.

Download the far longer [HOMICIDE LIST](#) which includes but is not limited to school incidents.

WARNING: STOPPING PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS ABRUPTLY CAN CAUSE SERIOUS LIFE THREATENING EFFECTS !

There are some excellent internet groups dealing with prescription drug issues. Use key words in the search engine such as '[support](#)' or '[side effects](#)' for your particular drug (those 2 examples were using the key words alongside 'psychiatric drugs') or visit the [UK SUPPORT](#) site which deals with all manner of issues surrounding antidepressants, antipsychotics, stimulants and tranquilizers. Stay safe!