

# An Analysis of Active Shooters in the Hospital Setting, 2000 - 2015

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## Background

- 1/20/15: Michael J. Davidson MD, was shot on the premises of Brigham and Women's Hospital
- At least a dozen active shooter incidences across country in the year before<sup>1</sup>
- Most hospitals have few or no screens for weapons.<sup>1</sup>

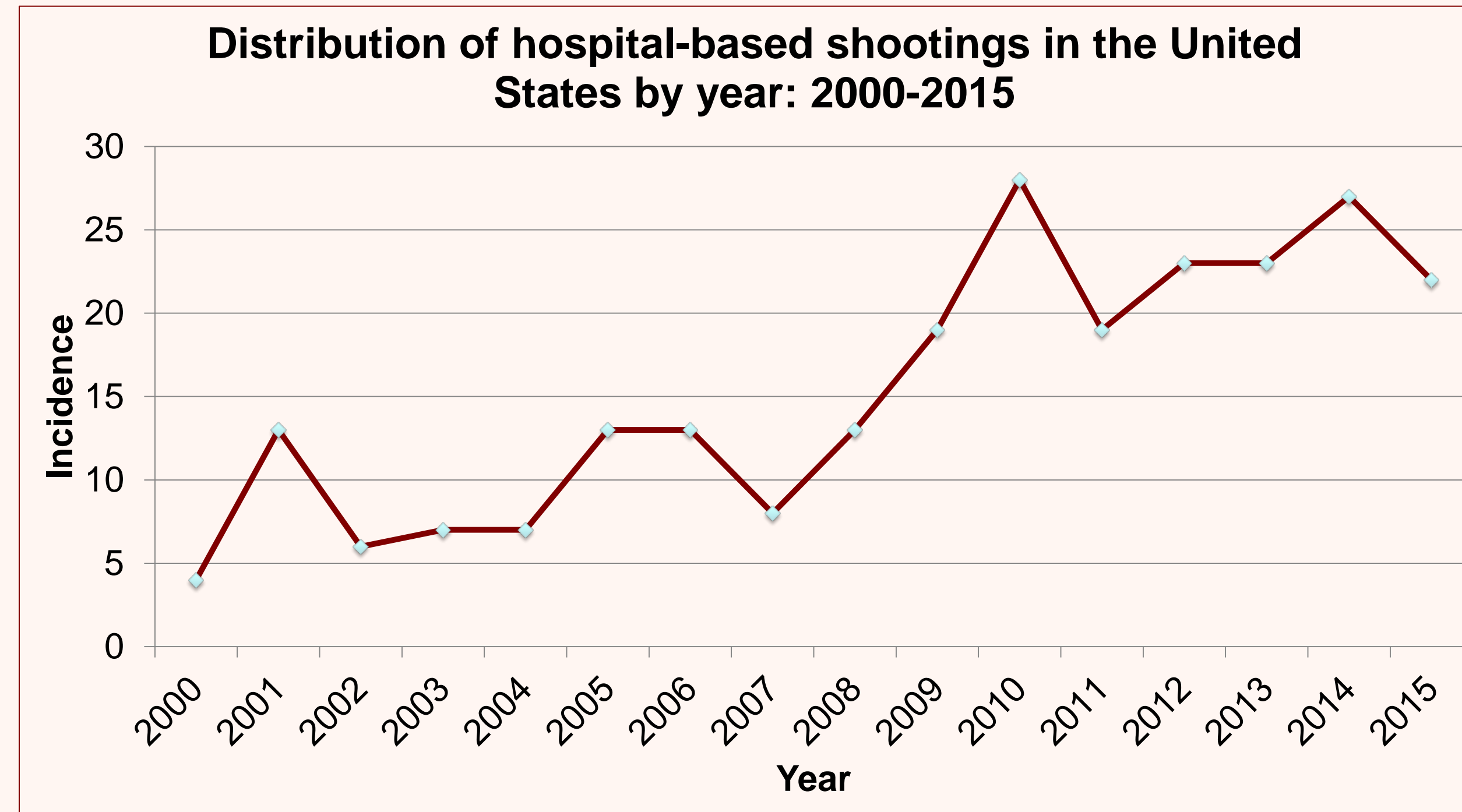
## Objectives

- Determine incidence of active shooters and gun discharge in hospital settings, and whether annual incidence has increased.
- Determine motives and profiles of shooters, and policies for preventing gun violence in the future<sup>1</sup>

## Methods

- A database of gun discharge events in hospitals was compiled using:
- Data from the Joint Commission, the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, the National Institute of Occupation Safety and Health, and the National Violent Death Reporting,
  - LexisNexis
  - Public search engines (Google, Pubmed, Bing, Google Scholar)

## Results



Characteristics and Categories	Total n = 241	Inside Hospital n = 170	Outside Hospital n = 71
<b>Region of Country</b>			
South	105	66	39
Midwest	56	42	14
West	42	35	7
Northeast	38	27	11
<b>Rural</b>			
Yes	52	27	25
No	189	138	51
<b>Specific Location</b>			
ED	50	50	N/A
Patient room	42	42	N/A
Parking lot	40	N/A	40
Entrance/Outside	29	N/A	29
Other	80	78	2

Characteristics and Categories	Total n = 241	Inside Hospital n = 170	Outside Hospital n = 71
<b>Motive</b>			
Grudge	79	52	27
Suicide	27	20	7
Ill relative	21	21	0
Escape attempt	33	32	1
Social violence	36	20	16
Mentally instability	24	19	5
Unclear	21	6	15
<b>Disposition of perpetrator</b>			
Suicide	110	90	20
Arrested	61	31	30
Shot and killed	38	23	25
Shot and arrested	10	8	2
Other	4	4	0
Unclear	18	15	3

## Conclusions

- The incidence of hospital shootings has risen in the past decade and a half to become a monthly occurrence
- A greater fraction of hospitals shootings are taking place inside the building, than in the past (graph not shown)
- By far the most common motive is that of a personal grudge.
- A consistent percentage of hospital shootings come from efforts by inmates to escape, highlighting a need to train guards on how to secure their guns. hospital shootings

## Future Directions

- Need to examine the effect of gun control laws, metal detectors in hospitals, and other factors on shooting rates.

## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Alpert Medical School SA program for funding

## References

Kelen, Gabor D., et al. "Hospital-based shootings in the United States: 2000 to 2011." Annals of emergency medicine 60.6 (2012): 790-798.