

Mass Shootings in Australia and New Zealand

Number of mass shootings

- Following conventions used by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP), a mass shooting is defined as an event with four or more people killed by a single perpetrator.
- From 1980 to 2010, there were 12 mass shootings in Australia and 4 mass shootings in New Zealand (Table 1).
- Although rare, these events were 'clustered' in the late 1980s to mid-1990s.

Gun law differences

- In reaction to the Port Arthur shooting, Australia banned semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, and pump-action shotguns.
- New Zealand still allows these types of firearms for the purposes of hunting and target shooting.
- In Australia, all firearms must be registered. New Zealand does not require registration of all firearms.
- Despite their different gun laws, both countries have experienced comparable periods of time with no mass shootings.

Social and economic similarities

- Australia and New Zealand show many social and economic similarities.
- For example, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, both countries experienced high levels of unemployment, followed by a decade of relative economic stability and growth from the mid-1990s onward.

Rate of mass shootings

- From 1980 to 1997, the *rate* of mass shootings, (which controls for differences in population size) was slightly higher in New Zealand (0.0062 incidents per 100 000 population) than in Australia (0.0040 incidents per 100 000 population).

Table 1: Mass shootings, 1980 to 2010

Country	Location	Date	Victims
Australia	Port Arthur, TAS	28 April, 1996	35
Australia	Hillcrest, QLD	25 Jan, 1996	6
Australia	Central Coast, NSW	27 Oct, 1992	6
Australia	Strathfield, NSW	17 Aug, 1991	6
Australia	Surry Hills, NSW	30 Aug, 1990	5
Australia	Rock Country, NT	25 Sept, 1988	6
Australia	Melbourne, VIC	8 Dec, 1987	8
Australia	Canley Vale, NSW	10 Oct, 1987	5
Australia	Melbourne, VIC	9 Aug, 1987	7
Australia	Pymble, NSW	23 Jan, 1987	4
Australia	Wahroonga, NSW	1 June, 1984	5
Australia	Campsie, NSW	24 Sept, 1981	5
New Zealand	Raurimu	8 Feb, 1997	6
New Zealand	Dunedin	20 June, 1994	5
New Zealand	Paerata (near Auckland)	20 May, 1992	6
New Zealand	Aramoana	13 Nov, 1990	13

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