The high prevalence of school shootings in the United States is no surprise to the global community. Just this past February, 17 students died in Parkland, Florida due to a mass shooting, igniting the nation to march to end gun violence and mass shootings (March for our Lives). According to CNN, there has been an average of one school shooting every week of 2018. According to Everytown Research, Texas had the highest quantity of school shootings (n=15) that resulted in fatality or injury in the USA.

There is a relationship between mental health illnesses, gun access, and mass shootings (Los Angeles Times). Over half of the perpetrators of mass shootings have been diagnosed with a serious mental condition, a prevalence 20 times higher than that of the general population. Texas historically has had very lenient firearm policies, as shown in the table below. It is only illegal to purchase or own a firearm if an individual is convicted of a felony or Class A misdemeanor involving a family member. The state’s residents are allowed to purchase firearms and accessories from the vast majority of states. According to the policy “Stand your Ground,” an individual is allowed to use a firearm in an act of self-defense without legal ramifications. According to Dallas News, Texas’s usual response to fatal shootings is to increase gun access for protective purposes.

The solution to end mass shootings can only be found in the policy of mass shootings in the USA. There is no significant correlation between school shootings and the amount of mental health facilities per county, with higher numbers of facilities correlating with school shootings. The data utilized does not present an accurate correlation between school shootings and mental health facilities per individual. This analysis did fall short due to a few uncertainties. The biggest source of error is the lack of available data. It was very difficult to find data about the locations of firearm vendors and school shootings. The data utilized does not present an accurate image of all the locations of firearm vendors. Additionally, access to firearms and mental health facilities may not be the only determining factors of school shootings that result in injuries or fatalities. To fully solve the problem of mass school shootings, all potential determining factors must be addressed.