

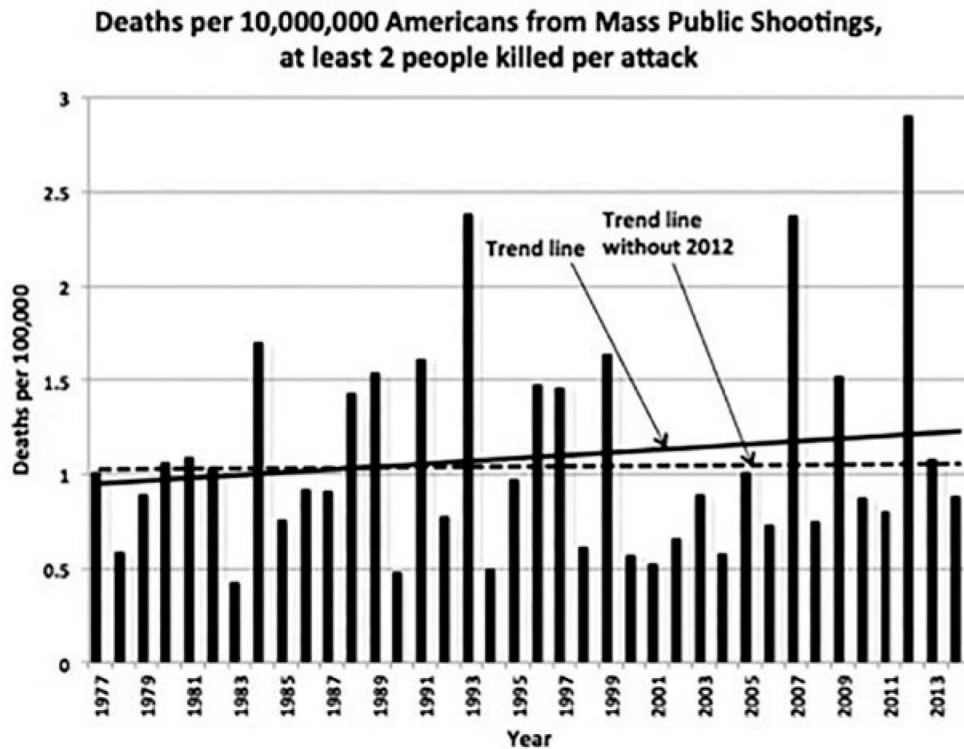
# **THE WAR ON GUNS**

**ARMING YOURSELF AGAINST  
GUN CONTROL LIES**

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**FIGURE 7**



Another slight of hand involves choosing 2000 as the starting date for the analysis. It is widely known that 2000 and 2001 were unusually quiet years with few mass shootings. The authors probably knew perfectly well that they could get the desired results by starting with those years, omitting some of the early shootings, and finally padding later years by counting non-mass shootings.

Let's look at the numbers from before 2000. In 2000, University of Chicago economist Bill Landes and I analyzed data on mass public shootings from 1977 to 1999. Exactly like the later work by the FBI, we limited our study to non-gang attacks that resulted in two or more fatalities in a public place. We also excluded shootings if they occurred in connection with some other crime, such as a robbery.

The attached graph shows the rate of death from mass public shootings. There has only been a slight, statistically insignificant upward trend over the thirty-eight years from 1977 through 2014. Even then, the trend entirely depends on a single year—2012 —when there were ninety-one deaths (Figure 7).