

Gun Control Versus Mental Illness: After Florida Shooting, Trump Deepens a Fraught Debate

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After more than two dozen people died in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, President Donald Trump said Thursday that his administration was committed to tackling “the difficult issue of mental health.” The person identified as the shooter previously sought help for mental illness, the *Washington Post* [reported](#).

The shooting in Parkland is now among [the most deadly mass shootings](#) in American history. Debates following these tragic events in the U.S. have become increasingly polarized, with some focused on gun control and others focused on mental health. Trump’s statement did not include any mention of gun control. Yet many question if the immediate aftermath of a mass shooting is an appropriate time to discuss mental health.

Newsweek asked Frank Farley, a psychologist at Temple University who has studied extreme psychological behaviors, to weigh in. This interview has been condensed and edited.