

《美国枪击频发 学生“防弹书包”热销》

美国近期接连发生多起严重的枪击事件，导致数十人死伤。开学季在即，不少美国家长因担忧孩子的安全，纷纷购买“防弹书包”。



视觉中国

El Paso natives living in Washington, DC host a vigil for the victims of the recent El Paso shooting in Texas on Aug 10, 2019. [Photo/VCG]

With every mass shooting in the United States comes renewed fear of another.

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mass shooting???????

It's a fear particularly potent among parents of young children and especially now, days away from the start of the school year. It's not unwarranted -- CNN **examined** 10 years of shootings on K-12 campuses and found two sobering truths: School shootings **are increasing**, and no type of community is spared.

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Instead of letting their children choose a plastic backpack covered in Hello Kitty or Spider-Man, some parents are purchasing bags that double as shields in case kids get caught in gunfire.

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Sales of bulletproof backpacks and inserts, like this one from TuffyPacks, have skyrocketed.
Screenshot from CNN

Companies like Guard Dog Security, Bullet Blocker and TuffyPacks designed bulletproof backpacks to quell those concerns.

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The retailers said backpack sales spike during the back-to-school season, and all three said they saw a significant uptick in the aftermath of mass shootings.

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Joe Curran founded Bullet Blocker 12 years ago after a shooting at Virginia Tech killed 33 people. To protect his two school-aged children, the former sheriff's deputy inserted body armor into their backpacks, he said. Classmates' parents asked for inserts for their children's bags, and it grew into a business.

[illegible]

body armor????

The company's website calls the bulletproof backpack a "consumer favorite." Prices range from \$160 to \$490. Most are JanSport or High Sierra backpacks retrofitted with ballistic panels sewn into the back. The smallest offering, the "Junior Pack," is suggested for preschoolers.

[illegible]

Sales have increased 200% since the mass shootings last weekend, Curran said.

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Yasir Sheikh, president of Guard Dog Security, said the company launched a line of bulletproof backpacks in 2013. The bags retail for between \$119.99 and \$299.99.

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Raquel K.W. Donahue decided to purchase a bulletproof insert for her 6-year-old son before he starts first grade. She opted for the insert instead of the pricier backpack because he'll outgrow a bag quickly, and the insert was marketed to last 20 years, she said.

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Donahue is a reference and instruction librarian at Prairie View A&M University in Texas. about an hour and a half away is Santa Fe, Texas, where 10 people were killed at a high school in May 2018; 10 hours away is El Paso, where a gunman killed 22 people at a Wal-Mart on Saturday.

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TuffyPacks produces backpack inserts made of a ballistic-rated fiber that can withstand most handgun ammunition.

Screenshot from CNN

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"There is the morbidity factor," Steve Naremore, CEO of TuffyPacks, acknowledged of the product's purpose.

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"When I was in school, there was no such thing as active shooter drills," he said. "But times have changed."

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Donahue's son brought it up first. He came home from an active shooter drill in kindergarten and shared what he'd learned to do if a "bad guy comes to hurt him," she said.

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"He's worried about things I never dreamed of," she said. "It makes me sad -- and angry."

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She's had active shooter trainings at work, too. After a 2014 shooting in a library at Florida State University in Tallahassee -- the same town where a gunman would kill two women in a yoga studio four years later -- Donahue and her fellow librarians have planned what they'd do in case of an attack.

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"It's sort of incredible how this is impacting both my personal and professional life."

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