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## **Brooklyn Subway Shooting: A Case Study**

### **Introduction:**

Karen Zraick, author of “A Year of Pain: Victims Struggle After Brooklyn Subway Shooting,” sheds light on the aftermath of a tragic incident that took place on a Brooklyn subway platform where 10 people were shot. Miraculously, there were no injuries, and the 63-year-old assailant pleaded guilty to a firearms offense and 10 counts of terrorist attack in federal court.<sup>1</sup>

### **Facts of the Case:**

On April 12th, 2022, a 63-year-old male opened fire indiscriminately, injuring multiple individuals and causing widespread panic among commuters. Several victims were left wounded with varying degrees of physical and psychological trauma. Among injured were both commuters waiting for the train at the New Utrecht stop in Brooklyn, as well as bystanders caught in the chaotic scene immediately after the shooting occurred.<sup>1</sup> The impact of mass shootings is felt long after they fade from headlines, and the experience of these victims from the subway shooting resulted in long-term health consequences.<sup>1</sup>

### **Epidemiological Aspects of the Event:**

The shooting incident in Brooklyn had significant epidemiological implications. It highlighted the vulnerability of public spaces to acts of violence and potential for mass casualties in densely populated areas. This event also underscored the need for emergency response systems and trauma care protocols to address the aftermath of such incidents. A lawsuit was filed in December of 2022 against the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the city by three victims who were shot in the Brooklyn attack. The suit faults the agencies for failing to ensure safe conditions in the subways.

### **Management of the Event:**

In the near-immediate aftermath of the shooting, EMS teams were deployed to provide on-site medical assistance to the injured. Victims were triaged based on the severity of their injuries and transported to nearby hospitals for further evaluation and treatment.<sup>2</sup> Resources were mobilized by hospitals nearby, one of which being NYU Langone, to accommodate the influx of patients, coordinating with trauma teams to address complex injuries and provide psychological support to survivors. The NYPD initiated investigations to apprehend the suspect and gather evidence for prosecution.<sup>2</sup> NYU Langone set up therapy sessions for Rudy Perez, a victim mentioned in the article, where he learned breathing exercises to control his anxiety.

### **Communication of the Event:**

The shooting incident in the Brooklyn subway station was communicated to the public through various channels, including traditional news outlets like The New York Times and PBS, but also through social media outlets and local authorities. The NYPD issued updates on the ongoing investigation and urged the public to stay vigilant and to report any relevant information.<sup>1</sup> Counseling services and support networks were also established to assist individuals affected by the shooting.

### **Summary:**

The April 2022 subway shooting left many injured, both physically and psychologically. Epidemiological considerations emphasized the need for better surveillance for public spaces,

especially the subway. Communication and management of the case played a crucial role in disseminating information and addressing the needs of victims and in ensuring public safety.

## References

1. Zraick K. A Year of Pain: Victims Struggle After Brooklyn Subway Shooting. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/30/nyregion/brooklyn-subway-shooting-victims.html>. Published April 30, 2023.
2. Calvin B. Brooklyn Subway Gunman Who Shot 10 People in 2022 Attack Sentenced to Life in Prison. PBS News Hour. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/brooklyn-subway-gunman-who-shot-10-people-in-2022-attack-sentenced-to-life-in-prison>. Published October 5, 2023.