National Threat Evaluation and Reporting
QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Quarter 2 – 2022

Research in Focus

Congress passed a public law in 1981 proclaiming National Women's Week in March, celebrating the impact of women in US history. Nearly six years later, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating the entire month of March as **Women's History Month**. The NTER Program would like to recognize the challenges shouldered by women, and to celebrate, appreciate, and reflect upon their victories. Throughout history, women have made vital contributions to our culture and society, often in the face of adversity. The US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence and Analysis honors and supports all the women who have helped, and are helping, pave the way to ensure the safety and security of our nation. The field of gender history was developed, in part, from women's history, and both fields weigh the influence of power dynamics. Gender, as a social construct, incorporates norms, behaviors, and roles within our society that can and have changed over time. Gender can play a critical role in targeted violence,[a] from perpetrator to victim.

NTER Mission

The National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Program's mission is to strengthen information sharing and enhance Homeland Security partners' ability to identify and prevent targeted violence and mass attacks, regardless of ideology. The NTER Program's quarterly bulletin is designed to help inform Department of Homeland Security customers of research developments and resources to examine Homeland threats through a threat assessment and management perspective.

Did you know?
Estimates published by the World Health Organization indicate that, globally, about one in three women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

Hot Topics

Gender Bias in Threat Assessment
In December 2015, the Department of Justice issued guidance for "Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence." The document identifies domestic violence and sexual assault disproportionally perpetrated against women, young girls, and transgendered individuals. Instead of a gender-based approach to these heinous crimes, the document suggests a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to eliminate gender bias. We assess that employing trauma-focused interview techniques could encourage victims to provide facts about the incident rather than focusing on perpetrators. Given there is no peer-reviewed literature or guidance on

the topic of gender bias in behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM), applying the eight principles to prevent gender bias, identified in this document, to a BTAM program could assist in reducing existing biases during an assessment. You can also learn more about what strategies are used to overcome biases through DOJ | Understanding Bias: A Resource Guide.

Preventative Measures for Intimate Partner Violence

The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center found that 30 percent of offenders who conducted mass attacks in public spaces had a history of domestic violence.[b] Although most individuals are not targeted violence offenders, this is one of many instances where a history of interpersonal violence can be found in those who pose a threat to public safety. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Division of Violence Prevention, IPV is abuse or aggression that occurs within a "romantic relationship," involving both current and former spouses and dating partners. IPV includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression. Data from the CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicates about one in four women and nearly one in ten men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported some form of IPV-related impact. Because IPV is connected to other forms of violence, early detection and intervention measures could interrupt an individual from conducting another targeted violence attack. The CDC outlines several societal-level strategies and approaches to help prevent IPV. For more information, visit the Violence Prevention Home Page (cdc.gov).

How to Increase Reporting for Hate Crimes

Targeted violence does not discriminate. Hate crimes can be a subset of targeted violence, particularly where the perpetrator of a mass attack is motivated by racial, ethnic, religious, or gender-based hatred. For example, the 2016 massacre in the Orlando, Florida nightclub is an act of targeted violence and highlights the pervasiveness of hate crimes in the United States. Community engagement and reporting are essential for robust and timely intervention to prevent targeted violence, which is often lacking for incidents against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) community, according to a 2020 research study collaborated among Florida International University and Miami Dade County Police Department and supported by the National Institute of Justice.[c] The study found that 85 percent of incidents [hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity] are never reported to law enforcement by victims, perpetrators, or bystanders. The study outlines seven policy recommendations to encourage increased reporting of incidents against the LGBTQ community, such as building an awareness campaign and highlighting the power of social media. You can read more about this study on the Anti-LGBTQ hate crimes in Miami-Dade County: Research Summary and Policy Recommendations. Of note, mass targeted attacks are not the only crimes that are reportable as hate crimes. Crimes of violence targeting individuals based on race, ethnicity, gender, or religious affiliation are reportable, even if they are minor and involve only a single person or piece of critical infrastructure.

Bullying, Harassment, and Prevention Efforts

Bullying and sexual harassment in schools has been widely studied following two significant events in 1999. One was the shooting at Columbine High School, which drew attention to bullying in schools. The second was the Supreme Court case Davis vs. Monroe County Board of Education, which found that school officials were responsible for sexual harassment among students. Crowley and Cornell from University of Virginia conducted a research study in 2021 comparing bullying and sexual harassment

in high schools—the first study linking the two events.[d] They found that students who had multiple victimizations—both sexual harassment and bullying, as they are different forms of aggression—were highly vulnerable and experienced high levels of distress. Early intervention and prevention programs, such as BTAM, aimed at addressing multiple types of victimization can assist in providing safer, healthier learning environments for students. For more information and resources on bullying and harassment prevention visit www.apa.org.

Resources

Below are additional resources to assist in violence prevention and increase awareness and understanding of current trends in threat assessment and targeted violence.

- Federal Bureau of Investigation | Victim Services
  The FBI Victim Services Division manages several specialized programs and resources to include, but not limited to, child victim services, crisis response canines, a victim services response team, and guidance on how to build victim services programs.
- The Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC)
  The SPARC is funded to work with the Office of Violence Against Women grantees and potential grantees. The SPARC provides technical assistance—including in-person trainings, policy and protocol development, and online resources—to domestic violence and sexual assault organizations, criminal justice services, campuses, and other relevant professionals across the country.
- Family Justice Center | Alliance for Hope
  The Family Justice Center Alliance (FJCA) serves as the clearinghouse, research center, and national affiliation organization for Family Justice Centers and other multi-agency models that serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, and/or human trafficking. The FJCA also serves as the technical assistance and training provider for the United States Department of Justice for federally funded centers.
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
  NNEDV was founded more than 30 years ago to be the leading voice for survivors of domestic violence and their allies. Today, NNEDV provides training and assistance to the statewide and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. It also furthers public awareness of domestic violence and changes beliefs that condone IPV. To learn more about NNEDV, please visit https://nnedv.org/.

Threat Assessment Spotlight

US Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Workplace Violence Prevention (WVP) Program

VHA is committed to providing high-quality healthcare to veterans in environments that are safe for all persons. From targeted threats of violence, to stalking, to aggression from those under the influence of substances, healthcare personnel encounter violence spanning the predatory to affective violence continuum. Of nearly 25,000 workplace assaults (annual), 75 percent occurred in healthcare and social service settings (OSHA,[e] 2015), with over 80 percent of reported violent behavior in healthcare venues being engaged in by customers (IAHSS, 2016). To help mitigate behavioral safety issues, the VHA WVP promotes a four-element approach for implementing evidence-based and data-driven best practices that ensures: 1) Employees

have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to identify and intervene appropriately regarding behavioral safety concerns; 2) All employees have a voice to report behaviors that cause safety concerns, and data from those reports are used to inform safety practices; 3) Disruptive behavior reports are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team trained in BTAM best practices and that *safety plans focus on implementing and strengthening protective factors against violent behavior*; and 4) Treatment safety plan recommendations are communicated to front-line staff who will use them. For further information, please contact WVPPConsultation@va.gov.

Program Updates

- NTER's Master Trainer Program is accepting applications for future cohorts. For more information and to apply, please e-mail NTER.MTP@hq.dhs.gov.
- The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) Program is in the process of re-conceptualizing the SAR Fundamentals and Processes eLearning training to generate completely unclassified material that can be shared with private sector, educational, academic, and other non-governmental partners.
- The NSI Program has created and translated products about the 16 behavioral indicators to support Spanish-speaking partners. Please contact NTER@hq.dhs.gov to obtain a copy of this product.

Who to Contact

To learn more about the NSI, Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management, or the NTER Program, please contact NTER@hq.dhs.gov.

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[a] Targeted violence is defined by DHS I&A within its intelligence and information sharing mission as an unlawful act of violence dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources, in which actors or groups intentionally target a discernible population of individuals or venue in a manner that poses a threat to Homeland Security based on: an apparent terrorist motive indicated by the population or venue targeted, or by the particular means of violence employed; the significance of actual or potential impacts to the Nation's economic security, public health, or public safety, or to the minimal operations of the economy and government; or the severity and magnitude of the violence or harm and impact of either upon the capabilities of state and local governments to effectively respond without federal assistance.

[b] National Threat Assessment Center. (2020). *Mass Attacks in Public Spaces - 2019*. U.S. Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security.

[c] National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the US Department of Justice. It is dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science, using objective and independent knowledge and tools to inform the decision-making of the criminal and juvenile justice communities to reduce crimes and advance justice.

[d] Crowley, Brittany Z., and Dewey Cornell. "Associations of bullying and sexual harassment with student well-being indicators." *Psychology of Violence,* vol. 10, no. 6, 2020, pp. 615–625.

[e] The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is a large regulatory agency of the United States Department of Labor that originally had federal visitorial powers to inspect and examine workplaces. OSHA's mission is to "assure safe and healthy working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education, and assistance."

Homeland Security

Office of Intelligence and Analysis
Customer Feedback Form

Product Title:

All survey responses are completely anonymous. No personally identifiable information is captured unless you voluntarily offer personal or contact information in any of the comment fields. Additionally, your responses are combined with those of many others and summarized in a report to further protect your anonymity.

1. Please select partner type: and function:

2. What is the highest level of intelligence information that you receive?

3. Please complete the following sentence: "I focus most of my time on:"

4. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Product's overall usefulness	○	○	○	○	○	○
Product's relevance to your mission	○	○	○	○	○	○
Product's timeliness	○	○	○	○	○	○
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	○	○	○	○	○	○

5. How do you plan to use this product in support of your mission? *(Check all that apply.)*

- ☐ Drive planning and preparedness efforts, training, and/or emergency response operations
- ☐ Observe, identify, and/or disrupt threats
- ☐ Share with partners
- ☐ Allocate resources (e.g. equipment and personnel)
- ☐ Reprioritize organizational focus
- ☐ Author or adjust policies and guidelines
- ☐ Initiate a law enforcement investigation
- ☐ Intiate your own regional-specific analysis
- ☐ Intiate your own topic-specific analysis
- ☐ Develop long-term homeland security strategies
- ☐ Do not plan to use
- ☐ Other:

6. To further understand your response to question #5, please provide specific details about situations in which you might use this product.

7. What did this product _not_ address that you anticipated it would?

8. To what extent do you agree with the following two statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
This product will enable me to make better decisions regarding this topic.	○	○	○	○	○	○
This product provided me with intelligence information I did not find elsewhere.	○	○	○	○	○	○

9. How did you obtain this product?

10. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up conversation about your feedback?

To help us understand more about your organization so we can better tailor future products, please provide:

Name:
Organization:
Contact Number:

Position:
State:
Email:

Submit Feedback ▶

Privacy Act Statement