



National Threat Evaluation and Reporting

Q U A R T E R L Y B U L L E T I N



Quarter 3 – 2022

Research in Focus

June is National Safety Month, *an annual observance to help keep each other safe from the workplace to anyplace*. Creating and sustaining a culture where safety is a priority is crucial to the welfare of our Nation. As acts of targeted violence continue to plague our communities across the United States, the National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office is bringing awareness to and focusing attention on the many challenges and concerns that affect the safety and security of our federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners.¹ Each one of us has a role in preventing acts of targeted violence. Maintaining vigilance and continuing to educate, engage, and partner with public health organizations, law enforcement agencies, schools, juvenile justice agencies, and community-based groups are critical elements in maintaining a safe community.

Our Mission

The National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Office equips Homeland Security partners with tools and resources to assist in identifying and mitigating threats of terrorism and targeted violence. The NTER quarterly bulletin is designed to 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?



According to the [National Safety Council](#), millions of American workers report having been victims of workplace violence every year.² Assaults, ranging from intentional shooting by another person to sexual assault, are the fifth-leading cause of work-related deaths. In 2020, assaults at work resulted in 20,050 injuries and 392 fatalities, based on National Safety Council [Injury Facts](#).³

Hot Topics



Targeted Violence Prevention in the Workplace

Workplace violence is a continuum of violent acts ranging from common non-physical acts (e.g., bullying) to less common physical acts (e.g., aggravated assault and acts of terrorism), according to [Violence in the Federal Workplace: A Guide for Prevention and Response](#), developed by the DHS Interagency Security Committee. Because acts of physical violence often start with other identifiable concerning behaviors that arouse suspicion in a reasonable individual, agencies must take all reported safety concerns seriously. This guide recommends all agencies establish clear reporting and incident communication procedures, as well as trainings that ensure workers are aware of these behavioral risk indicators and understand how to respond when a violent situation occurs. The guide also provides ideas

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and considerations to help agencies develop pre-employment screening, tiered approaches to training, procedures for employees to report incidents, and other useful frameworks and tools. When it comes to workplace violence prevention, the guide offers some alternative strategies, such as interest-based problem solving and peer-reviewed approaches in dealing with workplace violence at its earliest stage. You can also find resources and case studies [here](#).

Reducing and Preventing Community Violence

In May 2021, the [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ) announced a comprehensive strategy for reducing violent crime to help keep communities safe. This strategy embodies four core principles: fostering trust and having legitimacy in the communities served, investing in community-based prevention and intervention programs, setting strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results of these efforts. In the past two decades, the Department introduced several nationwide programs to address community violence. Project Safe Neighborhoods is one of DOJ's leading initiatives that brings together federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officials; prosecutors; and community stakeholders to identify the most prominent violent crimes and develop solutions to addressing them. Establishing a framework and developing a strategy for preventing and mitigating violence is essential to sustain a safe community. The DOJ is requiring all updated Project Safe Neighborhoods strategies be rooted in four pillars to maximize its efficacy: community engagement, prevention and intervention, focused and strategic enforcement, and accountability. To learn more about the core principles, plans, and pillars in building a safety strategy, visit [Community Violence Intervention | COPS Office](#).

Holistic Approach To Assisting Victims of Mass Casualty Violence

While threat assessment can be used as a framework in preventing potential incidents of violence, threat management is considered the prime tool—the imperative piece of the puzzle—that can help individuals stay off a path toward violence. Many threat management strategies focus on the person of interest; however, limited research and resources exist on how to approach prevention and intervention work with victims of targeted violence. The Office for Victims of Crime, in coordination with other federal agencies, developed the [Helping Victims of Mass Violence & Terrorism](#) toolkit to help communities prepare and respond to potential incidents of mass violence.⁴ One of the most essential steps is assembling a multidisciplinary partnership within the community and developing a holistic approach for a victim assistance plan. This can be accomplished using a victim-centered approach, which can identify partnerships with community mental health services, family assistance centers, criminal justice victim support services, emergency management offices, as well as community leaders who can help restore trust and faith in the community. You can find unique guiding principles, protocols, toolkits, and checklists at the [Office for Victims of Crime | DOJ](#).

Objectivity in Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management

The National Association of School Psychologists developed a [resource](#) that highlights the benefits of properly conducting behavioral threat assessment and management in schools. When conducted properly and consistently, with checks and balances in place, behavioral threat assessment and management complements special education policies and procedures and mitigates bias and disproportionality to ensure students receive the most appropriate intervention and support they need to feel and stay safe at school. It is important to remember that a threat assessment is initiated based on



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threatening or concerning behaviors that arouse suspicion in a reasonable individual, not a student's label or disability. Behavioral threat assessment and management is valuable in determining whether a student is simply making a threat or posing a threat. In addition, having a multidisciplinary behavioral threat assessment and management team can help to objectively identify and address threats and effectively meet the needs of all students. The National Association of School Psychologists identifies the goals, objectives, and utility of behavioral threat assessment and management implementation in schools, highlighting that a student's civil rights and civil liberties remain at the forefront of this process. For more information, visit www.nasponline.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.



- [National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin](#)

The US Department of Homeland Security, on 7 June, issued a new National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin in light of the heightened threat environment. Several recent attacks have highlighted the dynamic and complex nature of the threat environment, which is expected to become more dynamic as several high-profile events could be exploited to justify acts of violence against a range of possible targets.

- [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#)

CISA released the 3rd edition of the [K-12 School Security Guide Suite](#), a set of products designed to support schools in conducting vulnerability assessments and planning to implement layered physical security elements across K-12 districts and campuses. Developed in consultation with subject matter experts and members of the school safety community, the guide and its companion, *K-12 School Security Assessment Tool*, outline action-oriented and systems-based security practices and options for consideration.

- [Office of the Director of National Intelligence | First Responder Toolbox](#)

The mission of the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) is to improve information sharing and enhance public safety. JCAT developed the First Responder Toolbox—a reference aid intended to promote coordination and partnership in deterring, preventing, disrupting, and responding to terrorist attacks.

- [Department of Justice | Office of Victims of Crime](#)

The Office of Victims of Crime—in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office for Victim Assistance and the US DOJ's Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism—developed



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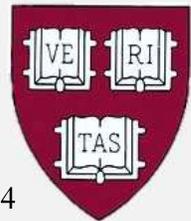
a toolkit to help communities prepare for and respond to victims of mass violence and terrorism in the most timely, effective, and compassionate manner possible.

- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Disaster's Technical Assistance Center, helps partners in delivering an effective behavioral health response to disasters.

Threat Assessment Spotlight

Harvard University's Behavioral Assessment Consultation Team is committed to employing a proactive, collaborative, coordinated, and fact-based process to handle "disruptive, disturbing or threatening behaviors" that could affect the Harvard University campus. Between 2012 and 2022, a total of 284 individuals were triaged by the team. Of the 284 persons of concern, 189 (67%) triages were initiated by the team staff person and 95 (33%) were initiated by a University official. Of the 284 persons of concern, 225 (79%) were affiliated with the University and 59 (21%) were not affiliated with the University. The Behavioral Assessment Consultation Team is not an administrative, treatment, or disciplinary body; rather it is designed to provide expertise, information, recommendations, and referrals to those dealing with threatening or disruptive situations. For additional questions about the Team, please review the [Threat Assessment and Management](#) page on the Harvard University Police Department website or contact the Behavioral Assessment Consultation Team staff person, Steven Catalano at 617-495-9225 or stevencatalano@hupd.harvard.edu.



Program Updates

NTER's Master Trainer Program in behavioral threat assessment and management is accepting applications for future cohorts. For more information and to apply, please e-mail NTER.MTP@hq.dhs.gov.

The DHS Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) Program Management Office is in the final stages of publicly releasing a fully unclassified version of the SAR Fundamentals and Processes eLearning training that can be shared with Federal, State, Local, Tribal, Territorial and Private Sector (F/SLTTP) homeland security partners.

The NSI has created and translated products of the 16 behavioral indicators to support Spanish-speaking partners. Please contact NTER@hq.dhs.gov to obtain a copy of this product.



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How Did We Do?



Please take a moment to share your feedback:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTERBulletinSurvey>

Contact Information

To learn more about the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI), Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management, or the NTER Office, please contact NTER@hq.dhs.gov.

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- ¹ The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis defines targeted violence 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.
 - ² The National Safety Council (NSC) is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate – and has been for over 100 years. As a mission-based organization, NSC focus on eliminating the leading causes of preventable death so people can live their fullest lives.
 - ³ Injury Facts is an online database, published by the NSC, using sources from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries to record injury and death statistics and their related costs in the area of workplace, motor vehicle, and home and community.
 - ⁴ The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is one of six Program Offices within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice. OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.