

SCHOOL SAFETY

ENVISIONING SAFER SCHOOLS

Safety Threats in a Clinical Office:
 What to Do Once You Become Aware That Your Client May Be Threatening a School

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What we will be presenting

- Why school threats are such a current concern
- What the experts know about school threats
- How to know if a threat should be taken seriously
- What you should do if you have a threatening situation in your office
- What to do after the evaluation/investigation is done

Current risks in our community

- Types of threats
- Clinical issues that have arisen in STAT cases
 - Suicidal ideation
 - Bullying/being bullied
 - Unmet clinical needs
 - Family dynamics
 - Availability and attitudes towards firearms

What the Experts Know About School Threats

WORKPLACE GUARDIANS INC.
Behavioral Consulting, Training & Intervention



Modes of
Violence



Affective Violence

- Reactive and impulsive
- Emotional violence
- Preceded by autonomic arousal
- Caused by reaction to perceived threat
- Accompanied by intense feelings of anger and/or fear
- Defensive violence

Source: International Handbook of Threat Assessment, J. Field, Maloy, Stephen D. Hart, and Jens Hoffmann, 2014.

Predatory Violence

- Planning and preparation beforehand
- Absence of emotion
- Absence of autonomic arousal
- Absence of imminent threat
- Offensive violence



Source: International Handbook of Social Assessment of Cyber Violence, Stephen D. Hart, and Jenn Hoffman, 2016

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

A Majority of Teens Have Experienced Some Form of Cyberbullying

59% of U.S. teens have been bullied or harassed online, and a similar share says it's a major problem for people their age. At the same time, teens mostly think teachers, social media companies and politicians are failing at addressing this issue.

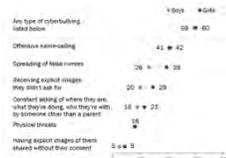
BY MONICA ANDERSON



(iStock/Getty Images)

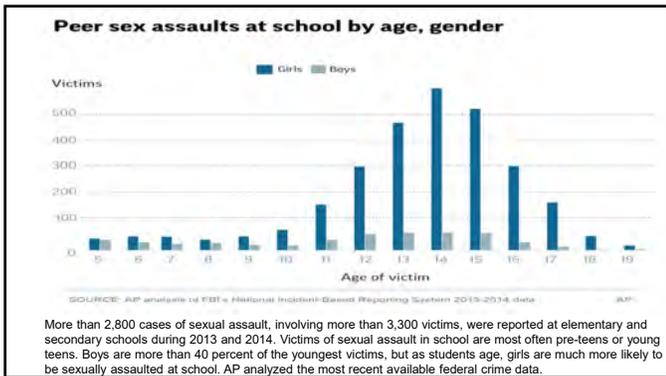
Teen boys and girls are equally likely to be bullied online, but girls are more likely to endure false rumors, receive explicit images they didn't ask for

% of U.S. teens who say they have experienced ... either or on their cellphone



© 2018 Pew Research Center. All rights reserved. For more information, visit www.pewresearch.org. Survey conducted from March 10-14, 2018. Margin of error is ±3.5 percentage points. For more information, visit www.pewresearch.org.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



J. Adolesc. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2018 Mar 20. PMCID: PMC5860636
 Published in final edited form as: J. Adolesc. 2018 Oct; 52: 191-200. NIHMSID: NIHMS950315
 doi: 10.1016/j.adolescence.2018.08.005 PMID: 27641644

Adolescent stalking and risk of violence

Joanne P. Smith-Darjen,^{a,*} Dennis E. Reidy,^b and POCO D. Kernsmith^a

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The publisher's final edited version of this article is available at J. Adolesc.

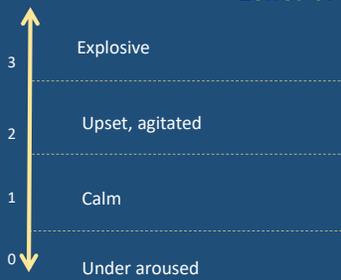
Boys in the CSP class were the most violent youth on nearly all indices with boys in the HIP (Hyper-Intimate Pursuit) class demonstrating an intermediate level of violence compared to NP (Non-Perpetrators) boys. Girls in the HIP class were more violent than NP girls on all indices. These findings suggest stalking in adolescence merits attention by violence prevention experts. In particular, juvenile stalking may signify youth at risk for multiple forms of violence perpetrated against multiple types of victims, not just the object of their infatuation.

How Do You Know if a
 Threatening Situation is Arising
 in Your Client?

Threats

- By the client
- Reported by family
 - Within the household
 - Extended family
- Reported by others
 - The School
 - Peers
 - Others

Zones of Arousal (Mood)



When to Worry

- Specific threats
 - Person, place, purpose, timing
- High impact threats
 - High lethality, clear intent, clear rationale
- Vulnerabilities of the client that reduce impulse control
 - Psychosis, command hallucinations
 - Impulsivity, worse with increased arousal
 - Substance abuse- Intoxication or withdrawal
 - Humiliation- shame, blame and anger
 - History of trauma- single, multiple

Specific Situations

- “Tarasoff” type
- Access to the object/victim, access to weapons, specific threats
- High risk of “explosion”
 - Likely to be provoked
 - Provocation will be intolerable

What to Do?

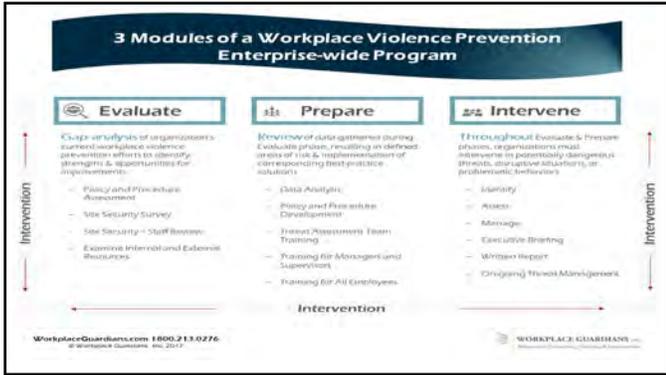
- Who can help?
- How to get help?
 - Risk assessment
 - Victim services
- Role of others
 - STAT
 - FBI
 - GVRO

The Expert Evaluation









Some Questions to Ask (Assessment)

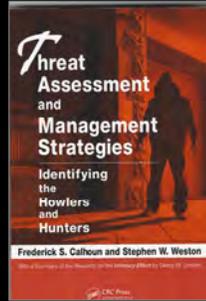
- Criminal history?
- Mental illness history?
- Violence history?
- Threat history?
- Substance abuse?
- Stalking behaviors?
- Weapons possession?
- Restraining Orders?

Howlers - Defined

“Howlers engage in problematic behavior toward their targets, but that behavior does not result in lethal violence.”

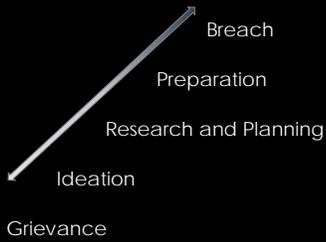
Hunters - Defined

“Hunters intentionally use lethal violence. Their behaviors in carrying out the violent act follow a defined trail we call the path to intended violence.”



Pathway to Violence

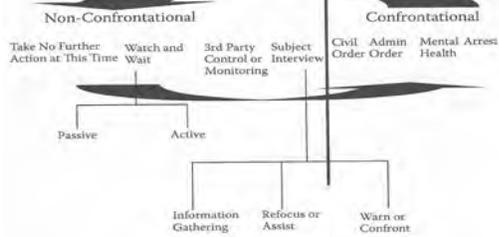
ATTACK



Source: Contemporary Threat Management: A practical guide for identifying, assessing and managing individuals of violent intent. Pt 58. Frederick S. Calhoun and Stephen W. Weston, 2009.

Photo: Dexter Arledge

Threat-Management Strategies



Threat Assessment and Management Strategies, Frederick S. Calhoun and Stephen W. Weston, (2009).

"The Literature" Now





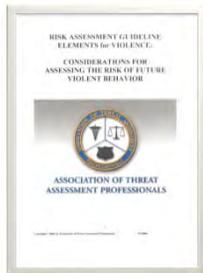
<https://prosecutingattorneys.org/wp-content/uploads/Murdered-Justice-An-Exploratory-Study.pdf>

www.cpropress.com

Structured Professional Judgement Instruments (SPJ)



(Third Edition 2016)



(2006)

Notification of Concerning Behavior/Incident:

Assess source quality and capture quality (e.g., first-hand information?; direct or indirect contact with reporting party)
"Three C's" - Content, Context, Circumstances- What is new/changed?
Initial assessment of immediacy of violence and accessibility of target
Initial consideration of protective actions- including appropriate initial notifications and explanations
(e.g., less savvy recipients=more detail vs. more savvy recipients= less detail)

Behavioral information of interest could include information from direct or indirect sources:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <u>Process Variables:</u> | <u>Risk Factors:</u> | <u>Inhibitors/Stabilizers:</u> | <u>Triggers: (Past, Present, and Future)</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach behavior • Evidence of escalation- threats, etc. • Fantasy rehearsal • Evidence of deterioration- deteriorating mental state, psychosis • Actively violent state of mind-suicidal or homicidal thoughts • Command hallucinations, thought | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapons-use connected to emotional release, fascination with destructive power • Motivational factors-what is driving the individual- delusion, fanatical beliefs, revenge, entitlement, grandiosity, need to force closure • Drug use- methamphetamine, cocaine, alcohol, steroids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of available inhibitors and the persons' access and utilization of them • Treatment availability, utilization, and past receptivity • Family • Other social support • Spiritual beliefs opposing violence • Connectedness and healthy affectional bonds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending perceived negative job event • Rejection and abandonment • Increased psychosis • Disruption of support system • Financial problems • Civil and criminal justice system |

Post-Mortem Digital Discovery



Jeffrey Weise, (2005)

Red Lake H. S. in MN. 9 killed, 5 injured, commits suicide. Weise grew up with a difficult and disrupted life. At the age of 9 his father committed suicide, his mother was an alcoholic and physically and emotionally abusive. Weise's mother later died after a car wreck, suffering from brain damage and long term coma. Weise had effectively lost both parents by the age of eleven and moved in with a grandfather and expressed frustration of living in Red Lake. Weise had an extensive history of being bullied and attempted suicide prior to the attack.

My Evaluation and Investigation



Evidence

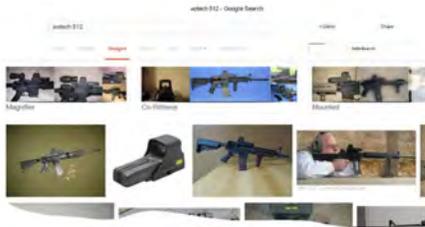
While Michael is a good kid, I am very concerned with what I saw on the front and back of his notebook. To be specific, the note on the top right stating, "I'm here to die & take as many of your type with me as I can. So don't assume I'll think twice before killing you. On the other hand if I enjoy talking to you, congrats, your safe... MP". Attached you will also see a picture I took of Michael after school wearing for his Halloween costume a tactical vest, helmet, and even a holster on his right leg. And no-one stopped him all day? Is this not a sign that should have been noted at 7:30 by security? Please talk to his parents of this. Like I said, I know he is a good kid, but I am sure the ones depicted in the picture on his notebook were good kids at one time too. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evidence

- **From:** Monday, November 04, 2013 5:57 AM
- **Sent:**
- **To:** **Subject:**
-
- You'll need to get a student number for this student and then collect what we have:
- 1. Whatever files we have in his user directory on the server. Just make a copy.
- 2. Run an iBoss user report on his account. We'll want to see any searches and websites visited as well as anything that was blocked.
- 3. Anything else you can think of that would give us insight into this student's frame of mind.
-
- The sooner the better. If he has files on the server you don't have to sort through them--just put them somewhere safe and burn them to a CD.
-
- I'm seeing searches for Sandy Hook Elementary, and M4 Carbine (assault rifle). Trying to get this in a legible format for you. I'll see what else I can find.

Evidence



The Desensitization Portal



World Wide Fame



- iReapZz - MW3 Sniper Montage 3
 - **1,230,975 views**
- Best Of iReapZz - MW2 Montage
 - **1,779,710 views**
- iReapZz - Ascendancy v2
 - **1,688,807 views**
- iReapZz - MW2 Montage 5
 - **3,872,174 views**
- Subscribers: **169,214**
- Thumbs Up: **40,900** / Thumbs Down: **814**

Tarasoff Warnings

What to Do After the Evaluation/Investigation is Done

Repairing the Relationship

- With the child/youth
- With the family

Treating the Youth and Family

• 3 Questions

- Do I have the clinical expertise and knowledge to treat this person?
- Do I have sufficient clinical support?
- Do I have sufficient sense of comfort and safety?

3 Take-Away Points

- Your office/clinic is a prime location to learn about young people who are considering hurting others
- You are not alone in determining the level of risk- you have many partners
 - Law enforcement, the District Attorney, the County Office of Education, County Behavioral Health Services
- Once the evaluation is over, you need to consider whether you can and how you should treat the youth and family
 - Knowledge/ability
 - Support
 - Comfort/Safety

End
