What is Threat Assessment?

Threat assessment is a problem-solving approach to violence prevention that involves assessment and intervention with students who have threatened violence in some way.

Threat Assessment Takes a Problem-Solving Approach

The team takes action based on the seriousness of the threat.

- What protective action, if any, is needed?
- What problem stimulated the threat?
- What can be done to resolve that problem?

Available from Amazon.com

Research on Threat Assessment


discipline Policy and Practice.

Your message was not sent.
2013 Governor’s School and Campus Safety Task Force

40 members,
Led by Secretaries of Public Safety, Education, and Health and Human Resources
http://dcjs.virginia.gov/vcss/SchoolCampusSafetyTaskForce/

What is the “Virginia model”?

Model of threat assessment developed in 2002 at UVA under direction of Dr. Dewey Cornell, recognized by NREPP as an evidence-based practice

Model Policies developed in 2014 by VA Dept. of Criminal Justice Services (with input from Dr. Cornell), permits schools to use any model that conforms to its general guidelines, including the UVA model.

Virginia Student Threat Assessment Project

1. Statewide inventory of practices
2. Assessment of outcomes by race
3. Identify training needs
4. Controlled study of training effectiveness

Student Threat Assessment as a Safe and Supportive Prevention Strategy

4-year project (2015-2018)

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Selected sample of 1,865 threat assessment cases reported by 785 Virginia public schools during the 2014-15 school year
Percentages for 1,865 threat cases from 785 schools. One case can involve more than one type of threat.

Types of Threats (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kill</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use weapon</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit, beat</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stab, cut</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bomb</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intended Victim (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole school/group</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff/administrator</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentages for 1,865 threat cases from 785 schools. One case can involve more than one victim.

Percentages for 1,865 threat cases from 785 schools. One case can involve more than one outcome.

Threat Outcomes (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threat Not Attempted</td>
<td>97.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted and Averted</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat Carried Out</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disciplinary Outcome (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reprimand</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension out of school</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension in school</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expulsion reduced to...</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detention after school</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placed in juvenile detention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrested</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expelled</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No statistically significant differences for White vs Black or Hispanic students
Analyses show some positive results for statewide implementation of student threat assessment.

Schools are making differentiated assessments, recognizing that most cases are not serious.

Most students are able to return to school, with few arrests or expulsions.

Similar outcomes for Black, Hispanic, and White students.

Variation across schools in....
1. Threshold for doing an assessment
2. Criteria for a serious threat
3. Threat response

Educational programs to:
1. Increase school understanding of threat assessment
2. Increase serious threat reporting

Students (15 min)
Parents (25 min)
Teachers/staff (25 min)
Team members (25, 20, 30 min)

Programs include anonymous survey questions to measure learning. Answers will be used for research purposes. For more information, contact Dr. Jennifer Maeng at jlc7d@virginia.edu

Excerpt from online program for students
Student Threat Assessment

Dewey Cornell, Ph.D.

May 8, 2017

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434-924-8929

Threat assessment includes intervention with students whose behavior may pose a threat to others.

A threat assessment team will automatically suspend a student for making a threat. (False)

Threat assessment teams investigate threatening statements or behaviors by students.

Schools have a relatively high rate of shootings compared to other locations in the U.S. (False)

Overall scores

A threat assessment team may try counseling to prevent two students from fighting.

If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.

My child’s school has a threat assessment team.

Threat assessment teams include members with expertise in school administration, counseling, instruction, and law enforcement.

Students are automatically suspended for making threats. (False)

All Virginia public schools are required to have a threat assessment team.

Schools have a relatively high rate of shootings compared to other locations in the U.S.

Overall percent correct

Staff Knowledge of Threat Assessment

Percent Answering Correctly

Parent Knowledge of Threat Assessment

Overall percent correct

Percent Answering Correctly

Student Knowledge of Threat Assessment

Percent Answering Correctly

Student Response to Program

Percent Answering Correctly

Research Team


School Safety

Online Educational Program

Preview the programs at http://www.schoolthreatassessment.com/

- Students
- Parents
- Teachers/staff
- Team members

To obtain codes for previewing the programs, contact Dr. Jennifer Maeng at jlc7d@virginia.edu

http://youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu