



Behavioral Approach to Violence Prevention

Identifying Threatening or Concerning Behaviors

Many individuals who are planning to engage in targeted violence display threatening or concerning behaviors that are observable to others. Those who have perpetrated acts of targeted violence have no profile. The following categories are not exhaustive, but they represent some common threatening or potentially concerning behaviors identified across a wide variety of completed and averted acts of targeted violence. Observed alone, these threatening or potentially concerning behaviors may not signal violence, but they could indicate that an individual may need help. These behaviors and other relevant factors should be assessed within an individual's totality of circumstances, including life stressors, personal risk factors, and threat mitigators, to identify if an individual is moving along a pathway to violence and what help may be needed.

Disclaimer: The behaviors and factors below include constitutionally protected activities and life circumstances that are experienced by many people who will never engage in violent activity. Each indicator listed may be, by itself, lawful conduct or behavior and may constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the US Constitution.



Behaviors that may indicate: ■ Concern ■ Heightened Concern ■ Imminent Concern



NOTE: Vetting these behaviors to assess the potential for intended violence while ensuring the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties requires additional information and professional training. Please report threatening or concerning behaviors to the appropriate authorities within your organization or community. If you know someone who is struggling with mental health issues or who may pose a danger to themselves or others, please seek help and call 9-1-1 for emergencies.