

We Can Prevent Gun Violence

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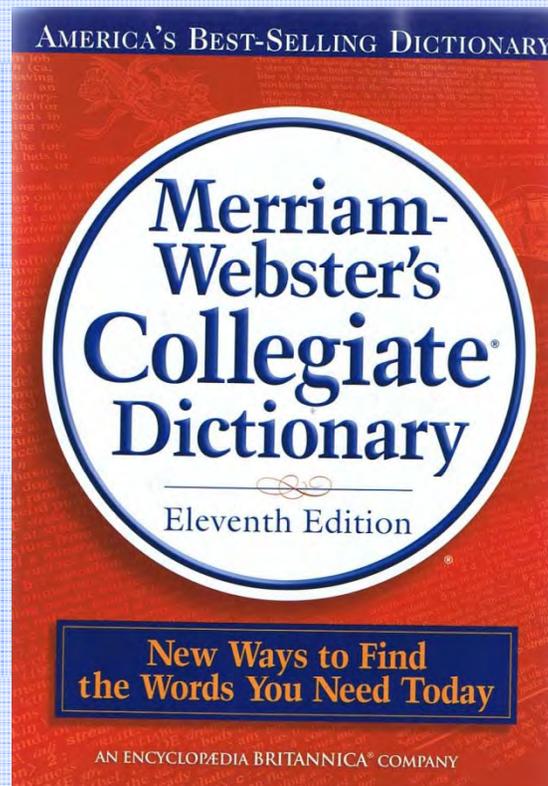


Prevention starts with safe and healthy children.



**Let's not forget what
prevention means.**

**Prevention means
“to keep something from
happening”**



Crisis response is not prevention.



A crisis occurs when prevention has failed.

Active shooter training is not prevention.



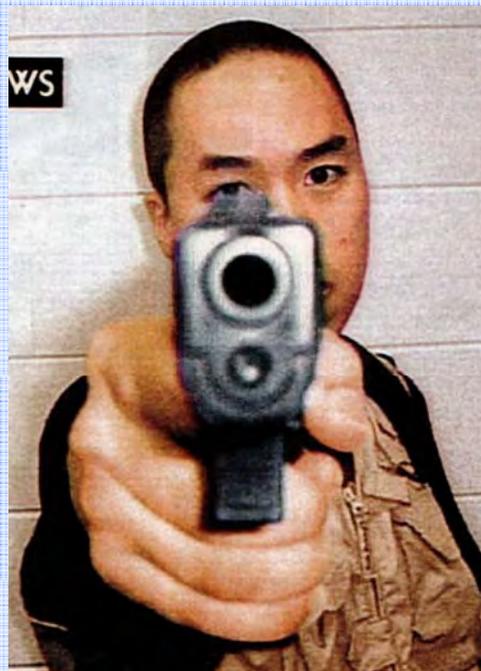
Arming our teachers is not prevention.

Gun group offers training for Utah teachers

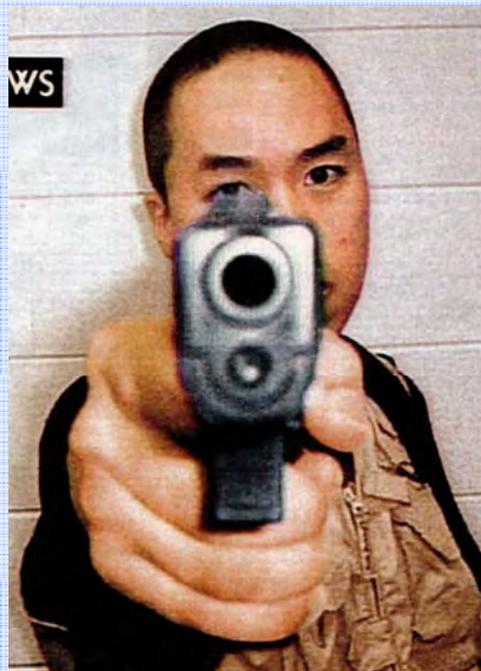


Christine Caldwell, left, receives firearms training with a 9mm Glock from personal defense instructor Jim McCarthy during concealed weapons training for 200 Utah teachers Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, in West Valley City, Utah. The Utah Shooting Sports Council offered six hours of training in handling concealed weapons in the latest effort to arm teachers to confront school assailants. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

Shooting him before he shoots you is not prevention.



**Prevention must start
before the gunman is
at your door.**



Critics say,
“We can’t *predict* who
will be violent,
so prevention is not
possible.”

However,....

Prevention does not require prediction.



We cannot predict who will have an accident, but safety regulations make safer roads, cars, and drivers.

Prevention does not require prediction.



We cannot predict who will get cancer, but we can identify risk and protective factors that reduce cancer rates dramatically.

Interdisciplinary Group Position Statement on Preventing School and Community Violence

Endorsed by 186 organizations

American Association of Pastoral Counselors

American College Counseling Association

American Educational Research Association

American Federation of Teachers

American School Counselor Association

Born This Way Foundation

Child Welfare League of America

Council for Exceptional Children

Mental Health America

National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)

National Association of School Nurses

National Association of School Psychologists

National Association of School Resource Officers

National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)

National Education Association (NEA)

<http://curry.virginia.edu/articles/sandyhookshooting>

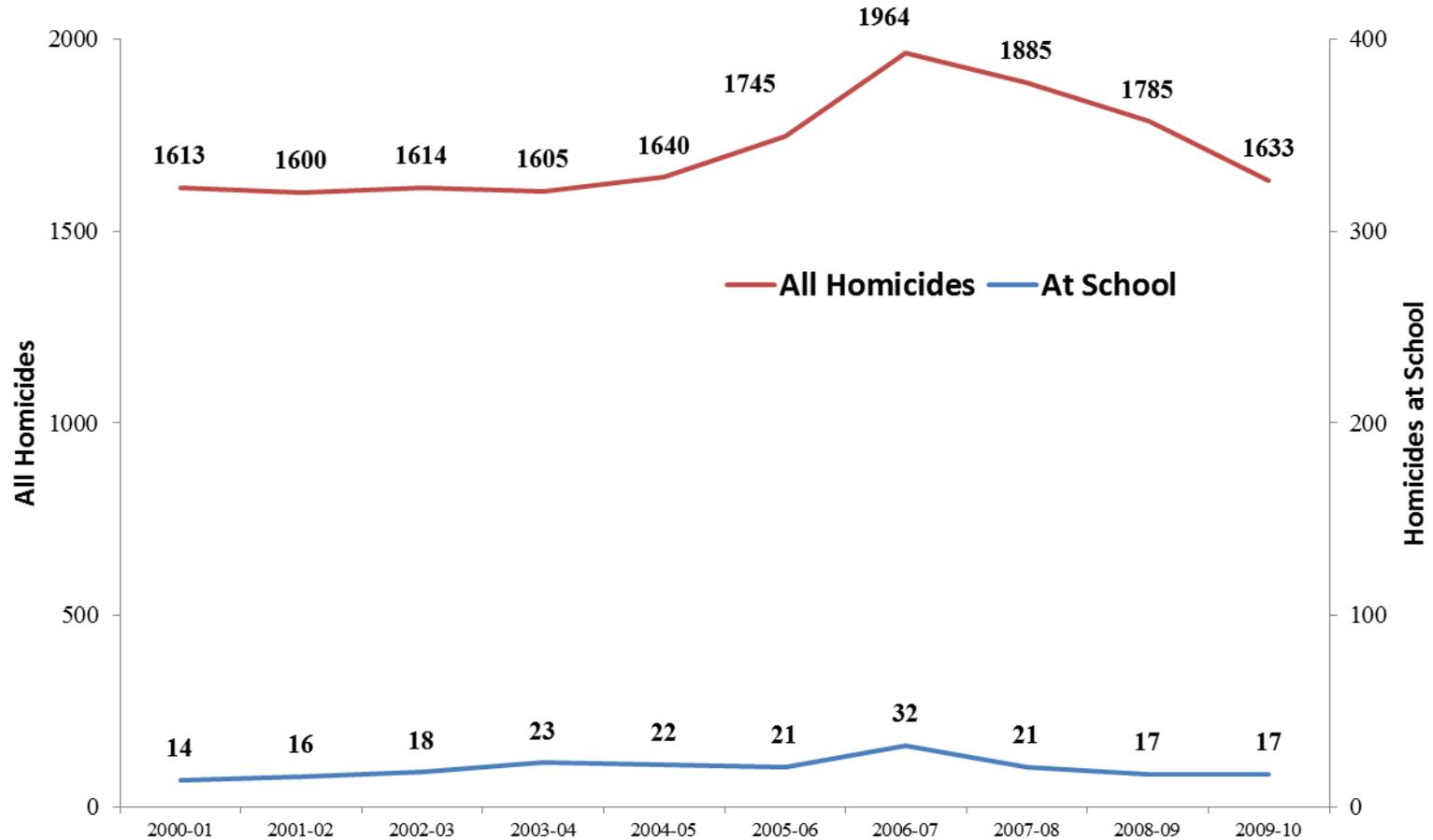
Interdisciplinary Group Position Statement on Preventing School and Community Violence

Key points

- 1. Gun violence is a community problem, not a school problem.**
- 2. Turning our schools into fortresses will not solve the problem.**

Homicides At School vs Outside of School

Ages 5-18



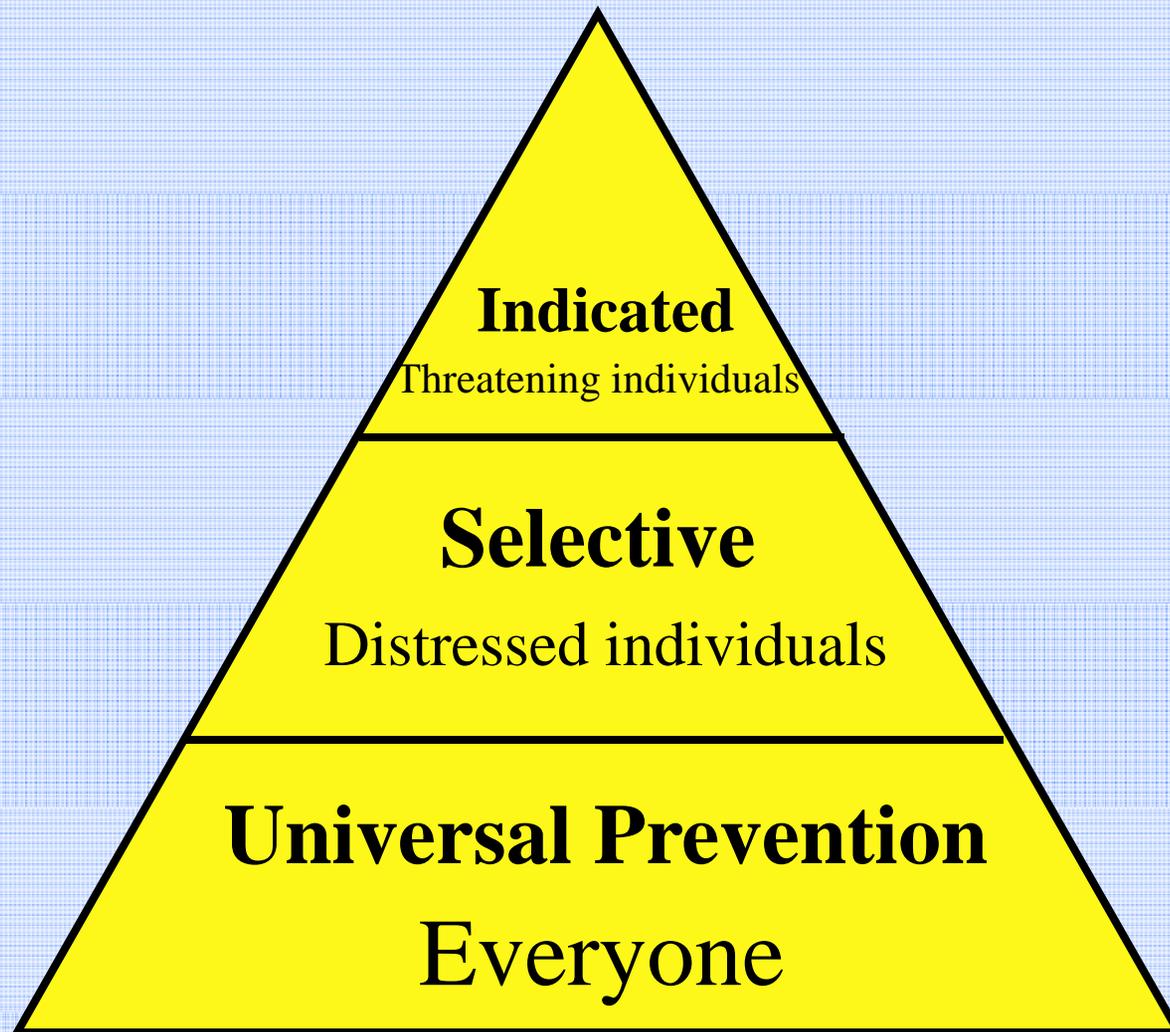
Sources: CDC National Center for Health Statistics and School Associated Violent Death Surveillance Study (All annual totals are approximate, using the school year for school homicides and the calendar year for non-school data).

Interdisciplinary Group Position Statement on Preventing School and Community Violence

Key points

1. Gun violence is a community problem, not a school problem.
2. Turning our schools into fortresses will not solve the problem.
3. **We need a comprehensive approach to prevention.**

Three Levels of Prevention



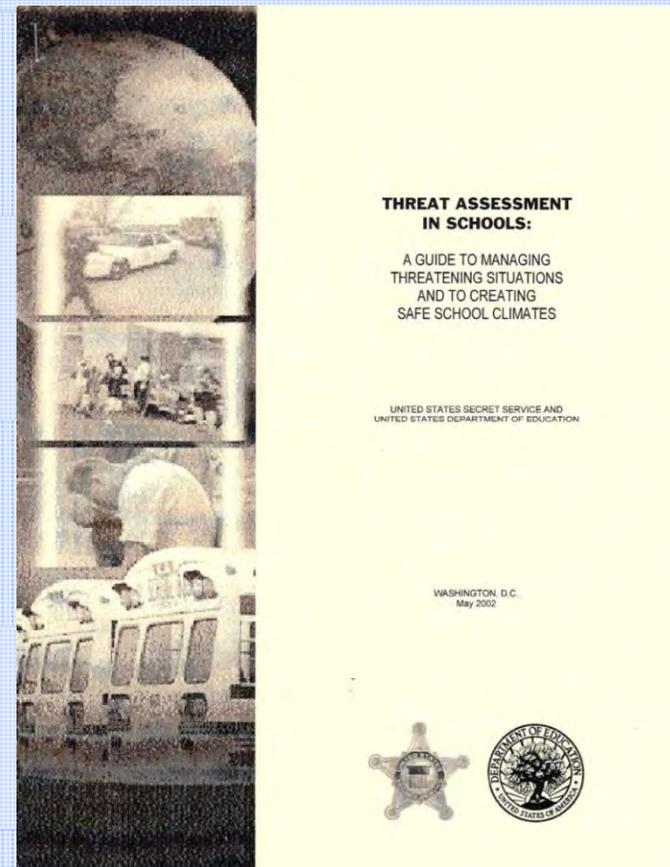
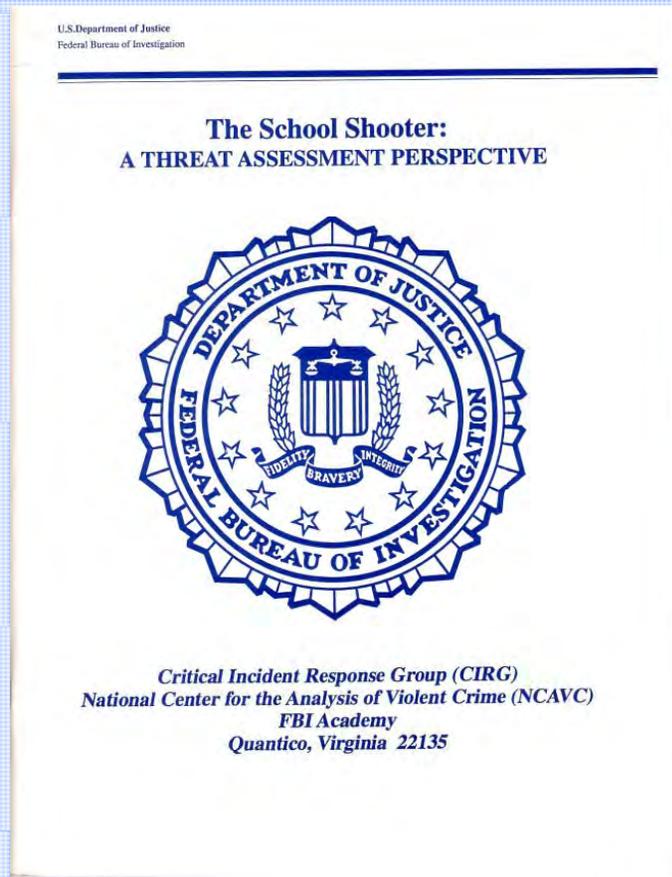
Interdisciplinary Group Position Statement on Preventing School and Community Violence

Key points

1. Gun violence is a community problem, not a school problem.
2. Turning our schools into fortresses will not solve the problem.
3. We need a comprehensive approach to prevention.
4. **We need mental health resources for family and friends of persons who are distressed or threatening violence.**

<http://curry.virginia.edu/articles/sandyhookshooting>

The FBI, Secret Service, and Dept of Education recommended a threat assessment approach more than a decade ago.

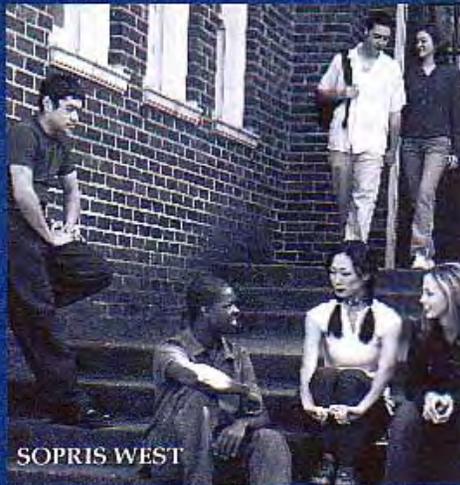
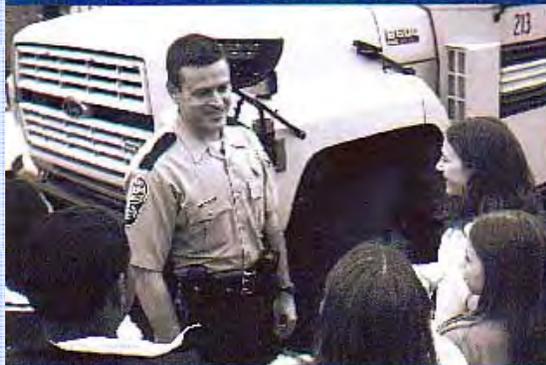


Threat Assessment is a violence prevention strategy.

1. Family members, friends, or others seek help when concerned about someone in distress or who is threatening violence.
2. The threat assessment team evaluates the seriousness of the threat.
3. The team initiates assistance to address the underlying problem, conflict or need. In the most serious cases, protective action is taken.

DEWEY CORNELL & PETER SHERAS

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO STUDENT THREATS OF VIOLENCE



- School-based teams assess student threats.
- Step-by-step guidelines and decision-tree
- Most threats resolved with counseling
- Reductions in school suspensions and transfers.
- 6 studies of its positive impact.

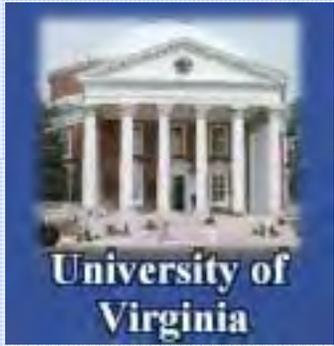
Available from
sopriswest.com

Threat Assessment involves problem-solving.

- School-based teams of principal, counselor, psychologist, and school resource officer examine each threat case and develop an individualized plan for the student to address the problem or conflict underlying the threat.
- Teams can also operate in businesses, community mental health centers, colleges, etc.

Threat Assessment involves problem-solving.

1. Bullying and teasing
2. Peer conflicts
3. Student-teacher conflicts
4. Stress-related problems
5. Gang rivalry
6. Emerging mental illness



Threat Assessment Studies

1. Initial field trial in 35 schools
2. Memphis field trial
3. Virginia high school climate study
4. Quasi-experimental study of suspension rates in 49 high schools
5. Randomized controlled trial in 40 k-12 schools
6. Statewide implementation study

Peer-reviewed journals

SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGY
REVIEW

Behavioral Disorders

Journal of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGISTS

CC
BD

Council for
Children with
Behavioral
Disorders

The Official Journal of the Division of School Psychology of the American Psychological Association

School Psychology Quarterly

Volume 32, Number 3 October 2007



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NASSP **Bulletin**

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Research Findings

- Threat assessment is safe and efficient
- Reductions in school suspensions
- Increased parent involvement and counseling for students
- Lower rates of bullying
- Positive perceptions of school climate by students

Threat Assessment in Virginia

- Over 1,000 Virginia k-12 schools use threat assessment
- All public colleges and universities mandated to have threat assessment teams.

16 states have schools using the Virginia Threat Assessment Model

California	Ohio
Colorado	Pennsylvania
Delaware	S. Carolina
Florida	Tennessee
Georgia	Vermont
Indiana	Virginia
Kansas	Washington
Maryland	Wisconsin



Threat assessment is one component of a comprehensive approach to violence prevention.

We need training and research for schools and communities to establish threat assessment teams.