



**Prevention  
Practitioners  
Network**

# FRAMEWORK FOR PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT IN PREVENTION

**MCCAIN  
INSTITUTE**

Arizona State University.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Targeted violence is increasingly threatening the safety and security of our communities throughout the United States. Targeted violence refers to any violence against a specific target designed to intimidate or coerce a broader population, regardless of motive. Targeted violence includes acts of terrorism but is much broader, including school shootings, attacks on houses of worship, other mass-casualty incidents, and hate crimes. Over 645 mass shootings terrorized the United States in 2022, and the country is already on track to exceed that total. On May 13, 2023, President Biden declared white supremacy “the most dangerous terrorist threat” to the American homeland. The magnitude of these threats requires a whole-of-society response, including philanthropy and community-based organizations.

As philanthropic organizations look to expand their investment portfolios to include preventing targeted violence, they often ask where they can make a difference and how they can know whether programs they are considering are evidence-informed. Recognizing these barriers, we have crafted a guide for philanthropic organizations interested in learning about violence prevention and identifying promising practices in prevention programming.

Understanding the public health model is essential to understanding the most effective ways to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) and prevention practitioners across the United States frequently adapt the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) public health approach to violence prevention to their efforts to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. The public health approach is a four-step process consisting of defining and monitoring the problem, identifying risk and protective factors, developing and testing prevention strategies, and assuring widespread adoption. Central to this public health approach is the identification of risk and protective factors. While not predictive of violence, risk factors increase the likelihood that someone may turn violent. Protective factors, however, decrease this likelihood and provide a buffer against risk. Effective programs reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors.



Multiple different types of programs contribute to violence prevention. For example, DHS identified the following project tracks for their Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program: youth resilience, media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives, raising societal awareness, civic engagement, bystander training, referral services, threat assessment and management teams, and recidivism reduction and reintegration. As a philanthropic donor, you can find the program type(s) that most align with your core mission and risk tolerance while still contributing to preventing targeted violence, including political violence.

In creating this framework, we consulted all 10 systematic reviews of the targeted violence and terrorism prevention field available at the time of publication. A systematic review is a meticulous examination of existing research to establish the state of current knowledge and to identify proven methods. After reviewing the systematic reviews, we identified evidence-informed takeaways that indicate promising practices and common missteps within the prevention field and proposed practical applications. Philanthropic organizations can consult these takeaways when funding prevention programs and organizations.

We have aligned the takeaways to the DHS CP3 Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention project tracks. Within each section, we provide an overview of the project track, identify outcomes, and programmatic examples from the field. While we highlight programs in each of these tracks, inclusion does not equal endorsement.

This document encompasses:

- An introduction to each project track
- Outcomes that can indicate success within each project track
- Evidence-informed takeaways to indicate promising practices and common missteps
- Programmatic examples of each project track
- Additional resources and communities of funders
- Definitions of important terms



As you consult this guide, it is important to note that preventing targeted violence is an emerging field that draws upon research and promising practices from analogous fields like suicide prevention and combatting human trafficking. Philanthropic organizations can play a key role in scaling promising practices, funding innovative pilots, and sustaining long-term implementations. Additional research and program evaluations will supplement the initial list of key takeaways over time.

In June 2021, the White House released the National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, which stated: “Domestic terrorism and the factors that contribute to it pose a challenge best tackled by a set of interlocking communities that can contribute information, expertise, analysis, and more to addressing this multifaceted threat.” The philanthropic community is strategically positioned to play a key role in scaling promising practices, funding innovative pilots, and sustaining long-term implementations. We hope this framework will enable philanthropic investors to support efforts to prevent targeted violence.



# HALLMARKS OF EVIDENCE-INFORMED PROGRAMS

- Integrate strong privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies and protections in all elements of program design.
- Adapt and tailor program design to local contexts and audiences. Do not replicate programs ‘as is’ because community needs and resources vary from one location to another.
- Do not target any cultural, religious, or ethnic group
- Design to reduce relevant risk factors and enhance protective factors. Do not expect any program to prove that an attack would have occurred without programming.
- Include adequate budgeting to cover all phases, from the design to implementation to maintenance to evaluation feedback loop.
- Prioritize consistency in partner participation – having the same partners involved from start to finish.
- Separate community partnership activities from intelligence-gathering activities. If participants feel that the program is collecting intelligence from their participation, participants will be unlikely to trust the program.
- Comprehensive training resources should be available year-round, not solely one-off. Training should directly align with end-user needs and priorities.
- Upstream prevention programs should address all violent ideologies.



# YOUTH RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

## OVERVIEW

Increasingly, youth are experiencing exposure to violent content and ideologies. Even more concerning is that many individuals who engage in targeted violence do so in their youth. Youth resilience programs establish or expand programming that develops protective factors or reduces risk factors associated with escalating to violence amongst individuals younger than 24 years old. Examples of protective factors include trusted relationships with adults, social capital, a sense of belonging, and feelings of security.

Outcomes that can be used to measure the success of youth resilience programs include total audience reached, increased understanding of protective factors, and increased knowledge of online risks. Existing frameworks can also be adapted to measure outcomes for preventing youth resiliency programs such as the [Positive Youth Development \(PYD\)](#), the [Career & College Readiness Self-Efficacy Inventory \(CCRSI\)](#), and the [Student Engagement Instrument](#).

## EVIDENCE-INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE:

- Strengthen integration and a positive sense of identity among youth.
- Create and implement innovative approaches to address online radicalization.
- Improve community connectedness.

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### Music in Common

Music in Common's Black Legacy Project aims to prevent targeted violence and terrorism by promoting social cohesion and integration through meaningful dialogue and sustained partnership between Americans across religious, cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, gender, and sexual orientation backgrounds and identities

### Karuna Center for Peacebuilding

The "BRAVE Schools" Program improves local school prevention capabilities by strengthening school resilience to extremism and targeted violence by increasing the capacity of middle and high school "Student Resource Teams (SRTs)" to effectively identify students susceptible and at-risk of targeted violence and terrorism

# MEDIA LITERACY AND ONLINE CRITICAL THINKING INITIATIVES

## OVERVIEW

Violent actors and movements increasingly utilize the internet to share harmful content, recruit members, and promote propaganda. Initiatives to protect individuals and communities are necessary to combat the malicious use of the internet. Media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives develop and deliver programming that increases skills to recognize dangerous content and build resiliency against that content.

Efforts should focus on equipping communities and individuals with effective tools, knowledge, and resources. Topic examples could include understanding bias in communication, how communications attempt to target or persuade individuals and groups, or recognizing and verifying sources of information.

Ideal outcomes for media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives include increased knowledge of online content that could mobilize individuals towards violence, increased ability to identify harmful content, increased resiliency against harmful content, and increased ability to avoid harmful content.

## EVIDENCE - INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE :

- Frame critical thinking interventions as opportunities for learners to adjust their thinking based on new information.
- Educate individuals on how to rationalize and legitimize content they are consuming.
- Create and implement innovative approaches to address online radicalization.
- Aim to reduce the availability of violent content online.
- Build capacity to leverage elements of the internet to reduce access to radicalizing content and facilitate the distribution of alternative or counter-messaging.

# MEDIA LITERACY AND ONLINE CRITICAL THINKING INITIATIVES

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### **How2Inform by Lewis University**

How2INFORM (H2i) provides tools to assess online information and fosters the goals of facilitating critical thinking and ending the spread of dangerous content online. H2i is developing an Educators Toolkit to support media literacy in classrooms, provide training to educators, and share free online resources for adults and students.

### **American University's PERIL**

This project scales up evidence-based, short-form video inoculation strategies interrupting pathways to violent extremism. The project aims to increase local leaders' and practitioners' capacity to utilize innovative visual technology and inoculation tactics to create off-ramps from violent extremism.

### **Middlebury's Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism (CTEC)**

This project seeks to develop a shared framework for understanding extremism in games, including the development of a set of best practices and centralized resources for monitoring and evaluation of extremist activities as well as a series of training workshops for the monitoring, detection, and prevention of extremist exploitation in gaming spaces for community managers, multiplayer designers, lore developers, mechanics designers, and trust and safety professionals



# RAISING SOCIETAL AWARENESS

## OVERVIEW

Efforts to raise societal awareness focus on educating the broader community on safety threats they may experience and concrete steps they can take to thwart them. Oftentimes, people outside the prevention field are unaware of the risks of targeted violence and terrorism in their communities. Even those who are often do not know where to report concerns. Members of the broader community, such as parents/caregivers, educators, faith leaders, law enforcement, and counselors are often the first to notice when someone's attitudes or behaviors have shifted. However, a lack of awareness about the issues of targeted violence may prevent community members from taking actions that could save lives. By learning about risk and protective factors, behavioral indicators, and reporting mechanisms, programs focused on raising societal awareness empower everyday citizens to protect their loved ones and communities.

Ideal outcomes for societal awareness initiatives include increased knowledge amongst community members, an increased number of community members aware of targeted violence and terrorism, an increased number of community members who know and can identify risk and protective factors, and increased confidence in community members to intervene when appropriate. It is important to consider the target audience of community members that a program is trying to reach to ensure the messaging of an awareness-raising effort is age and stage appropriate and tailored to the target audience.

## EVIDENCE - INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE :

- When designing campaigns, consider all the prospective outcomes, including unintended consequences.
- When using counter-narrative strategies, consider their overall effectiveness at targeting root causes of radicalization and not solely the desired end-states.
- Redirect individuals who search for violent extremist content to content that raises awareness of alternatives.
- Create initiatives that result in potential changes in both online and offline behavior.

# RAISING SOCIETAL AWARENESS

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### **Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency**

The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) will design a local prevention framework aimed at awareness, identification, and reporting of radicalized behavior. GEMA/HS will focus its efforts on training law enforcement to ultimately distribute materials and engage with community partners such as correctional facilities, schools, and civic groups. These partnerships will build transparent and trusted relations among the whole of society and ultimately reduce risk, enhance resilience, ensure information sharing, and provide requested services.

### **Out Boulder County**

Out Boulder County (OBC's) LGBTQ Community Violence Prevention Project will increase violence prevention awareness and efforts among Colorado's front-range communities, with a focus on individuals identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ). Prioritizing communities of color, and those living with mental health and substance use disorders, OBC will leverage its existing relationships with local, county, and state law enforcement in training and collaborative prevention planning and establish additional LGBTQ Liaison programs throughout the region.

### **The McCain Institute**

SCREEN Hate is a nationwide campaign aimed at caregivers and concerned adults looking to keep youth safe from online messages that could incite hate-based violence, providing a hub for education, conversation guides, and a first-of-its-kind directory of comprehensive violence prevention resources.

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## OVERVIEW

Civic engagement is nonviolent activity designed to identify and address issues of public concern. In targeted violence prevention, this often means building and sustaining partnerships for the purpose of increasing understanding between groups to lessen fear or hatred in communities. Civic engagement initiatives build or expand programs that encourage community engagement, education, and resilience against individuals escalating to violence. Targeted violence is a threat to all community members, and building a more connected, engaged community will strengthen the community's awareness of and resiliency to targeted violence.

Ideal outcomes include increased community resilience to escalation to violence through the understanding of threat prevention, improved social cohesion, reduced inter-group tensions, and reduced youth vulnerability.

## EVIDENCE - INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE:

- Increase the level of education and social well-being of less affluent individuals and families to reduce exclusion.
- Invest in the careful design and evaluation of the types of initiatives that help promote social connectedness to reduce violent extremism behavior.
- Clarify roles in preventing and managing violent extremism in communities.

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### The Carter Center

Established three citizen-led social labs for depolarization and violence prevention that develop innovative, community-driven strategies to identify risk factors for antisocial behavior, radicalization, and violence in select counties; form teams to devise and test solution strategies; and, through the process, improve local trust, collaboration, and accountability.

### Missouri State University

Fuse prevents and protects against radicalization to white supremacist violent extremism through education, bystander empowerment, and community support. Fuse strengthens protective factors against radicalization to violence through an informational podcast, an online training toolkit, and a conversational card game.

# BYSTANDER TRAINING

## OVERVIEW

A bystander is someone who observes behaviors or language related to a person who may be considering acts of violence. Bystander training initiatives educate bystanders on recognizing concerning behaviors and identifying appropriate next steps, such as connecting an individual with services or calling law enforcement. An upstander is an individual that recognizes behaviors related to the pathway to violence and takes actions to intervene or interrupt that behavior.

Ideal outcomes for bystander training include increased willingness to act, knowledge of concerning behaviors, knowledge of available resources, knowledge of additional steps, and awareness of protective and risk factors.

## EVIDENCE - INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE:

- Provide fully funded, efficient, evidence-based practitioner training programs for trusted community figures.
- Include focused assessment of potential biases of bystanders that may lead to falsely identifying individuals when implementing prevention programs.

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### Muflehun

The Tackle! Podcast is a true-crime genre series that includes the Tackle! Upstander Training curriculum that utilizes case studies to raise awareness of a sub-category of domestic terrorism and targeted violence, examines the risk and protective factors that existed in the perpetrator's life, and identifies the behavioral indicators that were present and could have been/were acted upon by upstanders.

### Teachers College, Columbia University

Reimagine Resilience addresses the gap in countering biases as a method to mitigate risks and amplify protective factors against targeted violence; informs how educators can accelerate or stop radicalization; and improves ways of countering biased behaviors and speech in educational institutions as a protective strategy against the radicalization of students.

# REFERRAL SERVICES

## OVERVIEW

Referral services establish or expand services to address crises with callers, assess whether they have risk factors, and provide resources and referrals to individuals seeking help. Services could be collected via a wide variety of communication platforms such as telephone, text, app, online, etc. Referral service programs need to consider each element from beginning to end. This includes training programs for service center members, engaging with vulnerable individuals, knowing proper protocols for when, whom, and where to escalate to, and having the capacity to ensure everyone that reaches out for services connects with the appropriate endpoint.

The target audience for referral service programs are individuals either currently experiencing a crisis or are concerned about an individual having a crisis. Because of this factor, referral services must have strict standards and protocols that maintain “do no harm” practices.

Ideal outcomes for referral services include increased capacity to receive calls, reduced length of time from initial outreach to connect with services, increased accuracy in connecting individuals with the appropriate services, and increased service area.

## EVIDENCE - INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE:

- Create and implement theoretical frameworks that guide online referral services.
- Explore referral services for individuals who may have already consumed content, have been radicalized by extremist ideologies, or have moved to increasingly radical platforms.
- Adopt clear inclusion criteria and collect baseline data.
- Establish appropriate methods and practices to measure impact or effectiveness.

# REFERRAL SERVICES

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### **Cure Violence Global**

CURE: Pacific Northwest operates the SHIFT-HATE Helpline, a referral service specifically for individuals radicalized or at risk of being radicalized to violence in the Pacific Northwest.

### **District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency**

The District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency applies a public health approach to address terrorism and targeted violence within the city by creating a playbook outlining procedures for different types of interventions and establishing a protocol and mechanism for callers using the city's 311 services to receive threat assessment and management resources.

# THREAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT TEAMS

## OVERVIEW

Threat assessment and management teams provide alternatives to investigation and prosecution for bystanders seeking intervention assistance for individuals at risk of mobilizing to violence. The primary goal of threat assessment and management teams is to intervene before an individual mobilizes to violence and connect that individual with relevant support services.

As the threat of targeted violence is multi-faceted, effective threat assessment and management teams are often multi-disciplinary. Relevant disciplines include education administrators, mental health and social service providers, faith leaders, medical personnel, law enforcement, and technology experts.

Ideal outcomes for threat assessment and management teams include an increase in cases that are de-escalating, increases in referrals for outside services (e.g., mental health, substance abuse, job skills, housing assistance), increased bandwidth to manage cases, increased success at correctly identifying threats, and increased availability of intervention programs.

## EVIDENCE - INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE :

- Adopt clear inclusion criteria and baseline data.
- Establish appropriate methods and practices to measure impact and effectiveness.
- Create and implement weighted risk assessment instruments and alternative interventions.
- Tailor risk assessment and treatment to the individual's needs and specific risk factors that are present in their community. It cannot be a one size fits all approach.
- Develop comprehensive information-sharing policies and facilitate efficient transfer of information to partners.
- Make psychological counseling and/or psychotherapy available at no cost to the participants. This can be provided to clients as a complement to group-setting interventions.

# THREAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT TEAMS

- Allow interventions to run for extended periods to foster mid- to long-term behavioral changes.
- Tailor interventions to decrease specific family-related risk factors and increase specific-family related protective factors.
- Implement a systemic framework that allows family members to play a role in the intervention process.
- Online or digital interventions:
  - Create and implement theoretical frameworks that guide online interventions and/or campaigns.
  - Create and implement online interventions that result in potential changes in both online and offline behavior.
  - Explore interventions for individuals who may have already consumed content, have been radicalized by extremist ideologies, or moved to more radical platforms.

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### **Boston Children's Hospital**

BCH developed the Targeted Violence and Terrorism: Strengths, Needs, and Risks Assessment and Management (T-SAM) tool. The primary goal of this project is to build the capacity of mental health practitioners to assess and manage risk for targeted violence and terrorism in collaboration with local multidisciplinary threat assessment teams through the development of a clinically useful risk assessment/management tool; and tool training and consultation for community-based mental health practitioners across the country.

### **NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)**

DHSES created three new threat assessment and management teams in upstate New York. DHSES will provide statewide training initiatives to include other interested New York State communities, conduct research and analysis on statewide trends related to targeted violence and terrorism prevention, and engage opportunities to socialize the Rochester Threat Advisory Council model and stand-up additional TAM teams across the state.



# RECIDIVISM REDUCTION AND REINTEGRATION

## OVERVIEW

To support the prosperity of individuals re-entering society, recidivism reduction and reintegration programs aim to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors in individuals re-entering society following release from correctional facilities and in probation or deferral programs.

Recidivism is the tendency for individuals who have previously committed a crime to re-offend.

Re-entry is the transition from life in jail or prison to life in the community. Reintegration is the process of assisting the re-entry of individuals resulting in increased opportunities to succeed when they return to their communities. This includes steps while still incarcerated, transition programs, and post-re-entry programming. These core concepts within the criminal justice field directly apply to targeted violence prevention.

Ideal outcomes for recidivism reduction and reintegration programs include increased success in reducing repeat offenders, increased participation from individuals either incarcerated or recently leaving incarceration, increased resource availability, and increased rehabilitation program completion.

## EVIDENCE - INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE INCLUDE:

- Make psychological counseling and/or psychotherapy available at no cost to the participants. This can be provided to clients as a complement to group-setting interventions
- Increase individualized employment/vocational training availability and prioritize efficient and evidence-based training programs.
- Allow interventions to run for extended periods to foster mid- to long-term behavioral changes.

# RECIDIVISM REDUCTION AND REINTEGRATION

## PROGRAM EXAMPLES

### County of Los Angeles

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is establishing the Reconciliation Education and Counseling Crimes of Hate Program (REACCH), an innovative public safety restorative justice probationary model. REACCH is offender-centric by focusing on counseling and anti-bias education; victim-centric because it promotes victim reconciliation in a safe and controlled setting; and community-centric by inviting community-based organizations to join in the development, facilitation, and implementation of an anti-bias education curriculum designed to reduce xenophobia.

### Life After Hate

Runs a project to enhance outreach to build awareness of available pre- and post-release support available in correctional facilities; implements risk assessments to create tailored release plans for individuals with risk factors for violent white supremacist extremism targeted violence and terrorism; provides direct pre- and post-release support to these individuals looking to disengage and/or de-radicalize; and conducts a pioneering local prevention framework training to enhance local capacity to identify and respond to individuals at risk of mobilizing to violence.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT

Democracy Funders Network: The Democracy Funders Network (DFN) is a community for donors who want to learn together, build and strengthen relationships, and ultimately identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration. They convene and connect funders, curate programs, develop informational materials, and advise donors on their democracy investments. DFN hosts a political violence working group, and political violence is a form of targeted violence.

Peace and Security Funders Group: The Peace and Security Funders Group connects and supports the global community of funders advancing peace and security efforts in order to build a more peaceful, just, and equitable world.

Trusted Elections Fund: The Trusted Elections Fund (TEF) is a pooled donor fund that convenes grantees to help map the field and identify solutions, makes grants, engages the donor community, and coordinates actions to prepare for, and respond to, high-risk threats to U.S. elections. TEF supports organizations and entities best positioned to create a more just, inclusive, and resilient democracy, where American elections are voter-centered, secure, and trusted.

Violence Proofing U.S. Democracy: Immediate Priorities for Philanthropy: This working paper for philanthropy, written by Over Zero, New America, and Thought Partnerships, briefly summarizes current trends that, in light of global experience, suggest heightened risks of violence. Against this worrisome backdrop, they propose six funding strategies and specific recommendations to integrate violence prevention and mitigation into existing strands of work on polarization, institutions, or justice issues:

- Bolstering democracy and institutions
- Addressing the threat of extremism
- Addressing the harmful communications landscape
- Resetting norms at the elite and community levels
- Creating accountability
- Laying the groundwork for a coordinated response to immediate risks



Five Strategies for Funders Interested in Political Violence Prevention: As cases of political violence rise in America, Philanthropy for Active Civil Engagement (PACE) reviews five strategies for funders interested in preventing political violence to implement.

A Funders Guide to Building Social Cohesion: This guide was produced hoping to orient funders to the different ways civil society actors think about and address the problems of affective polarization and eroding social trust. They broadly outline some of the major theories of change for advancing social cohesion, explore ways funders can support these strategies, and conclude with a set of open questions with which the field still needs to grapple.

How to Be a Democracy Funder: Democracy is under severe threat in the United States and around the world, but figuring out how to use your financial resources to protect and sustain American democracy is no easy feat. For one thing, the decline of democracy is an incredibly complex challenge with a multitude of domestic and global drivers. Not only is the problem multi-causal, but the potential solutions are manifold as well. Finally, there are dozens of organizations in the field—many with similar-sounding names—and a plethora of networks, pooled funds, and other resources designed to engage donors on this issue.

A Funder's Guide to Combatting Disinformation: This rapid issue brief, based on DFN's research and conversations with experts, practitioners, and experienced funders, will help donors get oriented to the current state of the field and explore frameworks for using their resources to combat disinformation. The report includes details on strategies to combat disinformation by increasing accountability for creators and purveyors of disinformation, building healthier media ecosystems, and increasing public resilience to disinformation.

Pooled Funds Resource List: Pooled funds represent a valuable means for funders to engage in the democracy space. Democracy Funders Network has developed a guide to help funders determine which pooled funds best align with their giving priorities and will be the best partners in advancing their goals.



## DEFINITIONS

**Bystander:** someone who is positioned to observe behaviors related to a person who maybe considering acting violently.

Source: DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

**Domestic terrorism:** activities that

1. Involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State;
2. Appear to be intended to:
  - a. Intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
  - b. To influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
  - c. To affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and
3. Occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States

Source: 18 U.S.C. § 2331(5)

**Domestic violent extremist:** the FBI and DHS define a Domestic Violent Extremist (DVE) as an individual based and operating primarily within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group or other foreign power who seeks to further political or social goals wholly or in part through unlawful acts of force or violence. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism and may be constitutionally protected.

Source: NDAA Domestic Terrorism Strategic Report, 2021



**Primary prevention:** primary prevention takes place BEFORE violence initially occurs. It involves programs and strategies designed to reduce the factors that put people at risk for experiencing violence. Or they encourage the factors that protect or buffer people from violence.

Source: [https://vetoviolenecdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop\\_notebook.pdf](https://vetoviolenecdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop_notebook.pdf)

**Protective factors:** positive characteristics that may decrease the likelihood of an individual moving toward violence

Source: DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

**Radicalization to violence:** the process wherein an individual comes to believe, for a variety of reasons, that the threat or use of violence is necessary – or justified – to accomplish a goal

Source: DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

**Risk factors:** negative characteristics that may increase the likelihood that an individual is moving toward violence

Source: DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

**Secondary prevention:** secondary prevention takes place immediately AFTER a violent event. It deals with the short-term consequences and focuses on the victim's immediate needs—such as emergency services or medical care.

Source: [https://vetoviolenecdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop\\_notebook.pdf](https://vetoviolenecdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop_notebook.pdf)



**Targeted violence:**

1. involves acts dangerous to human life that are in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State and that: a) involve a degree of planning and b) involve a pre-identified target including: i) individual(s) based on actual or perceived identity traits or group affiliation or ii) property based on actual or perceived identity traits or group affiliation; and
2. appears intended to: a) intimidate, coerce, or otherwise impact a broader population beyond the target(s) of the immediate act; or b) generate publicity for the perpetrator or his or her grievances; and
3. occurs within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States; and
4. excludes acts of interpersonal violence,[1] street or gang-related crimes, violent crimes perpetrated by organized crime syndicates or similar organizations, or financially motivated crimes.

Source: DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

**Tertiary prevention:** tertiary prevention is a long-term approach AFTER a violent event has occurred. Efforts may include rehabilitation of the perpetrator, or social services to lessen emotional trauma to the victim.

Source: [https://vetoviolenace.cdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop\\_notebook.pdf](https://vetoviolenace.cdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop_notebook.pdf)



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# Prevention Practitioners Network

Contact:

[practitionersnetwork@mccaininstitute.org](mailto:practitionersnetwork@mccaininstitute.org)

**MCCAIN**  
INSTITUTE



Arizona State University.