

TEXAS TARGETED VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM PREVENTION



Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Overview

Prevention practitioners and community leaders share two common goals: protecting our communities and families from those who wish to commit violent acts, and helping those who might be radicalizing to violence to get the wrap-around support they need before committing an act of violence. Engaging members of your community—including peers, teachers, law enforcement, and community leaders—is critical for empowering bystanders—those who observe concerning behavior—to identify and prevent susceptible individuals from radicalizing and mobilizing to violence before it becomes a law enforcement matter. This training provides practical information for conducting effective community engagement in this realm.



Goal of this Training

The Texas TVTP Training Program seeks to increase prevention opportunities by educating representatives from a wide variety of community stakeholders on targeted violence and terrorism indicators, reporting options, and available resources within their community.

Local Prevention Framework

A locally-based prevention framework increases the ability of bystanders to identify and refer-for-intervention those who show indicators of radicalizing to violence. The approach brings together violence prevention, community policing, and threat assessment. It is then localized, engaging the broadest set of local stakeholders, to empower bystanders to recognize, react, and refer individuals to the appropriate community resources or authorities in a timely manner.

An effective prevention approach is based on the needs, challenges, and resources within each community, and leverages existing prevention and intervention resources. Key local stakeholders to engage can include those involved in training and building awareness, civic engagement and resilience programming, counternarrative campaigning, threat assessment and management programming, bystander training, and providing interventions.

Aspects of Community Engagement

Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention initiatives support and promote community engagement by:

- Implementing a whole-of-society approach by involving leaders from all sectors of the community
- Building trust and relationships to enhance transparency, communication, civil rights protections, and collaboration among partners and the community members
- Coordinating between community leaders, law enforcement, and other partners to bring training to your community to increase resiliency
- Working with non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of current threats, enhance intervention efforts, and increase bystander reporting
- Building upon existing prevention resources and programs to identify what is working and what can be improved

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Pathways to Violence

Pathways to violence and radicalization are complex and multifacted. While there is no single path, individuals often follow one or more routes which start from an initial grievance that often leads to forming a violent ideation and call to action. The pathway is rarely linear, and an individual can move back and forth along the pathway. The pathway is generally represented as:

- Grievance
- Violent Ideation
- Research and Planning
- Preparation
- Probing and Breaching
- Attack

Observable Behaviors

Although there is no single profile for those who have committed acts of targeted violence, the following behaviors are commonly observed in both conducted and thwarted cases:

- Deepening depression/despair
- Changes in behavior
- Preparatory behavior
- Interest in past attacks
- Fixation
- Unusual acquisition of weapons or weapons expertise
- Novel violence/aggression
- Expressed or implied intent to harm
- Directly communicated threat
- End-of-life planning

Need Help or Want More Resources?

Attend a Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention training in your community. Register by scanning the QR code.



Contact Information

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