

# Terrorism Prevention Spectrum

**SCOPE:** This product provides public safety personnel an overview of the spectrum of activities that fall under “terrorism prevention,” ranging from mitigating terrorism radicalization and mobilization to violence preventing terrorist recidivism. Current US Government (USG) terrorism prevention efforts are informed by the public health approach to violence prevention that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) implemented and evaluated for more than three decades, based on their research. The USG does not conduct or operationally support many of the activities listed here. Access to prevention options will vary by community, state, and federal program funding and availability. Some behaviors may be constitutionally protected and insignificant on their own, but when observed in combination with other suspicious behaviors, may cause concern.

## Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

Current USG terrorism prevention efforts rely on the public health approach to violence prevention developed by the CDC, which divides efforts into three levels: primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention, outlined below.



### COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Foster resilient communities by increasing protective factors, activities that mitigate the risk of engaging in terrorism, and reducing risk factors.

- Promote community awareness of terrorism prevention, social support systems, and coping mechanisms to enhance protective factors
- Identify opportunities to promote programs and norms that decrease the likelihood of risk factors such as social isolation, loss of identity, and mental health stressors
- Create school, city, or state strategies for terrorism prevention to standardize prevention as a discipline in the community
- Create mentoring programs in schools and workplaces to enhance social connectedness among peers



### INTERVENTION INITIATIVES

Provide services for persons who may be in the early stages of planning to engage in terrorist violence.

- Establish reporting and referral mechanisms to help individuals exhibiting concerning behaviors access direct services, such as mental health, behavioral health or social services
- Support diversion programs for criminal justice involved and at-risk individuals
- Connect individuals displaying concerning behavioral indicators with multidisciplinary behavioral threat assessment and management teams that can provide services that steer individuals away from violence and towards healthier outcomes
- Offer bystander training



### RECIDIVISM REDUCTION INITIATIVES

Provide opportunities to reduce recidivism by persons who have committed or have planned to commit acts of terrorism and that support reintegration.

- Support prison rehabilitation programming, including disengagement programs
- Enhance reentry support/post-release programs
- Provide familiarization training to parole and probation officers regarding terrorism and relevant resources that can help support rehabilitation and reintegration

**Primary prevention:** Preventing violence from occurring by enhancing protective factors from the individual to the societal level and by reducing risk factors

**Key players may include:** School administrators; mental health and behavioral health workers; emergency managers; public health workers; violence-prevention policymakers and program managers; wellness providers; peer mentors; faith leaders

**Secondary prevention:** Preventing violence once behavioral indicators are present by providing services

**Key players may include:** Threat assessment and management team members; law enforcement; crisis response teams; crisis hotline employees; wrap-around service providers; mental health and behavioral health providers; school counselors, caseworkers and social service providers; drug and alcohol treatment providers

**Tertiary prevention:** Treating violence once criminal activity has occurred, either through diversion, rehabilitation, or reentry

**Key players may include:** Rehabilitation, reentry, recidivism prevention program practitioners; probation, parole officers; service providers for those on probation/parole; judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys; diversion program employees; victim services employees



(U) This is a Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) product. JCAT is a collaboration between NCTC, DHS, and FBI to improve information sharing among federal, state, tribal, territorial governments and private sector partners. JCAT's products are intended to enhance public safety awareness in light of violent extremist and terrorist threats. Consider the enclosed information within the context of existing laws, regulations, authorities, agreements, policies or procedures. For additional information contact JCAT at JCAT@NCTC.GOV. **This document is best printed in 11 X 17.**

# Terrorism Prevention Spectrum (continued)



## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- [Terrorism Prevention Brochure](#)
- [Terrorism Prevention – Addressing Early Risk Factors to Build Resilience Against Violent Extremism](#)
- [Bystanders Are Key To Countering Terrorism](#)
- [Threats Against Houses of Worship Highlight Importance of Religious Community Outreach](#)
- [Mental Health Considerations in Threat Management of Terrorism Investigative Subjects](#)
- [Mixing Ideologies Requires Multipronged Terrorism Prevention Efforts](#)

## INTERVENTION INITIATIVES

- [Threat Assessment and Threat Management \(TATM\) Brochure](#)
  - [A Model Critical to Terrorism Prevention \(1 of 3\)](#)
  - [Multi-Disciplinary Teams \(2 of 3\)](#)
  - [Assessment and Management \(3 of 3\)](#)
- [Intervention Options for Minors Vulnerable to Violent Extremism Activity](#)
- [Reporting Suspicious Activity – Critical for Terrorism Prevention](#)
- [Threat Assessment and Threat Management \(TATM\) – Oversize Graphic](#)

## RECIDIVISM REDUCTION INITIATIVES

- [Reentry Service Partnerships Important in Terrorism Prevention](#)
- [Understanding and Mitigating Violent Extremism Among Offenders](#)

### Prevention Resource Finder

Community Support Evidence-Based Research Grant Opportunities



### The Prevention Resource Finder

Provides stakeholders with information on the resources needed to help prepare for and prevent targeted violence and terrorism across our country. Resources on the website include community support resources; grant funding opportunities; information-sharing platforms; evidence-based research; and training opportunities for communities to reduce the risk of targeted violence, including hate-based targeted violence. <https://www.dhs.gov/prevention>

## Resources

### NCTC

**The US Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators Booklet (2021 Edition)** is an NCTC, DHS, and FBI tri-seal product that provides a list of observable behaviors that may help determine whether individuals are preparing to engage in violent extremist activities. For more information, see <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/nctc-newsroom/nctc-resource/s/3590-u-s-violent-extremist-mobilization-indicators-2021>

### Brochures:

- Radicalization Dynamics of Violent Extremists
  - Understanding and Mitigating Youth Vulnerabilities to Extremist Messaging
  - Understanding Bystander Interventions to Prevent Terrorism
- For copies of these products, please reach out to: [JCAT@nctc.gov](mailto:JCAT@nctc.gov)

### CDC

**Division of Violence Prevention** uses data and conducts research to inform prevention activities. The division hosts the “VetoViolence” website, which features violence prevention tools, trainings, and resources. <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov>

### FBI

**The Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU), Behavioral Threat Assessment Center (BTAC)** is the primary national resource for Threat Assessment and Threat Management (TATM) related to FBI-led terrorism investigations. BTAC conducts training and research and provides behaviorally based investigative and operational support, including case consultations to law enforcement. This also includes those serving on TATM teams working on terrorism and targeted violence. Law enforcement personnel can request BTAC’s services through a local BAU Threat Management Coordinator (TMC). <https://www2.fbi.gov/hq/isd/cirg/ncavc.htm#bau>

**SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV** is a joint venture by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Education (ED), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to share actionable recommendations to keep school communities safe. <https://www.schoolsafety.gov/protect-and-mitigate/emergency-planning>

### DHS

**The Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3)** strengthens our country’s ability to prevent targeted violence and terrorism nationwide through funding, training, and increased public awareness, and the establishment of partnerships across every level of government, the private sector, and in local communities. For inquiries, contact [CP3@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CP3@hq.dhs.gov) or see <https://www.dhs.gov/CP3>

**CP3 Mitigating Harm from Violent Visual Content** [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/24\\_0308\\_cp3\\_Prevention%20Resource%20for%20Mitigating%20Harm.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/24_0308_cp3_Prevention%20Resource%20for%20Mitigating%20Harm.pdf)

**CP3 Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program** provides funding for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, nonprofits, and institutions of higher education with funds to establish or enhance capabilities to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. Resources produced through the TVTP Grant Program can be accessed at <https://www.dhs.gov/tvtp-grantee-results>

**National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Program Office** equips federal, state, local, tribal, territorial (FSLTT), and private-sector partners with tools and resources to identify, report, and mitigate threats of terrorism and targeted violence through the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) and Behavioral Threat Assessment Integration (BTAI). <https://www.dhs.gov/nter>

**US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)** conducts research, training, and consultation on threat assessment and the prevention of targeted violence. NTAC is composed of a multidisciplinary team of social science researchers and regional program managers who support and empower our partners in law enforcement, schools, government, and other public- and private-sector organizations to combat the evolving threat of targeted violence impacting communities across the United States. [www.secretservice.gov/ntac](http://www.secretservice.gov/ntac)



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JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM ASSESSMENT TEAM

# PRODUCT FEEDBACK

Please use the link below to complete a short survey. Your feedback will help JCAT develop counterterrorism products that support the public safety and private sector community.

<https://www.JCAT-url.com>

For further information, please email JCAT  
[jcat@odni.gov](mailto:jcat@odni.gov)



(U) The Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) is a collaboration by NCTC, DHS, FBI, state, local, tribal, and territorial government personnel to improve information sharing and enhance public safety. The First Responder's Toolbox is an ad hoc, unclassified reference aid intended to promote counterterrorism coordination among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government authorities and partnerships with private sector officials in deterring, preventing, disrupting, and responding to terrorist attacks.