

Surviving a Campus Shooter

What you need to know



This is not
new.

The First
Campus
Shooter
was in
1966.

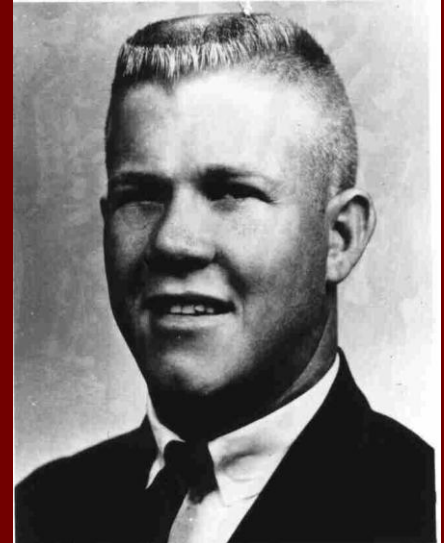
Charles Whitman

University of Texas, Austin

August 1, 1966

16 Dead and 31 Injured

"I don't really understand myself these days. I am supposed to be an average reasonable and intelligent young man. However, lately (I can't recall when it started) I have been a victim of many unusual and irrational thoughts."



College Campus Shootings 1966 - 2008

- University of Texas 1966 -16 dead; 31 injured
- California State-Fullerton 1976 -7 dead; 2 injured
- University of Iowa 1991 -6 dead; 1 injured
- San Diego State 1996 -3 dead
- Penn State-University Park 1996 -1 dead; 1 injured
- Appalachian School of Law 2002 -3 dead; 3 injured
- University of Arizona 2002 -4 dead
- University of Washington 2007 -2 dead
- Virginia Tech 2007 -33 dead; 26 injured
- Louisiana Tech College-Baton Rouge-02/08/2008 -3 dead
- Northern Illinois University -02/14/08 -6 dead
- The list goes on...

Seung Hui Cho

April 16th, 2007

Blacksburg, Virginia

32 Dead, 26 Injured



*I didn't have to do this.
I could have left. I could
have fled. But no, I will
no longer run. It's not
for me. For my children,
for my brothers and
sisters that you
(expletive). I did it for
them.*



*When the time came I
did it. I had to.*



The Good News...

Avengers ALWAYS tell us ahead of
time!

Considerations

- All persons should be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.
- **Not all those who are mentally ill are violent and not all who are violent are mentally ill.**
- A diagnosis of mental illness is not, in and of itself, a lens to screen for violence.
- Defining the behavior of concern should be tantamount to defining prevention and intervention.
- Students are free-thinking adults.
- “One size fits all” solutions rarely work.
- Dangerousness is situational

FERPA

Family Education and Rights Privacy Act

- It is NOT a violation of FERPA to talk about a concern.
- You can tell your concerns about observed behavior to anyone - in fact, you should share concerns with authorities.

Some Signs of a Person in Crisis

- Chronic Depression or mood swings
- Perception of injustice
- Isolating behavior, hostility
- Low self-esteem, excuses, blaming
- Strained relationships
- Reduced motivation
- Changes in health or hygiene
- Substance abuse
- Frequent allusions to violence

What Can You Do If You Observe Signs of a Person in Crisis?

- Remain calm
- Actively listen
- Communicate understanding
- Be respectful and patient
- Set clear boundaries
- Never make promises you can't keep

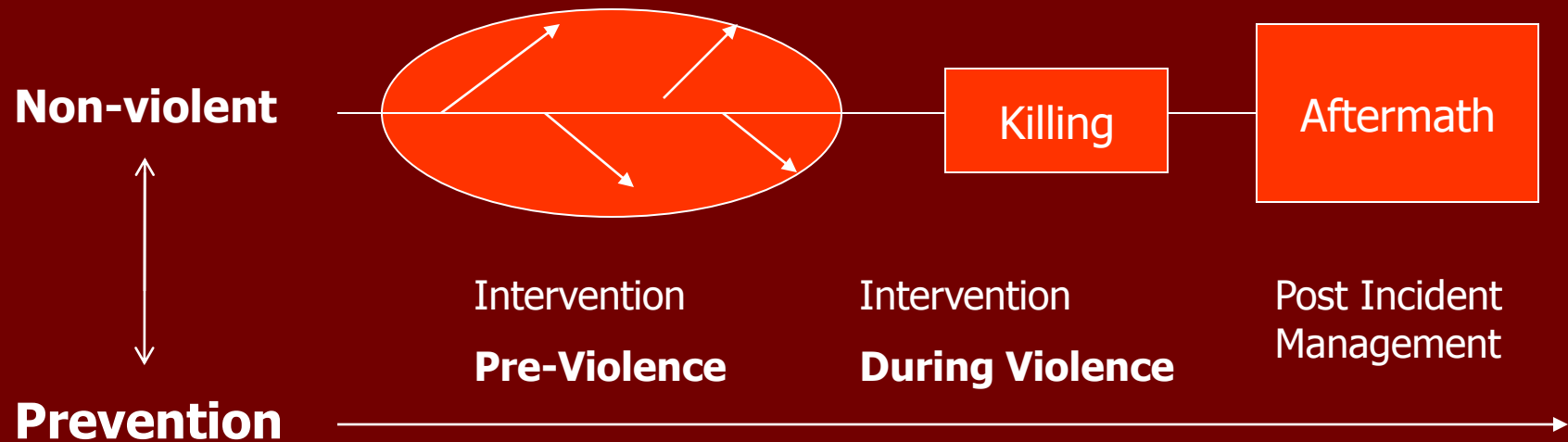
If Talking Doesn't Help

- Don't ignore the signs of problems.
- Tell a trusted colleague.
- Document your observations.
- Ask for guidance.
- Contact the Office of Student Conduct, Counseling Center, or the Police!

Nobody Just Snaps!

Violence is the end result of an understandable and often discernable process.

The Violence Continuum



Indicators of Violence Potential

- Poor Impulse Control
- “Injustice Collector”
- Obsession
- Substance Abuse
- Fascination with weapons, police or the military
- Preoccupation with violence

Actions Associated with Disruption & Violence

- Inappropriate Arguing
- Verbal Intimidation
- Hostile language or writing
- Name Calling
- Temper Tantrums
- Inappropriate touching or pushing
- Stalking

To Intervene You Need:

- Monitoring
- Reporting
 - Office of Student Conduct
 - University Police
- Assessment of the Threat
 - BETA Team (Behavior Evaluation and Threat Assessment)
 - University Police Threat Assessment Program

Avenger

For the Avenger, violence becomes the only possible recourse for their perceived injustices.

“You forced me into a corner and gave me only one option.”

--Seung Hui Cho

Phases of Behavior of Mass Casualty Shooters

- Fantasy
- Planning
- Preparation
- Approach
- Implementation

Fantasy, Planning and Preparation

Many Observable Behaviors Should Be Reported

These are called Pre-Incident Indicators (PINS)

Approach

This Is Where You Stay Away!

Call 911

Let Police Officers make the approach.

Survival Strategies in the Event of an Active Shooter



University of Maryland Police have Rescue Vehicles. This was on display during Maryland Day.

If You Remember One Word, It Should Be

OUT!!!!

Research shows that if you have thought in advance about what you would do in the event of an incident, your chances of survival are greatly improved.

Get Out, Run!!!

Your best option is ALWAYS to run, get out, get away. Think in advance about how you'd get out, including the possibility of jumping from the windows.

**But...do you know where the shooter is?
Can you get out safely?**

Call Out Call 911

If possible, take care of your safety first. Run first, hide first, barricade or lock the door first, then call 911. If it's safe, stay on the line and give the police the best information you can.

On a cell phone, call #3333

Hide Out Or Play Dead

If you're not able to get out, find a safe place to hide. If there's no way to get out or hide, playing dead could save your life. If you are hiding when the police come, realize that they will not know if you're a victim or a shooter. Follow their instructions.

...and silence your cell phone!

Keep Out

If you can't get out, lock or barricade the door. Make sure the barricade stays in place, holding it from a safe position if necessary. Many at Virginia Tech survived by barricading doors, keeping the shooter out.

Take Out

Fight or Flight?

Flight, running, getting out, is always your best option. But if flight is removed as an option, your only choice may be to fight, to try to take the shooter out.

Hiding Out – Playing Dead in 211 Norris Hall

Clay Violand



"I am the only person who didn't get shot in my French class in Norris (Hall) and I have no idea why and I don't know what to do."

"I pretended to be dead and people got shot."

Keeping Him Out in 205 Norris Hall

Zach Petkewicz

"Two of the girls in my class looked out the hall and saw a guy coming out into the hallway with a gun pointed down to the ground. They slammed the door shut and just told everybody. Everybody kind of went into a panic — didn't know what to do.

I hid behind the teacher's podium and then realized, you know, there's nothing locking this door; he's just going to come in. So I said we need to barricade this door. Two of my classmates got up and helped me. We just held the table there...Meanwhile, all these gunshots are going on. He eventually came, tried to open the door, didn't go. Tried to shoulder his way in, got the door open about 6 inches. We had to slam it back shut on him."



"That's when he put two bullets into the center of the door, thinking we were up against it, trying to close him out. He then reloaded. I was against the ground, right against the door. I thought he was coming in for a second round, but for the grace of God, he just kept going and didn't try to get back in there."

Before Something Happens

Be aware of signs of crisis

Tell the right people.

Know your surroundings.

Have a plan of action.

Always be prepared to call 911!

Before Something Happens

Study your surroundings:

Where are the exits?

Can the door be locked?

What would work as a
barricade?

Do the windows open?

Remember OUT

**Get Out
Call Out
Hide Out
Keep Out
Take Out**



University of Maryland Police Officers are trained in Active Shooter Response Tactics. Here officers participate in an exercise at the University Health Center.

Source: Center for Personal Protection & Safety 2007