Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) is a form of violence risk assessment that assesses individuals who have threatened harm. In a school context, a multidisciplinary team works together to promote safety and prevent violence that may impact the school community. The process involves gathering information to assess the nature and seriousness of the threat and implementing interventions to reduce the risk that the threat will be carried out.

Quick Facts - BTAM is:
- Part of a comprehensive approach to school safety plans.
- A fact-based approach that is case specific.
- Early intervention.
- Violence prevention.
- Compassion-based and student-focused.

Misunderstandings - BTAM is Not:
- Zero tolerance, leading to overly punitive or intensive interventions (i.e. suspension, law enforcement).
- A criminal investigation or conviction.
- A site survey, or security audit.
- Profiling based on traits or characteristics.
- Violence prediction.
Did You Know:

- When done appropriately, threat assessment can reduce the likelihood of violence.³
- Threat assessment can improve the ability to address the mental and behavioral needs of students. A study of schools using the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) found that students receiving a threat assessment were more likely to receive counseling services and parent conferences.⁴
- Threat assessment promotes more fair outcomes. A study of CSTAG showed that schools using threat assessment saw substantial reductions in the racial disparity in long-term suspension. Another study of CSTAG showed that students receiving special education services also did not receive disproportionately higher rates of school suspensions when threat assessment was used.⁵⁶

References

The National Center for School Safety (NCSS) is a Bureau of Justice Assistance-funded training and technical assistance center at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. As a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional center focused on improving school safety and preventing school violence, the NCSS team is composed of national leaders in criminal justice, education, social work, and public health with expertise in school safety research and practice. NCSS provides comprehensive and accessible support to Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence grantees and the school safety community nationwide to address today's school safety challenges. NCSS serves as the national training and technical assistance provider for the STOP School Violence Program.

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