



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION THREAT INTELLIGENCE CONSORTIUM

August 21, 2019

Intelligence Bulletin

Product No. 2019-08-030
NTIC SIN No. 2.1, 6 | HSEC No. 6

Don't Wait: Recognize and Report Indicators of School Shooters

Of the 23 school shootings over the past five years in the United States, 63 percent of shooters¹ were current students at the time of the attack, according to the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security,

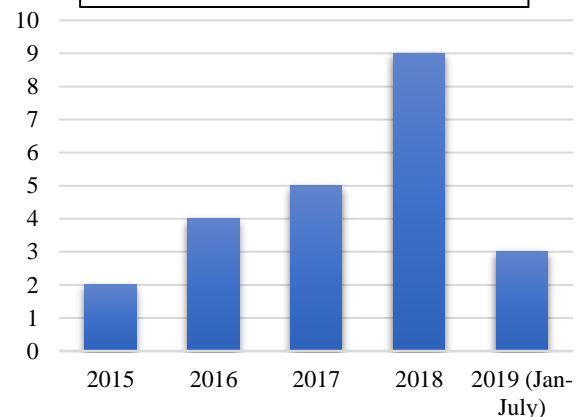
providing an opportunity for teachers and administrators to identify red flags and engage with law enforcement. Indicators for school personnel include: social media posts with alarming content; stalking or harassing behavior; increased depression; changes in behavior and appearance; drug use; expressions of suicidal thoughts; and erratic behavior.

- A US Secret Service study found 93 percent of mass attack assailants² made prior threatening comments or in some way elicited concern within the community before the shootings. In May, two students who attacked their STEM School in Colorado, killing one and injuring eight, told classmates the day before "don't come to school tomorrow."
- Nickolas Cruz, the assailant responsible for killing 17 students and staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February 2018, had a disturbing digital footprint. In addition to expressing extremist views, Cruz made disturbing comments on social media, such as "I wanna shoot people with my AR-15." He claimed he was going to become a "professional school shooter" and posted photos of himself with a shotgun on his Instagram account.
- Mass violence in schools may be motivated by past grievances; differing ideologies or beliefs; or as a result of bullying. In March of 2018, Austin Wyatt Rollins, a student at Great Mills High School in Maryland, opened fire on a classmate. His target, who suffered fatal injuries, was a female with whom he had a relationship that ended before the attack. The shooter took his own life.

Regional Perspective

In the past five years, there have been eight active shooter incidents at schools in the National Capital Region - two in DC, four in Virginia, and two in Maryland.

School Active Shooter Incidents



Data shows the number of school active shootings per year in the United States.
(Source: Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security)

¹ According to the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security an active shooter at a K-12 school is *an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.*

² According to the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, a mass attack is an incident where three or more individuals are harmed.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION THREAT INTELLIGENCE CONSORTIUM

The NTIC recommends the following to better protect yourself and your school against potential attacks:

- ***Trust*** your instincts. If an individual demonstrates one or more of the common identifiers, report it. To report suspicious activity, visit [iWATCH](#) or call (202) 727-9099.
- ***Utilize*** the District's resources to prepare for an attack, such as [AlertDC](#)—a free emergency alert system—and [Stop the Bleed](#)—a campaign that trains and equips bystanders on how to handle a bleeding emergency.
- ***Employ*** [DC's Active Shooter Emergency Response Protocol](#)
 - Evacuation: For use when conditions outside are safer than inside.
 - Alert Status: For use in securing access to the building, usually in a community emergency event.
 - Lockdown: For use to protect building occupants from potential dangers in the building or outside.

Additional Resources:

- [ReadyDC's active shooter preparedness tips](#)
- [FBI's Responding to an Active Shooter Crisis Situation](#)
- [National Fire Protection Association's Standard for an Active Shooter](#)