

SSID

Fact Sheet

Warning Signs for Campus Violence

The threat of violence is very present in today's society. College and university campuses are not immune from this threat. The shootings at the University Of Arizona College Of Nursing at Tucson in 2002, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 2000, and the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007 are prime examples. Higher education institutions should be prepared for an occurrence of violence. Prevention is one of the most effective methods of preparation. Prevention method research shows that effective ways to reduce potentially violent acts are to know the *Warning Signs*.

In an article by Flannery and Quinn-Leering of Kent State University, they list and describe a collection of possible warning signs that higher education faculty, staff, and administration should observe. This is not a comprehensive list, nor is it specific to any particular college or university campus. However, it is an informative resource for administrators [faculty and staff] to reference and therefore help maintain a positive learning environment.

1. A history of violence and/or being victimized
2. Threats of violence
3. An obsessive interest in weapons
4. A tendency to be isolated
5. The inability to get along with others
6. Excessive anger
7. Job loss
8. Breakup of a relationship
9. Alcohol and drug usage
10. Intolerance of differences
11. Gang affiliation
12. Poor attachment to school
13. Exhibiting impulsive behavior
14. Making violent drawings or writings

It should be reiterated that this is not a comprehensive list of warning signs for the possibility of a violent act at a higher education institution. As stated above, it is an additional tool that should be used by higher education faculty, staff, and administration in the continued efforts to serve and protect their student body.

*Source: Flannery, D.J., Quinn-Leering, K. (2000). *Violence on college campuses: Understanding its impact on student well being. Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 24. 839-855.