

FBI Study of Active Shooters in the United States - 2000-2013 (Prepared June, 2018)

Part 2

Michael H. Corcoran, Ph.D.

These findings aid in understanding what to look for

They stress the importance of data collection:

Backgrounds

Potential target(s)

Current and past behaviors

Situational factors – the environment

Corroborating this information from multiple sources

Although this study is not clinically validated, it's an important step in helping and validating the threat assessment process.

Key Concerning (Observable) Behaviors

- All active shooters either: a) lived with someone, or b) had significant in-person or online social interactions – contrary to belief they were loners.
- Overall, active shooters showed concerning behaviors in multiple ways, with an average of 4.7 concerning behaviors per active shooter.
- Concerning behaviors came to the attention to others in a variety of ways:
 - Verbal communication by the active shooter (95%),
 - Physical actions of the active shooter (86%),
 - Written communication (27%),
 - Instances where concerning behavior was displayed online (16%).
 - 89% demonstrated concerning behaviors noticed in multiple ways.

CONCERNING (OBSERVABLE) BEHAVIORS

Mental health	62%
Interpersonal interactions	57%
Leakage	56%
Quality of thinking or communication	54%
Work performance*	46%
School performance**	42%
Threats/confrontations	35%
Anger	33%
Physical aggression	33%

Continue on next slide

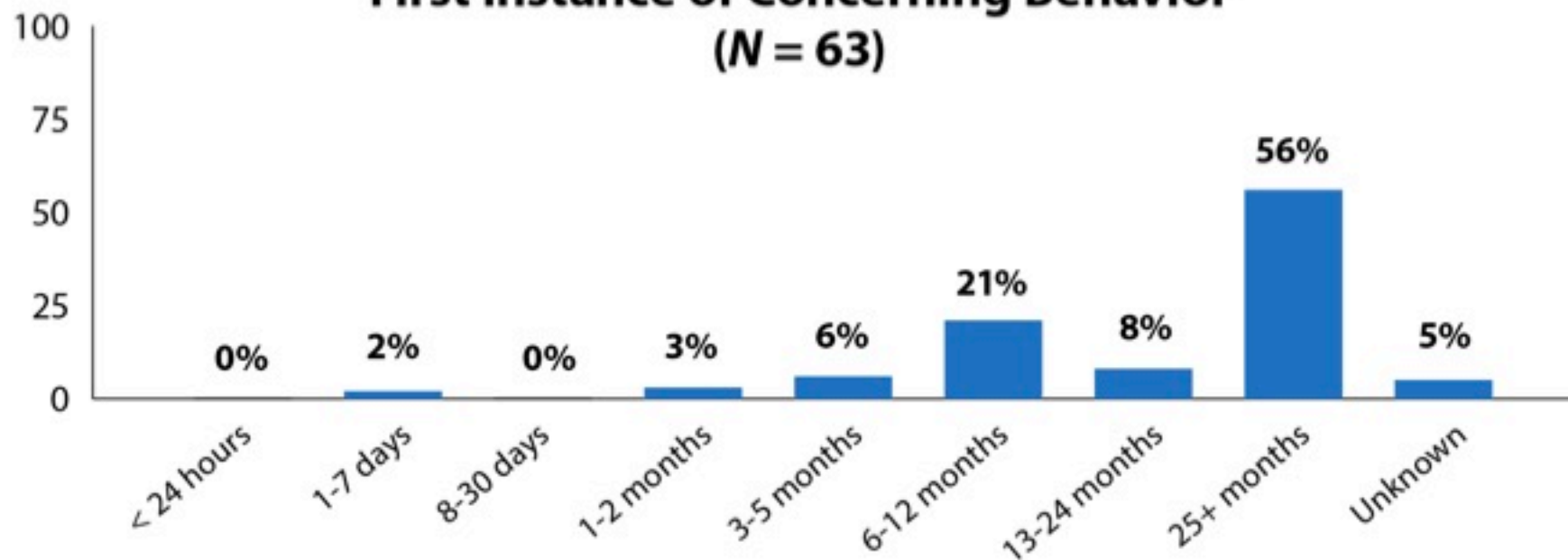
CONCERNING (OBSERVABLE) BEHAVIORS

Risk-taking	21
Firearm behavior	21
Violent media usage	19
Weight/eating	13
Drug abuse	13
Impulsivity	11
Alcohol abuse	10
Physical health	10
Other (e.g. idolizing criminals)	8
Sexual behavior	6
Quality of sleep	5
Hygiene/appearance	3

CONCERNING (OBSERVABLE) BEHAVIORS

FIGURE 9

First Instance of Concerning Behavior
(N = 63)



*Does not sum to 100% due to rounding.

CONCERNING (OBSERVABLE) BEHAVIORS

Who Noticed

Schoolmate*	92%
Spouse/domestic partner**	87%
Teacher/school staff*	75%
Family member	68%
Friend	51%
Co-worker	40%
Other (e.g. neighbors)	37%
Law enforcement	25%
Online individual	10%
Religious mentor	5%

CONCERNING (OBSERVABLE) BEHAVIORS

Primary Grievance

Adverse interpersonal action against the shooter	33%
Adverse employment action against the shooter	16%
Other (e.g. general hatred of others)	10%
Adverse governmental action against the shooter	5%
Adverse academic action against the shooter	3%
Adverse financial action against the shooter	3%
Domestic	3%
Hate crime	3%
Ideology/extremism	3%
Unknown	21%

1

CONCERNING (OBSERVABLE) BEHAVIORS

FIGURE 10



*Does not sum to 100% due to rounding.

MISCELLANEOUS OTHER FACTS

- It was shown nearly half of those studied had suicidal ideation, 70% appearing within 12 months of the attack.
- 65% of the overall cases, no threats were made to a target - yet of those who did, almost all did it verbally
- 30% of the active shooters created a “legacy token” prior to the attack.
- 88% of active shooters age 17 and younger leaked their intent, while 51% of adult active shooters leaked their intent.
- 44% experienced a precipitating or triggering event related to the grievance



Our contact information:

(949) 951-1316 or info@workthreat.com

Also visit www.workthreat.com

(Watch Part 1 for Demographics, Planning & Preparation findings)