



Homeland Security

NTER National Threat Evaluation
and Reporting Office



Threat Evaluation and Reporting Overview

(TERO)



Topics

- Define Targeted Violence and Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM)
- Identify the elements and purpose of the pathway to violence
- Outline the BTAM Model
- Understand Key Aspects of Community Involvement in BTAM
- Recognize Common Warning Signs and Concerning Behaviors





What Are the Goals of This Course?

- Empower homeland security partners (i.e. law enforcement, first responders, **public safety and school officials**) to recognize threats or observable behaviors that may concern others
- Raise awareness about targeted violence and outline the BTAM model
- Build state and local capacity to identify the warning signs and risk factors associated with potential acts of targeted violence





Primary Sources

- Making Prevention a Reality: Identifying, Assessing, and Managing the Threat of Targeted Attacks; Federal Bureau of Investigation; 2017
- A Study of the Pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters from 2000 – 2013; Federal Bureau of Investigation; 2018
- Task Force Report: Predicting Violent Behavior; Defense Science Board; 2012
- Workplace Violence Prevention and Intervention: American National Standard; ASIS/SHRM; 2011
- Protective Intelligence & Threat Assessment: A Guide for State and Local Law Enforcement Officials; United States Secret Service; 2000
- Threat Assessment: Defining an Approach for Evaluating Risk of Targeted Violence; United States Secret Service; 1999



Topic 1:

WHAT IS TARGETED VIOLENCE?



Types of Violence

“Offenders Don’t ‘Snap’— They Decide”

Impulsive Reactive

- Emotional and impromptu
- Frequently a defensive behavior in response to a perceived imminent threat

Predatory Planned

- Premeditated and serves some purpose for those who plan and conduct violent attacks
- All instances of targeted violence and almost all mass murders are premeditated
- The planned nature provides an opportunity for the BTAM process to prevent an attack



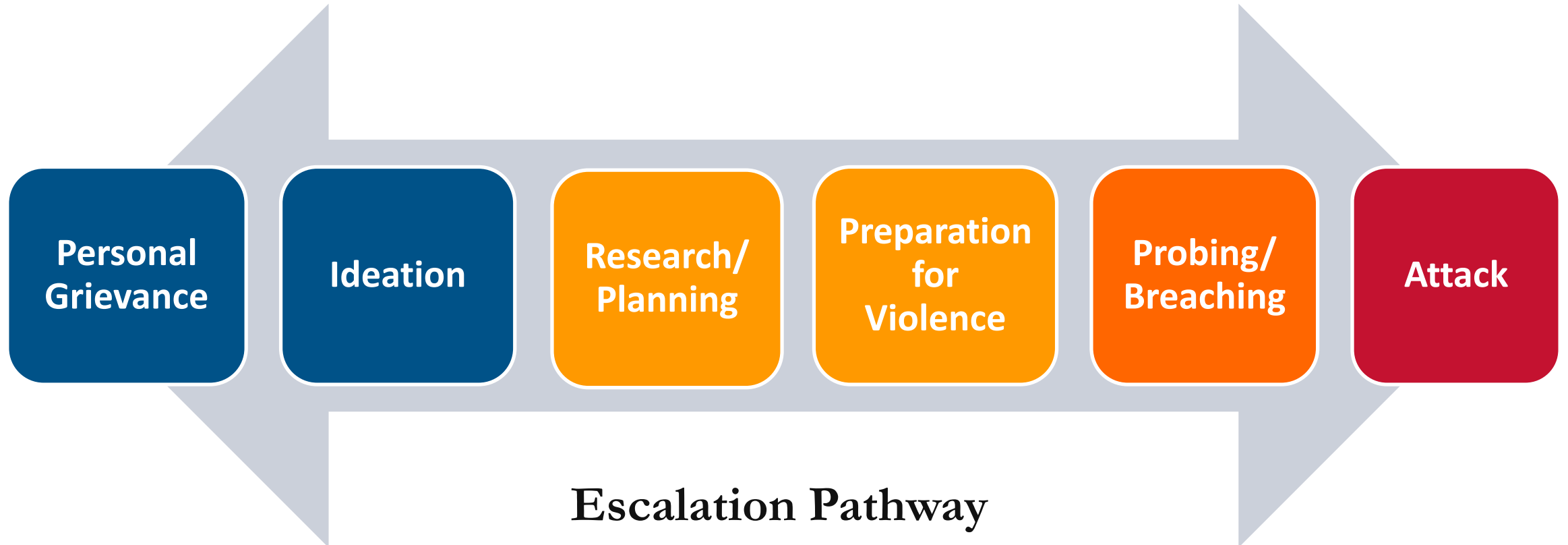
Targeted Violence Defined

An unlawful act of violence dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources, in which actors or groups intentionally target a discernible population of individuals or venue in a manner that poses a threat to homeland security, based on:

1. An apparent terrorist motive indicated by the population or venue targeted, or by the particular means of violence employed;
2. The significance of actual or potential impacts to the Nation's economic security, public health, or public safety, or to the minimal operations of the economy and government; or
3. The severity and magnitude of the violence or harm and impact of either upon the capabilities of State and local governments to effectively respond without Federal assistance.

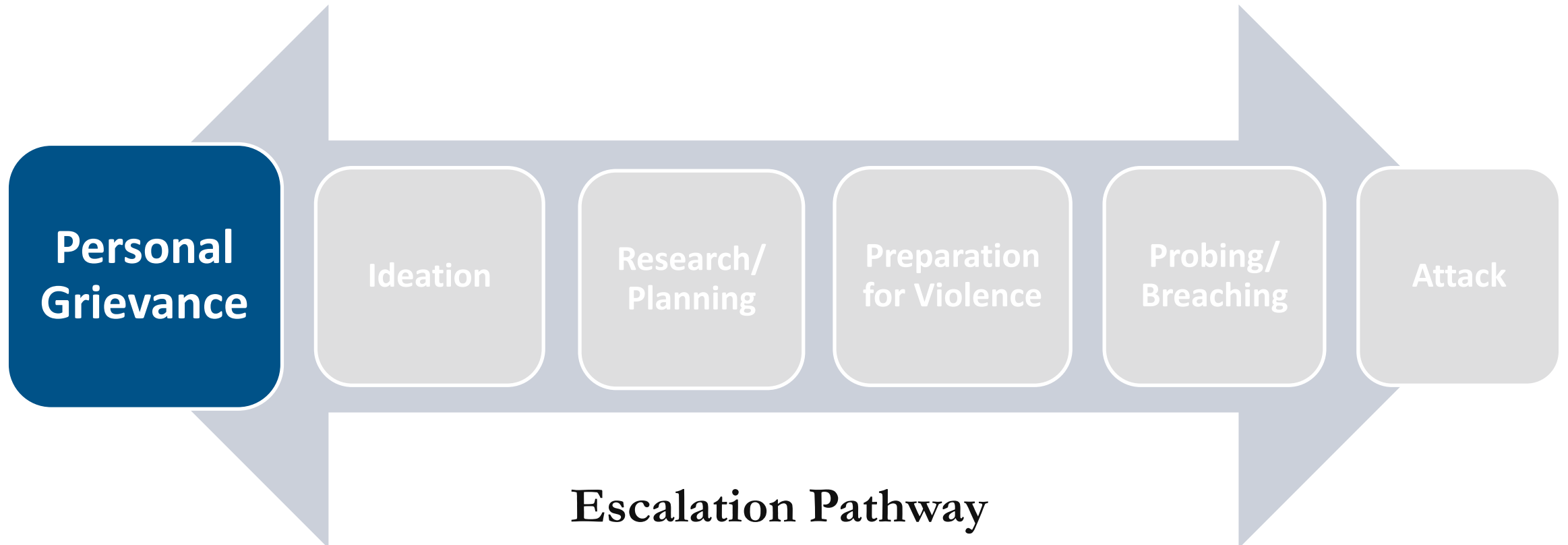


The Pathway to Violence Model



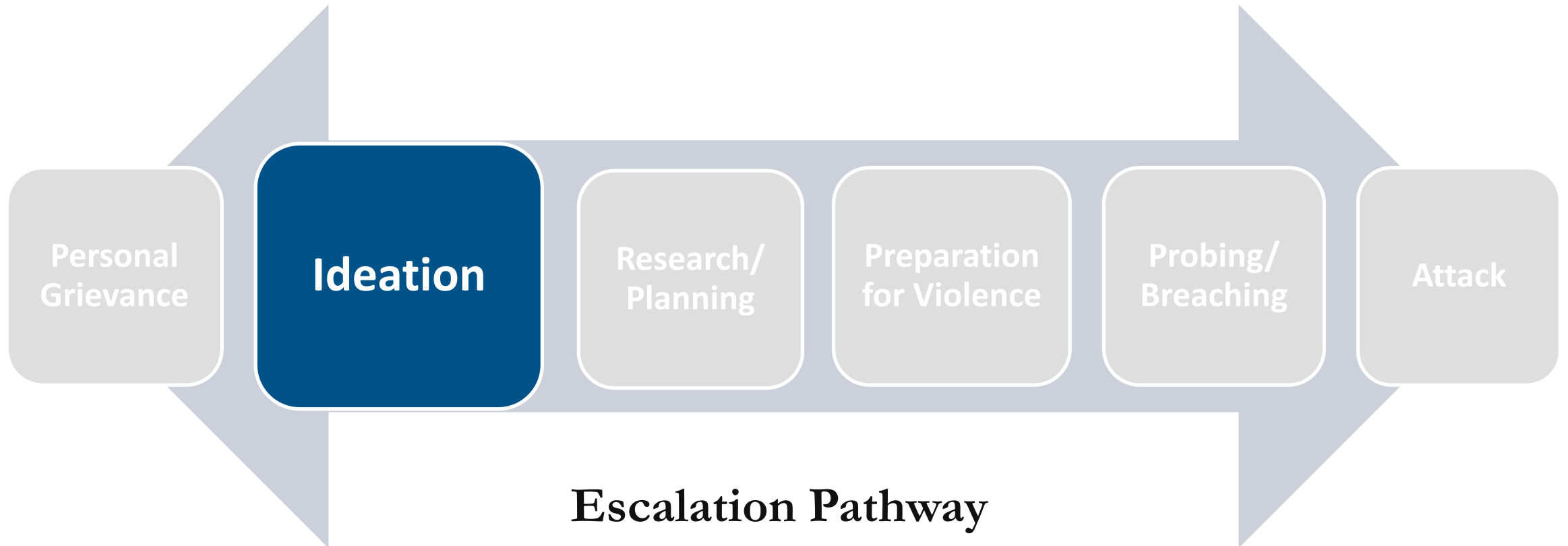


Pathway to Violence: Personal Grievance





Pathway to Violence: Ideation





Pathway to Violence: Research/Planning





Pathway to Violence: Preparation for Violence



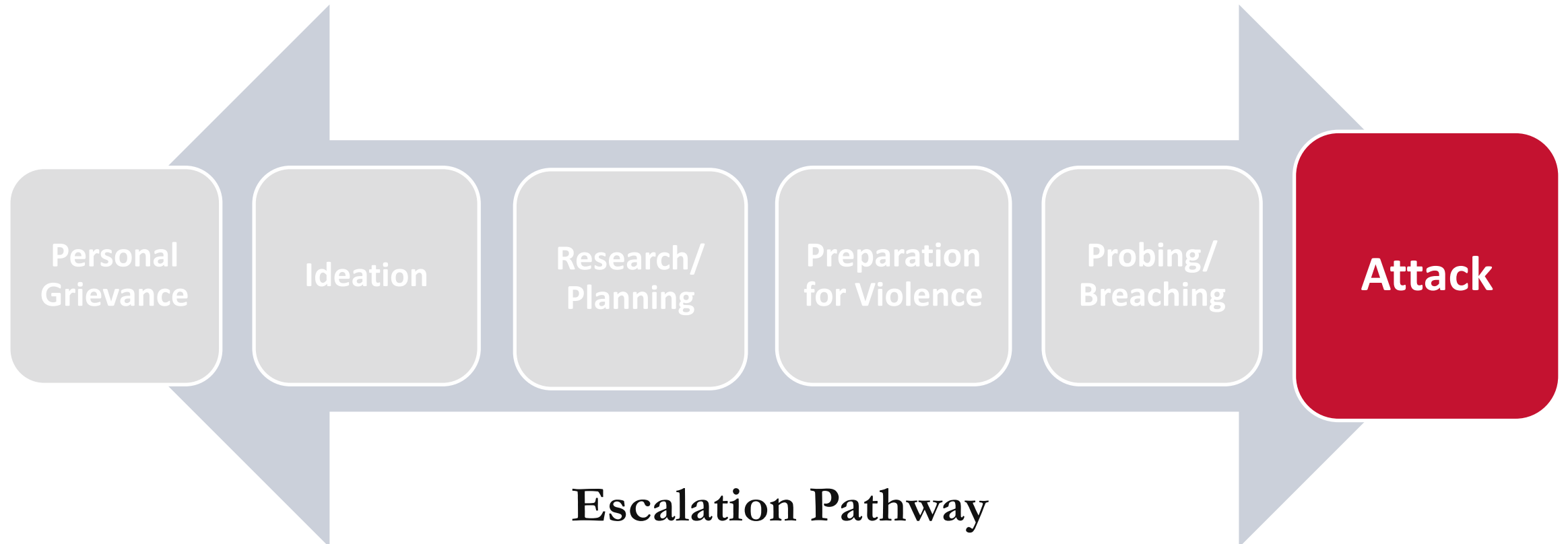


Pathway to Violence: Probing/Breaching





Pathway to Violence: Attack





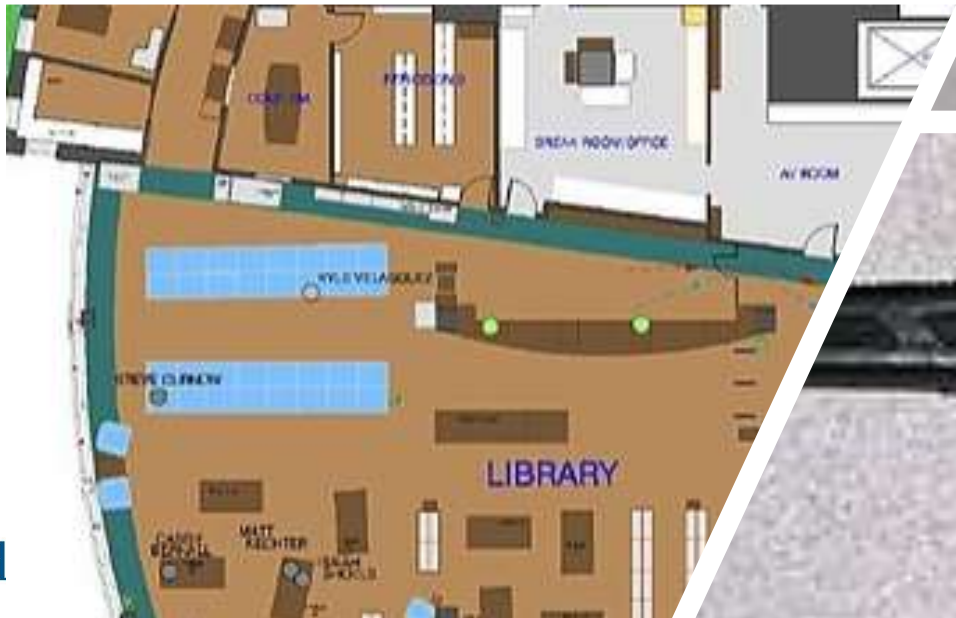
How Has Targeted Violence Evolved?

- 1 Review the photos.
- 2 What is the incident?



Image by [Anemone123](#) from [Pixabay](#)











What Other Attacks Resonate With You?





What Do Recent Numbers Look Like?

2023

Total Incidents:	27
Total Deaths:	143
Number Wounded:	162
Schools Involved:	3 (13%)
School Deaths:	15 (11%)
School Wounded:	9 (6%)
Primary Weapon:	Pistol
Most Lethal Weapon:	Rifle

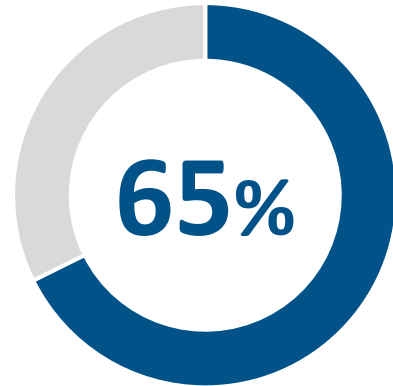
2022

Total Incidents:	25
Total Deaths:	103
Number Wounded:	234
Schools Involved:	4 (16%)
School Deaths:	29 (28%)
School Wounded:	32 (14%)
Primary Weapon:	Pistol
Most Lethal Weapon:	Rifle

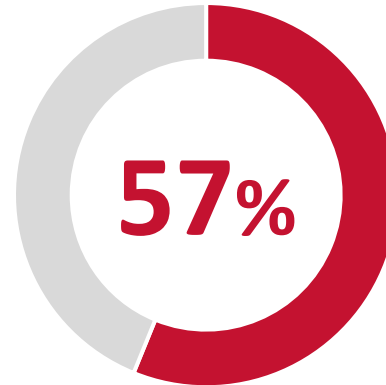




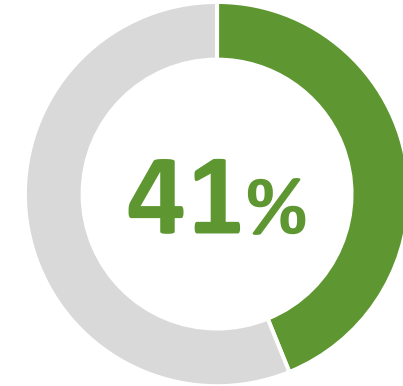
Current Trends in Mass Attacks



Two-thirds of the attackers exhibited behaviors that concerned others



For over half of the attackers, their behaviors resulted in others fearing for their safety



Two-fifths of the attackers exhibited changes in behavior that were observable to others



End of Topic Questions





Topic 2

WHAT IS BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT?



Behavioral Threat Assessment Defined



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- A systematic, fact-based method of investigation and examination that blends the collection and analysis of multiple sources of information with published research and practitioner experience
- Focuses on an individual's patterns of thinking and behavior to determine whether, and to what extent, an individual is moving toward an attack
- A beginning process that guides a course of action to mitigate a threat of potential violence






The History of Threat Assessment








U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice

Protective Intelligence & Threat Assessment Investigations

*A Guide for State
and Local Law
Enforcement
Officials*

RESEARCH
REPORT





The History of Threat Assessment, cont.

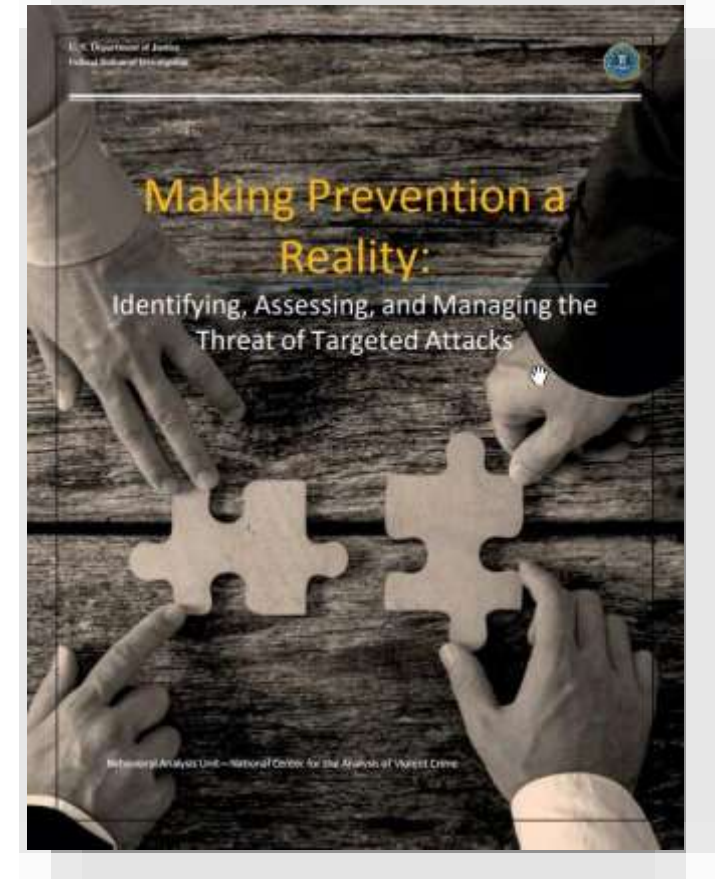
- Safe School Initiative
- *Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates*
- Expansion of Threat Assessment practices into all levels of school system





The History of Threat Assessment, cont.

- These events were the catalyst for operational partners to take strides in mitigating the public security risk of targeted violence
- Making Prevention A Reality—Provides guidance to public safety officials about how to identify, investigate, assess, and manage the risk of future, planned violence
- The shift toward operational prevention advanced the field of threat assessment





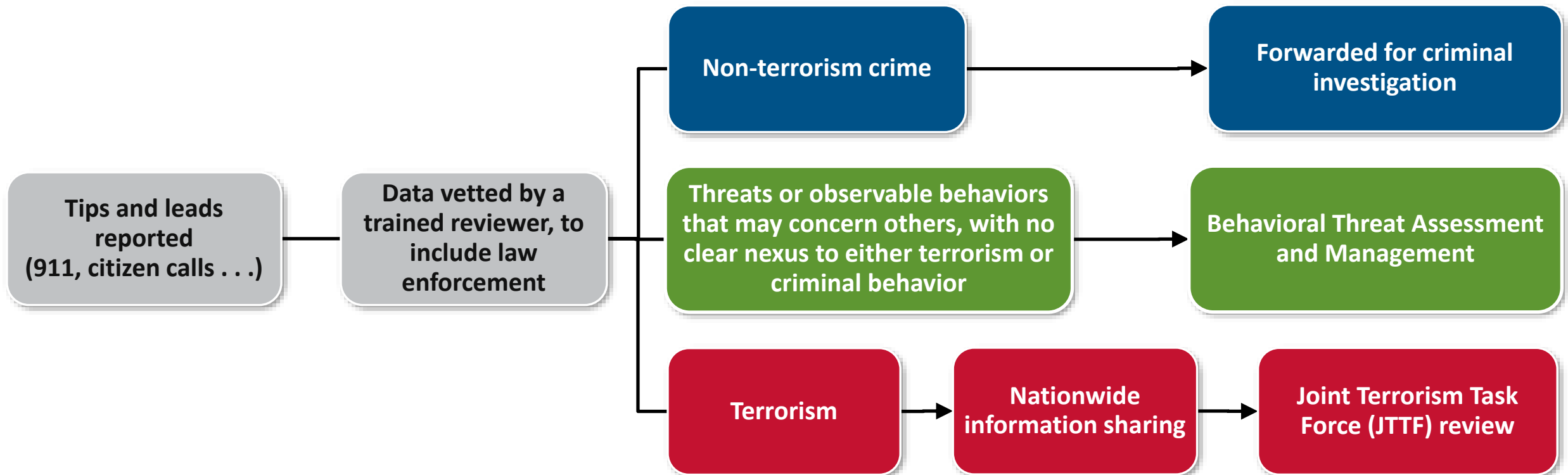
Why Do We Need Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management?

- NSI is insufficient to address new threats
- Our understanding of the threat environment is changing
- Need to adapt to prevent targeted violence beyond terrorism
- Help keep communities safe





BTAM: Filling the Gap





Takeaways

- Offenders don't snap, they decide
- Targeted violence is not spontaneous, emotion-driven, impulsive crimes emanating from a person's immediate anger or fear
- BTAM is a fact-based method of investigation
- A key to resolving a threat is early detection of threats or observable behaviors that may concern others
- BTAM fills a gap as the threat environment changes
- The Pathway to Violence Model helps explain how an individual may progress towards an act of targeted violence



Wrap-up and Questions





Topic 3

HOW DOES YOUR COMMUNITY PLAY A ROLE?



Increasing Community Involvement

- Clearly understand privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties laws and policies
- Bystander reporting: Critical component of prevention
- Knowledge: Key to implementing viable reduction strategies
- Increase community awareness of the situation
- Encourage reporting of a broad range of behaviors
- Establish trust to ensure involvement





Increasing Community Involvement, cont.

**Targeted attacks:
Pre-meditated, not
impulsive**

**Offenders do not just
snap—they decide**

**Opportunity for
bystander observation
and reporting**



**Encourage bystanders
to report**

**Bystander reporting:
Critical component of
prevention**

Knowledge is key!





Challenging Our Own Beliefs and Attitudes about Reporting

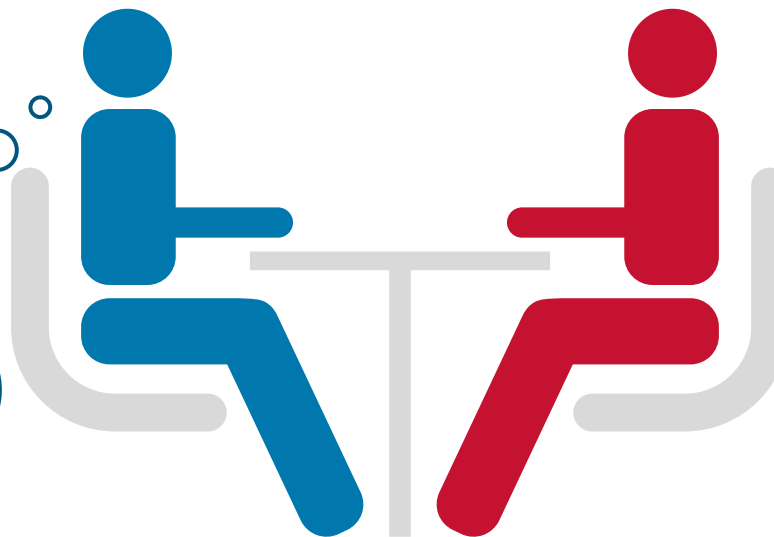
I don't want to
get my friend in
trouble.

I don't want to
be a snitch.

I've been
thinking about
committing an
act of violence

They're
probably just
joking.

No one is going
to do anything
about it anyway.

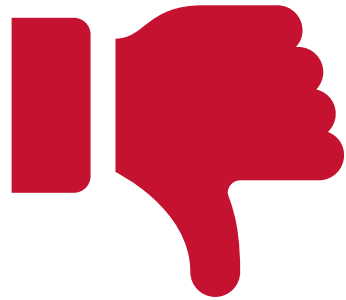


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
**Homeland
Security**



Increasing Community Involvement, cont.

CHANGE YOUR VOCABULARY



Attack

Attacker

Senseless

Lone Wolf

Active Shooter

“Snap” Mass Murders

Incident

Assailant

Offender

Shooting Incident





Increasing Community Involvement, cont.

FACILITATING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. Law enforcement
2. Prosecution
3. Schools
4. Social services
5. Health care
6. Lawmakers
7. Courts
8. Probation and parole
9. Employers
10. Family
11. Bystanders



Video: Maximizing Community Reporting



ABC News: New Tool to Help Prevent School Shootings



End of Topic Questions





Topic 4

WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS?

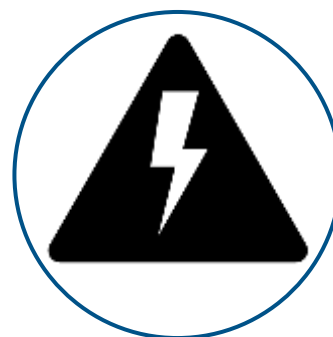




**Risk
Factors**



**Triggers
and
Stressors**



**Warning
Behaviors**



**Warning
Behaviors That
Could Signal
Imminence**

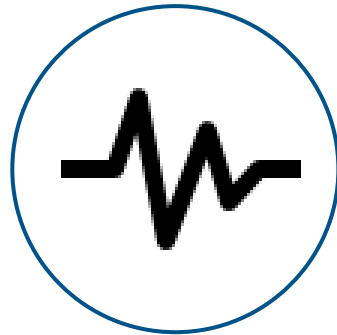


Mitigators

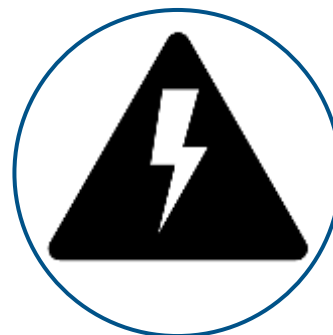




**Risk
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Behaviors**

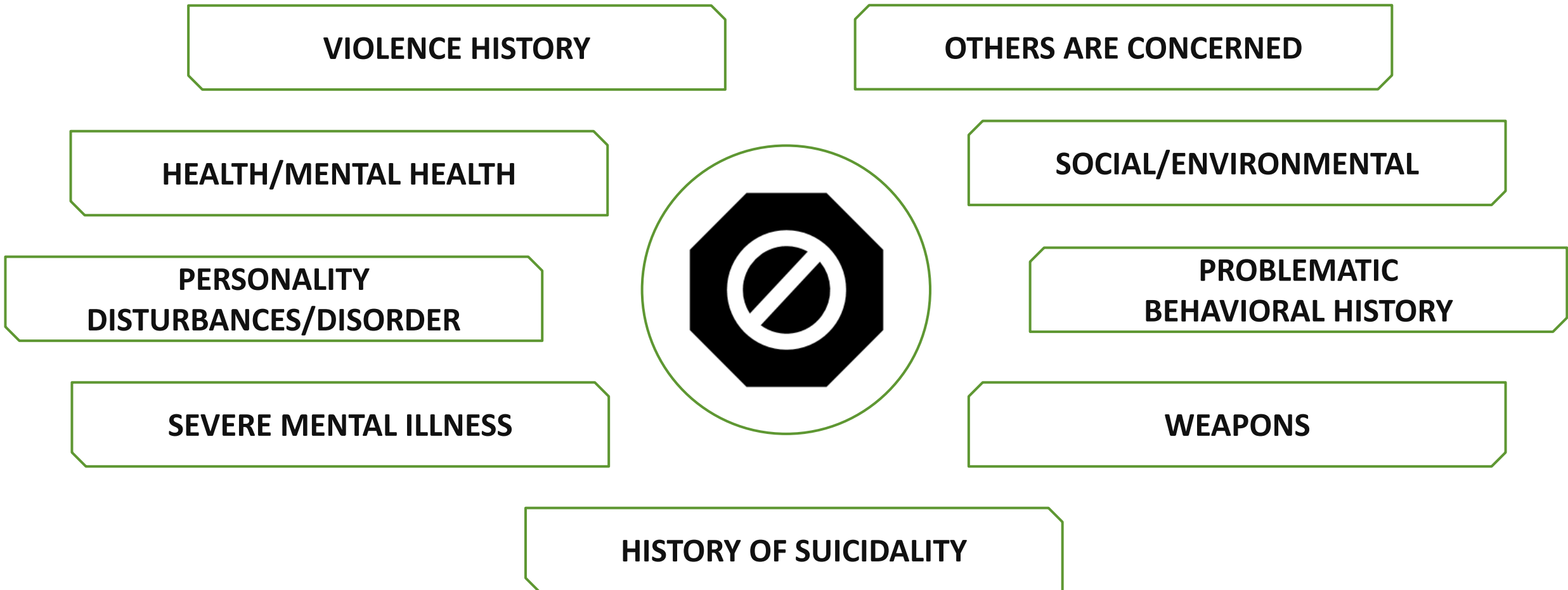


**Warning
Behaviors That
Could Signal
Imminence**



Mitigators



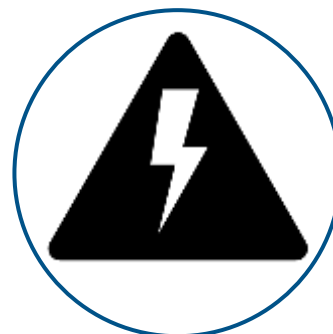




**Risk
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**Warning
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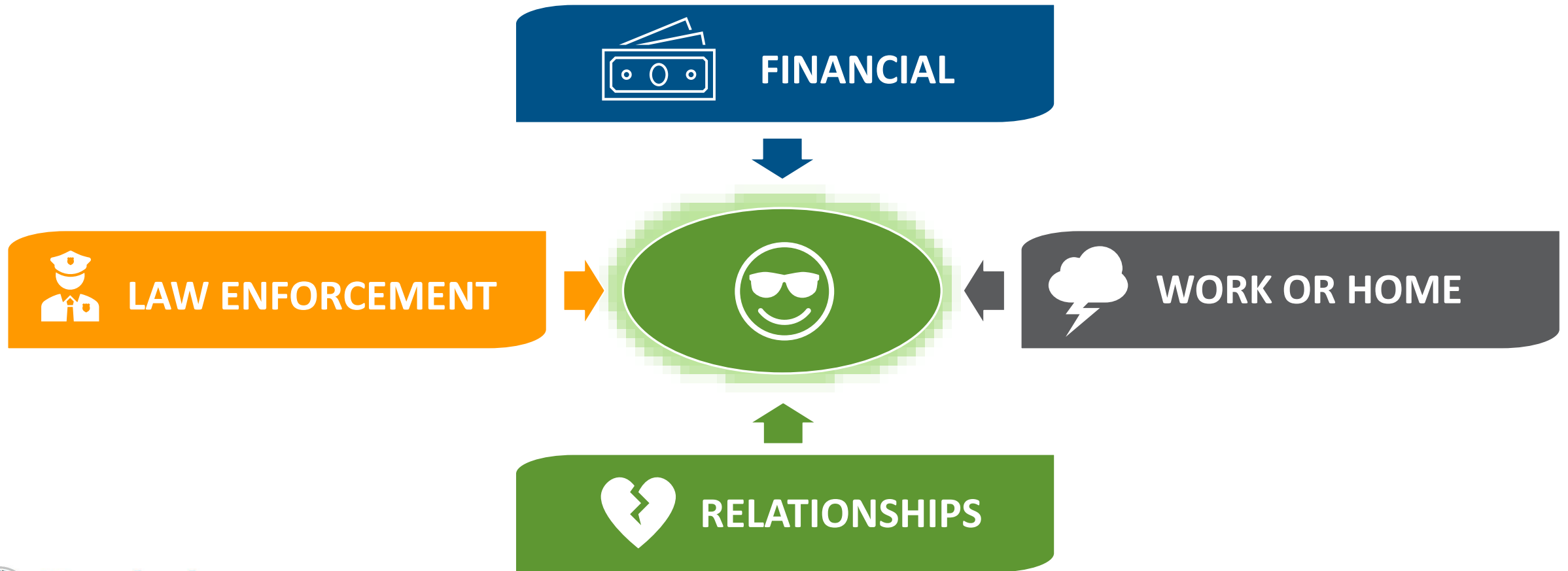


Mitigators





Life Stressors

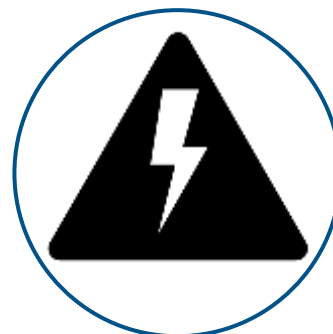




**Risk
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**Triggers
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**Warning
Behaviors**



**Warning
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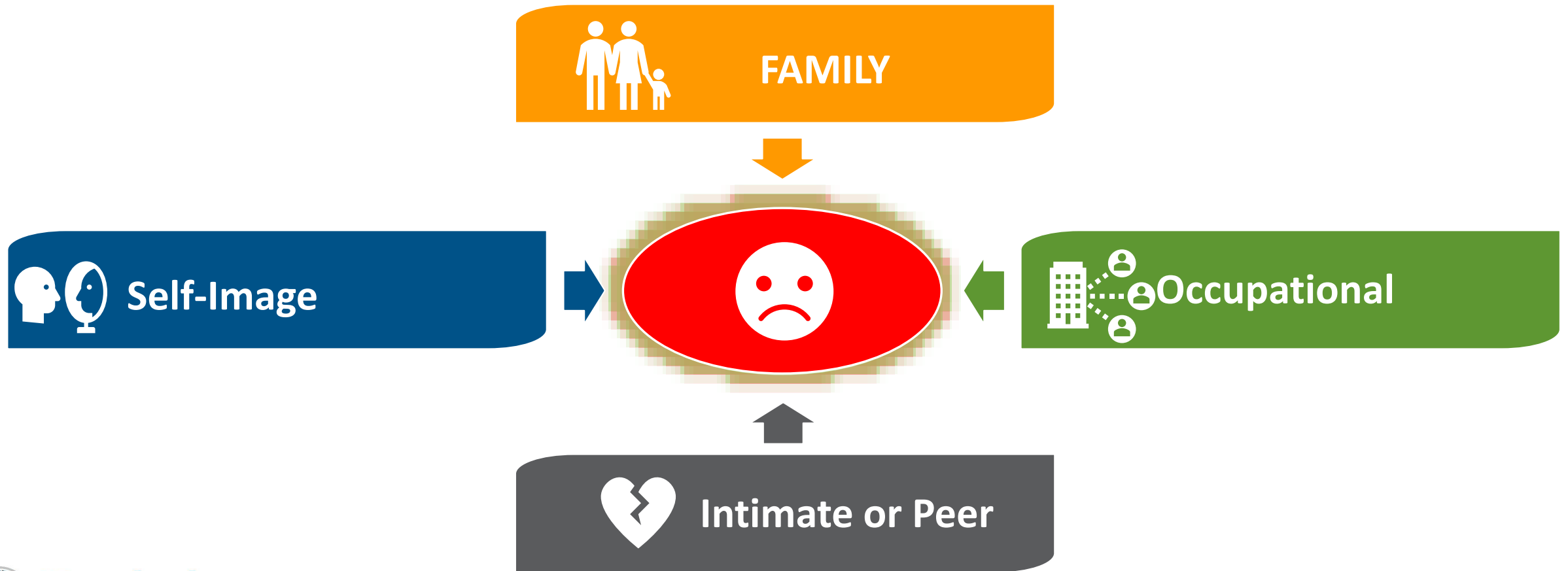


Mitigators





Triggers





**Risk
Factors**



**Triggers
and
Stressors**



**Warning
Behaviors**



**Warning
Behaviors That
Could Signal
Imminence**



Mitigators





FIXATION

DIRECTLY COMMUNICATED THREAT

IDENTIFICATION

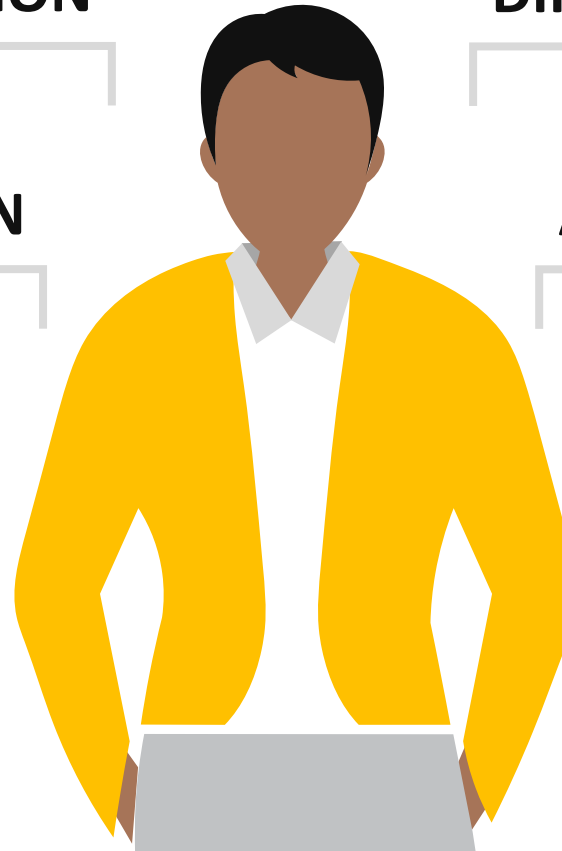
APPROACH BEHAVIOR

NOVEL AGGRESSION

**PATHWAY TO VIOLENCE
WARNING BEHAVIORS**

LEAKAGE

**BEHAVIORS THAT COULD
SIGNAL IMMINENCE**





Pathway to Violence Warning Behaviors





Pathway to Violence Warning Behaviors, cont.





Pathway to Violence Warning Behaviors, cont.





Pathway to Violence

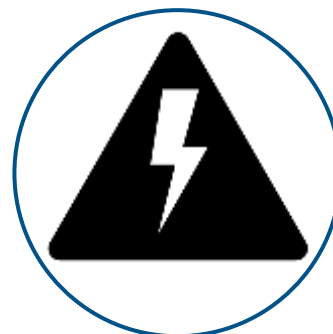




**Risk
Factors**



**Triggers
and
Stressors**



**Warning
Behaviors**



**Warning
Behaviors That
Could Signal
Imminence**



Mitigators





**Deviations in normal
non-aggressive behavior**

End of life planning

Last resort

**Sudden withdrawal
from life pattern**

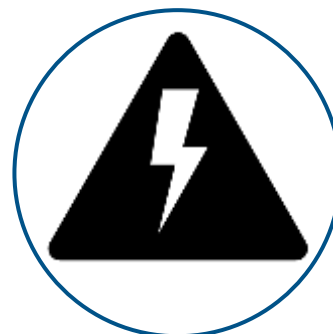
**Sudden cessation of
medications or other
substance use**



**Risk
Factors**



**Triggers
and
Stressors**



**Warning
Behaviors**

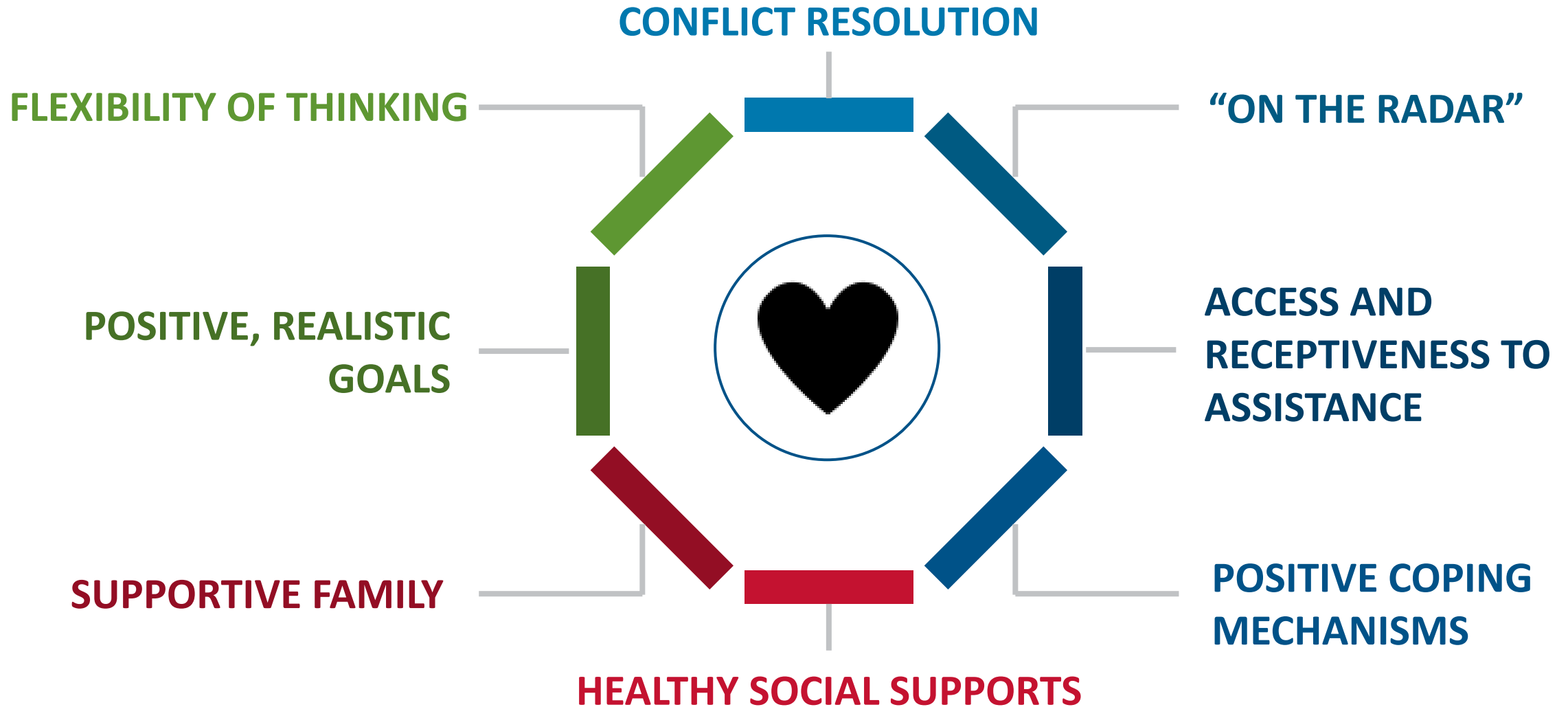


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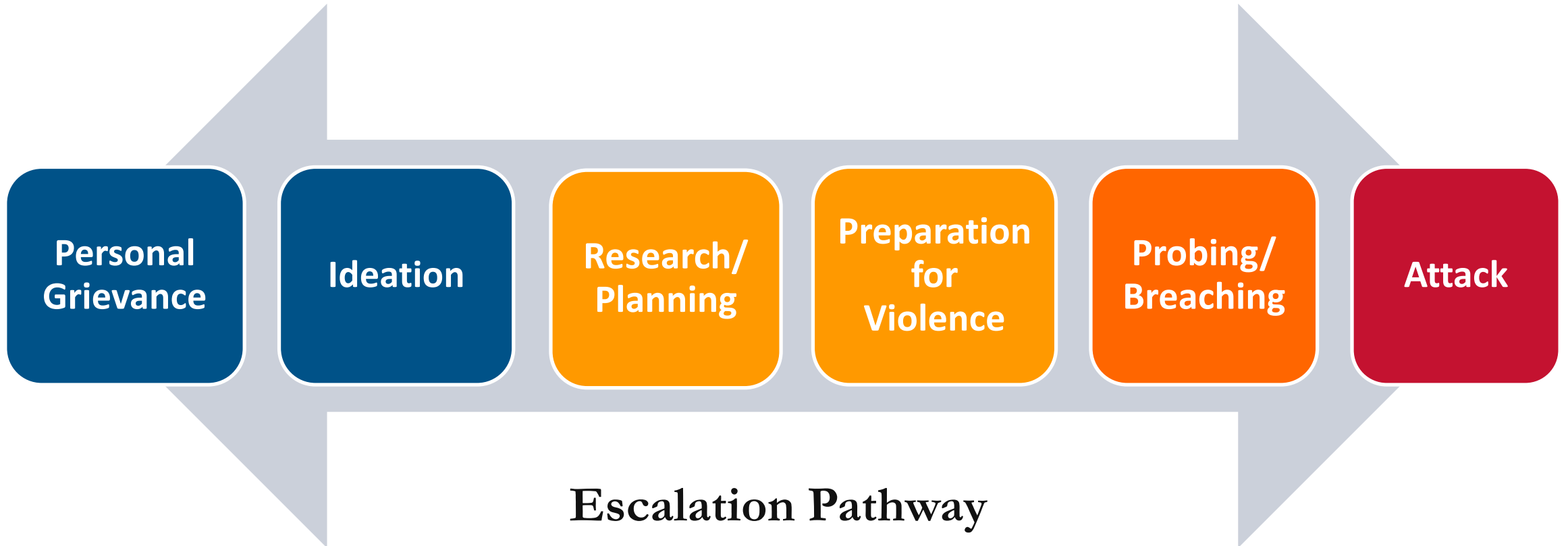
Mitigators







The Pathway to Violence Model





Takeaways

- Everyone can play a role in preventing violence in their community.
- Early detection and reporting of concerning or threatening behaviors are key to prevention
- Warning behaviors should be viewed within the totality of circumstances



Course Wrap-up and Feedback





Thank you!

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