

Violence Risk Assessment Questions

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Identify **stressors** associated with potential acts of violence.

1. Mr. Principal asked me to talk to you about... can you tell me what happened?
2. How are things going for you? At home? At school?
3. Describe your current relationships with family, friends/boyfriend/girlfriend.
4. What are some things that are happening in your life right now which are stressful?
5. Tell me about your friends.
6. Is there anything that you are feeling stressed about?
7. Have there been any recent changes in your family?
8. Have you had any major changes in your life lately?
9. Have you experienced any significant losses recently?
10. Tell me about the kinds of things that you worry about?
11. What are the most significant changes that have occurred in your life? When did they happen?

Identify possible thoughts of **revenge**.

1. Is there anybody who has upset you lately?
2. Are you in conflict with anyone? Has anyone been bothering you?
3. When you feel angry, what is that like for you? What do you think about? How do you respond? Does this work for you?
4. Do you have any bad feelings toward anyone at the school?
5. Describe what you do when you believe that someone has been unfair to you or treated you badly.
6. What would you do if someone hurt you or made you angry?
7. If you could respond the way you wanted to, what would you do?
Have any events happened where you felt you would like to get revenge or get back at someone?
8. What have you done in the past when someone hurt you or made you angry?
9. What are the ways you usually solve problems with your peers?
10. Have you had thoughts of hurting anyone?

Explore attitudes toward/use of **weapons**.

1. Have you ever seen a weapon before/held a weapon?
2. Would you like to? Do you see yourself using one?
3. Tell me about your experience with weapons?
4. When is it useful to use a weapon?
5. Does anyone in your family hunt?
6. Can a weapon be useful in resolving conflicts?
7. Has anyone shown you how to operate a weapon?
8. Have you ever used a weapon?

9. Do you have any experience with guns?
10. Does anyone in your family or others you may know have a weapon? (Weapons will be identified)
11. Do you have weapons at home or do you have access to any weapons?
12. How would you go about getting a weapon?
13. I know other kids who go through problems like (anything interviewee has described) and feel like getting even/using a gun would help them with the problem. Have you ever felt this way?

Explore attitudes toward/use of **violence**.

1. Do you have any favorite video games? If so, what are they?
2. Do you own video games that show people getting killed?
3. What is the most violent thing you have witnessed?
4. Have you witnessed or been involved in a fight before, during or after school hours? What happened?
5. Have you witnessed violence in your home?
6. Have you ever used fighting to solve a situation?
7. Have you ever gotten in a fight to resolve a situation?
8. Tell me about your experiences with violence?
9. What do you think about ___ situation? Referring to a past violent act in the media.
10. When was the last physical fight you were in?

Identify **depression, helplessness, and/or hopelessness**

1. What has your general mood been?
2. How would you describe what you are feeling now?
3. Do you generally feel this way?
4. How would you predict your situation ends?
5. Do you feel depressed now?
6. On a scale from 1-10 how depressed do you think you are?
7. What kind of course do you feel your life is on right now: even upward or downward?
8. How much interest do you have in being involved in enjoyable activities?
9. Have you lost interest in things you normally find enjoyable?
10. When you look to the future, do you see things getting better?

Identify **suicidal** ideation.

1. Have you had thoughts of suicide?
2. Have you ever thought about committing suicide?
3. If so, how often?
4. Do you have any thoughts about hurting yourself or killing yourself now?
5. Do you have a plan?
6. Have you told others about your plans to kill yourself?

Identify **homicidal** ideation.

1. Have you ever had thoughts of hurting anyone?
2. If you wanted to hurt someone how would you do it?

3. Have you ever thought about killing someone?
4. Have you thought about killing someone in the past?
5. Do you have thoughts of hurting or killing someone now?
6. How often do you think about it?
7. Do you have a plan?
8. Are you planning on hurting _____?
9. What do you think about _____ situation? Referring to a recent media portrayal of a homicide.

Explore **motivations** for violence.

1. Reference Revenge questions. How do you think violence can help you with this problem?
2. What do you hope will happen in this situation?
3. What has prompted you to plan this event?
4. What happened that made you want to hurt _____?
5. How do you think it would solve your problems?
6. What do you hope to get out of _____?
7. What other ways have you tried to solve your problems?
8. Is there a reason you would want to hurt someone?
9. Has anything affected you that had made you want to hurt yourself?

Assess **mental health**.

1. Do you have a history of mental illness?
2. Have you ever been diagnosed with a psychiatric problem?
3. Do you presently take prescription medication? (Check with nurse's office.)
4. Have you ever experienced hearing voices or seeing things that others don't hear or see?
5. Are you seeing things?
6. Hearing things?
7. Are you seeing a counselor right now?
8. Are you currently under the care of a psychiatrist or psychologist?

Prosocial **resources**.

1. How might the school help you?
2. Which staff member at school would you most likely speak to about a problem you are having?
3. How might your family help you?
4. Is there someone in your family that you would talk to about your problems?
5. Do you have somebody stable you can count on for help?
6. Who can you talk to about problems or obstacles in your life?
7. Who is the closest adult to you?
8. Is there anyone you are close to that you can talk to? What do you like best about this person?
9. If you are having problems who do you talk to
10. Is there someone who has helped you in the past?
What has helped you cope with anger or depression in the past?

11. What has prevented you from acting on these urges before?
12. What has helped you contain your desire for revenge in the past?
13. Is there a safe place you can go to?