# Over in 80 Seconds: The Challenge of Preventing School Shootings

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Chief of Police
California State University, Northridge

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## From Columbine in April of 1999...



# To Recently...



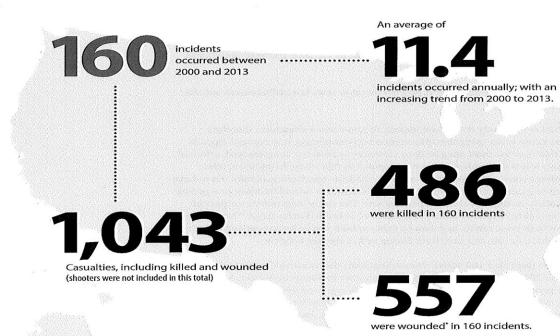
### **Definition of Active Shooter**

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area, typically through the use of firearms, and has not been contained.

#### Unclassified

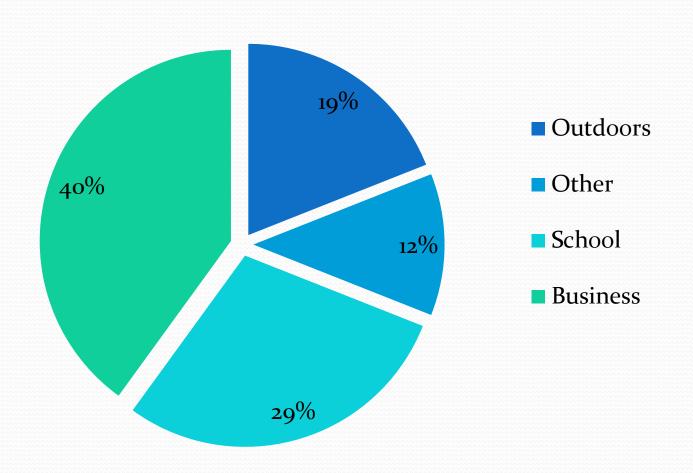
#### **Snapshot**

The following characteristics of the 160 active shooter incidents identified between 2000 and 2013 are noted:



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014

# Location of Active Shooter Incidents 2000-2012



# The Speed of Active Shooter Incidents 2000-2012





- Median response time for law enforcement: 3 minutes
- Duration of most incidents: 5 minutes or less
- Approximately 40% of incidents: 2 minutes or less
- Majority of incidents end on shooter's initiative before police arrive: suicide, stop shooting, shooter fled scene

# Characteristics of the Incident 2000-2012

- The vast majority of incidents involve a single shooter.
- Over 90% of the shooters were male.
- In 55% of the incidents, the shooter had a connection with the attack location.
- Nearly half of the incidents ended before police arrived.
- For incidents still in progress when the police arrived, they ended when the shooter committed suicide, surrendered to police or were stopped by police with use of force.

# Incidents in the Higher Education/K-12 Schools Environment

Of the top five incidents with the largest casualty counts, 3 were at education institutions.

- Virginia Polytechnical Institute, April 16, 2007: 32 killed and 58 wounded
- Northern Illinois University, February 14, 2008: 5 killed and 16 wounded
- Sandy Hook Elementary School and a residence in Newtown, Conn. – December 14, 2012: 27 killed, 2 wounded

# Typical Crimes of Violence on College Campuses in the US

- Sexual Violence
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault
- Injurious Hate Crimes
- Domestic Abuse
- Stalking
- Harassment and Bullying
- Illegal Weapons Arrests

# Mental Health Issues in the Campus Community

- Crisis Requiring Immediate Response
- Psychiatric Medication Issues
- Learning Disabilities
- Illicit Drug Use (Other than alcohol)
- Self-injury issues (i.e. cutting to relieve anxiety)
- Alcohol Abuse
- Problems Related to Earlier Sexual Abuse
- Sexual Assault Concerns (On Campus)
- Eating Disorders
- Career Planning Issues

# Common Concerns and Fear of Violence

- Physical assault of a co-worker
- Post-doc obsessed with a faculty member (or vice versa!)
- Hate mail from a student in an intense course
- Female student being threatened and stalked by a male student
- Librarian making inappropriate comments about shooting people
- Student terminated from a work-study program after threatening his supervisor and saying he admires Timothy McVeigh
- Student upset with Registrar's bureaucracy says no wonder Virginia Tech happened

### Persons of Concern

- Threat to kill University President
- Posed as a concerned citizen claiming a current student had planted a bomb in the library
- Made threat to bring a gun to housing mail room to settle a dispute over a mailbox
- Posted threatening messages on the internet about killing other students and himself

### Persons of Concern/Interest

CSUN Police Threat Management Unit (created 2005)

2013-2015 – 51 cases: includes faculty, students, former students, staff (internet threats to kill, peculiar behavior, angry over grades-throwing furniture, stalking behavior, threat to bring a gun to a mailroom, harassment of women, unprovoked violence, suicidal ideation, etc.)

### Targeted Violence on Campus

#### About the incidents:

- Occur on and off-campus
   80% on-campus (residence, grounds, class/admin)
   20% off-campus (residence, public areas)
- Precipitating events present: 83%
- Pre-incident threat/aggression to target: 29%
- Pre-incident concerns reported by others: 31%

Source: "Campus Attacks Targeted Violence Affecting Institutions of Higher Education", April, 2010, United States Secret Service, United States Dept. of Education, FBI

# Virginia Tech (2007) Was the Game Changer

 Cal State Northridge assessed its needs, including formally with a "President's Working Group"

#### We Knew We Needed To:

- Teach Life Skills
- Communicate Shared Responsibility
- Provide a Greater Sense of Security and Safety
- Manage Fear
- Formalize the Police Threat Assessment Team

# Evolution of the Workplace Violence Program at CSUN

Workplace Behavior Consultation Team (WBCT)

- Established by the University President, Jolene Koester in January of 2008
- Chaired by Chief of Police and included representatives from HR, Health Center, Faculty Affairs, Provost's Office, Environmental Health & Safety, Counseling Services and Student Affairs

# Components of Prevention Training Program

#### Part I:

Acknowledgement of Fears
Setting the Stage through Scenario
First Response Assessment
Personal Conduct
Red-flag Warning Signs
Zero-tolerance Policy
Campus Support Network

#### Part II:

Worst Case Scenario
"Shots Fired" Video
Dynamics of an Active
Shooter Situation
Survival Mindset

### First Response Assessment

- Understand concept of "imminent danger"
- Identify role in threatening situations
- Consult early and provide progressive assistance

#### First Response: Assess the Whole Situation

- •Clarify Role
- Gather information
- •Assess the urgency of the situation (speak individually with the person of concern)
- •Stabilize, don't escalate
  - Provide for safety
  - Be Discreet
  - Be Respectful
- Consult early and provide progressive assistance
- Document

### Personal Conduct and Response

- Discuss what to do and what "not" to do
- Respond to potentially violent situations
- Experience through role play
- Taking all threats seriously

### Considerations When Looking at Potentially Violent Situations

- Violence is the end result of a (usually discernible) process.
- Some people who pose threats make threats. Some people who pose threats *do not* make threats.
- Some people who make threats do pose threats.
- A person who poses a threat to one person may pose a threat to others.
- Take all threats seriously !!

### Red Flag Warning Signs

Many aspects such as: violent fantasies, anger management, suicidal and homicidal ideation, discipline problems, physical aggressiveness, etc.

#### **Red Flag Warning Signs**

- •A single warning sign by itself usually does not warrant overt action by a threat assessment specialist. However, if additional warning signs are present then more fact-finding is warranted to determine if there is a likelihood of danger.
- Some warning signs carry more weight than others (i.e. fascination with and possession of firearms)
- When there are multiple warning signs, the risk becomes more serious.
- Consult early with appropriate campus support resources.

### Cal State Northridge Resources

#### **CAMPUS COMMITTEES:**

#### Student Behavioral Intervention Team (SBIT) (Meets every other week)

Sam Lingrosso: (Chair) Director, Student Conduct and Ethical Development - Student Affairs

Mark Stevens: Director - University Counseling Services Anne Eipe: Staff Psychologist - University Counseling Services Anne Glavin: Chief of Police and Director of Police Services -

**University Police** 

Mark A Benavidez: Lieutenant, Patrol Operations - University Police

Scott Vanscoy: Captain, Patrol Operations - University Police

#### Workplace Behavior Consultation Team (WBCT)

(Meets Quarterly)

Anne Glavin: (Chair) Chief of Police and Director of Police Services Linda Reid-Chassiakos: Director, Klotz Student Health Center William Whiting: Associate Vice President Faculty Affairs

Michael Neubauer: Vice Provost

Susan Hua: Director, Equity & Diversity and Title IX Coordinator

Sam Lingrosso: Director, Student Conduct and Ethical

Development - Student Affairs

Kristina de la Vega, Interim Associate Vice President Human Resources

Mark Stevens: Director, Counseling Services William Watkins: Vice President for Student Affairs and

Dean of Students

Ron Norton: Director, Environmental Health and Safety

#### THREAT MANAGEMENT UNIT

CSUN Police have a Threat Management Unit. The Unit operates as follows:

- 5 person law enforcement team
- Specially trained in threat assessment and case management

Interacts with campus resources especially the campus Student Behavioral Intervention Team.

- Has operating policy and procedure
- Documents all cases and maintains special category statistics; annual analysis of cases

### Part II of Training: Worst Case Scenario

#### **Includes:**

- "Shots Fired" Video
- Developing the Survival Mindset
- Actions of the Police: From SWAT to First Responder
- Get Out, Hide Out, Help Out, Fight and why awareness, preparation and rehearsal are so important
- Active Shooter Exercise: Imagine You Heard Shots Fired – What Do You Do???!!!!

# Get Out, Hide Out, Help Out, Fight

- Get Out!!!!!!!!! When you hear gunshots, don't second guess the situation. Get out immediately if at all possible. If you are out in the open, take cover or run away in a zig zag pattern.
- Hide Out!!!!!!! Find a location, lock or blockade the door, turn off the lights, spread out with others in the room and make a plan.
- Help Out!! Help the injured as best you can until help arrives. Remain calm and quiet and be a calming influence for others.

# Get Out, Hide Out, Help Out, Fight

- Fight!! If neither running nor hiding is a safe option, as a last resort, when confronted by the shooter, consider trying to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter. This can be done by using aggressive force such as using items in the environment to throw at a shooter (fire extinguisher, chair, backpacks, etc.).
- This is a life/death situation in which your "survival mindset" must take over!

"THE WORLD IS A DANGEROUS PLACE TO LIVE; NOT BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE EVIL, BUT BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Los Angeles News 🗟

CSUN student had gun, bomb materials in dorm



Los Angeles Times LOCAL

L.A. NOW

Cal State Northridge student charged in possession of explosive materials, having SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - THIS JUST IN

gun on campus

A Cal State Northridge student was charged Thursday with possessing explosive ma January 13, 2011 \ 5:14 pm

David Everson, 22, was charged with two felonies in connection with the case, accor-

The complaint alleges that Everson had the explosive materials with the intent  $\epsilon$ on campus. The items were allegedly found in his dorm room, according to aut

Records show that Everson was arrested Wednesday, booked into Twin Towe



CSUN administrators say reporting unusual behavior in students may prevent campus violence

March 07, 2011

Over winter break a gun and explosive materials were found inside a student's dorm or By Krista Daly wher making threats to students and staff, David Everson, 22, deaf studies major, was

Los Angeles CSUN Student Pleads Not Guilty to Gun, Explosives District

Judge, convinced Everson poses a danger to others, raised his ball to \$1 million

Working W

Former CSUN Possession of a

> June FOR IMMED Contacts: Sandi Gibbo Jane Robis

AN FERNANDO -- A former C uspected of possessing bombontest today to possession of a vas immediately sentenced, the nnounced.

David Everson, 23, was sentend three years probation and order mental treatment program, said Kramer, Everson also was orde from the Northridge campus wh

As part of his plea, the remainir to make a destructive device wa

Everson was arrested in early J allegedly made comments to co become concerned, officials sai his campus dorm room and dis-

dailynews.com

Cal State Northridge student charged after officials find explosives, -- nlaint filed in San Fernando Supe shotgun in his dormroom

REUTERS

#### California student arrest may have averted disaster Sat, Jan 15 2011

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Police at a Los Angeles university campus may have prevented a tragedy who said on Saturday.

California State University, Northridge, police chief Anna Old Infliction for the student arrested in the California State University. Northridge, police chief Anne Glavin spoke to Reuters a day after a judge increat Gun, explosives charges for CS1 (Between having a shotgun and explosive material, one has to assume this could be seen set at \$150,000

"Between having a shotgun and explosive material, one has to assume this could have been, at minimum, a cw<sup>1</sup> THB ASSOCIATED PRUSS incident and at worst a tragic incident," Glavin said.

Everson's arrest came days before incident and at worst a tragic incident," Glavin said.

, by the absuctated press Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 6:31 p.m. Everson's arrest came days before an Arizona college dropout opened fire at an event held by Congresswomar at the Community College in Tucson say the alleged gunman, Jarred Louis news confronted about a disturbing widen be a confronted about a disturbing widen be a confronted about a disturbing widen be a confronted about a disturbing widen be accommunity college in Tucson say the alleged gunman, Jarred Louis (1997). ANGELES — Authorities say a California State (1997) and the was confronted about a disturbing widen be accommonly college in Tucson say the alleged gunman, Jarred Louis (1997). ANGELES — Authorities say a california state (1997) and the was confronted about a disturbing widen be confronted about a disturbing widen be confident to the confidence of the confidence

Officials with Pima Community College in Tucson say the alleged gunman, Jared Loughner, withdrew from their substitutes to the school said. unicials with Pima Community College in Tucson say the alleged gunman, Jared Loughner, withdrew from their s University, Northridge student has been charsed in the case of Everson, police from California State University, Northridge deprine and the student could be a dancer. "He made diplost the student could be a dancer." In the case of Everson, police from California State University, Northridge, detained him on January 3, after a couns Campus police Chief Anne Glavin says 22-year-old elevent to a mental to the case of Everson, police from California State University, Northridge, detained him on January 3, after a couns Campus police Chief Anne Glavin says 22-year-old elevent could be a danger.

Everson was immediately sent to a mental to the superior of the country of

Angeles County jail on \$150,000 bail. "He made direct threats to commit bodily harm or kill seven people," Glavin said. "They were all named." Everson was immediately sent to a mental health facility, and he was later arrested upon his release from the hospital

Officers found the shotgun, along with

device and had a gun on campus. Both are felon On Friday, he pleaded not guilty to charges of possessing ingredients to make a bomb and having a firearm on campus. ... the items were found in Everson's ( Officers found the shotgun, along with ammunition, in Everson's room the same day they detailed

# Questions?

# Thank You!

Chief Anne P. Glavin
Chief of Police
California State University, Northridge