



Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

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Upcoming Events

ATAP 2024 Conference

Considering Culture and Violence Risk

Mental Health and Violence Risk

Foundational Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop – FALL (TORONTO)

Managing Fear and Violence Risk

HCR-20 V3 Workshop: Assessing and Managing Risk for General Violence

CATAP 2024 Conference and Workshop

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Editor's Note



conducting threat assessments. He highlights that this is a critical decision with implications for both safety and liability, but the decision points are seldom discussed explicitly and often misunderstood.

We also have several special announcements! The CATAP Workshop and Conference will be held in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, between 3-7 November 2024. The board have just announced that Dr. Ritu Gill will presenting a workshop on OSINT Techniques and Dr. Randall Kropp will be presenting a workshop on the newest version of the Guidelines for Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM-V2) Manuals, Worksheets and License Agreements for the long-awaited Aid for Violence Risk Triage (AVRT) are also now available for purchase!

We hope Intelligence will continue to provide a forum for you to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Watt, PhD

Director and Threat Assessment Specialist at Protect International

As always, Intelligence will keep you up to date with recent advances in threat assessment from around the globe through knowledge and experiences shared by world-leading experts.

In this issue, Sergeant Jon Cawsey, from the Regional Domestic Violence Unit, Detective Division, Saanich Police Department, provides a powerful practice update about the importance of sharing information when there is reason to be concerned about violence risk. He draws from his own experience as a law enforcement officer and his experience working in collaboration with diverse professionals with a common goal of preventing violence.

Also in this issue, Dr. Matt Talbot provides a practice update about selecting and using the right tool when

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The Importance of Collaboration and Information Sharing for Preventing Violence

As a front-line police officer, I have experienced directly the detrimental effects of silo thinking and isolated investigations. Such approaches hinder progress and increase the risks to those we aim to protect. The need to share information and collaborate with our local, regional, provincial and national counterparts is paramount to protect people and save lives; however, in my experience, rigid and misguided interpretation of privacy laws can lead to a resistance to information sharing. Privacy is, simply, not inviolable.

At my desk, a black binder labeled “information sharing” highlights the directives embedded in privacy acts at various levels. These directives clearly outline the circumstances under which information must be shared to ensure the safety and wellbeing of others. Despite

being written for different sectors and contexts, the fundamental principle remains the same across these various legislations: there are situations where information sharing is not only permissible, but required, for the protection, safety, or wellbeing of others. In circumstances where safety is concerned, our failure to share information can lead to harm and expose us to liability.



My experience with frontline professionals involved in risk assessment, risk management, safety planning, and protection suggests that threat assessors are often driven by good intentions and a strong desire to do their best. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of their efforts may be complicated by the varying policies and mandates they are asked to follow. Building relationships and trust among diverse professionals and stakeholders is essential for navigating differences and ultimately enhancing our ability to protect those in need. For example, collaboration may be required among community members, law enforcement, health or legal counterparts, and this can be done through establishments of joint task forces and multidisciplinary response teams, use of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), and cross training to foster consistent

communication and working relationships.

I have had the privilege of working alongside like-minded officers, support workers, advocates, and administrators who share a commitment to collaboration to prevent violence. Together, we have created a network of support that adheres to laws and regulations while prioritizing the protection of those we serve. Without collaboration and ongoing consultation, our understanding of situations would be limited, and our ability to assess or manage risks effectively would be compromised, leaving those we aim to protect vulnerable.

Only by working together can we overcome barriers posed by privacy concerns and enhance our ability to protect victims and families. The Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU) was established in 2010 to achieve this. The RDVU manages the Capital Regional Districts’ highest risk intimate partner cases and was founded on the principle that police must collaborate with community partners to share information to ensure the protection of families. The RDVU represents a model of effective and collaborative risk management, safety planning, and information sharing, and serves as a testament to the power of collective effort and the positive impact it can have on our communities.

Sergeant Jon Cawsey

*Regional Domestic Violence Unit,
Detective division, Saanich Police
Department*

Upcoming Events

**AfATAP 2024
Conference
Official European
Launch of the SAM-V2**

**Advanced Violence
Risk Assessment and
Management Workshop**

**Essentials of
Workplace Violence
Prevention and
Intervention Programs**

Learn more...

Selecting and Using the Right Tool

The selection and use of the appropriate assessment procedure for each case, although seldom explicitly discussed, is not a simple or trivial matter.

In threat assessment, the use of an evidence-based structured assessment tool has long been recognized as best practice. Sole reliance on clinical judgement has been shown to lack reliability, validity, and accountability, and performs no better than a coin flip. Various Structured Professional Judgement (SPJ) tools have been developed to assess different types of violence in diverse sectors and contexts. The selection and use of the appropriate tool requires knowledge of the research on the validity and reliability of the chosen approach and tool in relation to the referral question. Threat assessment tools have been developed both for assessing risk for general violence, as well as specialized forms of violence. For example, the Historical Clinical Risk-20 (HCR-20 V3) and Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) were designed to assess risk for general violence in adults and youth, respectively, whereas the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA-V3), the Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP-V2) and the Stalking Assessment and Management Guidelines (SAM-V2) for stalking were specifically designed to assess risk for intimate partner, sexual, and stalking, respectively. Tools designed to assess risk for specialized forms of violence include unique risk factors that help improve precision and accuracy in our

evaluations of risk for specific behaviours of interest and help threat assessors better tailor interventions to target those specialized forms of violence. To put it simply, the selection of tools should fit the specific type of violence that concerns have been raised about in a given case.

For more complex cases, it may be necessary to use multiple tools to capture the full range of concerns that have been raised. Consider a situation in which a perpetrator makes threats of self-directed violence while engaging in stalking of a former intimate partner. In this context, the threat assessor should be concerned about risks for stalking, intimate partner violence, and self-directed violence, particularly if there is any evidence of suicidal thoughts, given the higher prevalence of suicide in this population (e.g., cases of murder-suicide). In such a scenario, it would be prudent to apply the SAM-V2 for stalking, SARA-V3 for intimate partner violence, and the Guidelines for Preventing Self-Directed Violence (SDV-20) for self-directed violence. This approach allows for a more thorough evaluation of the various risks and aids in the development of comprehensive management plans, including ensuring the safety of the victim, minimizing professional liability, and ultimately leading to improved safety for both the perpetrator and persons affected.

Another consideration in selecting appropriate tools for threat assessment is whether the tool of choice has been developed for individuals,

contexts, or purposes similar to those in your evaluation. For instance, tools that were developed specifically for inpatient aggression in acutely unwell patients (e.g., the Broset Violence Checklist) are likely not appropriate nor valid for assessing general violence risk in workplace or other settings. Further, tools developed for triaging violence risk (e.g., the Aid for Violence Risk Triage or AVRT) should not be used for comprehensive assessments of risk for violence. SPJ tools were developed for a specific purpose and to address specific issues and should be used in a manner consistent with the application instructions in the User Guides.

For these reasons, the Behavioral Risk Intervention Team (BRIT) at Kroger, a U.S.-based grocery retailer employing more than 450,000 associates across 35 states, has partnered with Protect International and Rozin Technologies (reporting and case management software provider), to create an SPJ library integrated into their case management and investigations platform. The BRIT can now comprehensively assess diverse risks using the HCR-20, SAM V2, SARA V3, AVRT, SDV, and other SPJ tools relevant to the risks facing company associates and consumers. At Kroger, we believe this is best practice, and our hope is that this holistic approach becomes the standard across all industries engaged in violence prevention.

Matt Talbot, PHD, LCSW, CFMHE, CTM

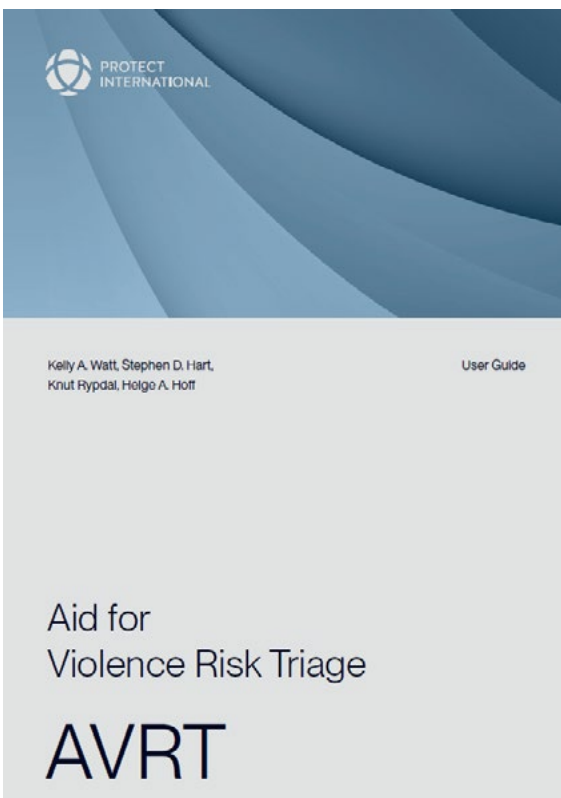
*Sr. Threat Manager, Kroger, Co.
President, ATAP S. Central Chapter*



Join us for the Annual CATAP Workshop & Conference, November 3-7, 2024 in Whistler, BC

The Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals ([CATAP](https://catap.ca)) is excited to welcome you back to beautiful Whistler, British Columbia for the 2024 Annual Workshop & Conference! This November, leading practitioners and researchers in behavioural threat assessment and management from Canada, the United States and beyond will present more than a dozen case studies and thought-leadership sessions of relevance to your contemporary work in any setting and with diverse populations. At the outset of our five days together, attendees benefit from the choice of one 2-day workshop facilitated by either Dr. Randall Kropp on the newest version of the Guidelines for Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM-V2), or Mr. Ritu Gill on the applied skills of Open Source Intelligence Techniques (OSINT). CATAP is deeply honoured to feature a keynote address from renowned youth violence and school safety researcher, educator and mentor, and developer of the acclaimed evidence-based Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG), Dr. Dewey Cornell. The full schedule of content and special events will be available this July. Registration is open now at catap.ca! CATAP and International TAP member rates are available.

The Aid for Violence Risk Triage: Manuals, Worksheets and Licences are Now Available



As you may know, Protect International released the long-awaited Aid for Violence Risk Triage (AVRT) in 2023! We recommend those who wish to use the AVRT purchase hard copies of the manual and worksheets to support you with the implementation of the AVRT into practice. Hard copies are ideal for users who may use the AVRT on a relatively small number of cases per year (e.g., 25 to 50) or for organizations who have a relatively small number of users (e.g., 2 to 5) that are trained to implement the AVRT within their organization. For organizations that are dealing with a larger number of cases, that have larger threat assessment teams, who wish to tailor the AVRT to their needs or who use electronic record keeping systems, a license to use electronic forms (i.e., PDF and .dotx) or to incorporate the AVRT within their electronic record systems may be preferred. To purchase hard copies of the AVRT, please visit our website [here](https://protect-international.com)! To inquire about licensing options, please reach out to info@protect-international.com.