

Numerous fields of study, including psychology, education, and security studies, have looked at the issue of targeted and mission-oriented violence and have come to the same conclusion about the solution. K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces should implement diverse, multidisciplinary, collaborative teams to identify concerning behaviors early and implement strategies to reduce the triggers for escalation and increase protective, supportive, mitigating elements around the individual at risk. In this case, the attacker had no criminal record and none of his online behavior was reported to the police. In many of these cases, prior to the attack, the perpetrator did not commit criminal acts and were not on law enforcement's radar. That multidisciplinary team is often in the best position to see the numerous red flags and intervened before the attack to mitigate the risk and move him off the pathway to violence.

As you read through the Uvalde shooter's history, look for behaviors that might have been reported to the team and think about the interventions that might have been put in place. Use D-Prep's Pathways (www.pathwaystriage.com) and DarkFox (www.darkfoxthreat.com) tools to assess the risk and obtain intervention suggestions. The purpose for studying these past cases to learn how to prevent future violence, so consider that goal moving forward.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Born in Fargo, North Dakota in 2004 and soon moved to Uvalde, Texas
- Limited contact with his father while growing up
- Was sexually assaulted at young age by one of his mother's boyfriends
- Family history of drug use
- Developed a speech impediment
- Described as shy and quiet by relatives, perhaps due to a speech impediment

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Despite a good start in school, he began falling behind and was categorized as "at-risk"
- Received no special education services
- Bullied throughout fourth grade because of the stutter
- Wore same clothes day to day

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lonely, wearing all black and combat boots and long, unkept hair
- Had over 100 absences in 2018 with failing grades
- Grew even more isolated with Covid
- Allegedly subjected to homosexual slurs, according to classmates
- Subjected to numerous taunts as a result of his attire
- Labeled as an 'emo' by those who knew him
- His speech issues made him a target of scorn
- According to a classmate: "He, like, wouldn't go to school...and he just dropped out slowly. He didn't

even show up to school”

- Showed up class less and less as a result of bullying concerning his attire and his family’s financial status
- Had only completed 9th grade by 2021 at age 17
- Involuntarily withdrawn from school October 2021 due to absences
- Enraged he wasn’t going to graduate from Uvalde High School with the rest of his classmates, according to the eyewitness

YOUNG ADULthood

- Withdrew and isolated himself after leaving school
- Played Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto video games
- Nicknamed “school shooter” by friends
- Told his girlfriend he wouldn’t live past 18
- Fired from a job at Whataburger for threatening a female co-worker
- Fired from a job at Wendy’s
- Watched videos of suicides and beheadings
- Became enraged and threatened others in online games when he lost
- Searched for sociopath definitions and wrote about feeling “not human”
- Made threats to women about rape and graphic depictions of violence
- Wrote about his difficulty connecting to other people or feeling empathy for them
- Said he was “not human,” and called others “humans,” apparently intending it as an insult
- Drove around with a dead cat in a plastic bag, showing a friend he met online.
- Two months prior to the shooting, had an intense argument with his mother that resulted in him moving in with his grandmother.
- Began getting in increasing conflicts with his grandmother, and she threatened to remove him from her mobile phone plan
- Told an older cousin also staying with their grandmother that “he didn’t want to live anymore”
- Sought fame and notoriety online

PREPARING FOR THE SHOOTING

- Video shows him dry firing bb guns at people
- Cuts on his own face appeared to be self-inflicted (noticed by his father and other witnesses)
- Claimed he was “doing something” soon.
- Hinted to people that he was going to do something, saying “I got a lil secret”
- Said it was impossible for him to do it that day, because he was waiting for something; the next day an order of 1,740 hollow point bullets arrived
- Had no experience with firearms, and based on investigators’ interviews of friends and family, the shooting was likely the first time he fired one. His uncle recalled the attacker attempting to seat a magazine in the rifle and the magazine repeatedly falling out onto the floor. Internet search history shows the attacker sought out ranges but was unable to get to one that allowed long guns before the shooting. He also searched the internet for basic information such as what kind of ammunition an AR-

15 fires and whether a magazine can be reused after being emptied, and he looked for information on how to buy “juggernaut armor,” a fictional armor system depicted in videogames.

- Saved money by living at home; ordered he ordered rifle slings, a red dot sight and shin guards, as well as a body armor carrier
- Asked two people to buy weapons for him (he was 17); they refused
- Became fascinated with school shootings and was nicknamed “Yubo’s school shooter” on that platform
- Purchased more firearm accessories, including 30 and 60 round magazines
- Bought two AR style rifles and thousands of rounds
- On April 2, he sent someone a direct message on Instagram, “Are you still gonna remember me in 50 something days?”
- The shooting took place in his former fourth grade classroom; he had discussed bad memories of fourth grade with an acquaintance just weeks beforehand
- Five days before his attack, the Buffalo, New York, attack occurred. He studied this and saved news clippings.
- The shooting took place on May 24, 2022 when the attacker was 19 years old



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The D-Prep Safety Division trains K-12 schools, colleges, universities, law enforcement, and workplace on issues related to threat assessment, crisis preparedness, crisis response, emergency operations, behavioral intervention, mental health, diversity, equity and inclusion.

We offer a number of courses and workshops that can be customized to your institution. Most can be offered in person, live online, or as asynchronous courses.

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<https://www.texastribune.org/2022/07/17/ualde-shooter-warnings-background/>

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