

K-12 Threat Assessment Efficacy and Implementation Evaluation Research: A Workshop

Committee

Ali Rowhani-Rahbar

Chair

Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, MD, Ph.D., (Chair) is the Bartley Dobb Endowed Professor for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Professor of Epidemiology, Professor of Pediatrics, and Adjunct Professor of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Washington where he directs the Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program. He evaluates community-based interventions, social programs, and public policies for their impact on multiple forms of violence with a particular emphasis on preventing firearm-related harm. Specifically, his work integrates data from healthcare system, civil legal system, and criminal justice system to inform equitable actions focused on reducing the risk of shootings. His research has been funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, Department of Justice, Arnold Ventures, National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research, Fund for a Safer Future, State of Washington, and City of Seattle. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles and contributed to numerous reports, presentations, and symposia on violence and injury prevention. He has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Board of Directors of the National Research Society for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms, and Board of Directors of the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research. Rowhani-Rahbar received the University of Washington Distinguished Teaching Award in 2020 and the University of Washington School of Public Health Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award in 2023. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2023. He received his MD from Mashhad University of Medical Sciences in Iran, MPH from Yale University, and PhD from the University of Washington. He completed his postdoctoral training at Stanford University and research fellowship at Kaiser Permanente.

M. Franci Crepeau-Hobson

Member

Franci Crepeau-Hobson, Ph.D., NCSP, is a professor and director of the school psychology program at the University of Colorado Denver. She is a licensed psychologist, licensed school psychologist, and Chair of the National Association of School Psychologists School Safety and Crisis Response Committee. Dr. Crepeau-Hobson's research focuses on school safety, including violence prevention and threat assessment, youth suicide prevention, and crisis intervention. Her work has been published in a range of journals including *School Psychology Review*, *Journal of School Violence*; and *Psychology in the Schools*. She received her doctoral degree in school psychology from the APA accredited program in School Psychology and her master's degree in clinical psychology from the University of Colorado Denver.

Jennifer L. Freeman

Member

Jennifer Lee Freeman, Ph.D., has over 20 years of experience in public education at the K-12 and higher education levels. She is currently an associate professor in educational psychology at the University of Connecticut, and a technical assistance director for the Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Her work focuses on applying multi-tiered systems of support such as PBIS to improve overall school climate and a sense of belonging for students and educators. She is particularly interested in improving graduation rates for students with behavioral and/or mental health disorders. She also studies professional development methods for improving teacher's use of evidence-based classroom management strategies and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the special education program. Dr Freeman leads a national crisis preparation response and recovery workgroup within the Center on PBIS and has 10 years of experience supporting schools, districts, and states in recovery efforts following incidents of school or community violence. This work focuses on supporting short- and long-term recovery efforts as well as prevention and preparation efforts at the district and state levels. She is working with the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center to develop a resource on supporting students with disabilities in the threat assessment process.

Eric Madfis

Member

Eric Madfis, Ph.D., is professor and director of the Violence Prevention and Transformation Research Collaborative in the School of Social Work and Criminal Justice at the University of Washington Tacoma. He is a sociologist and criminologist whose research focuses on the causes and prevention of school violence, hate/bias crime, and mass shootings. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Northeastern University in Boston, where he was a Research Associate at the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict. His work has been published in academic journals across a range of disciplines and featured in national and international media outlets. Dr. Madfis has spoken to audiences across the country and around the world about his scholarship, including to the United States Congress. The Washington State Legislature utilized his research on school shooting prevention to inform a legislative mandate implementing non-biased threat assessment procedures across Washington public schools. He is the author of *How to Stop School Rampage Killing: Lessons from Averted Mass Shootings and Bombings* and co-editor of *All-American Massacre: The Tragic Role of American Culture and Society in Mass Shootings*. He is currently conducting the first studies of the Salem-Keizer Cascade threat assessment model which is used throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Mary Ellen O'Toole

Member

Mary Ellen O'Toole, Ph.D., MA, is the Director of the Forensic Science Program at George Mason University. She is a full Professor at the University and provides training in critical thinking and the assessment of violent crime scene behavior. Dr. O'Toole served as an FBI Agent for nearly 28 years. For more than half of that time, she worked in the Bureau's prestigious Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU). Dr. O'Toole was the Principal Investigator for the FBI's research on school and mass shootings and the primary author of the FBI's 2000 publication: *A School Shooting: A Threat Assessment Perspective*, which has been used throughout the world as a guide to assess and evaluate threats in all levels of schools and to understand the mass shooter's behavior during the crime. Dr. O'Toole's concepts of Leakage, Injustice Collector, and Mission Oriented Shooter, as they relate to mass shootings, has helped to further the understanding of these cases in terms of offender mindset and behavior. Dr. O'Toole holds three degrees: Public Administration (PhD), Rehabilitation Counseling (MA) and Psychology (BA). She is a member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP), a fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Science, and a member of the American Psychological Association.

Desmond U. Patton

Member

Desmond U. Patton, Ph.D., MSW, is the Brian and Randi Schwartz University Professor at Penn with appointments in social policy, communications, and psychiatry. For over a decade he has studied the role and impact of social media and gun violence, grief and joy, and well being. He's a member of the National Academy of Medicine and an alum of the Presidential Leadership Scholars, Obama Foundation Leaders of the US. He was a fellow at the Berkman Klein Center and Carr Center at Harvard University. Dr. Patton is a consultant for Spotify (member of the safety advisory council), Tik Tok, Axon (member of the ethics and equity advisory), Kai AI (advisor), and Lifebrand (advisor).

Maia Johnstone

Staff Officer

Maia Johnstone, MA/MSPH, is an associate program officer for the Board on Children, Youth, and Families and Committee on Law & Justice. Before joining the National Academies, she led knowledge management and learning activities on a multi-country maternal, child, and reproductive health project at Population Reference Bureau (PRB). In this role, she developed briefs synthesizing project information and insights and organized webinars on topics ranging from immunization to engaging youth partners. Through various positions, Maia gained experience conducting qualitative research, administering grants, and managing programs. Maia received her B.S. in health studies and psychology from the University of Toronto and a dual master's in public health and international affairs from the Johns Hopkins University. During graduate school, she received a Boren Fellowship, which brought her to Dakar, Senegal to strengthen her language skills and contribute to USAID-funded projects on social and behavioral change.