

WS2 Handout 10 (Slide 67): Conducting Psychological Triage: Levels of Triage

Crisis Phase	Preimpact The period before crisis	Impact When crisis occurs	Recoil Immediately after crisis threats end	Immediate Postimpact Days after the crisis	Postimpact Weeks after crisis
Steps in the Evaluation of Psychological Trauma (psychological triage)	Locate and/or develop screening tools	When possible and as indicated, observe and make note of individual crisis reactions	Evaluate risk factors: 1. Physical and emotional proximity 2. Selected personal vulnerabilities	Evaluate risk factors and early warning signs: 1. Physical and emotional proximity 2. Internal and external vulnerability factors 3. Immediate crisis reactions	Evaluate risk factors and enduring warning signs: 1. Physical and emotional proximity 2. Internal and external vulnerability factors 3. Durable crisis reactions
Crisis Intervention Activities	Develop crisis intervention and psychotherapy referral resources	Reaffirm physical and psychological safety ^a	Match individual needs with specific crisis interventions ^a	Provide psychoeducation and immediate psychological interventions ^a	Make psychotherapy treatment referrals ^a
Level of Triage			Primary	Secondary	Tertiary

Note. Adapted from “Conducting Psychological Triage,” by C. Conolly-Wilson, 2008, Waukegan, IL: Waukegan Public Schools. Adapted with permission.

^aImmediate mental health referrals should be made for any student who, during any crisis phase, manifests grossly maladaptive coping (e.g., suicidal or homicidal ideation).