

Current research:

Prevention of school shootings through “Leaking”

Amok runs in schools are a problem in the USA, but have also occurred in other countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Professor Herbert Scheithauer at the University of Berlin says that according to current research at the university an early identification of acts of violence in schools is possible. There are typical signs, and if these are noticed and interpreted correctly it is possible to prevent such school shootings. These references are called *leaking*, and can be expressed directly or enciphered in drawings, essays, emails to class mates, messages in so-called chat rooms and forums on the Internet, in verbal statements and other kinds of signals. Such a message can be “I feel like going out in town and killing some people”. The insecurity of how to interpret such allusions has in the past often led to them not being taken seriously. This is why it is important to be aware of typical criteria, as imagination too plays an important role. On the basis of some key questions an analysis can be made of the risk of the pupil putting his threats into practice, for example:

Is the pupil interested in violence?

Has the pupil exhibited aggressive behaviour before?

Has the pupil recently experienced the loss of a person or his/her status?

Research in amok runs in schools show definite resemblances, and quite different results than the common news-consuming person assumes. In the preventive work attention should be put on those less conspicuous pupils who have been exposed to or experienced deviant behaviour, and not only on the young people who behave aggressively.

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<http://www.elfenbeinturm.net/archiv/2005/11.html> (in German)

www.fairplayer.de (prevention of violence in schools, also an English version)