



Distant Early Warning Signs (DEWS) System

Indicators Used to Assess the Potential for Racial Tension in a Community

Consider Changes and Trends in the Following Areas:

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

- The history or presence of unresolved racial conflict
- Critical, polarizing, or provocative comments from community leaders heightening racial tension

MEDIA

- Scheduled major event(s) likely to attract protesters (opening of a controversial movie, music concert, athletic event, etc.)
- Media reports exacerbating racial issues, tensions, conflicts, or incidents

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Increases in the number of assaults against police officers
- Increases in the number of citizen complaints of excessive use of force by police
- Complaints about police use of force
- Decreased levels of community involvement with local police department and officers

RACE

- Increased numbers of interracial assaults
- Increased numbers of school-based racial incidents
- Increased occurrences of racial graffiti
- Demonstrations that reflect racial and ethnic polarization

RESOURCES

- Crowding in housing, schools, and community facilities
- High unemployment and underemployment
- Perceived disparities in social services and welfare
- Rationing of gas, food, water, electricity, etc.

SHIFTS IN COMMUNITY

- An increase in the number of disturbance calls in a particular area
- Presence of or increase in hate groups
- Major racial or ethnic population changes
- Harsh weather conditions creating unusual hardships and stress