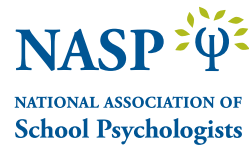




## Workshop 2 (3rd Edition, 2019)



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# Handout 34: Possible Questions to Ask When Identifying Crisis Problems

## 1. How are you doing now? What are your immediate needs and concerns?

Students and staff will experience the emergency differently. By asking these questions, you will find out what concerns are most pressing. Also, ask if they have any immediate safety issues, medical or psychiatric concerns, or problems attending to basic needs. Highlight that you are willing to discuss whatever they wish—a big problem or even something they think is trivial. Some students and staff may not talk because they feel others are in greater need of your services. Assure them that you and your team have time for everyone.

## 2. What happened to you during the event? How were you affected?

You will want to find out how the person was affected by the event. You might ask:

- Where were you during the emergency?
- Did you feel threatened? Did you get hurt/injured?
- Do you still feel threatened?
- What problems do you have now? Do you have any continuing or ongoing problems?
- Did a loved one or a close friend die or suffer severe injury?
- Have you lost contact with, or are you separated from, a loved one or a close friend?
- Did you (or your family) lose any personal property?
- Did your pet die or get hurt?

## 3. How has the event affected you, your family, and your friends?

When asking this question, use the names of the individuals that the person has already mentioned. When working with middle or high school students, ask how their classmates and friends are doing. Note whether students are limiting their interactions with others, delaying important developmental activities (birthday, prom, getting a driver's license), or increasing at-risk behaviors (drinking, use of drugs, reckless driving, self-injurious behaviors). Also, explore students' ability to do schoolwork, their sleep habits, and recent moods.

## 4. When you look ahead, do you have any concerns? Is there anything bothering you about your future?

These questions allow you to identify any academic concerns, worries about relationships, changes in parental behavior, and developmental issues.

## 5. Is there anything else you would like to share?

*Note.* Adapted from *Psychological First Aid for Schools: Field Operations Guide* (2nd ed., pp. 41–43), by M. Brymer et al., 2012, Los Angeles: NCTSN. Copyright 2012 by National Child Traumatic Stress Network and National Center for PTSD. Adapted with permission.