



## 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 Items*

- Increased disturbance calls in a particular area
- Increased number of interracial assaults
- Increased number of assaults against police
- Increased 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
- Presence of or increase in hate groups
- Scheduled major event likely to attract protesters (opening of a controversial movie, music concert, athletic event, etc.)
- Media reports exacerbating racial issues, tensions, conflicts, or incidents
- Increased school-based racial incidents
- Increased incidents of racial graffiti
- Major racial or ethnic population changes
- Harsh weather conditions creating unusual hardships and stress
- Crowding in housing, schools, and community facilities
- Critical, polarizing, or provocative comments from community leaders heightening racial tension
- High unemployment and underemployment

- Perceived disparities in social services and welfare
- Demonstrations which reflect racial and ethnic polarization
- History or presence of unresolved racial conflict
- Rationing of gas, food, water, electricity, etc.