



# INJURY IN BEHAVIORAL & MENTAL HEALTH SETTINGS: A Safety Risk Assessment Roadmap

The following table provides a crosswalk of design categories in the built environment (e.g., unit layout) and safety issues to consider in behavioral and mental health settings (e.g., blind spots). This table is meant to serve as a high-level roadmap for design considerations in conjunction with the online Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) toolkit ([www.healthdesign.org/sra](http://www.healthdesign.org/sra)). It is not intended to serve as a substitute for the online version of the SRA tool.

Environmental Condition → ↓ Design Category	Visibility	Secured Access	Ligature Resistance	Proximity	Social Density/ Occupancy	Elimination/ Control of Other Hazards	Autonomy/ Individual Control	Aesthetics/ Atmosphere	Acoustic Environment
Site	Lighting: elopement, violence (B1)  Landscaping: elopement, self-harm, violence (B5)  Inside to outside: elopement, self-harm, violence (B8)	Walls, fences, screening: elopement (B2, B3)  Landscaping: elopement, jumping (B4)	Furniture: hanging (B43)		Outdoor access: appropriate safety level (B7)	Landscaping: self-harm, violence (weapon, poison) (B6)  Furniture: violence (weapon, projectile) (B43)	Lighting: control of indoor space (B1)	Walls, fences, screening: appropriate safety level (B3)	

The Safety Toolbox is made available through a partnership with:





Environmental Condition → ↓ Design Category	Visibility	Secured Access	Ligature Resistance	Proximity	Social Density/ Occupancy	Elimination/ Control of Other Hazards	Autonomy/ Individual Control	Aesthetics/ Atmosphere	Acoustic Environment
Building Envelope/ Structure	Inside to outside: elopement, self-harm, violence (B8)	Window openings: elopement, jumping (B9)	Window openings: hanging (B9) Ceiling: height, access (B23)			Window glass type: self-harm, violence (weapon) (B10)			
Building Layout		Roof, balcony, atria: jumping, pushing others (B12) Psychiatric/mental health units: appropriate safety levels (B13)		Security adjacency: response time (B11)					



Environmental Condition → ↓ Design Category	Visibility	Secured Access	Ligature Resistance	Proximity	Social Density/ Occupancy	Elimination/ Control of Other Hazards	Autonomy/ Individual Control	Aesthetics/ Atmosphere	Acoustic Environment
Unit Layout	Corridors, rooms: line of sight between staff and patients (B17, B18)	Unit entry (B16) Holding spaces (B20, B21) Locked EVS storage: self-harm, violence (weapon, poison) (B22)		Nurse/team stations: open and safe (B19)			Social and private spaces (B15)	Safety, healing: appropriate level of safety (B14) Nurse/team stations: open and safe (B19)	
Room Layout		Ceiling material: access (B24) Holding spaces (B25, B26) Door locks: access (B28, B29)	Ceiling: height, access (B23) Doors (B31)		Bedroom occupancy (B27)	Window glass type: self-harm, violence (weapon) (B10) Door locks: barricading (B29) Door swings: barricading (B30)			



Environmental Condition → ↓ Design Category	Visibility	Secured Access	Ligature Resistance	Proximity	Social Density/ Occupancy	Elimination/ Control of Other Hazards	Autonomy/ Individual Control	Aesthetics/ Atmosphere	Acoustic Environment
Interior Design/Finishes			Door hardware (B32, B33) Bathroom hardware/accessories (B38, B39) Closet rods/shelves (B40) Material/finishes (B35)			Interior plants: self-harm, violence (weapon, poison) (B6) Material/finishes (B35) Edge details: self-harm, violence (B36) Mirrors: self-harm, violence (B37) Bathroom hardware/accessories: self-harm, violence (B38) Interior finish: contraband (B41) Artwork: self-harm, violence (B42)			Materials and finishes: noise reduction (B34)
Furnishings			Furniture (B43)			Furniture: violence (weapon, projectile), barricading (B43)			



Environmental Condition → ↓ Design Category	Visibility	Secured Access	Ligature Resistance	Proximity	Social Density/ Occupancy	Elimination/ Control of Other Hazards	Autonomy/ Individual Control	Aesthetics/ Atmosphere	Acoustic Environment
Plumbing			Bathroom fixtures, pipes (B44, B45)						
Mechanical (HVAC)/Electrical Systems			Lights (B46) Sprinkler heads (B47) HVAC components (B49)			Lights: self-harm, violence (weapon) (B46) Electrical outlets: shock (B48) HVAC components: self-harm, violence (B49)			
Technology Integration	Communications/alarms (B50) Video surveillance (B51)	Communications/alarms (B50)	Phone cords (B52)			Phone cords: self-harm, violence (B52)			

For additional considerations, refer to [Reducing Injury and Harm: An Issue Brief on Safety for Behavioral & Mental Health](#).