Safe2Tell Colorado:
A Model Prevention Initiative

Susan Payne
Colorado Department of Law, Office of the Attorney General

---

safe2tell™

Engaging key stakeholder and empowering young people to be part of the solution of school and community safety.

Safe2Tell Mission

To ensure that all Colorado students, parents, teachers, and community members have access to a safe and ANONYMOUS way to report any CONCERNS FOR THEIR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS, with a focus on early intervention and prevention through AWARENESS and EDUCATION.

Columbine Commission Recommendations

- Hotline
- Information Sharing
- Police Response
- Consistent Language
- Mental Health
- Media Response

COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL
A TIME TO REMEMBER
A TIME TO HOPE

Safe Schools Initiative: US Secret Service Bystander Study

81%

Precipitating Behaviors to Violence

- ☐ **93%** of the perpetrators of targeted school violence exhibited concerning behavior before the attack.

- ☐ In **59%** of the incidents, more than 1 person had prior knowledge of the attack.

- ☐ Of those with prior knowledge of school attacks, **93%** were peers of the perpetrators —friends, schoolmates, or siblings.

School Shooters

- ☐ **No Profile**
  - ▪ Plans
  - ▪ Talk
  - ▪ Bullying
  - ▪ Suicidal

Tragedies Shaping What We Do

Red Lake, Minnesota
- ☐ March 21, 2005

Virginia Tech
- ☐ April 16, 2007

Sandy Hook, CT
- ☐ December 14, 2012
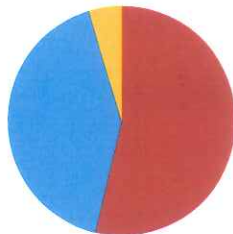
Precipitators Behaviors to Violence

- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Depression
- Self Injury
- Dating Violence
- Bullying
- Cyberbullying
- Anonymous apps to bully

Surveillance Key to Prevention

"Our best chance of early intervention to prevent serious violent tragedies like that in Newtown, CT is when we receive early information about suspicious or concerning behavior. We have learned that good surveillance and intelligence is a key violence prevention strategy."

Statement by Delbert Elliott, Ph.D. and Beverly Kingston, Ph.D. Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado For the Youth Violence Summit Convened by Representative Bobby Scott, U.S. House of Representatives January 22, 2013

Social Media and Youth Communication Trends

■ Calls (54%) ■ Web Reports (42%) ■ Texts (5%)

See Something, Say Something

See Something, Say Something.

safe2tell
1 877 542 7233
safe2tell.co.org
Apple Store & Google Play
Anonymous Report Contact 24/7

Presidential Policy Directive-8 National Preparedness (PPD-8)

- Prevention
- Protection
- Mitigation
- Response
- Recovery

Threat Assessment & Management

- Preventing Future Attacks and Tragedies
- Building a Program of Prevention
- Secret Service Core Components
- Threat Assessment Tool
- Threat Assessment Team
- Identified Need for Threat Management
- Infrastructure for Intelligence Gathering
- Consistent Training and Protocols

Trauma and Tragedy

Restoring learning environments in the aftermath and recovery

Recovery in the Aftermath

Adolescents experiencing a traumatic event:
- More likely to engage in risky behaviors
- Less likely to make realistic evaluations of danger and safety
- Experience symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Prevention should be a core component of crisis response

Assessment During the Aftermath

- Why did this happen?
- What were the opportunities missed?
- What were the missed warning signs?
- Could this have been prevented?
- Was the perpetrator on our radar?
- What was the accessibility to weapons?
- Transparency vs. Liability
- What went well and what did not?
- What were your efforts to prevent this?

Preventing Violence in Schools

What matters most?

1) Preventing young people from engaging in violence and other problem behaviors
- Key Strategy: A sustained positive school climate

2) Identifying and addressing red flags
- Key Strategy: An effective intelligence-gathering mechanism

Culture and Climate

- Fostering a Climate of Respect and Trust
- Building Relationships
- Promoting Communication
- Identifying Concerning Behaviors
- Policies and Procedures
- Intelligence Gathering
- Liaison with Law Enforcement
- Consistent Training Among Stakeholders
- Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Colorado Strategy with Safe2Tell

- Education and Awareness
- In-Person Presentations
- Train the Trainer
- Classroom Guided Discussions
- Community and Parent Awareness
- School and Law Enforcement Partnerships
- Resources
- Outreach and Engagement

Philosophy of Engagement

- Multi-discipline engagement: student, staff, parents
- Empowerment through peer engagement
- Victim Advocacy
- In-person response by a caring, committed adult
- Intervening early
- Empowering, educating, equipping and encouraging young people to be a part of the solution

Information Sharing

Colorado Information Sharing laws allow Safe2Tell Colorado reports to be shared with:

- Law Enforcement
- School Staff
- State Agencies

Safe2Tell: A Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Committed to the Research

Research Shows Us:
- Lesser Rates of Dropout
- Higher Test Scores
- Greater Gains in Academic Performance Over Time

CSFV 2006 (Controlling for grade in school, race, ethnic composition, % subsidized meals, average parent education, % ESL students)

"Early intervention is critical in the life of a child who is exhibiting behaviors identified as precursors to violence. Safe2Tell provides a tool to intervene in a proactive way"

-Dr. Delbert Elliott,
Founding Director of the Center
for the Study and Prevention of Violence

The Safe2Tell Solution:

- Anonymity
- Education
- Awareness
- Early intervention
- Prevention
- Accountability
- Follow-up

Preventing Violence in Schools: Putting Safe2Tell Colorado into Action

1) Teach young people that reporting anything related to the safety of anyone is their responsibility.

2) Teach young people how to tell a trusted adult that they have a safety concern.

3) Create a climate in which young people feel comfortable sharing sensitive information regarding a potentially threatening situation.

4) Train adults on how to properly respond to students who provide information.

Core Components

- Identify Key Stakeholders
- Partnership and Collaboration
- Awareness and Education
- Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention
- Intelligence Gathering and Disbursement
- 24/7 Live Two-Way Dialogue
- Information Sharing
- Accountability and Follow-up
- Evaluation

Safe2Tell Colorado

- Where we've been
  - 2004-2014 Non-Profit Organization
  - Local, state, government and philanthropic support
  - SB 2014-002 Office of the Attorney General
- Where we are
  - Comprehensive framework of prevention
  - CSP and CIAC
  - Train the Trainers
  - Continuing to Partner with Community Resources
- Where we're going
  - National Model of Expansion
  - New tipping software
  - Data and trend collection

Accountability & Follow-Up

- 24-Hour Trained Communication Center Dispatchers
- Live Answering Point
- Two Way Dialogue
- Immediate Delivery of Reports
- Receipt Confirmation
- Distribution to Multi-Discipline Teams

Innovations in Technology Platform

- Customized
- Password Protected
- Encrypted
- Anonymous
- Sound notification
- Text notifications
- Reports sent via email and text messages
- Direct login to view tip and make disposition reports
- Viewing of who has received report and who has responded
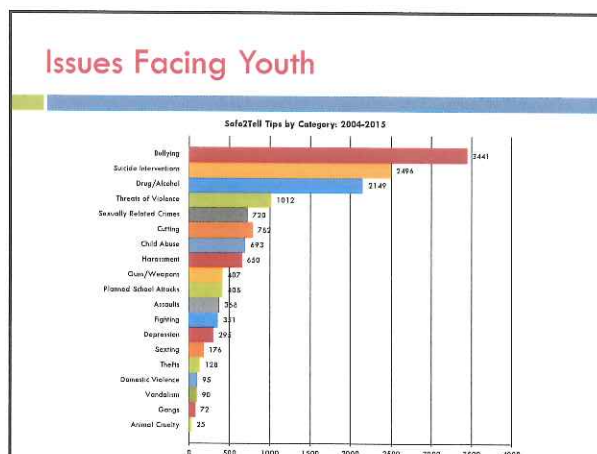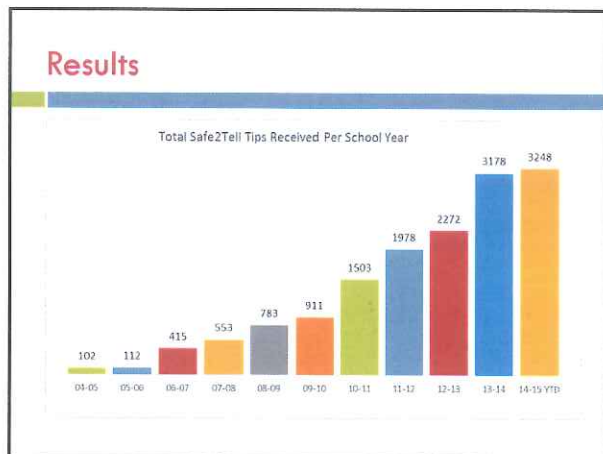- View of all tips associated with log and assigned schools/jurisdiction

Mobile App Launch

- Scheduled for 2015-16 school year (beginning on 8/3/2015)
- Integrated directly into new tipping system
- Provides ability to include videos, pictures, and screenshots into reports
- Two-way dialogue function
- Instant distribution to local teams
- Tracking and accountability
- Password protected

2015-16 Marketing Campaign

2015-16 Marketing Campaign

Results

Total Safe2Tell Tips Received Per School Year

School Year	Tips
04-05	102
05-06	112
06-07	415
07-08	553
08-09	783
09-10	911
10-11	1503
11-12	1978
12-13	2272
13-14	3178
14-15 YTD	3248

Issues Facing Youth

Safe2Tell Tips by Category: 2004-2015

Category	Tips
Bullying	3441
Suicide Intervention	2496
Drug/Alcohol	2149
Threats of Violence	1012
Sexually Related Crimes	729
Cutting	762
Child Abuse	693
Harassment	650
Guns/Weapons	487
Planned School Attacks	485
Assaults	368
Fighting	331
Depression	293
Sexting	176
Thefts	128
Domestic Violence	95
Vandalism	90
Gangs	72
Animal Cruelty	23

Sign-up for Email News, Alerts and Notifications

☐ On our website at:

safe2tellco.org/contact-us

☐ By text:

Text SAFE2TELL to 22828

Contact Info

Susan Payne
Director of Safe Schools, Office of the Attorney General
Founder Safe2Tell
susan@safe2tell.org
720-508-6810

safe2tell
Make a Call. Make a Difference.
1-877-542-7233
safe2tell.org

Safe2Tell
Colorado Department of Law
1300 Broadway, 6th Floor
Denver, CO 80203

720-508-6800 (main office line)
www.safe2tell.org
info@safe2tell.org