

FACT SHEET



Make an Anonymous Report: at www.safe2tell.org • call 1-877-542-7233

School Violence:

- Of the violent incidents in U.S. schools, 81% of the time someone other than the attacker knew it was going to happen but failed to report it.¹
- Of those with prior knowledge of school attacks, 93% were peers of the perpetrators— friends, schoolmates or siblings.¹
- Twenty-two percent of U.S. teenagers (ages 14-17) report having witnessed a shooting.²
- Youth are three times more likely than adults to be victims of violence.²
- Youth 24 years of age and under constitute over 41% of all firearm deaths and non-fatal injuries.²
- Youth 7 to 17 years old are as likely to be victims of suicide as they are to be victims of homicide.²
- The cost of youth violence exceeds \$158 billion each year.²

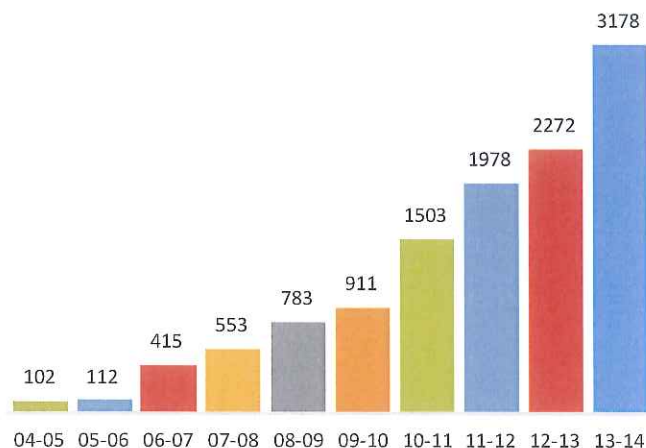
¹ Safe Schools Initiative, US Secret Service Bystander Study, 2002
² Center for Study and Prevention of Violence, CU boulder, colorado.edu/cspv

Results

Between the period of 9/1/2004 to 12/31/2014 numerous calls/web reports/texts were received from 163 Colorado cities and 59 counties resulting in a total of 13,146 Tip Reports from the following categories:

Bullying	3,086	Assaults	350
Suicide Interventions	2,157	Fighting	324
Drugs/Alcohol	1,925	Depression	238
Threats of Violence	973	Sexting	150
Sexually-Related Crimes	641	Thefts	110
Cutting	634	Domestic Violence	90
Child Abuse	609	Vandalism	84
Harassment	591	Gangs	70
Planned School Attacks	381	Animal Cruelty	25
Guns/Weapons	378		

Total Safe2Tell Tips Received Per School Year



Safe2Tell Solution:

The goal of Safe2Tell is to intervene at the earliest possible point in the life of a young person who is struggling, helping them when they need it, before the situation turns into a tragedy. Safe2Tell provides students and adults in Colorado communities and schools an increased ability to both prevent and report violence and other concerning behaviors by making a safe, ANONYMOUS report. The Safe2Tell solution was developed specifically to encourage and empower bystanders when they have a concern about their safety or the safety of others. Safe2Tell guarantees anonymity by Colorado state law.

In order to break the code of silence, the Safe2Tell solution works to improve the culture and climate of schools. A vital component is intentional conversations empowering children and teens to speak up, without fear of retaliation, embarrassment or labeling. Safe2Tell provide the promise of hope and help, with caring adults ready to intervene and advocate for their support. Safe2Tell focuses on building a culture of kindness and climate of respect while changing attitudes toward what to watch for and what not to ignore.

For more information, contact our administrative offices at: 720-508-6800 or info@safe2tell.org
 Colorado Office of the Attorney General, 1300 Broadway, 6th Floor, Denver, CO 80203

DATA **2** REPORT

January 2015

The following data presented represents the number of reports received by Safe2Tell for the period between 9/1/2004 and 12/31/2014.

Safe2Tell Tip Report Data

Total Number of Reports: 13,146

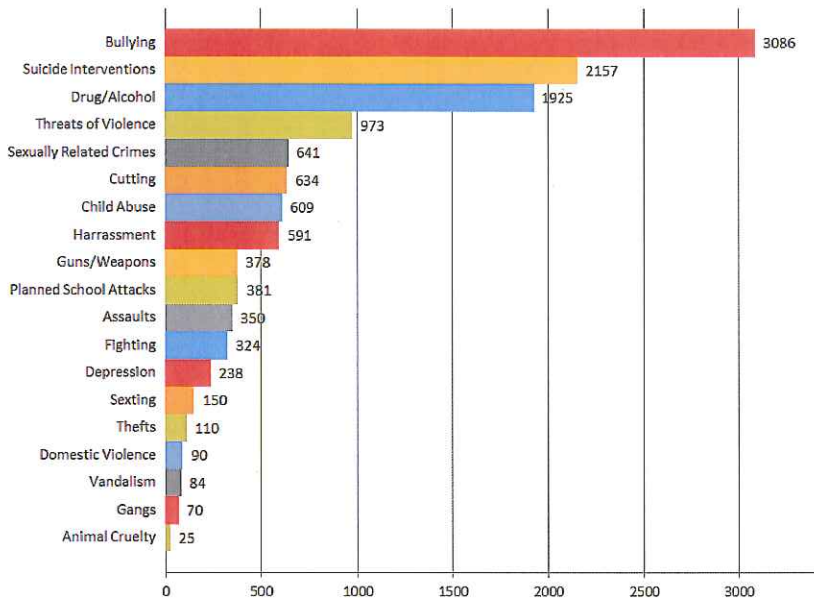
58%

average yearly increase of reports received

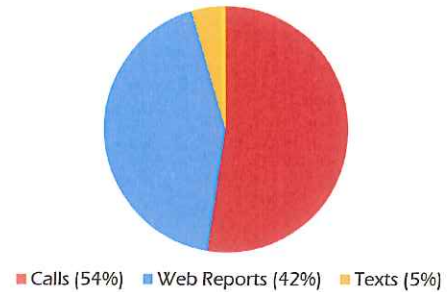
3,015%

percentage increase of reports received in 2004 to 2014

Total Number of Tips Receive Per Category Since 2004



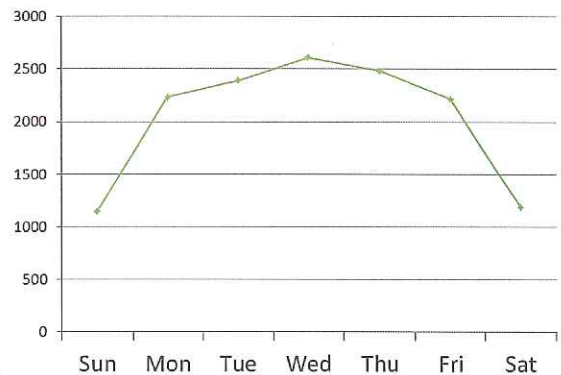
Percentages By Reporting Method



Total Number of Reports Received Per Year Since 2004



Reports By Day of the Week



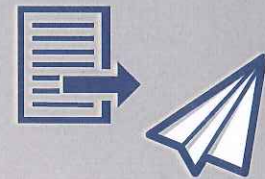
Reporting Process

It Starts With You.



You see something concerning. You make a report to Safe2Tell by phone, web, or text to help someone.

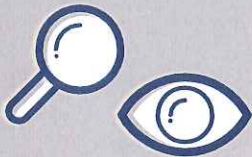
STEP
01



We'll Take it from Here.

Our trained dispatchers send it to your school and law enforcement, if necessary, to investigate.

STEP
02



Investigations

A team of adults take the information in the Safe2Tell report to investigate the concern and situation.

STEP
03



Interventions & Interruptions

The team works to interrupt concerning behaviors and provide help for those that need it.

STEP
04



Accountability

The team report outcomes to Safe2Tell in order to ensure that action is taken on each and every report.

STEP
05



Make a Report. Make a Difference.

You may never know the outcome of your report, but you can be someone's hero.



Karrer, Suzi <suzi@safe2tell.org>

FREE Educational Videos and Resources Now Available

1 message

Safe2Tell <suzi@safe2tell.org>
Reply-To: suzi@safe2tell.org
To: suzi@safe2tell.org

Tue, Feb 17, 2015 at 2:32 PM

A banner with a red top half and a blue bottom half. The top half contains the Safe2Tell logo in white on a red background. The bottom half contains the text "TOGETHER: CREATING SAFER SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES" in yellow, followed by a paragraph of text in white, a bulleted list in white, and a "Learn More" link in red.

safe 2 tell®

TOGETHER: CREATING SAFER SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

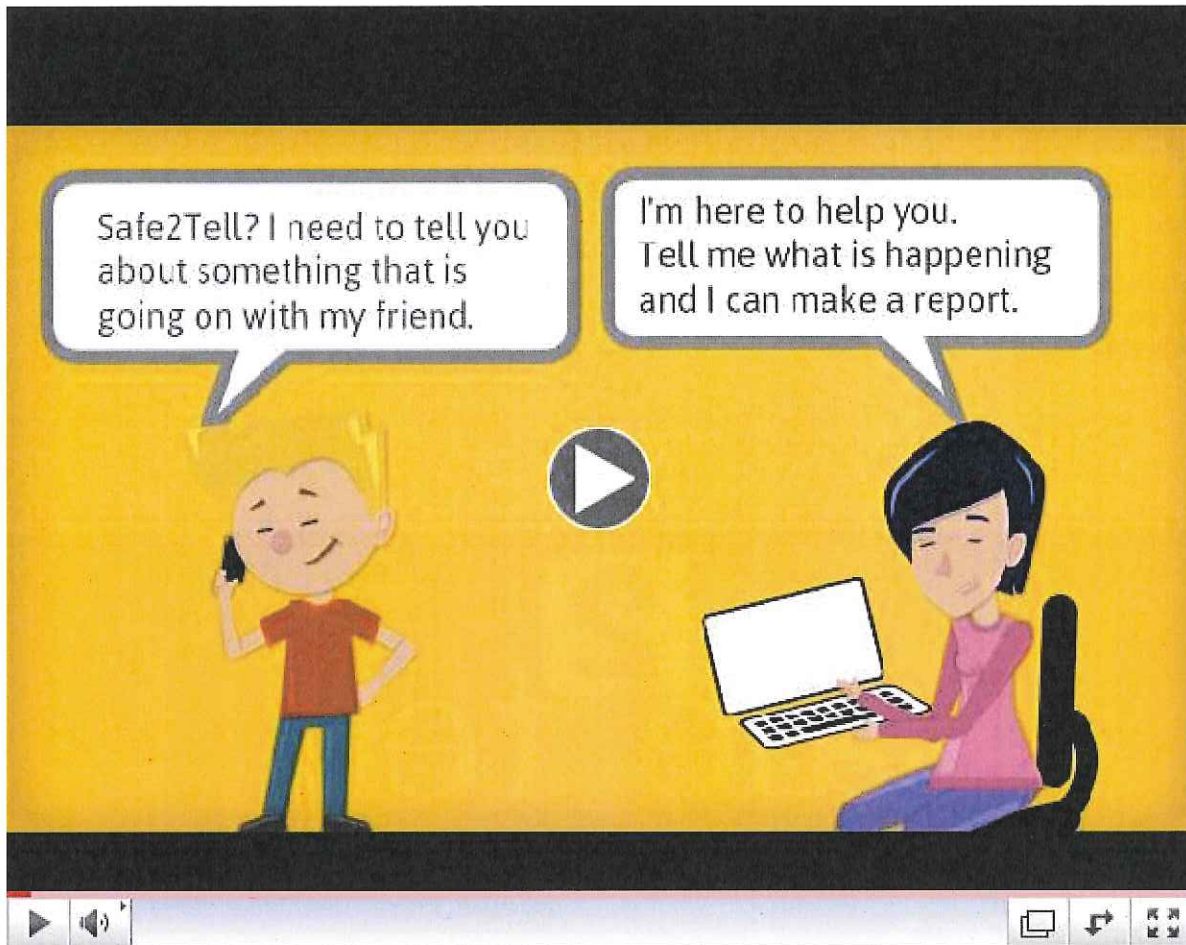
Safe2Tell works to create safer schools and communities by providing a way for students, parents, schools and communities to anonymously report safety concerns. Safe2Tell wants to give YOU the resources and assistance you need to help keep your school and community safe.

Safe2Tell has recently launched two new, FREE age-appropriate videos (Elementary and Middle/High School) and supplemental items to help schools educate students, parents and communities on Safe2Tell and school safety. We encourage you to think about how you can help spread awareness about the role students play in creating safer schools and communities by showing the following videos:

- in classrooms,
- as part of health and wellness classes,
- during morning announcements,
- at parent night events,
- during school assemblies.

Below you will find direct links to the four-minute videos and access to the printable items.

[Learn More](#)



Safe2Tell Elementary Student Video 2014

ELEMENTARY Safe2Tell VIDEO

Four-minute PSA video provides a lesson on helping a friend

The Safe2Tell Elementary Student Toolkit video is a FREE, online four-minute PSA which gives an overview lesson on "What is Safe2Tell", the importance of reporting concerns to adults and/or Safe2Tell, and encourages students to be part of a proactive solution to safety in their school. The video and content was designed to be appropriate for elementary school age audiences.



[Click here to view the video on youtube](#)



[Click here to view the video on vimeo](#)

To supplement the video, we also now offer **FREE items** designed to further the discussion among students and parents on keeping schools safe. Available for download from our website are:

- [Classroom Discussion Guide](#), including exit ticket activities

- [Parent Letter](#)
- [Student Pledge Form](#)
- [Printable Bookmarks](#)
- [Student Completion Certificate](#)
- And, [Coloring Page](#)



[Click to access the video and printable items](#)



Safe2Tell Middle & High School Student Video 2014

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL Safe2Tell Video

Four-minute video provides a lesson on prevention through reporting

The Safe2Tell Middle and High School Student Toolkit video provides a quick, four-minute engaging way to educate Middle and High School students on the importance of the bystander role and reporting concerns. The video gives an overview on how to report to Safe2Tell, the importance of reporting concerns to adults and/or Safe2Tell, and encourages students to be part of a proactive

solution to safety in their school. This video content is appropriate for secondary students, parents and adults.



[Click here to view the video on youtube](#)



[Click here to view the video on vimeo](#)

We also now offer **FREE supplemental items** to further the discussion among students and parents on keeping schools safe. Available for download from our website to supplement the Middle and High School Video:

- [Classroom Discussion Guide](#)
- [Parent Letter](#)
- [Student Pledge Form](#)
- And, [Printable Student SmartPhone Cards](#)



[Click to access the video and printable items](#)

ALREADY VIEWED THE VIDEO OR USED THE TOOLKIT?

[Help us Improve By Giving Us Your Feedback](#)

Our goal is equip schools and communities with the resources they need to spread the message of Safe2Tell. It is our hope that the videos and toolkits are useful items to assist in the goal of educating communities and students on how the bystander plays an important role in helping others and preventing tragedies.

If you have shown the either one of the videos or downloaded any of the toolkit items, let us know what you think to help us improve our offerings and resources. Please complete the short survey to let us know your thoughts about the videos and/or toolkit items. We are especially interested in receiving feedback from students.

[Click here to access the quick feedback survey](#)

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

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safe tell[®]



December 2014 E-News, Alerts and Resources

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[Mandatory Reporting](#)

[Data2Report: NEW Data](#)

[Infographic Report](#)

[Student Education Toolkits](#)

[Now Available](#)



In our efforts to constantly improve and create awareness of the Safe2Tell prevention initiative, we are currently developing new reporting resources, educational materials and school & community engagement opportunities. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements regarding all the exciting developments and resources soon to be available to Colorado schools and communities.

Important Reminder: Acknowledging Receipt of Safe2Tell Reports

When receiving Safe2Tell reports, please remember to open up your attached PDF report and IMMEDIATELY click on the blue link at the top to verify you have received the report. Verifying receipt of reports using the blue hyperlink allows for Safe2Tell dispatchers to confirm that the report was received.

[Click here to let the sending agency know that you have received this tip.](#)
Once this tip has been received, please submit the disposition information online at www.safe2tell.com/dispose using TipSet Agency ID 222 and Disposition Code 42222. Click on the link above to login automatically.

Thank you for recently updating your school contact information with us. I have created this test tip to make sure you receive the reports correctly.

When you receive this Safe2Tell test tip notification, please click the blue link on the top of this pdf report to notify us that it was received okay. This will be the same procedure to follow when receiving future Safe2Tell reports. Let me know if you have any questions this school year by emailing me at the email address below or calling my cell phone. Thank you for using the Safe2Tell system.

-Natesha Sansoni
Safe2Tell Data Manager
Attorney General's Office
natesha@safe2tell.org
(719) 433-4768

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For more information about handling Safe2tell reports, [click here for a printable guideline regarding handling Safe2Tell reports.](#)

Mandatory Reporting

Public or private school official or employees, social workers, mental health professionals, and peace officers are by law mandatory reporters in

To make sure you receive the latest announcements and updates, verify you are signed up for our email alerts:
[click here to manage your email subscription](#)
 or text
Safe2Tell to 22828 to subscribe.



Help us reach our goal of having over 2,000 Facebook page likes by liking the Safe2Tell Colorado page on Facebook at: [safe2tellco](#)



By subscribing to our Facebook page, you'll have access to our educational infographics, latest resources and training opportunities. We invite users to share our Facebook posts on their own social media pages and school/district websites.

Colorado. If you are a mandatory reporter, you are required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect to the appropriate organizations and parties.

Safe2Tell does not notify Social Services nor do anonymous reports to Safe2Tell constitute due diligence for mandatory reporting requirements.

If a Safe2tell report is received that rises to the level of a mandatory reporting issues, it is up to the local level school officials and law enforcement to make the mandatory report.

To find more information regarding mandatory reporting laws and to see if you are considered a mandatory reporter, see a list of county human services directors and access online training opportunities, please visit the [Colorado Department of Human Services Mandatory Reporting Information](#) online resource page (<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-Main/CBON/1251651932321>).

Data2Report: New Data Infographic Now Available

Data2Report is our new infographic report providing a visual representation of significant data and trends.

DATA 2 REPORT

December 2014

The following data presented represents number of reports received by Safe2Tell for the period between 9/1/2004 and 11/30/2014.

Safe2Tell Tip Report Data

Total Number of Reports: 12,839

Total Number of Tips Received Per Category Since 2004



WARNING SIGNS OF SUICIDE

TALK	BEHAVIOR	MOOD
Killing themselves.	Increased alcohol or drug use.	Depression.
Having no reason to live.	Looking for a way to kill themselves.	Loss of interest.
Being a burden to others.	Acting recklessly.	Rage.
Feeling hopeless.	Withdrawing from activities.	Irritability.
Unbearable pain.	Isolating from family and friends.	Humiliation.
	Sleeping too much or too little.	Anxiety.
	Writing or calling people to say goodbye.	
	Giving away prized possessions.	
	Aggression.	

If you know someone exhibiting possible suicide warning signs, make a report to Safe2Tell at 1-877-542-7233 or safe2tell.org.

Suicide Warning Signs Infographic on Facebook

Also follow us on Twitter: **@safe2tell**

Follow us on **twitter**

Safe2Tell
CO Department of Law
Office of the Attorney General

Mailing Address:
1300 Broadway, 6th Floor
Denver, CO 80203

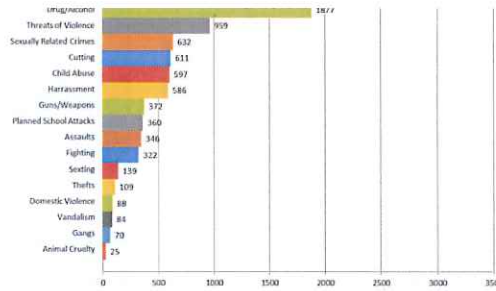
Main Admin Office Line:
720-508-6800

General Email:
info@safe2tell.org

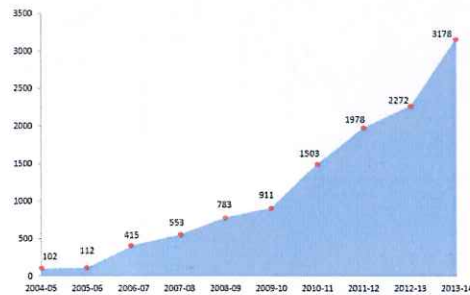
Website:
www.safe2tell.org

Staff:
Susan Payne
Founding Executive Director
Director of Safe Schools
susan@safe2tell.org

Suzi Karrer
Training and Marketing Manager
suzi@safe2tell.org



Total Number of Reports Received Per Year Since 2004



Percentage Increase

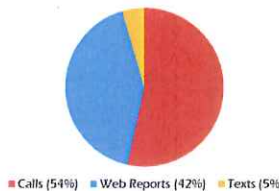
The average percentage yearly increase of number of reports received each year since 2004:

58%

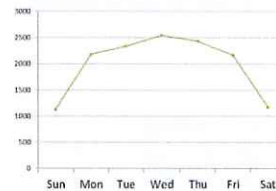
The percentage increase of number of reports received in 2004 to 2014:

3,216%

Percentage by Reporting Method



Reports Received By Day of the Week



safe²tell™ www.safe2tell.org
 720-508-6800

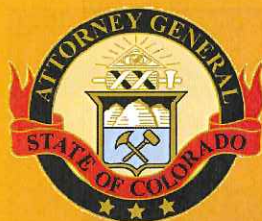
View the full version:

- here by click the link: [December 2014 DataReport](#)
- Or on our website at: safe2tell.org/why-call/results/datareport


Natasha Sansoni
Data Manager
natasha@safe2tell.org

Chele Clark
Program Assistant
chele@safe2tell.org

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safe2tell.org



 Join Our Mailing List

 Send to a Colleague



Safe2Tell Student Education Toolkit

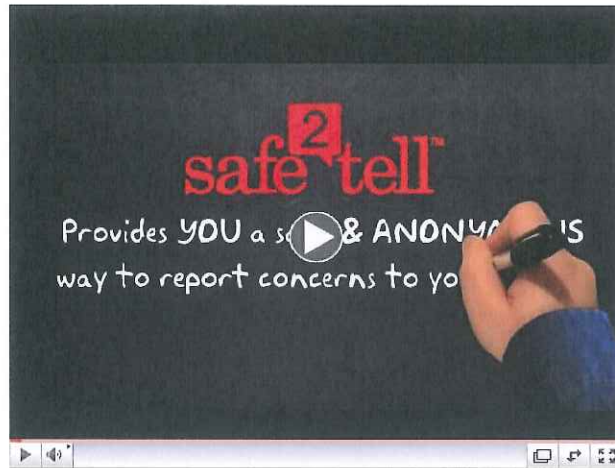
Since launching at the end of October 2014, over 1,300 school staff, counselors, law enforcement and community members have viewed or downloaded our new Student Education Toolkits. The toolkits were designed to help spread awareness and education about Safe2Tell by equipping schools and communities with an online, free resource that captures the attention of children and youth.



Each toolkit contains:

- A four-minute animated video
- A classroom discussion guide
- A parent letter
- A classroom pledge sheet
- And various printable student items including completion certificates, bookmarks (elementary only), student cards (Middle and High School only), and coloring page (elementary only).

To access the toolkits, please visit our website at <http://safe2tell.org/access-the-student-education-toolkit/>.



Safe2Tell Toolkit Middle & High Student Overview Video 2014

For more information on the Student Education Toolkit, please contact Suzi Karrer at suzi@safe2tell.org or 720-508-6812.

[Forward this email](#)



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IMPACT REPORT

Make a Report. Make a Difference.

Impacting Culture and Safety

The goal of Safe2Tell is to intervene at the earliest possible point in the life a young person who is struggling, helping them when they need it before the situation turns into a tragedy. Safe2Tell serves as the statewide bystander reporting tool for concerns in Colorado. The Safe2Tell solution was developed specifically to encourage those with information about a possible event to report it.

Kids often know about tragedies before they occur

We know that targeted school shootings rarely happen without some sort of warning sign. The U.S. Secret Service conducted the *Safe School Initiative*, a study of school shootings and other school-based attacks finding that usually “at least one other person had some type of knowledge of the attacker’s plan.” Most of those individuals who had prior knowledge were peers of the perpetrators. This suggests that peers often know about potential threats to their safety and risky behaviors of their friends and classmates, and often fail to alert authorities about their suspicions.

Preventing violence before it occurs

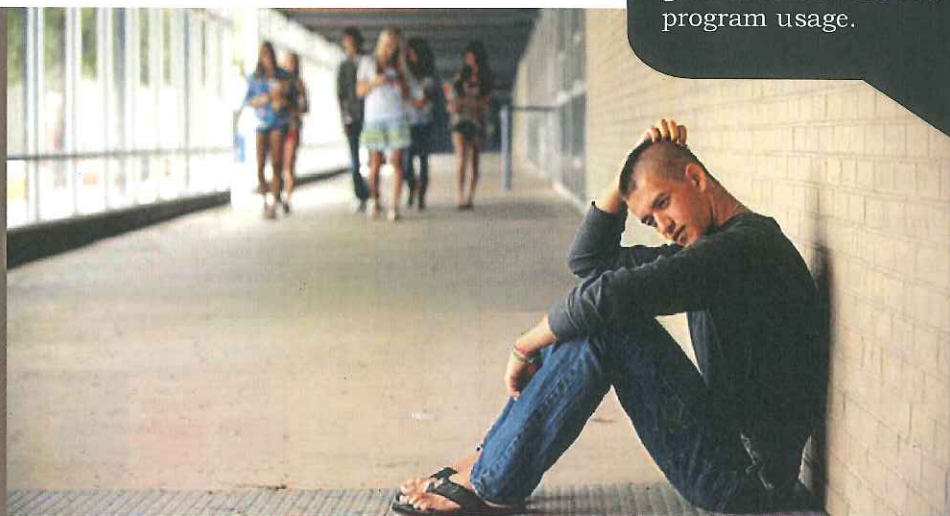
Since 2004, Safe2Tell has received reports and aided in the prevention of hundreds of separate school attacks, help prevent thousands of youth suicides and intervened in countless threatening and dangerous situations. The numbers alone show the impact the Safe2Tell solution is having on breaking down the code of silence. Sheer increases in the number of tips received each year demonstrates the change in culture and attitudes about reporting unsafe behaviors and situations. This report will provide an outline of the work of Safe2Tell and the impact it has on creating safer schools and safer communities.

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

- Dr. Del Elliott, Founding Director of the Center for Study and Prevention of Violence, CU Boulder

The Safe2Tell solution has proved to be immensely successful in saving lives and preventing tragedy with a **3,015% rate of growth since 2004** in program usage.

In four out of five instances, other people knew about attacks in schools before they took place.





Research shows that in 81% of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker knew it was going to happen but failed to report it.

Courage2Tell

These are only a few of the courageous stories received everyday on the Safe2Tell tip line:

- A phone report is received stated a student has been cutting for the past several months and has begun to threaten suicide. Caller stated she believes the mother is abusive. School officials met with student, and a ticket was issued to the student's parent for child abuse.
- A text tip reported a student brought a hunting knife to school and was threatening kids with it. The student was arrested and charged with menacing after an investigation by law enforcement and school officials.
- A web report stated a student was being called names and having personal items taken. Situation was investigated and suspect admitted to bullying. The suspected student was given In School Suspension, and his schedule has been altered to prevent any further confrontations with the victim.

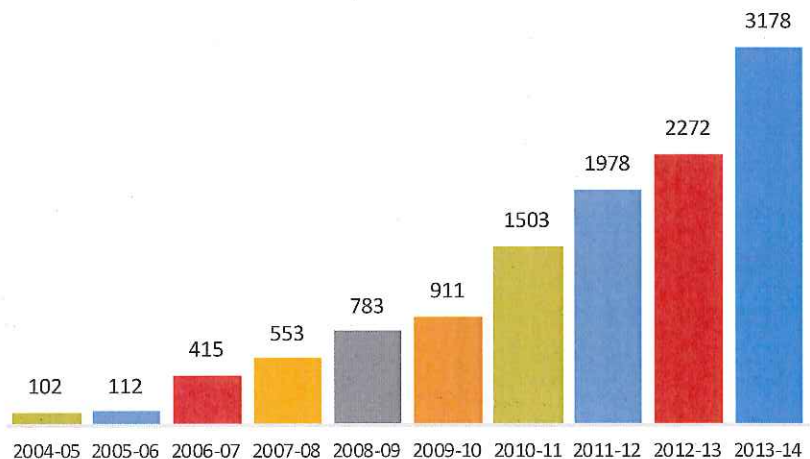
Results

Between the period of September 1, 2004 to December 31, 2014 numerous calls/web reports/texts were received resulting in 13,146 Tip Reports from 163 Colorado cities and 59 counties.

They include (but are not limited to) the following categories:

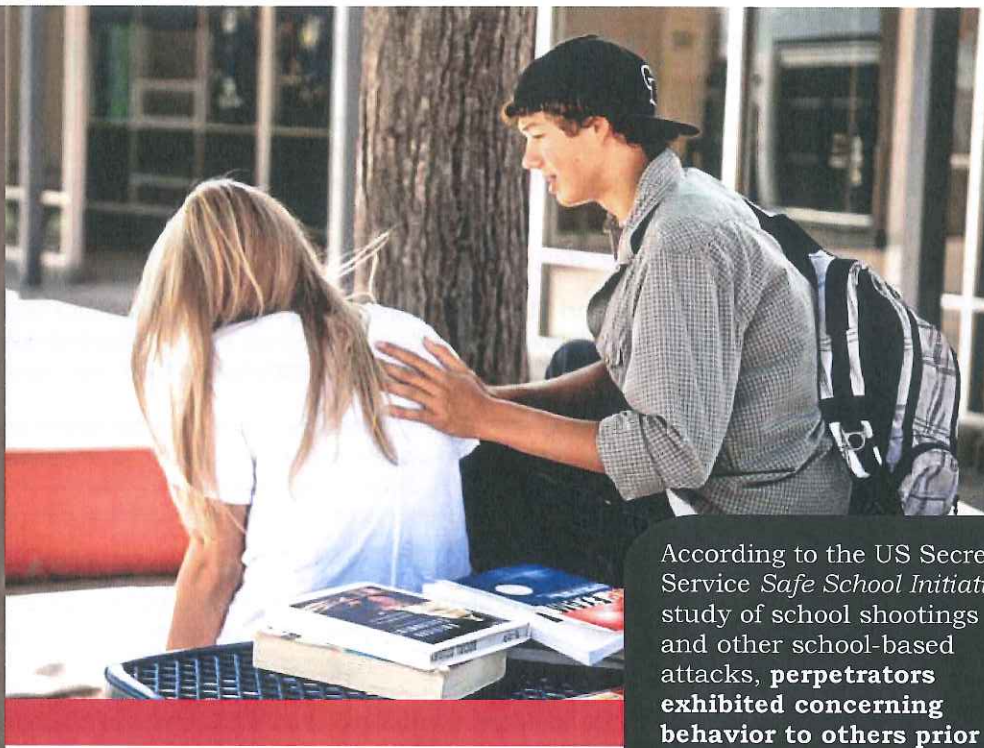
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Fighting	324
Depression	238
Sexting	150
Thefts	110
Domestic Violence	90
Vandalism	84
Gangs	70
Animal Cruelty	25

Total Safe2Tell Tips Received Per School Year



Mission

The mission of Safe2Tell is “to ensure that every Colorado student, parent, teacher and community member has access to a safe and anonymous way to report any concerns to their safety or the safety of others, with a focus on early intervention and prevention through awareness and education.”



According to the US Secret Service *Safe School Initiative* study of school shootings and other school-based attacks, **perpetrators exhibited concerning behavior to others prior to the violent incident in 93% of the cases.**

Meeting the Need

Youth violence, according to the seminal Surgeon Generals Report on Youth Violence, is a highly visible problem that affects all segments of our society. Because of its impact on victims, their friends and family, and society at large, youth violence has been designated a public health concern, thereby emphasizing the need for effective prevention. Communities now focus on collaborative prevention efforts with support from multiple systems: justice, education, health, mental health, and human services. Safe2Tell provides a unique bridge between these agencies and the youth who may need help to avert an act of violence or injury.

Youth violence incorporates many different behaviors, including bullying, cyber bullying, sexting, animal cruelty, weapons, fire starting, dating violence, assault, homicide and suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Injury Center, youth who are victims of violence or who witness violence in their communities fall prey to not only injury or death in the worst instances, but other serious consequences like posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and substance abuse. Research conducted by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at CU-Boulder (CSPV) indicates that the two most effective prevention strategies to prevent school violence are (1) creating and sustaining a safe school climate; and (2) developing an effective intelligence-gathering system. Moreover, safe schools take a strong, caring stance against the code of silence.

In order to break the code of silence, the Safe2Tell solution works to improve the culture and climate of schools. Working with communities, Safe2Tell is working to change the philosophy that anyone can do what they want without others speaking up. A vital component is intentional conversations empowering children and teens to speak up, without fear of retaliation, embarrassment or labeling. Safe2Tell provides the promise of hope and help, with caring adults ready to intervene and advocate for their support.

Core Components of the Safe2Tell Strategy

The focus of Safe2Tell is to ensure that every Colorado student, parent, teacher and community member has access to a safe and anonymous way to report any concerns about their safety or the safety of others. Safe2Tell accomplishes this by early intervention and prevention through awareness, education and accountable follow-up.

Education and Awareness

Train the Trainer Certifications and Staff Trainings: In order to spread the message of the Safe2Tell program among Colorado schools, Safe2Tell developed a training program that certifies individuals and leaders to present Safe2Tell information, materials, and classroom discussion materials to their own communities.

Conversation Jumpstarts: Safe2Tell provides training modules to provide counselors and school resource officers that offers a tangible tool lead them in guided classroom discussions. Available *Conversation Jumpstart* topics include bullying, cyber bullying, dating, sexting, weapons, dating, depression, and substance abuse. While discussing issues trainers talk about the code of silence, when it is appropriate to make a report, and what happens when a report is made.

Videos: The best way to reach students is often with a visual story. Safe2Tell has provided the framework for many schools to best reach their students using customized videos that promote the messages of Safe2Tell and show caring, committed adults at their schools.

Student cards, bracelets, pencils, banners: Promoting Safe2Tell goes beyond a poster on the wall. By combining direct messaging along with relevant promotional materials, Safe2Tell is able to effectively spread the Safe2Tell message and tip line number to thousands of students each year. Data shows that more Safe2Tell tip reports come from schools that incorporate the Safe2Tell solution in all practices.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Intervening at the school level at the earliest opportunity by caring, committed adults: The Safe2Tell program provides students with the opportunity to seek help, guidance and counseling from a trusted source before a situation grows out of control. Safe2Tell offers education and training to adults on identifying at-risk behaviors in students and creating safe learning environments.

Sharing information: Through collaborative relationships, Safe2Tell has key roles in developing blueprint models of safety policies and providing wraparound services to students. Safe2Tell key leadership work closely with government agencies, non-profit partners, schools and law enforcement to provide awareness and education that encourage changes in attitudes and cultures that perpetrate incidences of violence.

Interagency Social Support Teams: When a school receives a Safe2Tell report, they have pre-identified a team of professionals who can assist with intervention and connecting to appropriate resources. This multidisciplinary team shares the responsibility of ensuring the Safe2Tell report was handle appropriately and required actions and steps were taken to protect the safety of all involved.

Accountability and Follow-up

Disposition Reports: With each report received, Safe2Tell goes the extra step and follows up with the school that received the tip to ensure that it was investigated and that action was taken.

Reducing liability: Working with teams, following-up on each report, and ensuring appropriate steps have been taken are the crucial pieces that make the Safe2Tell solution successful.

The Safe2Tell Strategy is about:

- Engagement,
- Education,
- Empowerment,
- Encouragement,
- and Equipping with tangible tools.

Looking Forward

Every child in America has the right to learn free from harm or harassment. The Safe2Tell solution needs to be available to all. When ever tragic events occur, we are reminded of this need. Safe2Tell is positioning itself for the future and prepared to take the necessary steps needed to ensure safety and security of all children. Your commitment and support of Safe2Tell help ensure the future and vitality of this proven solution in school and community safety.

"It is no less courageous for a child or an adult to speak in a way that keeps them anonymous and safe. We have the power to make communities and schools safer by simply making a call."

- Susan Payne

Founding Executive Director of Safe2Tell



1-877-542-7233

www.safe2tell.org

Contact Us



Colorado Department of Law
Office of the Attorney General

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or text SAFE2TELL
to 22828.*

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Safe2Tell: A Model Prevention Initiative

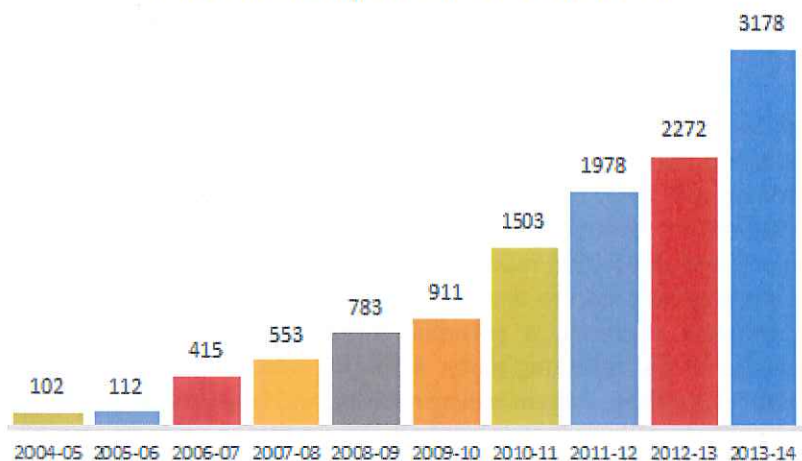


Safe2Tell was founded on the idea that prevention and early intervention is the key to preventing violence and saving lives. The model safety and prevention initiative, Safe2Tell, was developed on the principals of educating young people and school staff on critical issues, encouraging them to be part of the solution of prevention, equipping them with a tangible direct way to report anonymously and empowering them to make a difference. Bringing a proactive plan of reporting to focus, the Safe2Tell model allows for early interventions to take place in regards to behaviors identified as precipitators to violence and for those behaviors that endanger the health and well-being of youth. The strategy framework established by the model provides for the sharing of information in a sophisticated way to the local responders and schools, builds a system that establishes best practices for schools to identify a team response along with law enforcement partners, encourages training and providing CEU's, and establishes methods for accountability and follow-up on each and every report, reducing liability to the individual schools and providing a way to effectively measure outcomes.

How It Became Safe2Tell:

Safe2Tell began as a school safety initiative of Colorado, providing a tangible solution combining extensive research conducted by the U.S. Secret Service Study on school shootings¹, a bystander study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education², and recommendations from the Columbine Commission's Report³. Combining the findings of these studies, Safe2Tell developed a comprehensive prevention initiative combined with direct tangible means of reporting at a live answering point at Colorado State Patrol. On September 14, 2004, the original Safe2Tell prevention initiative began after a safe school hotline established after Columbine was deemed less than effective. Since launching successful anonymous bystander tip reporting system, the number of reports collected has grown exponentially each year. During the 2004-05 school year, 102 tip reports were received; in 2013-14, that number grew to 3,178 reports resulting in an intervention at the local level by responders and school officials, a 3,015% increase.

Total Safe2Tell Tips Received Per School Year



Moving beyond nearly providing an anonymous tipline, Safe2Tell began developing the complimentary core components to an overall safety strategy. Safe2Tell developed an educational component of the model strategy in order to effect change in attitudes of reporting with the use of a classroom guided discussions. Safe2Tell works to build a culture and climate of respect and a willingness to report among young people. Through partnerships at the local level involving schools, first responders and parents, Safe2Tell has incorporated education, through

¹ Vossekuil, Reddy, Borum, Modzeleski; United State Secret Service and United State Department of Education; *Final Report on The Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States*, 2002

² Pollack, Modzeleski, & Rooney; United State Secret Service and United State Department of Education; *Prior Knowledge of Potential School-Based Violence: Information students learn may prevent a targeted attack*, 2008

³ Columbine Review Commission, *Final Report to Governor Owens*; www.state.co.us/columbine/, May 2001

classroom guided discussions focused on awareness of current and emerging issues facing young people, into the overall prevention model. Addressing the code of silence that exists in our culture, increasing the surveillance of our youth and citizens, along with reporting suspicious behavior, mental health concerns, and behavioral concerns in a way that provides a two-way dialogue is critical to improve the welfare of young people and to effectively intervene early. When necessary, Safe2Tell provides the methods for schools and law enforcement to assess, treat, investigate and establish a boundary, conduct an assessment, or plan for the monitoring of a threatening situation and behavior. The strategy set by Safe2Tell produces strong surveillance skills among bystanders; teaching young people and adults what to watch for, what to listen for and what not to ignore. The overarching goal of Safe2Tell is to change attitudes of reporting, engage bystanders to be a part of the solution, and build a culture and climate of respect.

How the Safe2Tell Tip Reporting Works:

Safe2Tell's tip reporting resource success is simple. Both state law along with protocols and procedures established by Safe2Tell for receiving and forwarding tips guarantees the anonymity of every caller. Safe2Tell provides a safe, easy way for youth and adults to report information about any issues that concern their safety or the safety of others, in schools or in communities. Anonymity is guaranteed by law; there is no caller ID and callers' names are not asked. Students know long before adults do, what's occurring in their schools and in communities – including fighting and bullying, substance abuse, dangerous and concerning behaviors, threats, depressions, suicide, and self-injury: either witnessed in-person or online.

Safe2Tell is available to all Colorado schools, students, teachers, and parents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Reports can be made to Safe2Tell by calling 1-877-542-SAFE (7233). Reports can also be submitted through Safe2Tell's website at www.safe2tell.org or by text (limited to Jeffco, Denver Public, and Adams 12 Five Star School Districts). Calls to Safe2Tell are answered by the Colorado State Patrol and a trained communications officer collects information for the report and assigns a code number to the reporting party. Every tip submitted to Safe2Tell is thoroughly investigated after being given to the appropriate school and/or law enforcement agency.

Safe2Tell uses a unique and highly sophisticated database program that allows for two-way dialogue between the reporting party and the answering point. All information is encrypted, allowing for complete anonymity. In addition, the Safe2Tell web-reporting option allows reporting parties to upload photos and social media posts which aid law enforcement in conducting thorough investigations of cyber-bullying and suicide threats. Safe2Tell reports and disposition reports are available to law enforcement, if requested. Many times these reports help aid in investigations where a student has moved from one district to another and an officer needs crucial past information regarding a potential threat. Officers can also request Safe2Tell to pose a two-way dialogue question to the reporting party, if specific information is needed in an investigation. The sophistication of the Safe2Tell database system is ever-evolving and helps to identify trends of violence in schools and communities.

How the Core Components of the Overall Safe2Tell Strategy Work:

The strategy developed from the Safe2Tell model prevents tragedy and save lives. Safe2Tell works to change attitudes by providing resources around the state of Colorado to educate, equip, empathize with, empower, and engage youth. Safe2Tell accomplishes this intelligence gathering strategy through early intervention and prevention through awareness, education and accountable follow-up.

Education and Awareness

- **Train the Trainer Certifications and Staff Trainings:** Safe2Tell developed a training program that certifies individuals and leaders to present Safe2Tell information, materials, and classroom discussion materials to their own communities. Safe2Tell provides expert trainings to school staff, school safety resource officers, counselors, administrators and law enforcement establish standards and best practices for violence prevention.
- **Conversation Jumpstarts:** In conjunction with Children's Hospital, Safe2Tell developed educational

curriculum, providing trained counselors and school resource officers a tangible tool to lead guided classroom discussions. Available *Conversation Jumpstart* topics include bullying, cyber bullying, dating, sexting, weapons, dating, depression, and substance abuse. While discussing issues, trainers talk about the code of silence, when it is appropriate to make a report, and what happens when a report is made.

- **Videos:** The best way to reach students is often with a visual story. Safe2Tell has provided the framework for many schools to best reach their students using customized videos that promote the messages of Safe2Tell and show caring, committed adults at their schools.
- **Student Awareness Campaign:** Promoting Safe2Tell goes beyond a poster on the wall. By combining direct messaging along with relevant promotional materials, Safe2Tell is able to effectively spread the Safe2Tell message and tip line number to thousands of students each year. Data shows that more Safe2Tell tip reports come from schools that incorporate the Safe2Tell solution in all practices.
- **Communications and Resources:** Safe2Tell works to serve as the resource center for schools when dealing with issue regarding school safety, youth violence and dangerous behaviors, prevention initiatives, and best practices. Safe2Tell has established relationships with schools, staff, partner agencies, and law enforcing and provides each of these entities support, communications, resources and assistance.

Prevention and Early Intervention

- **Intervening at the school level at the earliest opportunity by caring, committed adults:** The Safe2Tell model provides students with the opportunity to seek help, guidance and counseling from a trusted source before a situation grows out of control. Safe2Tell offers education and training to adults on identifying at-risk behaviors in students and creating safe learning environments.
- **Sharing information:** Through collaborative relationships, Safe2Tell has key roles in developing blueprint models of safety policies and providing wraparound services to students. Safe2Tell key leadership work closely with government agencies, non-profit partners, schools and law enforcement to provide awareness and education that encourage changes in attitudes and cultures that perpetrate incidences of violence.
- **Interagency Social Support Teams:** When a school receives a Safe2Tell report, they have pre-identified a team of professionals who can assist with intervention and connecting to appropriate resources. Safe2Tell maintains current contact information for teams at the school level to be notified when a tip is received, a process developed through the implementation of the Safe2Tell strategy. This multidisciplinary team provides acknowledgement of the receipt of the information and a system of checks and balances.

Accountability and Follow-up

- **Disposition Reports:** With each report received, Safe2Tell goes the extra step and follows up with the school that received the tip to ensure that it was investigated and that action was taken.
- **Reducing liability:** Working with teams, following-up on each report, and ensuring appropriate steps have been taken are the crucial pieces that make the Safe2Tell solution successful.

Why Make It Safe2Tell:

Youth violence, according to the seminal Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, is a highly visible problem that affects all segments of our society. Because of its impact on victims, their friends and family, and society at large, youth violence has been designated a public health concern, thereby emphasizing the need for coordinated prevention efforts. Communities now focus on collaborative prevention efforts with support from multiple systems: justice, education, health, mental health, and human services. Safe2Tell provides a unique bridge between these agencies and the youth who may need help to avert an act of violence or injury.

Youth violence incorporates many different behaviors, including bullying, cyber bullying, sexting, animal cruelty, weapons, fire starting, dating violence, assault, homicide and suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Injury Center, youth who are victims of violence or who witness violence in their

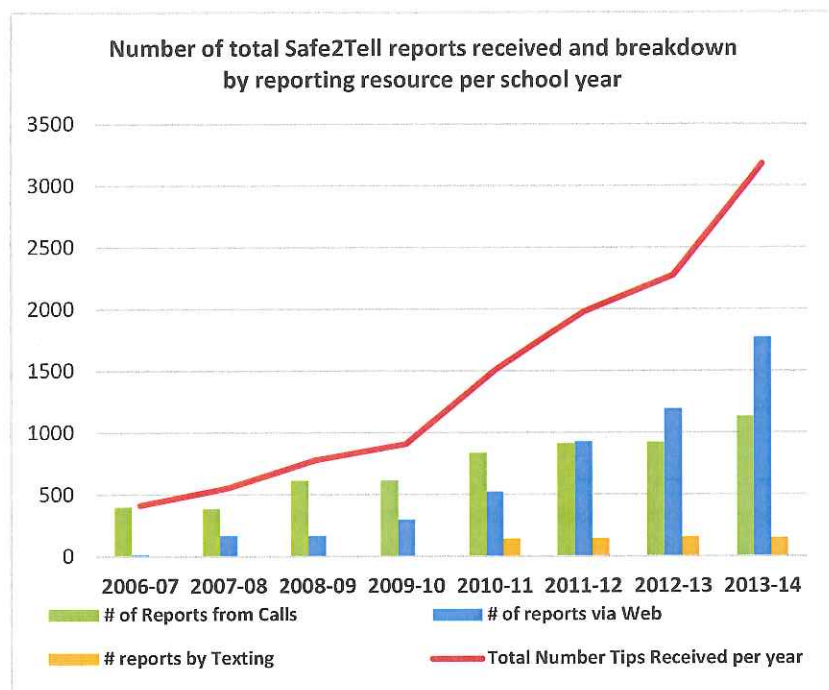
communities fall prey to not only injury or death in the worst instances, but other serious consequences like posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and substance abuse. The annual costs associated with youth violence exceed \$158 billion in the United States⁴.

In addition to addressing issues surrounding violent behaviors, prevention and reporting programs are effective in other areas that limit youth’s ability to succeed, such as bullying and substance abuse. High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested than high school graduates and more than eight times as likely to be incarcerated. Incarceration data shows that 80% of all inmates in a criminal justice facility enter with a substance abuse problem.⁵ Young people are the first to know before adults when someone is engaging in risky or life threatening behaviors, but are often afraid to tell someone. When someone remains silent, the safety and lifetime successes of students are at stake.

In order to break the code of silence, the Safe2Tell solution works to improve the culture and climate of schools. Working with communities, Safe2Tell is working to change the philosophy that anyone can do what they want without others speaking up. A vital component is intentional conversations empowering children and teens to speak up, without fear of retaliation, embarrassment or labeling. Safe2Tell provides the promise of hope and help, with caring adults ready to intervene and advocate for their support.

Why this Approach:

Over the last 30 years a growing body of empirical research has shown that a positive and sustained school climate is associated with positive youth development, effective risk prevention and health promotion efforts, student learning and academic achievement, increased student graduation rates, and teacher retention. Since Safe2Tell is a strategy that positively impacts school climate, it is an effort worthy of funding. Research has shown that when students feel safe, they perform better academically and Safe2Tell provides that safety net. There is no better prevention program in Colorado that provides for a positive school climate and positive youth development.



How Safe2Tell is Measuring

Outcomes and Making an Impact:

The sheer number of increasing reports per year show the impact the Safe2Tell solution is having on breaking down the code of silence and demonstrates the change in culture and attitudes about reporting unsafe behaviors and situations. Measurable outcomes produced by the model, along with the results from the survey from the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, provide a foundation for the current data driven approach. From struggles with substance abuse to threats on a social media outlet, Safe2Tell makes a difference in the lives of young people and adults, who identify a risk or danger, reporting it so early intervention can occur.

⁴ Farrington, Welsh, Loeber, Stevens, Stouthamer-Loeber, & Cohen, Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice: *Costs of Juvenile Crime in Urban Areas: A Longitudinal Perspective*; 2008; 6; 3

⁵ School Library Journal, *Crime Linked to Dropout Rates*, www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6590701.html, 8/27/2008

The best practices and data driven approach established by Safe2Tell has resulted in the following recommendations to Congress:

“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. In four out of five school shootings examined by the U.S. Secret Service, someone knew the event was going to take place before it occurred. They also found that most attackers engaged in some behavior prior to the incident that raised concern or indicated a need for help.

This was the case in the Columbine tragedy. Recognizing that a number of significant red flags went unheeded, the Columbine Commission recommended the creation of an anonymous hot line where information about threatening behavior could be reported. Colorado then set up Safe2Tell, an anonymous reporting system ensuring that all Colorado students, parents, teachers and community members have access to a safe and anonymous way to report any safety concerns.

In the 13 years since Columbine we have also made significant progress in developing violence prevention and intervention programs that work, that allow us to intervene in the lives of troubled youth before violence becomes an option being considered. The best violence prevention begins early and continues through childhood and adolescence and we have tested effective programs to prevent violence throughout the life course.

Our nation clearly possesses the tools and knowledge needed to prevent much of the violence and to throw safety lines to those young people who already have been swept up in the currents of violence. To this point we have lacked the leadership, political will and funding to fully implement these models. Let us commit to changing this and putting what we know works into action.”

*-Dr. Del Elliott, Founding Director and Dr. Beverly Kingston, Director of the University of Colorado
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence,
Recommendation for the Youth Violence Summit Convened
by Representative Bobby Scott, U.S. House of Representatives,
January 22, 2013*