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Then start with the next slide.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2009-DJ-BX-0002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in the document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.
Presentation Instructions:

This presentation is best viewed using the FULL SCREEN mode. Find the FULL SCREEN icon in the bottom-right hand corner.

Move through this presentation by clicking the RIGHT arrow at the bottom of the screen. If you missed something or want to review, click the LEFT arrow.

Videos may start automatically or may require clicking play in the video frame.
Speaker: Give a personal introduction and talk about why you’re here today. Stress why you, as the speaker, think Safe2Tell is important to talk about.

This presentation is from Safe2Tell.

Safe2Tell provides an anonymous way for students to report threats to their safety or the safety of others.

Today, I’m going to explain how Safe2Tell works, and we’ll talk about some situations where it might help you.
There are lots of rules that students are expected to follow every day. The only rule here is that we’re going to talk about this together.
How many of you think this is a problem?
In 2007, the National Center for Education Statistics conducted a Youth Health Survey. Here are some of the results.

If 17% of the students in your school carried a weapon, how many students would that be?
What would you do if you knew about it?
Here’s a story about some unintended consequences of a student with a gun at school:

CLICK TO PLAY (Gardena High School shooting video: almost 2 minutes)

Some students who knew about the gun didn’t tell, because they knew that the student was an okay guy and didn’t have plans to open fire in school. By all accounts, it really was an accident. However, the girl who was shot sustained a significant brain injury and will be in rehab for many months. Two other students were arrested and charged for attempting to cover up the crime. That’s a terrible price to pay for this accident.

Would you be able to focus in your classroom if you knew another student in the room had a loaded gun with them?

Even if it seems like the person with the gun is okay, never assume there’s no danger.
Many incidents with guns in schools are not accidental.

In the past 10 years, there have been number of studies on how and why school violence happens. One of the agencies tasked was the U.S. Secret Service.
They looked at the mindset of the active shooter.
What they discovered was there was no consistent profile, but there were some common threads in many of these cases.
The study revealed that other problem behavior existed prior to the event.
Attackers make plans. The plans often include weapons, school blueprints and hit lists.
They often talk about those plans to their peers.
They have access to guns,
and are often suicidal.
Bullying is usually involved. Either as a bully, or being bullied.
According to the same study, 81% of the time a violent act occurs on school property, at least ONE other person has prior knowledge of that event before it happens, but fails to report it to someone who can intervene.

The other people didn't say anything, or didn't tell someone who could act on the information.

Why do you think that is the case?
Another study focused solely on the “By-Standers,” students who had prior knowledge of a violent incident planned at a school. Here are some comments the bystanders made during their interviews:

“A student made an overt threat to carry out a school shooting... but those who heard it, thought it was a joke and did not report it.”
Another indicated that
“... the shooter was always making outrageous comments, so the school threat
didn't seem like anything out of the ordinary.”

They did not take the comments seriously because this individual often made
such statements.

Is this a warning sign?
Another bystander said,

“He kept eating his pizza so we didn’t think he was serious.”

Because the individual carried on a “normal” everyday activity after making a threatening comment, his peers failed to recognize the serious nature of the threat.

What does this make you think about threats that others may make?
In some cases, students who thought it was a joke even made suggestions to the potential shooter that enhanced or improved his plans, helping him to overcome hurdles and make a more “successful” plan.

Be aware that such conversations are not productive or healthy and could be a warning sign of someone who really is planning an attack. Those who commit such acts are widely considered to be suicidal – because most of the time they take their own life during the event. Think about these warning signs. What stands out to you as something you should take note of?

How does knowing this information change your behavior or make you more aware?
These days you can’t even joke about saying the word “bomb” in an airport. What happens if you violate that expectation in airline travels?

If you hear someone threatening to use a weapon to harm a person, group of people or institution … You have the responsibility to tell someone who CAN HELP. Someone who is prepared to respond to the situation immediately. If you tell someone and they DO NOT take you seriously, you must call Safe2Tell.

What types of events can be prevented if just ONE person takes a stand to tell?
WHY REPORT? Students know long before adults what is going on in school. Whether it is a planned fight after school, bullying, threats, drugs... or someone who needs help with feelings of depression and self-harm. Students have the power to let someone know in a way that keeps them safe.
That power is with Safe2Tell and here's how it works...
It really starts with you.
If you’re concerned or worried or scared or hurt, or know someone who is, contact Safe2Tell.
You can call, or get online, and let someone know what’s going on.
Make the call: The phone lines are staffed 24/7 so you always get to speak to someone.
Or use the website. Same thing here: your message gets to someone right away.
On the website, you can also upload pictures if you think it will help solve the issue.
And it’s anonymous. You don’t give your name.

Safe2Tell is anonymous by Colorado State Law: Your identity is protected. It’s important, when doing a web report, not to give your name or identifying information.
Call reports are taken in a way that doesn’t reveal your identity. Calls are never recorded, and there is no caller ID.
Anonymous means you don’t identify yourself when you make a report, or during any follow-up activity. It empowers you to keep yourself, and those around you, safe.
When you call Safe2Tell, a trained Communications Specialist will answer your call.
You’re talking to a concerned adult who is committed to helping resolve your situation.
And it may work something like this... Whether you’re online or on the phone, you tell your concern. They’ll ask a few questions so they really understand the problem.

Some questions they might ask are:
“Who is involved?” and descriptions of those individuals
“Where did it occur?”
“When did the event happen?”
“Why is it happening?”
“Who else may know about it?”

The more detail you give, the better they’re able to help.
The call-taker will put the information into a Safe2Tell report.
Depending on the nature of your call, they might contact law enforcement...
... or call your school principal or another school staff member.
This is important to understand. Safe2Tell requests that every tip get attention from a number of concerned adults.

In fact, the thing we want you to know about Safe2Tell is that adults LISTEN. They follow up on every tip to see how it turns out.
They require a Disposition Report about how the tip was handled.

When they get the report, it remains as a confidential document at Safe2Tell. The outcomes are noted and the report is closed.
Here’s another key ingredient with Safe2Tell. They know humans make mistakes. That’s part of learning. They also know that in a lot of cases, it’s better to intervene than to make an arrest.

In the first 6 years Safe2Tell was around, only .7% of calls were serious enough to result in arrest. The other calls resulted in someone taking action that fixed or prevented the problem.

Overall... It’s really about helping people, not arresting them.
That’s how the program works. You can use your voice to make the life of someone else better or worse. Sometimes if you don’t speak up for someone, no one else will.

This is your role...
You can make a difference.
Speaker: Thank students for participating in the conversation and answer any additional questions.

If you do not know the answer to a question, please keep track of those questions and email: info@safe2tell.org
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