safe2tell™ Colorado

2020-2021
Annual Report

Colorado Department of Law
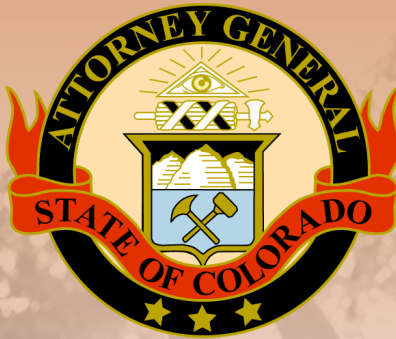
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Message from the Director

Dear partners in school safety,

Safe2Tell is a successful harm and violence prevention program dedicated to improving school and community safety across Colorado, since 2004. Safe2Tell's mission is to encourage and empower Colorado youth and residents to report concerns about their safety and the safety of others when a trusted adult isn't available.

Coloradans faced a variety of challenges in the 2020-2021 school year, as school districts balanced best practices for student engagement and compliance with safety guidelines resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Although schools' approaches to education during the pandemic were diverse, the state saw a great number of Colorado students engaged in either fully remote or hybrid learning. This remote learning environment affected the frequency of contact and level of awareness students had about one another, which ultimately affected their ability to report concerns to Safe2Tell.

Safe2Tell saw a consistent decrease in report volume when comparing each month to the 2019-2020 school year. This trend continued for approximately seven months until March 2021, when report volume trended toward pre-pandemic levels. Safe2Tell historically experiences a decrease in report volume during planned school breaks, and remote learning created a similar shift in reporting. Overall, Safe2Tell saw a 45% decrease in report volume during the 2020-2021 school year when compared with the previous school year.
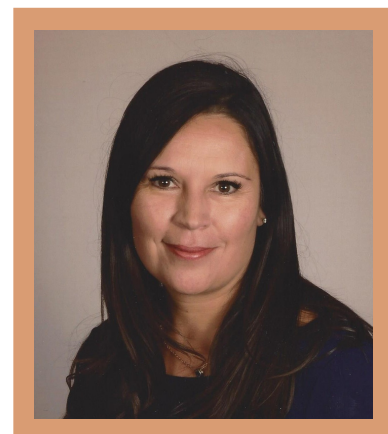
Safe2Tell received federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding, appropriated to Safe2Tell by the General Assembly, which allowed us to conduct new, COVID-19 specific, statewide outreach to remind Colorado youth and community members that Safe2Tell is available to assist with safety concerns, even during the pandemic. Safe2Tell created and distributed a series of public service announcements through digital outlets, as well as a broadcast radio and television campaign during Fall 2020. Our commitment to Colorado students exists— regardless of the pandemic, regardless of what challenges students face— every day of every year.

Coloradans continue to feel the ongoing effects of these unprecedented times. We will redouble our efforts to increase awareness about Safe2Tell as students face the challenges that come with the return to in-person learning. As always, we encourage all youth and community members to use this valuable and anonymous safety reporting tool, along with accessing the other excellent resources across our state. In short, we are here for Colorado students.
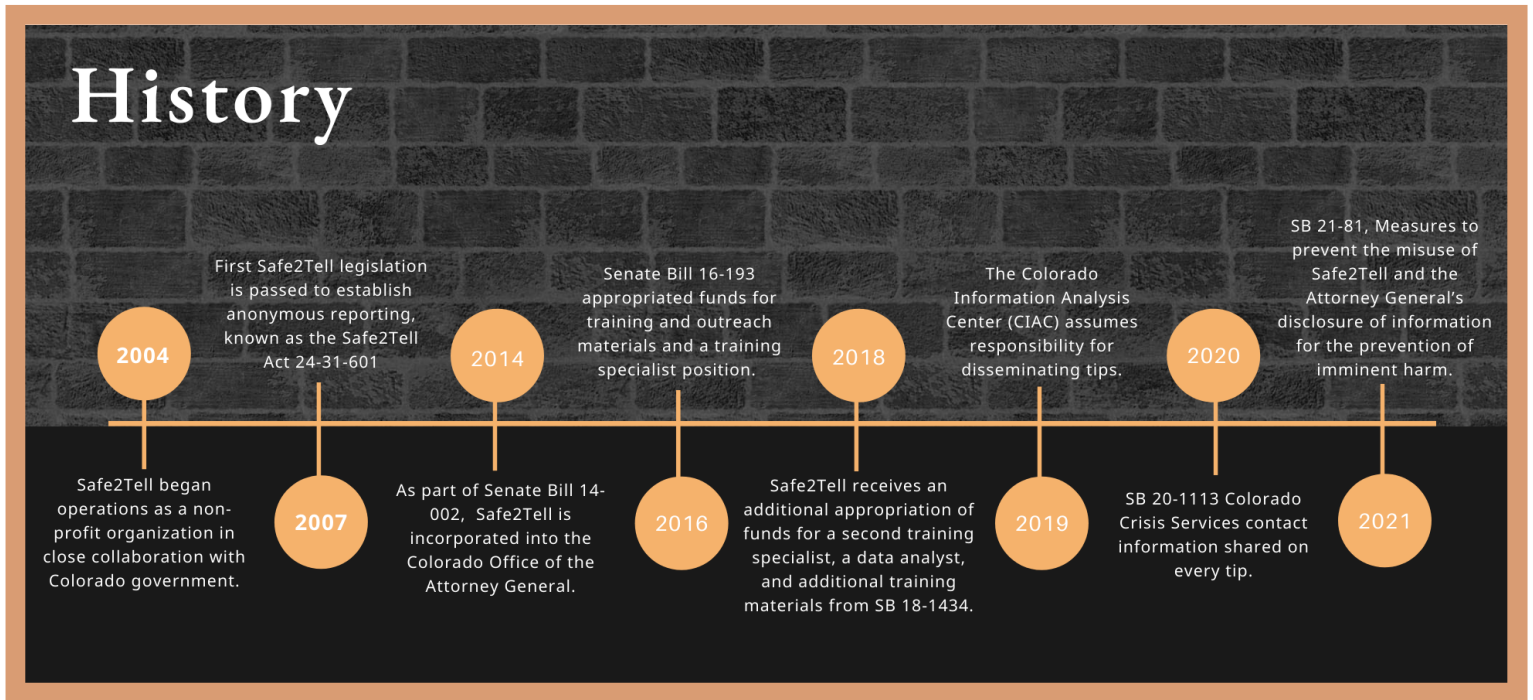
As we navigate out of this pandemic, we remind students it is okay not to be okay, but you must speak up when you or your peers are in danger or need help. Safe2Tell is a way to report anonymously at any time, any day.

Wishing you and yours a safe and healthy 2021-2022 school year. Stay safe as we look ahead to brighter days.

Sincerely,
Stacey Jenkins
Safe2Tell Program Director

History & Purpose

History

2004 — First Safe2Tell legislation is passed to establish anonymous reporting, known as the Safe2Tell Act 24-31-601

2004 — Safe2Tell began operations as a non-profit organization in close collaboration with Colorado government.

2007 — As part of Senate Bill 14-002, Safe2Tell is incorporated into the Colorado Office of the Attorney General.

2014 — Senate Bill 16-193 appropriated funds for training and outreach materials and a training specialist position.

2016 — Safe2Tell receives an additional appropriation of funds for a second training specialist, a data analyst, and additional training materials from SB 18-1434.

2018 — The Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) assumes responsibility for disseminating tips.

2019 — SB 20-1113 Colorado Crisis Services contact information shared on every tip.

2020 — SB 21-81, Measures to prevent the misuse of Safe2Tell and the Attorney General's disclosure of information for the prevention of imminent harm.

2021

Purpose

Safe2Tell is a harm and violence prevention program for students and community members to anonymously report safety concerns. The program promotes early intervention by serving as a conduit of information between people submitting reports and local multidisciplinary teams, such as schools and law enforcement agencies. Safe2Tell encourages the use of mental health and/or other early intervention partners as deemed appropriate by local multidisciplinary teams.

Safe2Tell provides:

• An anonymous resource for students, parents, school staff, and community members to report safety concerns.
• Marketing materials for schools and communities to build awareness and educate on the appropriate use of Safe2Tell.
• Technical assistance to schools and law enforcement regarding the Safe2Tell technological platform.
• Training and outreach to encourage youth to speak up about safety concerns and to break the "Code of Silence", which is withholding important information out of fear of being perceived as a "snitch."

School Year at a Glance

The statistics below include data from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

Safe2Tell experienced a marked decrease in report volume for the second year in a row as schools continued hybrid and remote learning. Suicide threats remained Safe2Tell's most frequently reported category, accounting for 20% of all reports made in the 2020-2021 school year. Other top report categories included welfare checks, drugs, self-harm, and cyber-bullying, which combined to account for 23% of all reports. See Appendix A for report totals by category and month.

11,388
Reports received during the 2020-2021 school year.

45%
Decrease in reports compared to the 2019-2020 school year.

Reporting Methods

35% Phone

26% Mobile Web

19% PC Web

20% Mobile App

Tip Percentages

95.2% Actionable
Reports submitted in good faith for early intervention. This does not include misuse or false reports. Safe2Tell saw a 3.4% increase in percentage of actionable reports compared to the 2019-2020 school year.

3.1% Misuse
Reports received with non-malicious intent (includes misuse, prank calls, and hang-ups). Safe2Tell saw a 3% decrease in percentage of misuse reports compared to the 2019-2020 school year. One third of misuse reports were COVID-19 related.

1.7% False Reports
Non-actionable reports received with malicious intent that may include false information to harm, injure, or bully another person. Safe2Tell saw a 0.4% decrease in percentage of false reports compared to the 2019-2020 school year, likely due to distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Top Report Categories:

1. **Suicide Threats**: 20%
2. **Welfare Check**: 9%
3. **Drugs**: 5%
4. **Self-Harm**: 4%
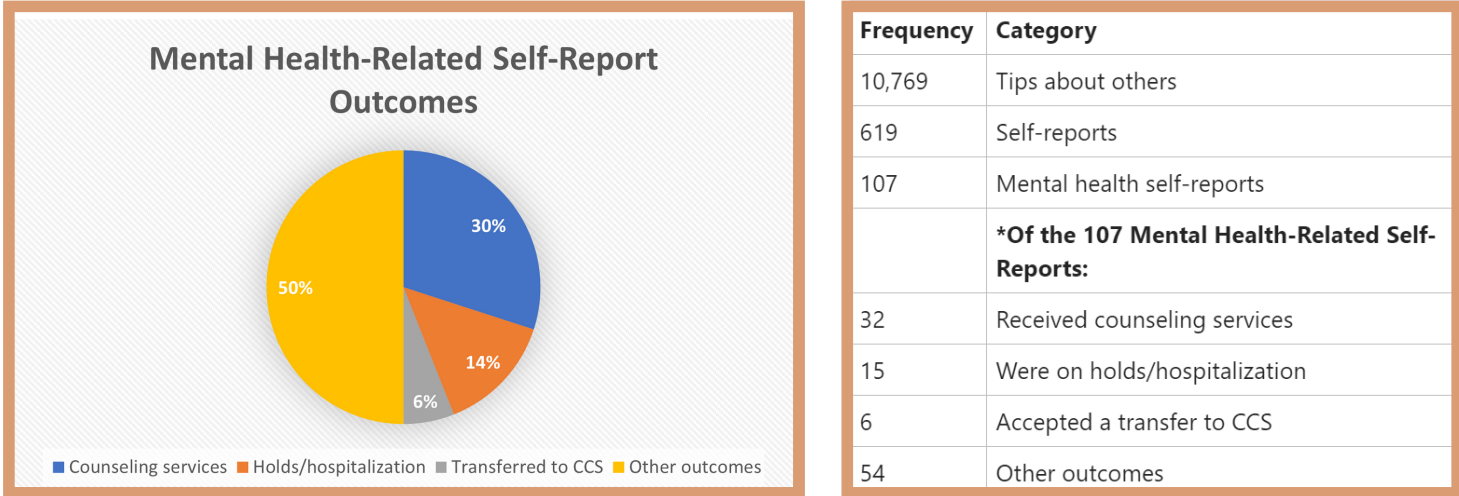5. **Cyber-Bullying**: 4%

903 Duplicate Reports

Reports made regarding a concern that has already been shared. Duplicate reports are indicators of a healthy reporting culture within a community.

House Bill 20-1113

In response to House Bill 20-1113, every mobile and web tip submitted to Safe2Tell receives a response that includes contact information for Colorado Crisis Services (CCS). In the case of phone tips, Safe2Tell offers the reporter a direct transfer to CCS. Collaborative conversations with schools, mental health professionals, law enforcement, and other statewide stakeholders determined the language and protocols for this process.

Mental Health-Related Self-Reports

Safe2Tell received 107 Mental health-related self-reports during the 2020-2021 school year. These are reports that people have made for themselves in the following categories: depression, suicide, and self-harm. Of these reports, Safe2Tell offered all reporters the option to connect with Colorado Crisis Services (CCS) and six were transferred; 32 received counseling services, and 15 were holds/hospitalization. The average time for Safe2Tell to gather information and deliver/transfer reporters was 11.7 minutes.

Mental Health-Related Self-Report Outcomes

- 30%
- 50%
- 14%
- 6%

■ Counseling services ■ Holds/hospitalization ■ Transferred to CCS ■ Other outcomes

Frequency	Category
10,769	Tips about others
619	Self-reports
107	Mental health self-reports
	*Of the 107 Mental Health-Related Self-Reports:
32	Received counseling services
15	Were on holds/hospitalization
6	Accepted a transfer to CCS
54	Other outcomes

2020-2021 Success Stories

August 2020 - Safe2Tell received a tip about cyberbullying. The school administration talked with the involved parties and related social media accounts were closed.

November 2020 - A tipster reported potential abuse at a student's home, which upon investigation was revealed to be self-harm. The student was provided counseling services.

"Safe2Tell has brought many things to our attention we were not previously aware of or didn't realize the extent of the student's situation." **-School Administration**

"Our school's philosophy around Safe2Tell is that it is about connecting kids to help and resources." **- School Counselor**

Training & Outreach

During the 2020-2021 school year, Safe2Tell conducted 185 training sessions, which is on par with previous school years. We adapted the curriculum to meet the needs of schools through remote delivery and a robust local trainer network. Safe2Tell adapted our training length, delivery, and content to accommodate the impact and concerns of COVID-19. Safe2Tell conducted 42 training sessions with local schools and districts. In addition, Safe2Tell offered two statewide digital train-the-trainer sessions. Certified trainers facilitated 66 Safe2Tell training sessions. Thirteen law enforcement agencies received training during the school year and Safe2Tell shared materials at 25 resource fairs and conferences. The conferences included the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, Colorado Parent Teacher Association Conference, Colorado State Pupil Transportation Association Conference, and the Colorado Department of Education School-Based Mental Health Regional Meetings. Finally, local schools downloaded the Safe2Tell curriculum 21 times for classroom use.


safe2tell™ Colorado

Student Training Emphasizes 4 Core Ideas:

1. Youth know safety and mental health concerns about their peers before adults do.

2. Youth have a duty to tell and should report any safety concern when their desire is to protect, prevent, or help.

3. As a first step, youth should always try to talk to a trusted adult. If that's too hard, or if a trusted adult is not available, youth may anonymously report to Safe2Tell 24/7/365.

4. Safe2Tell is anonymous to encourage youth to break the Code of Silence.

Due to the pandemic, Safe2Tell primarily conducted training remotely. This included 10 statewide webinars with an average attendance of 54 per session. We reached 537 school administrators, counselors, school resource officers, and other multidisciplinary team members from all regions in Colorado. Many attendees in the rural regions had a larger geographic impact than urban participants because they serve multiple counties and/or districts in their role; participants were only recorded once in the map below for data purposes.
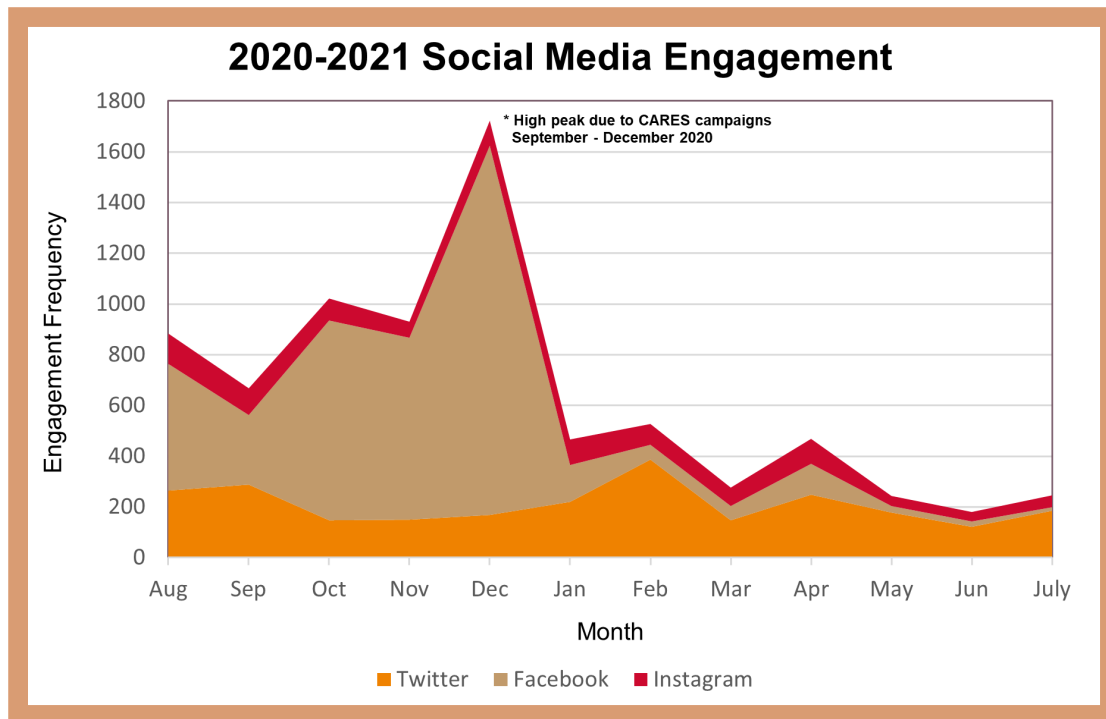

Statewide 2020-2021 Training & Outreach
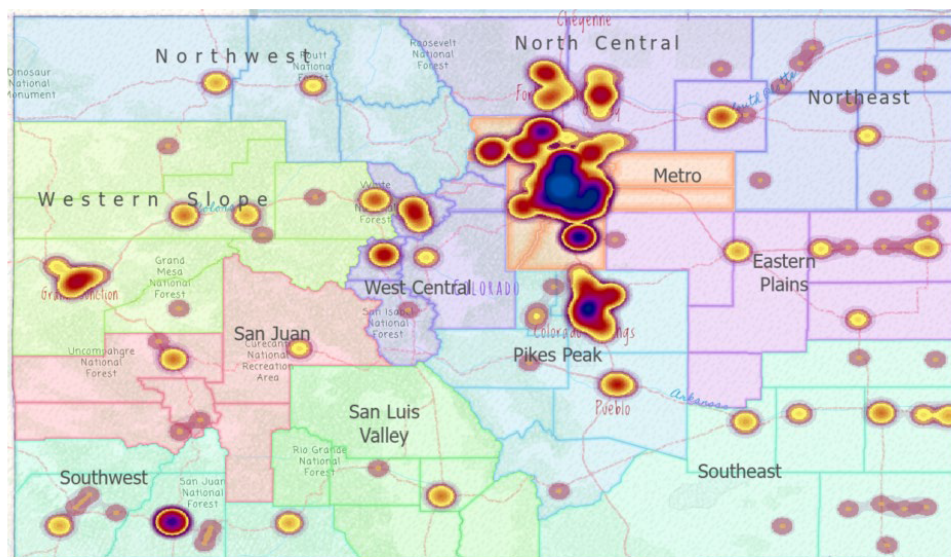
Color	Description
	Highest concentration of activity 200+
	High concentration of activity 30+
	Medium concentration of activity 5+
	Lower activity 3+
	Lowest activity 1+

Social Media

The Safe2Tell website provides community members with access to the program and serves as a resource for all stakeholders, including students, parents, school, and law enforcement. Users can submit online reports, file disposition reports, and access marketing materials, including information about the internal and external operations of the program. In addition, the Safe2Tell program uses social media platforms to engage with stakeholders. The consistent messaging, information, and resources shared complement both youth and adult interests. Safe2Tell is active on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

2020-2021 Social Media Engagement

* High peak due to CARES campaigns September - December 2020

Legend: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram

Examples of posts on our social media platforms:

El pedir ayuda puede salvar una vida.

Reporta tus preocupaciones de seguridad a Safe2Tell.org, llama al 1-877-542-7233, o descarga nuestra aplicación gratuita.

Posted on October 26, 2020. Sample of Spanish Language Outreach

It's OK to ask for help.

Posted on January 16, 2021. Social Media Outreach and Reminders

If you're worried about a friend, talk about it with a trusted adult.

SUMMER VIBES
SAVING LIVES

Posted on June 10, 2021. From the Summer Vibes Campaign

CARES Act

In 2020, Safe2Tell received federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding that allowed Safe2Tell to conduct new, COVID-19 specific, statewide outreach through the end of the 2020 calendar year. Recognizing the pandemic was affecting all Coloradans in different ways, Safe2Tell's goal was to launch a two-fold public awareness campaign. The campaign focused on reiterating that Safe2Tell is available 24/7, even during a pandemic, and on increasing visibility of Safe2Tell. Safe2Tell used the CARES money to roll out a four-month campaign that reached stakeholders across the state via television and radio ads and digital platforms, such as Instagram and Snapchat. Also, we used some funds to purchase face masks with the Safe2Tell logo that were then distributed to schools throughout Colorado.

Watch the PSA's Here:

Through a paid partnership with the Colorado Broadcasters Association (CBA), public service announcements aired on various television and radio stations across Colorado from November 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. During this run, the radio ad aired 6,082 times, on 69 different radio stations in 19 different Colorado communities. The television ad appeared 1,026 times on 21 stations across Colorado. The ads increased awareness about Safe2Tell and stressed that even during a pandemic, Safe2Tell is available and although life can be challenging, there are resources that can help.

The Safe2Tell website experienced a significant increase in traffic during the digital campaign period which ran from September 22 to December 31, 2020, This high volume of traffic was generated when users clicked on videos and banner ads displayed at the top of websites, which directed users to the "Submit an Anonymous Report" page of Safe2Tell's website. Of the 50,506 website users during the digital marketing campaign, 82% were new to the website. Safe2Tell displayed program ads and PSAs a total of 5.7 million times between websites (3.2 million) and social media platforms (2.5 million) during the campaign.

Partner Spotlight

Safe2Tell recognizes the invaluable partnerships with local multidisciplinary teams that support youth and school safety throughout Colorado through their thoughtful response to Safe2Tell reports. These teams are best equipped to support students in need, as they have well-established relationships with students and families.

Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC)

CIAC, in the Colorado Department of Public Safety, partners with the Colorado Department of Law to answer and disseminate reports. Safe2Tell analysts engage reporting parties in a two-way dialog to maximize the information available for follow-up. Analysts directly connect or refer to the appropriate mental health partners as needed, including Colorado Crisis Services. Safe2Tell sends reports regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's COVID-19 hotline for follow-up.

From Our Partners...

Colorado Crisis Services and Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners

"Safe2Tell has been providing a critical service to our youth for many years. Their expertise has provided a much-needed safety net that has responded to and prevented many individual and community crises. The increased stress, uncertainty and social disruption for our youth has resulted in increased mental health concerns, substance misuse and suicidal ideation. RMCP is the provider of Colorado Crisis and Support Line and is pleased to partner with Safe2Tell to accept warm transfers and referrals of youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis or concern for a loved one who may be in crisis. Colorado Crisis and Support Line provides telephone and text crisis intervention, mobile crisis community response, resource referral and follow-up services."

Colorado Department of Education-Cultural and Linguistic Diverse Office

"Safe2Tell continues to be an instrumental program for Colorado students and schools in supporting behavior, emotional and mental health needs. Students across the board have had a challenging 2020-21 school year and Safe2Tell allows educators to work closely with law enforcement, school district administrators, and parents to address student concerns proactively. Mark Lanning and the Safe2Tell staff are committed to making Safe2Tell accessible for all students. The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLDE) Office at the CDE is proud to work closely with the Safe2Tell team to identify areas in which Safe2Tell materials, communication and strategies can expand to meet Colorado's increasingly diverse student population."

Outcomes

What happens when Safe2Tell receives a report?

Safe2Tell analysts at CIAC review every report and promptly forward it to local multidisciplinary teams comprised of local school and law enforcement personnel, or, when appropriate, provide a warm handoff to Colorado Crisis Services. Safe2Tell encourages a prompt response from multidisciplinary teams to all reports in the same fashion as if they received the report in person. Safe2Tell analysts allow 30 minutes for public safety personnel to acknowledge a report receipt and one business day for school personnel to view. Analysts call multidisciplinary teams immediately if they deem the report urgent. Safe2Tell gives multidisciplinary teams 30 days to provide response or outcome information and mark a report as closed. Safe2Tell determined these protocols effective with 95.2% actionable reports processed, reviewed, and closed within 30 days of receipt and dissemination to local partners.

Once addressed, we require the local multidisciplinary teams to complete a disposition documenting action taken and any relevant outcomes. Outcomes are the action taken by multidisciplinary teams in response to information within a tip. The graph below illustrates the most common outcomes (as reported by local multidisciplinary teams) for Safe2Tell's most frequently reported report categories: suicide threats, welfare checks, drugs, self-harm, and cyber-bullying. When persons report a concern about another's wellbeing, this is categorized as a welfare check. A welfare check outcome is when law enforcement or the school staff has checked on the party of concern but the reporting party submitted the report under a different category (i.e., suicide threat).


10
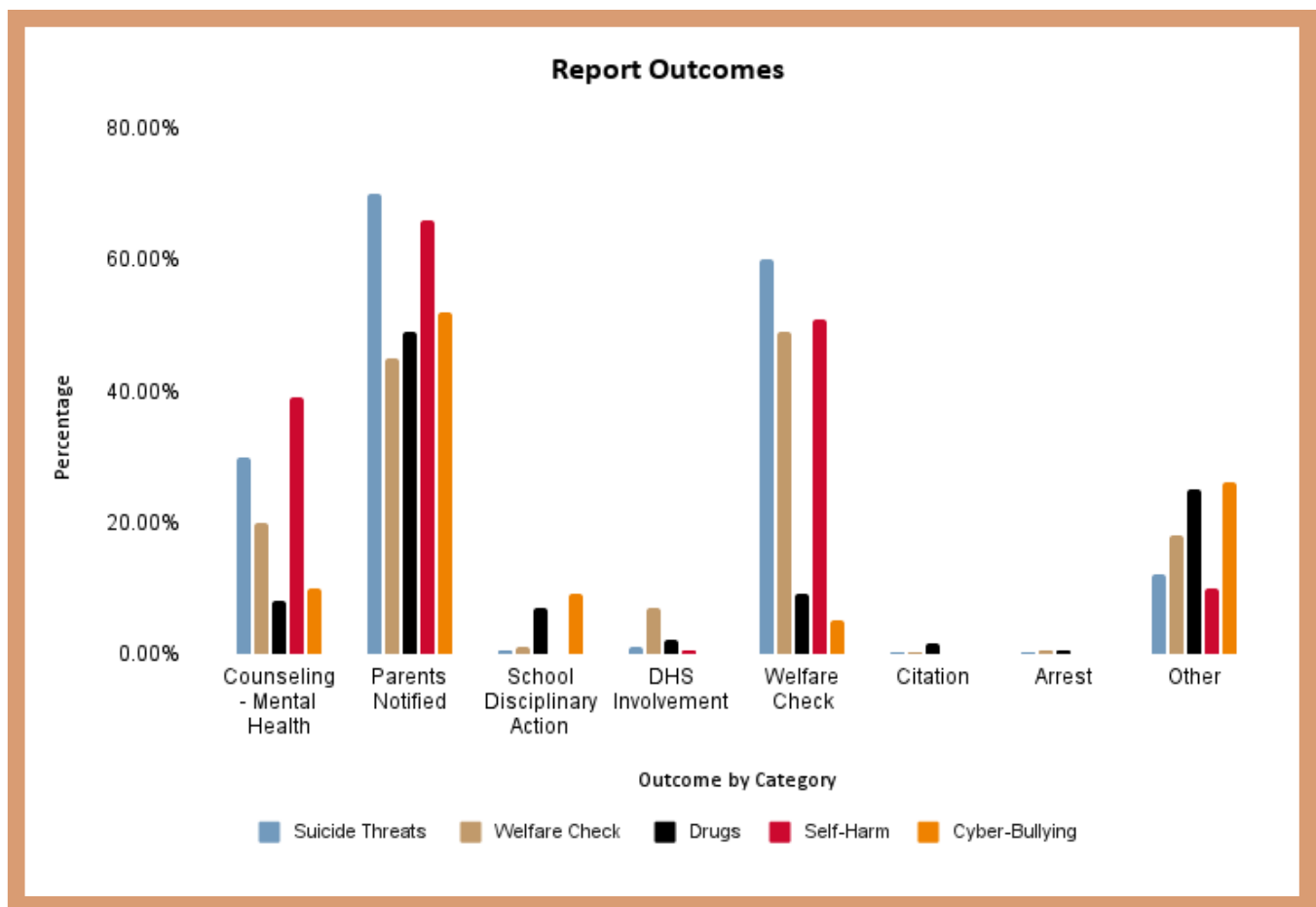
Does Safe2Tell decide how multidisciplinary teams respond to a report?

No. Safe2Tell serves as a conduit of information between concerned parties who wish to make a report and local teams who respond to the information. Safe2Tell does not dictate report response methods. Upon report receipt, analysts at the CIAC Watch Center send the report to the corresponding local team who determine if, when, and how to include mental health or other intervention partners to respond effectively, based on resources and information available. Local multidisciplinary teams have jurisdictional control over report investigation and response. Local multidisciplinary teams also are responsible for entering outcome data into the Safe2Tell database.

What are examples of a misuse report?

Misuse reports are those received with non-malicious intent (includes misuse, prank calls, and hang-ups). Safe2Tell saw a decrease in misuse reports in the 2020-2021 school year. Below are examples of misuse reports intending to help, however, people needed to use a different resource other than Safe2Tell.

- In February 2021, a person wanted to report a concern about a possible drunk driver. Safe2Tell connected the caller with their local law enforcement agency to make a report.

- In June 2021, Safe2Tell received a report regarding a potentially unlicensed, unsecured gun shop. Safe2Tell referred this report to local law enforcement.
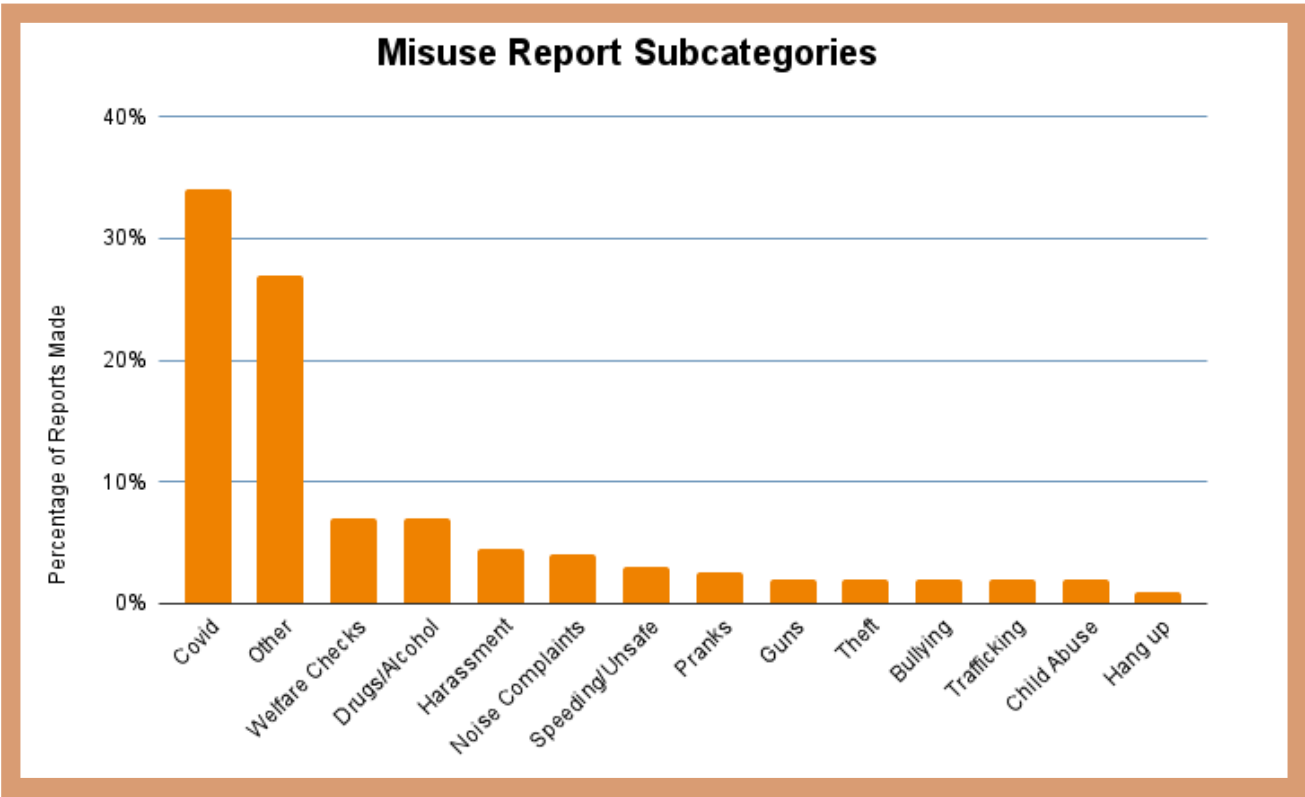
Note: This visual is an example of the subcategories that are reported within the "misuse" category. The "other" category comprised instances when reporters called the wrong number, reported lost IDs, made school complaints, and when analysts did not have enough information to place the tip in another subcategory. Although people made reports on drugs/alcohol, bullying, harassment, etc. these were tips that did not pertain to the safety of students or schools.

What does Safe2Tell do about false reports?

A small percentage (1.7%, down from 2.1% during the 2019-2020 school year) of reports were false and submitted with malicious intent; this may include false information intended to harm, injure, or bully another person. While this is a small percentage, false reports can disrupt families, schools, and law enforcement agencies. Safe2Tell provides comprehensive training about the proper use of the program and collaborates with local partners to reduce false reports. When Safe2Tell suspects a false report, the analyst communicates with the reporting party that the information must be true to the best of their knowledge and false reports may be investigated.

False Reports by School Year
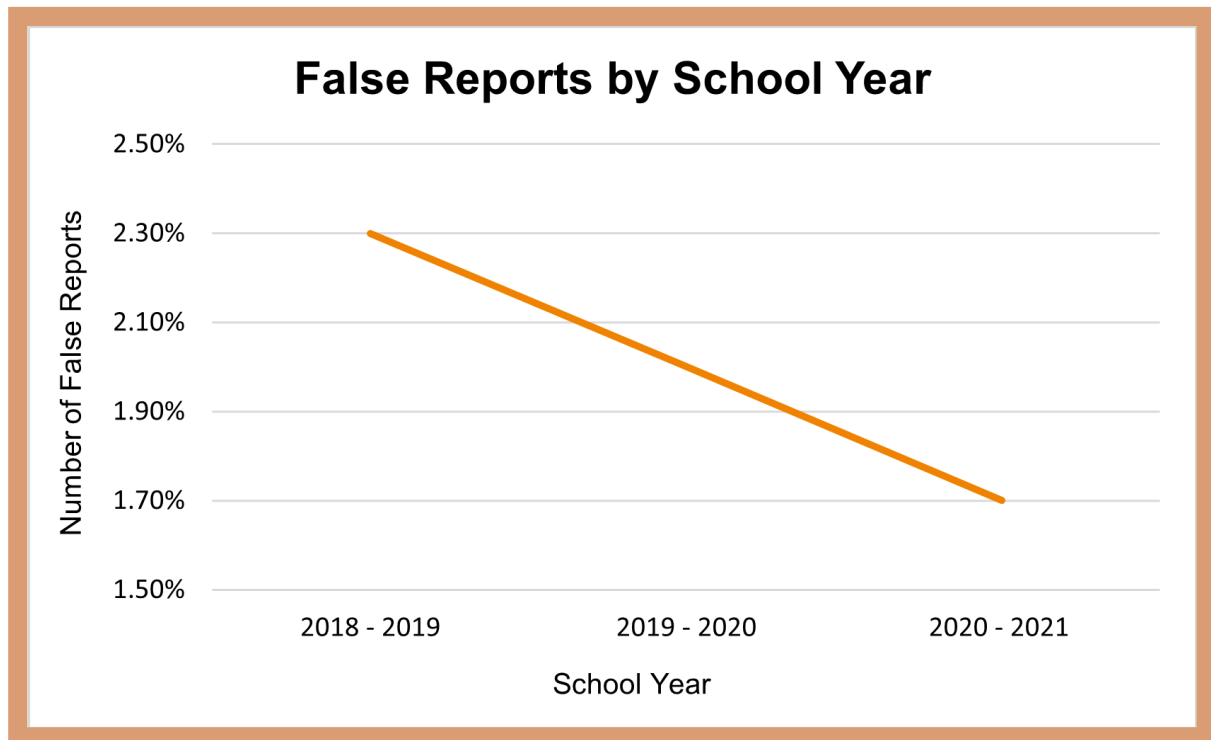
Senate Bill 21-081 "Measures to Prevent the Misuse of Safe2Tell" outlines a procedure for a court-ordered production of records when local law enforcement, a public safety agency, or a district attorney determines probable cause that a reporter used the program in the commission of false reporting of an emergency and the release of program materials is justified on balance in view of the probable violation and the program purpose of anonymity. Senate Bill 21-081 became law on July 30, 2021.

Recommendations

Based on a review of the data, Safe2Tell has identified the following recommendations to improve the Safe2Tell program:

- Increase virtual and on-demand training options for school teams and law enforcement agencies statewide on understanding Safe2Tell best practices, identifying the differences between unfounded and false reports, using the Safe2Tell digital platform, and educating students on the proper use of the program.
- Continue to encourage local school districts to nominate a liaison to Safe2Tell. The liaison can help coordinate training with students and Safe2Tell teams, provide technical assistance support on reports, and increase collaboration between all partners.
- Develop awareness strategies to best align with the needs of students by exploring ways to reach students through the platforms they use most frequently, such as Snapchat, YouTube, and TikTok, and other platforms as they emerge.
- Continue to promote Safe2Tell as a resource for students during summer and planned school breaks, including times when students are engaged in online learning.
- Provide students with a voice in the program's approach to breaking the code of silence and promoting a healthy reporting culture through a student ambassador program.
- Restore budget to pre-pandemic levels to reinstate Safe2Tell staffing and marketing and awareness dollars.
- Encourage collaboration between school teams, law enforcement agencies, and mental health partners by providing resources for developing and maintaining high functioning multidisciplinary teams.
- Minimize instances of false reporting and misuse of the program through the continued education, support, and empowerment of school teams and law enforcement agencies to address these issues at the local level by providing resources to strengthen a healthy Safe2Tell culture.
- Improve accessibility to reporting, program information, data, and materials through an updated Safe2Tell website, optimized for mobile devices. Work is underway for this recommendation.

Social media post from February 27, 2021.

Appendices

Appendix A: Number of Reports by Category and Month

Event Type	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	TOTAL
Alcohol	24	24	12	18	12	13	26	18	20	31	14	6	218
Anger Issues	1	4	1	4	1	0	2	3	9	5	1	3	34
Animal Cruelty	0	1	1	0	3	0	2	2	2	1	3	1	16
Assaults	1	4	7	9	2	3	7	9	17	8	1	1	69
Bullying	18	22	36	28	26	32	46	43	77	78	5	4	415
Child Abuse	33	48	48	42	34	42	48	40	34	42	26	21	458
Choking Game	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Crime Stoppers	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	10	5	2	5	3	31
Cyber-Bullying	55	76	38	63	60	34	42	32	35	28	20	8	491
Dating Violence	0	3	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	6	0	0	18
Depression	7	21	38	30	23	10	17	33	24	21	6	8	238
Discrimination	8	11	6	14	6	8	15	12	8	18	3	2	111
Ditching	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	8
Domestic Violence	6	4	5	4	2	2	2	5	4	1	0	8	43
Drugs	41	62	64	52	41	35	68	61	79	73	18	22	616
Duplicate Report	58	90	72	104	53	80	52	58	114	117	62	41	901
Eating Disorder	1	0	4	2	1	3	2	5	3	4	2	0	27
Explosives	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	6
Extremism	0	0	3	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	12
Fighting	4	4	4	3	5	2	6	4	11	6	1	1	51
Fire Starting	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Gangs	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	9
Guns	6	12	7	9	1	9	11	10	12	12	5	5	99
Hang-Up	16	26	72	23	27	31	41	31	42	60	26	19	414
Harassment	11	30	21	10	11	16	17	16	29	40	15	13	229
Knives	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	4	3	3	1	0	16
Misuse of Safe2Tell	54	37	42	26	26	43	25	24	37	16	13	15	358
Planned Parties	8	16	32	16	12	11	9	10	7	15	1	6	143
Planned School Attack	2	7	7	5	0	2	4	6	7	13	0	0	53
Prank Call	13	4	20	8	9	11	10	10	20	32	22	12	171
Requesting Information	26	32	58	45	41	39	38	39	53	46	36	32	485
School Complaint	25	51	69	36	21	43	43	47	68	49	8	9	469
Self-Harm	26	42	51	45	30	38	52	55	72	58	18	7	494
Sexting	14	9	11	19	25	19	21	16	27	17	7	8	193
Sexual Assault	6	15	16	10	11	8	15	21	24	21	11	7	165
Sexual Misconduct	19	24	15	18	19	16	14	23	28	32	10	8	226
Smoking/ Tobacco	1	4	1	3	2	3	3	4	6	2	0	0	29
Spam Tip	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	0	0	13
Suicide Threats	146	203	256	232	182	195	196	217	247	252	103	76	2305
Teasing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Test Tip	6	2	7	2	5	6	6	2	5	0	7	2	50
Theft	2	3	3	6	0	1	3	0	5	7	0	1	31
Threats	21	31	32	44	36	27	31	42	60	61	18	13	416
Transportation Complaints	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Trespass	1	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	15
Unsafe Driving	0	2	2	5	1	0	3	0	8	10	6	6	43
Vandalism	3	2	3	1	1	2	3	3	1	3	0	0	22
Vaping	4	19	16	6	15	21	11	22	31	19	4	6	174

Event Type	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	TOTAL
Weapons (Taser, Other than guns/knives)	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	8
Welfare Check	46	113	100	95	81	99	76	93	122	86	33	40	984
Other	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	716	1069	1189	1045	829	913	990	1035	1371	1303	512	416	11388

Note: Of the 11,388 reports received by the program, 620 were self-reports. Of those, 107 were mental health related, and 513 were other concerns.

Appendix B:

Report Volume by Month
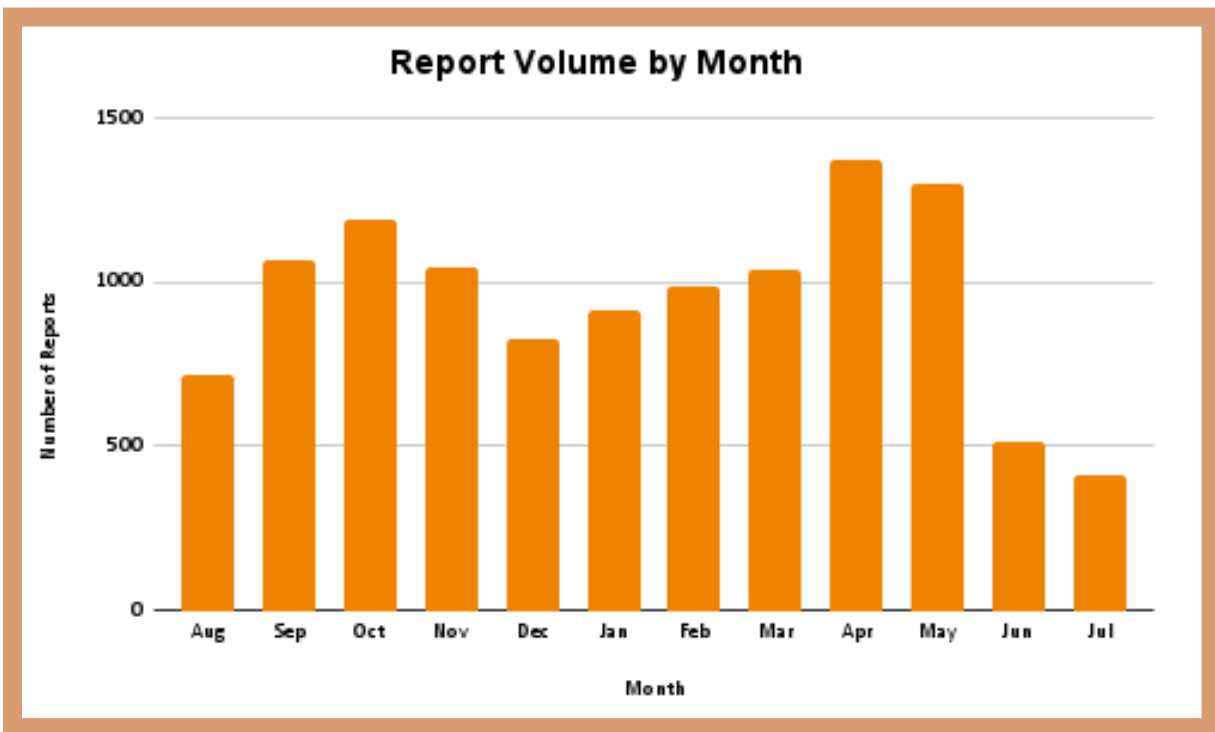
Note: Total number of reports, by month, for the 2020-2021 school year.

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