

Supporting Community Safety: Warning Signs for Violence & Upstander Reporting

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Points of view or opinions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



~Presentation Overview~

1 – Understanding Violence Prevention

2 – Warning Signs for Violence

3 – Strategies for Being an Upstander

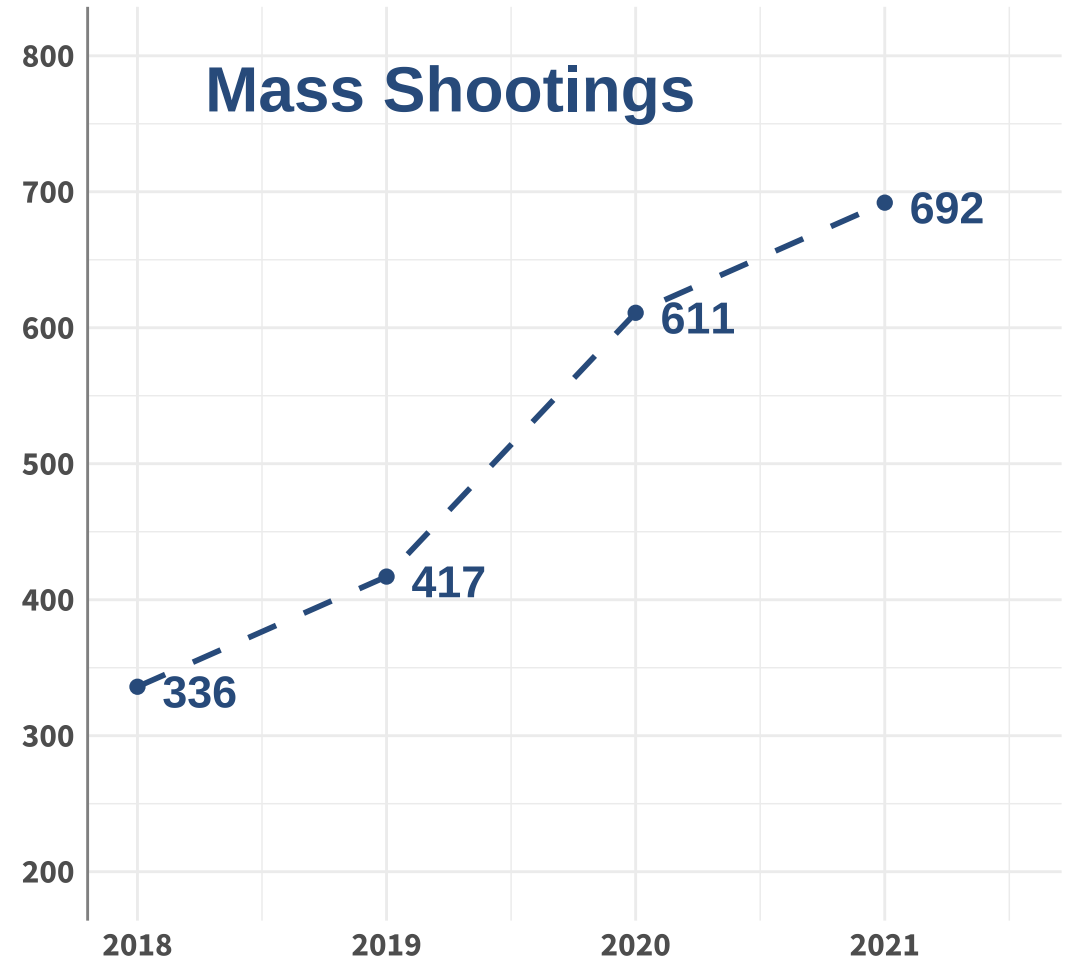
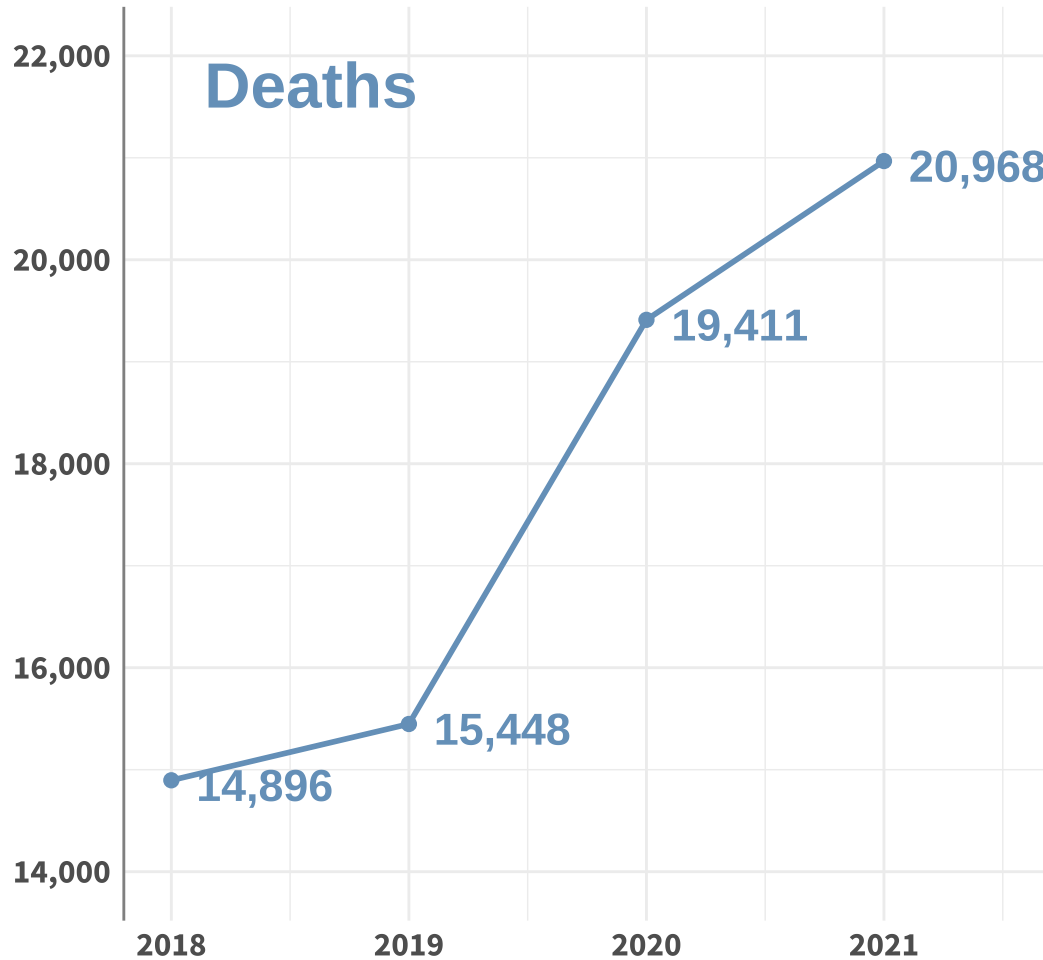




Understanding Violence Prevention

Increasing Firearm Violence – U.S.

2018-2021

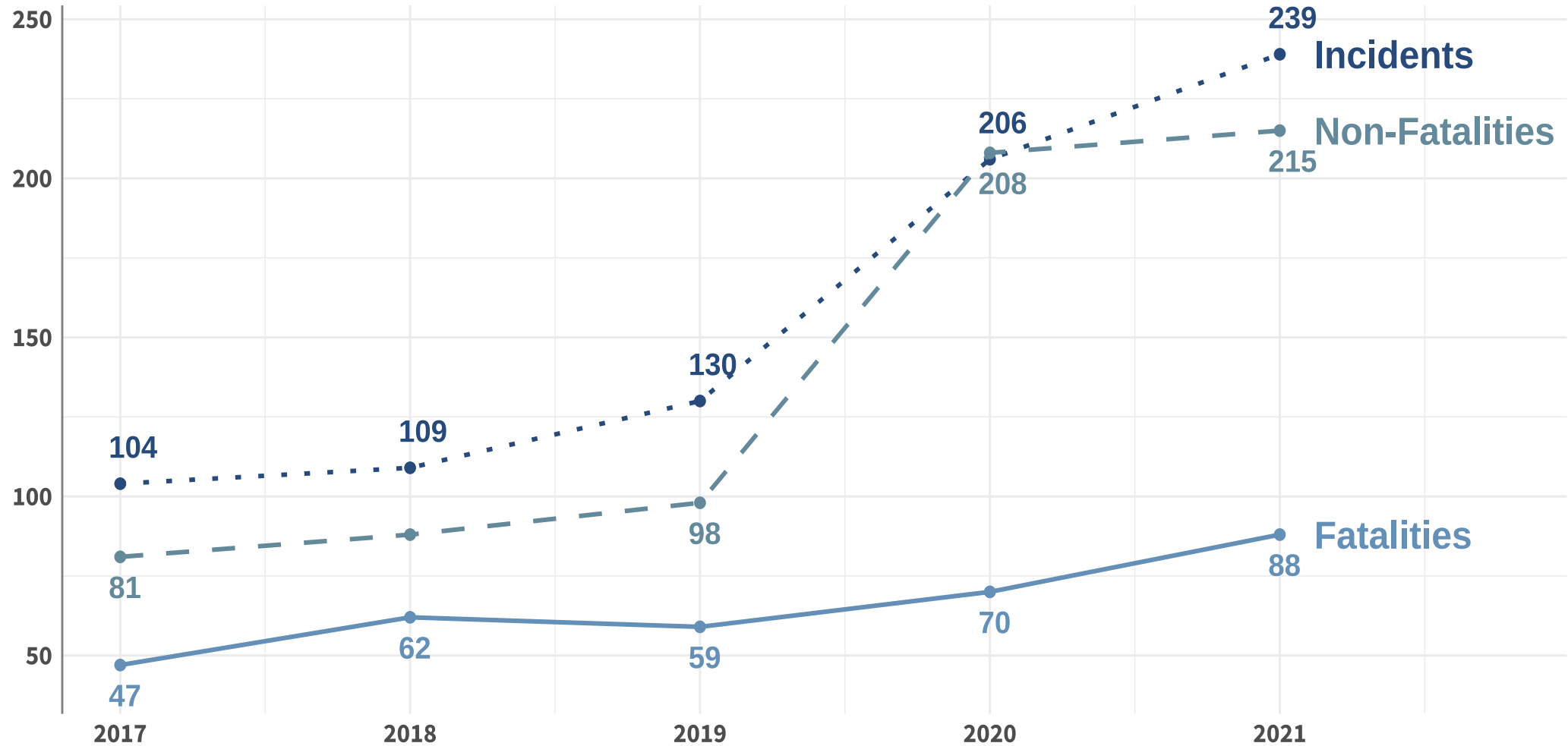


Source: Gun Violence Archive, 2022



Increasing Firearm Violence – Denver

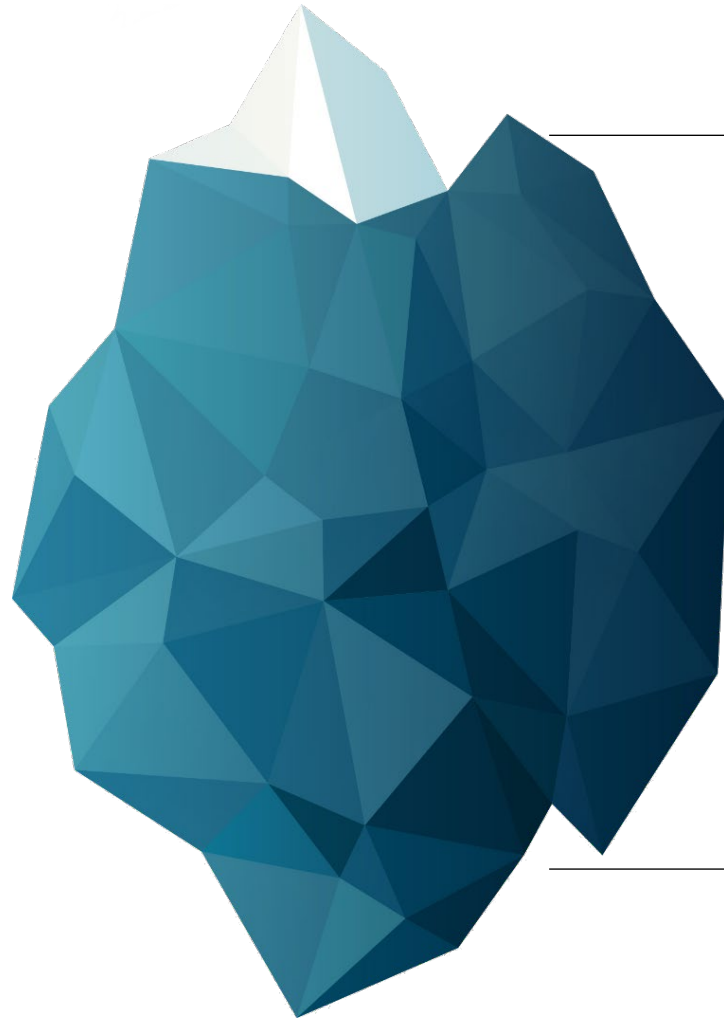
2017-2021



Source: Gun Violence Archive, 2022



Violence Iceberg



TIP: Mass shootings, fatal attacks, suicides on the rise in the U.S.

UNDERNEATH: Concerning behaviors - physical fights, depression, and suicidal ideation

DEEP UNDERWATER:
Underlying conditions – structural racism, poverty, collective trauma

Research consistently finds that a *comprehensive public health approach* offers the *greatest potential* for:

- Preventing violence and
- Promoting mental/behavioral health



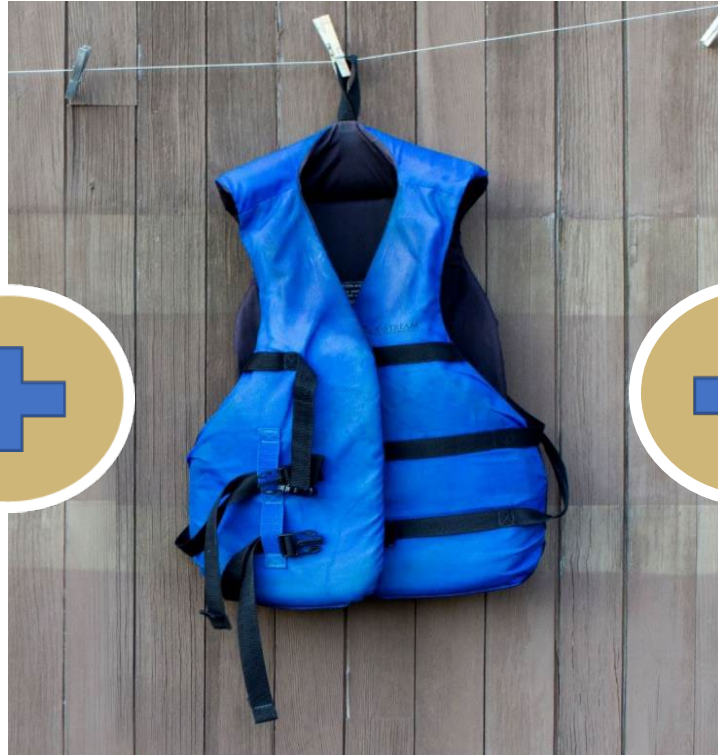


and



Intervention

Prevention



Prevention through Public Awareness

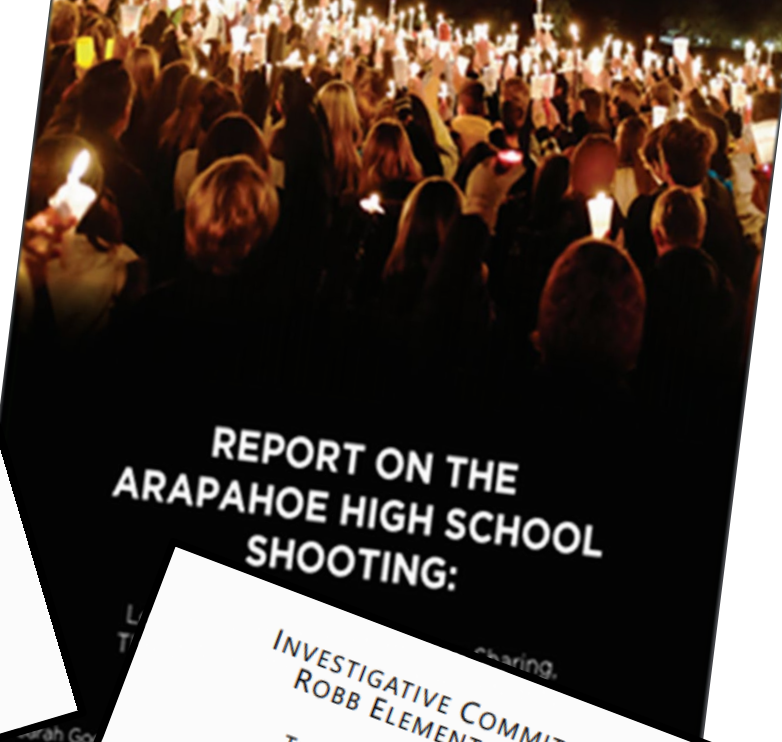




Warning Signs for Violence



Report of the State's Attorney for the
Judicial District of Danbury on the
Shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School and
36 Yogananda Street,
Newtown, Connecticut on
December 14, 2012



REPORT ON THE
ARAPAHOE HIGH SCHOOL
SHOOTING:

MARJORY STONEMAN
DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL
PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMISSION



Initial Report
Submitted to the Governor
Speaker of the House of Representatives
and Senate President

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE
ROBB ELEMENTARY SHOOTING
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

INTERIM REPORT 2022

Rep. Dustin Burrows
Chair

Rep. Joe Moody
Vice-Chair

Post-Attack
Investigations
Reveal Numerous
**MISSED
OPPORTUNITIES**
to Intervene

Safe School Initiative

U.S. Secret Service
& Department of
Education

~ ~ ~

*study of
37 school attacks
1974 to 2000*



Findings | *Safe School Initiative*

51%

**engaged in
observable
planning
behavior**

81%

**communicated
their plan to
attack**

(Fein et al. 2004)

93%

**exhibited
behavior that
caused others
concern**



Safe School Initiative

These
concerning
behaviors
provide
opportunities
to intervene.



Findings | *Warning Signs for Violence*

Concerning Behaviors & Risk Factors

- intense or escalating anger
- interest in weapons
- interest in or history of violence
- depression or isolation
- threats and/or intent to attack
- grade or attendance issues; unemployment
- changes in behavior or appearance
- talk of being bullied
- relationship difficulties
- harassment of others
- suicide and/or self-harm



INTERACTIVE MOMENT



3-minute BREAK OUT

~ ~ ~

Discuss how these warning
signs may show up.

How do these warning signs show up?

Concerning Behaviors & Risk Factors

- intense or escalating anger
- interest in weapons
- interest in or history of violence
- depression or isolation
- threats and/or intent to attack
- grade or attendance issues; unemployment
- changes in behavior or appearance
- talk of being bullied
- relationship difficulties
- harassment of others
- suicide and/or self-harm





Strategies for Being an Upstander

Safe School Initiative

Upstanders' tips
can provide the
information
needed to
prompt an
investigation.



An Upstander Is. . .

“Someone who has taken action
on behalf of others.”

(Korneliusson, 2012, p. 46)



Steps to Becoming an Upstander

1. notice something is happening
2. interpret the situation as requiring intervention
3. assume personal responsibility for intervening
4. decide on what to do
5. possess the necessary skills and resources to act

(Latane & Darley, 1969)

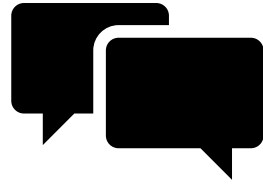


INTERACTIVE MOMENT



Why do
people
sometimes
hesitate to
be an
upstander?

Building an Upstander Culture



**encourages
the sharing of
concerns**



**provides
early
intervention**



**fosters a culture
of compassion
and protection**



One
Strategy
for Being an
Upstander

Access the
Safe2Tell
tipline

Download the App

Save the Number
1-877-542-7233

Visit the Website

Colorado's Safe2Tell

- launched in 2004, in response to attack at Columbine High School
 - first school safety tipline in the U.S.
 - housed in the AG's office
 - promoted primarily in K-12 settings
- tips answered by Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC)
 - 24/7 live response
 - anonymous
- tips are sent to school, university, and law enforcement officials, who investigate and triage response

Your Community.

Your School.

Your Friends.

Your Call.

2
safe tell
Colorado

1-877-542-7233

safe2tellco.org



Available on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
PLAY STORE

Anonymously Report Concerns 24/7



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Anti-Defamation League
- Boulder County District Attorney's Office
- Boulder County Public Health
 - Inspire Youth Connections
 - Substance Use Prevention
- Boulder Police Department
- Broomfield County Public Health & Environment
- Mental Health Partners
 - MESA – Moving to End Sexual Assault
 - Boulder Strong Resource Center
 - Community Health Worker Team
- NAACP
- NAMI Boulder County (Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness)
- Out Boulder
- RISE Against Suicide
- SPAN – Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence
- University of Colorado Police Department

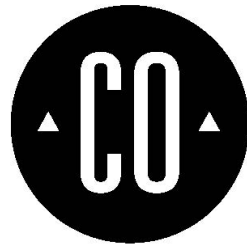


**Strategies
for Being an
Upstander**



**SHAKES
PEARE
FESTIVAL**

Strategy | Shakespeare & Violence Prevention



SHAKES
PEARE
FESTIVAL

120,000 students reached

💡 89% will be upstanders

↑ Safe2Tell reports



Why Theatre?

- Empathy
- Connectedness
- Change
- Rehearsal



INTERACTIVE MOMENTS



Scenario #1 - Twitter

While scrolling through Twitter, you see a post from a friend's son that shows a picture of a firearm and makes reference to getting even at school.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is concerning about this situation?
2. What steps would you take to address it?

Who to contact? What to say?



Scenario #2 - Overheard

During a basketball game at your granddaughter's middle school, you overhear two teenagers in the women's bathroom talking about a friend. You overhear, "She's always saying that she hates herself and that she wants to hurt herself, but I can never tell if she's serious or just trying to get attention?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is concerning about this situation?
2. What steps would you take to address it?

Who to contact? What to say?



Scenario #3 - Aggression

Your son tells you about one of his high school classmates, who has had several significant episodes of aggression over the last two weeks. These episodes included pushing other students out of line at lunch and shoving students in the stands at a football game. While no one has been injured, they sound rough and out-of-character for the classmate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is concerning about this situation?
2. What steps would you take to address it?

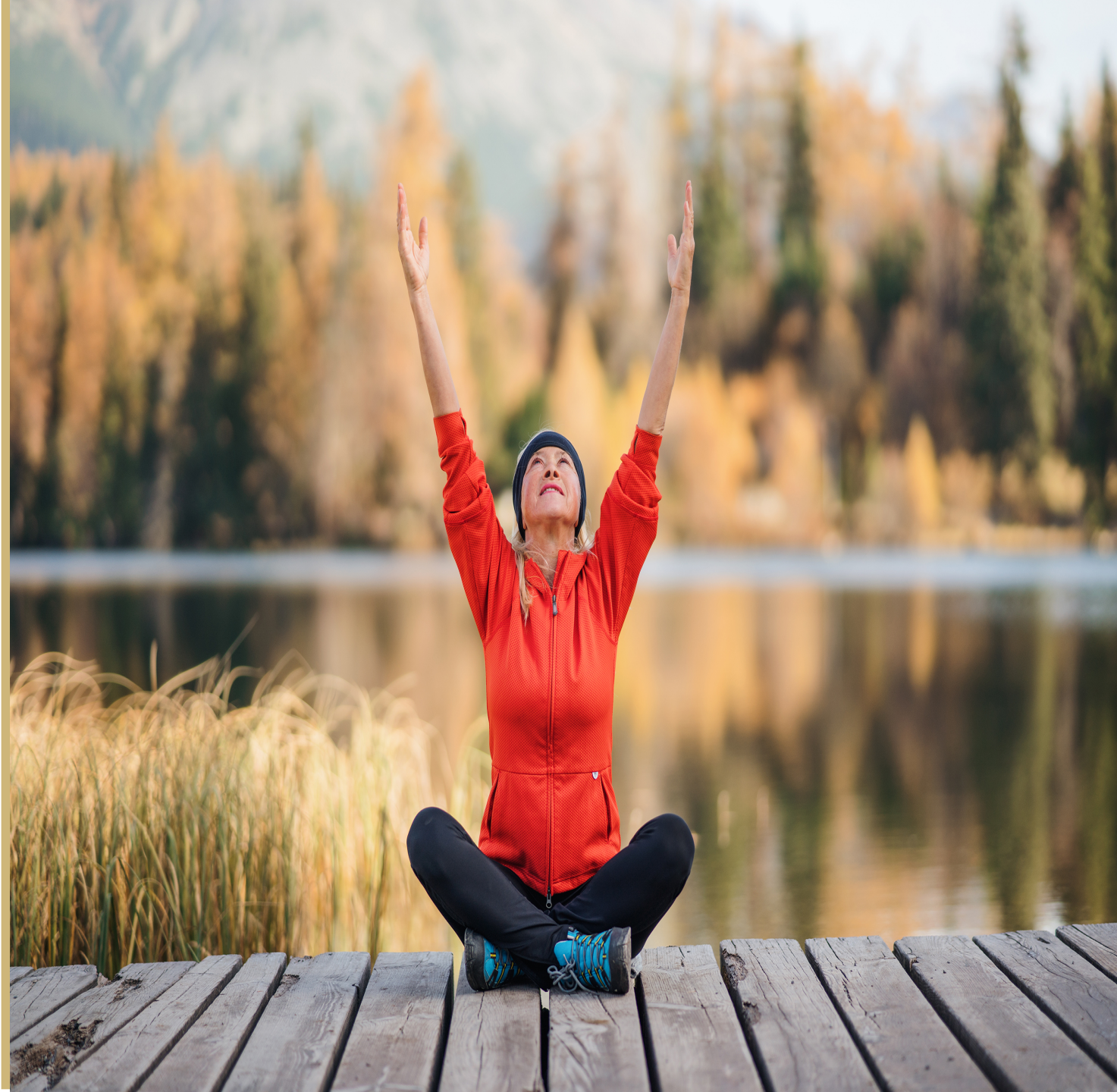
Who to contact? What to say?



VISUALIZE

~~~~~

What's one  
*small*  
*action*  
you can take  
to support  
safety?







*our*  
**CALL**  
*to*  
*action*







# Post-Event Survey

~ ~ ~

**please share  
your feedback**

**CSPV's  
School Safety  
Projects**





# Safe Communities Safe Schools

- an **adaptive model for school safety** grounded in community engagement, capacity building, and data-based decision making
- implementing the **SCSS model** in 40 schools in Colorado
- Contact: Jody Witt  
[jody.witt@Colorado.edu](mailto:jody.witt@Colorado.edu)



# NASRO's Project Unite Training

- Equips **multidisciplinary school safety teams** with an understanding of four components of school violence prevention:
  1. positive school culture and climate
  2. bystander reporting and response
  3. information sharing
  4. behavioral threat and suicide assessment and management
- At a minimum, the multidisciplinary safety team will include a **school administrator** and a **school safety professional**



<https://www.nasro.org/projectunite>

# Thank You!

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