

# The Challenges, Emerging Issues, and Promising Practices in Improving School Climate



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# ED and the History of OSHS

- ▶ 1987 – “War on Drugs”
- ▶ 1994 - “Gun Free Schools Act” - violence prevention
- ▶ 1999 – Columbine - school shootings
- ▶ 9/11/01 - emergency management
- ▶ 2002-5 – NCLB - Mentoring, Student Drug Testing, MH Integration
- ▶ 2009 – Pandemic flu
- ▶ 2010 – Bullying
- ▶ 2012/13 – Newtown and “Now Is the Time” – emergency preparedness, school climate, mental health services, school safety
- ▶ 2015/16 - ESSA

# Select Current OSHS Issues

- ▶ School Safety:
  - shootings, violence including gender-based violence, hazing
- ▶ School Climate and Discipline:
  - bullying, suspensions and expulsions
- ▶ School-based Emergency Management and Planning
  - natural disasters and man-made disasters
- ▶ Counseling/Mental Health
- ▶ Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention
- ▶ Public Health and Physical Education
- ▶ Trafficking in Persons

# Emerging Issues for OSHS

- \* Suicide – bigger footprint
- \* Countering Violent Extremism
- \* Transgender Youth

# Takeaways

Schools are safer than they have ever been, and there is still a lot of work to do.

Policy Choices

The Most Powerful Threats to School Safety and Conditions for Learning

# Information from...

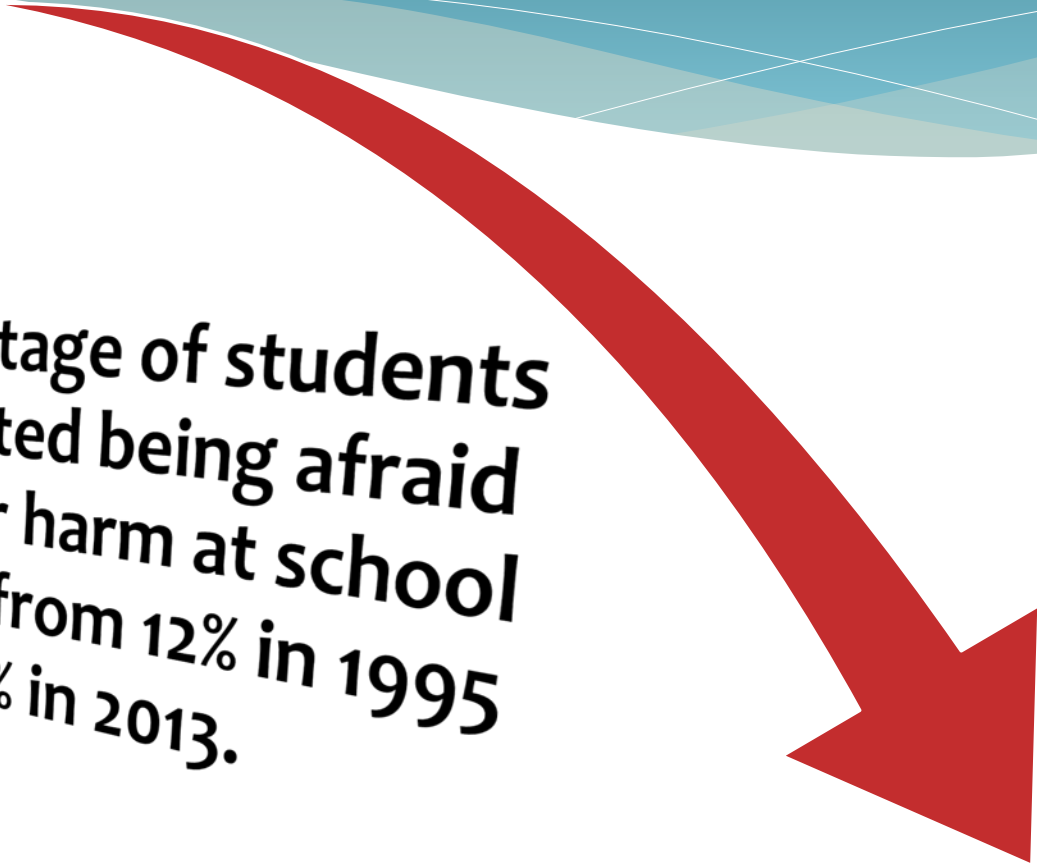
## Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2014

U.S. Department of Education, Institution of Education Sciences:  
National Center for Education Statistics

U.S. Department of Justice Office, Office of Justice Programs:  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

# Students' Perceptions of Personal Safety at School and Away From School

**The percentage of students who reported being afraid of attack or harm at school decreased from 12% in 1995 to 3% in 2013.**



# Threats and Injuries With Weapons on School Property

The percentage of students who reported ever being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property has decreased over the last decade.

- 9% in 2003

- 7% in 2013



# Students Carrying Weapons on School Property Anywhere and Students' Access to Firearms

**1993-2013**

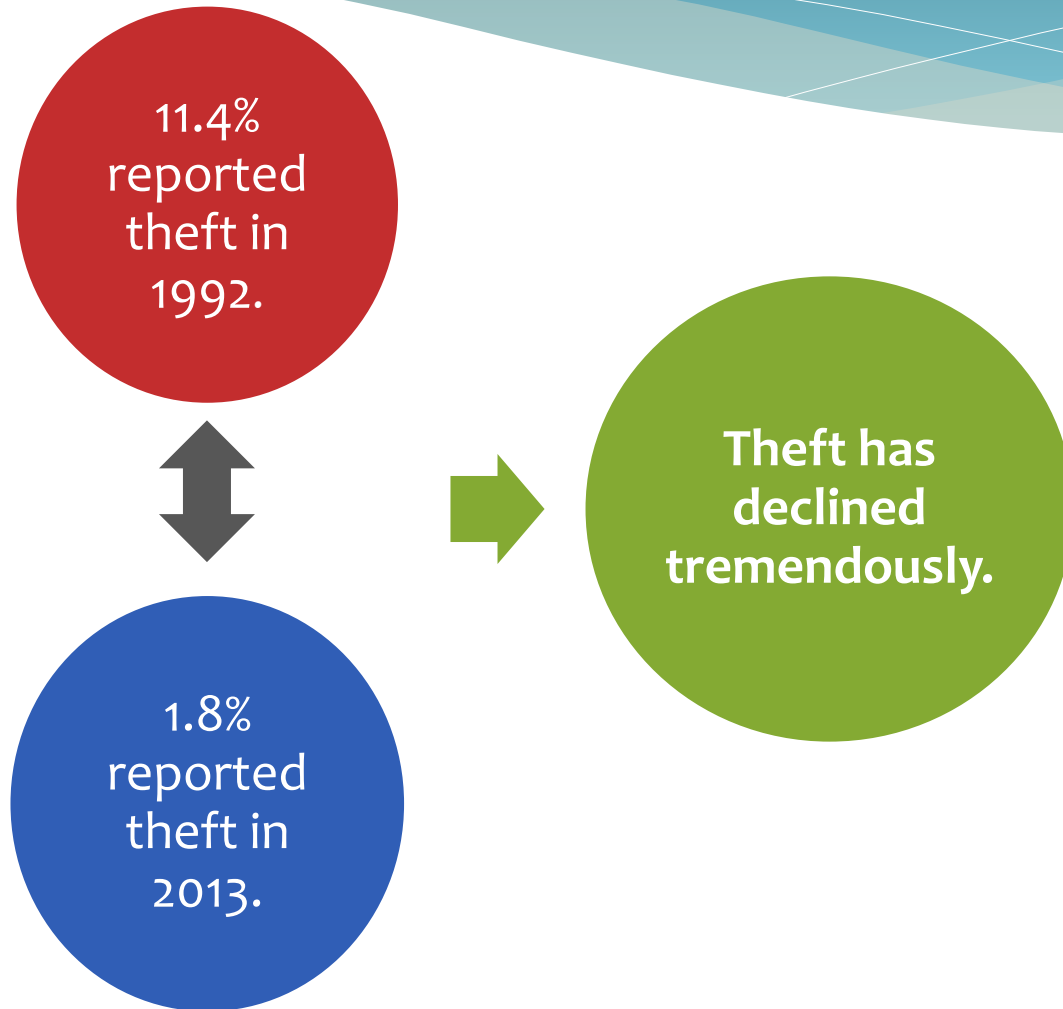
**Weapons on School Property,  
Grades 9-12**

Total reports of students carrying a weapon once in the past 30 days on school property has declined.  
12% (1993) to 5% (2013)


**Access to Firearms, Ages 12-18**

The percentage of 12-18 year olds reporting access to a loaded gun without adult permission has decreased.  
7% (1993) to 4% (2013)

# Nonfatal Student and Teacher Victimization: Theft



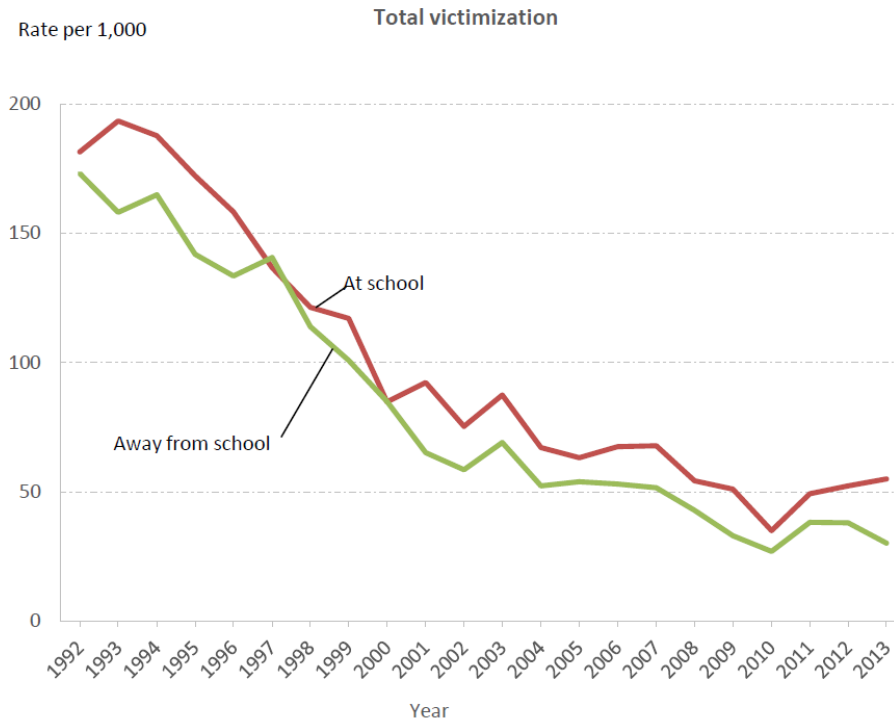
# Bullying at School and Cyber-Bullying Anywhere



**Bullying among students  
ages 12 to 18 dropped to 22%  
in 2013 after remaining  
between 28% and 32% for the  
period from 2005 -2011.**

# Nonfatal Student and Teacher Victimization: Decrease Summary Chart

Rate of nonfatal victimization against students ages 12–18 per 1,000 students by location: 1992–2013



# Challenges

Middle Schoolers

Teachers Being Victimized

Gangs

Drugs/Alcohol

# Bullying in Middle School

25% of middle school students experienced bullying in the 2012-2013 school year.

50% of these incidents were not reported to an adult.

# Teachers Threatened With Injury or Physically Attacked by Student

2011-2012  
school  
year

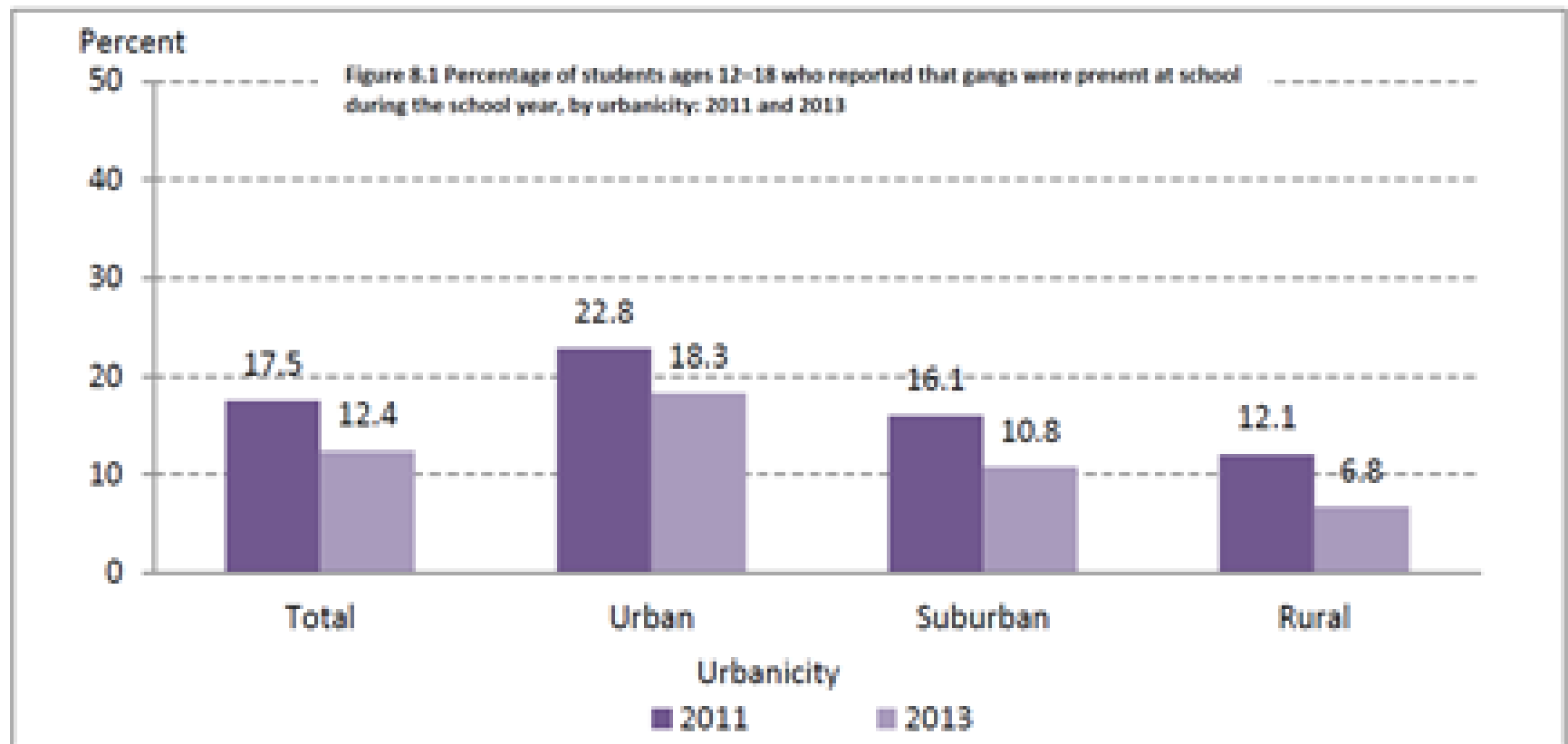
10% of Public school teachers reported being threatened with injury by a student from their school in the previous 12 months.

2011-2012  
school  
year

6% of public school teachers reported being physically attacked by a student from their school in the past 12 months.

# Students' Reports of Gangs at School

A higher percentage of students from urban areas report gang presence than students from suburban and rural areas, though total reports of gang presence have dropped from 2011-2013.





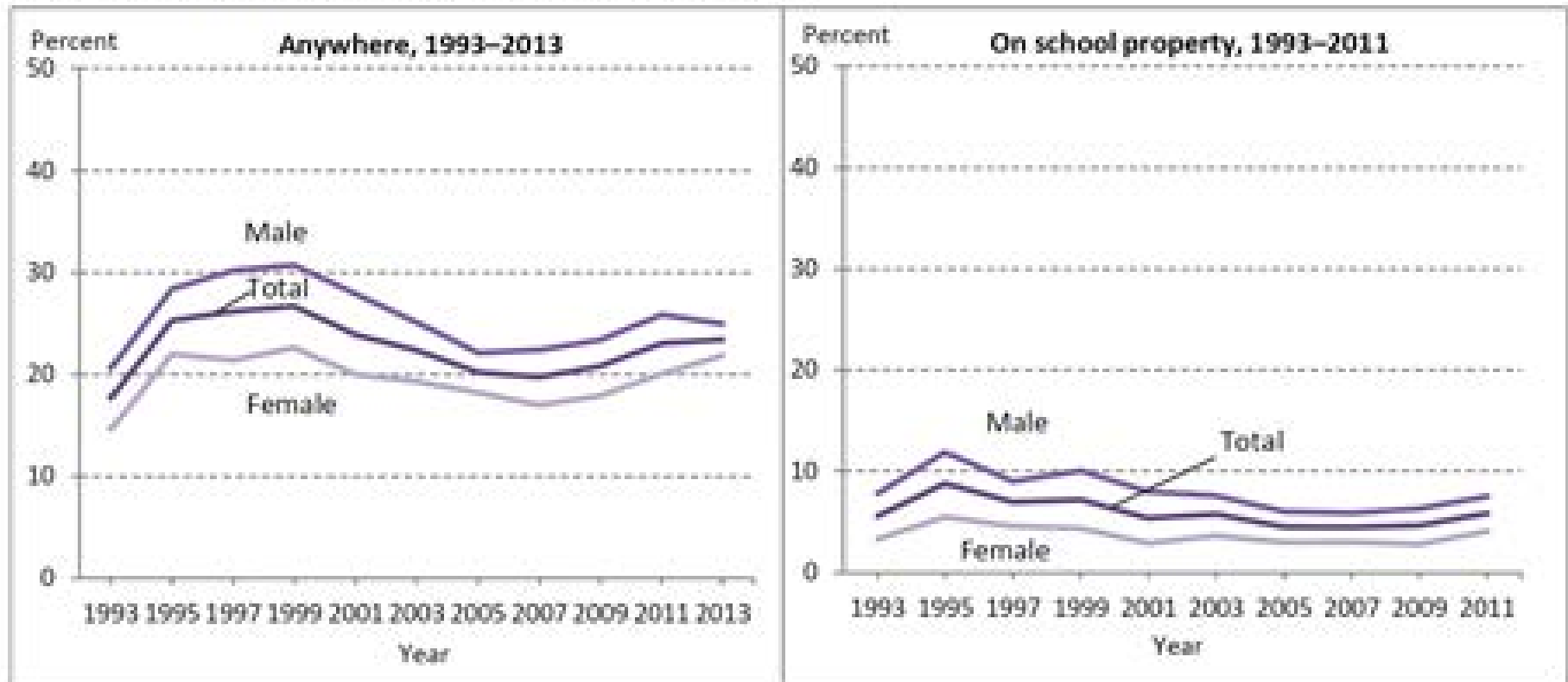
# Students' Use of Alcohol on School Property and Anywhere

In 2011, about 5% of students in grades 9-12 reported having at least one drink of alcohol on school property.

This was not measurably different from 1993.

# Students' Use of Marijuana on School Property and Anywhere

Figure 16.1 Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana at least one time during the previous 30 days, by location and sex: Selected years, 1993 through 2013



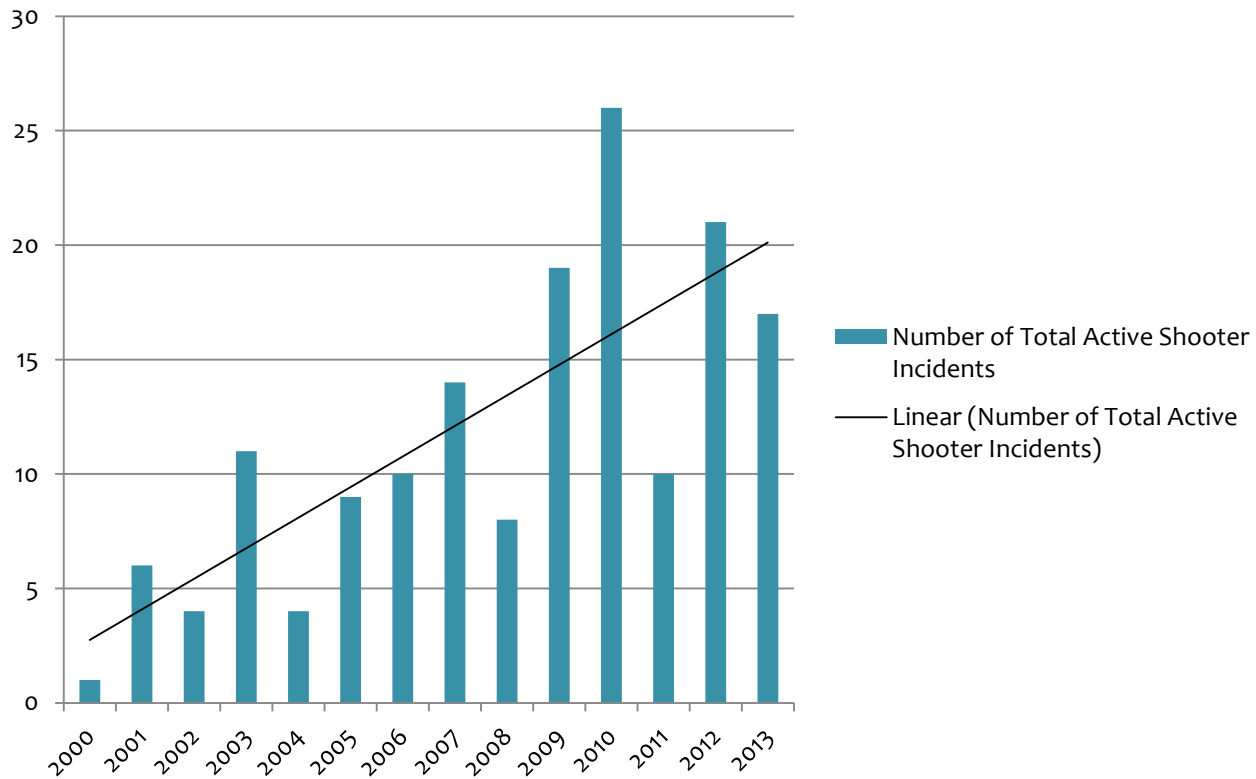
# Policy Choices: Doing Both

1. Keeping schools and classroom orderly and safe.
2. Effectively addressing the real threats to school safety and conditions for learning.

# Thinking Slow

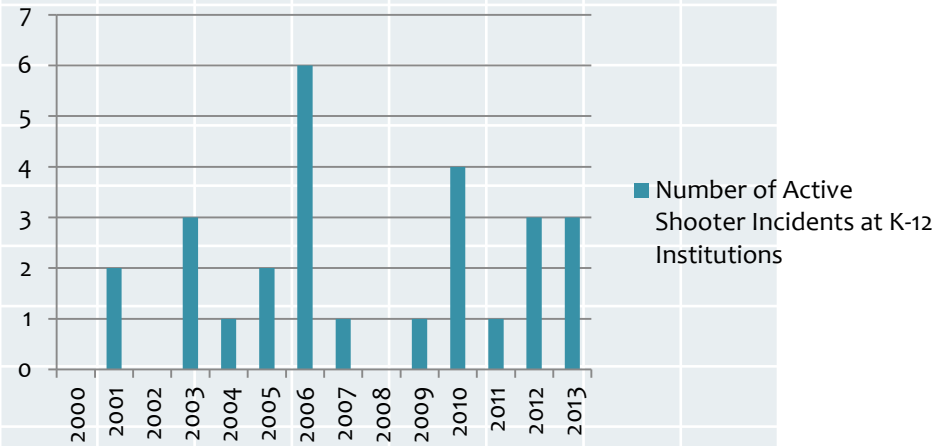
- \* 1. A ball and a bat together cost \$1.10.
- \* 2. The bat costs \$1.00 more than the ball.
- \* 3. How much does the ball cost?

## Number of Total Active Shooter Incidents



Year	Number of Active Shooter Incidents at K-12 Institutions								
2000	0	0							
2001	2	2							
2002	0	0							
2003	3	3							
2004	1	1							
2005	2	2							
2006	6	6							
2007	1	14	1						
2008	0	0							
2009	1	1							
2010	4	4							
2011	1	1							
2012	3	3							
2013	3	3							
	27	13							
	Number of Active Shooter Incidents at Institutions of Higher Education								

### Number of Active Shooter Incidents at K-12 Institutions



# The Practical

- \* Maximizing the Use of Emergency Planning
- \* Human Trafficking, Countering Violent Extremism, and Emergency Planning
- \* Threat Assessments

# GUIDE FOR DEVELOPING HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS



FEMA





## STEP 1

Form a Collaborative Planning Team

Identify Core Planning Team

Form a Common Framework

Define and Assign Roles and Responsibilities

Determine a Regular Schedule of Meetings

## STEP 2

Understand the Situation

Identify Threats and Hazards

Assess Risk

Prioritize Threats and Hazards

## STEP 3

Determine Goals and Objectives

Develop Goals

Develop Objectives

## STEP 4

Plan Development (Identifying Courses of Action)

## STEP 5

Plan Preparation, Review, & Approval

Format the Plan

Write the Plan

Review the Plan

Approve and Share the Plan

## STEP 6

Plan Implementation & Maintenance

Train Stakeholders

Exercise the Plan

Review, Revise, and Maintain the Plan

# The Most Powerful Threats to School Safety and Conditions for Learning

- \* Loneliness
- \* Fear
- \* Hopelessness

# The Most Powerful Threats to School Safety and Conditions for Learning

- \* Loneliness – vulnerability to bad influences and predators
- \* Fear --- fight or flight; violence
- \* Hopelessness – self-loathing and self-harm; depression and suicide; drug abuse

# Responses

- \* Building Trust – being reliable
- \* Establishing Personal Connections
- \* Finding the Good and Believing in Everyone

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