



Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools

Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
N.C. Center for Safer Schools

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Opening

March 19, 2013



- ▶ Apex Middle School in Apex, NC Gov. Pat McCrory announced the creation of the NC Center for Safer Schools.
- ▶ The Center was placed in the Department of Public Safety and charged with evaluating the status of school safety across the state.
- ▶ The new Center would serve as a collaborative, convening entity and a centralized and customer-focused school safety and crisis prevention resource.

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Opening



- ▶ **Governor McCrory announced that the Center would conduct a series of public forums across the state to gather information from different school systems in different communities on what schools and local law enforcement are doing to make their facilities safer.**
- ▶ **At the Conclusion of the public forums the N.C. Center for Safer Schools will present a series of recommendations in the form of a report to Governor McCrory for his consideration. The Governor and his administration will ultimately consider the action steps and decide future directions.**



The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Opening



Press Conference, Apex Middle School



Press Conference, Apex Middle School

March 19, 2013



Press Conference, Apex Middle School

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The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Forums



- ▶ Designed to be representative of the state, sites ranged from coast to mountains and from primary schools to high schools.
- ▶ Included four sequential activities at each location:
 - Safety and onsite review tours at schools
 - Facilitated small group discussion with students
 - Informal session facilitated by the DPS Secretary with local stakeholders
 - General forum open to the public facilitated by the DPS Chief Operating Officer that included a panel of local experts.

Forum Dates and Locations



Edenton, Chowan County	April 9, 2013
College of The Albemarle	
Morehead City, Carteret County	April 10, 2013
Morehead Primary School	
Boone, Watauga County	April 17, 2013
Watauga High School	
Sylva, Jackson County	April 18, 2013
Southwestern Community College	
Durham, Durham County	April 23, 2013
Durham School of the Arts	
Concord, Cabarrus County	April 25, 2013
Concord High School	
Fayetteville, Cumberland County	April 30, 2013
E.E. Smith High School	
Jamestown, Guilford County	May 2, 2013
Ragsdale High Schools	
Durham, Durham County	May 7, 2013
Durham Public Schools	
Staff Development Center	



The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Forums



Durham, N.C.

April 23, 2013



Sylva, N.C.

April 18, 2013



Fayetteville, N.C.

April 30, 2013



Concord, N.C.

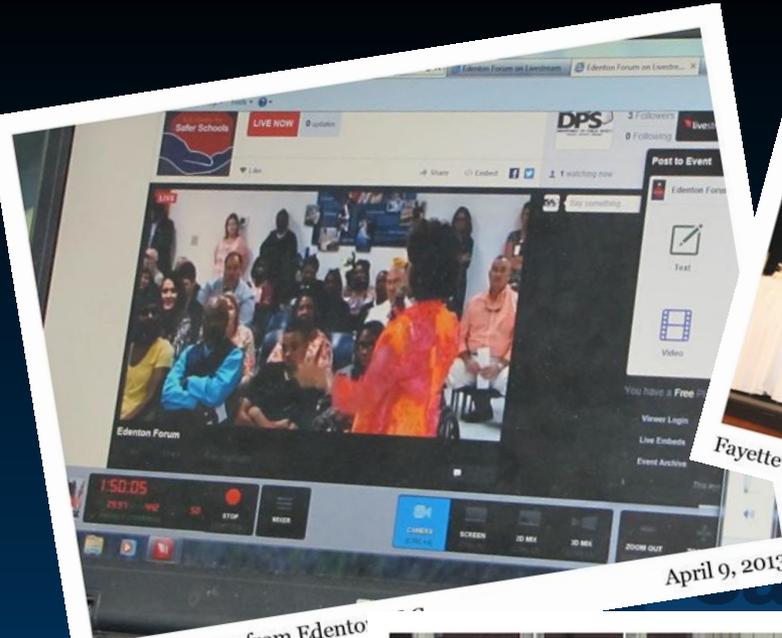
April 25, 2013



Jamestown, N.C.

May 2, 2013

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Forums



Live Streaming from Edenton

April 9, 2013



Fayetteville, N.C.

April 30, 2013



Boone, N.C.

April 17, 2013



Edenton, N.C.

April 9, 2013



Morehead City, N.C.

April 10, 2013



Presentation of The N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2013 Report to The Governor



September 6, 2013
Hoggard High School
Wilmington, NC

- ▶ The Secretary of Public Safety presented the Report to Gov. McCrory which was the result of information gleaned from the nine Safer Schools Forums, input from partnering agencies, and a literature review.
- ▶ The Report included almost 80 recommendations addressed to Gov. McCrory, the General Assembly, five state agencies, school districts and communities, schools, families and caregivers, and students. It truly reflects the fact that school safety is everyone's responsibility.

Presentation of The N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2013 Report to The Governor



- ▶ The recommendations in the report can be broken down into four categories: physical security, mental health, school climate, and emergency management .
- ▶ The Report creates a conceptual model which includes four levels in a continuum of preparation and response: (1)prevention, (2)intervention, (3)crisis response and (4)crisis recovery.
- ▶ Gov. McCrory also signed Executive Order No. 25 creating the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools.



N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2013 Report to the Governor



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. INSURE.
Division of Juvenile Justice

www.centerforsaferschools.org









Current Center Activities

- ▶ Funding Secured for Smart Phone App for Anonymous Reporting
- ▶ Establishment of 4 Positions to Work With the Center
- ▶ Legislation from Most Recent Session of NC General Assembly
- ▶ Web-based emergency planning tool
- ▶ Awareness sessions with key stakeholders
- ▶ Building collaboration across state and local entities



Overview of School Safety Concerns

N.C. Center for
Safer Schools



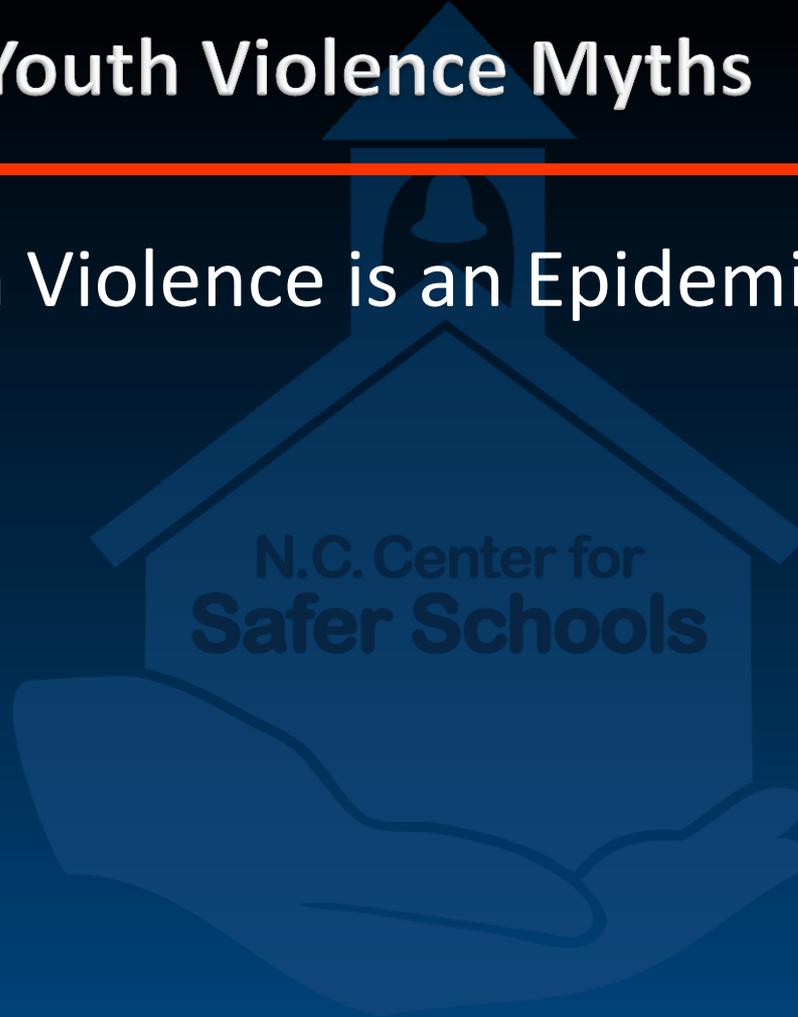
Topics Discussed During School Listening Tour

- ▶ Physical Security of Schools
- ▶ Role of School Resource Officers (SRO's) in Schools
- ▶ Programs for Students
- ▶ Training for School Officials, Law Enforcement, Etc.
- ▶ Bullying and Cyber Bullying
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Collaboration and Communication
- ▶ Parents and Families
- ▶ Importance of Trusted Adult or Mentor
- ▶ Role of the Juvenile Justice System



School and Youth Violence Myths

- Youth Violence is an Epidemic





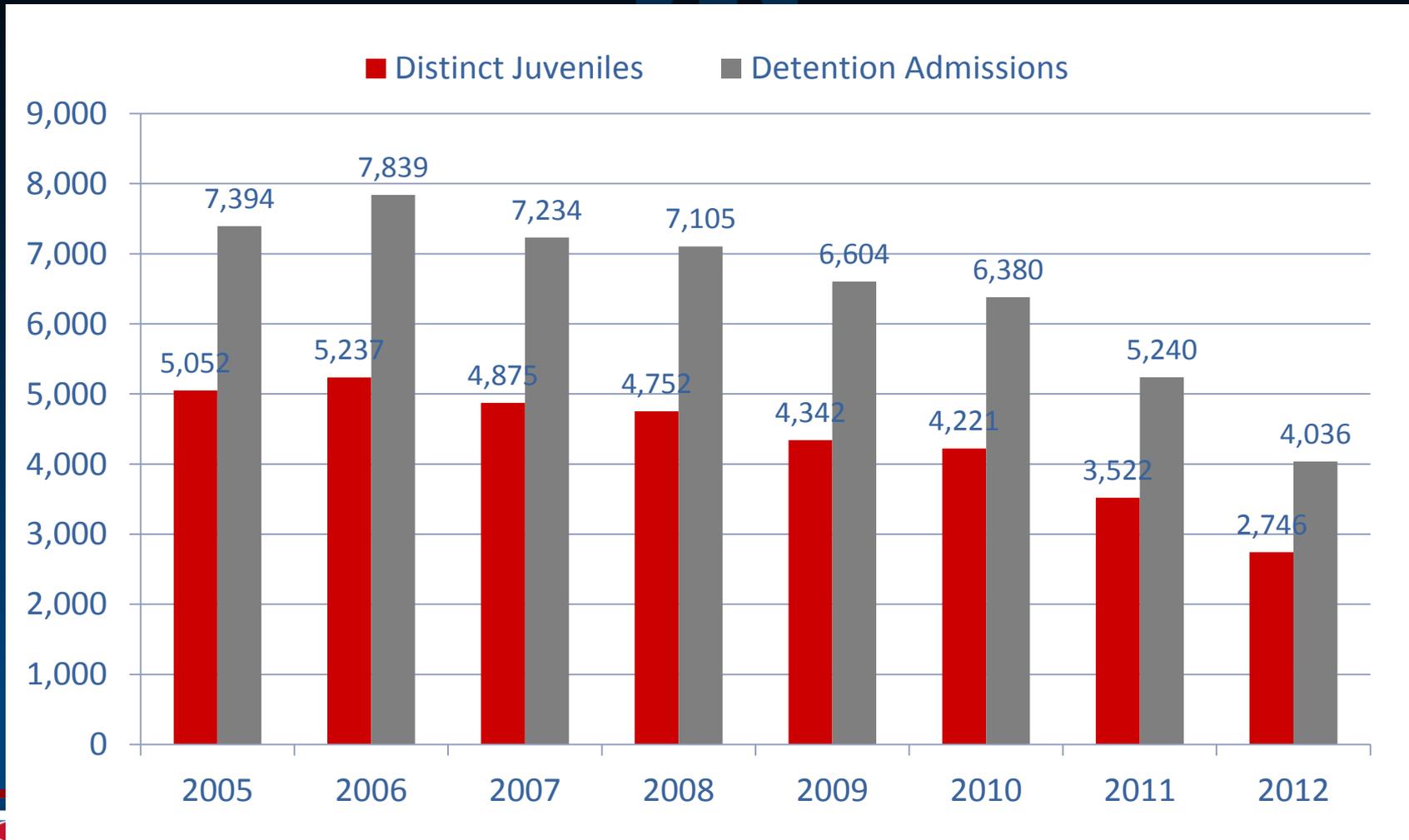
School Crime and Violence in N.C.

Department of Public Instruction

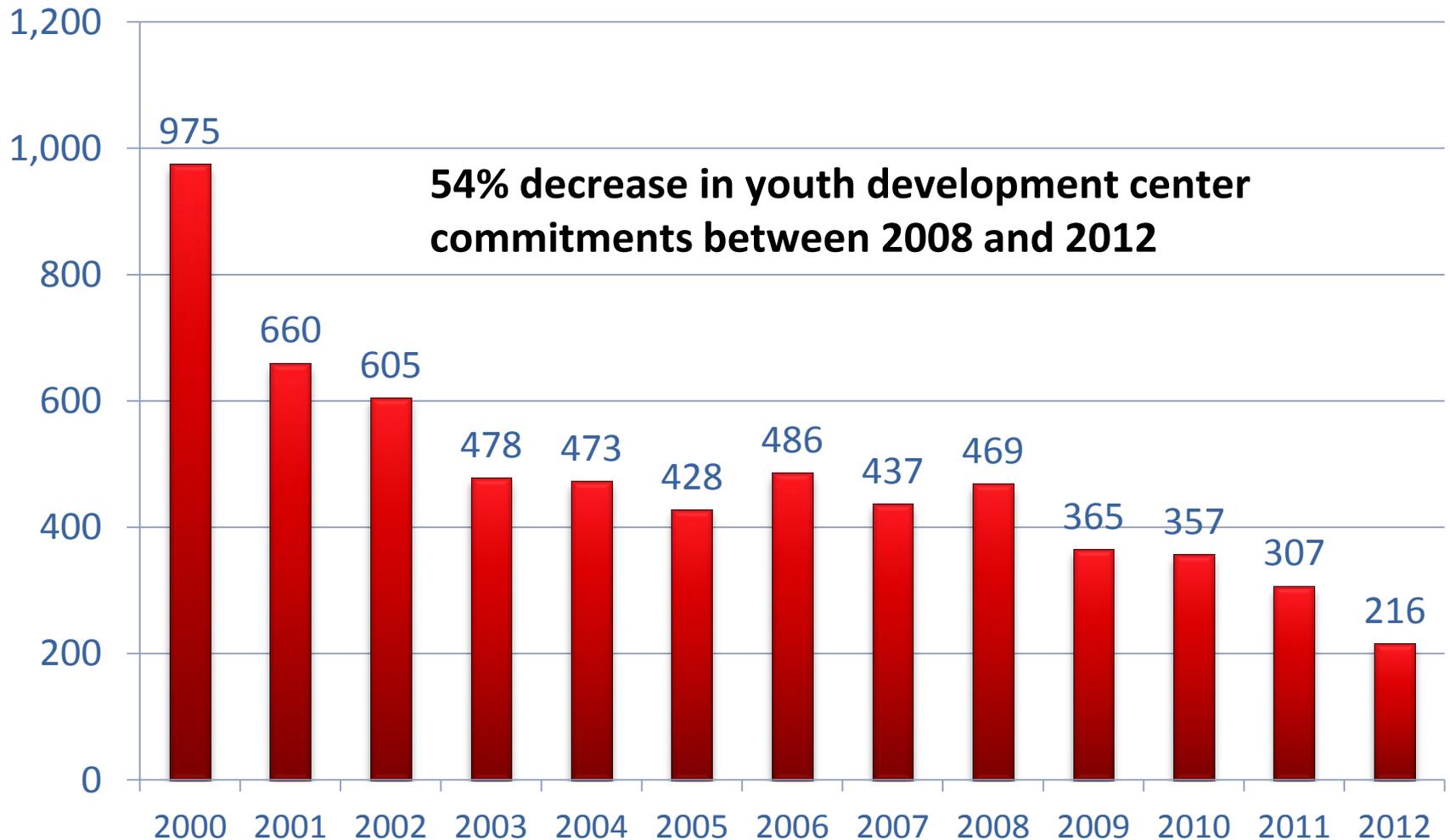
- ▶ The number of acts of violence by high school students in North Carolina decreased by **3%** from 2010 to 2011
- ▶ The percent of high school students who engaged in physical fights on school property within the past twelve months fell from **16%** in 1993 to **10%** in 2011
- ▶ There was a **5.5%** decrease in the number of short-term suspensions and a **37.8%** decrease in long-term suspensions reported statewide from 2010 to 2011

Detention Center Admissions

Since 2008, admissions to detention have declined 43%.

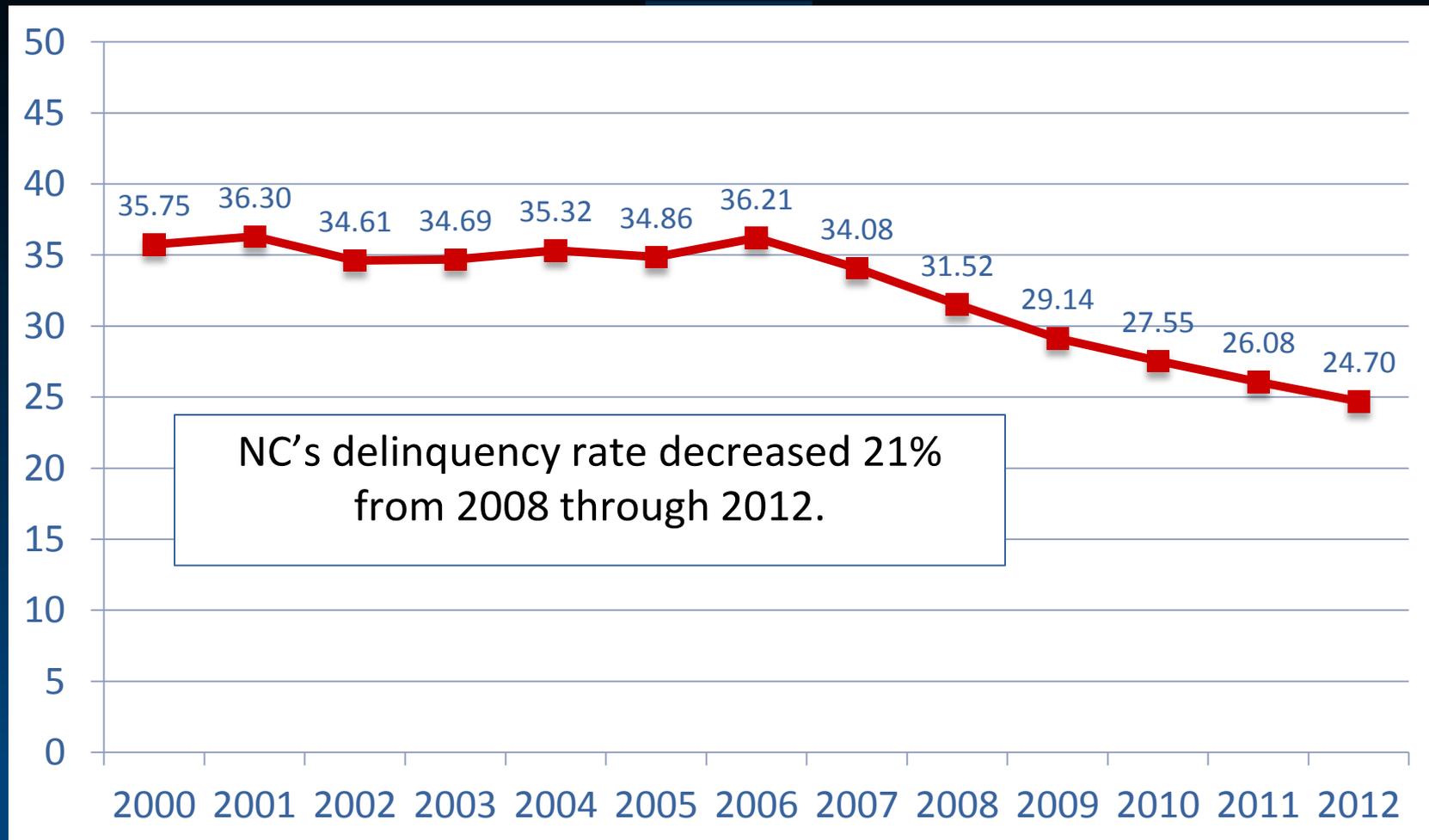


Youth Development Center Commitments: 2000 to 2012



2000-2012 Delinquency Rate

NC's juvenile delinquency rate* is at an all-time low.



*Delinquency rate is defined as delinquent complaints received per 1,000 youth ages 6-15.

School Crime and Violence in N.C.

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey



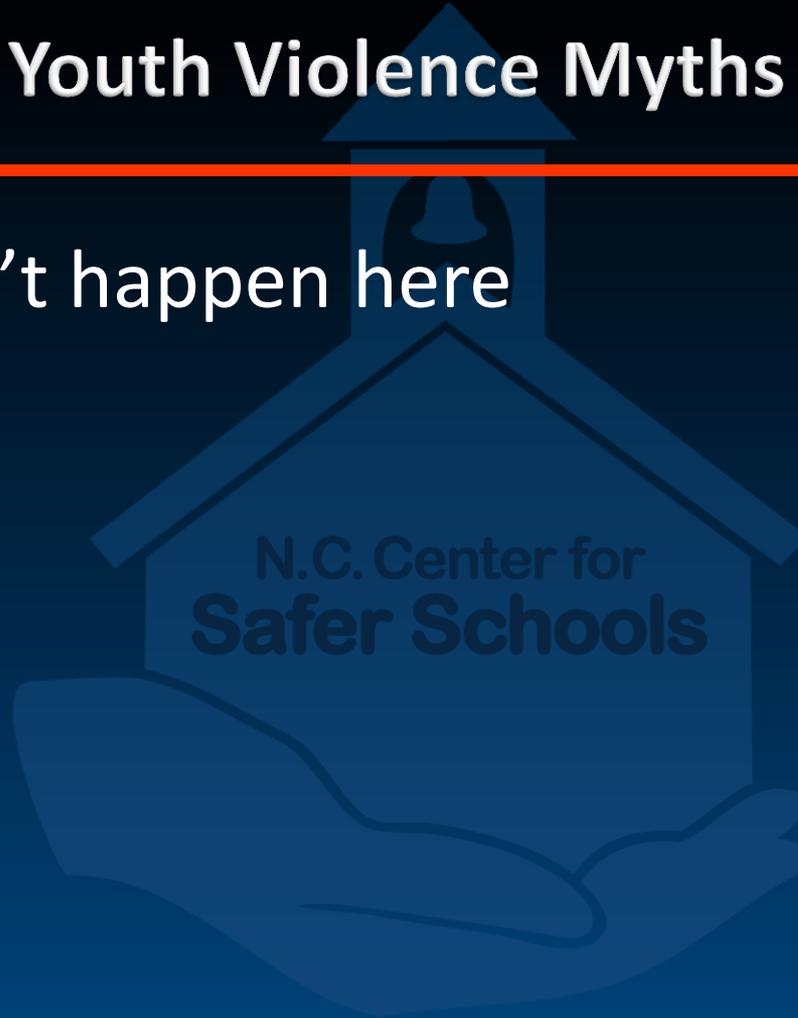
- ▶ The percentage of students who have been threatened or injured with a weapon increased from **6.8%** in 2009 to **9.1%** in 2011.
- ▶ The number of high school students who were bullied on school property increased by **4%**.

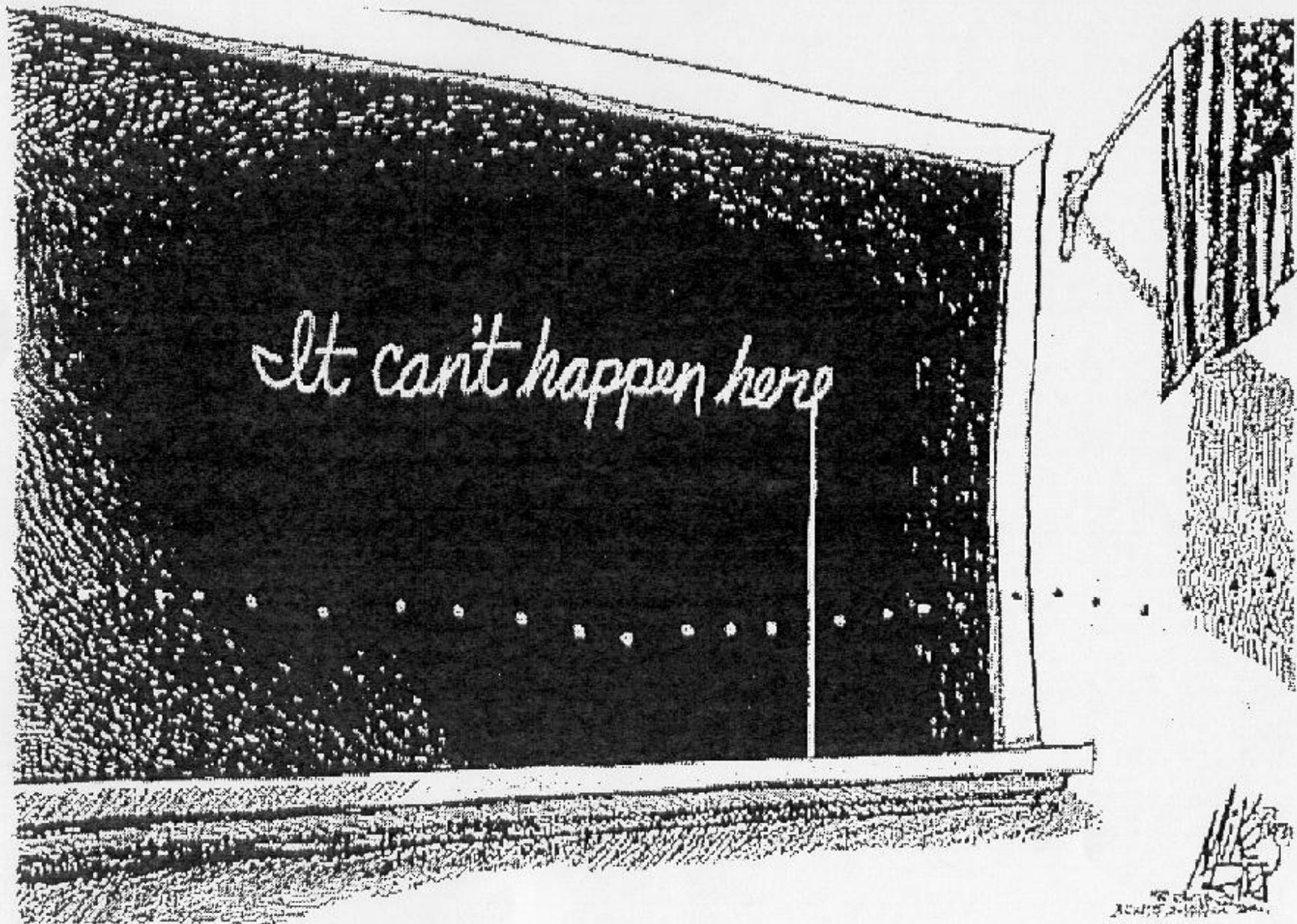
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School and Youth Violence Myths

- It can't happen here





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Student Perceptions of Personal Safety

- ▶ Results from a recent North Carolina Youth Risk Behavior survey indicate that **7%** of high school students and nearly **4%** of middle school students did not go to school on one or more days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school
- ▶ In a *nationally* representative survey from 2011, **4%** of high school students reported that they were afraid of attack or harm at school.

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>



BULLYING

- ▶ 42% of middle school students and 20% of high school students in North Carolina have been victims of bullying.
- ▶ In a *national* survey, 28% of students ages 12-18 reported being bullied at school.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>







CYBER BULLYING

- ▶ Just over **15%** of high school students in North Carolina reported being victims of electronic bullying.
- ▶ A national survey indicates that **8%** of students in grades 9-12 were victims of electronic bullying.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>





GANGS

- ▶ More than 22% of middle school students and nearly 40% of high school students in North Carolina reported gang activity at their schools.
- ▶ In 2009, a *national* survey indicated that 20% of students ages 12-18 were aware of gang activity at their schools.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>





SUICIDE

- ▶ **14%** of high school students and **21%** of middle school students in North Carolina have seriously considered attempting suicide.
 - **13%** made a plan about how they would attempt suicide
 - **5%** of the students had attempted suicide
- ▶ Nationwide, **15.8%** of students had seriously considered attempting suicide
 - **12.8%** made a plan about how they would attempt suicide
 - **7.8%** of students had attempted suicide

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf>





DRUGS

- ▶ **30%** of high school students in North Carolina have been offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property.
 - **43%** reported using marijuana one or more times
 - **20%** reported taking a prescription drug, such as Adderall and Ritalin, without a doctor's prescription
- ▶ In a *national* survey, **23%** of students, grades 9-12, were offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>





WEAPONS

- ▶ **10%** of students in grades 9–12 in North Carolina have been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property
- ▶ **20%** of students in grades 9–12 in North Carolina have carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property
- ▶ In a *national* survey, **8%** of students in grades 9–12 reported being threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

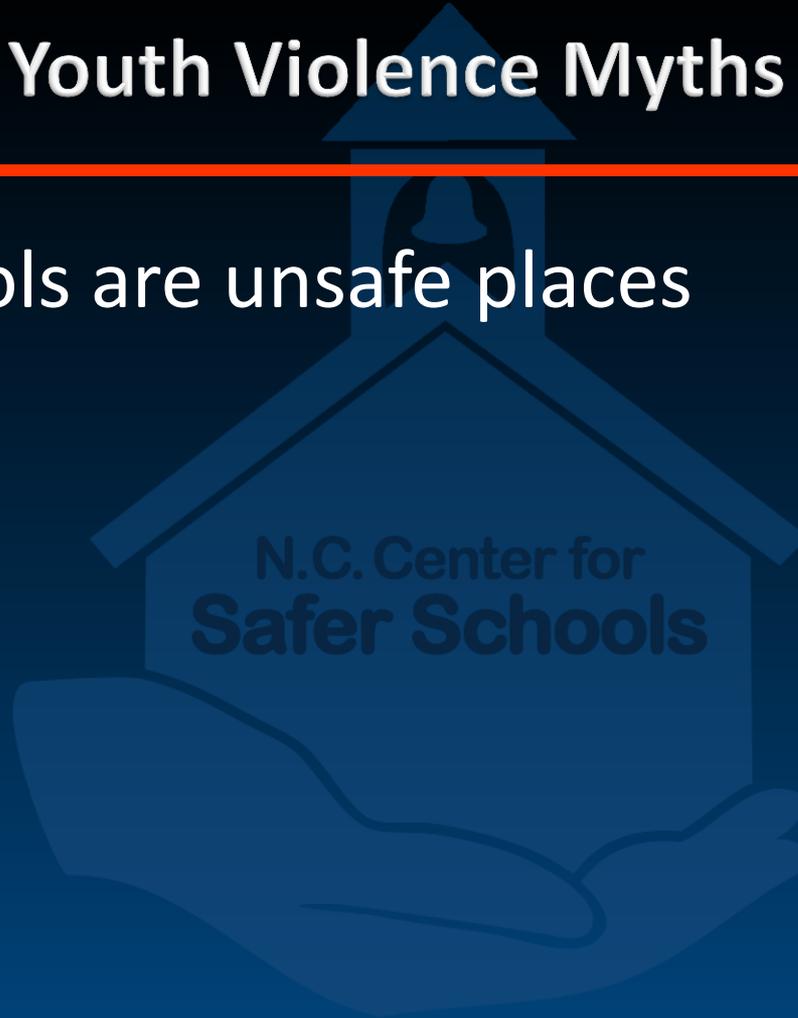
<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>





School and Youth Violence Myths

- Schools are unsafe places





School and Youth Violence Myths

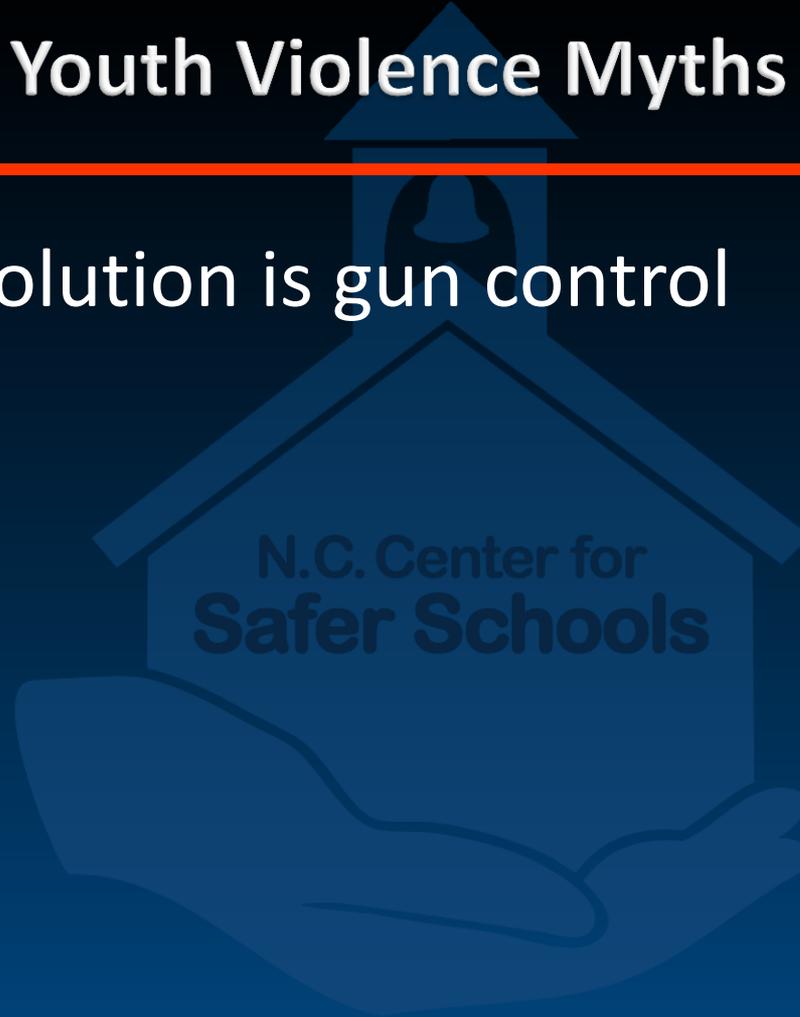
- Students are more likely to be victimized in their own homes than at school

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School and Youth Violence Myths

- The solution is gun control





School and Youth Violence Myths

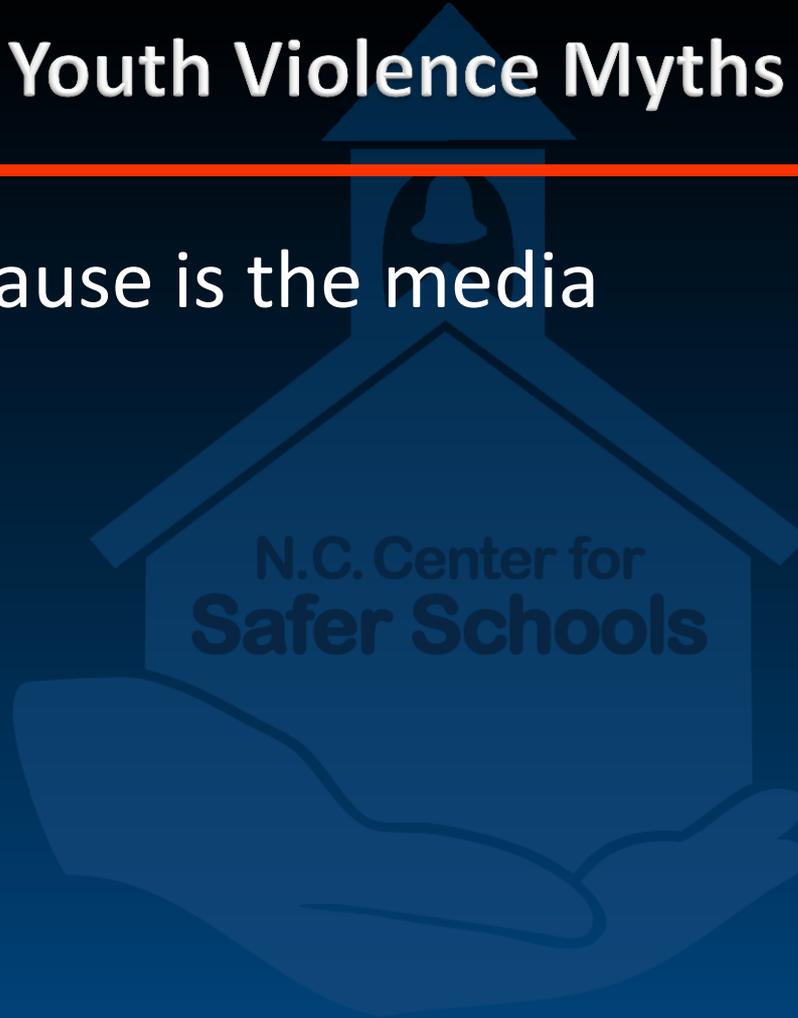
- Less than 1% of all school violence has anything to do with a gun.

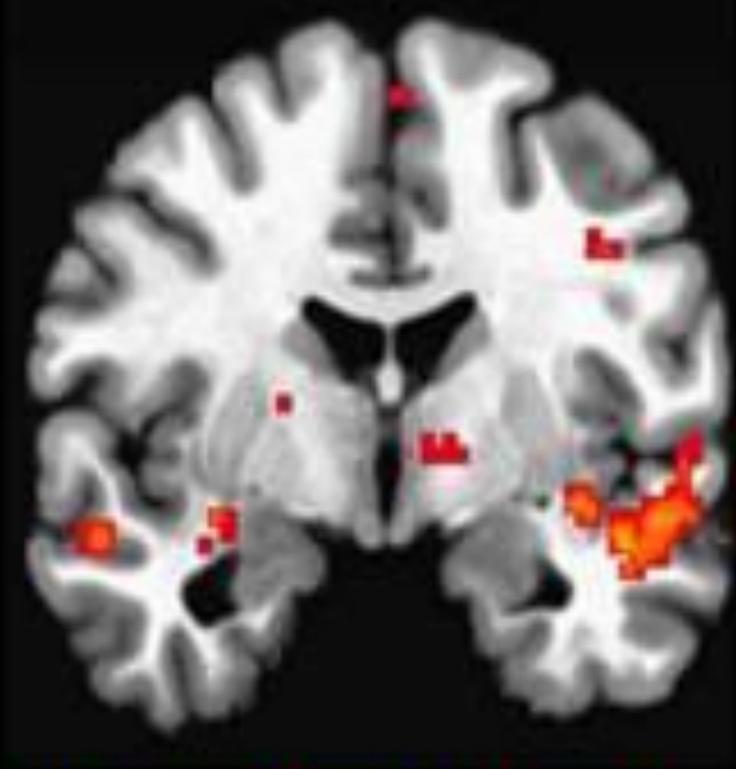
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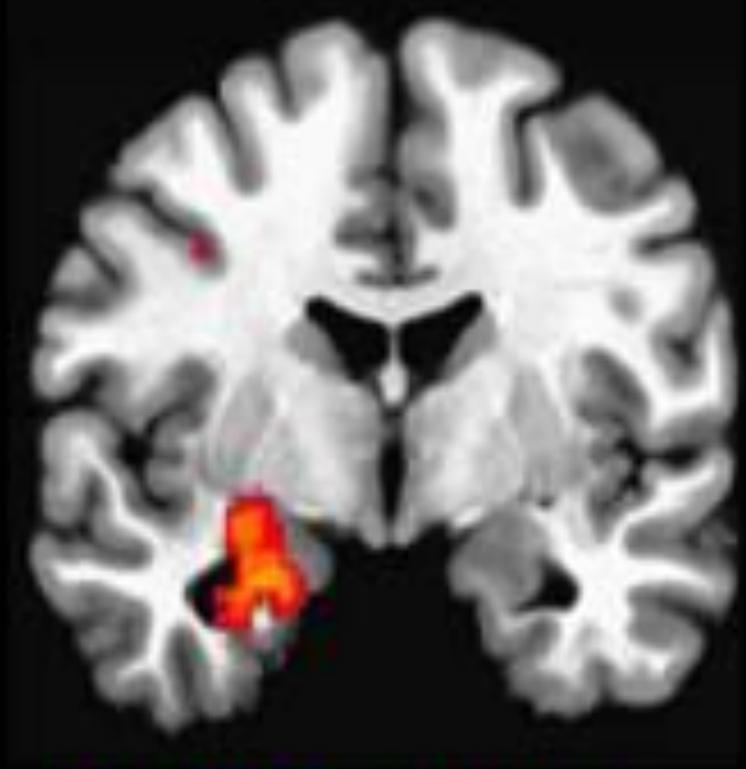
School and Youth Violence Myths

- The cause is the media





Non-violent game players

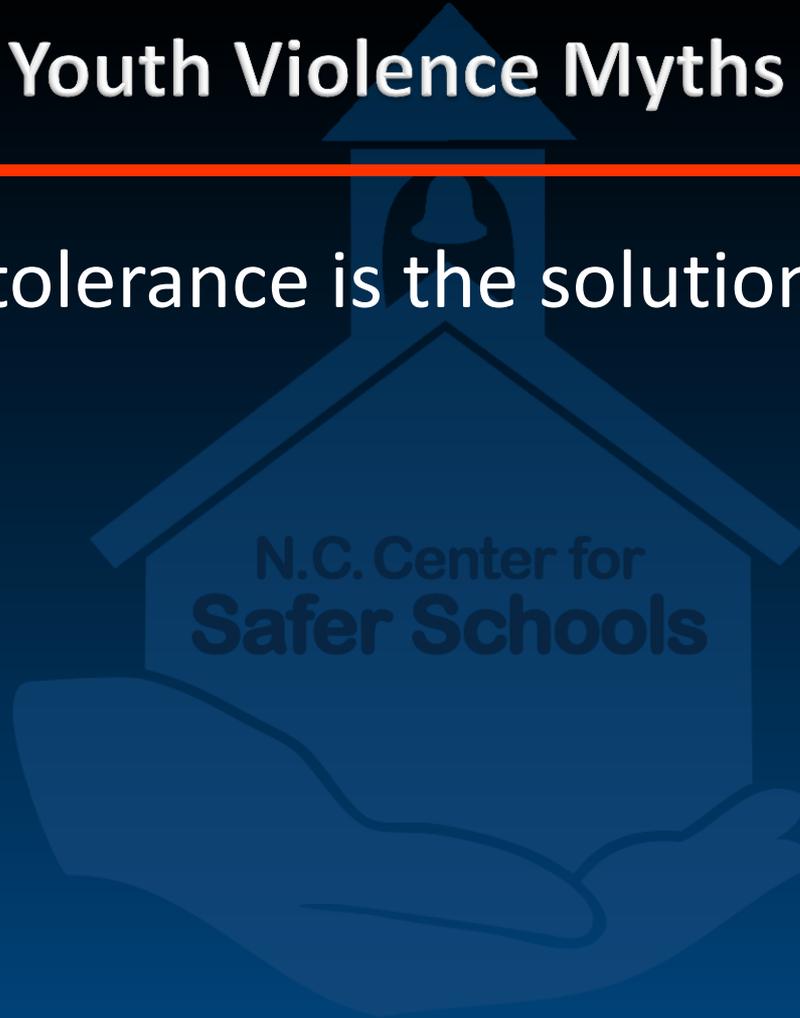


Violent game players



School and Youth Violence Myths

- Zero tolerance is the solution





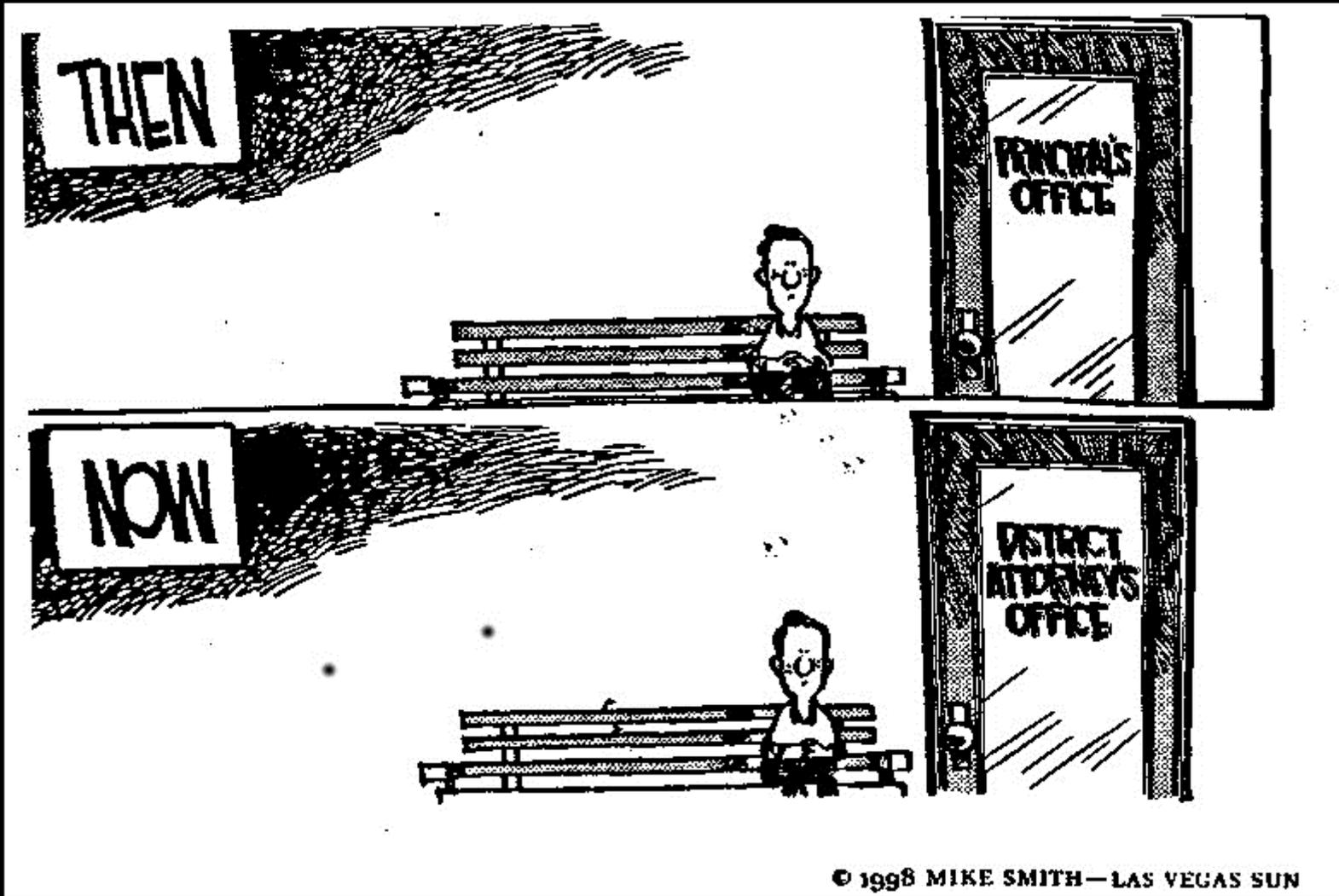
SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

- ▶ One of seven (**14.3%**) North Carolina high school students receives a short-term suspension each year.
- ▶ The number of expulsions fell from 69 in 2010 to 30 in 2011.
- ▶ Results from a national survey indicate that **7%** of high school students were suspended in 2009.

Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction
www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/research/discipline.reports/consolidated/2011-12/consolidated-report.pdf

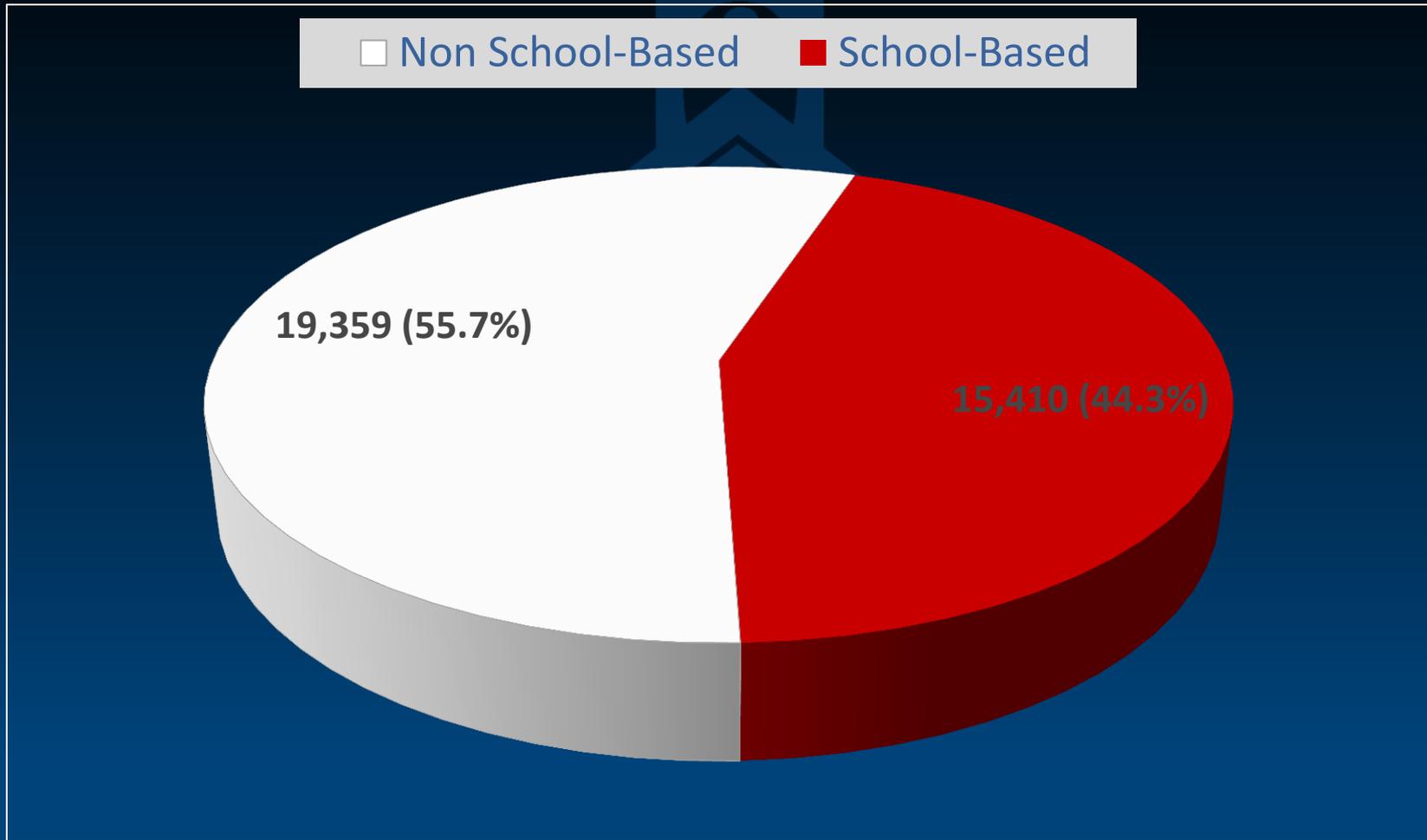
Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011
<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>





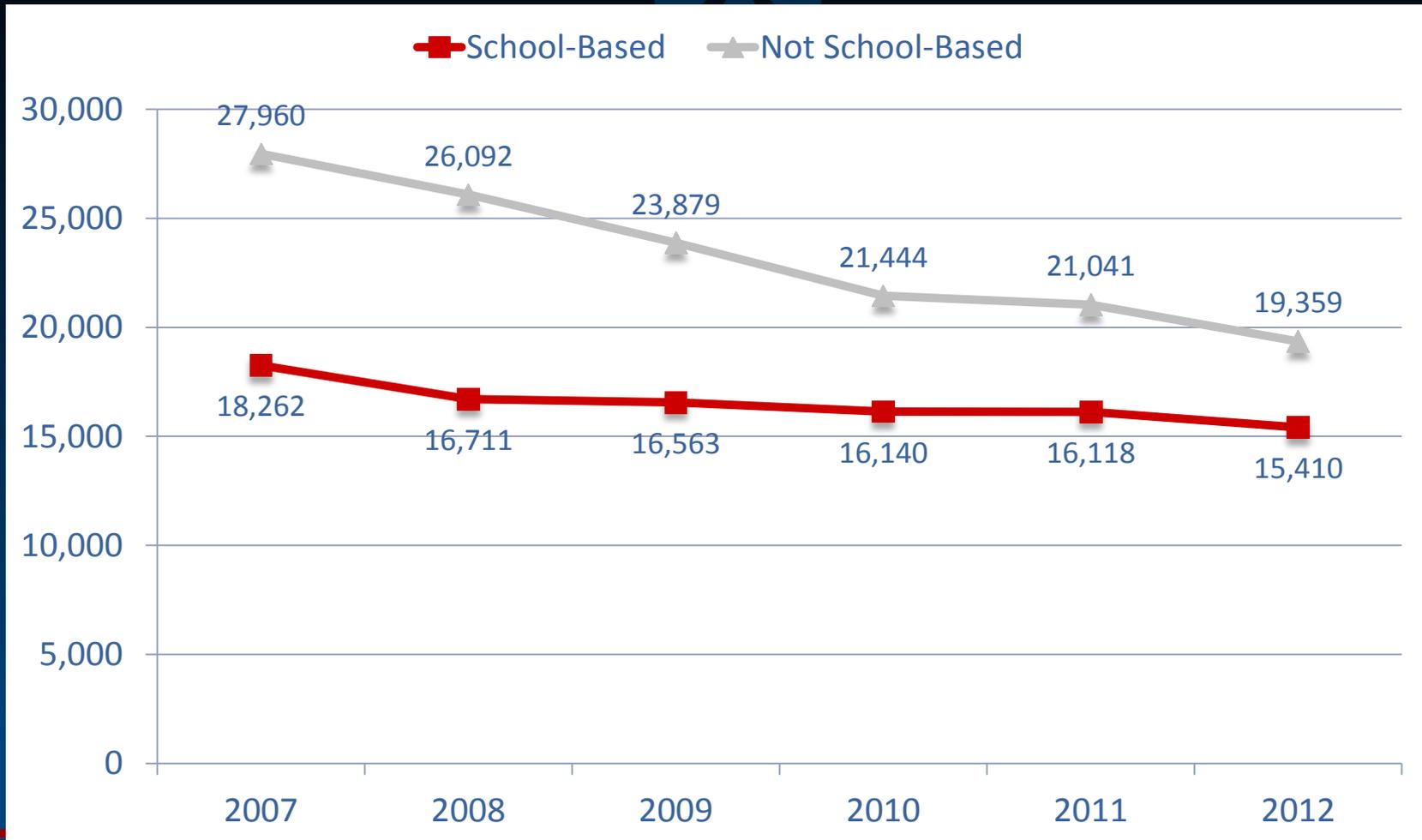
School-Based Offenses

In 2012, 44% of all complaints received were school-based.



School-Based Offenses

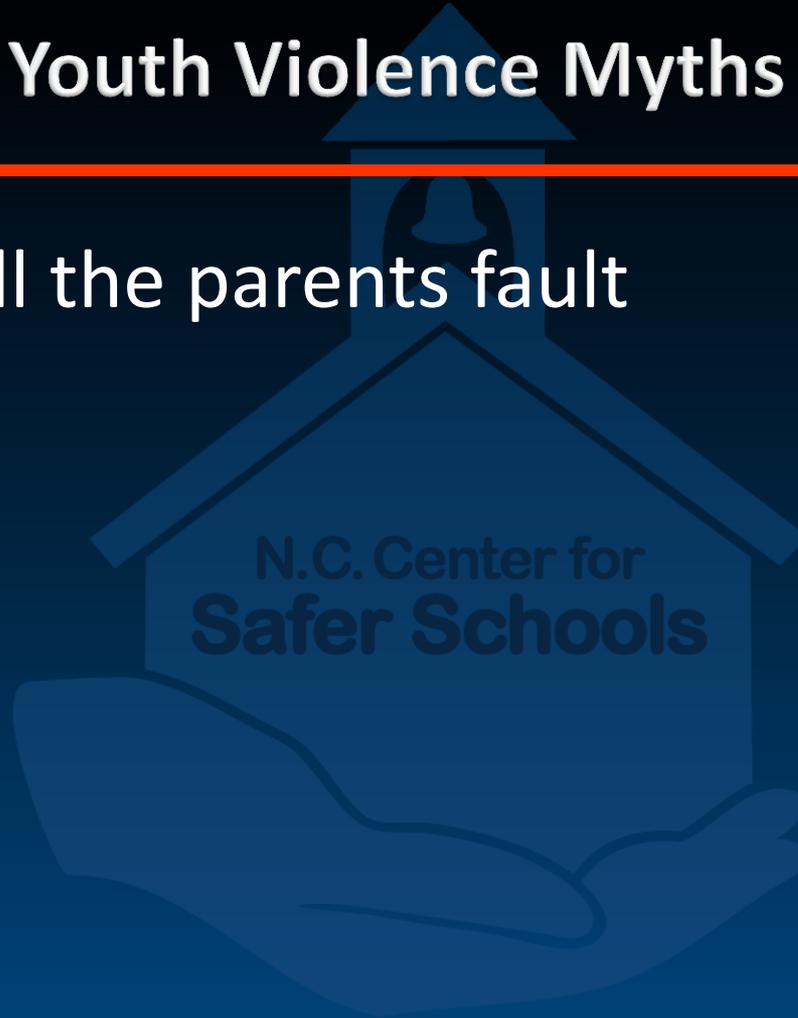
In 2012, 44% of all complaints received were school-based.





School and Youth Violence Myths

- It is all the parents fault



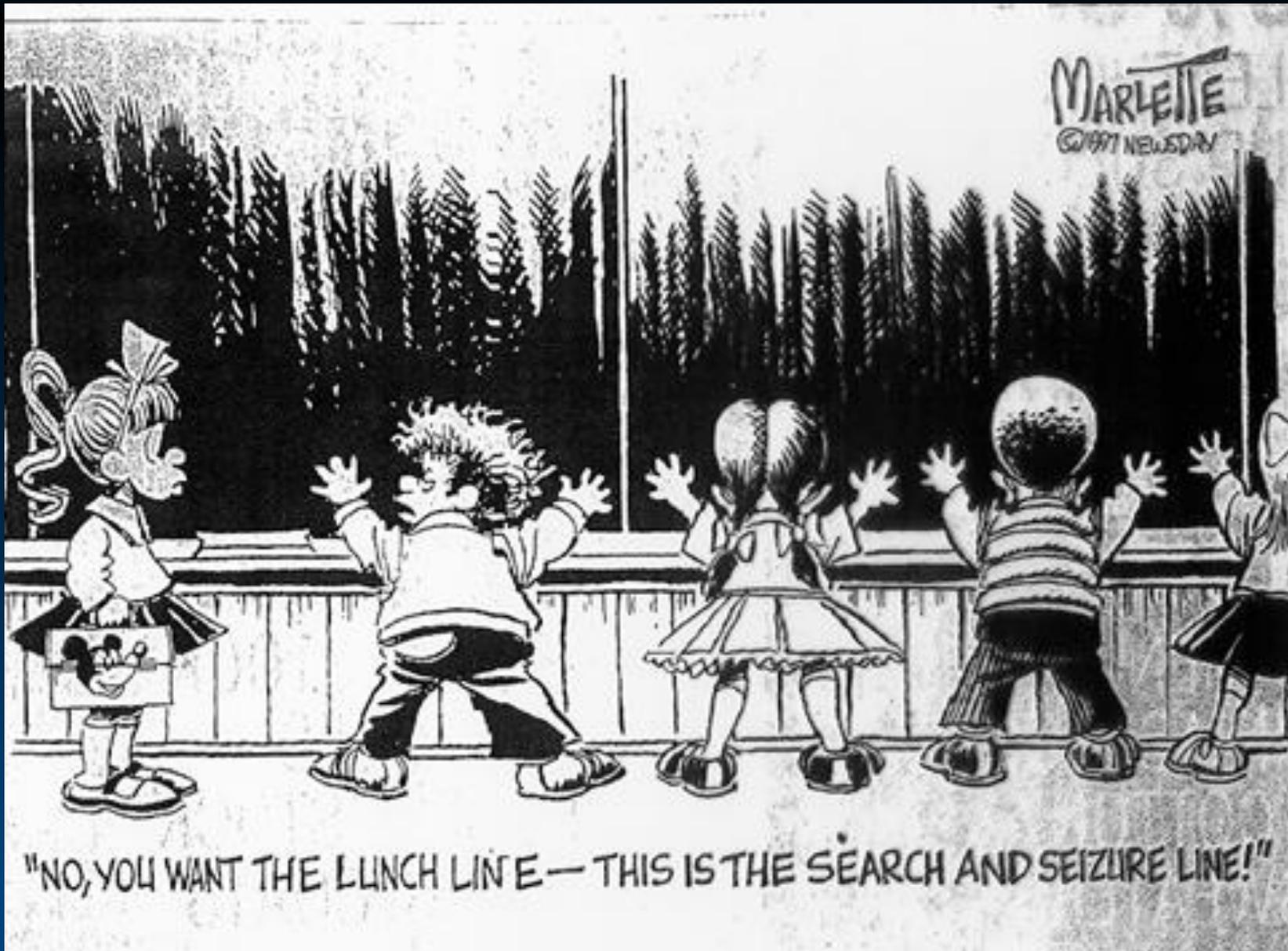


PARENT VIEWS

- ▶ **25%** of parents identified improvement of physical security in and entering the school building as a factor that would make them feel more secure about their children at school

Are We Safe?: The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey, National Crime Prevention Council, 2001

http://www.adt.com/divisions/residential/in_your_community/overview.cfm



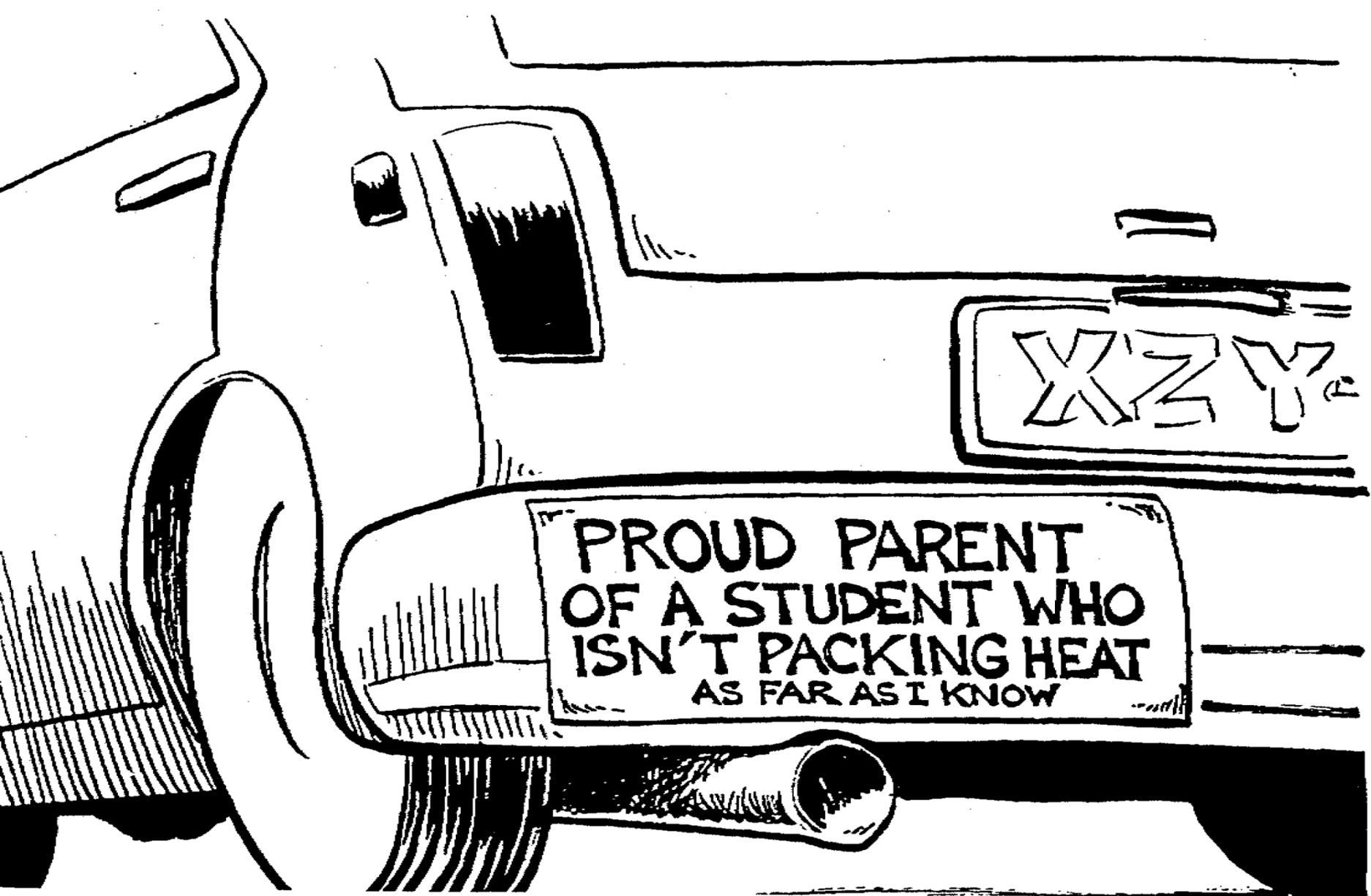


PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ **27% of teens felt lack of parental involvement was the biggest cause of school violence.**

The State of Our Nation's Youth 2001,
Horatio Alger Association, 2001

<http://www.horatioalger.com/pubmat/surpro.htm>



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Quotations are compiled from press, TV and wire-service reports, as well as from NEWSWEEK correspondents.



School and Youth Violence Myths

There is a single solution or program that will work for all students

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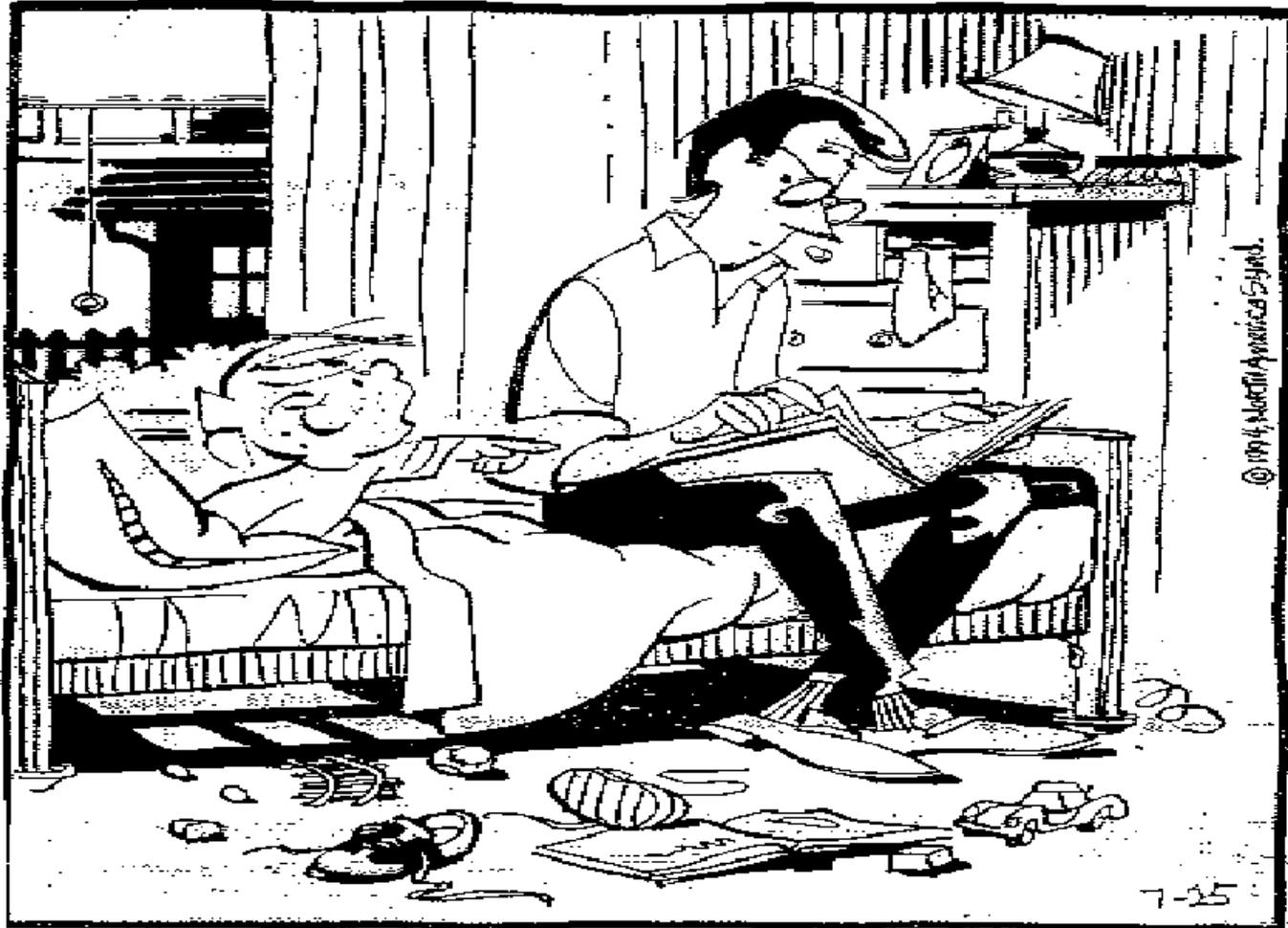
SAFER SCHOOLS PYRAMID



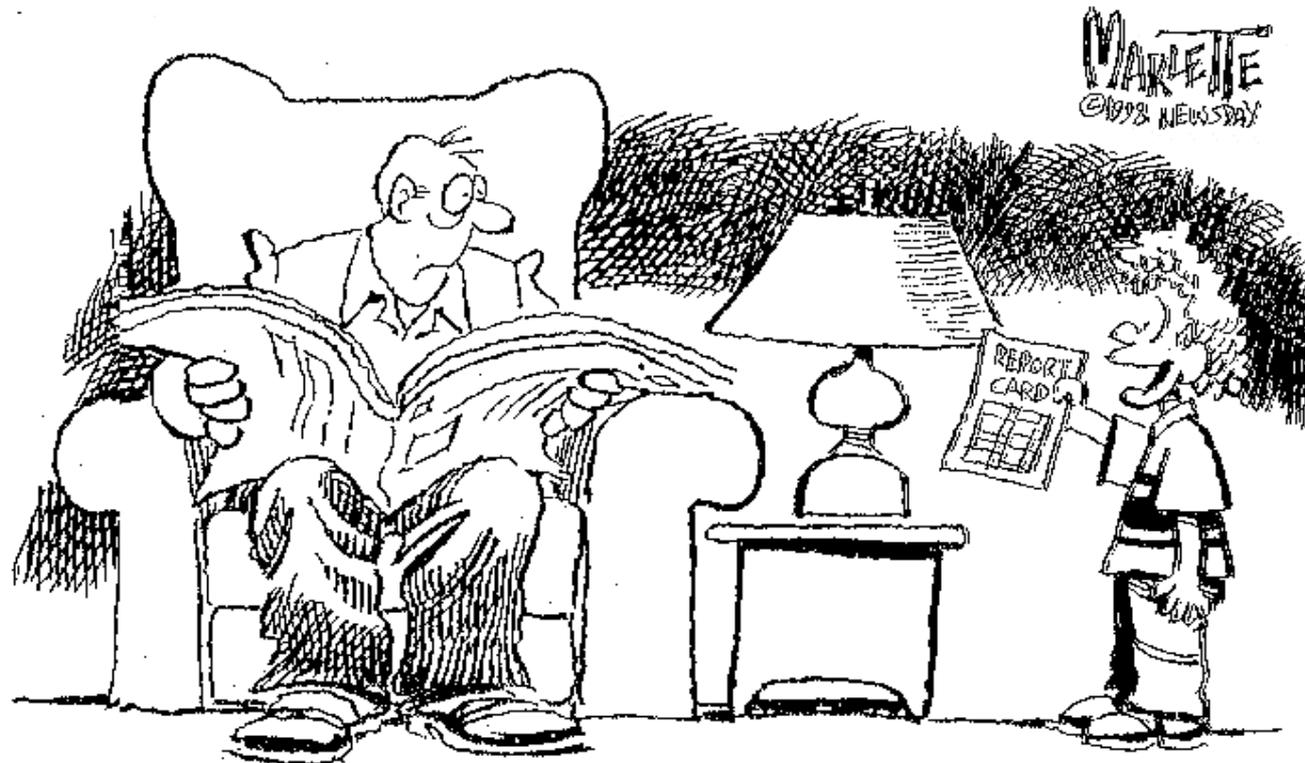


SIGNE WILKINSON, Philadelphia Daily News

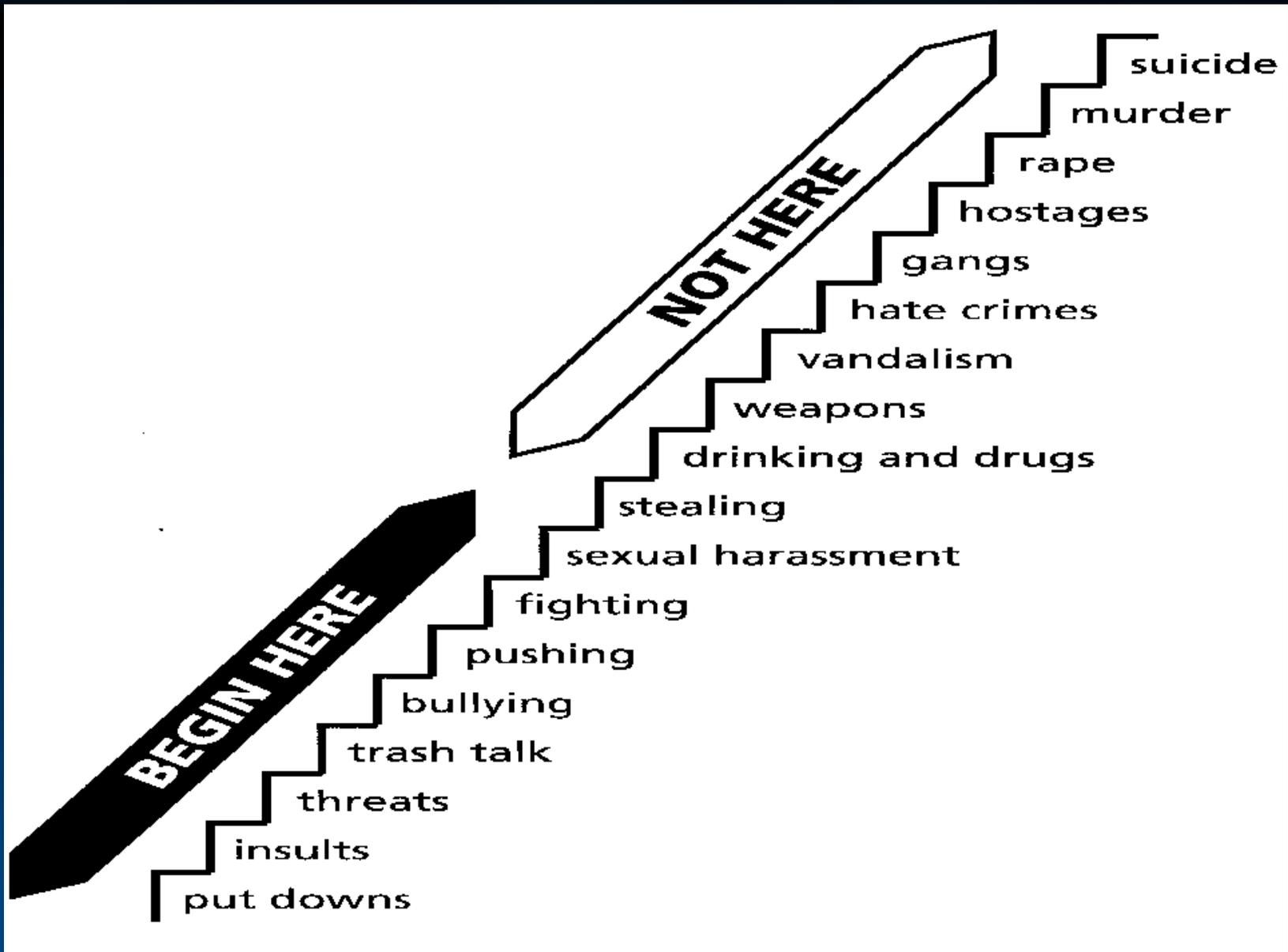
DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'LL BET JILL **PUSHED** JACK!"



I GO "AN "A" FOR NOT BRINGING A WEAPON TO SCHOOL!"





Anticipated Training and Workshops

1. Prevention:

- Emerging Trends in School Safety and School Violence Prevention
- Identifying Risk and Building Resiliency in Youth
- Safe School Planning / Safe School Assessment / Site Assessment
- Bullying and Gang Prevention
- Conflict Management / Peer Mediation / Character Education / Citizenship
- Student / Parental Involvement
- Classroom Management
- School Resource Officer Roles / Best Practices



Anticipated Training and Workshops

2. Intervention:

- Alternatives to Out-of-School Suspension
- Early Warning Signs/Threat Assessment

3. Crisis Response

- Crisis Planning and Management/Critical Incident Response
- How to Practice your Plan (School Drills)

4. Recovery

- Recovery from Tragedy



CONTACT INFORMATION

www.centerforsafeschools.gov

855-819-8381

▶ Kym Martin

- kym.martin@ncdps.gov
- (919) 743 - 8110

▶ William Lassiter

- william.lassiter@ncdps.gov
- (919) 743 - 8187