SAFE2HELP NE

ANONYMOUS REPORT LINE SERVICES FOR THE NEBRASKA SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY REPORTING SYSTEM ACT

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

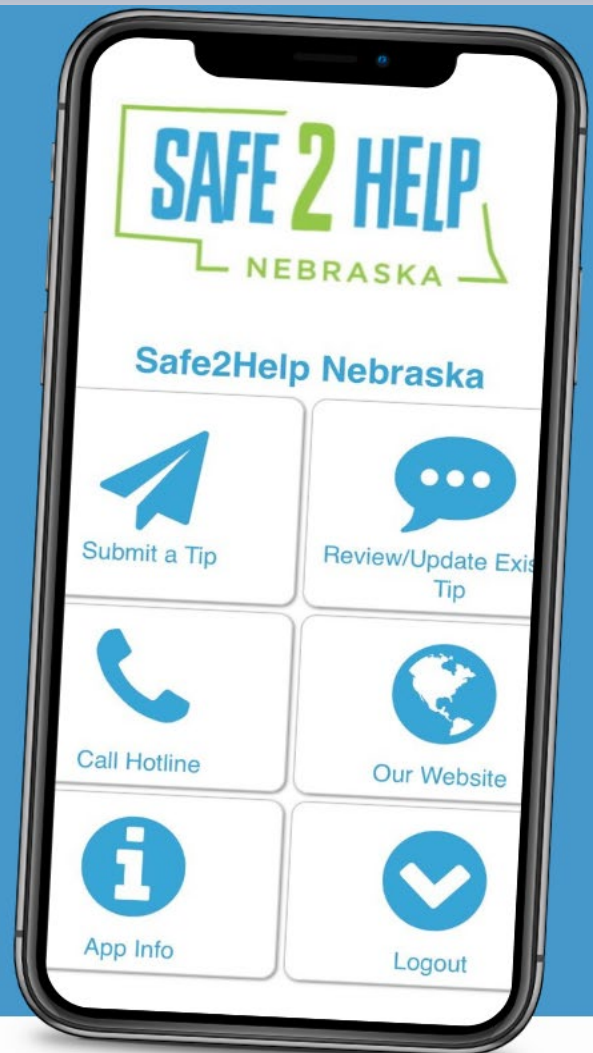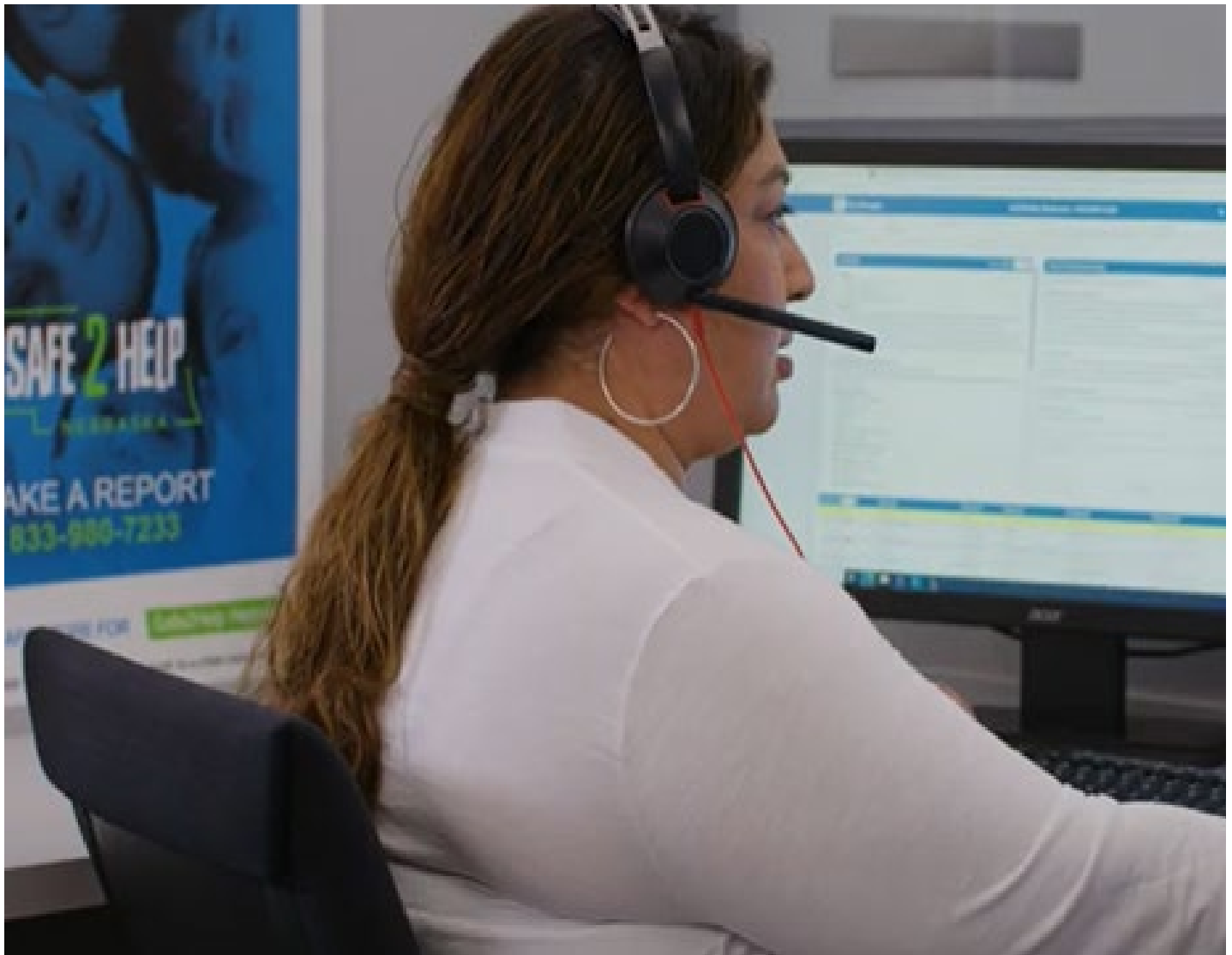UNIVERSITY OF **Nebraska** PUBLIC POLICY CENTER + NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION + **BOYS TOWN®** National Hotline + Nebraska Council of School Administrators

HELP IS A CALL AWAY

We know the struggle is real, that's why we're here.

Talk to a crisis counselor 24/7.

SAFE 2 HELP NEBRASKA

Safe2Help Nebraska

Submit a Tip

Review/Update Exis Tip

Call Hotline

Our Website

App Info

Logout

PURPOSE

This document is to provide an overview of **Safe2Help NE** data of cases running from its inception to November 2023.

As a reminder, **Safe2Help NE** is a report system designed for students, staff, and parents to anonymously report concerning behavior which could impact the safety of students or schools across Nebraska. Reports may include, but are not limited to:
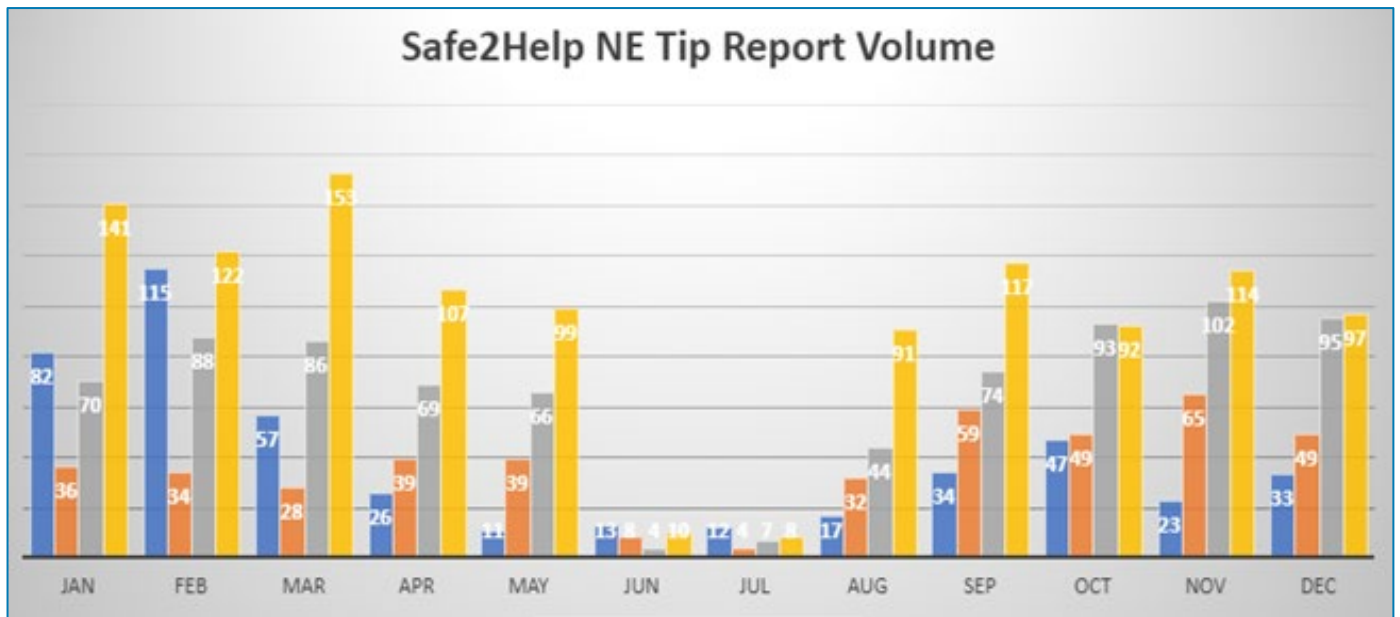
School Threats ● Bullying/Cyberbullying ● Suicide Concern ● Crime

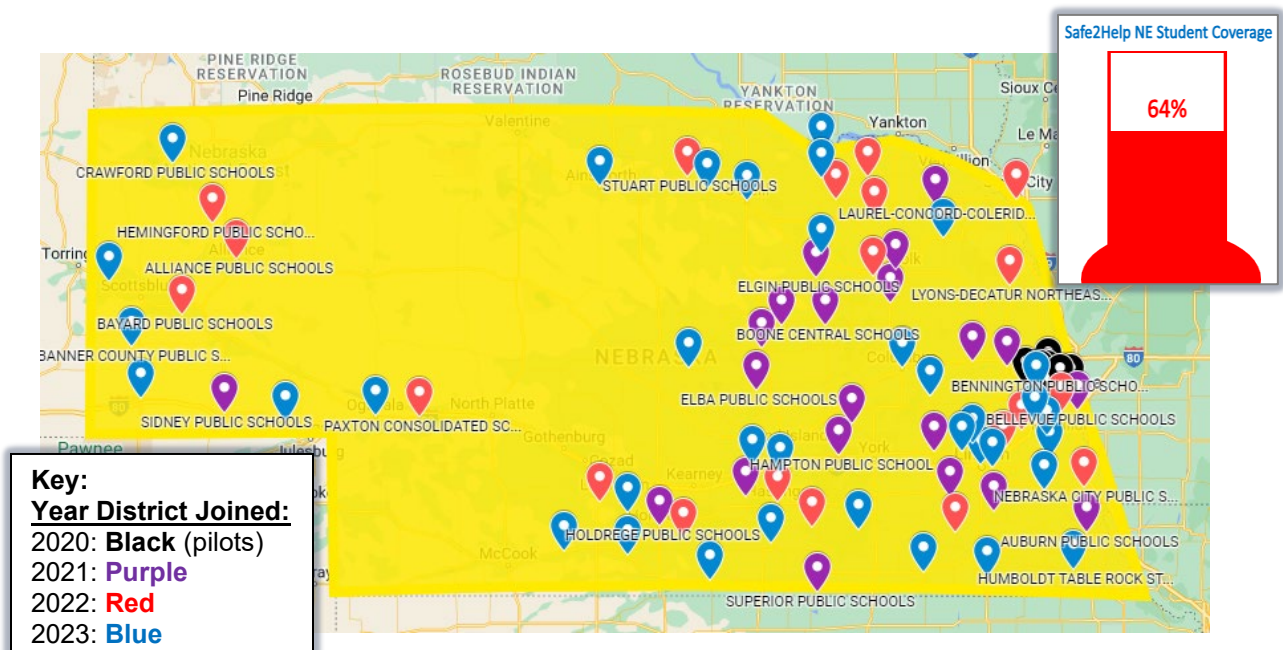Domestic Violence ● Child Abuse ● Friend's Physical or Mental Health

SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

Some Noteworthy Facts:

- 2,716 Total Tip Reports since the program's inception established January 2020.

- Increased number of monthly tips reported each year.

Safe2Help NE Tip Report Volume

- Currently serves **64%** of entire student population across **90** Nebraska school districts.

Key:
Year District Joined:
2020: **Black** (pilots)
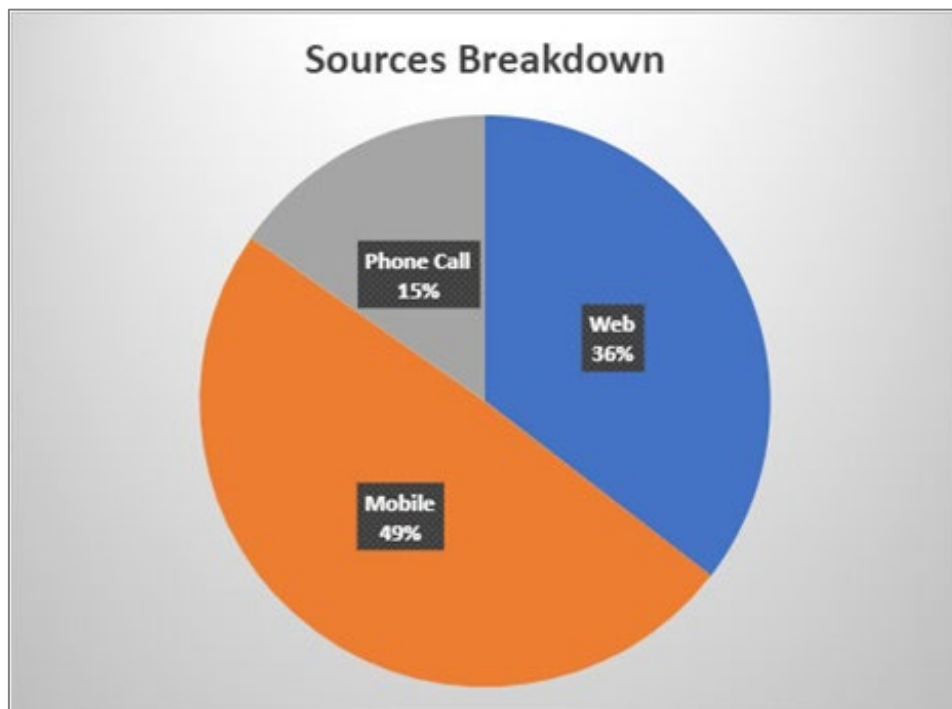2021: **Purple**
2022: **Red**
2023: **Blue**

REPORTER INFORMATION

As noted within the table below the reports most often related to a person of concern (either self- or other-reported) from middle and high school students.

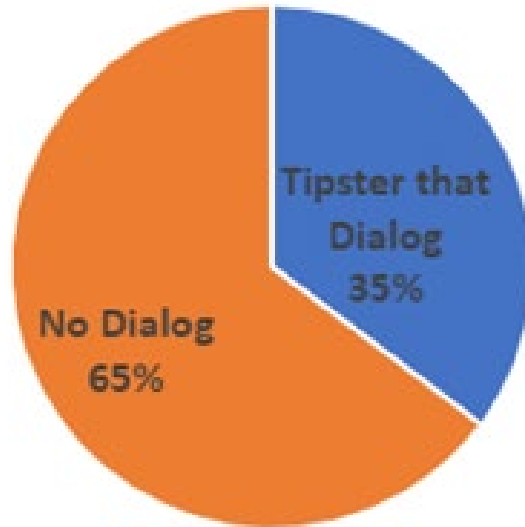| School Type	%
Elementary	10.8
Middle	42.3
High	37.8
K-12	0.5

Safe2Help NE gives the caller and the person of concern access to these trained staff in real time: crisis counselors, threat assessment teams (school responders), licensed mental health professionals, and law enforcement (if needed).

Since **Safe2Help NE** is a multifaceted platform. It is noteworthy to see the range of how the platform is accessed (most often via mobile phones).

Sources Breakdown

Phone Call 15%
Web 36%
Mobile 49%

The majority of reports as noted below engaged in a manner to submit the tip but did not engage in further dialog. Such behavior is likely due to preserve anonymity.

YTD Online Tips with Dialog

Tipster that Dialog 35%

No Dialog 65%

NATURE OF CONCERNING BEHAVIOR RAISED

Given how Safe2Help has been advertised, concerned parties were encouraged to report a variety of concerns. As noted in the table below, the majority of the reports involved some significant concern for the safety and well-being of the youth in question.

Behavior of Concern	%
Bullying (including Cyberbullying & Harassment)	22.2
Suicide Threats/Concerns	11.8
Threats of Violence/Violence Concern	11.5
Alcohol/Drugs	11.4
Sexual Assault/Misconduct	4.6
Child Abuse	4.4
Assault (including Dating Violence)	3.9

Potential incident paths were changed due to the anonymous reports received at the Safe2Help NE Communication Center. As well, assistance to students' well-being was provided when warranted thanks to the crisis counselors and school Threat Assessment Teams quick response times.

Before providing background details concerning the persons of interest or reporters, the reader should be aware **Safe2Help NE** is an anonymous platform where many of the reporters may choose not to share aspects of their background.

The racial backgrounds of the reporters were often unknown, but the following data is presented.

Race	%
Missing/Unknown	51.2
White	27.8
Black	4.2
Hispanic/Latino	3.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.6

When gender was known, the reporters self-identified in the following manner with nearly equal known representation between males and females.

Gender	%
Missing	41.1
Multiple POCs	9.9
Male	24.8
Female	21.5
Transgender	2.6

COMMUNITY RESPONSES & OUTCOMES

One of the aims of **Safe2Help NE** is to promote community engagement related to safety concerns, particularly through school districts in partnership with law enforcement and behavioral health. Several takeaways are noteworthy.

- A majority of the outcomes noted (48.9%) involved school personnel engaging the person of interest via a range of non-disciplinary and administrative strategies.

- Disciplinary activity by school districts were noted in 11% of cases overall.

- Behavioral health interventions were noted in 14.1% of the cases reported.

- Suicide Threat reports that did not need law Enforcement Intervention were at 82% and these cases were handled by collaboration between the school district and BT Hotline while 18% did involve law enforcement utilizing a check for well-being.

- Overall, direct law enforcement took place in 14.4% of the cases with only 2.1% of the total reports resulted in a citation or arrest.

> **Anonymous reporting gives students the ease and feeling of comfort to report without repercussions.**

Safe2Help Nebraska: Saving Kids

Boys Town National Hotline Crisis Counselors effectively collaborated with School District Threat Assessment Teams to deescalate crises and utilize least restrictive methods to ensure safety, minimizing law enforcement involvement.

SUICIDE THREAT TIPS THAT DID NOT NEED LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTION

18%   82%

■ LE CWB (Check the Well Being) on Suicide Threats
■ Secured Safety Without Calling Law Enforcement

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE UNIQUE EVENTS THAT ARE REPORTED TO SAFE2HELP NE

Event Type: "Crisis"

After falling victim to an online scam in the middle of the night, a student reached out to Safe2Help for guidance, saying "*I didn't know who else to call*". In addition to offering support in the moment, a Safe2Help Crisis Counselor talked with parents in the morning to offer referrals to help report the criminal activity."

Event Type: "Suicide"

A tipster reported hearing comments that another student was making suicidal statements. The school began searching for the now missing student. *Within 30 minutes of the Safe2Help tip report, the student was located by police and received help.*

Event Type: Planned School Attack

When threats were made against schools on social media, new information from tipsters was delivered directly to threat assessment teams and investigating agencies for coordination. *Safe2Help NE facilitates real time communication* between law enforcement and school administration, including outcomes like disciplinary actions or arrest(s).

TESTIMONIALS

"*Safe2Help has been an extremely valuable tool in working through student discipline, bullying, and depression and anxiety.*"

Dr. Matt Blomenkamp Assistant Superintendent
Bennington Public Schools

"Safe2Help has drastically improved school safety, decreased bullying, and helped combat vapes/drugs in our schools."

Tyler Sherlock #107 School Resource Officer, Alliance *Police Department*

"I started out very skeptical…I am no longer skeptical and see how important and useful the tool Safe2Help is"

Dr. Chad Denker, Superintendent, *David City Public Schools*