

A green chalkboard with a brown border and a wooden shelf with colorful chalk. The chalkboard is the central focus, with the title written in white cursive. The shelf to the left contains five pieces of chalk in red, purple, light blue, green, and dark blue.

Impacts of school shooter drills

on the psychological wellbeing of
American K-12 school communities

What are the



Unseen
Costs





A Social Media Study



Georgia
Tech



Everytown



AFT



NEA

SDW LAB

Study the immediate and long-term impacts of active-shooter drills on the health and well-being of students, teachers, and parents

MACHINE LEARNING

Analyzed 54 million social media posts, both pre and post drills in 114 schools spanning 33 states.

Georgia
Institute
of
Technology

SOURCES

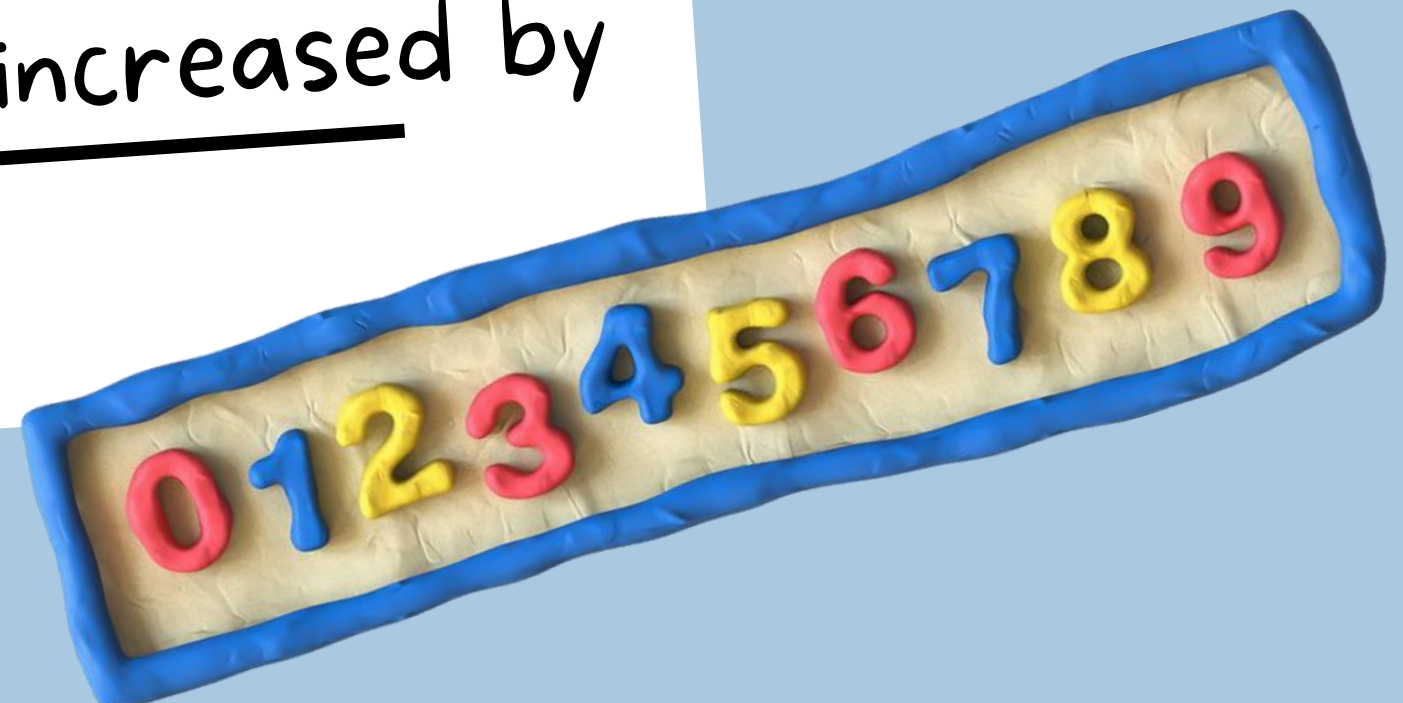
Drill dates and locations were identified via survey, then posts were captured by geo-location, school social media following, and/or school social media group membership



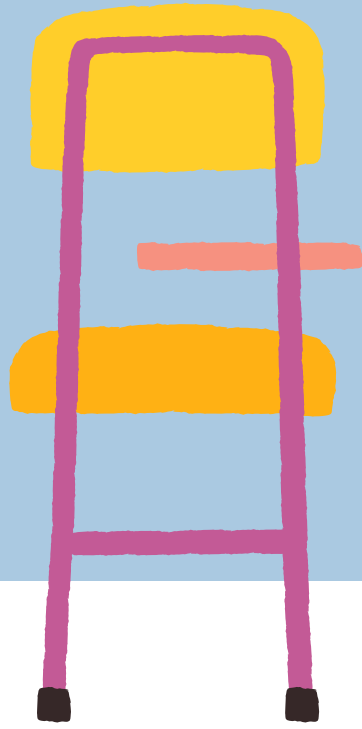
Impact

Mental health symptoms expressed on social media experienced by school stakeholders

- 1 Depression increased by 39%
- 2 Anxiety & stress increased by 40%
- 3 Trauma & collective worry increased by 42%



Recommendations



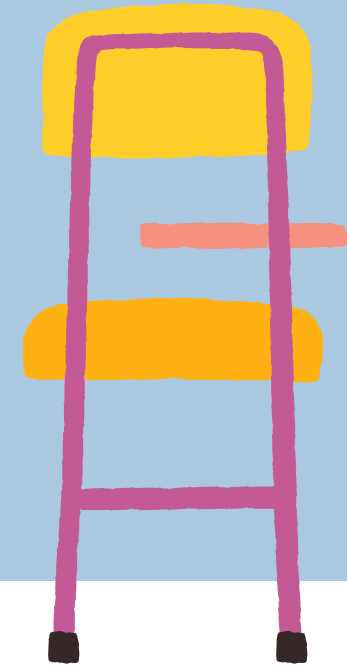
SCHOOLS SHOULD

Create age- and developmentally-appropriate drill content



SCHOOLS SHOULD

Couple drills with trauma informed approaches to address students' well-being



SCHOOLS SHOULD

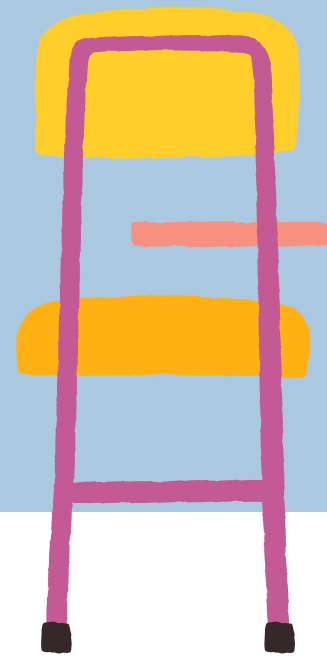
Track data about the efficacy and effects of these drills

Recommendations



DRILLS SHOULD

NOT include simulations that mimic an actual event



DRILLS SHOULD

Be announced to students and educators prior to the start of the drill



PARENTS SHOULD

Have advance notice of drills

Conclusion

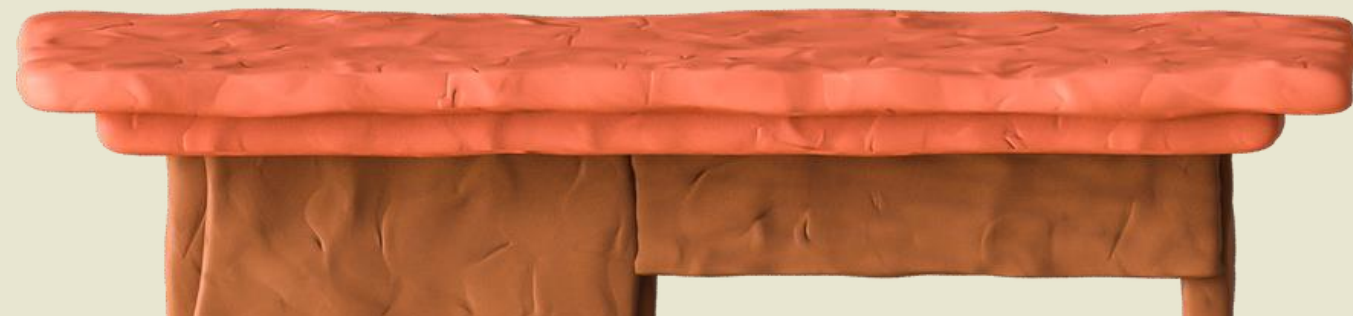
This research provides empirical evidence that school shooter drills - in their current and unregulated state - negatively impact the psychological well-being of entire school communities.

Those who are affected are in need of continued support to process their aftermath, and school systems need to rethink the design and utility of these approaches, against alternative gun violence prevention measures.

ABCDEFGHIJKLM
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Questions?

Thank you!





ElSherief, M., Saha, K., Gupta, P., Mishra, S., Seybolt, J., Xie, J., O'Toole, M., Burd-Sharps, S., & DeChoudhury, M (2021, December 8). *Impacts of school shooter drills on the psychological well-being of American K-12 school communities: A Social Media Study*. Nature News.
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-021-00993-6>