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## PURPOSE

Anonymous or confidential tip lines have been recommended as promising and viable approaches to prevent school violence (e.g., Schwartz et al., 2016) and are becoming a popular mechanism for school systems to elicit information from students about potentially harmful events that may occur on school campuses (Planty et al., 2018). Tip lines allow students to report suspicious behaviors they observe or become aware of (e.g., weapons in schools and planned school attacks), health and mental health concerns about their peers or themselves (e.g., depression or suicidal ideation), and other threats to the safety and wellbeing of students (e.g., bullying, cyberbullying, and physical fights). A recent national review found that 51% of middle and high schools reported having tip lines (Planty et al., 2020) and that 15 states have codified the use of tip lines through state legislation (Gourdet et al, 2021).

Most research to date on tip lines has focused on implementation (e.g., Planty et al., 2020; Poulin Carlton, 2021) and perspectives among those involved in tip lines (e.g., Espelage et al., 2021; Planty et al, 2020), although studies about the effectiveness of tip lines are beginning to emerge (e.g., Planty et al., 2022). The purpose of this present study was to assess the implementation and effectiveness of a statewide tip line in Nevada, known as *SafeVoice*.

The Nevada State Legislature established the *SafeVoice* tip line program in response to growing concerns about school safety in the State of Nevada.<sup>1</sup> The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) manages and oversees the program, and the Department of Public Safety (DPS)

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<sup>1</sup> Although established in 2015 through SB 212 and Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388, the Nevada Legislature did not provide funding for *SafeVoice*. This 2016 research grant from the National Institute of Justice was the primary source of funding for *SafeVoice* through 2022.

operates the *SafeVoice* call center 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. After receiving tips, DPS disseminates them to the appropriate local jurisdictions—that is, school-based Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) and, if warranted, local law enforcement agencies.

### POPULATION REACHED

*SafeVoice* operates in every school district throughout Nevada. Nevada public schools serve nearly 500,000 students in 763 schools across 17 school districts. School district enrollment ranges from 83 students in Esmeralda County School District to 310,556 students in Clark County School District—the fifth largest school district in the country and home of Las Vegas. Other than several districts that serve urban populations (e.g., Las Vegas, Reno, and Carson City), Nevada’s school districts are largely rural and frontier. Although *SafeVoice* is also available to parochial schools, state charter schools, and other schools that are not part of public school districts, our study focuses on the 17 public school districts.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS, DESIGN, AND METHODS

#### Research Questions

PIRE designed the study to address five main research questions.

1. How was *SafeVoice* implemented across the state?
2. What were the immediate responses to *SafeVoice* tips?
3. To what extent did *SafeVoice* reports prompt follow-up services for students of concern?
4. To what extent did the presence of *SafeVoice* contribute to changes in student behaviors and school climate?
5. How cost effective was *SafeVoice* in contributing to changes in student behaviors and school climate?























