



The shift in active shooter preparedness after Columbine

By: Aspen Hastings

Abstract

Presentation for Spring 2019 Undergraduate Research Exposition. The purpose of this research was to explore the changes in education systems' and emergency management agencies' perception of school violence after the mass school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999.


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THE SHIFT IN ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS AFTER COLUMBINE

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INTRODUCTION	AUTHOR NAME	SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS	ASSOCIATION BETWEEN X & Y	MAIN FINDING
<p>IN RECENT DECADES THE THREAT OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS HAVE BECOME INCREASINLY MORE PROMINENT. PARENTS SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL WITH FEARS THEY MAY NOT COME HOME.</p> <p>THIS TRULY BECAME A HOUSEHOLD CONCERN IN 1999 AFTER THE SHOOTING AT COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL.</p> <p>THIS TRAGEDY PUSHED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES TO QUESTION THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF PREPAREDNESS FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIOS.</p>	SANDRA J. AUSTIN (2003)	THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF COLUMBINE AND THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES RESPONDING TO THE SCHOOL DURING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION	YES	THE COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING HIGHLIGHTED THE FAULTS IN RESPONDING AGENCIES AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN REGARDS TO RADIO COMMUNICATION AND STUDENT RELOCATION. THERE WAS NO CLEAR PLAN PREVIOUSLY PREPARED.
	BETH SCHUSTER (2009)	A SURVEY GIVEN IN 2006 TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AROUND THE NATION	YES	APPROXIMATLEY 82% OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS PROVIDED FUNDING OR OFFERED TRAINING FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPARATION TO FACULTY AND STAFF
	DANIEL A. PIGNATELLI (2010)	AN ANONYMOUS AGENCY IN OHIO REFERRED TO AS THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT	YES	THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTED AN ABUNDANT AMOUNT OF ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPERATOIN TACTICS. AS THEY BEGAN TO INCOOPERATE TRAINING ON A WEEKLY BASIS.
	MARINO, MICHAEL; DELANEY, JOHN; ATWATER, PAUL; SMITH, REED (2015)	FIRE-FIGHTERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AND LAW ENFROCEMENT RESPONDING TO COLUMBIEN HIGH SCHOOL	YES	PRIOR TO COLUMBINE, LAW ENFORCEMENT HANDLED ACTIVE SHOOTERS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WITH A ESS ENGAGING APPROACH BASED ON THE "5 C'S".
	WARWICK, JAMES, P. (2015)	102 GRADUATES FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATES	YES	OF THE 102 RESPONDENTS, 72.55% INDICATED THAT THEIR DEPARTMENT HAD A WRITTEN PLAN FOR AN ACTIVE SHOOTER.
				

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HYPOTHESES

IT IS HYPOTHESIZED THAT AFTER THE COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES WERE FORCED TO STRESS TRAINING FOCUSED ON ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIOS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

NOT ONLY HAVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES PUT FORTH MORE RESOURCES AND BUDGETING TOWARDS PREPARING FOR A SCHOOL SHOOTER SCENARIO, BUT SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE ALSO TAKEN ACTION TO PROVIDE FACULTY AND STAFF WITH TRAINING AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANS.

CONCLUSION & IMPLICATIONS

THE SHOOTING OF COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL IN 1999 WAS AN EVENT THAT WOULD FOREVER CHANGE THE PERCEPTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE. IT WAS A MOVING FORCE TOWARDS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE PLANS ON DEALING WITH ACTIVE SHOOTERS. MORE MONEY AND TIME WAS INVESTED IN TRAINING INDIVIDUALS, EQUIPMENT AND INDEPTH RESPONSE PLANS.