Monitoring Media and Combating Mental Health in Schools

In-School Monitoring:

- In a Southeastern school district, out of the 58% of students who used the internet, 45% of the search topics were suicide related.
- After screening their students from K-12, they found that more than 50% of them self-diagnosed as being suicidal or having non-suicidal self-injurious behaviors.
- After implementing monitoring measures to alert them when any keyword was used in student searches conduct referrals greatly decreased.

Privacy Implications:

- As technology monitoring companies have started to increase, so have privacy violation concerns.
- An article compared Geo Listening, Varsity Monitor, Snaptrends, and Digital Fly (all focusing on monitoring students' use of social media for signs of violence).
- It found that all four companies in their privacy policies used broad terms and caveats in regard to sharing data collected with third-party management.
- Although these companies will continue to increase, considerations like digital literacy and surveillance ethics should be promoted.

Introduction:

The United States has the highest school shootings documented worldwide. With the spike in shootings amidst the 21st century the federal government and school districts have implemented and researched new strategies to combat the violence in schools. One of them was working with companies that monitored technology and social media of the students. Although allocation of resources and accessibility to these kind of services are still limited to certain demographics, the possibilities of monitoring media consumption in adolescents can be instigated through parental supervision as well.

Thesis:

Balancing the privacy rights of students and their mental and physical wellbeing is necessary to combat school shootings. As the accessibility of technology and media increases, monitoring both at home and in school should become a widespread consciousness for the students' mental health.

Parental Monitoring:

- A study gathered 681 students and their mothers to track the media content and more specifically the type of monitoring the parents enforced on their children.
- The student showed that restrictive monitoring had a detrimental effect on the children's watch time and aggression.
- Meanwhile active media monitoring and media co-use which involved parent involvement while media usage showed positive trends with less screen time being reported.

Conclusion:

Although the studies presented pointed towards the lack of research still present in media monitoring and student behavior inside and outside of school. The need of a mix of monitoring is essential to combat the school shootings which have peaked in the US. Although COVID-19 introduced a new form of learning style no longer involving the students' active presence in a school building, the need to combat mental health has only deepened as students were forced inside their homes.

CPTED's Impact on School Safety
Sada Chaudhury

Introduction
In the wake of several school shootings over the last few decades, schools have been struggling to figure out how to protect their students.

What is CPTED?
- It is a crime prevention method that uses environmental design to deter crime
- Also aims to promote students' psychological well being

Research on the Perception of CPTED Schools
- A recent study was conducted on grades 7-12 students
- Results: Participants prefer CPTED school designs over non-CPTED schools for both their safety and comfort.

Thesis
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an effective solution to ensuring school safety.

Conclusion
CPTED provides a viable solution in reducing vulnerability to violence while also maintaining a comfortable learning environment for students.

The new Sandy Hook school building that utilizes CPTED. Note the see-through fence to limit hidden areas, and the large glass windows for increased surveillance of the area.

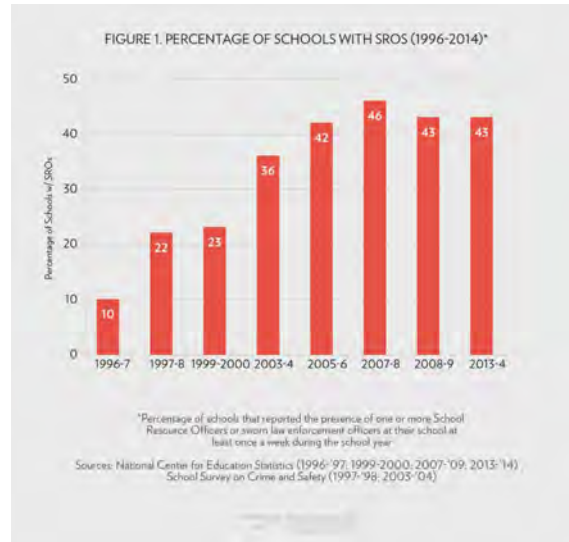# Are SROs an Effective Approach to Violence in Schools?
By: Michelle Krissnanand

Background:
- School shootings and their frequency have risen sharply from the 1990s
- As school shootings become recurring events, the debate on how to make schools safer has emerged
- Following, the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, President Obama made school safety a priority and School Resource Officers (SROs) were a cornerstone of his plan to do so
- However, the question of whether SROs are effective has emerged

Thesis:
Though SROs are, in theory, beneficial to maintaining school safety, they don't have a tremendous impact on the prevention of school violence.

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS WITH SROS (1996-2014)*

*Percentage of schools that reported the presence of one or more School Resource Officers or sworn law enforcement officers at their school at least once a week during the school year

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics (1996-'97, 1999-2000, 2007-'09, 2013-'14) School Survey on Crime and Safety (1997-'98, 2003-'04)

Pros of SROs:
- SROs are community resources and benefit children by providing stability

Cons of SROs:
- SROs do not reduce the number of potential casualties caused by school violence
- When comparing high schools with and without SROs, findings revealed that there was no statistical difference in reported crime rates
- SROs negatively and disproportionately impact students of color.

Conclusion:
SROs are not a perfect solution to violence in schools. While we shouldn't completely eliminate SROs, we need better responses to protect *all* children in schools.