## Spring 2017, Issue 6

# OK 2 SAY

Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

#### OK2SAY encourages **confidential** tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, or schools.

#### From September 2, 2014 to April 30, 2017,

7,844 tips were received in the following categories:

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Alcohol	104	Planned Fights	32
Assault	162	Planned School Attack	140
Bullying	1,926	Self-harm	638
Cyberbullying	715	Sexting	253
Child Abuse	204	Sexual Assault	64
Dating Violence	64	Sexual Misconduct	139
Domestic Violence	11	Stalking	20
Drugs	521	Stealing	16
Explosives (bomb)	9	Suicide Threats	1,429
Fighting	97	Threats	217
Fire Starting	1	Unsafe Driving	11
Gangs	6	Vandalism	7
Guns	17	Weapons Possession	45
Human Trafficking	2	Other*	975
Kidnapping/Attempted	2	Total	7,844
Knives	17	*Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	

### **OK2SAY Success Stories**

- OK2SAY received a tip about a student selling drugs/alcohol in the parking lot after school. The school and law enforcement searched the student's car. They found drug paraphernalia and a knife. The student's parents were notified, and the student was suspended.
- OK2SAY received a tip that a student was being bullied by another student. The school investigated and contacted the parents. The school counselor met with both students and they participated in a restorative circle.
- OK2SAY received a tip that a student planned to commit suicide at school. OK2SAY contacted the school principal. The school resource officer interviewed the student and recovered a weapon.
- A student inadvertently saw a post that a classmate had been sexually abused by a sibling and an uncle. The student contacted OK2SAY because the classmate was suffering from panic attacks and post-traumatic stress. OK2SAY forwarded the tip to Children's Protective Services and the School Resource Officer. The victim was interviewed, disclosed the abuse, and is getting counseling. The case is being investigated for possible criminal charges.



It has been a **"banner"** start to 2017 for OK2SAY. In addition to providing schools we've visited with an OK2SAY banner, we've been busy collaborating with college students across the state; reviewing PSA contest entries; and attending the MHSAA state basketball finals.

OK2SAY has been working in partnership with Kendall College to develop a 30 second PSA that will be featured in movie theaters across the state this year.



Under the direction of Professor Brad Yarhouse, five current and former students developed an animated PSA that demonstrates that everyone has the ability to be a hero by using OK2SAY—and you don't have to wear a cape and tights! The PSA will be featured in movie theaters and online.

OK2SAY also tapped into the experience of 30 marketing students at Michigan State University's College of Communications Arts and Sciences. Professor Greg Taucher developed a six-week assignment where the students developed OK2SAY marketing proposals. The students pitched their suggestions to the OK2SAY team in early March. Many of the ideas are being considered to help promote the program.

Speaking of creative students, OK2SAY sponsored the 2017 Michigan Student Broadcasting Awards Public Service Announcement contest through the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. Students developed an audio or video PSA about OK2SAY. To see some of the award winning entries, go to the PSA section of the OK2SAY website.

In March, OK2SAY was again at the Girls and Boys State Basketball Finals at the Breslin Center at Michigan State University. Thousands of people attended and OK2SAY was there to help spread the word.

#### Want an OK2SAY banner for your school?

Visit OK2SAY's website and select "Schedule a School Presentation."

#### **Technicians' Corner**

Self-injury is a way some students occasionally release distress and emotional pain.

These students might feel ashamed or think others won't understand.

Hiding self-injury and dealing with the feelings behind it is a heavy burden.

OK2SAY has been a way to help students who self-injure get the support they need.

Recently we received a tip about a student who was cutting himself. We contacted the school principal and shared the tip.

The principal did not initially believe the tip had merit because the student was popular and outgoing.

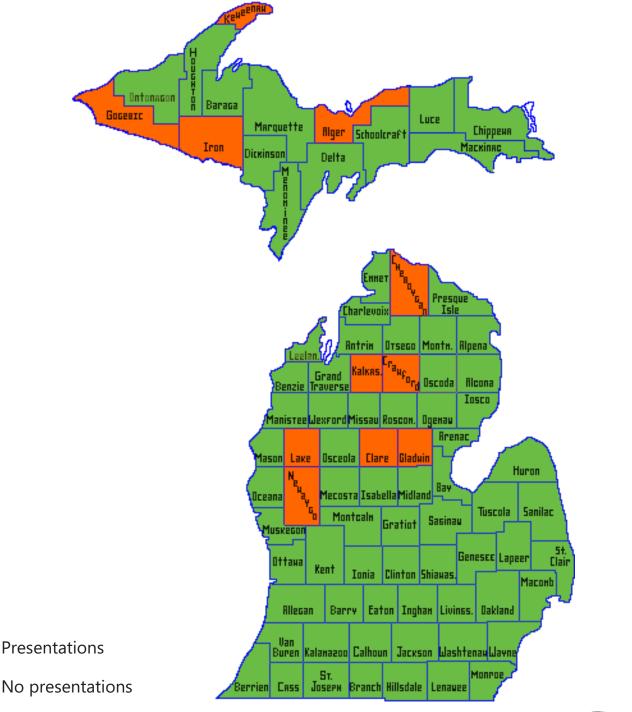
However, after the principal investigated the tip, we received an outcome report indicating the tip was accurate and the student is receiving counseling services through the school.



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## **OK2SAY/CSI Presentations by County\***



\* From September 2, 2014 through April 30, 2017.

**FREE** OK2SAY/CSI presentations are available for students in grades K-12. Scheduling is fast and easy! <u>Register on the OK2SAY website</u> (ok2say.com).

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<u>Web</u> (ok2say.com) <u>Email</u> (ok2say@mi.gov) 855-565-2729

