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**HOSPITAL, SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY**  
**Campus Safety**  
Management Resource for Security Police & Administrators

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**COLUMBINE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
SURVEY RESULTS**

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# Background & Methodology

## **Background**

*Campus Safety* magazine surveyed its circulation list to gain a better understanding of what security precautions have been implemented at K-12 schools and universities since the tragic mass shooting at Columbine High School 10 years ago.

## **Methodology**

- An online invitation was sent on Jan. 13, 2009
- Invitations to take the survey were also mentioned in “Campus Clique”
- A reminder was sent on Jan. 27 to those who did not respond to the initial invitation
- 435 responses were used to compile the results (margin of error:  $\pm 4.4\%$  at a 95% confidence level)

***Campus Safety* magazine thanks all of the campus stakeholders who participated in this study. Additional coverage on this topic is available in our March/April 2009 issue.**

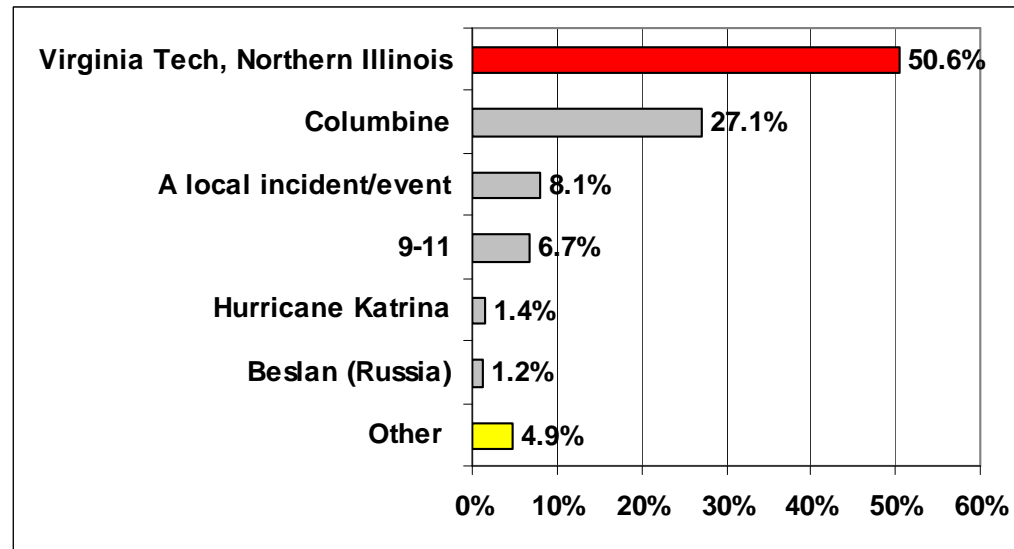
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# Results

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# Which one incident has had the greatest impact on your campus/district's safety and security?



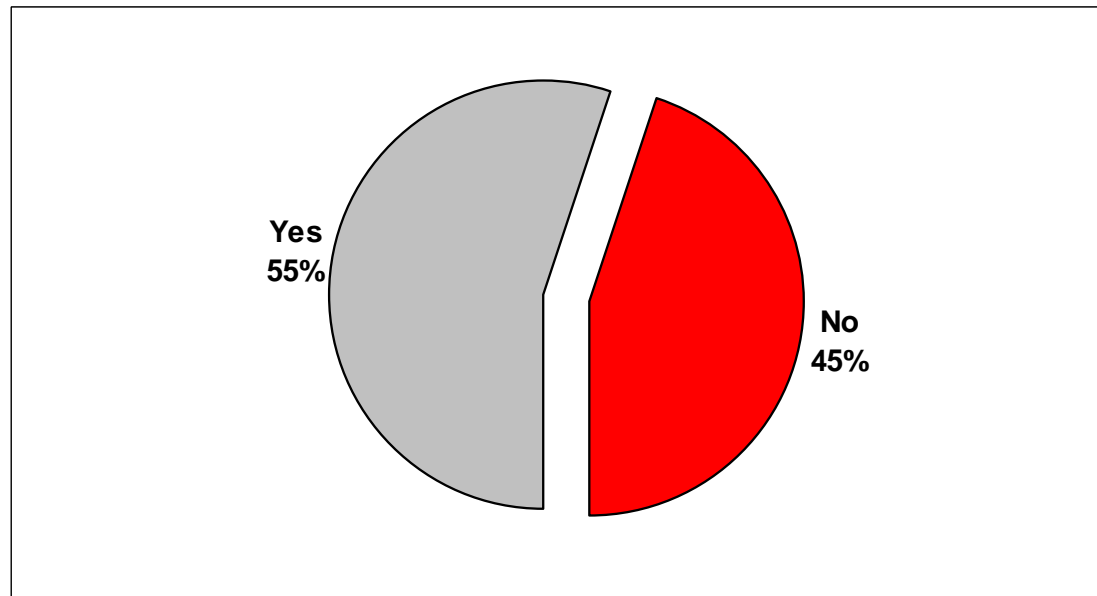
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## Which one incident has had the greatest impact on your campus/district's safety and security? (cont.)

- The Virginia Tech/Northern Illinois mass shootings were cited by 78 percent of higher education respondents as being the incidents that had the most impact on safety and security on college campuses. All other options, including Columbine, received 6 percent or less of college and university respondents' votes.
- By contrast, the Columbine tragedy was cited by 63 percent of K-12 survey respondents as the incident that had the greatest impact on their campus or district safety and security. Thirteen percent indicated a "local incident/event" had the greatest effect, while 8 percent said 9/11 impacted their safety and security the most. Five percent indicated Virginia Tech/Northern Illinois, 3 percent indicated Beslan and 1 percent indicated Hurricane Katrina.

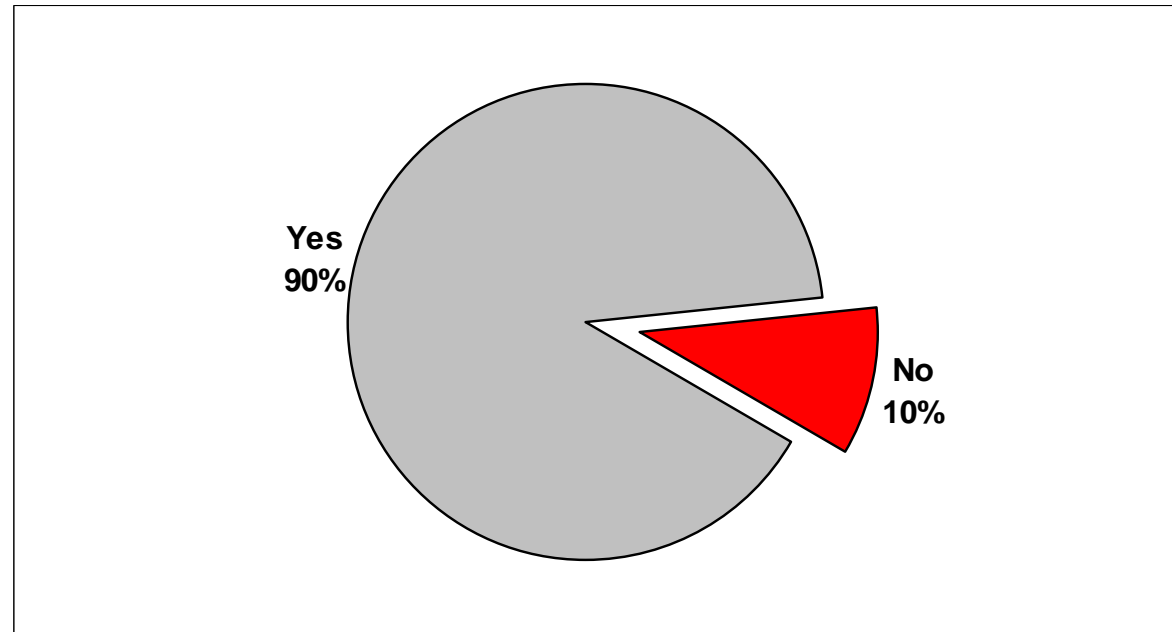
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# Did you work in the K-12/university industry when Columbine occurred in April 1999?

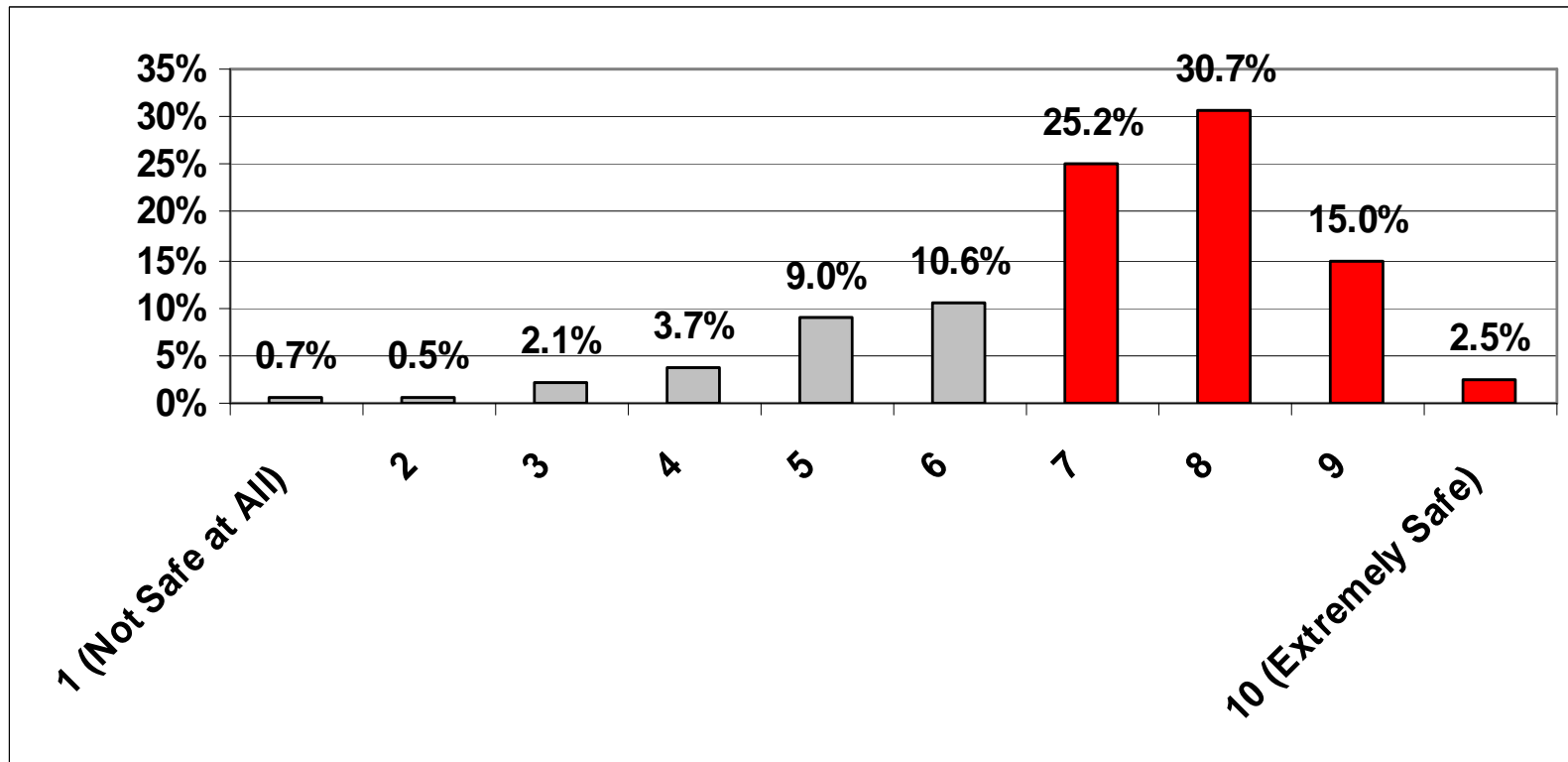


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Overall, is your campus safer now than it was before the Columbine tragedy?



On a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being extremely safe and 1 being not safe at all, how safe is your campus today?



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# Safety & Security Improvements

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<b>Safety &amp; Security Improvements Since 1999</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>K-12</b>	<b>University</b>
Created or revised emergency plans	84%	80%	86%
Improved sharing of information with faculty, staff, police/security, administration, non-campus agencies and community at large	77%	75%	78%
Installed or upgraded security cameras	75%	81%	72%
Conducted vulnerability/risk assessments and/or expanded them	74%	71%	76%
Installed or upgraded mass notification/emergency alert systems	73%	57%	83%
Installed or upgraded emergency communications equipment/two-way radios	64%	68%	62%
Improved lighting	63%	52%	69%
Created a multidisciplinary threat assessment team(s) and/or expanded it	59%	49%	65%
Began training officers and/or improved our program	57%	47%	62%
Conducted background checks of appropriate personnel, and/or expanded our program	57%	63%	53%

Note: Participants could check all that apply to their campuses.

<b>Safety &amp; Security Improvements Since 1999</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>K-12</b>	<b>University</b>
Created a police/security department or expanded it	55%	51%	57%
Installed or upgraded access control equipment	55%	52%	56%
Implemented or improved ID badging	50%	68%	39%
Installed or upgraded IT infrastructure	49%	43%	52%
Installed or upgraded fire detection/protection systems	48%	39%	53%
Armed officers with lethal weapons, less-lethal weapons, tactical rifles, carbines and/or shotguns, or upgraded these weapons	37%	29%	41%
Initiated or expanded contract(s) with city/county or other agencies for them to provide campus patrol officers	34%	42%	29%
Equipped police/security officers with soft body armor, tactical body armor (armor to protect against rifle fire), and/or expanded our program	33%	22%	39%
Incorporated Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) in new construction and renovations, and/or expanded its use	32%	32%	32%
Installed or upgraded intrusion detection	28%	31%	27%
Implemented or upgraded crime prevention hotlines	24%	32%	19%

Note: Participants could check all that apply to their campuses.

K-12 Safety & Security Improvements	
Started or expanded bullying prevention efforts (includes traditional bullying and cyber/electronic device bullying prevention efforts)	72%
Implemented or improved visitor management procedures and equipment	69%
Limited number of entrances/exits	67%
Implemented or improved graffiti removal programs	46%
Implemented or improved gang prevention/intervention programs	47%
Installed or upgraded fencing	36%

Note: Participants could check all that apply to their campuses.

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Higher Ed Safety & Security Improvements	
Installed or upgraded call boxes	50%
Installed or upgraded dispatch systems and software	34%

Note: Participants could check all that apply to their campuses.

<b>5 Most Important Upgrades Your Campus/District Can Implement to Improve Campus Safety &amp; Security</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>K-12</b>	<b>University</b>
Install or upgrade security cameras	43%	48%	40%
Train non-law enforcement campus personnel, or improve the training we currently provide	41%	39%	43%
Train our officers, or improve the training we currently provide	31%	21%	40%
Install or upgrade access control	31%	29%	32%
Conduct hazard and vulnerability/risk assessments or expand the number of assessments we currently conduct	28%	29%	27%
Create a police/security department, or increase the number of officers in our current department	25%	18%	29%
Create a multidisciplinary threat assessment team(s), or expand the number of teams we currently have	23%	27%	21%
Improve sharing of information with various campus/district constituents (faculty, staff, police/security, administration, noncampus agencies and community at large)	20%	27%	16%

Note: Participants could select five answers

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# Top 5 Improvements (cont.)

College respondents to the CS Columbine 10-year Anniversary Survey marked “Training non-law enforcement campus personnel, or improve the training we currently provide” most often (43 percent) as one of their top five improvements. When taken with K-12 responses (39 percent), however, this answer came in second.

Many campuses are now training their teachers to look for signs that a student might be at risk. Writing or art assignments are often a good source of information. “I had one student writing about building bombs,” says Ethan Hoff, safe school administrator for the San Juan Unified School District located near Sacramento, Calif. “We followed up on that and had the Sheriff’s Department look into it, and it was true. He was doing that at home.”

Something as simple as having teachers step outside their classrooms and watch what is happening in the hallways during break can also be effective.

Still, according to Gerald Carter, site safety coordinator for South Tahoe (Calif.) High School, some faculty members are afraid of their students. “They don’t report them because they are afraid something is going to happen if they do,” he says.

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<b>5 Most Important Upgrades Your Campus/District Can Implement to Improve Campus Safety &amp; Security (K-12)</b>	
Limit number of exits	22%
Increase bullying prevention efforts (includes traditional bullying and cyber/electronic device bullying prevention efforts)	22%
Implement or upgrade visitor management procedures and equipment	19%

Note: Participants could select five answers

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<b>5 Most Important Upgrades Your Campus/District Can Implement to Improve Campus Safety &amp; Security (Higher Ed)</b>	
Arm officers with lethal weapons, less-lethal weapons, tactical rifles, carbines or shotguns, or expand their deployment	24%
Install or upgrade mass notification/emergency alert systems	20%

Note: Participants could select five answers

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# Survey Participant Comments

- Columbine demonstrated that when schools and police don't work together, information does not get shared and collaborative responses to dynamic situations become gaps in services. Communication was easily the most obvious gap between service agencies.
- Columbine opened our eyes, and the shootings that have followed have made the point that we need to constantly be prepared for tragedy on campus.
- Columbine had little if any affect.
- If and when we suspect anyone could harm or potentially harm our schools, it gets reported immediately and is not ignored.
- It continues to frighten people but the idea that it will not happen here continues to show up, even though events continue to occur, which show this belief is incorrect.
- It created a more proactive mindset and initiated talks that encouraged the voicing of concerns. A one on one talking environment between civilians and law enforcement.
- My officers no longer wait for back up before entering. The criteria for officers to engage has been examined and redefined.

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# Survey Participant Comments

- Columbine opened the eyes of administrators. It showed them that we were not prepared for an incident like this. We, the police have been telling them all long that something like this could happen on our campus.
- People just forgot about it, and we didn't really do anything.
- Personally, I was working law enforcement 50 miles from Denver, Colo., when Columbine occurred. No changes on this campus.
- Students now believe in the importance of letting a staff member or someone know about a friend or other classmates talking of suicide or hurting themselves or others.
- Validated the need for improving safety and security efforts, which previously was like pulling teeth. Federal, state and local moneys came flowing in. However, now they have stopped, and we are still not where we need to be by a long shot.
- It is my opinion that in the K-12 environment, unless there is a state or federal law/statute mandating that something be done, it will not happen. There is too much emphasis on test scores and making AYP. When there are limited dollars for professional development and training, it only goes to educational programs. Training, conducting exercises, yearly review and updating of plans don't happen. However, fire drills and bus evacuations do occur because they are mandated by law/statute.

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# Thank you!

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For additional information on this and other education and healthcare safety and security topics, go to

[www.CampusSafetyMagazine.com](http://www.CampusSafetyMagazine.com).

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