

# SSID

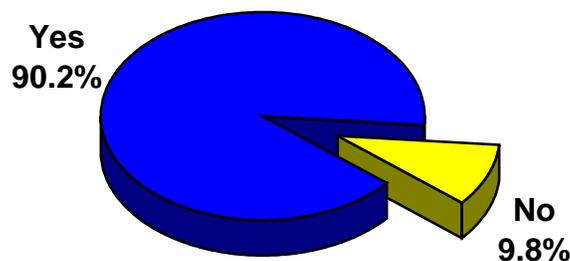
## Fact Sheet Terrorism and Schools

Since September 11, 2001, we have experienced a heightened sense of awareness and consciousness over the threat of terrorism against the United States. Terrorism experts agree that a terrorist attack on a school is a viable option for Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. In response to this threat, the National Association of School Resource Officers conducted a survey in May 2003 of 728 school resource officers regarding the threat of a terrorist event on a school campus and the level of preparedness of schools to a terrorist attack or other critical incident. Following are summary findings from the survey.

### School Safety Threats

- Over 90% of the survey respondents considered schools to be “soft targets” for a potential terrorist attack.
- Over 70% reported that aggressive behavior in elementary school children had increased in their school districts in the past five years.

### Schools are "Soft Targets" for Terrorists.



### Emergency Preparedness Planning

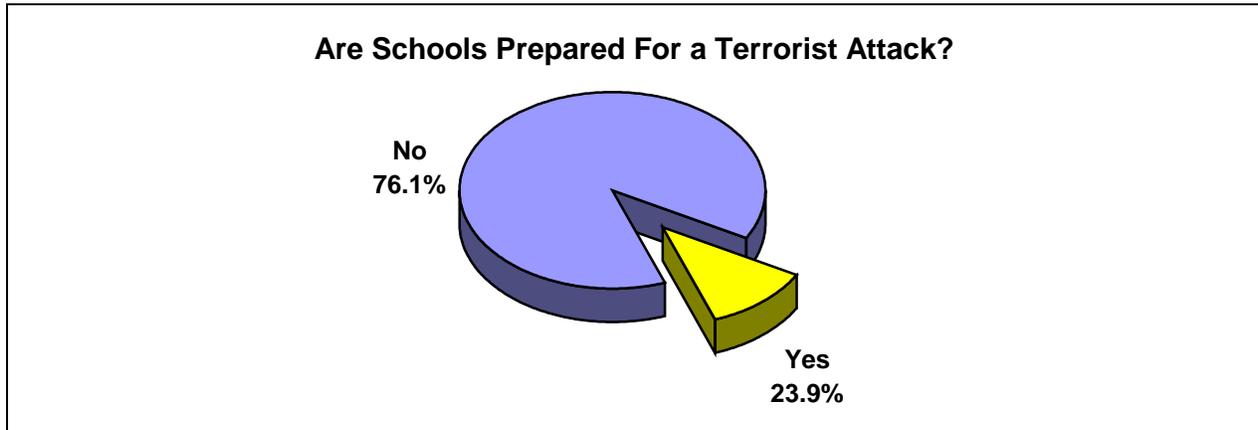
- Over 76% of the survey respondents reported that their schools are not adequately prepared to respond to a terrorist attack upon their schools.
- Over 51% declared that their school had no existing plan to account for a change in the Homeland Security color code warning system.
- Over 55% said that their school crisis plans are inadequate.

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- Over 62% reported that their school crisis plans have not been adequately tested.



### **Underreporting of Campus Crime**

- Over 87% of survey respondents declared that the number of crimes that occur on school campuses nationwide are underreported to police.
- Over 61% believe that school administrators who are faced with the possibility that their school will be labeled as “persistently dangerous” will result in underreporting of school crime.
- Over 88% believe that Congress should enact a federal law requiring mandatory, consistent school crime reporting for K-12 schools nationwide.

### **Need for Funding**

- Over 41% of survey respondents reported that funding for school safety in their schools is on the decline.
- Over 63% believe that the U.S. Department of Education’s \$38 million in emergency planning grants is inadequate because it will fund only 150 local education agencies.
- Over 85% think that the 35% cut for state funding of the Safe and Drug Free Schools program will contribute to a less safe school.
- Over 95% believe that a Congressional “Educational Homeland Security Act” to fund SRO and school staff terrorism training, improve security and crisis planning, and support SRO staffing would improve the safety of schools.

Clearly, school resource officers believe schools are vulnerable targets for terrorists. It is also clear that they do not feel schools are prepared to respond to a terrorist attack. Considering the level of threat and the lack of preparedness, it is obvious assistance should be in place for schools and communities. *Our job is to secure the American homeland, to protect the American people. And we’re meeting that duty together.* President George W. Bush, October 1, 2003

\*Source: School Safety Threats Persist, Funding Decreasing: NASRO 2003 National School-Based Law Enforcement Survey