Sandy Hook Promise: LAUSD Research Executive Summary

Between January and June 2017, the University of Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center conducted a case control test within a large urban school district to evaluate two SHP programs—Start With Hello (SWH) and Say Something (SS). Results demonstrated that:

After attending the SS program, participants reported:
- Significantly fewer aggressive behaviors
- More positive attitudes towards school
- Better perceptions of school safety

When compared to those that did not attend SS, participants reported:
- More positive attitudes towards school
- More positive relationships with trusted adults
- A greater willingness to report signs of mental distress and threats

After attending SWH, participants reported:
- Improvement in perceptions of school safety following the intervention.

When compared to those that did not attend, SWH participants reported:
- Greater willingness and self-efficacy to report warning signs of mental distress and threat
- More positive relationships with trusted adults

Overall, programs were positively received by the teachers and administrators and they were interested in continuing KTS and expanding student, parent, and community engagement. Despite some study challenges and limitations, the University of Michigan has concluded confidently that this evaluation provides promising evidence that the SHP programs are effective. SHP is now exploring a 2-year follow-up study within the district beginning in the Fall of 2018. Funding will be provided via a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant and/or support from individual and foundation donors.

Sampling of Interventions from reporting schools

- After a Say Something presentation, a student saw a threatening post against a teacher on social media from a classmate. She showed it to her mother, a trusted adult. Her mother alerted the school administration and the situation was handled internally.
- Students trained in Say Something reported that another student had a firearm in his backpack at school. The “air gun” and student were intervened upon within minutes of the report.
- A few weeks after a Say Something presentation, a student told a trusted adult that her classmate brought a gun to school. School administrators were notified and the situation was handled internally.
- Two students came forward after a Say Something presentation to say they were struggling with suicidal ideation. The school champion was contacted and students received support from the school.
- After hearing a Say Something presentation, a middle school student reported that a classmate had shared that she wanted to commit suicide. The reporting student told her mother and a school administrator. The suicidal student was intervened upon and has received support from the school.