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**Presentation title:** Assessing the Impacts of Active Shooter Drills in Schools with Big Data

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Active shooter drills are an emerging school safety practice employed in over 90% of K-12 schools across the United States today. They require students and staff to remain in confined areas under lockdown as they practice exercises—sometimes including “masked gunman” actors—in preparation for a potential school shooting. Costing an estimated \$2.7 billion, active shooter drills are implemented as schools feel mounting pressure to “do something” about school shootings, but no evidence currently exists on the effectiveness of this particular gun violence countermeasure. In fact, the overwhelming public sentiment appears to be dissatisfaction with these drills and fear that they may have ill effects. This paper analyzes big data from social media to assess the health, wellbeing, academic, and gun violence preventative impacts of active shooter drills on students, parents, and teachers. Methods involve citizen-science—as volunteers identified active shooter drill dates in nearly 200 US schools, as well as online communities and hashtags where relevant conversations occur—and machine learning, natural language processing, and sentiment analysis on hundreds of thousands of related tweets and Reddit posts occurring both pre- and post-drills. Results will highlight common complaints (e.g., “teaching potential shooters public safety responses they can plan to overcome”), unintended consequences (e.g., injury during drill, trauma, asthma attacks, anxiety), needs following drills (e.g., counselors), as well as positive impacts (e.g., feeling safer and more prepared). As one of the only studies to date to assess the impacts of widespread active shooter drills, findings will have important implications on school safety policies, practices, and strategies.