

THE JACKIE PROJECT

31,177

Colorado Student Culture *The Data Brief*

Student voice, belonging and graduation in Colorado, with every figure sourced and every limit stated.

BEFORE THE NUMBERS

How to read this brief

This brief collects the Colorado and national figures behind The Jackie Project's Data page. Every number comes from a public source listed on the last page, and each table says where it came from.

What these numbers can tell you

How many students and adults used Safe2Tell in 2024–25, and what they reported about.

How many U.S. high school students said they had experienced racism at school, and how that lines up with other outcomes. How Colorado's graduation rate is moving.

What they cannot tell you

Why a number moved. A rise in Safe2Tell reports can mean more need, more trust in the system, or both. The CDC figures are associations from one survey at one point in time, so they do not show that racism caused any outcome. None of this is evidence that any single program caused any single result.

The question underneath all of it

The data describes a state. A building is smaller and more particular. The Jackie Project's work starts where the data stops: going into one school or organization, observing how it actually moves, and listening to the people inside it.

31,177

Safe2Tell reports, 2024–25. A record. Each is a person deciding to say something out loud.

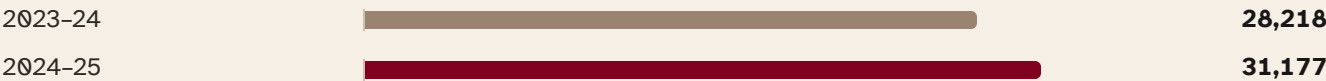
Figures are rounded as published. Where two sources differ slightly, the page 8 notes say so.

1 · STUDENT VOICE

Safe2Tell: the record year



Reports per school year



The five most-reported types



Report type	Reports	Share of all reports
Suicide threats	3,209	10.3%
Bullying	2,673	8.6%
School safety concern: staff	2,568	8.3%
Drugs	1,628	5.2%
Welfare check	1,538	4.9%

Suicide threats were the most-reported type. The other four listed together account for 27% of reports. Sources: Colorado Attorney General, Aug. 2025 (totals and 10.5% change); Safe2Tell Annual Report 2024–25 (types and counts).

1 · STUDENT VOICE

Safe2Tell: who reports, and how

Validity of reports



Category	Share of reports
Valid	96.6%
Unintended misuse	1.2%
False	2.2%

Bystander and self-reports

90% of reports were filed by a bystander and **10%** (3,110 reports) were self-reports.

Duplicate reports

Safe2Tell logged **3,975** duplicate reports, where more than one person reported the same concern. The Attorney General’s office describes this as a sign of a healthy reporting culture.

How reports come in

Method	Share
Mobile web	47%
PC web	31%
Phone call	16%
Mobile app	4%
Text	1%

The year’s shape

September was the busiest month, with **4,729** reports. July was the quietest, with **716**. In July 2025 the largest named categories were mental health (18.3%), community safety (11.5%) and abuse and exploitation (11.3%). Another 26.1% were filed as “other,” mostly requests for information about the program.

Sources: Safe2Tell Annual Report 2024–25; Colorado Attorney General, Safe2Tell July 2025 report; Colorado Attorney General, Oct. 2025.

2 · BELONGING

Racism at school, U.S. high school students, 2023

31.5% of students said they had ever experienced racism at school. Nearly 1 in 3. The CDC measured this for the first time in 2023.

Ever experienced racism at school, by group



What it is linked to (all students)

Indicator	Ever experienced racism	Never
Current poor mental health	34.8%	25.9%
Attempted suicide, past 12 months	15.0%	6.7%
Current any tobacco use	22.2%	15.9%
Current alcohol use	26.4%	20.0%
Current marijuana use	21.8%	14.5%
Prescription opioid misuse	8.5%	2.6%

The 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (N = 20,103) is cross-sectional, so these are associations. “Ever” includes students who answered rarely, sometimes, most of the time or always. Source: CDC, MMWR Supplement 73(4).

2 · BELONGING

Racism at school: the same link, group by group

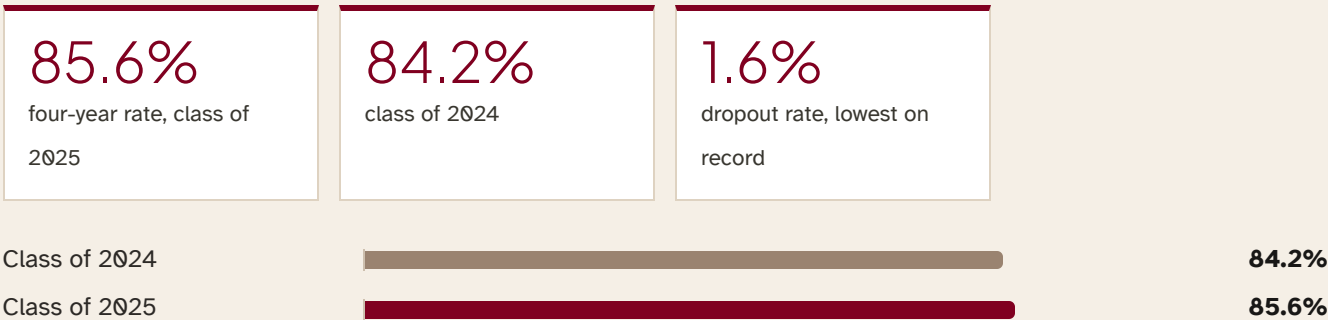
Each cell shows the share of students with that outcome who ever experienced racism at school, then the share of those who did not. An asterisk marks a difference that was not statistically significant.

Group	Poor mental health	Attempted suicide	Any tobacco	Alcohol	Marijuana	Rx opioid misuse
Asian	27.0 / 17.7	11.0 / 3.9	7.3 / 7.1*	14.1 / 10.7*	7.5 / 4.9*	6.0 / 2.9*
Black	33.2 / 22.3	15.2 / 4.7	21.2 / 13.1	22.7 / 12.3	24.1 / 12.8	6.8 / 3.6
Hispanic	36.1 / 19.8	16.7 / 7.0	22.8 / 13.0	27.8 / 15.4	22.4 / 13.3	9.8 / 3.0
Multiracial	39.0 / 20.6	15.3 / 7.6	24.3 / 14.9*	24.5 / 20.8*	25.9 / 15.6	8.8 / 3.1
White	36.1 / 30.5*	12.9 / 7.0	26.5 / 18.2	32.0 / 24.2	21.9 / 15.9	8.0 / 2.1
American Indian / Alaska Native	53.3 / 25.2	20.4 / 7.5	45.5 / 25.5*	31.9 / 22.3*	32.0 / 21.3*	1.4 / 1.3*

All values are percentages. Some estimates, especially for Asian and American Indian / Alaska Native students, have wide confidence intervals, so read small differences with care. Source: CDC, MMWR Supplement 73(4), Tables 4 and 5.

3 · WHO CROSSES THE STAGE

Colorado graduation, class of 2025



Change in four-year rate, class of 2025

Group	Change	Relative to state average
Black students	+2.3 points	Below
Hispanic students	+2.9 points	Below
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	+7.3 points	Below
Multiracial students	+1.5 points	Below
Migrant students	+4.7 points	Below
Foster care students	+4.4 points	Below

Subgroup levels were not published in the coverage reviewed, so only the direction and size of change are shown. “Below” reflects the reporting that these groups “still lag behind the state average.” Sources: Colorado Dept. of Education releases, Jan. 2025 and Jan. 2026, as reported by CPR News.

4 · SOURCES AND NOTES

Where this came from, and where sources disagree

Colorado's own framework

The Colorado Department of Education's Landscape of Wellbeing and Belonging describes five features: School Environment, Relationships, Health and Wellbeing, Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Competencies, and Engaging Learning Practices. Two of them, the school environment and relationships, are the ones culture work changes directly.

Sources

1. Colorado Attorney General, Safe2Tell July 2025 report. coag.gov/2025/safe2tell-report-july-2025
2. Colorado Attorney General, Safe2Tell annual report release, Oct. 2025. coag.gov/press-releases/safe2tell-annual-report-october-2025
3. Safe2Tell 2024–2025 Annual Report. safe2tell.org
4. CDC, Experiences of Racism in School and Associations with Mental Health, Suicide Risk, and Substance Use, YRBS 2023. MMWR Supplement 73(4). cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/su/su7304a4.htm
5. CPR News, Colorado graduation and dropout rates, Jan. 13, 2026. cpr.org
6. Colorado Dept. of Education, The Landscape of Wellbeing and Belonging. ed.cde.state.co.us/thelandscape

Notes on the data

- The Safe2Tell annual report describes an 11% rise. The Attorney General's office reports 10.5% (28,218 to 31,177). This brief uses 10.5%.
- CPR News gives the statewide graduation gain as 1.4 points in one place and 1.3 in another. This brief uses 85.6% and 84.2%, a 1.4-point change.
- The Safe2Tell annual report gives two different counts for mental health self-reports (135 in the text, 285 in an appendix), so this brief does not use either.