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Dedicated to Reporting Developments in Technology for Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Forensic Sciences

8,000 Free School COPs and Counting

No-cost software is available to help school officials analyze and map incidents that occur in or near schools. Developed by Abt Associates in 2000 with funding from the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the School COP software package has been downloaded more than 8,000 times. Thousands of copies of the School COP CD-ROM also have been distributed to school resource officers (SROs) and school administrators at COPS in Schools conferences sponsored by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

School COP is for everyday use and enables SROs, SRO supervisors, school administrators, and security officers to do the following:

- Enter incidents daily, which saves people time in completing required monthly or annual reports.
- Display incidents involving a particular student quickly, which is valuable for meetings with parents or students.
- Produce graphics showing school "hot spots" or year-to-year trends, which can help solve problems and communicate issues at school meetings. For example, a map can show where bullying incidents have occurred on a school campus.
- Provide evidence of activities undertaken or problems solved, which can help persuade a school board to continue funding an SRO program.

Although developed for use in K-12 schools, School COP has been used in other settings. With funding from NIJ, researchers at Temple University modified the package for use in correctional settings, calling it Facility COP. School COP is also being used in post-secondary schools, law enforcement gang and narcotics units, and hospitals (to track security infractions and alarms).

School COP runs on PCs that use Windows 95, 98, NT, 2000, and XP and have at least 16 MB of RAM and 20 MB of available hard disk space.

To receive more information or to download a free copy of School COP, visit www.schoolcopsoftware.com or contact Mike O'Shea, NIJ program manager, at Michael.O'Shea@usdoj.gov. For more information about Facility COP, visit www.temple.edu/cj/faccop. For more information about COPS in Schools, sponsored by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, go to www.cops.usdoj.gov, click on the News & Events tab, then on Training, and select COPS in Schools Training.



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The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.

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