



Jeremy Bullock

SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT

WHEN DOORS AND DATA COLLIDE: UNDERSTANDING HOW CYBER THREATS IMPACT PHYSICAL SECURITY



Albert Mendoza, Protective Security Advisor

Joe Frohlich, Cybersecurity Coordinator

Mission

We lead the national effort to understand, manage, and reduce risk to our cyber and physical infrastructure.

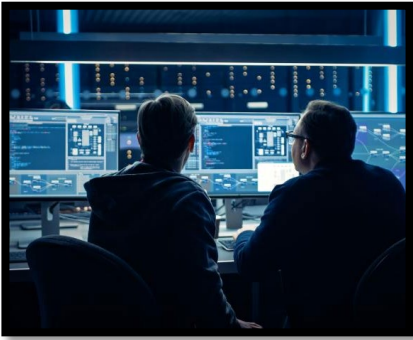
Vision

A secure and resilient critical infrastructure for the American people.

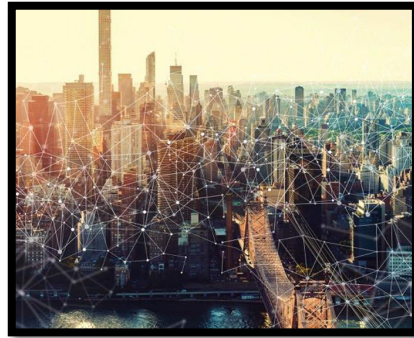


Who We Are:

CISA consists of



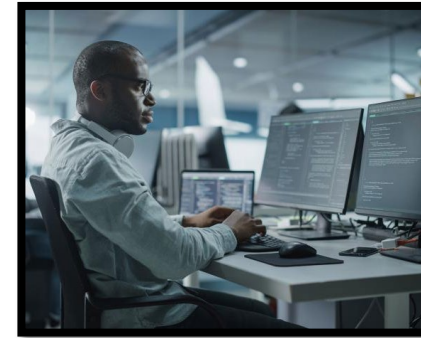
Cybersecurity



Infrastructure
Security



Emergency
Communications



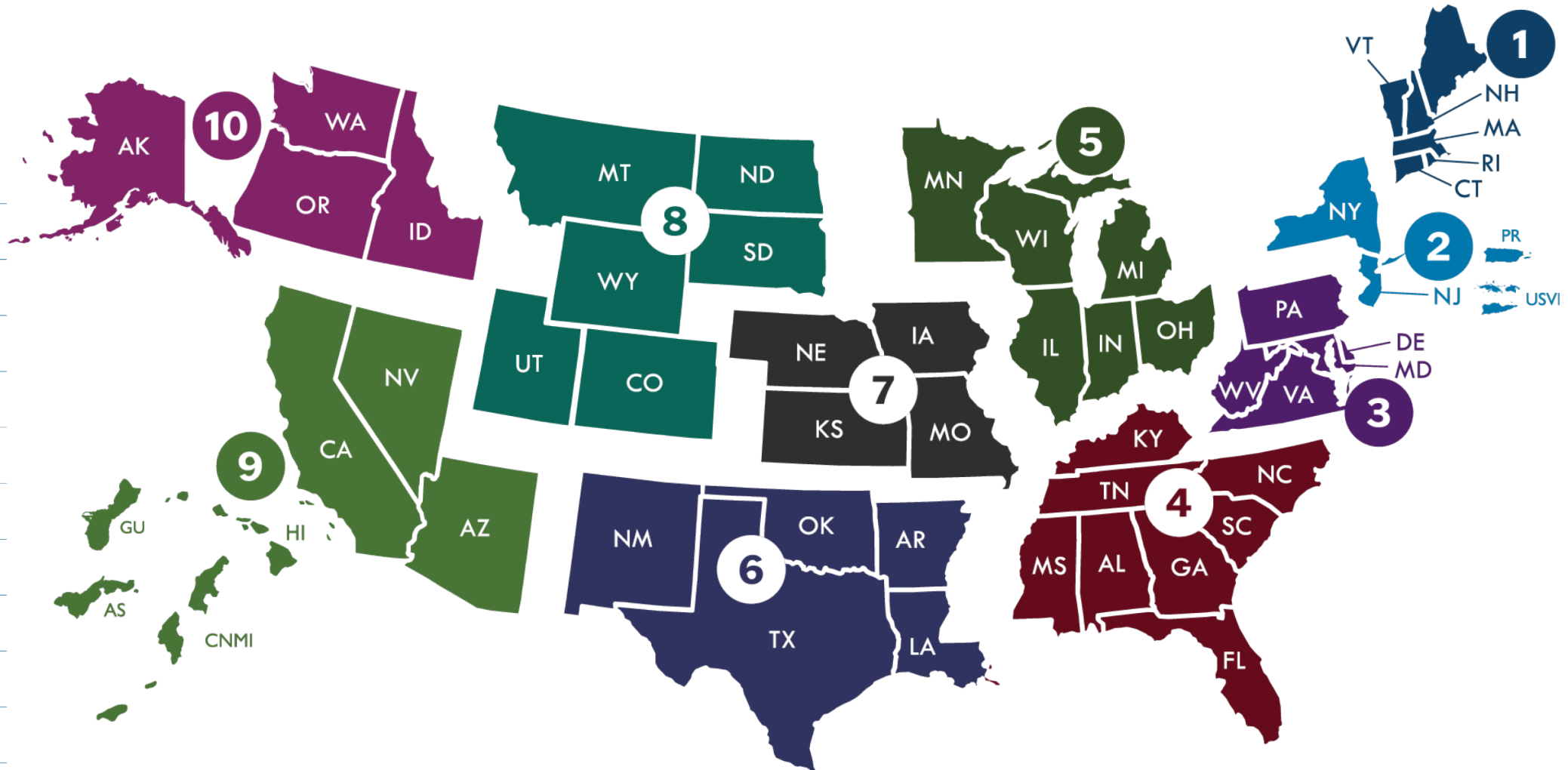
National Risk
Management
Center

CISA works with public sector, private sector, and government partners to share information, build greater trust, and lead the national effort to protect and enhance the resilience of the Nation's physical and cyber infrastructure.



CISA Regions

- 1 Boston, MA
- 2 New York, NY
- 3 Philadelphia, PA
- 4 Atlanta, GA
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 6 Dallas, TX
- 7 Kansas City, MO
- 8 Denver, CO
- 9 Oakland, CA
- 10 Seattle, WA



16 Sectors & Sector Specific Agencies



→ 2025 CISA Priority Sectors ←

CISA Region 8 – Montana Cadre

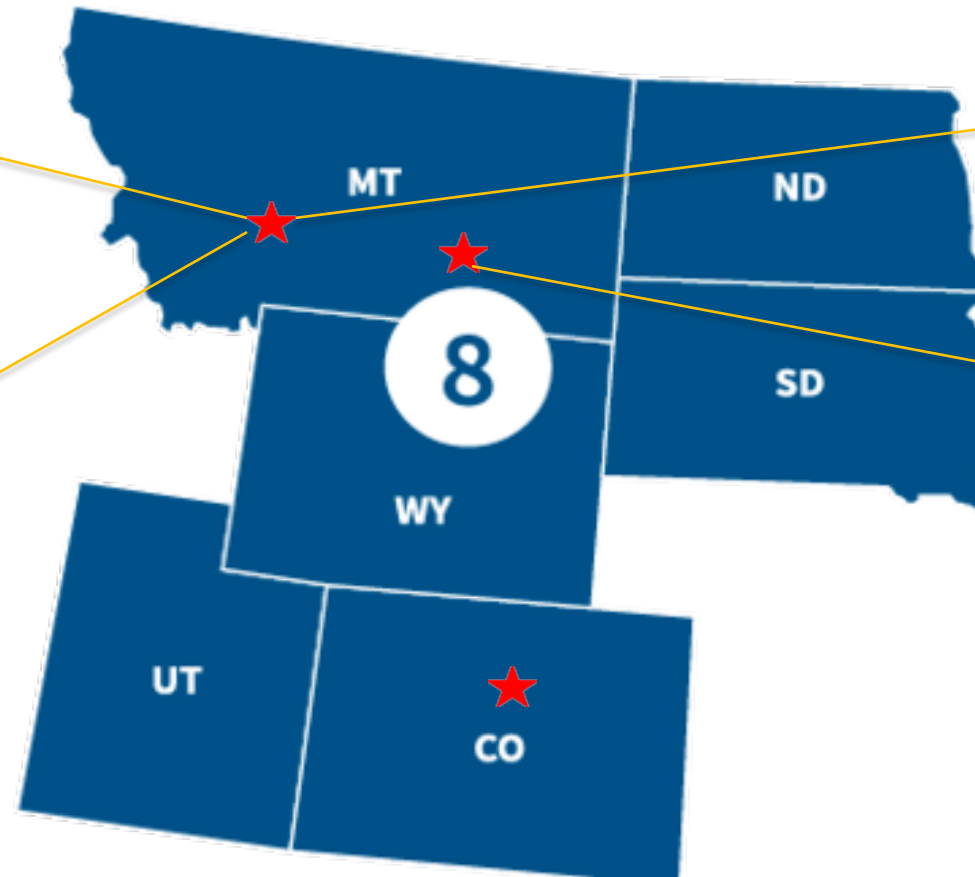
CISA Cyber Security Advisors

Joe Frohlich

*Cybersecurity State Coordinator (CSC)
State & Local Government,
K-12, Higher Education
Helena*

Travis Light

*Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA)
Critical Infrastructure Focus
Helena*



CISA Protective Security Advisors

Randy Middlebrook

*Protective Security Advisor (PSA)
Helena*

Albert Mendoza

*Protective Security Advisor (PSA)
Billings*



Protective Security Advisor (PSA)



- **INFRASTRUCTURE SURVEY TOOL** - Identifying facilities' physical security, security forces, security management, information sharing, protective measures, and dependencies related to preparedness, mitigation, response, resilience, and recovery;
- **Assist Visit** – Identifies and recommends protective measures at facilities, provide comparison across like assets, and track implementation of new protective measures.
- **Infrastructure Visualization Platform (IVP)** – brings a facility's digital floorplans to life by placing on it 360° panoramic photographs, immersive video, geospatial information, and hypermedia data of critical facilities, surrounding areas, and transportation routes that assist with security planning, protection, and response efforts.
- **SAFE Tool** The Security Assessment at First Entry (SAFE) tool is designed to assess the current security posture and identify options for facility owners and operators to mitigate relevant threats

CISA Protective Security Advisors



Key Themes

1. Each school is unique; there is no one size-fits all approach to physical security.
2. Taking a systems-based approach to physical security can help schools address their unique circumstance and ensure that protection and mitigation measures complement measures to the prevent violence and respond to and recover from violent incidents.
3. Taking a layered approach to physical security ensures that the system works in an integrated way to Detect, Delay and Respond to threats and helps to prevent single points of failure.



Physical Security Overview

- Physical Security ,Equipment and Technology.

Locks, card readers, camera system

- School Security Personnel.

- School Resource Officer? Dedicated security staff?

- Security Policies and Procedures.

- Are there policies and procedures in place to inform members of the school community (staff, students, visitors, etc.) of actions they should take in case of an emergency



Physical Security Overview

- Site and Building Design.
 - Where is the school located? Is it in rural, suburban, or urban locale? How long does it take first responders such as police and emergency medical services to reach the school in an emergency?
- Training, Exercise and Drills.
 - What type of training is conducted and how often? Active shooter, De-escalation, are local first responders included?





Cyber Risk

**Cybersecurity is everyone's
responsibility**

Peoples Republic of China (PRC) Cyber Threats

- “While the PRC is a sophisticated cyber adversary, many of its methods to break into our critical infrastructure are not. They don’t have to be. Why? Because we’ve made it easy for them. The truth is that, in many cases, the PRC is taking advantage of known product defects.”

- CISA Director Jen Easterly

(January 31st, 2024 - Opening Statement before the House Select Committee)

Office of Intelligence and Analysis – Feb 2025



CYBERSECURITY

(U//FOUO) People's Republic of China: Exploitation of Internet-Connected Cameras Threatens US Critical Infrastructure

(U//FOUO) The ability of People's Republic of China (PRC) cyber actors to access internet-connected cameras – especially those manufactured in the PRC – in the Homeland probably enables Beijing to conduct espionage or disrupt US critical infrastructure.^a These devices typically lack data encryption and security settings and have default settings to communicate with their manufacturer, which, for PRC-made cameras, could be in China. **There are tens of thousands of PRC-made cameras on the**



Verkada - Surveillance Camera Security Breach – March 2021

The hackers responsible for the breach claimed that they were able to access Verkada's systems by exploiting a "Super Admin" account that had been left unprotected. Once inside, they were able to view live feeds from cameras installed in a wide range of locations, including offices, factories, hospitals, prisons, and schools. The hackers also gained access to archived footage, which could potentially contain sensitive or incriminating information.

[150,000 Surveillance Cameras Exposed in Verkada Security Breach - UMA Technology](https://www.verkada.com/security-update/report/)



<https://www.verkada.com/security-update/report/>

Cloud Provider & Ransomware Breach's



IMAGE: ANNIE SPRATT VIA UNSPLASH/POWERSCHOOL

Suzanne Smalley
May 21st, 2025

Cybercrime News

College student to plead guilty to Power hack

<https://therecord.media/college-student-to-plead-guilty-to-powerschool-hack>



PowerSchool hacker now extorting individual school districts

By [Lawrence Abrams](#)

May 7, 2025 02:25 PM 0

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/powerschool-hacker-now-extorting-individual-school-districts/>

PRIVACY & SECURITY

Schools Are a Top Target of Ransomware Attacks, and It's Getting Worse



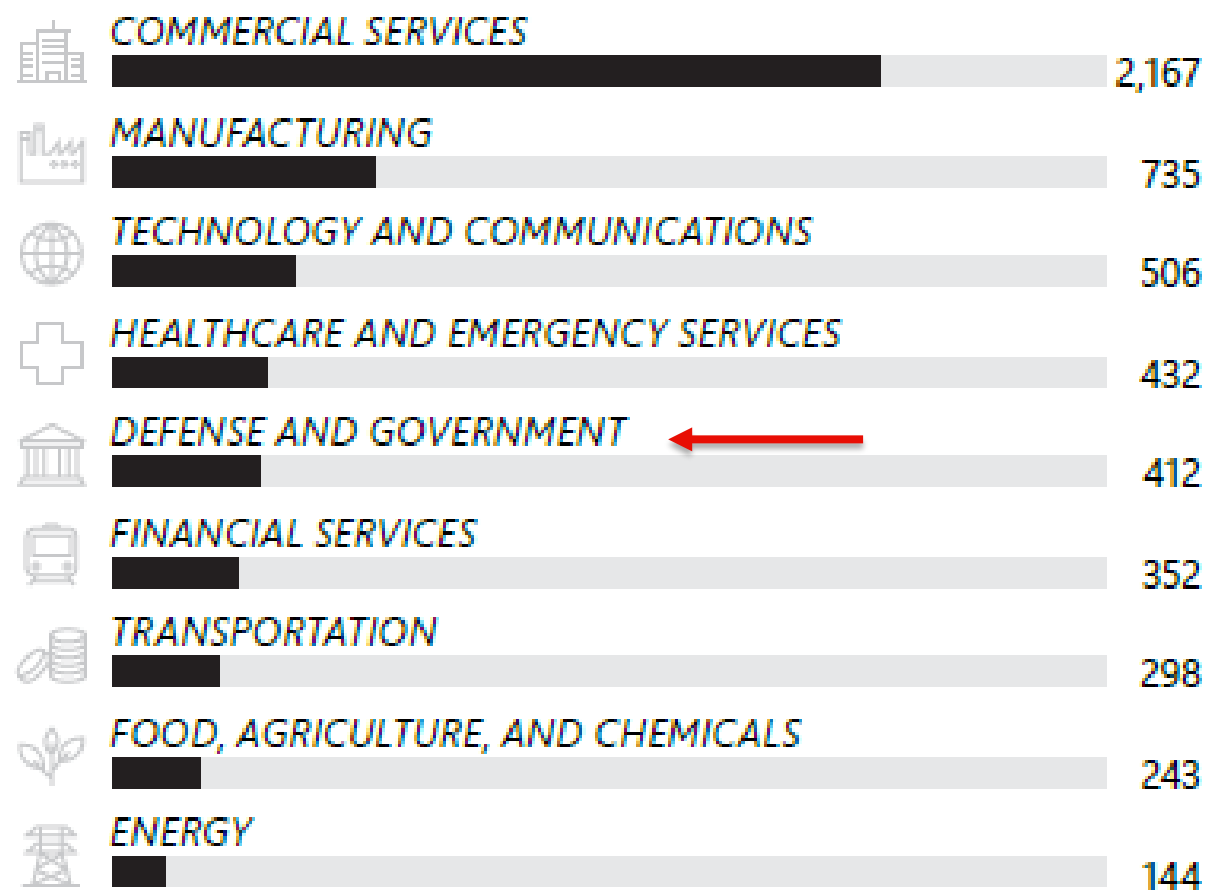
By [Lauraine Langreo](#) — August 17, 2023 ⌚ 3 min read

<https://www.edweek.org/technology/schools-are-a-top-target-of-ransomware-attacks-and-its-getting-worse/2023/08>

Ransomware Attacks by Industry (ODNI 2024)

TOTAL RANSOMWARE ATTACKS WORLDWIDE, BY INDUSTRY, 2024

Commercial Services, Manufacturing, and Technology and Communications remained the most heavily targeted industries. Attacks against critical infrastructure pose an outsized threat to national security based on the potential for these attacks to disrupt essential services and critical functions.



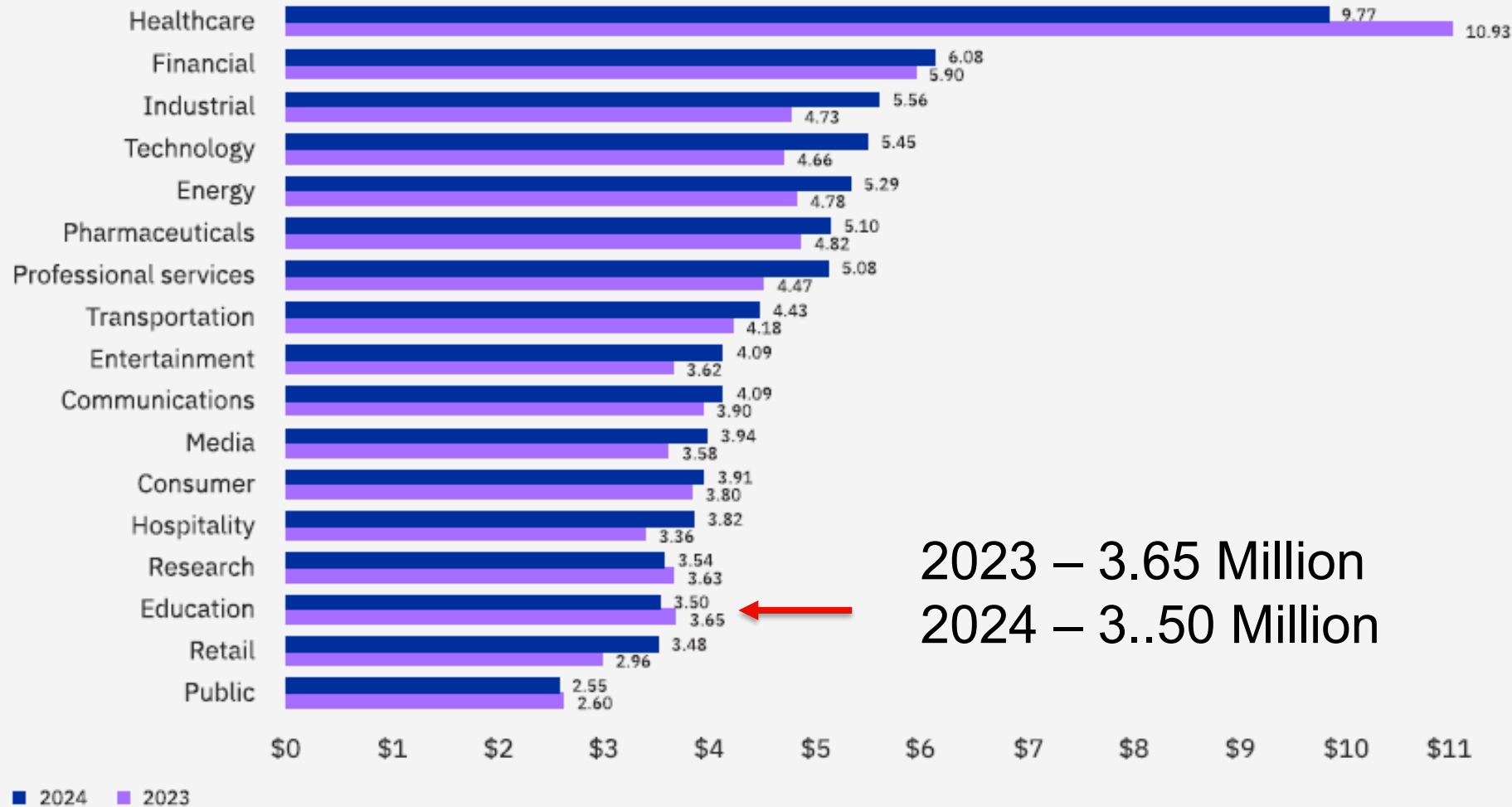
TOTAL: 5,289

TOTAL RANSOMWARE ATTACKS per YEAR (Worldwide)

| | |
|------|--------------|
| 2022 | 2,593 |
| 2023 | 4,591 (77%↑) |
| 2024 | 5,289 (15%↑) |

Cost of a Data Breach by Industry (IBM 2024)

Cost of a data breach by industry



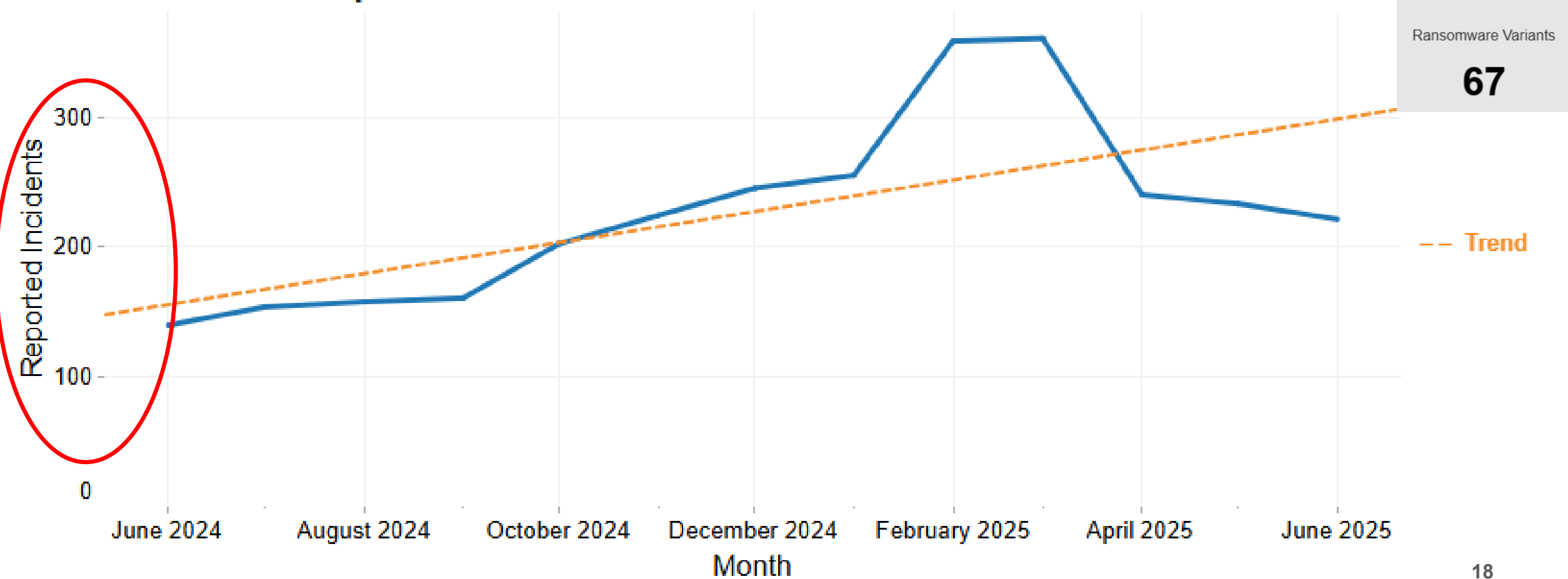
Top Factors to drive down breach cost:

1. *Employee Training*
2. AI, machine learning driven insights
3. SIEM
4. IRP
5. Encryption
6. Threat Intel

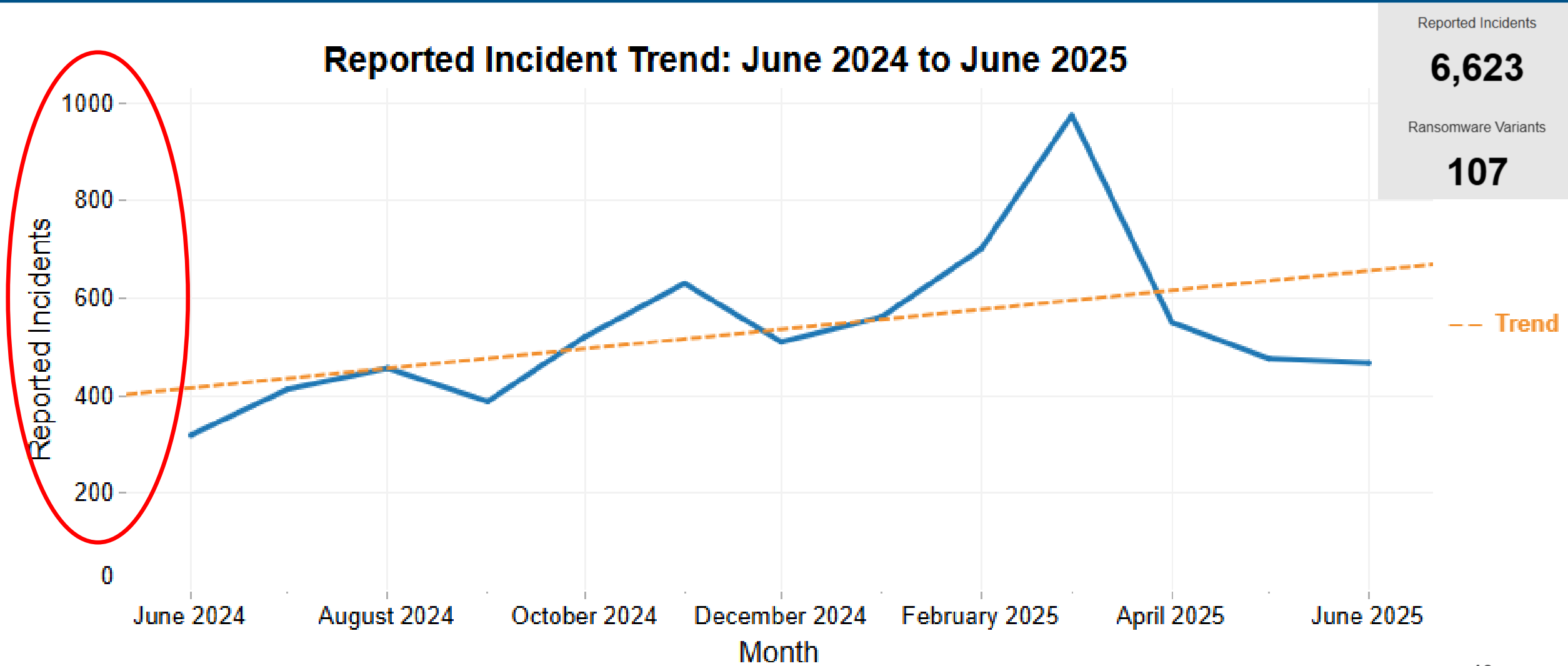
if you
SEE | **SAY**
something | something®

Ransomware Incidents: Reported to Federal Government

Reported Incident Trend: June 2024 to June 2025



Ransomware Incidents: Dark Web Data



Attacks are Preventable

Basic security hygiene
still protects against

98%
of attacks.

Basic Cyber
Hygiene

Less than **25%**
surveyed performed
annual cybersecurity
risk assessments.

Perform Risk
Assessments

90%
of organizations
were impacted
by ransomware
[in 2022].

Enable MFA on
Accounts



CISA Cyber Services

Cybersecurity Advisor Program

Cybersecurity Advisors & Coordinators (CSAs / CSCs)
support CISA's Cybersecurity Mission in the following areas:

Specifically, what we do:

- **Perform Strategic Assessments**
- **Promote Technical Service Offerings**
- **Deliver Presentations**
- **Fulfill Entity Notifications**
- **Participate in Working Groups**
- **Offer Trainings**
- **Furnish CISA & Industry Information**
- **Conduct Topic Briefings**



Recommended CISA Cyber Assessments for Montana

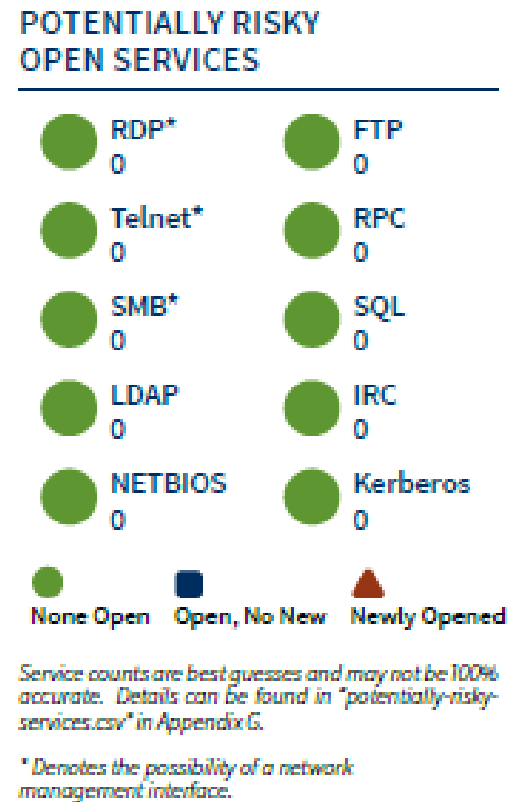
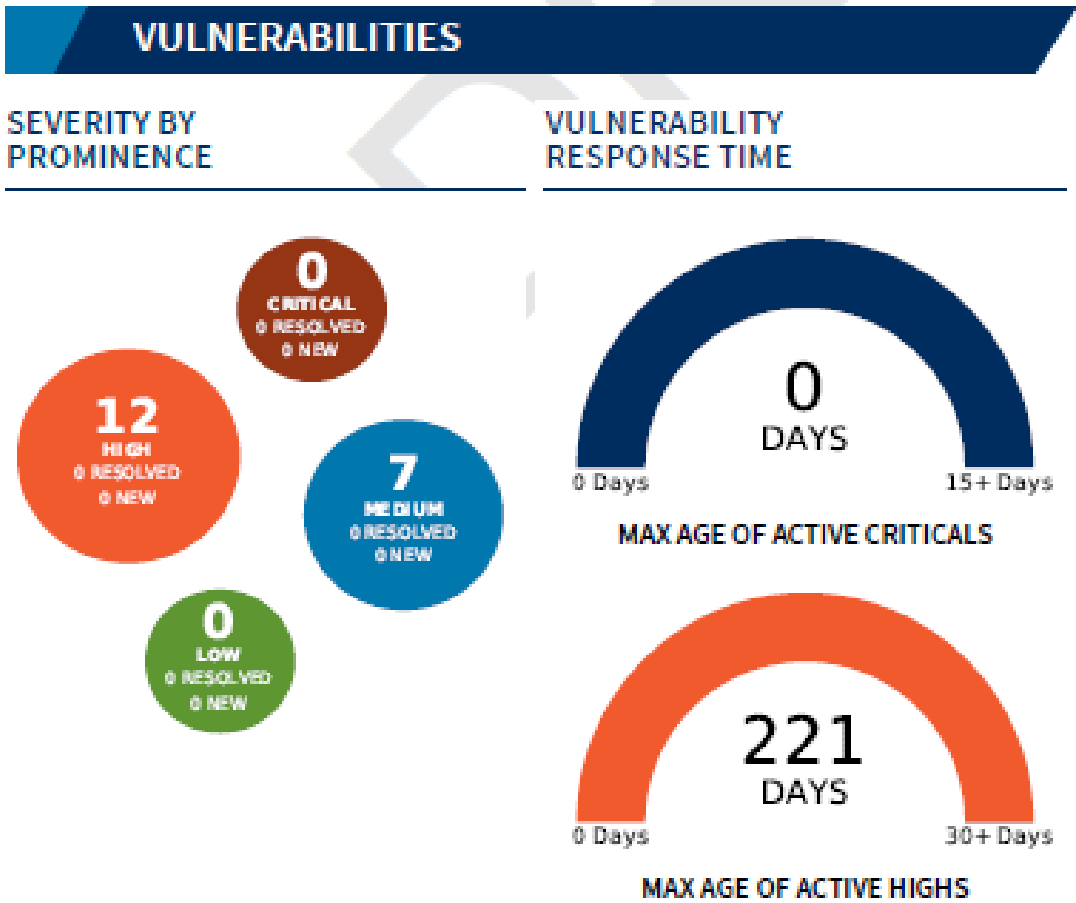
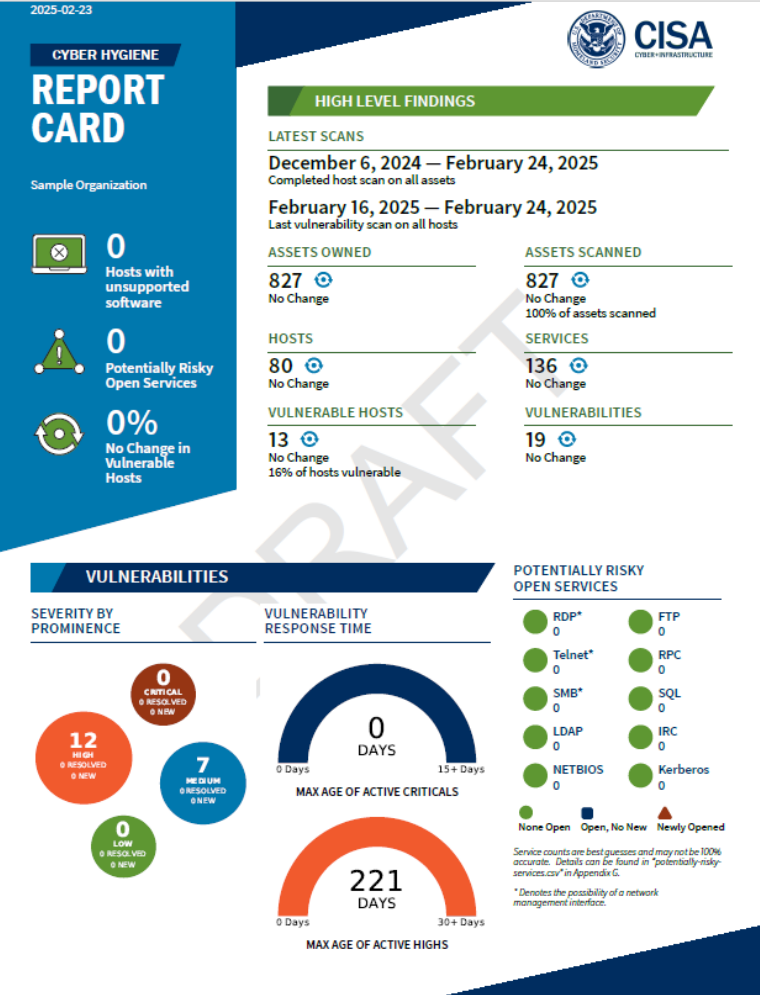
Cyber Resilience Essentials (Strategic) -----
Cyber Performance Goals (Strategic) -----
External Dependencies Management (Strategic) -----

Vulnerability Scanning / Hygiene (Technical) -----

To be eligible for additional technical assessments – Need to have
CISA Cyber Assessment & Vuln scanning in place



CISA Vulnerability Scanning – Report



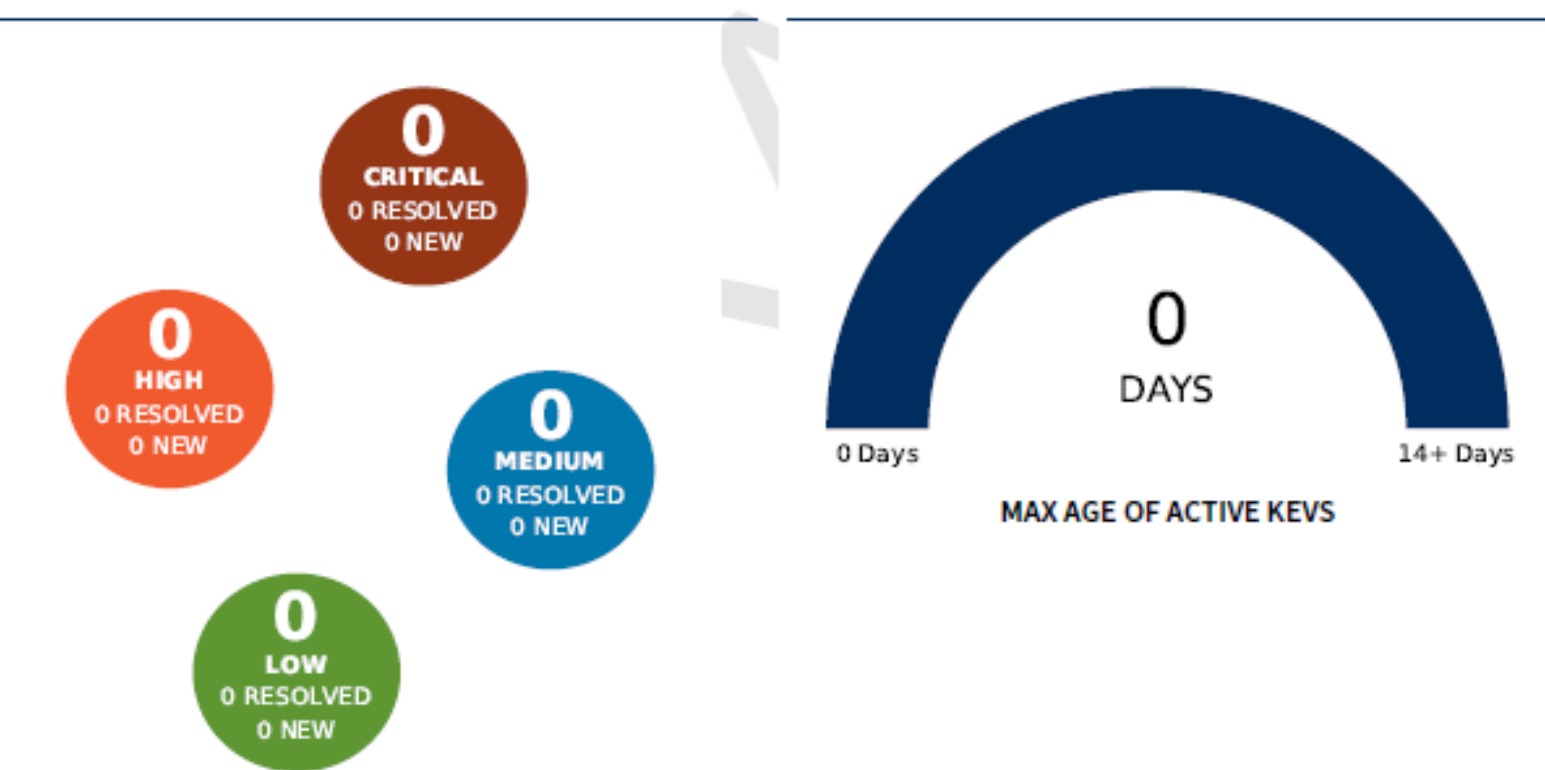
****Page 6 of Vulnerability Scanning Report**** Review this page at least quarterly and have IT provide an update and remediation plan. [Sign up - Cyber Hygiene Services](#)

CISA Vulnerability Scanning – Summary

Reducing the Significant Risk of Known Exploited Vulnerabilities (KEV)

KEV SEVERITY BY PROMINENCE

KEV RESPONSE TIME



Executive Summary page 6-11 on report

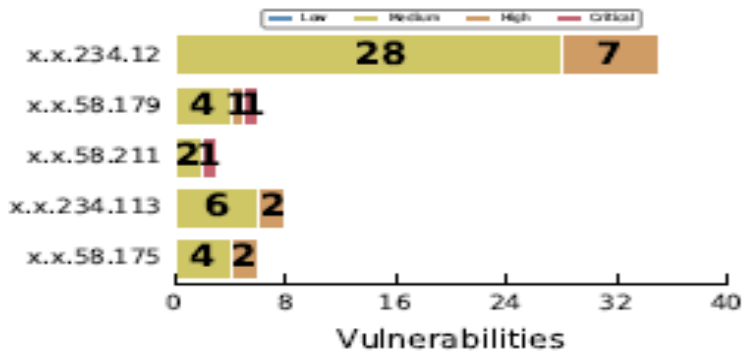


Figure 2: Top High-Risk Hosts

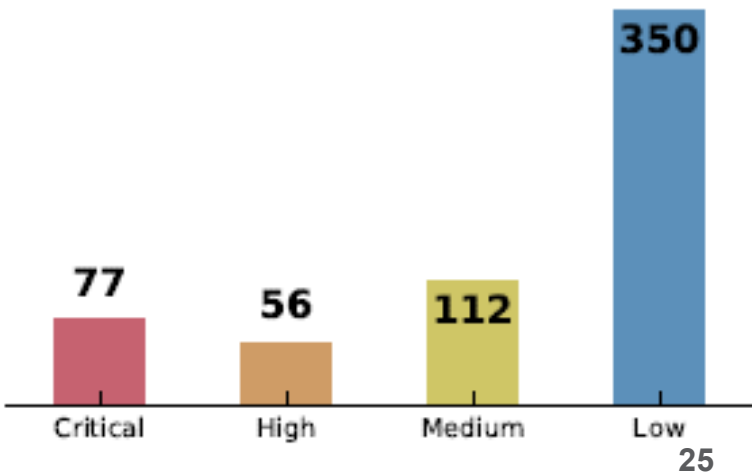


Figure 4: Median Time in Days to Mitigate Vulnerabilities

****Page 7 of Vulnerability Scanning Report**** Review this page at least quarterly and have IT give an update and remediation plan.



[Sign up - Cyber Hygiene Services](#)

Incident Response Plans

[Insert Organization] Incident Response
Plan



[Remove and insert your organizations logo]

[CISA Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan **Basic Templates** (Version 2025-04)]

Version: 2025-06-13



[Insert Organization] Cybersecurity
Incident Response Plan



[Remove and insert your organizations logo]

[CISA Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan **for Small Organizations.**
Guidance, Templates and Playbooks (Version 2025-04)]

Version: 2025-06-13

Incident Reporting

Montana Analysis and Technical Information Center (MATIC):

406-444-1330 | dojintel@mt.gov

CISA Central 24x7 contact number:

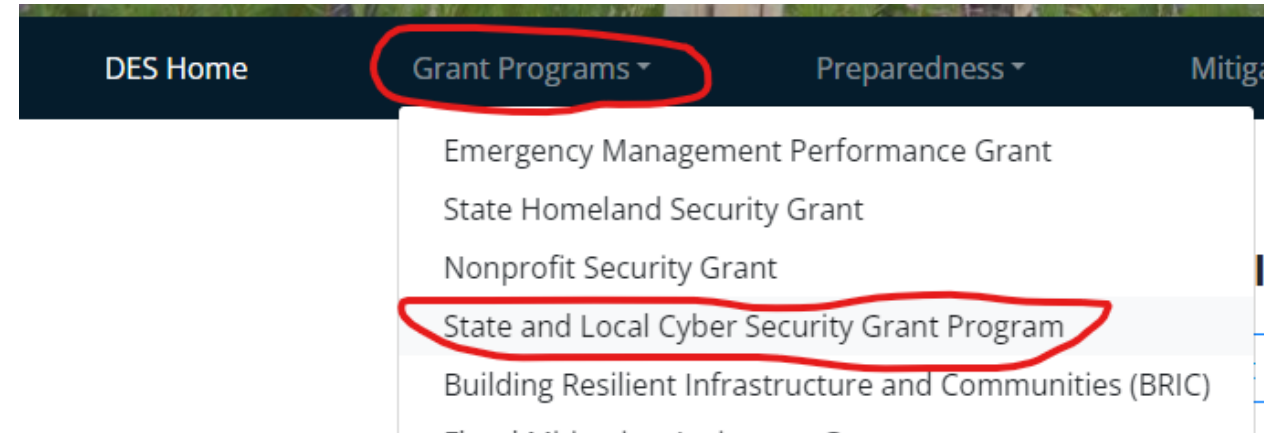
844-Say-CISA | SayCISA@cisa.dhs.gov

[Report an Incident: www.cisa.gov/forms/report](https://www.cisa.gov/forms/report)



State & Local Cyber Grant Program (K-12 included)

Applications will be completed through MT DES - des.mt.gov



Committee Approved Projects for Montana's K-12

- End User Security Awareness Training (Staff)
 - KnowBe4 Diamond Tier through the State of Montana Contract
- ★ • Behavior Based Endpoint Protection (Server and Workstation)
 - Sentinelone - \$63 per workstation, \$90 per server – through State of Montana Contract
- ★ • Professional Cybersecurity Training (for IT Privileged users and Cyber Professionals)
 - Up to \$4,500



SecureMontana – Whole of State Cyber/Physical Security

Next Meeting is August 28th – 1PM to 3PM

- In Person (Missoula, MT – Hosted by University of Montana)
- Join SecureMontana's Discord Channel
 - <https://discord.gg/Shg7f4SYwj>
 - Chat with SecureMontana members
 - See upcoming meeting information
 - See/Post upcoming Montana Training and conferences... and so much more.
- Current Website – www.Cyber406.org



CISA School Safety & Cybersecurity for K-12

School Safety

- K-12 Bystander Reporting Toolkit
- SchoolSafety.gov
- K-12 School Security Guide Product Suite



Cybersecurity for K-12

- Cyber Education Resources
 - K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- STOP Ransomware (K-12)
- Cybersecurity Guidance for K-12 Technology Acquisitions





Any Questions or Comments?



CISA Contact Information

Joe Frohlich

Cybersecurity State Coordinator
Region 8 - Montana

joseph.frohlich@mail.cisa.dhs.gov

406-461-2651

Travis Light

Cybersecurity Advisor
Region 8 - Montana

travis.light@mail.cisa.dhs.gov

406-894-8374

Randy Middlebrook

Protective Security Advisor
Region 8 - Montana

randy.middlebrook@mail.cisa.dhs.gov

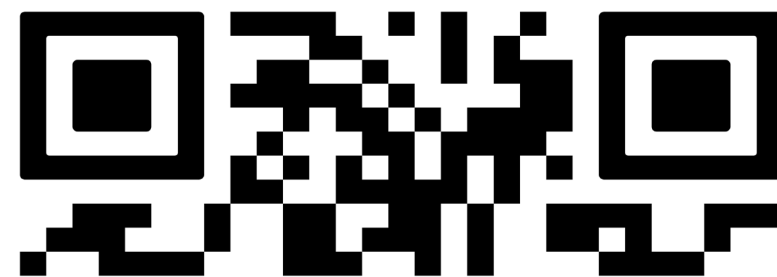
406-839-1165

Albert Mendoza

Protective Security Advisor
Region 8 - Montana

albert.mendoza@mail.cisa.dhs.gov

406-371-3585



Jeremy Bullock

SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT

