School Threat Trends - September 2023

Threat Source	23-24	22-23	Change
Social Media	23.70%	22.39%	1.31%
Phoned-In	22.70%	38.07%	-15.37%
*Email	14.90%	4.37%	10.53%
In-person	19.40%	12.91%	6.49%
Note in School	2.30%	5.32%	-3.02%
Tip	5.20%	2.66%	2.54%
Unspecified	11.70%	13.30%	-1.60%

* We believe the increase in email threats is a short-term trend. As schools improve email filters international actors will not be able to deliver email threats. We also believe AI tools like chatGPT have made email threats more usable to foreign actors. Historically emails from international actors would have grammatical errors that made them less successful.

Email threats are much easier and less expensive to deliver to large groups of schools. It is the preferred delivery method for most international actors. If schools do not improve email filters they will see an increase in threats. Once email filters are implemented international groups will use other methods to deliver threats.

England recently changed guidance to not evacuate if the threat is in the form of an email unless directed by law enforcement.