

# School & Campus Crime

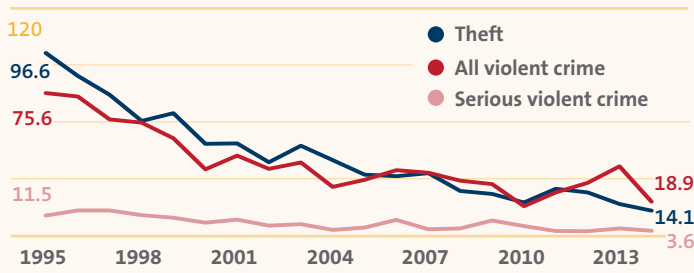
Schools and post-secondary campuses are relatively safe places. However, victimization does occur, and the risks vary by context. Given the amount of time that young people spend at school, victimizations occurring there are an important subset of crime. Adolescents, for example, experience more violent victimizations at school but more serious violent victimizations outside of school.\* And stalking victimization rates among women in college are higher than those in the general population; concerns over reporting and preventing this and other violence against women—in particular, rape and sexual assault—have led to a greater focus on campus crime by administrators and policy makers. Regardless of age, students who are victimized often have their physical and emotional well-being negatively affected, as well as their ability to learn.

## School Crime Trends

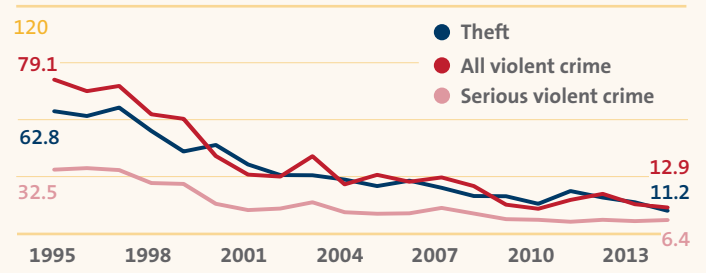
Violent victimization among students largely has mirrored the national decrease in violent victimization over the past two decades. Student-reported **violent victimization at school has decreased 75%** since 1995, from a rate of 75.6 violent victimizations per 1,000 students to 18.9 per 1,000 in 2014. Serious violent victimization at school has also decreased by 69% since 1995, from a rate of 11.5 serious violent victimizations per 1,000 students, to 3.6.<sup>A</sup>

In 2014, the rate of serious violent victimization **away from school** was almost **30% higher** (6 per 1,000 individuals) than the rate of serious violent victimization at school (3.6 per 1,000 individuals). However, the rate of serious violent victimization away from school has **decreased 80%** since 1995, from a rate of 32.5 serious violent victimizations per 1,000 students to 6.4.<sup>A</sup>

**Victimization at School<sup>A</sup>**  
rate per 1,000 students ages 12 – 18

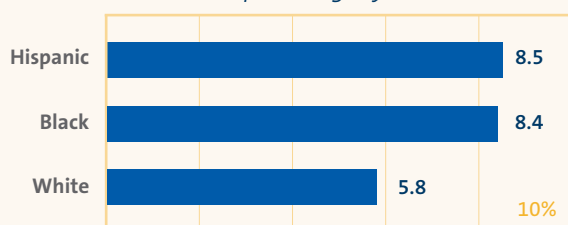


**Victimization away from School<sup>A</sup>**  
rate per 1,000 students ages 12 – 18



According to the most recent Youth Risk Behavior report, **5% of students reported carrying a weapon** onto school property within the previous 30 days. Boys were more likely than girls to carry a **gun on campus**, and of this group, white males made up 8%, Hispanic males 7%, and black males 5%. Of male students threatened with a weapon, nearly 6% were white and 9% black or Hispanic.<sup>B</sup>

**Male Students Threatened with a Weapon<sup>B</sup>**  
percentage by race



### Did You Know?

In the previous 12 months of the Youth Risk Behavior survey:<sup>B</sup>

8% of students had been in a **physical fight** (in or out of school).

22% of students were offered, sold, or given **illegal drugs** on school property.

15% of students had been **bullied electronically**.

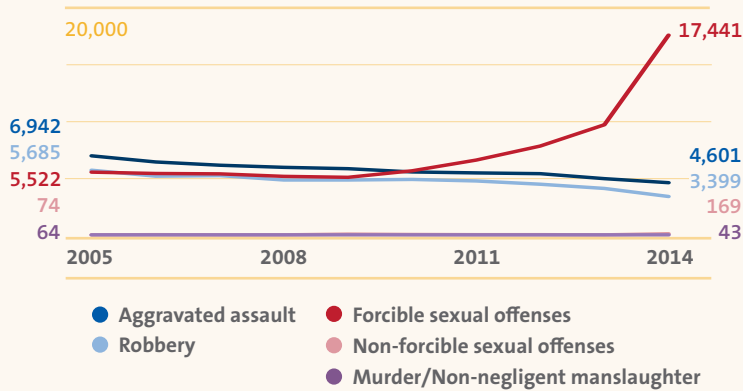
**1 in 4 girls** ages 12 – 18 had been **bullied at school**, vs **1 in 5 boys**.

Girls were more likely than boys to not attend school due to **safety concerns**.

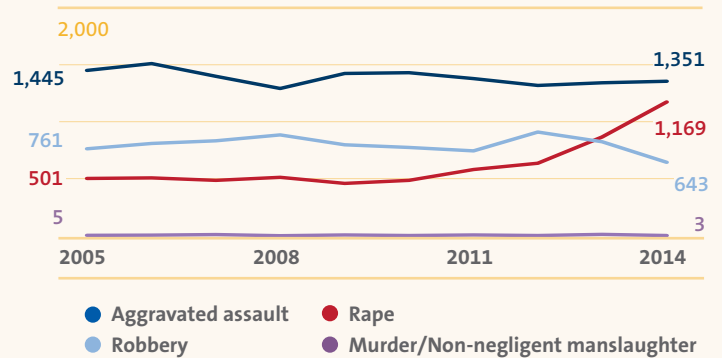
# Campus Crime Trends

Colleges and universities are required to keep records and report crime, particularly VAWA crimes, to the U.S. Department of Education as a result of the Jeanne Clery Act of 1990. As of 2014, 11,000 college campuses, representing more than **78 million students**, reported criminal victimizations in the United States. Overall, campus crime known to authorities has **decreased 35%** since 2005.<sup>c</sup>

**Personal Crimes Reported under Clery Act<sup>c</sup>**  
by number of incidents



**Violent Crimes Known to Law Enforcement<sup>d</sup>**  
by number of incidents



Data collected by the Clery Act does not encompass all crime experienced by students at colleges and universities. The FBI separately collects reports from campus police as well as local and state law enforcement agencies through its Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). Data from 2014 include information on 76,380 crimes from approximately 650 campuses enrolling an estimated **8.2 million students**.

Unlike the Clery data, UCR data indicate that violent and property crimes known to law enforcement have remained relatively constant for the past 10 years, with the exception of rape: **rape known to law enforcement has increased significantly** since 2005. Over that same time frame, college campuses have reported a rise in forcible sexual offenses that is 60% greater than the rise demonstrated by UCR data. This increase in rape and forcible sexual offenses does not necessarily indicate that sexual assault has increased, but rather that **a greater percentage of sexual assault victims are reporting incidents** to authorities.<sup>d</sup>

## Did You Know?

**96% of hate crimes** committed on campus are perpetrated against an individual as a result of their race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.<sup>c</sup>

In 2014, **9 in 10** colleges reported **0 rapes** for the entire year.<sup>c</sup>

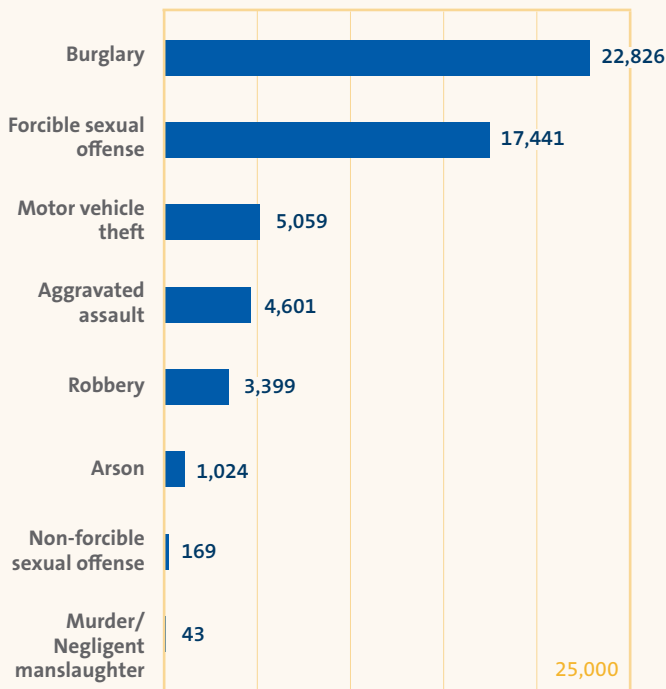
Approximately **1 in 3 students** are victims of dating or domestic violence or stalking.<sup>c</sup>

# Current Data on Campus Crime

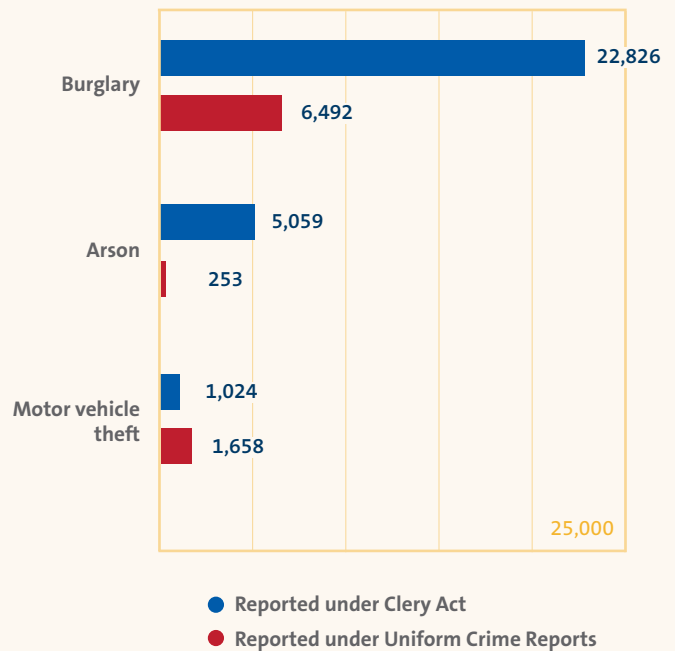
In 2014, **property crimes** accounted for more than **50%** of all campus crimes reported under the Clery Act. Burglary constituted 42% of crime, motor vehicle theft made up 9%, and arson 2%. **Sexual offenses** made up **32%**.<sup>C</sup>

Campus property crime figures vary widely depending on the source. These disparities may be attributed to a variety of differences between the Clery Act and Uniform Crime Reports, including data collection methods, definitions, and evaluation methods.<sup>C,D</sup>

**All Campus Crimes Reported under Clery Act<sup>C</sup>**  
by number of incidents

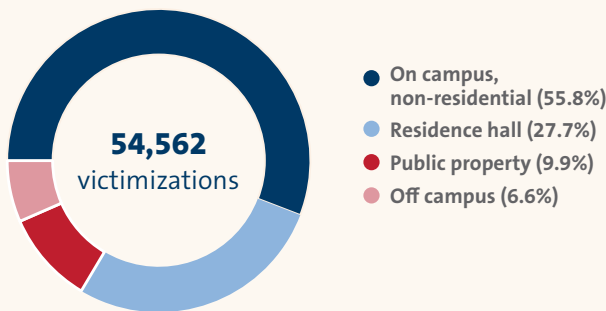


**Campus Property Crimes<sup>C,D</sup>**  
by number of incidents and reporting entity



In 2014, students reported under the Clery Act that **56%** of crimes occurred **on campus**, with an additional **28%** occurring in **residence halls**.<sup>C</sup>

**Location of Crime Reported to Campus<sup>C</sup>**



Researchers estimate that **more than half** of campus crime occurs **less than 500 feet off campus**, yet due to reporting requirements these crimes are not reflected in official Clery statistics.<sup>E</sup>

## NOTE/SOURCES

- \* Violent victimization encompasses rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Serious violent victimization excludes simple assault.
- A Bureau of Justice Statistics, *National Crime Victimization Survey, 1995 – 2014*, (U.S. Department of Justice)
- B Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2013,” *MMWR* Vol. 63, 4(2014): <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>
- C *The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool*, calculated from 2014 data files, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 2016), <http://ope.ed.gov/security/Index.aspx>
- D FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1995 - 2015*, (U.S. Department of Justice)
- E MR Nobles et al., “Community and Campus Crime: A Geospatial Examination of the Clery Act,” Vol. 59, 8(2010): <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0011128710372188>