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.\textsuperscript{A}

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.\textsuperscript{A}

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.\textsuperscript{A}

\textbf{Male Students Threatened with a Weapon}\textsuperscript{A}

\textit{percentage by race}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
Race & Percentage \\
\hline
Hispanic & 8.5 \\
Black & 8.4 \\
White & 5.8 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\textbf{Did You Know?}

In the previous 12 months of the Youth Risk Behavior survey:\textsuperscript{A}

- 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.
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.

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.

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.

In 2014, 9 in 10 colleges reported 0 rapes for the entire year.

Approximately 1 in 3 students are victims of dating or domestic violence or stalking.
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%.\(^c\)

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.\(^c,d\)

In 2014, students reported under the Clery Act that 56% of crimes occurred on campus, with an additional 28% occurring in residence halls.\(^c\)

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.\(^c\)

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\(^c\) Violent victimization encompasses rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Serious violent victimization excludes simple assault.
