



# Campus Victimization

Campus sexual assault has received unparalleled media attention and policy action in recent years. Policymakers and activists have focused on increasing public awareness and campus capacity to serve victims, and as a result of these efforts, victims of crimes other than sexual assault have also benefited. In addition to sexual assault, fatal victimizations (active shooter incidents and other homicides) and non-fatal victimizations (violent victimization, property victimization, and harassment) can all have **long-lasting emotional, psychological, and physical effects** on the victims themselves, the entire student body, faculty and staff, and the surrounding community. Some effects of campus victimization include Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), fear of harm or violence, inability to focus, and decreased academic performance.<sup>A</sup> For more information, see the *Sexual Violence fact sheet* in this series.

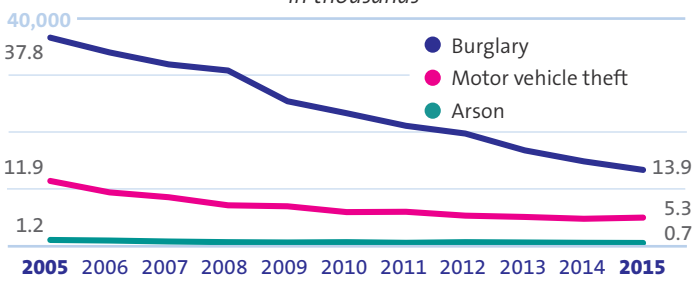
## UNDERSTANDING CAMPUS CRIME REPORTING—THE CLERY ACT

Since 1990, colleges and universities have been required by the **Jeanne Clery Act** to report campus crime data on criminal offenses, hate crimes, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) offenses,<sup>1</sup> and arrests or referrals for disciplinary action.<sup>B</sup> From 2005 to 2015, the number of **criminal offenses reported by colleges and universities has decreased** from about 66,621 to 45,520 in 2015.<sup>C</sup>

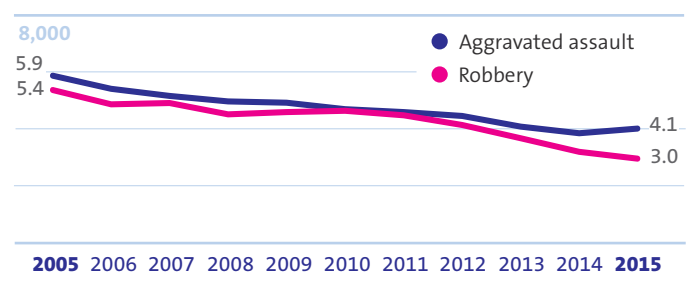
In 2015, **burglary** accounted for 70% of all property crimes and 30% of all crimes reported by colleges and universities.<sup>C</sup>

In 2015, **aggravated assault** and **robbery** accounted for 99% of all violent crime, excluding sexual offenses.<sup>C</sup>

**Property Offenses Reported by Post-Secondary Institutions<sup>C</sup>**  
in thousands



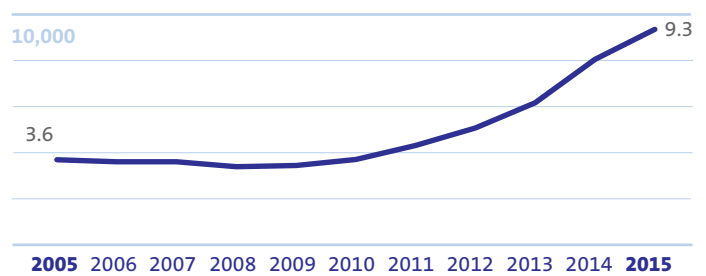
**Violent Non-Fatal Offenses Reported by Post-Secondary Institutions<sup>C</sup>**  
in thousands



Due to changes in Clery reporting requirements, colleges and universities no longer collect data on “forcible” and “non-forcible” sexual offenses. Instead, as of 2014, colleges and universities are required to report the number of rapes and statutory rapes, as well as instances of fondling and incest.<sup>C2</sup>

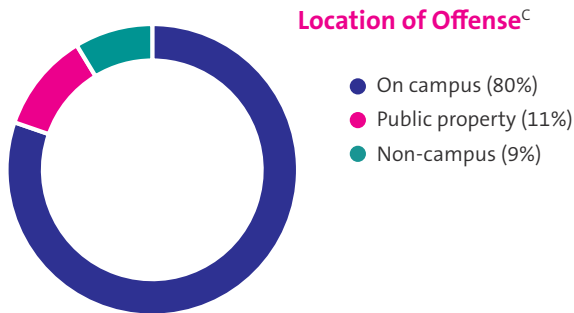
**Sexual offenses reported by colleges and universities have consistently increased** since 2010, from 3,600 to nearly 9,300 in 2015. Sexual offenses are among the most underreported crimes, and this increase may be attributable to an increase in student reporting, an increase in the number of sexual offenses, or both. Despite an increase in the number of sexual offenses reported by colleges and universities, **89% reported there were zero known instances of rape** on their campus in 2015.<sup>C</sup>

**Sexual Offenses Reported by Post-Secondary Institutions<sup>C</sup>**  
in thousands

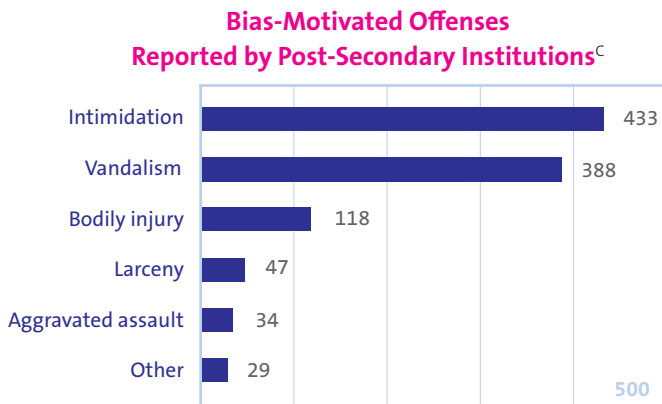


# CURRENT DATA ON CAMPUS VICTIMIZATION

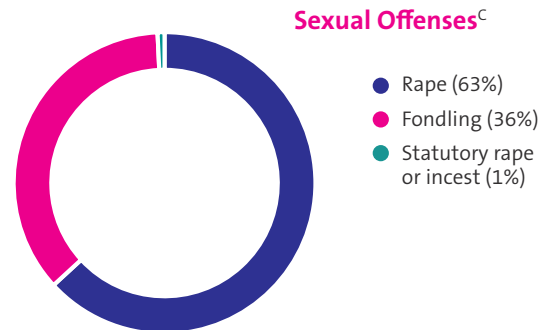
The vast majority (80%) of all campus crimes occur on campus; however, the Clery Act also reports non-campus crimes that occur somewhere affiliated with the campus, crimes occurring on adjacent public property, and other off-campus crimes occurring in the local community, as reported by local law enforcement. In 2015, 11% of criminal offenses reported occurred on public property, while about 9% occurred at a non-campus location. Less than 1% of crimes occurred elsewhere as reported by local law enforcement.<sup>C</sup>



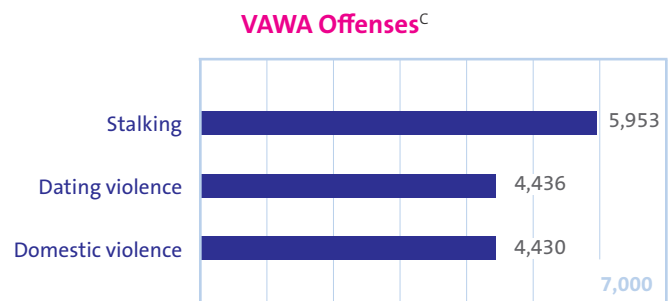
Colleges and universities also reported instances of bias-motivated offenses in 2015, including: 433 reported instances of intimidation, 388 reported instances of vandalism, and 118 reported instances of bodily injury—although not all reported offenses are criminal. In total, there were **110 bias-motivated criminal offenses** reported by colleges and universities as hate crimes. Of these, the most common were **larceny** (47) and **aggravated assault** (34).<sup>C</sup>



Colleges and universities reported **9,300 sexual offenses in 2015**. Of reported sexual offenses, rape accounted for 63% and fondling accounted for 36%. Both statutory rape and incest accounted for less than 1% of reported sexual offenses.<sup>C</sup>



There were **14,800 VAWA offenses** reported by colleges and universities in 2015. Of these, **stalking** was the most commonly reported offense (5,900), compared to domestic and dating violence (about 4,400 each).<sup>C</sup>



## NOTES

- For information on VAWA's relationship to Clery, see: [www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/VAWA-Summary.pdf](http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/VAWA-Summary.pdf).
- Because of this change, data prior to 2014 is not directly comparable to 2014 and 2015 numbers, so please interpret with caution.

## SOURCES

- Michael S. Barton et al., "Social Disorganization Theory and the College Campus," *J of Criminal Justice* vol. 38, 3(2010): 245-54
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, *The Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting*, 2016 ed., (Washington, DC: 2016), [www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/handbook.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/handbook.pdf)
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, *The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool*, <https://ope.ed.gov/campusafety>