

Crime in Higher Education

There were 395 campus-related murders between 1998 and 2000 reported in the statistics supplied to the U.S. Department of Education by security offices at colleges and universities around the country. (Office of Post-Secondary Education. 2002. *College & University Campus Crime Statistics, 1998-2000*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.)

Security offices at colleges and universities reported 199 campus-related crimes of negligent manslaughter in the combined years of 1999 and 2000. There were also 18,761 crimes of aggravated assault in 2000, a substantial increase from the 16,729 crimes of aggravated assault reported in 1999. (Ibid.)

There were 68,486 campus-related burglaries and 31,056 campus-related motor vehicle thefts reported at colleges and universities in 2000. (Ibid.)

Two thousand and eight acts of arson were reported by campus security in 2000, up from 1884 reported acts of arson in 1999. (Ibid.)

Campus security offices reported that 6765 arrests for illegal weapons possessions were made in 2000, a substantial increase from the 3554 arrests made in 1999. (Ibid)

In the combined years of 1999 and 2000, 53,469 arrests for drug law violations were reported to the U.S. Department of Education by campus security offices. In the same period of time, 85, 975 arrests for liquor law violations were reported. (Ibid.)

Hate and bias crimes reported on schools and college campuses comprised 11.4 percent of all hate and bias crimes reported throughout the United States in 2000. (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]. 2001. *Uniform Crime Reports, Hate Crime Statistics 2000*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.)

A recent study on the use among youth of MDMA or Ecstasy in the United States found that 13.1 percent of college students in 2000 had tried the drug at least once in their lifetimes; 9.1 percent had used it within 12 months of the survey, and 2.5 percent had used it within 30 days of the survey. (Office of National Drug Control Policy. April 2002. MDMA [Ecstasy]. Washington, DC: Executive Office of the President.)

There was a 4.7 percent increase in the use of MDMA (Ecstasy) among college students from 1999 to 2000. (Ibid.)

A National Institute of Justice (NIJ) survey of women attending colleges and universities revealed that 2.9 percent had experienced a completed or an attempted rape in the first 7 months of the 1996-1997 school year or 27.7 rapes per 1,000 female students. Twenty-two percent of the victims reporting had been victimized more than once which raised the incidence rate to 35.3 rapes per 1000 female students. When this victimization rate is calculated for a twelve month period, it suggests that 4.9 percent of college women experience a completed or an attempted rape in the calendar year. (Bureau of Justice Statistics [BJS]. December 2000. *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice. National Institute of Justice.)

The NIJ survey of college women revealed a stalking incidence rate of 156.5 per 1000 female students. In other words, 13.1 percent of the female students sampled had been stalked during the first 7 months of 1996-1997 school year. In 15.3 percent of the cases, victims reported that they were threatened by the stalker and in 10.3 percent of the cases, the stalker forced or attempted sexual contact. (Ibid.)