Crime and Safety on Campus: Looking at Comparative Data

UCR Task Force on Campus Safety
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The Broader Context

Comparative data can sharpen focus and enhance deliberations as the Task Force carries out its charge, including:

- Review and comment on existing UCR programs and efforts
- Comment on UCR’s physical environment, campus policies, other areas to enhance safety
- Prioritize any and all observations; communicate which potential actions might have the greatest benefit
There is High Interest in Crime Adjacent to Campuses … but that is where Comparative Data Limitations are the Most Pronounced

“Off-Campus”-related Clery Act (U.S. Department of Education) categories:

- “Criminal Offenses – Reported by Local & State Police”
- “Criminal Offenses – Public Property”
- “Criminal Offenses – Noncampus”
Campus Crime Statistics (FBI)

- The FBI’s *Uniform Crime Reports* tracks “Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by University and College” (Table 9)

- Includes comprehensive coverage of public colleges and universities, but privates are not consistently reported

FBI Campus Crime Stats Cont.

- Caution because twin goals of “transparency” and of “responsible reporting/analysis” are to some degree in tension
- FBI warning about crime rankings: “[T]hese rankings lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses that often create misleading perceptions adversely affecting cities and counties, along with their residents.”

FBI Campus Violent Crime Stats

- Violent Crime includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.
- Data for all ten UC campuses plus UC Hastings College of the Law can be indexed to student enrollment (i.e., number of violent crimes annually per 1000 enrolled students)
- Looked at three years of data (2009 to 2011) to smooth annual fluctuations
UC Campuses: # Violent Crimes per 1000 Students, 2009-11 Avg. (FBI)
FBI Campus Property Crime Stats

- Property Crime includes burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft; (arson is not in these totals but is reported separately)
- Data for all ten UC campuses plus UC Hastings College of the Law can be indexed to student enrollment (i.e., number of violent crimes annually per 1000 enrolled students)
- Looked at three years of data (2009 to 2011) to smooth annual fluctuations
UC Campuses: # Property Crimes per 1000 Students, 2009-11 Avg. (FBI)
Student Alcohol Consumption

- NIH National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: College student binge drinking is associated with higher incidents of alcohol-related injuries/death, sexual assault and date rape and other harmful consequences

Data Sources:
- Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP)
- Academic College Health Association: National College Health Assessment II (ACHA-NCHA II)
Student Alcohol Consumption cont.

- CIRP 2010: 20.4% of UCR freshmen reported drinking wine/liquor occasionally or frequently in the year prior to enrollment. The national average for college students is 43.7%.

- ACHA-NCHA II (low response rate of 11%) but…In Fall 2010, 17.8% of UCR students had five or more drinks at a sitting within the past two weeks. The national college average = 32.5%

- In last 30 days drive after drinking? 11.7% of UCR students and 15.2% nationally
Student Deaths

- Most common causes of student deaths (on or off campus) are suicide, alcohol-related car accidents, other car accidents, other accidental injuries and cancer (Turner et al. 2013)
- Murder on college campuses is very rare, but tragedy (e.g., Virginia Tech ‘07) can happen anywhere.
- One murder per year at all CA public/private four year colleges combined in 2001-11 (Clery Act data)