

Your Question:

You asked about state and institutional efforts to prevent incidences of campus sexual assault.

Our Response:

An increasing number of state policymakers and higher education leaders are taking actions to address campus sexual violence, many of which focus on prevention, reporting and providing support services. Education Commission of the States identified examples of recently adopted state and postsecondary system policies, as well as institutional programs, aimed at preventing incidences of campus sexual assault. Our response also includes resources on preventing and reducing campus sexual violence. Higher education, research and advocacy organizations continue to evaluate the effectiveness of campus sexual assault prevention programs and policies, especially for various institutional contexts.

State Policy Examples

California

Under [Senate Bill 967](#) (2014), the governing boards of institutions and the systems of higher education must implement comprehensive prevention and outreach programs addressing campus sexual violence in order to receive state funds for student financial assistance. The prevention programs must include a range of strategies, such as empowerment programming for victim prevention, awareness raising campaigns, primary prevention, bystander intervention and risk reduction.

Illinois

As part of the Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act of 2015 ([House Bill 821](#)), higher education institutions must provide primary sexual violence prevention and awareness programs and training on their comprehensive policies to all students attending at least one class on campus. An institution's comprehensive policy must include strategies for bystander intervention and risk reduction. The law also requires campus-wide or regional task forces to improve upon best practices as they relate to prevention, awareness, education and response to campus sexual violence.

Louisiana

The Louisiana governor issued [Executive Order BJ 14-14](#) in 2014 that directs the Louisiana Board of Regents to coordinate uniform policies and best practices among the public postsecondary institutions to address the reporting of sexual assault on their campuses, the prevention of such crimes, and the medical and mental health care needed for victims.

Additional Resources

A U.S Department of Education [website](#) provides information on the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, including campus reporting requirements.

The Department of Education's webpage for [Title IX](#) on sexual discrimination includes resources related to the federal law.

In October 2014, the Department of Education published the [final rules](#) to carry out changes to the Clery Act to collect and disclose crime statistics.

This federal website, [Not Alone.gov](#), provides information related to sexual assault on campuses, including guidance on federal policies and requirements. See Resources section below.

Minnesota

As part of the 2015 Omnibus Higher Education bill (S.F. 5), Minnesota revised state statute ([§135A.15](#)) to address campus sexual violence with respect to victim's rights, reporting and prevention. Institutions must provide sexual assault training to students who attend one or more courses or participate in on-campus activities no later than ten business days after the start of a student's first semester. The training must include information about sexual assault, consent, preventing and reducing the prevalence of sexual assault, procedures for reporting campus sexual assault, and campus resources on sexual assault.

New York

In 2015, New York enacted a comprehensive campus sexual assault law, [Assembly Bill 8422](#), which requires higher education institutions to adopt a student on-boarding and ongoing education campaign about sexual assault, in compliance with applicable federal laws. Students must receive training on risk assessment and reduction, including steps that potential victims, perpetrators and bystanders can take to lower the incidence of violations. Institutions must regularly assess programs and policies to determine effectiveness and relevance for students. The state statute reference for this section of A.B. 8422 is N.Y. Educ. Law §6447.

Statewide and Higher Education System Policy Examples

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

In May 2015, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) implemented a system-wide [campus safety initiative](#) as recommended by the chancellor and the USG Campus Safety and Security Committee. Under the initiative, USG employees and students must receive specific education and training with regard to reporting responsibilities, requests for confidentiality, and other matters related to the prevention of sexual misconduct. Students must have completed sexual misconduct training prior to their first semester of enrollment and refresher training should occur annually.

Louisiana Board of Regents

In response to the governor's 2014 executive order, the Louisiana Board of Regents approved the [Uniform Policy on Sexual Misconduct](#) for handling sexual assault allegations and strengthening prevention efforts. Under the guidelines, campuses must offer sexual assault education and prevention programs to students during their first semester and regularly thereafter. Colleges also are required to conduct student surveys about campus sexual assault at least once every three years.

State University of New York Board of Trustees

The State University of New York expanded its 2014 [comprehensive campus sexual assault policy](#) to respond to Assembly Bill 8422, enacted in 2015. SUNY campuses will continue to educate all new and current students using a variety of best practices aimed at educating the entire college community on ways to decrease sexual violence. Each institution will also share information on sexual violence prevention with parents of enrolling students. (See pages 15-19). Also see the [webpage](#) for SUNY Policies on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response.

Institutional Examples

Kansas State University's Alcohol and Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) Program

A web-based educational program referred to as "[Think About It](#)" is required for all new and returning students prior to first day of classes. The program addresses substance use and sexual violence through interactive educational contents and scenarios.

Binghamton University's 20:1 Sexual Assault Prevention & 20:1 Bystander Intervention Programs

A [peer education program](#) with an initial emphasis on Greek Life and Athletics was expanded to the entire student body on victim empathy, sexual consent, and bystander intervention roles and strategies.

Resources on Campus Sexual Assault Prevention

Resource Guide to Prevent and Improve the Response to Sexual Violence at Colleges and Universities

(White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, September 2015)

<https://www.notalone.gov/assets/task-force-resource-guide-sep-15.pdf>

Preventing Sexual Violence on College Campuses: Lessons from Research and Practice

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)

<https://www.notalone.gov/assets/preventing-sexual-violence-on-college-campuses-lessons-from-research-and-practice.pdf>

Fact Sheet on Bystander-Focused Prevention of Sexual Violence

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)

<https://www.notalone.gov/assets/bystander-summary.pdf>