

Higher education meets higher crime rates

Studies show crime on college campuses have become a larger issue as time goes on

amandadavis
sportseditor

Although crime rates are an unknown factor, crimes are still happening and could see an increase. Crimes have been spread in the news across the country, and quite a few of them have been happening on college campuses.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) showed that in 2019, there were around 27,300 criminal incidents on college campuses in the U.S., which showed a four percent decrease from the previous year. In 2018 it was shown that there were 28,600 criminal incidents that were reported on college campuses. Violent crime stood at 60%, property crime at 35%, and ‘other’ crime at 5%.

Skyler Williams (23) said, “I find crimes at colleges ridiculous. Yes, a lot of college students are poor and low on money, but college

should be a safe place, not a place where you should worry about your things getting stolen, getting raped, or even murdered.”

At Idaho State University on Nov. 12, 2022, there were four college students that were murdered. Those students had been stabbed to death multiple times early in the morning. Police were very determined to find the murderer, and were able to find out that the suspect was driving a white Hyundai Elantra. Cameras showed the suspect driving by the house of the murder 12 times since August before committing the crime. The night before the murder he drove by that house three times, with the fourth time being the morning of the crime.

The suspect was Bryan Kohberger, a criminology PhD student at Washington State University. Kohberger

was driving home for break and was arrested on Dec. 30, 2022, then extradited from Pennsylvania to Idaho on Jan. 4 2023.

Michigan State University (MSU) was in lockdown on Feb. 13, 2023, due to an active shooter. At 8:18 pm, the MSU alert systems went off and had officers from all over the state show up to clear out the campus looking for the suspect. Security systems were able to send out a picture of the suspect at 11:18 pm, allowing the police to capture him at 11:35 pm. During the shooting there were three students that lost their lives, and five students that were injured. Of those five injuries, one was in fair condition, two were in serious condition but stable, and the other two were in critical condition.

In a survey by KMD Law in 2019 it showed that there was a rate of 13% non-consensual sexual contact on college campuses. Senior Morgan Flynn said, “I feel like that number does worry me a lot. For all we know it could continue to keep growing. I think that sexual contact isn’t something to take as a joke. In today’s world I feel like



a lot of people jump into things and think they don’t need consent but then it makes the other person feel uncomfortable.” It was shown that women from ages 18-24 are at a higher risk of sexual violence. Statistics show 26.4% of women and 6.8% of men experience rape or sexual assault by physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Along with those statistics, 23.1% of transgender, genderqueer, or non-conforming college students have been sexually assaulted.

Senior Lauren Caudle, who will be attending University of Wyoming in the fall, said, “From all the articles and stuff that I’ve seen, crime seems to be either religiously or politically motivated. I don’t like that because I’m passionate about my religion and political stance.”

The Washington Post was able to show us that more than 338,000

students have experienced gun violence at school since the Columbine High School shooting on Apr. 20, 1999. Since that day there have been a total of 366 school shootings in the US. In 2022 alone there were 46 school shootings. Flynn said, “I feel like going to school we should feel safe and not have to worry about school shootings, and now that they are becoming more common it’s very scary. Moving into college I’m still going to feel as worried as I am now if not more worried because the numbers are growing faster. With that I feel like we clearly aren’t doing anything about it if the numbers are growing.”

If there is nothing being done about all of these crimes, more kids will get scared to go to school. This all is not just happening in high schools and elementary schools, but it is moving into the colleges as well.

Types of crime at colleges

