



CLERY ACT STATE OF THE FIELD

2024 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Clery Act State of the Field survey is the first-of-its-kind and was conducted in the summer of 2024, designed to gather benchmark data from and for Clery Act practitioners across the country.

The goals of the Clery Act State of the Field Survey were to:

- Identify what institutional resources and support are being dedicated to Clery Act implementation;
- Identify trends in how institutions are interpreting and implementing Clery Act requirements;
- Recognize any challenges or concerns institutions are navigating with Clery Act implementation; and
- Learn what external resources and systems are being utilized for Clery Act implementation.

Survey Respondent Snapshot

- 501 individuals completed the full survey, with 324 additional partial responses.
- A majority of the respondents work in law enforcement or public safety (40%), Clery Act compliance (20.4%), Title IX compliance (12.4%), and legal services/risk management (3.8%).
- Respondents represented a wide range of institution types, including:
 - ◆ four-year public college, university, or system (39.6%)
 - ◆ four-year private college, university, or system (31.7%)
 - ◆ non-residential two-year college, community college, or system (9.4%)
 - ◆ residential two-year college, community college, or system (7.3%)

Methods & Limitations

The online survey was conducted using the Alchemer survey platform. It was shared with campus professionals via email lists and social media by Clery Center, the collaborating organizations (Dolores Stafford & Associates, Grand River Solutions, Healy+, and the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers and Professionals), and other partner organizations. The survey was anonymous, but did include the option to provide contact information to be entered in a weekly drawing for a \$200 Visa Gift Card, sponsored by Healy+. Individuals who work at an institution of higher education and have Clery Act-related job responsibilities were eligible to complete the survey.

Key Findings & Takeaways

The findings from the Clery Act State of the Field Survey underscore both the progress and challenges facing institutions in their compliance efforts. While many colleges and universities demonstrate a commitment to Clery Act requirements through the establishment of key roles, training programs, and support mechanisms, significant gaps remain—particularly in budget allocation, consistent training, and stakeholder buy-in. The insights gained from this survey support that there is a distinct need to further legitimize the work of Clery Act compliance, particularly through tying this work to the prevention of, as much as the response to, crime. Further, these findings demonstrate the need for more targeted support for roles dedicated to Clery Act implementation in order to carry out their work effectively and completely. Our collective hope is that this project provides a foundation for institutions to enhance their compliance strategies and foster a safer campus environment.

1. Strengthening support from institutional leadership is essential to improve Clery Act compliance.

61.7% of respondents agreed that senior-level administration demonstrates support for Clery Act related efforts.

Only **42.6%** agreed that the appropriate amount of financial resources are dedicated to Clery Act compliance.

- While a majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that senior-level administration demonstrates support for Clery Act related efforts, this support does not automatically translate into a dedicated Clery Act budget, and broader institutional support remains a challenge.
- Of the institutions that do have a designated Clery Act coordinator, the majority of people in that role have significant additional responsibilities. Only 35% of Clery Act coordinators are spending 80–100% of their time dedicated to Clery Act compliance.

2. The survey results provide tangible areas for proactive investment to increase staff capacity and improve understanding.

Top 3 pressing challenges that are impacting Clery Act compliance efforts:

- training (47.8%)
- employee turnover (45.6%)
- buy-in from stakeholders (43.6%)

Institutions need to invest in:

- A Clery Act budget
- Clery Act-specific positions (Clery Coordinators, Directors, etc.)
- Clery Act training
- Development of and resources for Clery Act teams or committees

Respondents noted a clear need for additional training and resources, specifically to increase understanding of the intersections between the Clery Act and Title IX, and intersections with state laws.

3. Prevention, community notifications, and institutional policies are seen as critical mechanisms for improving campus safety, and also the areas in which the most information and training is needed.

Clery Act requirements that respondents believe have a **significant impact on improving safety** at their institutions are:

1. prevention education (60.2%)
2. timely warnings (57.8%)
3. emergency notifications (55.2%)
4. dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking response (46.1%)

- Practitioners stated that prevention has the most significant impact on improving safety, but a number of respondents noted it as an area where they experience several barriers, including staffing, budget, and time constraints.
- Respondents listed timely warnings and emergency notifications as having a significant impact on improving safety on campus, yet the survey shows inconsistencies across institutions on procedures related to sending alerts.
- Although 84.1% of respondents said they have supporting policies for their annual security report policy statements, policy development was named as an area where campuses need more training and support.

4. Institutions can learn from one another when strengthening their own Clery Act compliance practices.

Many respondents reported having key compliance practices already in place, such as:

- A list of campus security authorities (75.3%)
- Annual training for CSAs (69% of respondents)
- A Clery Act team or committee (52.5%)
- A geography list (77.4%) or map (76.5%)
- Decision matrixes for timely warnings (60.7%) and emergency notifications (56.3%)
- Inclusion of campus security authority reports within the daily crime log (82%)
- A dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking prevention policy (87.4%)

Conclusion

With increased awareness of standard practices, as indicated by respondents, as well as better understanding of the Clery Act challenges and successes noted throughout this survey, Clery Act practitioners can drive meaningful change in campus safety practices. Moving forward, it is essential for institutions to prioritize collaboration, invest in necessary training, and ensure that compliance efforts are supported at all levels of administration.

Thank you to our survey partners, Dolores Stafford & Associates, Grand River Solutions, Healy+, and the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers and Professionals.

For more information, please visit clerycenter.org.