



FACT SHEET

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Report: 2006-032

The California State Auditor released the following report today:

California's Postsecondary Educational Institutions *Stricter Controls and Greater Oversight Would Increase the Accuracy of Crime Statistics Reporting*

BACKGROUND

The federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) requires that each postsecondary educational institution receiving federal student aid distribute an annual security report each year to all enrolled students and current employees. This report must contain information about security policies and statistics for specific crimes for the three most recent calendar years. These statistics must also be broken down by location: those occurring on campus, in residence halls, in or on certain noncampus buildings or property, and on specific public property. Additionally, institutions must notify prospective students and employees about the availability of their annual reports and issue timely warnings for crimes considered a threat to the safety of students. Lastly, state law requires the California Postsecondary Education Commission (commission) to provide a link to the Web site of each California institution containing crime statistics information.

KEY FINDINGS

- The six institutions we reviewed reported inaccurate or incomplete statistics in their annual reports for various reasons:
 - ✓ Institutions did not correctly convert crimes defined in California law to crimes the Clery Act requires to be reported in the annual security report.
 - ✓ Four institutions either did not review or did not correctly report some crimes in potentially reportable categories.
 - ✓ Institutions did not correctly identify all reportable locations, which caused them to omit crimes or report them in incorrect categories.
- Most of the institutions we reviewed have not established required written policies or procedures for every campus security-related disclosure made in their reports.
- The commission does not ensure that all California postsecondary educational institutions post their crime statistics on the Web site to which the commission provides links.

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