

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Annual Report on Campus Sexual Misconduct Incident Data

**Calendar Years 2024 & 2025 Reporting Period Data Summaries
Issued April 2026**

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I. Introduction

On January 21, 2021, with the support of students, advocates, and college and university leadership, the legislature enacted landmark legislation, [Chapter 337 of the Acts of 2020](#), intended to enhance the efforts of the Commonwealth's colleges and universities to identify, prevent, and respond to campus sexual violence. Entitled *An Act Relative to Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses* (and commonly referred to as the "2021 Campus Sexual Assault Law"), the law applies to all institutions of higher education located and authorized to grant degrees in the Commonwealth. The legislation added two major sections to chapter 6 of the General Laws: section 168D which requires all institutions to conduct sexual misconduct climate surveys at least once every four years; and section 168E which imposes specific policy, procedure and reporting requirements that enhance institutions' efforts to prevent and respond to campus sexual misconduct.

The law includes a reporting requirement, providing that the Department of Higher Education ("DHE" or "Department") shall annually report aggregate statewide information on the "frequency and nature of sexual misconduct"¹ at all institutions of higher education located in the Commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees. Specifically, section 168E(q) of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as amended by the 2021 Campus Sexual Assault Law, provides as follows:

Annually, not later than December 1, each institution shall prepare and submit to the department of higher education a report that includes: (i) the total number of reports of sexual misconduct reported to the institution's Title IX coordinator by a student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution; (ii) the number of reports made by a student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution investigated by a local or state law enforcement agency, if known; (iii) the number of students and employees found responsible for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual misconduct; (iv) the number of students and employees found not responsible for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual misconduct; and (v) the number of disciplinary actions imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of responsibility for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual misconduct. Such incident data shall be reported in the form and manner established by the department of higher education, in consultation with the attorney general, and in a manner that complies with state and federal privacy laws. The department of higher education shall analyze the incident data and shall publish an annual report containing aggregate statewide information on the frequency and nature of sexual misconduct at institutions. The department of higher education shall file the annual report with the attorney general, the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives and the joint committee on higher education.

¹ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(a) defines "sexual misconduct" as *an incident of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, gender-based violence, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, sexual assault, sexual harassment or stalking.*

In furtherance of the Department’s statutory analysis and reporting responsibilities, the DHE hereby submits its annual “Incident Data Collection and Annual Report” (Sections II & III) to the Massachusetts Attorney General, the Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Joint Committee on Higher Education on the “frequency and nature of sexual misconduct” at campuses across the Commonwealth, as indicated in the incident data collected by the DHE, consistent with the process discussed within this report. Please note, this report includes calendar year 2023 and 2024 data reported to DHE during the 2024 and 2025 respective annual data collection periods. Each year’s data are displayed separately in Sections II and III.

In addition to the information provided in this report, a summary of the Department’s overall implementation process to date for the new law can be found on the [DHE Campus Safety & Violence Prevention \(CSVP\) website](#).²

² <https://www.mass.edu/strategic/csvp.asp>

II. Incident Data Collection for the 2024 CSVP Annual Report

The law includes a specific reporting requirement (M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)), which directs all public and private institutions of higher education (“IHEs”) located in the Commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees to report annually on the prevalence of sexual misconduct incidents on campus. In calendar year 2023,³ there were 29 public and 81 private IHEs located in the Commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees. In this cycle, Massachusetts IHEs employed 139,555 faculty and staff and enrolled 580,451 students. Public institutions accounted for 35,914 employees and 230,255 students, and private institutions accounted for 103,641 employees and 350,196 students.⁴

Institutions report these data annually for the prior calendar year, consistent with the cadence for Clery Act reporting. This section of the report reflects the 2024 data submission for sexual misconduct-related reports made, formal complaints filed, and disciplinary actions taken in calendar year 2023: **January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**.

For this reporting period, the data collection portal, EDvera, opened on November 1, 2024, with a submission deadline of December 1, 2024, and as of the date of this legislative report, all applicable IHEs (110) submitted the required data.

The DHE has reviewed all submissions and after conducting any necessary due diligence in seeking supplementary information or clarifications, pursuant to the law, the DHE has prepared this report for submission that includes data tables demonstrating aggregate statewide information on the frequency and nature of sexual misconduct at institutions.

³ The 2024 CSVP reporting period includes incidents that occurred between January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

⁴ Total employee and student data presented here from IPEDS (provisional release) were as of November 1, 2023 for employees, and AY23 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023), for students.

A. 2023 Calendar Year Data Tables and Figures

The tables included below provide the data required to be collected, as per M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q).

Table 1. Total number of reports of sexual misconduct reported to the institution’s Title IX coordinator by a student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution⁵

Number of reports, by reporting and responding party	Total
# of reports by students against students	1,521
# of reports by students against employees	215
# of reports by students against unknown	724
# of reports by employees against students	73
# of reports by employees against employees	150
# of reports by employees against unknown	68
Total reports by all reporting/responding parties	2,751

Table 1 above breaks down the total number of reports of sexual misconduct by the type of reporting party and the type of responding party.

Table 2. Number of reports made by a student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution investigated by a local or state law enforcement agency (“LEA”), if known⁶

Number of reports investigated by an LEA, by reporting and responding party	Total
# of reports by students against students investigated by an LEA	180
# of reports by students against employees investigated by an LEA	4
# of reports by students against unknown investigated by an LEA	108
# of reports by employees against students investigated by an LEA	4
# of report by employees against employees investigated by an LEA	7
# of reports by employees against unknown investigated by an LEA	5
Total reports investigated by an LEA by all reporting/responding parties	308

Table 2 above breaks down the total number of reports investigated by an LEA by type of reporting party and responding party.

⁵ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(i).

⁶ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(i).

Table 3. Number of students and employees found responsible for violating an institution’s policies prohibiting sexual misconduct⁷

Number of students and employees found responsible	Total
# of students found responsible	89
# of employees found responsible	34
Total found responsible	123

Table 3 above displays the total number of students and employees found responsible for incidents of sexual misconduct, broken down by students and employees.

Table 4. Number of disciplinary actions imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of responsibility for violating an institution’s policies prohibiting sexual misconduct⁸

Number of students and employees that received disciplinary actions	Total
# of students found responsible against which disciplinary actions were imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of responsibility	78
# of employees found responsible against which disciplinary actions were imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of responsibility	30
Total all students and employees that received disciplinary action	108

Table 4 displays the total number of students and employees that received disciplinary action(s) as a result of being found responsible for incidents of sexual misconduct.

⁷ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(iii).

⁸ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(v).

III. Incident Data Collection for the 2025 CSVP Annual Report

In calendar year 2024,⁹ there were 29 public and 81 private IHEs located in the Commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees. In this cycle, Massachusetts IHEs employed 140,683 faculty and staff and enrolled 587,403 students. Public institutions accounted for 36,468 employees and 237,286 students, and private institutions accounted for 104,215 employees and 350,117 students.¹⁰

Institutions report these data annually for the prior calendar year, consistent with the cadence for Clery Act reporting. This section of the report reflects the 2025 data submission file for sexual misconduct-related reports made, formal complaints filed, and disciplinary actions taken in calendar year 2024: **January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.**

For this reporting period, the data collection portal, EDvera, opened on November 1, 2025, with a submission deadline of December 1, 2025 and as of the date of this legislative report, 109 applicable IHEs submitted the required data.¹¹

The DHE has reviewed all submissions and after conducting any necessary due diligence in seeking supplementary information or clarifications, pursuant to the law, the DHE has prepared this report for submission that includes data tables demonstrating aggregate statewide information on the frequency and nature of sexual misconduct at institutions.

⁹ The 2025 CSVP Annual Report requests information regarding incidents that occurred between January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

¹⁰ Total employee and student data presented here from IPEDS (provisional release) were as of November 1, 2024 for employees, and AY24 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024), for students.

¹¹ Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary did not submit a 2025 CSVP Annual Report.

A. 2024 Calendar Year Data Tables and Figures

The tables included below provide the data required to be collected, as per M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q).

Table 5. Total number of reports of sexual misconduct reported to the institution’s Title IX coordinator by a student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution¹²

Number of reports, by reporting and responding party	Total
# of reports by students against students	1,654
# of reports by students against employees	247
# of reports by students against unknown	929
# of reports by employees against students	63
# of reports by employees against employees	179
# of reports by employees against unknown	45
Total reports by all reporting/responding parties	3,117

Table 5 above breaks down the total number of reports of sexual misconduct by the type of reporting party and the type of responding party.

Table 6. Number of reports made by a student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution investigated by a local or state law enforcement agency (“LEA”), if known¹³

Number of reports investigated by an LEA, by reporting and responding party	Total
# of reports by students against students investigated by an LEA	151
# of reports by students against employees investigated by an LEA	7
# of reports by students against unknown investigated by an LEA	93
# of reports by employees against students investigated by an LEA	13
# of report by employees against employees investigated by an LEA	8
# of reports by employees against unknown investigated by an LEA	9
Total reports investigated by an LEA by all reporting/responding parties	281

Table 6 above breaks down the total number of reports investigated by an LEA by type of reporting party and responding party.

¹² M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(i).

¹³ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(i).

Table 7. Number of students and employees found responsible for violating an institution’s policies prohibiting sexual misconduct¹⁴

Number of students and employees found responsible	Total
# of students found responsible	66
# of employees found responsible	24
Total found responsible	90

Table 7 above displays the total number of students and employees found responsible for incidents of sexual misconduct, broken down by students and employees.

Table 8. Number of disciplinary actions imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of responsibility for violating an institution’s policies prohibiting sexual misconduct¹⁵

Number of students and employees that received disciplinary actions	Total
# of students found responsible against which disciplinary actions were imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of responsibility	46
# of employees found responsible against which disciplinary actions were imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of responsibility	24
Total all students and employees that received disciplinary action	70

Table 8 displays the total number of students and employees that received disciplinary action(s) as a result of being found responsible for incidents of sexual misconduct.

IV. Analysis of Data Collection Process

In preparation for implementation of this process each year, the Department engages agency and institutional partners and stakeholders to further optimize the sexual misconduct incident data collection process. Over the last several years, the DHE has made only minimal changes¹⁶ to the data collection process and information collected, as the data gathered and demonstrated in this report provide the information the law strives to obtain, in a clear and concise manner.

V. Conclusion

The 2021 Campus Sexual Assault Law has created the opportunity for the Department and the Commonwealth’s public and private higher education institutions to make

¹⁴ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(iii).

¹⁵ M.G.L. c. 6, § 168E(q)(v).

¹⁶ This includes included adding back in the “unknown” party reporting line item for the 2023 reporting period, at the request of several IHEs. It has remained as a line item in each report since.

significant advances in campus safety and violence prevention. Fulfilling the requirements of the law has led to increased transparency, enhanced collaboration and information sharing – all critical elements of success in addressing campus sexual misconduct and other forms of violence. At this point in the process, DHE has solidified a baseline reporting process and met the statutory expectations upon which this baseline was built.

Each year since the inception of the law, the Department and its partners and stakeholders have continued to enhance and streamline the overall implementation process. DHE's vision for the coming year and beyond is to continue that progress by further building upon and sharing lessons learned and best practices realized from campuses and other stakeholders. IHEs will be required to submit their incident data for the next annual reporting process (the 2026 CSVP Annual Report), that will open by November 1, 2026 and be due by December 1, 2026.