

# Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

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Noe Ortega  
Commissioner  
Chris Gabrieli  
Board Chair

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Attorney General Healey  
Members of the Joint Committee on Higher Education  
The Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives

**FROM:** Noe Ortega, Commissioner, DHE

**CC:** Constantia Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel, DHE

**DATE:** December 7, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report on Campus Sexual Misconduct Incident Data

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On January 21, 2021 Governor Baker signed into law [Chapter 337 of the Acts of 2020](#), landmark legislation 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 law also 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" at all institutions of higher education located in the Commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees.

In furtherance of the Department's statutory analysis and reporting responsibilities, the Department hereby submits its annual "Incident Data Collection and Annual Report" (Section II) 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.

Attachment: Annual Report on Campus Sexual Misconduct Incident Data