



Protecting Dormitory Residents and Assets

Access Control & Communication Solutions for Student Housing

Insight to maintaining the safety of everyone who lives on campus. Whether protecting a single dormitory or a network of buildings, having proper security layers in place helps ensure the protection of your student residents and dorm assets.



Increased Security
Reduces Crimes Against
Student Residents



Proper Security Layers Help Ensure Resident Safety.

Protecting students and staff while living on campus.

From single dormitory buildings to large student housing complexes, keeping residents safe should be at top of mind. **Having the right combination of security layers can help.**

Students Choose to Live in Dormitories

Not that long ago, parents and their children chose a college or university based on academics and cost. But with news reports of active shooters, sexual assaults, and other crimes, campus security is now often a significant part of the decision-making process.

Reaching that decision was made much easier by the Clery Act, a 1990 federal law requiring all public and private colleges and universities receiving federal aid to keep, and annually disclose, information about crime on and around their campuses. The bill was named for Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old student raped and murdered in her college residence hall in 1986.

About 40% of students attending public colleges, and nearly 67% attending private universities, choose to live on campus. Making student housing and dormitories popular for new and existing residents.

Why are Dormitories Popular?

- Some campuses require first-year students to live in residence halls
- Generally less expensive than off-campus housing
- No need for transportation – students can walk to classes, dining commons, and other campus locations or events
- Provide an important sense of community to students in their first extended time away from home



Campus Crimes

Any number of campus areas, such as parking lots and pedestrian walkways, can pose a security risk, but residence halls are often the center of crimes such as sexual assault, robbery, and theft.

[The Tab](#), a professionally edited online newspaper using student reporters from more than 80 campuses in the U.S. and U.K., recently looked at dormitory-related sexual assaults at the 12 largest U.S. colleges and universities.

Findings Included:

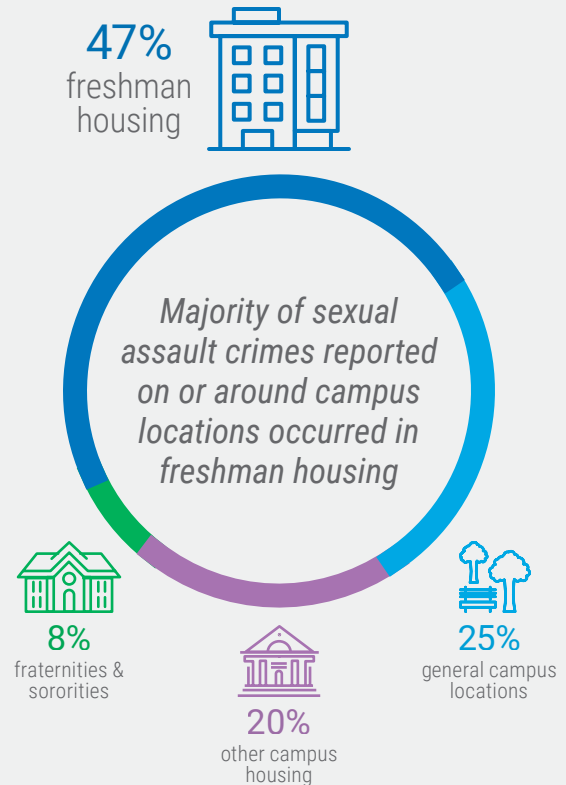
- Nearly 47% of attacks occurred in freshman housing
- Other campus housing accounted for 20% of the assaults
- Fraternities and sororities made up 8% of reported incidents
- Just over 25% of assaults occurred elsewhere on campus

Not surprisingly, September, when many students begin their college careers, was the month with the most sexual assault reports. And nearly 60% of those assaults occurred during the weekends.

But sexual assaults aren't the only campus crimes being reported. According to a 2017 report from the federal [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#), burglary is the most frequently reported crime followed by forcible sexual assault, auto theft, aggravated assault, robbery, and arson. The most recent statistics show 56% of offenses against students occurred on campus – half of those in residence halls.

Parents have a reasonable expectation that campus administrators and police/security will protect students and their valuable assets. Campus authorities understand and have responded. Since 2005, reported campus crimes have decreased by 35%. Among the crime categories, only sexual assaults have increased. That may be due to a growing number of victims reporting incidents.

FRESHMAN MAY BE AT RISK FOR ASSAULT-RELATED CRIMES



HALF OF ALL CRIMES ON CAMPUS OCCURRED IN STUDENT HOUSING*



*The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool, calculated from 2014 data files, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 2016), <http://ope.ed.gov/security/Index.aspx>

Solutions

So, what actions can administrators and police take to better protect students, particularly those living in on-campus housing?

Sturdy Doors & Electromechanical Locks

Residents are safer when main entries and room doors are kept locked. The combination of sturdy doors and electromechanical locks are enough to discourage or stop most campus criminals.

SECURITY COMES IN LAYERS



Access Control System

An access control system using keypads – with individual PINs – or readers and access cards allow residents to enter the building and their rooms. A compromised PIN or a lost or stolen card can be quickly and easily replaced. Proximity card technology has been shown to be more difficult for hackers to clone than magstripe cards.

Campuses need to eliminate key and mechanical lock systems. Keys can be easily stolen, lost, or borrowed. Even a key stamped “Do Not Duplicate” can be copied. And most campuses don’t have a budget for locksmiths to regularly replace locks and cut new keys.

Important Security Layers

- Combine **sturdy doors** and **electromechanical locks** to deter campus criminals
- Use an **access control system** with keypads and individual PINs, or card readers and access cards, to provide students and staff quick entry
- Install a **video intercom system** to see and speak with visitors before unlocking the door – approved guests can be let in with a push of a button
- Complement a video intercom system with **emergency stations, towers,** and **wall boxes** to give residents multiple points to call for help
- Integrate a **CCTV or surveillance system** to monitor an entire campus at a high-level view and easily toggle to a close-up, detailed view of the video intercom
- Practice **CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)** to ensure campus grounds and conditions hinder criminals, not help them (examples of CPTED include cutting back trees and bushes to reduce blocked views for patrolling security and providing exterior lights to deter prowlers)

Video Intercom System

But locked dormitory front doors still leave legitimate visitors and vendors needing access. Video intercoms can play an important role in accommodating them. These stations allow a resident to see and speak with a person before deciding whether to remotely unlock the door and allow the visitor in.

With a touch of a button, a distressed person can immediately speak with a security guard via the intercom.

Intercom systems include stations with cameras, speakers, and microphones at entries. An interior desk station is typically placed in the resident assistant's office, or many campuses employ a multi-tenant system allowing visitors to call individual rooms. Stations mounted in each room let residents determine who enters. The door station cameras also show anyone attempting to enter along with an approved visitor. Other building entries used by vendors or service personnel also benefit from having a video intercom installed.

Emergency Stations, Towers, & Wall Boxes

Video intercoms also serve as the core of emergency stations, another valuable layer of campus security. These units are easily recognizable by bright blue lights atop a tower or wall-mounted station. Stations are often installed in dormitory stairwells and hallways. Towers are placed outdoors around the residence hall perimeter, in parking lots, or along pedestrian trails between the library and the dorms.

With a touch of a button, a distressed person can immediately speak with a security guard via the intercom. Embedded cameras provide live video helping dispatchers make decisions about emergency situations. The stations can also be integrated with a video surveillance system to provide a broader view of the area.



Emergency stations offer other significant benefits. They are always on and available 24/7. Dispatchers immediately know the station's precise location when calls for assistance arrive. Also, a station's speaker can broadcast emergency information across the campus. And the stations and towers feature two buttons – one for emergencies and a second for non-critical calls, such as inquiries for campus directions.

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CCTV or Surveillance System

Surveillance cameras are another effective security tool that have been proven to be a deterrent to crime. When placed in the dormitory lobby, hallways, stairwells, and exterior perimeters, they provide campus police with live video to help identify and intercept potential criminals. Recorded video helps make identifications and analyze events after an incident. Live and recorded images can be shared with local first responders.

It's important students understand how and when to use this electronic equipment. Written policies and procedures provide necessary

Other Security Tools Especially Valuable for Residence Halls:

- Audio intercoms alert all rooms in the event of a lock-in-place or evacuation situation – they are also ideal for sharing routine messages
- Panic buttons installed in students' rooms and restrooms provide a direct distress signal to campus police or security in case of an emergency



Providing campus security an efficient means to answer and assess calls – including the caller's location – improves their response time to provide help.

background information. Regular drills reinforce the plans and help ensure students don't defeat the systems by propping open doors or allowing inappropriate visitors to access locked entries.

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)

Finally, there's another critical discipline known as CPTED – crime prevention through environmental design. It involves cutting back trees and bushes blocking views of a dormitory as police patrol the campus. Overgrown foliage also provides hiding places for weapons and contraband. Bright lights help deter and identify people approaching or loitering around a residence hall at night. Fencing and locked gates control pedestrian traffic patterns and funnel visitors into a dorm's main entry.

Protecting young adults living in campus dormitories is not an easy task. But there are affordable solutions that can help keep them safe and secure. Our students deserve nothing less than our best efforts.

About Aiphone

Since 1970, many colleges and universities across North America have selected Aiphone as their trusted security and communication solution provider.

Offering a breadth of reliable products – ranging from simple to comprehensive – Aiphone can accommodate the needs of a single building, as well as the demands of a large campus.

When you choose Aiphone, you get more than parts and equipment. Backed by quality assurance, you get local support to make sure the products you invest in have longevity and continue to meet your standards.

Learn more or request a free on-site assessment at aiphone.com/school

With Aiphone security and communication solutions, resident students can:



Identify visitors and speak with them to determine intent



Unlock the door for approved visitors



Call for help directly from their dorm room



Reach and alert security of any emergency – even if campus security is in another building



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SECURITY COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS

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