

To: Dean Taylor, Dean of SUNY Downstate College of Medicine
From: Alinea Noronha, Medcouncil and AAMC OSR representative for COM 2013
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Subject: 2011 Survey on Violence Prevention and Safety
Date: February 9th, 2011

Objective: To learn more about Violence Prevention and Safety of Medical Students by polling representatives from medical schools across the country.

Method: The survey was sent via the Association of American Medical Colleges Organization of Student Representatives Listerv (AAMC OSR). 37 school OSR members representing 34 schools responded to this survey which comprised of the following 3 questions:

- 1) Has your school experienced any safety problems in the neighborhood around your school? (Safety problems refer to violence such as mugging, gun violence, rape, etc.)
- 2) If you answered yes above how frequent are the attacks?
- 3) What policy does your school have to insure that your student body is safe?

Results/ Summary:

This survey was submitted after an incident had taken place at SUNY Downstate earlier this year. Response from the survey showed that violence prevention is an issue that concerns many students across the country. Most school representatives responded that security measures were only instituted after there was an increased incidence of violence to medical students. Medical students face a broad spectrum of violence across the country. There were a few schools at either extreme of no violence or murder, rape, and gang violence. Most schools reported muggings and theft as the predominant form of violence. SUNY Downstate falls in the middle of the spectrum when discussing violence to medical students.

In terms of school violence prevention policy, most schools have:

- 1) Campus security to walk students at night
- 2) Shuttle services
- 3) Emergency boxes at corners that students can press if there is an incident
- 4) Texts, emails, and mail about incidents that occur near or on campus
- 5) Security patrolling campus and the neighborhood
- 6) Good lighting in areas like parking lots or areas with greater incidences of violence
- 7) Cameras all around school

Some schools have ideas that were not mentioned by other schools and are listed below:

- 1) Blue light phones (**University of Chicago**)
- 2) Provide discounted cab services for those who are drinking. (**University of North Dakota**)
- 3) Rave Mobile Safety --- cell phone security service. Students register and can set a timer for arrival to location and if they don't alert the service of safe arrival campus police are notified. Or you can use the phone as a panic button which will alert police of your location through GPS tracking. (**Eastern Virginia medical School**)
www.ravemobilesafety.com/products/raveguardian/overview.
- 4) Student Walking groups to subways (**Columbia**)

Discussion/ Proposed Suggestions for SUNY Downstate:

SUNY Downstate, like other schools already has a great infrastructure of campus police. Unique to Downstate, these individuals care enough about our safety that they work odd hours to perserve it. They are wonderful people who are trying their best to keep us safe. We as students appreciate all that they do for us. Yet, many students still do not know that many of these services exist. We will try and help by advertising to our peers. We just learned that there is shuttle service from the train station in the morning and we will make that more clear to students. There as also been talk about putting up more signs to gain awareness of the shuttle on campus.

There is a wonderful shuttle service that provides transportation to and for the train station. However, many students face the dilema of comming back when it is dark and waiting for the shuttle. We feel unsafe, waiting at church avenue for 20 minutes and decide to walk. One proposal would be to implement a program along the lines of “Rave Gaurdian” mentioned above into our pre-existing infrastructure. If we can call the shuttle ahead of time with our estimated time of arrival at nearby bus stations or subway stations, students might not have to wait as long for the shuttle this would go a long way of decreasing student apprehension. Some other ideas we could implement is if we ask students to get off at winthrop street instead of church and wait with the Downstate security officer by the dialysis center.

AAMC OSR Responses:
2011 Survey on Violence Prevention and Safety

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University of Texas Medical Branch

Incidents: Mugging

Frequency: Every six months

School Policy: We have police on campus available to escort students at all times.

University of Pittsburgh

Incidents: Muggings, gang violence, rape, etc.

All of these happen in the immediate area but I'm not aware of any med students being victims, at least not recently. Undergraduates have been victims in these cases.

Frequency: Every month or so

School Policy: Medical Students have the blue light system and a "safe rider" program, which is the same service used by anyone else on campus. And a lot of our clinical sites are a good distance from campus. Sorry to not have better ideas to share. Some complains are that there are not enough parking at clinical sites or that parking is easily accessible from the buildings. In addition, campus police alerts about area incidents are not normally emailed to students.

University of North Dakota

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: Medical students have the Campus Policeman at Emergency Phone stations. There are discounted cab services for students that have been drinking. We have a service that you can request someone to walk home with you if you are on campus late at night.

University of Kentucky School of Medicine

Incidents: Assaults

The neighborhoods around the university and medical campus have had incidences of assault this year and in years past late at night.

Frequency: Every year

School Policy: The student parking lot is well lit and is serviced by regular bus transportation. The shuttle will drop students off at their cars if it is after hours. Also, a separate shuttle service, also sponsored by the university, can be called after hours to take students to cars parked elsewhere on campus.

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: We have 24 hour security at our entrance, and security guards are required when asked to escort students to their cars.

Dartmouth Medical School

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: Immediate alert system - text/email/phone call.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Incidents: Break-ins, Murder

There are occasional break-ins in the homes and apartments around campus. These, at least to my knowledge, have all been non-violent. Over a year ago there was a murder at a club close to campus.

Frequency: Every 2-5 years

School Policy: Our campus and parking lots are patrolled by campus police. Patrols are numerous and frequent enough that crime on campus is low, and generally confined to minor theft. We also have good lighting and emergency boxes in the parking lots. Our school does operate shuttles that run every to and from distant lots, although primarily for convenience.

Texas Tech University School of Medicine

Incidents: Muggings, Assaults

There have been muggings and assaults near the University Hospital and Medical School building in El Paso, TX.

Frequency: Every month or so

School Policy: The school strongly encourages students not to walk between the Hospital and the medical school campus alone after dark. They also have security patrolling the area 24 hours a day. Finally, in the event of a violent act carried out on campus, such as a shooting or a hostage situation, an emergency service has been implemented that would send a text message to every registered student warning of any impending danger.

University of Mississippi School of Medicine

Incidents: Carjackings, Kidnappings, Armed robbery, Murder

There have been two carjackings and kidnappings of young women in the past 6 months, as well as an armed robbery of a medical student in nearby neighborhood. There has also been an incident of murder.

Frequency: Every six months

School Policy: Administration sends out e-mails informing everyone of verified details of accident, and gives tips on staying safe. We also have security escorts to cars at night when parked on campus. We are advised to put security on speed dial. There are also frequent emails sent describing current criminal activity with safety tips.

Texas A&M HSC - College of Medicine

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: Our campus has 24 hour manned security patrols. There is no policy regarding off-campus safety that I am aware of.

University of Washington SOM

Incidents: Theft

Robberies in the undergraduate area, on occasion

Frequency: Every month or so

School Policy: An email is sent to the entire student body (including undergrads) with a description of the crime including location. There is a police presence on campus and emergency call posts on campus. Recommendations of where not to go at night (the crimes occur some distance from campus).

University of Missouri-Columbia

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: I'm not sure. Our school is super safe. Sorry.

University of Texas San Antonio

Incidents: Petty Thefts in library and other study areas.

Frequency: Every Year

School Policy: The city police service provides security and enforces the law on campus.

University of Chicago

Incidents: Muggings

We do have occasional muggings on campus.

Frequency: Every six months

School Policy: We have safe ride, who you can call on the weekends to pick you up and drop you off. We also at any time can call a cop car to follow us on our way home. We have every 20 minute shuttle service from on campus locations to other places on campus. We also have blue light phones. When there were specific issues with safety one area on campus, they put better lighting in.

University of Miami

Incidents: Mugging, Gun Violence, Rape.

yes, all of the above examples have occurred (mugging, gun violence, rape). The jail is one street over as well as the mental institute and the homeless shelter. The hospital has many of the recent residents from each in the parking lot and sidewalks.

Frequency: Every Year

School Policy: I assume you meant attacks on students in the above survey. Attacks on civilians in nearby neighborhoods are almost daily. We have security guards, badge access only to our classroom building with guard, escorts to get to and from the parking lot on request, emergency beacons on the sidewalks that call police at the push of a button, a school wide alert system by phone, email and text, and a lockdown protocol for extreme cases. (hostage situations, police chases or armed fugitives) We also tend to feel safer when we wear long white coats, a survey of offenders showed they were less likely to attack doctors in coats. We get long coats on day one, for many other reasons.

University of Central Florida

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: We have an escort service that we can call to walk us to our car. In addition, we have a 24 hour police patrolling the campus. We are outside of the big city so we are fairly isolated. Our clerkships will be in the downtown area, however, our first class will be entering those this May.

University of Vermont

Incidents: attempted robberies, assaults

Minor - attempted robberies, assaults.

Frequency: Every Year

School Policy: Emergency phones, campus safety reports distributed via email to university lists.

University of Michigan

Incidents: Muggings

Frequency: Every six months

School Policy: Nope, it is generally very safe. We receive text message crime alerts.

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Incidents: No

No major problems reported.

Frequency: Question not answered by representative.

School Policy: Shuttle service that runs around the campus. Safe ride and safe walk services available. There is a relatively large campus police presence.

University of South Dakota

Incidents: No reported incidents.

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: There is an Emergency Alert system is available on campus. The campus police are available to call at anytime of the day.

Michigan State University CHM

Incidents: Attacks and Sexual Assaults.

Frequency: Every 2-5 Years

School Policy: None

Eastern Virginia Medical School

Incidents: Random Bike Theft

Frequency: Representative did not answer.

School Policy:

1. Escorts within a 3 mile radius of campus for students
2. Rave Mobile Safety --- cell phone security service. Students register and can set a timer for arrival to location and if they don't alert the service of safe arrival campus police are notified. Or you can use the phone as a panic button which will alert police of your location through GPS tracking. www.ravemobilesafety.com/products/raveguardian/overview.

Southern Illinois University

Incidents: Thefts, Robberies, etc.

Frequency: Every Month.

School Policy: Cameras, full time security, security office that everyone checks in to, scheduled security checks, escorts upon request.

University of Rochester

Incidents: Stabbings, break-ins, muggings at gun point.

There have been multiple break-ins and muggings at gun point. There was a stabbing on school property last week. Most break-ins have been peaceful although there were two instances where inhabitants surprised thieves.

Frequency: Every Month.

School Policy: Shuttle Service and Emergency Phones located in several places outside the medical center. There is a late-night ride service for students and emergency phones distributed around the campus. There has not been much attention to the issue as far as I know.

Oklahoma University

Incidents: Intruders on campus, cars broken into.

Frequency: Every Year.

School Policy: Emergency alert system and emergency blue light poles. No shuttle service, etc.

Oregon Health and Science University

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: Public safety officers patrol campus and the neighborhood. Email alerts are pushed to all students faculty and staff when there are crimes or potentially dangerous individuals reported in the area.

Marshall University SOM

Incidents: Beatings.

There was an incidence last year where a second year student was beat up by a gang of young men while walking between the hospital and another facility. The attack did not technically occur on university property though since it was on a city sidewalk running between the two buildings.

Frequency: Every 2-5 years.

School Policy: There are a lot of hired security guards at all entrances to clinical facilities as well as emergency call stations along the sidewalks of university property. Our most recent event happened off these grounds and was therefore outside the realm of school involvement. No specific policy is in place other than the infrastructure previously mentioned.

University of Iowa

Incidents: No

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: I am not aware of any policy that exists at Iowa. Many students walk to school & the hospital and we have not had any safety issues.

Columbia

Incidents: Muggings

Frequency: Every Year

School Policy: Student developed group for walking peers to and from subway station, not sure if this is utilized or not. I believe there is a security officer that you can call for escort, although if you are coming home from the subway this may not be useful, as you'd have to wait at the subway for the security officer to arrive.

Yale School of Medicine

Incidents: Muggings, Gun Violence, etc.

There have been several incidents throughout the year including gun violence and muggings in the surrounding neighborhood. We are a campus in the downtown area of an urban city, so some issues are to be expected, but it does seem like the crime rate increased over the recent year. Since the cold weather has set in, the crime rate has somewhat decreased.

Frequency: Every Month

School Policy: There are police officers on most corners after dark and we have shuttles to take students to and from their destinations.

New York University Medical School

Incidents: None.

We are situated right next to a homeless shelter. Some people feel uneasy/threatened, but usually nothing happens (no assaults on students). There is usually some NYPD officers on the corner during the day.

Frequency: N/A

School Policy: We have a campus shuttle where after certain hours, a van will pick you up should the need arise. Representative was not aware if the program got discontinued.

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Incidents: Robberies at knife point, cars broken into, muggings, etc.

UTHSC is situated in a fairly dangerous neighborhood. In recent years, we have had students robbed by knife point, chased with knife, cars broken into, students mugged at the University gym while in the locker room, or been threatened. Additionally, UTHSC borders the hospital district of Memphis (1 block away). This hospital services a range of populations including most of the gun shot and fight trauma in the area; consequently, it can attract persons with not good intentions. In the past 6 months, I can think of two cases of people getting shot due to a gang or retaliation related event.

Frequency: Every six months.

School Policy: Shuttle Service and campus patrol by University police.

University of South Carolina SOM

Incidents: Shootings

Frequency: Every Month

School Policy: Campus has 24/7 patrol both in car and on foot, also all doors are electronic key card entrance.

SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

Incidents: Muggings, gang violence

Frequency: Once a year

School Policy: We have a very active campus security. We have shuttle service that takes students from school to the subway station and back. You can also call the shuttle and they will come and pick you up.

