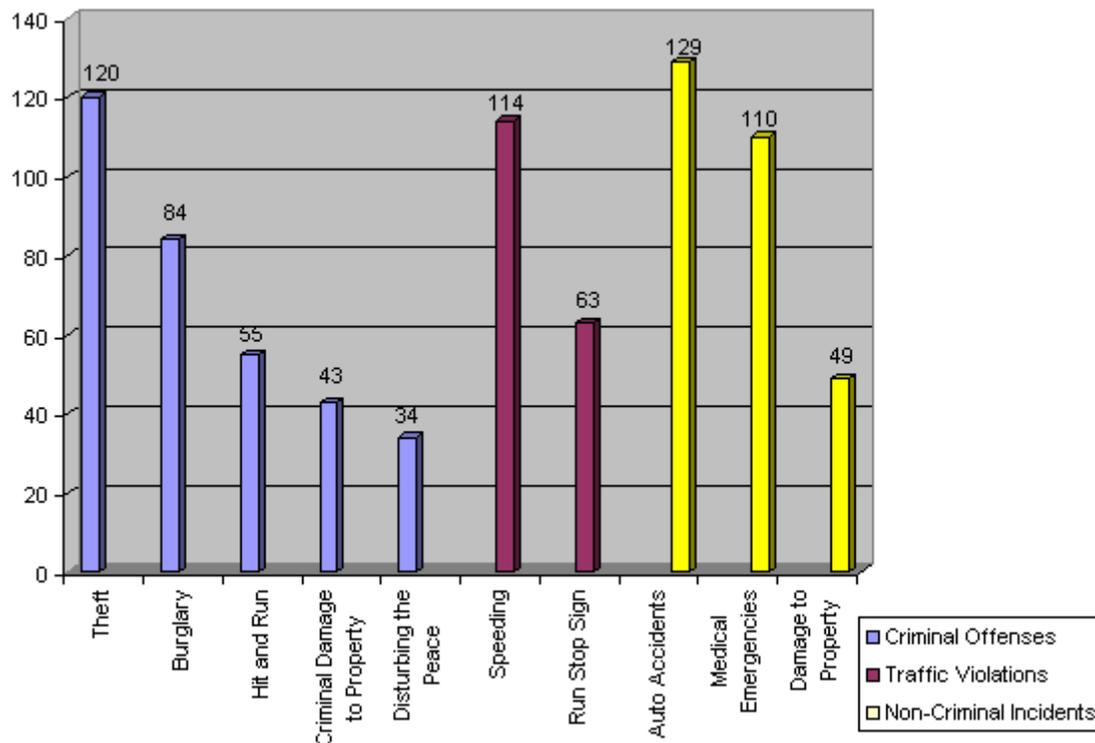


Crime on Campus: How Safe is SLU?

Policy Brief #10

Summer 2000

What are the most frequent types of incidents reported to campus police?



- During the 1998 calendar year, a total of 1194 SLU Campus Police reports were filed for criminal offenses, traffic violations, or noncriminal incidents. Criminal offenses are any violations of Louisiana criminal law, public health and safety laws, or City of Hammond ordinances. They include offenses such as burglary, theft, disturbing the peace, and illegal alcohol and drug possession. Traffic violations are defined by Louisiana traffic statutes, including careless operation of a vehicle, running a stop sign, and speeding. Noncriminal incidents involve situations when the campus police may be called upon but no violation of state law has occurred (such as medical emergencies and reports of lost or missing property). The number of criminal offenses at Southeastern Louisiana University increased by 13.3% (or 68 incidents) in 1998 when compared to 1997.
- Theft, burglary, criminal damage to property, hit and run, and disturbing the peace incidents were the most frequent types of criminal offenses reported by Campus Police. Theft incidents decreased 12.4% in 1998 compared to 1997, and burglary decreased from 88 incidents to 84 incidents.

- The number of traffic violations had a major increase in 1998 with speeding and running stop signs as the most frequent type of traffic violations reported. The number of traffic violations increased from 89 in 1997 to 357 in 1998, for an increase of 262 violations (or a 294.4% increase).
- Noncriminal incidents reported most frequently included auto accidents, medical emergencies, and reported damage to property. Twenty-two more auto accidents were reported in 1998, compared to 1997. Overall, non-criminal incidents increased 24% from 1997 to 1998. In 1997, there were 333 non-criminal incidents while in 1998 there were 413, for an increase of 80 incidents.

How do changes in crime nationally on College and University Campuses compare with changes in crime at Southeastern?

Changes in Crime from 1997 to 1996 at Southeastern and on 483 Colleges and Universities with more than 5000 students.

Incidents	Change in crime at SLU*	Change in crime at Universities with more than 5000 students**
Murder	0%	-31.6%
Forcible Sex Offenses	0%	0.4%
Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0%	-21.5%
Robbery	-100%	- 9.2%
Aggravated Assault	0%	- 0.8%
Burglary	-19.3%	- 8.1%
Motor-Vehicle Theft	-50.0%	- 9.2%
Arrests	Change in arrests at SLU*	Change in arrests at Universities with more than 5000 students**
Liquor Law Violations	-78.0%	3.6%
Drug Law Violations	-78.0%	7.2%
Weapons Law Violations	-50.0%	4.4%

*Crime on Campus Report

(Based on Data from Crime on Campus Report, Calendar Year 1998. University Police Department, Southeastern Louisiana University)

**Statistics on Crime: Crime Data from 483 U.S. Colleges and Universities.

(Based on Data from Chronicle of Higher Education, May 28, 1999, pages A39-49.)

- Unfortunately, campus crime is prevalent at the majority of universities in the United States. Southeastern is similar to many other universities with lowered reports of serious criminal conduct involving robbery, burglary and motor vehicle theft in recent years according to the Chronicle of Higher Education's Statistics on Crime.

- Southeastern was different from other universities in some areas though. Southeastern is one of the few universities that has experienced a decrease in arrests for liquor, drug and weapons violations. Across the country, arrests for drug and alcohol violations have increased at colleges and universities causing much concern for University Administrators and Police. Drug arrests have increased by 7.2% and alcohol arrests have increased by 3.6% from 1996 to 1997, making this the 6th consecutive year that universities have reported increases in arrest in these two areas.

More information about crime prevention and Southeastern's University Police department can be found at <http://www.selu.edu/police/>.