HAZING PREVENTION RESEARCH LAB
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

STOP HAZING

Stop Campus Hazing Act Implementation:

An Administrator's Guide

Who We Are

Hazing Prevention Research Lab

In partnership with StopHazing and HazingInfo.org, researchers at the University of Maine work to develop evidence-based approaches to reducing the prevalence and harms of hazing. Currently the lab is relaunching the landmark National Study of Student Hazing to update the original study conducted in 2008 by Principal Investigator, Dr. Elizabeth Allan, StopHazing's Principal and Director of the Hazing Prevention Research Lab.

StopHazing

StopHazing is a national leader in hazing prevention research and education. Our mission is to promote safe and inclusive school, campus, and organizational environments through research, resource-sharing, and the development of data-driven strategies for hazing prevention and for promoting positive and inclusive group climates.

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Stop Campus Hazing Act Overview

As campuses implement new requirements in response to 2024 Clery Act amendments (the Stop Campus Hazing Act)[1], institutions are finding ways to move beyond compliance to build safer, more accountable communities.

This brief provides a concise overview of three hazing-related federal requirements and practical guidance for implementation, shaped by the most common questions campus practitioners, leaders, and community members bring to StopHazing.

It covers:

01 **Campus Hazing Transparency Reports (CHTRs)**

02 **Hazing Incident Reporting in Annual Security Reports**

03 **Research-Informed Campus Prevention Programs**

[1]The Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, 20 U.S.C § 1092(f)

Requirement: CHTRs

The Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR) is designed to provide accurate information about hazing incidents on campus and to help consumers (e.g., students, parents) make informed decisions about which groups they may want to join. The law requires a 'floor' for what must be included in the CHTR. It is then the responsibility of the institution to ensure, in the spirit of transparency, the report is accessible and digestible.

We recommend institutions go beyond listing responsible organizations only and instead include all investigated incidents (regardless of outcome), unrecognized groups, detailed narratives, and follow-up actions.

As a result, students and families can better understand how the institution responds to hazing concerns. Expanding the report to include all investigated incidents - regardless of outcome - along with information about unrecognized groups and follow-up actions, gives a fuller picture of campus climate and helps dispel misinformation or rumors.

Detailed narratives also help students and others recognize problematic behaviors earlier, support informed decision-making when joining organizations, and reinforce the institution's commitment to prevention.

- **HazingInfo.org,** the nation's first free, comprehensive database of hazing incidents, is a valuable tool for reviewing transparency reports and websites from many institutions.
- Explore **StopHazing's Flow Chart Resource** and blog post **"Is Your Campus Ready to Post a Hazing Transparency Report?"** for practical guidance.

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Requirement: CHTRs

The report must include:

- [ ] The name of the student organization

- [ ] A general description of the violation that resulted in a finding of responsibility, including whether the violation involved the abuse or illegal use of alcohol or drugs, the findings of the institution, and any sanctions placed on the student organization by the institution, as applicable.

- [ ] The dates on which:
    - the incident was alleged to have occurred;
    - the investigation into the incident was initiated;
    - the investigation ended with a finding that a hazing violation occurred; and
    - the institution provided notice to the student organization that the incident resulted in a hazing violation.

- [ ] The report must be publicly available on the institution's website.

Ultimately, a well-organized and understandable report demonstrates that the institution is willing to confront hazing openly and proactively. This messaging can help deter harmful behavior and promote safer, healthier group cultures.

Requirement: Hazing Incidents in Clery Reports

Institutions must include statistics for hazing incidents that occurred within Clery Act-specific geography and meet the Clery Act definition of hazing in their annual security reports (ASRs), also known as Clery Reports. This addition expands Clery Act crime reporting to include hazing incidents, further increasing transparency and accountability.

The term "hazing", for purposes of reporting statistics, means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons, regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that:

- is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury, including
- whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
- causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
- causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;

Requirement: Hazing Incidents in Clery Reports

- causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
- any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
- any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
- any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

The term "student organization", for hazing statistical reporting, means
an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.

Clery geography includes:

- Buildings and property that are part of the institution's campus (including on-campus student housing);
- The institution's noncampus buildings and property; and
- Public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.

Key Insights:

Including hazing incidents in Clery crime statistics creates standardized data nationwide that helps colleges and universities better understand the issue of hazing. Additionally, this campus hazing incident data is another consumer protection and valuable information for students, parents, and others to access when making decisions.

Institutions should collaborate with their Clery compliance teams or other collaborative teams focused on incident response, such as coordinated community response teams, if such teams exist.

→ Reasons why we recommend this approach:

- These roles not only already manage structured processes for documenting incidents, maintaining timelines, verifying case outcomes, and ensuring public disclosures meet legal standards, but also often have knowledge of both recognized and unrecognized student organizations on campus.
- By integrating hazing reporting into established systems, institutions can reduce duplication, strengthen data integrity, and create a unified approach to campus safety reporting.
- Close collaboration also helps ensure that terminology, incident classifications, and reporting formats are consistent across all mandated disclosures, making the information clearer for students, families, and the public.
- This partnership ultimately improves transparency, simplifies internal workflows, and supports a more comprehensive picture of campus risk and prevention efforts.

For ongoing support, StopHazing's Membership Program provides premium research-based hazing prevention resources and training, and access to guidance and expertise from the leaders in hazing prevention research-to-practice.

National nonprofit Clery Center also has membership programs designed to support broader Clery Act compliance, as well as a SCHA Getting Started Guide that can inform your hazing-related efforts.

Requirement: Research-Informed Programming

Institutions are required to provide **research-informed campus-wide prevention programs** designed to reach students, staff, and faculty.

→ Programs must include information on:

- Current policies relating to hazing (as defined by the institution)
- How to report incidents of hazing
- The process used to investigate such incidents of hazing
- Any applicable local, State, and Tribal laws on hazing
- Primary prevention strategies intended to stop hazing before it occurs.

Examples of primary prevention strategies are skill-building for bystander intervention, ethical leadership development content, and the promotion of healthy group development without hazing.

Key Insights

Consider these insights when developing or selecting hazing prevention programs:

- When selecting programs, it is helpful to understand the distinctions between data-driven, research-informed, research-based, and evidence-based programs.
- Make the time to review existing programs and initiatives your campus offers. Identify what is working well and where gaps may exist.
- Learn from the research on hazing prevention to understand strategies that have proven effective. Select or adapt programs that align with your campus culture, meet the needs of your students, staff, and faculty, and reflect the best available evidence.
- Effective prevention programs are not one-size-fits-all; they should be tailored to your community while remaining grounded in research-informed principles.
- To support this work, campuses can draw on a variety of resources and tools designed for real-world application.

Term	Definition/Emphasis	Implications for Hazing Prevention
Data-Driven	Strategies guided by locally collected assessment data (e.g., surveys, environmental scans) and adjusted over time.	This approach is helpful for tailoring prevention to your campus, as it lowers the burden of proof and provides more flexibility. **Note:** Data-driven prevention efforts do not require the same level of rigor in data collection and analysis as research-based or evidence-based prevention strategies.
Research-Informed	Strategies that draw from peer-reviewed scholarship while also integrating practitioner knowledge and local context.	**This is the minimum standard under the Clery Act**, which allows for adaptation and innovation while remaining anchored in research.
Research-Based	Strategies are adapted from rigorous research studies, though not necessarily proven in every context.	Stronger than "research-informed," though results may vary across campuses, these provide a solid research foundation through empirical findings for program design and implementation. **Note:** There are few research-based options available.
Evidence-Based	These strategies have been systemically evaluated through research studies with documented, replicable efficacy in reducing the targeted issue across multiple settings.	The ideal standard in hazing prevention. Evidence-based programs for hazing prevention are not currently available due to the field's emerging nature.

Table based on StopHazing's blog "Evidence-Based, Research-Based, Research-Informed, or Data-Driven?"

Check Out These Resources

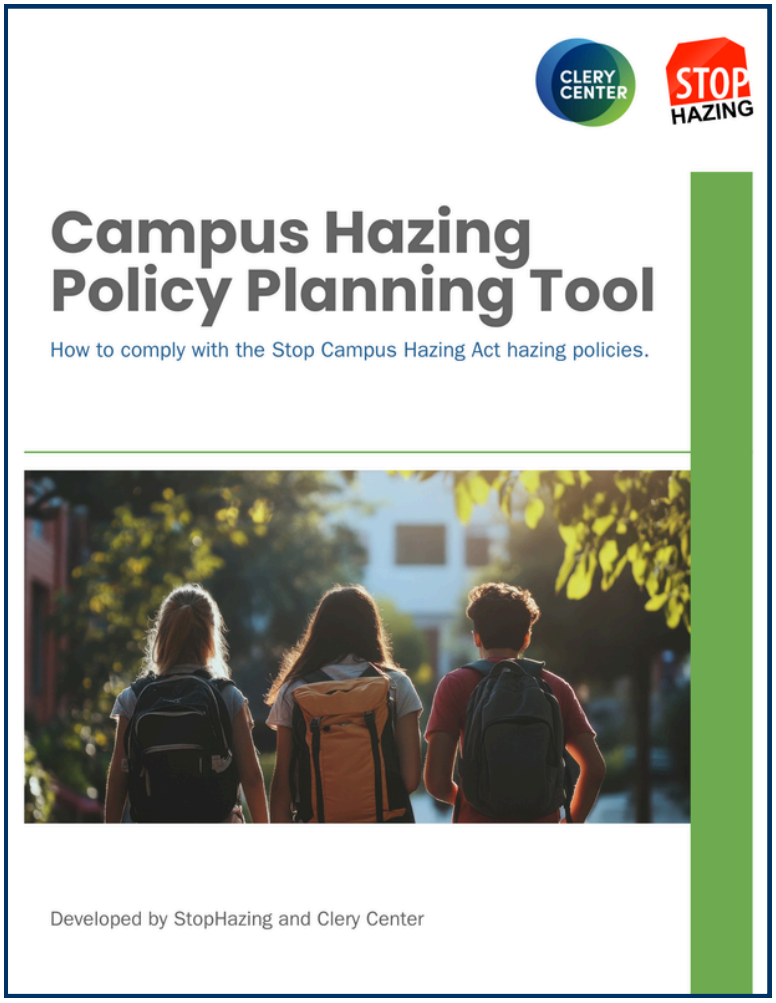
- StopHazing's blog "Evidence-Based, Research-Based, Research-Informed, or Data-Driven?" breaks down these distinctions and helps campuses vet programs with confidence.

- Examples of research-informed prevention strategies for hazing include the Making Space for Leaders to Lead Change, Practicing Values-Based Leadership & Decision Making, and 10 Signs of Healthy & Unhealthy Groups workshops.

- In the case of hazing prevention, several studies have examined the efficacy of particular research-based prevention strategies.
  - Cornell University researchers highlighted the importance of social norms campaigns and video-based interventions like Intervene.
  - StopHazing researchers published about the effectiveness of We Don't Haze, a 16-min. documentary (free), in shifting attitudes and perceptions of hazing, as well as the perceived impact of participating in the Hazing Prevention Consortium, a three-year, research-to-practice initiative.

Check Out These Resources

StopHazing and Clery Center developed a Campus Hazing Policy Planning Tool, designed to help strengthen your campus hazing policy and the required ASR policy statements by providing insight on what to include in a high-quality, health promoting campus hazing policy while complying with Clery Act requirements. It also helps you review your current policy and plan for the next steps to enhance it.



Ways StopHazing Can Support

StopHazing offers the largest suite of research-informed and research-based tools designed for real-world application across campus audiences:

Featured Programs & Resources

- **StandUp to Hazing (Online Course):** Fee-based 20-minute course with proven impact on student knowledge, confidence, and reporting behavior.
- **We Don't Haze (Film & Guide):** No cost research-based documentary with companion tools for workshops and discussion including a Bystander Intervention Guide.
- **Workshops & Trainings:** Topics include leadership, belonging, bystander action, and healthy group culture. No cost and fee-based options available.

Additional No-Cost Tools

- **Hazing Prevention Framework & Toolkit**: The only research-based framework for hazing prevention and a comprehensive guide with eight components informed by prevention science to support effective hazing prevention.
- **The Spectrum of Hazing**: A research-based resource and tool developed by StopHazing researchers, Dr. Elizabeth Allan, and tested, refined, and published by Dr. Allan & Dr. Dave Kerschner. It describes hazing behaviors on a continuum from low to high frequency.
- **Infographics & Educational Materials**: Covering topics such as hazing warning signs, the differences between hazing and bullying, and more.

Strategic Support & Services

- **Hazing Prevention Consortium (HPC):** Multi-year initiative for building campus-wide prevention infrastructure
- **Annual Membership & Policy Packages:** Ongoing access to expert guidance, training, and Hazing Prevention Academy seats
- **Campus Hazing Survey:** Provides a snapshot of the nature and extent of student hazing, knowledge, and perceptions at a given institution to inform prevention initiatives

Turning Policy Into Action: Strengthening Hazing Prevention

Implementing the Stop Campus Hazing Act is an important step toward safer, more accountable campuses, but compliance alone is not enough. By leveraging transparency reports, Clery Act reporting, research-informed programming, and practical resources, institutions can build a culture where students, staff, and faculty are empowered to recognize, intervene, and prevent hazing. StopHazing is committed to supporting campuses every step of the way - turning compliance into commitment, data into action, and policy into safer, more inclusive group environments.

Acknowledgements

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Contributing Authors

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More Info on StopHazing

We translate research and data-driven insights into tools, resources, and programs that foster comprehensive, effective, and sustainable hazing prevention. Our work emphasizes campus-wide approaches that address the full ecosystem in which hazing occurs to ensure that all students, groups, teams, and departments benefit from consistent, research-informed prevention.

We lead the Hazing Prevention Consortium (HPC) and collaborate with national partners and campus stakeholders, including the Hazing Prevention Research Lab at the University of Maine, HazingInfo.org, Clery Center, The Gordie Center, campus administrators, student affairs leaders, athletics, fraternity/sorority life, student leaders, and additional prevention-focused organizations.

→ Our Approach

StopHazing's work is guided by three core values:

- **Research to practice:** Purposeful and rigorous inquiry to develop an evidence base that expands knowledge and informs practice.
- **Collaboration:** Mutually beneficial engagement with organizational partners and individuals to achieve common goals.
- **Leadership:** Taking action for healthy, inclusive, and equitable group and organizational environments.

We draw on multiple types of evidence:

- **Hazing Research:** Patterns, causes, and impacts of hazing.
- **Prevention Science:** Effective strategies for preventing harmful behaviors.
- **Campus Culture and Leadership Research:** How norms and leadership shape behavior.
- **Social Norms and Bystander Research:** Understanding peer influence and encouraging intervention.

Our work is grounded in more than two decades of research that has shaped how institutions, organizations, and communities understand and prevent hazing. Drawing from large-scale national studies, campus-based assessments, and ongoing researcher-practitioner partnerships, StopHazing uses research and evidence to guide prevention strategies that work. Our frameworks and initiatives include:

- **Hazing Prevention Framework (HPF):** A comprehensive model that helps schools and organizations build strong, research-informed hazing prevention plans, emphasizing a layered strategy: strengthening policies, building leadership capacity, shifting group culture, engaging stakeholders, and sustaining long-term prevention efforts.
- **Hazing Prevention Consortium©™ (HPC):** The multi-year research-to-practice initiative supporting campus-wide prevention while also helping to build an evidence base for hazing prevention.
- **StopHazing Membership and Policy Packages:** Building on the trailblazing work of the HPC, provides access to research-based resources, trainings, and expert guidance

Together, these resources provide a roadmap for prevention: understanding hazing, identifying escalation points, campus culture, and implementing coordinated strategies addressing root causes.