

MOBILE SURVEILLANCE AS A

Strategic Solution to Campus Crime in 2025

A security crisis grips American college campuses.

U.S. Department of Education¹ data shows criminal offenses soared to 41,801 across 5,673 institutions in 2023—shattering previous records and marking the highest number in over a decade. This alarming figure, representing more than 115 reported crimes per day across U.S. campuses, marks a severe escalation from both 2020's pandemic-reduced figures and 2019's 27,000 reported crimes. A comprehensive meta-analysis published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*² found that surveillance cameras reduce crime by an average of 13%, with particular effectiveness in parking lots where crime dropped by 51%—making strategic surveillance one of the most powerful tools available to campus security teams.

Crimes contributing to this increase included burglary, assault, drug offenses, and motor vehicle theft. High-profile incidents, such as a 2024 case³ at Arizona State University (ASU) involving three sexual assaults within an hour, illustrate the evolving threat landscape. Antisemitic incidents and other bias-motivated crimes have also increased on some campuses.

EVALUATE CURRENT CAMPUS SECURITY MEASURES AND GAPS

Colleges and universities typically employ a multilayered security model that involves sworn campus police, fixed surveillance systems, emergency communication networks, and strategic environmental design. As Dave Baker, a Security Solutions Architect for LVT said, "The goal of a university's robust surveillance program is to eliminate blind



spots campuswide." For example, Virginia Commonwealth University⁴ (VCU) operates more than 1,800 surveillance cameras, attributing their contribution to over 500 police investigations in a single year.

The National Center for Education Statistics⁵ reports that 96% of large public universities have invested in improved lighting and security infrastructure as baseline protective measures. However, despite these investments, limitations remain. Surveillance blind spots exist in off-campus housing areas, remote parking lots, and during dynamic events such as protests or sports games. While a Campus Safety Magazine⁶ survey found that 80% of schools report their security cameras frequently or sometimes prevent crimes through deterrence, gaps in coverage remain problematic. Some campuses lack adequate lighting or have outdated infrastructure, prompting student protests over unsafe conditions. This concern is widespread—a 2021 national survey⁷ by ADT and the Clery Center found that 82% of college students are concerned about their personal safety, with 74% specifically feeling unsafe walking in the dark and 65% feeling vulnerable when leaving events alone. The survey also revealed that 97% of students actively consider their personal safety as they go about daily campus life.

5 CRITICAL SECURITY CHALLENGES FOR CAMPUS SECURITY

Campus security officials face five primary operational challenges:

1. **Remote Parking Lots:** Parking areas are frequent sites of criminal activity, particularly after dark. According to the Journal of Experimental Criminology, strategic surveillance in parking lots can reduce crime by up to 51%. Understanding this impact, VCU responded by dramatically increasing their parking deck camera coverage from approximately 100 to 651 cameras between 2020 and 2023, while also upgrading to LED lighting.
2. **Large Events:** Athletic events and campus gatherings require extensive coordination and real-time monitoring. These events present unique security challenges due to rapid crowd dynamics and multiple

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areas that require simultaneous surveillance. As documented in LVT deployments, effective event security requires the ability to monitor crowd behavior as it unfolds and take swift, informed action before minor issues escalate into larger problems.

3. **Protests:** Demonstrations often require rapid response and crowd control. The duration and complexity of recent protests have outpaced existing campus resources, creating gaps in coverage, particularly when protests coincide with other major campus events, such as commencements. Mobile surveillance enables simultaneous monitoring of multiple high-priority areas, ensuring comprehensive security coverage even during concurrent events.
4. **Late-Night and Off-Hours Activity:** Students routinely travel across campus at night for academic or personal reasons. The 2021 ADT/Clery Center survey found that 74% of students feel unsafe walking in the dark, and 65% feel vulnerable when leaving events alone. These concerns are heightened in areas with limited surveillance coverage or inadequate lighting.
5. **Open Campus Environments:** Most U.S. college campuses remain physically open to the public.



While fostering a welcoming atmosphere, this creates significant security challenges. The Department of Education data shows this accessibility can contribute to increased crime rates, particularly in areas where traditional fixed surveillance systems may have blind spots or coverage gaps.

DEPLOY MOBILE SURVEILLANCE TO TRANSFORM CAMPUS SECURITY

Mobile surveillance platforms, such as those developed by LiveView Technologies, address specific shortcomings of traditional fixed systems identified by campus security experts. These units offer a solution to what security consultants identify as a common challenge: the need for rapid deployment without extensive infrastructure modifications. LVT Units are portable, solar-powered, and operate independently of wired networks or permanent infrastructure.

“These are not tech-heavy installs,” Baker said. “You don’t need trenching, Wi-Fi, or power hookups. You drop it in place and you’re live.”

LVT Units typically include the following features:

- » High-resolution PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) and panoramic cameras
- » Cellular and/or satellite connectivity
- » Solar power with battery backup
- » Blue flashing lights and speaker systems for deterrence
- » Loudspeaker audio communication for remote intervention

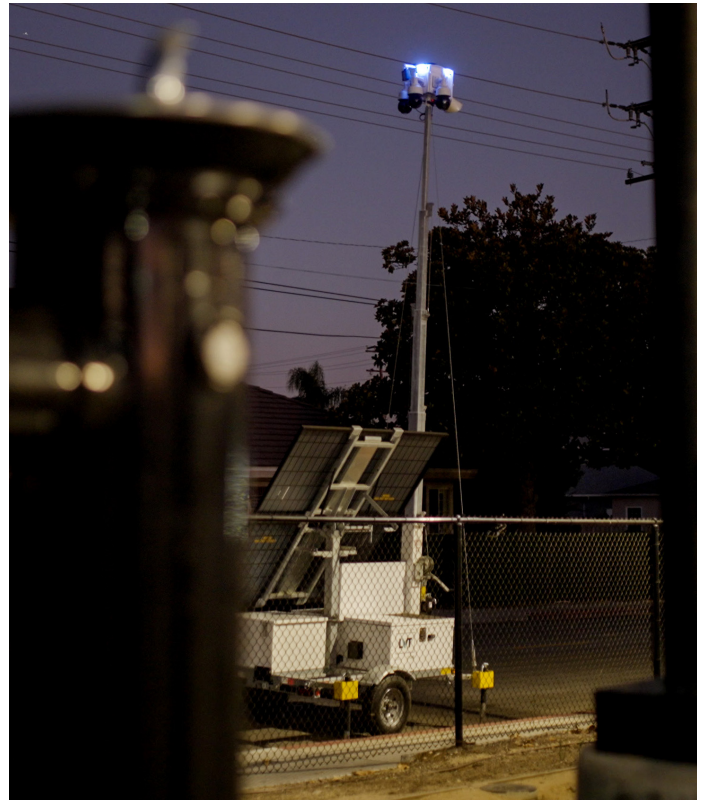
LEARN HOW ONE UNIVERSITY ENHANCED CAMPUS SAFETY

One large university deployed LVT mobile surveillance trailers⁸ in response to gaps in coverage near off-campus housing. After piloting a single trailer, the university expanded the program within weeks, driven by immediate positive results and strong community feedback. Reports from campus officials indicated that community members felt significantly safer, leading the university president to

personally endorse rapid expansion after observing the units' effectiveness in deterring criminal activity.

“The presence of these units created an immediate sense of safety in high-risk areas,” said Chris Parker, an Enterprise Account Director at LVT. “The flashing blue lights alone make people think twice.”

Within the first three months, one LVT Unit captured evidence in a homicide case. Additional uses included surveillance during football games, street festivals, and as rapid-response assets in areas with recent criminal activity. Movement and redeployment of trailers can occur within an hour.



ACHIEVE MEASURABLE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Building on the success demonstrated at that university and other institutions, deployments of LVT Units consistently produced statistically significant improvements in campus safety that align with broader industry research on surveillance effectiveness:

- » 70% decrease in parking lot incidents, exceeding



typical surveillance impact rates of 51% found in peer-reviewed research

- » 62% reduction in violent crime
- » 75% drop in high-risk crimes
- » 31% reduction in disorderly conduct

LVT Unit mobility allows institutions to achieve these significant security improvements while maintaining the flexibility to address emerging security challenges across campus environments.

MAXIMIZE SECURITY TEAM EFFECTIVENESS

LVT Units support campus security teams operating under budget or personnel constraints. Key advantages include:

- » Rapid deployment to high-risk or newly vulnerable areas
- » Flexibility for temporary events, such as graduation or construction
- » Integration with existing surveillance operations via remote access
- » 24/7 coverage without requiring additional staff presence

For example, during peak activity periods, such as move-in weeks or final exams, universities can rapidly deploy units to enhance security in temporary high-traffic areas without incurring permanent infrastructure investments.

OPTIMIZE YOUR SECURITY INVESTMENT

As major universities, like the University of Georgia⁹ invest millions in security infrastructure, including \$8.5 million for recent lighting and camera system upgrades, mobile surveillance units offer a powerful enhancement. Unlike traditional fixed camera systems that require extensive infrastructure investment, LVT Units deploy quickly and can be relocated as needs change. This flexibility aligns with best practices in campus security, eliminating the need for permanent installations in areas with varying risk levels.

PROTECT PRIVACY WHILE ENHANCING SECURITY

LVT's campus deployments comply with privacy standards by:

- » Not using facial recognition or referencing external databases

- » Restricting access to authorized security personnel
- » Limiting monitoring to public spaces
- » Leveraging proprietary networks to prevent unauthorized access

TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN CAMPUS SAFETY

Today's open campuses, frequent visitors, and late-night events create complex security challenges that traditional solutions struggle to address. Campus security teams require tools that enable them to stay ahead of potential threats while maintaining a welcoming environment that allows education to take center stage.

LVT Units provide the comprehensive coverage universities need, monitoring high-traffic areas, deterring unwanted activity, and supporting security personnel around the clock. The results are clear: significant reductions in parking lot incidents, violent crime, and disorderly conduct across campus environments. By combining real-time monitoring with rapid deployment capabilities, LVT helps universities create a secure, distraction-free environment that their students deserve.

READY TO ENHANCE YOUR CAMPUS SECURITY?

We offer a free consultation and a customized end-to-end security strategy tailored to your unique situation. Connect with an LVT specialist to see if you qualify for a risk-free trial.

To learn more about the LVT solution and how it can help increase safety and security in education, [visit lvt.com](https://lvt.com).



¹ U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). *Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool*. Office of Postsecondary Education. <https://ope.ed.gov/campussafety/Trend/public/#/answer/1/101/main?row=-1&column=-1>

² Kille, L. W., & Maximino, M. (2014, February 11). *The effect of CCTV on public safety: Research roundup*. The Journalist's Resource. <https://journalistsresource.org/politics-and-government/surveillance-cameras-and-crime/>

³ FOX 10 Phoenix. (2024, April 12). *Suspect in multiple ASU assaults arrested*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrWntWzCtos>

⁴ Virginia Commonwealth University. (2024, September 5). *How VCU's more than 1,800 security cameras contribute to campus safety*. VCU News. <https://news.vcu.edu/article/2024/09/how-vcus-more-than-1800-security-cameras-contribute-to-campus-safety#:~:text=In%20a%20spring%202024%20survey,behind%20that%20perception%20of%20safety>

⁵ National Center for Education Statistics. (1997). *Campus crime and security at postsecondary education institutions*. U.S. Department of Education. <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/peqis/publications/97402/>

⁶ Campus Safety Magazine. (2018). *Do security cameras really make campuses safer?* [PDF]. <https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CS-March18-survey.pdf>

⁷ ADT, Clery Center Survey Finds 82% of College Students Are Worried About Personal Safety: Clery Center. (2021, October 20). *How to Talk About Campus Safety with the College Student in Your Life*. <https://www.clerycenter.org/how-to-talk-about-campus-safety-with-the-college-student-in-your-life>

⁸ Educational Safety in a Post-Pandemic World: Hanks, M., & Parker, C. (2022, March 30). *Educational safety in a post-pandemic world* [Webinar]. LiveView Technologies. <https://www.lvt.com/webinars/educational-safety-in-a-post-pandemic-world>

⁹ University of Georgia. (2025, January 30). *New initiatives continue to enhance campus security at UGA*. UGA Today. <https://news.uga.edu/new-initiatives-continue-to-enhance-campus-security-at-uga/>