Starting this fall in Minnesota, college students will be required to complete training on preventing and reducing the prevalence of sexual assault. The mandate is part of a comprehensive law on sexual-assault prevention (SF 5) passed by legislators last year. In addition to requiring students to complete training within 10 business days of their first semester, the law expands the rights of victims, creates a new option to report cases online, and ensures that each school has a walk-in location staffed with trained advocates.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, each campus must now collect data on sexual-assault cases, as well as report how many incidents were investigated and the number that resulted in disciplinary proceedings. In a national survey done in 2015 by the Kaiser Family Foundation and The Washington Post, 1 in 5 women who had attended college within the last four years reported being the victim of a sexual assault.

Two-thirds of all victims (men and women) say they had been drinking alcohol just before the incidents. Under the Minnesota law, the victims and witnesses to a sexual-assault incident receive amnesty for violations of a school’s policies on drug or alcohol use.

By:

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