

END OF YEAR REPORT



PennState
Student Affairs

Office of Sexual Misconduct
Reporting and Response

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Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting and Response 2023-2024

Penn State's Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting & Response (OSMRR) addresses reports of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and other forms of sexual misconduct involving students.

Complainants, or the reported survivors/victims of incidents, may walk into our office, submit a report online or over the phone, or a third party may report an incident naming the complainant.

OSMRR staff contact complainants promptly and discreetly with an invitation to meet and discuss their needs, on- and off-campus resources, and procedural options available to them, including complainant-driven resolutions and University investigations.

In some cases, complainants may not respond, or they may request no further action from the University; the Title IX Coordinator or OSMRR director will review each such case for risk.

An investigation may be initiated at either the request of the complainant or the University upon review. The respondent, or the accused student, is not presumed to be responsible, is entitled to due process, and is afforded on- and off-campus resources. Final investigative reports are reviewed to determine any policy violations or sanctions.

Highlights from 2023–2024

- Increased in-person interactions and had the opportunity to fully use our soft interview room.
- Purchased all-in-one computer station for students to use and connect virtually with OSMRR staff if preferred, or to participate in virtual hearings. This permitted students to use the soft room when no other safe place was available to the students.
- Simplified and restructured important notifications, formatted communications for increased accessibility, and simplified and updated charts on our website.
- Completed first full academic year with newly added 9-month case manager.
- Managed student discriminatory misconduct investigations in addition to sexual misconduct cases.

Goals for 2024–2025

- Coordinate with a newly hired Title IX Coordinator regarding ongoing projects like Coalition Addressing Relationship and Sexual Violence (CARSV) and the It's On Us Grant.
- Continue to gather data regarding retrieval rates and response rates of outreach from OSMRR, and see how the relationship of race/gender/ethnicity/nationality/etc. impact how students interact with OSMRR.
- Establish a training curriculum with community partner for restorative justice.
- Continue to partner with campus stakeholders such as Clery, Residence Life, R-VOICE Center to deliver effective trainings customized to unique University audiences.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting and Response (OSMRR) is currently partnering with the Title IX Coordinator and the R-VOICE Center to create videos as part of the It's On Us Grant. A portion of these videos will focus on the various parts of the process students experience while working with OSMRR. These videos will focus on areas such as: what an intake looks like, no contact directives, informal process options, investigations, and several other topics which generate many common questions. There will also be a portion of the videos that focus more on prevention of sexual misconduct across all the campuses. These videos should be completed during the spring 2025 semester.

OSMRR is in the process of gathering data related to the retrieval rates of our outreach to students as well as information about which students are connecting to the office for an intake. OSMRR hopes to be able to use the data to determine any gaps in our outreach for specific populations of students. If gaps are determined to be present, then our next step is to evaluate what steps can be taken to narrow those differences for these populations.

Another project for this current academic year is working with a local community partner in building a restorative justice training program more specific to the needs of OSMRR. We want to help create training that is more focused on the behaviors that fall under sexual misconduct. Further, we want to connect staff in OSMRR with more advanced training to help discuss restorative justice with students, and facilitate restorative justice more effectively in a trauma-informed manner. The goal is to enhance staff's knowledge so restorative justice is a more effective pathway to resolve various sexual misconduct and discriminatory harassment complaints that are brought to the attention of OSMRR.

OSMRR will continue to support students impacted by sexual misconduct and discriminatory harassment while continuing to improve on the services we provide across the Penn State Community. One major step is continuing to encourage all of the community to report sexual misconduct behavior. To submit a report please go to: [Submit a Report.](#)

Spencer Peters, Director
Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting & Response

Case intake

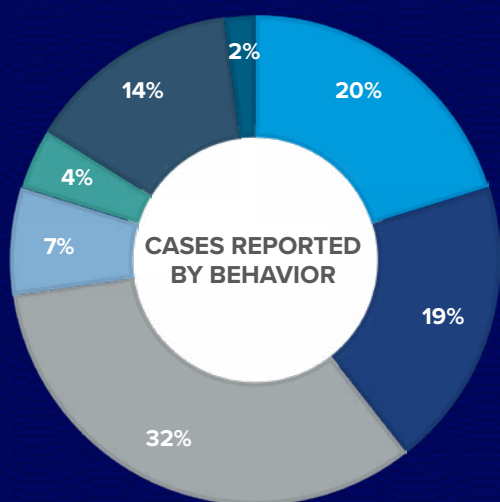
OSMRR Case Managers contact complainants with resources and an opportunity to meet in every case.

During the meeting, called an intake, the Case Manager offers supportive measures such as:

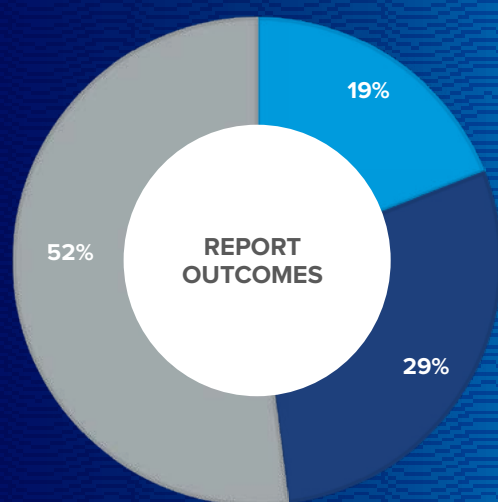
- Course-related adjustments
- No-contact directives
- Housing modifications
- Counseling referrals
- Directory withholding

Average length of investigations

- **129** calendar days for cases transferred to Title IX Coordinator
- **76** calendar days for cases resolved prior to a hearing



- Dating/Domestic Violence
- Harassment
- Sexual Violence
- Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Misconduct Involving an Incapacitated Person
- Stalking
- Discriminatory Harassment



- University Process Initiated
- Requested No Process
- Not Actionable for University Process*

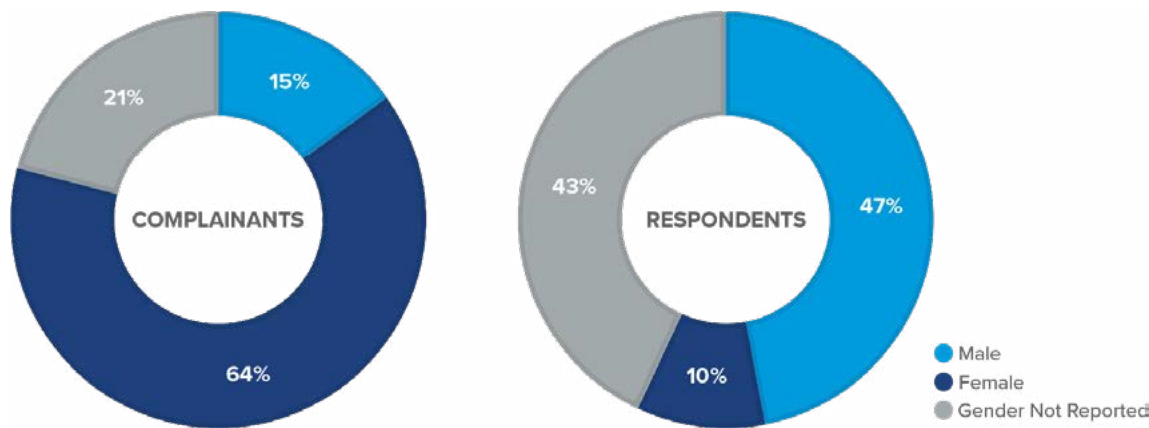
Common sanctions

- Counseling
- Educational intervention
- Probation
- Suspension

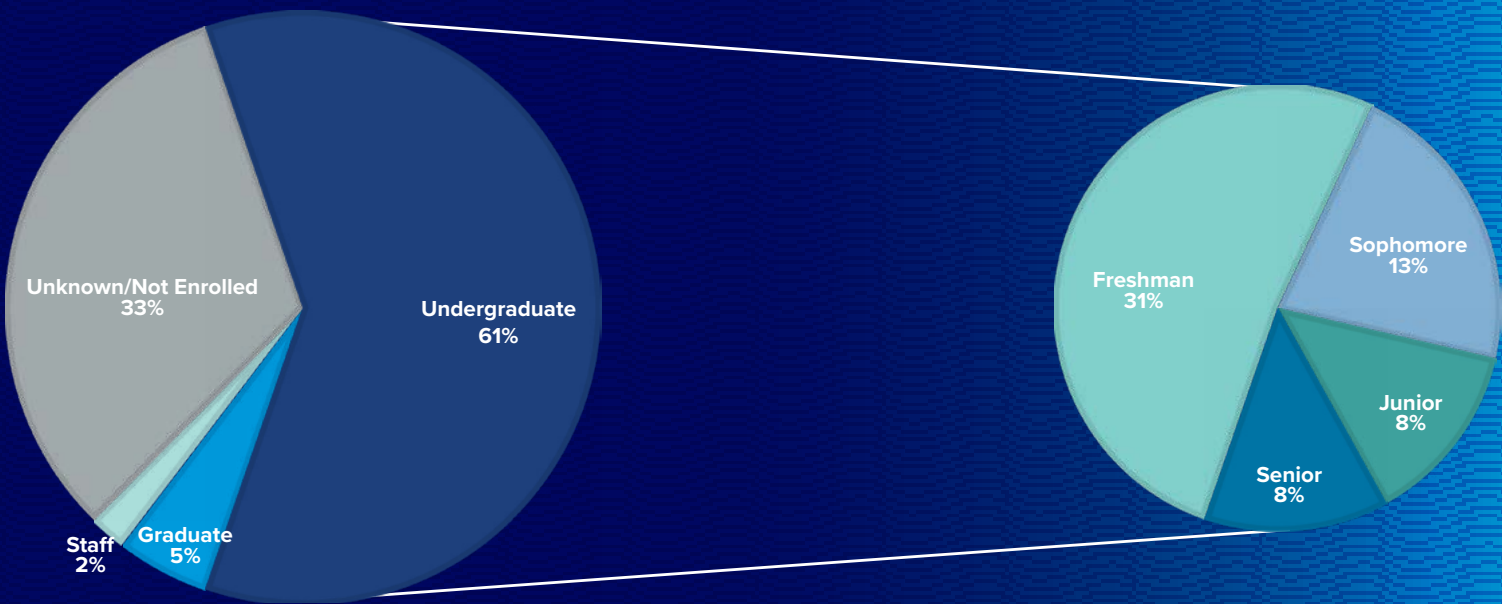
Informal resolution options

- Educational modules
- Educational conversations
- Restorative justice
- No-contact directives

Cases by gender



Party classifications for cases created (OSMRR cases)

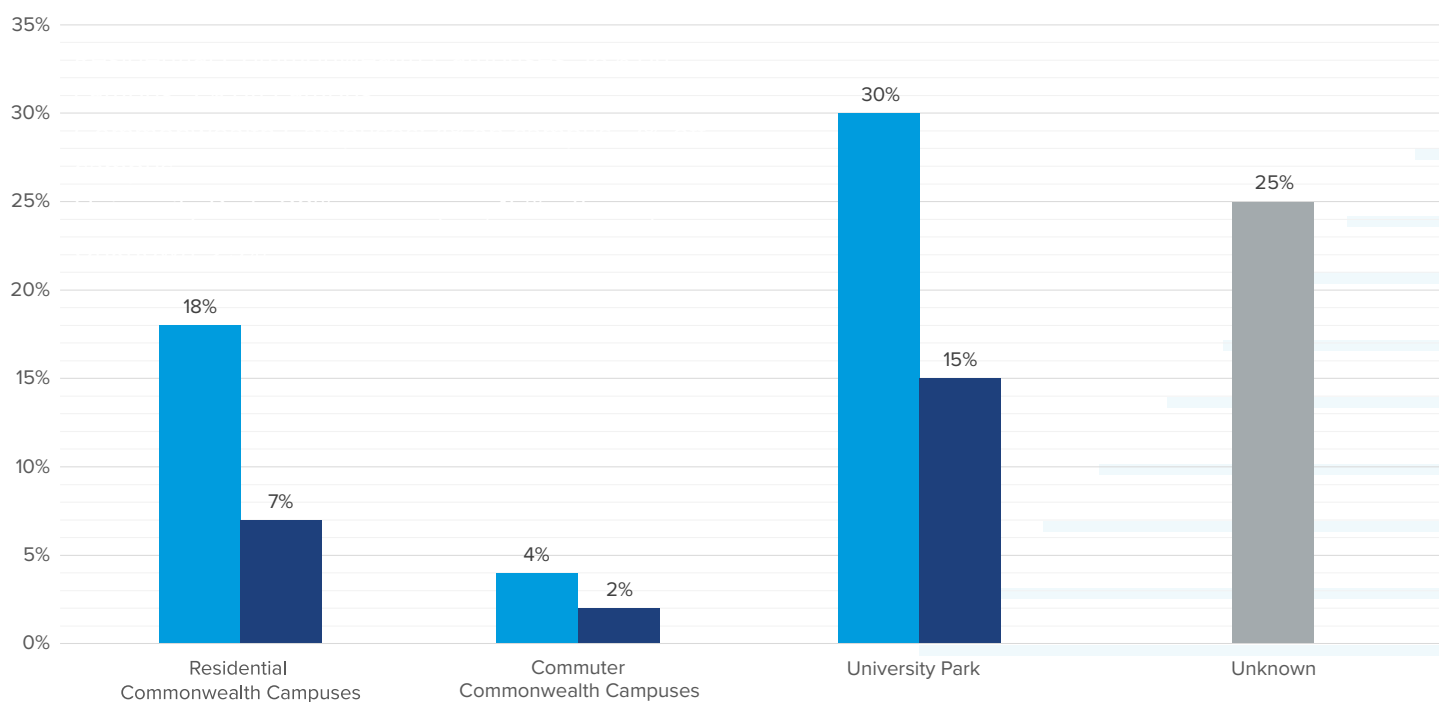


Academic levels of parties

Classification	Respondents	Complainants
Freshman	39%	60%
Sophomore	37%	63%
Junior	40%	60%
Senior	42%	57%

Cases by incident location

On Campus Off Campus



Text retrieval rates:

- **447** email with text for Complainant outreach

	Location	First Outreach Email	Second Outreach Email
21-22	UP	78.98%	49.25%
	CWC	73.03%	48.23%
22-23	UP	86.82%	53.26%
	CWC	74.75%	57.59%
23-24	UP	75.6%	63.64%
	CWC	75.72%	62.79%

Reporting by the numbers:

- **1,036** reports received
- **825** cases created
- **258** intakes conducted (**160** at UP and **98** at CWC)
- **254** cases reviewed by University to determine if placing inactive or moving to other action.
- **45** no contact directives issued

OSMRR remains vital to Penn State's provision of a safe and respectful learning environment. We are committed to serving the Penn State community and the Commonwealth by providing a safe location to report sexual violence, harassment, and misconduct. OSMRR strives to reduce barriers to reporting, uphold due process, and ensure success for every student at the University.



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