

End of Year Report: 2022-2023

Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting and Response

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 2022-2023

- The soft interview room was completed and is being used for in-person interviews with students.
- Over summer of 2023 various stakeholders worked to simplify the formal process resulting in the same management of all student sexual harassment and sexual misconduct cases regardless of whether they fall under Title IX or not.
- The office hired a 9-month case manager in the spring of 2023 in a restructuring of the office to better align with student needs.
- The office modified its name to better reflect the role of the office in managing student cases.

Goals for 2023-2024

- Collaborate with campus partners to inform community members of supportive measures and resources OSMRR can coordinate.
- Update the numerous formal letters OSMRR staff send to better organize and highlight important information for students involved in sexual misconduct processes.
- Work with stakeholders to create easily accessible information regarding supportive measures involving pregnancy.

A message from the director

Over the past several semesters, the Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting and Response (OSMRR) has discussed a name change for the office with many stakeholders to include students. As a result of the feedback, a name modification was implemented at the start of the fall 2023 semester. The services provided by the office have not changed and the goal was to have a name that better reflected the services provided to students by the office.

The main function of the office is responding to reports of sexual misconduct. This response includes providing resources and supportive measures to students impacted by a sexual misconduct incident or seeking resource assistance related to a pregnancy. Further, OSMRR provides options to students in addressing reported behavior, which include both informal resolutions and formal investigative processes. [Submit a report online here.](#)

While OSMRR continues to provide training to the University community on topics related to resources, reporting, and the support it provides students, prevention of sexual misconduct and related education is a joint effort across several units at Penn State. The Gender Equity Center (GEC) has recently expanded its leadership in violence-prevention programming. With Program Coordinators who focus on Outreach, Prevention, Bystander Intervention, and Men's Engagement, its Prevention Education team provides standard and customized workshops. These educators teach in the classroom, to student organizations, and to staff and faculty. Further, GEC oversees two peer education programs: Greeks CARE and It's On Us Penn State. [Request a Gender Equity Center program now.](#)

Overall, OSMRR will continue to support students who have been impacted by sexual misconduct. We will further collaborate with stakeholders in continuing to educate members of the Penn State community on how they can play a critical part in addressing sexual misconduct that is occurring at Penn State.



Spencer Peters, Director

Office of Sexual Misconduct Reporting & Response

OSMRR + Team



1 Director, 1 Associate Director, 3 Case Managers, 1 Admin Support, 3 Investigators + 23 Resource People at Commonwealth Campuses

Case Managers and Admin Support review every report and create cases. Case Managers meet with complainants for intake meetings and facilitate informal resolutions.

The Director and Associate Director, in addition to providing supervision and oversight, serve with the 3 Investigators to investigate allegations of policy violations in accordance with Penn State policies AD85 and AD91.

Resource People fill an important campus-based approach to complainant outreach on our Commonwealth Campuses. These trained staff members conduct intake meetings and provide campus-specific resources to our community.

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 Manger offers supportive measures such as:

- academic accommodations
- no-contact directives
- housing modifications
- counseling referrals
- directory withholding

Reporting by the numbers:

1211 reports received

876 cases created

280 intakes conducted

251 cases reviewed

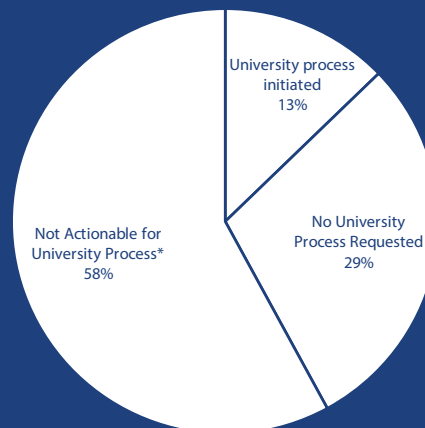
76 no contact directives issued

Cases by reported behavior



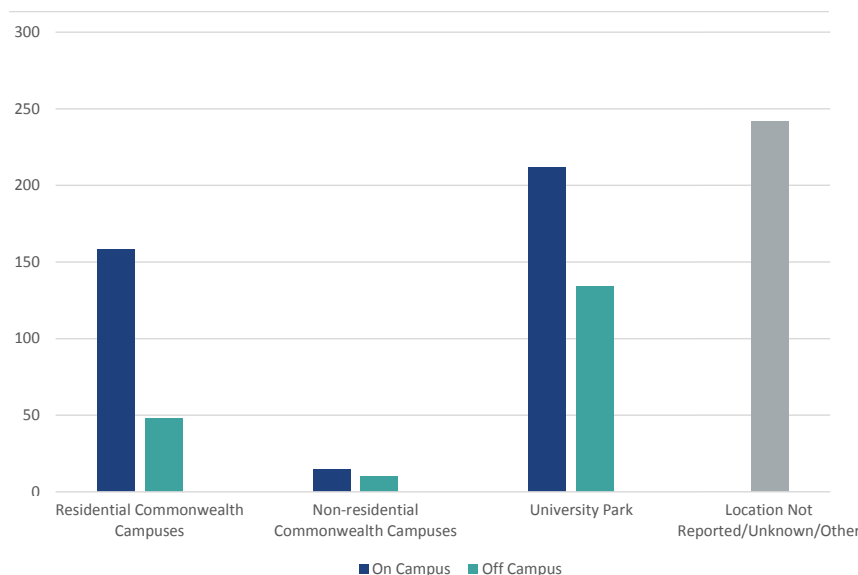
Incapacitation was reported in 8% of sexual violence cases

Report outcomes

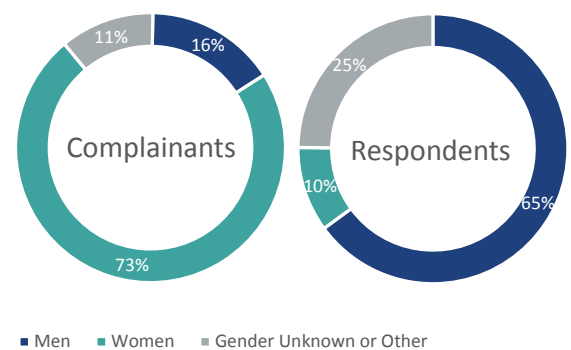


*Includes cases of unknown complainants; unknown (identity not reported) or unaffiliated respondents; and referrals to other University offices for management. Contact with complainants is attempted in every case.

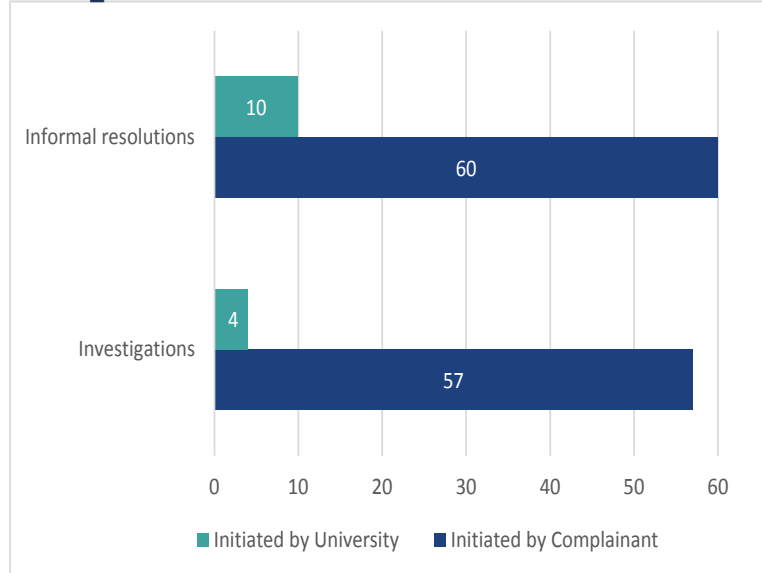
Cases by incident location



Cases by gender



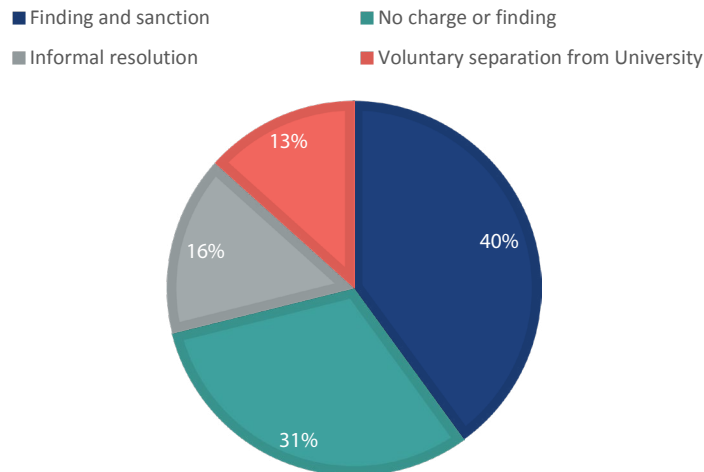
Response action



Response by the numbers:

- 326** interviews conducted
- 123** average calendar-day investigation length
- 6** average number of interviews per investigation
- 2** staff members in each interview with a complainant or respondent

End of investigation



Informal resolution options

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

Common sanctions

- Counseling
- Educational intervention
- Probation
- Suspension

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.

