

# Sexual Misconduct Data Report

## September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018

### Introduction

Northwestern University is committed to fostering an environment in which all members of our community are safe, secure, and free from sexual misconduct of any form. Northwestern's [Policy on Sexual Misconduct](#) prohibits all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, dating and domestic violence, and sexual harassment.

When an incident of alleged sexual misconduct is reported to the University, whether it is reported in person, by email, electronically, anonymously, or through another person, the Office of Equity sends an outreach email to the potential resources, including “

[You Have Options. Northwestern Can Help: Resource Guide on Sexual Misconduct and Title IX.](#)” One of the options that may be available to a person who may have experienced sexual misconduct is a University adjudication of whether a violation of the Policy on Sexual Misconduct occurred. Disciplinary action can be taken against any student, staff, or faculty member who is determined to have violated this policy. Northwestern's complaint resolution process for complaints of sexual misconduct can be found in Section III of the [Policy on Sexual Misconduct](#). This process is separate and distinct from any law enforcement investigation.

This report presents data on the number of sexual misconduct concerns reported to the University, the nature of those concerns, and the disposition of those reports during the academic year beginning September 1, 2017 and ending August 31, 2018.<sup>1</sup> During this time period, the Office of Equity responded to all reports of sexual misconduct. Reports filed with University or local police that were shared with the Office of Equity are also included in this data.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the number of incidents in this report will not align with the numbers in [Northwestern's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#) made pursuant to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, as amended by the Violence Against Women Act (“Clery Act”). Clery Act data is limited to incidents occurring on campus or in the area immediately surrounding campus, while the data in this report includes all reports of sexual misconduct made to the Office of Equity, regardless of the location of the alleged conduct. Further, Clery Act data is limited to specific crimes, while this report includes all allegations of sexual misconduct, including non-criminal behavior. Similarly, the number of incidents in this report will not align with the numbers in [Northwestern's Annual Report for the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act](#) as that report contains information about certain reports of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking brought by or on behalf of students during calendar year 2017.



## **2. Distribution of All Reports by Complainant Affiliation**

This chart illustrates the complainant affiliation for each of the 307 sexual misconduct reports received by the University in the 2017-2018 academic year. The complainant is the person who is alleged to have been impacted by sexual misconduct. It is important to note that 38 complainants either held no affiliation with Northwestern, or remained unidentified.<sup>2,3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> When it receives reports from individuals who are unknown or unaffiliated, Northwestern evaluates whether the report indicates an impact on Northwestern's working or learning environments to determine the appropriate response. An appropriate response may, but does not necessarily, include a formal investigation. In all reports in which a complainant can be identified, Northwestern offers support and resources to the impacted individual(s). In reports where a complainant cannot be identified, Northwestern may take steps within its control to eliminate, prevent, and address the reported conduct.

<sup>3</sup> In two reports, the complainants' identities were unknown, but the allegations suggested student complainants. In one report, allegations suggested multiple graduate students as impacted parties, and in the second report, allegations suggested an undergraduate student

### 3. Distribution of All Reports by Respondent Affiliation

This chart illustrates the distribution by respondent affiliation of the 307 sexual misconduct reports received by the University in the 2017-2018 academic year. The respondent is the person who is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct. It is important to note that 109 (35%) of the reports received were against people not affiliated with Northwestern or people whose identity was unknown.<sup>4</sup> For example, this includes reports about behavior by unaffiliated dating/domestic partners as well as incidents occurring off campus by non-Northwestern community members.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> In two reports, the respondents' identities were unknown, but the allegations suggested student respondents. In one report, allegations suggested multiple graduate students, and in the second report, allegations suggested multiple undergraduate students. For more information, see the 2017-2018 Sexual Misconduct Report at <https://www.northwestern.edu/offices/sexual-misconduct-reporting>.



remediate its impact. Informal resolution does not result in findings related to responsibility, or in sanctions. For example, informal resolution may have included no-contact directives or educational or advisory meetings with respondents.

### **C. Outcomes in Adjudicated Student Cases**

In student matters, cases that did not have the potential to result in separation from the

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## **5. Reports Against Faculty and Staff**

### **A. Distribution of Sexual Misconduct Reports Involving Faculty and Staff Respondents by Category of Violation Alleged**

During the 2017-2018 academic year, Northwestern received 58 reports alleging sexual misconduct by faculty or staff respondents. The following chart illustrates the types of violations that were reported.

### **B. How Complainants Elected to Proceed**

When a report is received from any source, including directly from impacted individuals and indirectly through others, the University reaches out to the individual(s) who may have experienced sexual misconduct to make them aware of their options and the resources that are available to them. In cases where an individual reporting sexual misconduct requests anonymity or does not wish to proceed with an investigation, the University will attempt to honor that request but, in some cases, the Office of Equity may determine that the University needs to proceed with an investigation.

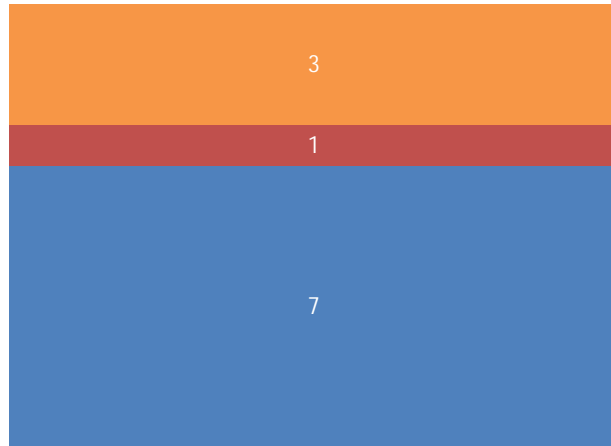
The following chart illustrates how reports of sexual misconduct against faculty and staff were handled. In cases where a complainant wished to proceed with adjudication of a complaint against a faculty or staff member, and there was reasonable information to suggest a policy violation may have occurred, the case was handled through formal resolution, which





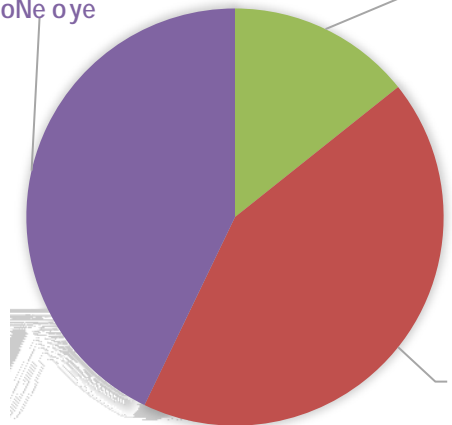
## 2017-2018 FINDINGS IN FACULTY AND STAFF MATTERS THAT PROCEEDED THROUGH FORMAL RESOLUTION

- Policy violation found (7)
- Respondent resigned prior to investigation (1)
- No policy violation found (3)



INVESTIGATIONS (11)

Respondent No Longer Employed At Time of Response



Separation (1)  
14%

Administrative Sanction Response (3)  
43%

## **Conclusion**

More information about Northwestern's ongoing efforts to prevent sexual misconduct and respond to reports can be found on the sexual misconduct website:

[www.northwestern.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://www.northwestern.edu/sexual-misconduct).

Questions or comments about this report can be directed to:

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Evanston, IL 60208  
<https://www.northwestern.edu/equity/>