OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Sexual Assault Data Report

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About the Minnesota Office of Higher Education

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency also serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant Program is the largest financial aid program administered by the Office of Higher Education, awarding up to \$210 million in need-based grants to Minnesota residents attending eligible colleges, universities and career schools in Minnesota. The agency oversees other state scholarship programs, tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 College Savings Plan, licensing and early college awareness programs for youth.

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Content

Executive Summary	1
Key Takeaways	1
Data Privacy	2
Title IX during the Pandemic	3
Pandemic Changes	3
Non-Pandemic Changes	3
Sexual Assault Data	5
Table 1: Statewide Summary of Report Outcomes, 2021	5
Table 2: Total Incidents and Investigation Initiations of Sexual Assault by Report Year	6
Table 3: Total Incidents and Investigation Outcomes of Sexual Assault by Report Year	7
Table 4: Total Incidents and Investigation of Sexual Assault by Institution, 2021	8
Table 5: Total Incidents and Investigation Outcomes of Sexual Assault by Institution, 2021	13

Executive Summary

The Office of Higher Education is required by the Minnesota Legislature to publish the Sexual Assault Data Report, which includes information regarding the outcomes of sexual assault incidents reported to postsecondary institutions. The Minnesota Legislature (Minn. Stat. 135A.15¹) mandated this report beginning in Fiscal Year 2016 (data for calendar year 2015) which requires eligible postsecondary institutions to report sexual assault incidents and the outcomes of institutional investigations, if applicable. Historical data is available in this report and online as part of the Office of Higher Education's Sexual Assault Data Report Tableau dashboard at <u>http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/SADR.cfm</u>.

Key Takeaways

- Since calendar year 2016, postsecondary institutions have received a cumulative 2,041 reports of sexual assault incidents. The number of reports of sexual assault incidents have steadily increased in the past four years, with the exception of 2020 (2019 calendar year) and 2021 (2020 calendar year).
- Over the most recent six years, about two in five incidents (40.6%) of sexual assault reported to the
 postsecondary institution were investigated. In 2021 (calendar year 2020), institutions reported that
 an estimated one in four incidents reported were investigated (28.4%). Institutions cite changes in
 Title IX reporting regulations and remote learning environments in which victims are less likely to
 encounter respondents as drivers of the change.
- About 1 in 6 (16.9%) cumulative incidents of sexual assault reported to the postsecondary institution were also reported to law enforcement, to the institutions' knowledge, as compared to 1 in 10 (10.9%) in 2021 (calendar year 2020).
- The number one reason cited by institutions for an institutional investigation not being opened is that the complainant chose not to participate in the investigatory process, as was the case for 879 out of 2,005 incidents from 2017-2021, or 43.8% of incidents. Complainants sometimes elect this route to receive supportive measures without undergoing a Title IX investigation. Note that the outcome Victim Did Not Participate Pre-Disciplinary Process was added to the report in 2017, and therefore 2016 data is unavailable for this calculation.
- Given the pandemic and move to remote learning in March 2020, institutions cited changes in the
 prevalence of sexual assaults, Title IX processes, and student behavior as part of the reporting and
 investigation processes. In addition, changes in Title IX federal regulations, including the move to
 campus hearing boards and the use of administrative law judges, during summer 2020 increased the
 burden on campuses in responding effectively to Title IX issues.

¹ https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/135A.15

Data Privacy

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) adheres to current federal and state data privacy laws and best practices to protect the privacy of individual students. <u>Minn. Stat. § 135A.15</u>, <u>Subd. 6</u>² requires that reports and data are prepared and published as summary data, as defined in <u>Minn. Stat. § 13.02</u>, <u>Subd. 19³</u> and are consistent with federal and state laws governing access to educational data and student privacy.

OHE's policy for complying with federal and state data privacy laws is to suppress student data in cells containing fewer than 10 students. In this report, cells with counts under 10 are suppressed, including zero values where the number of incidents reported or the number of incidents investigated is greater than zero from which information could be inferred.

² https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/135A.15#stat.135A.15.6

³ https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/13.02#stat.13.02.19

Title IX during the Pandemic

Given the pandemic and move to remote learning in March 2020, institutions cited changes that impacted sexual assault data used for this report. The Office of Higher Education surveyed institutions as to the changes in sexual assault prevention, reporting and investigation processes, and/or data reported as a result of the pandemic, as well as changes occurring in 2020 that were not related to the pandemic, but rather resulted from federal or institutional policy and practices.

Pandemic Changes

Institutions reported four areas of change as a direct result of the pandemic, as follows:

 Institutions moved to online processes for reporting, investigating, and communicating with victims.

The move to online learning was accompanied by a move to online processes and supports in response to sexual assaults on campus. Many of the online or virtual processes required colleges to still have inperson human supports such as counseling and initial contacts for students. Distributing information about sexual assault prevention and reporting was also more difficult as colleges had fewer options for campus or community outreach as students were not on campus. Among colleges reporting pandemic impacts, responses were split as to whether the move online made reporting and investigation easier or harder for students. There was also recognition that sexual assault stigma still existed even if students reported online and investigations were conducted virtually.

• The prevalence of sexual assault decreased due to fewer opportunities

Institutions noted that the decline in sexual assault reported were the result of fewer students on campus after the move to remote learning, fewer social events, and restricted access policies for on-campus or campus-owned housing to prevent infection spread.

• Decline in the willingness of victims to move forward in the investigation process

Campuses noted a decline in the willingness of victims to pursue the investigation process. The decline in willingness was attributed to remote learning in which victims were less likely to encounter respondents. Also, the change in Title IX regulations mid-year created uncertainty among students and an increased feeling that the Title IX process was burdensome for victims.

Non-Pandemic Changes

In addition, institutions reported two areas of change that occurred in 2020 which were not pandemicrelated, as follows:

• Problems implementing the changes in federal Title IX regulations

Campuses noted two changes to federal Title IX regulations that have been more concerning or difficult to implement. The first of these changes is the move to Chapter 14 hearings. The second change was the requirement that students file formal complaints even before proceeding with informal resolution processes.

Change in Minnesota State Processes

Due to the changes with the title IX regulations, Minnesota State has shifted to use the Chapter 14 hearing before an administrative law judge, instead of campus hearing boards. This change has resulted in many students to not want to go through with the Chapter 14 hearing. Instead these students may have opted to go through informal resolution.

Category	Category Definition	State Total
Incidents Reported to Institution	The number of incidents of sexual assault reported to the institution during the prior calendar year within the scope defined above (total incidents)	258
Investigated	Of incidents reported to the institution, the number that were investigated by the institution to determine whether the institution's policy was violated	71
Referred for Disciplinary Process	Of incidents that were investigated, the number that were referred for a disciplinary process at the institution	38
Reported to Law Enforcement	The number of total incidents reported to the institution in which the alleged victim chose to report to local or state law enforcement, to the extent that the institution is aware	28
Disciplinary Process Pending	The number for which a campus disciplinary process is pending, but has not reached a final resolution at the beginning of the data collection period (fall following the calendar year)	<10
Respondent Found Responsible	The number in which the respondent(s) was/were found responsible for sexual assault by the disciplinary process at the institution	20
Action Greater than a Warning	The number that resulted in any action by the institution greater than a warning issued to the respondent; this includes incidents closed through informal resolution.	29
Closed Without Resolution	The number that resulted in a disciplinary process at the institution that closed without resolution	<10
Closed Without Resolution - Respondent Withdrew	Of those that closed without resolution, the number that resulted in a disciplinary process at the institution that closed without resolution because the respondent withdrew from the institution	<10
Closed Without Resolution - Victim Did Not Participate	Of those that closed without resolution, the number that resulted in a disciplinary process at the institution that closed without resolution because the alleged victim chose not to participate in the process	<10
Victim Did Not Participate Pre-Disciplinary Process	The number in which the alleged victim chose not to participate in the institution's process prior to a disciplinary process beginning	152
Reports via Online Reporting System	The number of reports made through the online reporting system established in Minn. Stat. § 135A.15, Subd. 5, excluding reports submitted anonymously	53

Report Year	Incidents Reported to Institution	Reports via Online Reporting System	Investigated	Investigated Pre-Disciplinary Process*		Reported to Law Enforcement
2016	294	28	156 Not Available		109	54
2017	400	42	172	141	131	82
2018	416	86	168	155	130	66
2019	491	81	170	230	94	77
2020	440	110	197	202	127	82
2021	258	53	71	152	38	28
Total	2,299	400	934	879	629	389

Table 2: Total Incidents and Investigation Initiations of Sexual Assault by Report Year

Please note that the Report Year includes data from the previous calendar year. For instance, the 2021 report includes incidents reported to the institution between January 1 and December 31, 2020 and the associated outcomes. These data do not denote when the incident itself occurred.

*The outcome *Victim did not Participate Pre-Disciplinary Process* was added to the report in 2017, and is unavailable for report year 2016.

Source: Sexual Assault Data Report survey years 2016-2021

As shown in Table 2, postsecondary institutions have received a cumulative 2,299 reports of sexual assault incidents since 2016. The number of reports of sexual assault incidents have steadily increased in the past four years, with the exception of 2020 (2019 calendar year) and 2021 (2020 calendar year).

Over the most recent six years, 934 of the 2,299 incidents (40.6%) of sexual assault reported to the postsecondary institution were investigated. In 2021 (calendar year 2020), institutions reported that 71 of the 258 incidents reported were investigated (28.4%). Institutions cite changes in Title IX reporting regulations and remote learning environments in which victims are less likely to encounter respondents as drivers of the change.

As shown in Table 2, 389 of the 2,299 (16.9%) cumulative incidents of sexual assault reported to the postsecondary institution were also reported to law enforcement, to the institutions' knowledge, as compared to 1 in 10 (10.9%) in 2021 (calendar year 2020).

As shown in Table 3, the number one reason cited by institutions for an institutional investigation not being opened is that the complainant chose not to participate in the disciplinary process, as was the case for 879 out of 2,005 incidents from 2017-2021, or 43.8% of incidents. Complainants sometimes elect this route to receive supportive measures without undergoing a Title IX investigation. Note that the outcome *Victim Did Not Participate Pre-Disciplinary Process* was added to the report in 2017, and therefore 2016 data is unavailable.

Report Year	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
2016	294	68	79	14	<10	28	<10
2017	400	89	101	<10	<10	<10	<10
2018	416	74	82	20	<10	12	<10
2019	491	53	61	15	<10	<10	<10
2020	440	84	86	<10	<10	<10	<10
2021	258	20	29	<10	<10	<10	<10
Total	2,299	388	438	66	17	51	13

Table 3: Total Incidents and Investigation Outcomes of Sexual Assault by Report Year

Please note that the Report Year includes data from the previous calendar year. For instance, the 2021 report includes incidents reported to the institution between January 1 and December 31, 2020 and the associated outcomes. These data do not denote when the incident itself occurred.

Source: Sexual Assault Data Report survey years 2016-2021

Table 4: Total Incidents and Investigation of Sexual Assault by Institution, 2021

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Reports via Online Reporting System	Investigated	Victim Did Not Participate Pre- Disciplinary Process	Referred for Disciplinary Process	Reported to Law Enforcement
Adler Graduate School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alexandria Technical and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anoka Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anoka-Ramsey Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Augsburg University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Aveda Institute Minneapolis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bemidji State University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Bethany Lutheran College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Bethel University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Carleton College	13	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Central Lakes College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Century College	0	0	0	0	0	0
College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
College of St. Scholastica	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Concordia College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Reports via Online Reporting System	Investigated	Victim Did Not Participate Pre- Disciplinary Process	Referred for Disciplinary Process	Reported to Law Enforcement
Concordia University St. Paul	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Crown College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Dakota County Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunwoody College of Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0
Empire Beauty School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gustavus Adolphus College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Hamline University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Hennepin Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herzing University	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hibbing Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Institute of Production and Recording	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inver Hills Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Itasca Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Superior College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leech Lake Tribal College	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Reports via Online Reporting System	Investigated	Victim Did Not Participate Pre- Disciplinary Process	Referred for Disciplinary Process	Reported to Law Enforcement
Macalester College	11	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Martin Luther College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mesabi Range College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan State University	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minneapolis College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minneapolis College of Art & Design	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Minnesota School of Cosmetology	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota State College Southeast	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota State University, Mankato	18	<10	18	<10	<10	<10
Minnesota State University Moorhead	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Minnesota West Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mitchell Hamline School of Law	0	0	0	0	0	0
Model College of Hair Design	0	0	0	0	0	0
Normandale Community College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Reports via Online Reporting System	Investigated	Victim Did Not Participate Pre- Disciplinary Process	Referred for Disciplinary Process	Reported to Law Enforcement
North Central University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
North Hennepin Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northland Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwestern Health Sciences University	0	0	0	0	0	0
PCI Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Technical and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainy River Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rasmussen College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Red Lake Nation College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgewater College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverland Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochester Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Paul College	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Central College	0	0	0	0	0	0

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Reports via Online Reporting System	Investigated	Victim Did Not Participate Pre- Disciplinary Process	Referred for Disciplinary Process	Reported to Law Enforcement
Southwest Minnesota State University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
St. Catherine University	15	14	<10	<10	<10	<10
St. Cloud State University	12	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
St. Cloud Technical and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Olaf College	28	27	<10	<10	<10	<10
Summit Academy Opportunities Industrialization Center	0	0	0	0	0	0
University of Minnesota Crookston	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Duluth	13	<10	<10	11	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Morris	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Rochester	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Twin Cities	76	<10	<10	69	<10	<10
University of Northwestern St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0
University of St. Thomas	17	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Reports via Online Reporting System	Investigated	Victim Did Not Participate Pre- Disciplinary Process	Referred for Disciplinary Process	Reported to Law Enforcement
Vermilion Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Earth Tribal and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winona State University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
State Total	258	53	71	152	38	28

Table 5: Total Incidents and Investigation Outcomes of Sexual Assault by Institution, 2021

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
Adler Graduate School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alexandria Technical and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anoka Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anoka-Ramsey Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Augsburg University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Aveda Institute Minneapolis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bemidji State University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
Bethany Lutheran College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Bethel University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Carleton College	13	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Central Lakes College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Century College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
College of St. Scholastica	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Concordia College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Concordia University St. Paul	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Crown College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Dakota County Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunwoody College of Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Empire Beauty School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gustavus Adolphus College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Hamline University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
Hennepin Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herzing University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hibbing Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Institute of Production and Recording	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inver Hills Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ltasca Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Superior College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leech Lake Tribal College	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report	Did not report
Macalester College	11	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Martin Luther College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Mesabi Range College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan State University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minneapolis College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minneapolis College of Art & Design	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
Minnesota School of Cosmetology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota State College Southeast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota State University, Mankato	18	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Minnesota State University Moorhead	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Minnesota West Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mitchell Hamline School of Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Model College of Hair Design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Normandale Community College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
North Central University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
North Hennepin Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northland Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
Northwestern Health Sciences University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PCI Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Technical and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainy River Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rasmussen College	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Red Lake Nation College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgewater College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverland Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochester Community and Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Paul College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Central College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwest Minnesota State University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
St. Catherine University	15	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
St. Cloud State University	12	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
St. Cloud Technical and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Olaf College	28	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Summit Academy Opportunities Industrialization Center	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University of Minnesota Crookston	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Duluth	13	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Morris	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Rochester	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Minnesota Twin Cities	76	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
University of Northwestern St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University of St. Thomas	17	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Vermilion Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Institution Name	Incidents Reported to Institution	Respondent Found Responsible	Action Greater than a Warning	Closed Without Resolution (CWR)	CWR – Respondent Withdrew	CWR – Victim Did Not Participate	Disciplinary Process Pending
White Earth Tribal and Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winona State University	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
State Total	258	20	29	<10	<10	<10	<10



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