

November 1, 2017

### **Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act Annual Report**

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 (Attachment A) 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 reaches out to the potentially impacted person(s) to offer information and resources, including "You Have Options. Northwestern Can Help: Resource Guide on Sexual Misconduct and Title IX" (Attachment B).

A person who reports an act of sexual misconduct by a member of the Northwestern community has the option to request that the University adjudicate whether a violation of the Policy on Sexual Misconduct occurred. Northwestern uses the Sexual Misconduct Complaint Resolution Process (Attachment C) to investigate and resolve complaints of sexual misconduct. Disciplinary action can be taken against any student, staff, or faculty member who is determined to have violated the policy. When Northwestern receives reports alleging sexual misconduct by individuals not affiliated with the University (and not otherwise connected to a University program or activity), support and resources are offered to the impacted individual(s) and other measures that may be needed to secure the safety of the community are taken.

Northwestern University has two campuses in Illinois: a 240-acre campus in Evanston and a 25-acre campus in Chicago.<sup>1</sup> Northwestern's Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Complaint Resolution Process apply to both of these campuses. The University's Office of Equity works with community members on both the Evanston and Chicago campuses to address and resolve all reports of sexual misconduct. The data in this report reflects reports received from both the Chicago and Evanston campuses with a delineation of the data from each campus.

The data described in this report was assembled using the following parameters included in the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/9.21(b)) and Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Reporting Requirements document issued by the Illinois Attorney General's Office on June 1, 2017:

- To the extent the school has the information, the report must include data from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016;

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the geographic size difference between our Chicago and Evanston campuses, there are no residential facilities on the Chicago campus.

- Reported incidents should only pertain to “sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;”
- Data should “include all student complaints, whether filed against another student, an HEI<sup>2</sup> employee, or someone unaffiliated with the HEI;”
- Data regarding disciplinary processes should be “related to complaints made by students against students subject to discipline under the HEI’s complaint resolution procedure;” and
- “Schools should only report data related to complaints of incidents that occurred within the geographic areas defined by the Clery Act...if a report does not include a location of the incident alleged in the complaint, schools should include that report or disclosure in its data.”

Accordingly, this report contains student reports of sexual misconduct occurring within Clery geography or those reported without a known location.<sup>3</sup>

### **Part A.**

Please find Northwestern’s comprehensive policy, concise, written notification of a survivor’s rights and options, and Sexual Misconduct Complaint Resolution Process attached. (Attachments A, B, and C)

### **Part B.**

#### **I. Campus Training, Education and Awareness**

Please see Appendix B of Northwestern’s 2017 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (Attachment D), which details campus trainings focused on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking that were provided to students and employees in 2016.

#### **II. Reports**

- From January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016, the Title IX Coordinator/responsible employees received 30 reports of sexual violence (reports of sexual penetration without consent or sexual contact without consent under Northwestern’s Policy on Sexual Misconduct) made by or on behalf of students that were reported as occurring either within Clery geography or were reported without a known location. Of these reports, 29 reports were made on the Evanston campus, while 1 report was made on the Chicago campus.
- From January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016, the Title IX Coordinator/responsible employees received 3 reports of dating/domestic violence made by or on behalf of students that were reported as occurring either within Clery geography or were reported without a known location. All 3 of these reports were made on the Evanston campus.
- From January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016, the Title IX Coordinator/responsible employees received 17 reports of stalking made by or on behalf of students that were

<sup>2</sup> HEI stands for higher education institution.

<sup>3</sup> The number of incidents in this report may not align with the numbers in Northwestern’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report made pursuant to the 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 also includes incidents where a location was not known. Further, unlike Clery Act data, this report encompasses only those concerns reported by or on behalf of students and includes reports made to confidential resources.

reported as occurring either within Clery geography or were reported without a known location. Of these reports, 16 were made on the Evanston campus, while 1 report was made on the Chicago campus.

Northwestern has several confidential resources (including confidential advisors) that provide support and resources to students on both the Evanston and Chicago campuses. These resources were asked to provide aggregate data for reports of sexual misconduct received from January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016, consistent with any applicable professional privilege. Northwestern's confidential resources provided aggregate data for reports from students in 2016 reflecting the receipt of 41 reports of sexual violence, 21 reports of dating/domestic violence, and 7 reports of stalking. The aggregate data did not include information on the location of these reports. Due to the confidential nature of the data provided, the University cannot ascertain whether these reports were also made to additional staff/offices on campus.

#### **A. Response to reports to the Title IX Coordinator or Responsible Employees**

Per ILCS 155/15, all reports or disclosures made to the Title IX Coordinator or responsible employees were responded to with outreach (see Part A) that included information on how to connect with or report to law enforcement.

- Of the 30 reports of sexual violence (reports of sexual penetration without consent or sexual contact without consent under Northwestern's Policy on Sexual Misconduct) received by the Title IX Coordinator or responsible employees, 24 students either did not respond to outreach or responded and requested not to proceed with the complaint resolution process. After reviewing each of these reports, the University determined that it could honor the student's request not to move forward with an investigation and/or could not proceed as it did not have jurisdiction over the respondent. The University formally investigated and resolved 6 reports of sexual violence under its complaint resolution process. All 6 of these reports came from the Evanston campus.
- Of the 3 reports of dating/domestic violence received by the Title IX Coordinator or responsible employees, 1 student did not respond to outreach. After reviewing this report, the University determined that it could not proceed with the complaint resolution process as it did not have jurisdiction over the respondent. The University formally investigated and resolved 2 reports of dating/domestic violence under its complaint resolution process. Both of these reports came from the Evanston campus.
- Of the 17 reports of stalking received by the Title IX Coordinator or responsible employees, 14 students either did not respond to outreach or responded and requested not to proceed with the complaint resolution process. After reviewing each of these reports, the University determined that it could honor the student's request not to move forward with an investigation and/or could not proceed as it did not have jurisdiction over the respondent. The University formally investigated and resolved 3 reports of stalking under its complaint resolution process. All 3 of these reports came from the Evanston campus.

Note: All students were offered resources, including the ability to request interim measures and accommodations, regardless of whether the student responded to outreach or whether or not they wished to proceed with the complaint resolution process.

## **B. Complaint Resolution Procedure Outcomes**

- Of the 6 reports of sexual violence (reports of sexual penetration without consent or sexual contact without consent under Northwestern's Policy on Sexual Misconduct) received in 2016 that went through the University's complaint resolution process, 3 investigations were completed and resolved in 2016. In these matters, 1 respondent was found not responsible, 1 respondent was excluded from the University, and 1 respondent was otherwise disciplined. All of these reports came from the Evanston campus. In addition to the reports received in 2016, 3 additional reports of sexual violence received prior to 2016 were resolved through the complaint resolution process in 2016. In these matters, 2 respondents were excluded from the University and 1 respondent was found not responsible. All of these reports came from the Evanston campus.
- Of the 2 reports of dating/domestic violence received in 2016 that went through the University's complaint resolution process, neither investigation was completed in 2016.
- Of the 3 reports of stalking received in 2016 that went through the University's complaint resolution process, 1 investigation was completed and resolved in 2016. The respondent in this matter was otherwise disciplined. This report came from the Evanston campus.

## **Part C. Explanations and Clarifications**

Additional information about Northwestern's response to sexual misconduct can be found on our website at: [www.northwestern.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://www.northwestern.edu/sexual-misconduct). Questions or concerns can be directed to Northwestern's Title IX Coordinator, Dwight Hamilton, Associate Vice President for Equity, at [dwight.hamilton@northwestern.edu](mailto:dwight.hamilton@northwestern.edu).