

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**BIAS MOTIVATED INCIDENTS REPORT  
SPRING 2005**

**Start Date: January 03, 2005**

**Closing Date: May 06, 2005**

**The following is a collection of statistical information from reports of bias incidents that occurred during the 2005 spring semester at Penn State.**

***Total Number of Reports (All Sources):***

**62 (31 were related to one incident, 2 were related to another)**

***Report Hate Web site Reports:***

**57**

***Other Reporting Sources (written report but not on Web site):***

<b>Muslim Student Association Member</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WPSX Public Broadcasting TV</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Multicultural Resource Center</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pennsylvania College of Technology</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Student's Grandparent/President's Office</b>	<b>1</b>

**\*Residence Life, Ritenour Health Services, and Police Services assisted in a few referrals.**

***Distribution of campus locations for all:***

<b>University Park</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Schuylkill</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pennsylvania College of Technology</b>	<b>1</b>

**\* Thirty-one of the reports were all related to the same incident while two were related to another incident. The total number of actual incidents reported was:  
30**

**\* Statistics below reflect variables in the case of the Pennsylvania College of Technology:**

***Distribution of Penn State Campus Locations for Report Hate Web site (Reports Only):***

<b>University Park</b>	<b>* 56</b>
<b>Schuylkill</b>	<b>1</b>

**\* One of the fifty-seven reports was proved unfounded and therefore rejected. The following statistics do not reflect the variables involved in this one case.**

## Statistical Breakdown for Report Hate Web site and Other Resources

### *Victim's Status:*

Student = 27  
Staff = 4  
Alumni = 1  
LGBTQA community = 13  
\* African American community = 3  
\* Jewish community = 2  
\* Penn State community = 12  
Disabled Student = 2  
Unknown = 0

\* During this reporting cycle, entire groups were often designated victims. Therefore, specifics about an individual victim could not be obtained. On occasion there were multiple victims during one incident. And, on occasion the submitter declined to report race or sexual orientation as indicated below.

### *Victim's Gender:*

Male = 15  
Female = 19  
Did not identify = 31

### *Victim's Sexual Orientation:*

Heterosexual = 11  
Lesbian = 8  
Bisexual = 1  
Gay = 5  
Transsexual = 0

### *Victim's Ethnic/Racial Identity:*

White = 16  
Black = 8  
Hispanic American = 0  
Asian American = 2  
Native American Indian = 0  
Biracial = 3  
Arab American = 1  
Jewish = 1  
African American community = 4  
Jewish community = 1  
All community Victimized = 25

*Submitter's Status:*

**Student = 52**  
**Staff = 4**  
**Faculty = 2**  
**Alumni = 2**  
**Grandmother = 1**

*Submitter's Gender:*

**Male = 31**  
**Female = 30**

*Submitter's Sexual Orientation:*

**Heterosexual = 28**  
**Lesbian = 5**  
**Bisexual = 8**  
**Gay = 13**  
**Transsexual = 0**  
**Did not identify = 7**

*Submitter's Ethnic/Racial Identity:*

**White = 42**  
**Black = 7**  
**Asian = 3**  
**Biracial = 2**  
**Hispanic = 1**  
**Arab = 1**  
**Did not identify = 5**

*Identification of Perpetrators (Often characteristics unknown):*

**Students in a class or setting = 2**  
**Resident Assistant = 1**  
**Faculty = 1**  
**Anonymous author of offensive writing = 6**  
**Known author of offensive writing = 35**  
**Student = 41**  
**Staff = 1**  
**Community Member = 1**  
**Perpetrator Unknown/Unseen = 5**  
**Male (sometimes in groups) = 55**  
**Female = 5**  
**White = 44**  
**Black = 0**  
**Biracial = 2**  
**Asian = 0**

***Targeted Issues (motives, sometimes multiple, behind intolerance of perpetrators):***

**Sexual Orientation = 40**  
**Race / Ethnicity = 13**  
**Gender = 5**  
**Political Views = 0**  
**Ancestry = 3**  
**Spirituality/Religious Beliefs = 5**  
**Color = 4**  
**Disability = 2**  
**Abuse of Power = 1**  
**Unknown = 0**

***Type of Offense:***

**Verbal/Written Comment = 56**  
**Harassment (verbal, written, phone) = 42**  
**Physical Intimidation = 6**  
**Assault (physical) = 3**  
**Graffiti = 3**  
**Vandalism = 0**

***Geographic Location:***

**On-campus = 54**  
**Off-campus = 7**

***Month of Incident:***

**November (reported late) = 1**  
**December (reported late) = 1**  
**January = 1**  
**February = 42**  
**March = 10**  
**April = 6**  
**May = 0**

***Day of Incident:***

**Sunday = 4**  
**Monday = 3**  
**Tuesday = 5**  
**Wednesday = 3**  
**Thursday = 37**  
**Friday = 5**  
**Saturday = 4**

*Time of Incident:*

8:00 a.m. to Noon = 31  
Noon to 8:00 p.m. = 3  
8:00 p.m. to Midnight = 1  
Midnight to 8:00 a.m. = 25  
Time unknown = 1

*Intoxicant Involved:*

Yes = 3  
No = 45  
Unknown = 13

*Weapon Involved:*

Yes = 0  
No = 51  
Unknown = 10

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**DISCUSSION**

- A total of sixty-two reports of intolerance, bias, and hate were made to Penn State's diversity advocate for spring semester 2005. Of this number, five reports did not come directly through the Report Hate Web site, but through letters, e-mails, telephone calls, and in-person referrals. Reports made directly through the Report Hate Web site totaled fifty-seven. One of these was rejected; thirty-one were related to one incident; and two were related to another incident.
- Incidents in this report were not rated in terms of their perceived severity, but were given equal weight. It is decidedly the victim who can know the impact of the offense and how they are affected by it. It is also decidedly the submitter of the report who categorizes and labels perceived intent or motive of the perpetrator.
- Some incidents were categorized under multiple "Targeted Issues," i.e., one report was considered an offense due to religious belief and ethnicity.)
- The primary victim was the one recorded for statistical purposes. However, in several incidents reported, there was more than one victim, involving more

than one gender, racial or ethnic background, or sexual orientation. In a few instances, a particular group, i.e., the LGBTQA community, the African American community, the Jewish community or the entire Penn State University community was designated victim.

- Often, it is difficult to discern characteristics and orientation of a perpetrator, or even of a victim, if the submitter of the report is not the victim. This is the reason for some of the “does not identify” and “unknown” responses given.
- There was a large outcry made by the LGBTQA community and others against the submission of a letter to the editor in Penn State’s student newspaper, the *Daily Collegian*. This influenced the statistics reporting the bias against that community. There was also a large outcry made in defense of a bias crime towards an African American student, by members of the African American community and others. However, the statistics were only affected by two reports given.
- The number of incidents to have occurred since the previous report have not increased significantly. However, due to the number of reports given in response to just one of the incidents (thirty-one), along with the number of students who have become more aware of the Report Hate Web site and who have begun to speak out about current and even past incidents, the statistical count has increased. Some groups may have experienced more “acts of intolerance” than they have reported. Cultural and other group behavior may be the reason that their reporting may be low.
- During the coming year, all twenty-four Penn State campus locations will be encouraged to use the Report Hate Web site when incidents of intolerance, hate, and discrimination occur. New literature related to these issues will be distributed widely; members of the Zero Tolerance for Hate Penn State Support Network will convene from all campus locations to learn how to increase their skills when dealing with related issues; the diversity advocate will reach out more beyond the University Park campus; and the campaign to bring awareness will be increased. Such activity may also raise the statistical numbers in future semester reporting.

The Pennsylvania State University has pledged “Zero Tolerance for Hate.” By creating the Report Hate Web site and the office of the diversity advocate, the University can collect this information and track these statistics for all members of the Penn State community.