

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BIAS MOTIVATED INCIDENTS REPORT
SUMMER / FALL 2004**

Total Number of Reports (All Sources): 37

Report Hate Web site Reports: 28

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

<i>Residence Life</i>	1
<i>University Police</i>	1
<i>LGBTQ Resource Center</i>	1
<i>Multicultural Resource Center</i>	4
<i>Student Affairs / Students</i>	1
<i>Student's Parent/Family</i>	1

Distribution of Campus Locations for All:

<i>University Park</i>	29
<i>Altoona</i>	4
<i>New Kensington</i>	1
<i>Mont Alto</i>	1
<i>York</i>	1
<i>Erie-The Behrend College</i>	1

Distribution of Campus Locations for Report Hate Web site:

<i>University Park</i>	21
<i>Altoona</i>	4
<i>New Kensington</i>	1
<i>York</i>	1
<i>Erie-The Behrend College</i>	1

Statistical Breakdown for Report Hate Web site and Other Resources

***Victim's Status:* Student = 27, Staff = 4, Alumni = 1, Public = 4, Unknown = 1**

***Victim's Gender:* Male = 24, Female = 9, Nonspecified = 4**

***Victim's Sexual Orientation:* Heterosexual = 18, LGBT = 13, Unknown = 6**

***Victim's Race:* White = 22, Black = 9, Hispanic = 1, Asian = 4, Native = 1**

***Submitter's Status:* Student = 21, Staff = 15, Faculty = 0, Parent = 1**

***Submitter's Gender:* Male = 21, Female = 16, Nonspecific = 0**

***Submitter's Sexual Orientation:* Heterosexual = 12, LGBT = 15, Unknown = 10**

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

Sexual Orientation = 17
Race / Ethnicity = 21
Gender = 2
Political Views = 2
Spirituality/Religious Beliefs = 3
Unknown = 1

Type of Offense:

Harassment (verbal, written, phone) = 9
Physical Intimidation = 1
Verbal Comment = 14
Assault (physical) = 2
Graffiti = 7
Vandalism = 3
Threat of Eviction = 1

Geographic Location:

On-campus = 28, Off-campus = 9

Month of Incident:

July = 2
August = 3
September = 17
October = 7
November = 8
December = 0

Day of Incident:

Sunday = 6
Monday = 3
Tuesday = 5
Wednesday = 4
Thursday = 8
Friday = 3
Saturday = 5
Day Unspecified = 3

Time of Incident:

8:00 a.m. to Noon = 15
Noon to 8:00 p.m. = 3
8:00 p.m. to Midnight = 3
Midnight to 8:00 a.m. = 14
Time Unknown = 2

Alcohol Involved:

Yes = 1 No or Unknown = 36

Weapon Involved:

Yes = 2 No or Unknown = 35

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DISCUSSION

- **In addition to the twenty-eight Report Hate Web site incidents for this timeframe, nine incidents were added that did not appear in written form on the Web site but were reported directly to the Diversity Advocate as acts of intolerance and which also have a corresponding written record in the Diversity Advocate's office.**
- **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 its affects.**
- **Some incidents were categorized under multiple "Targeted Issues," i.e., one incident was categorized under both "Political Views" and "Sexual Orientation."**
- **The primary victim was the one recorded for statistical purposes. However, in a few incidents reported, there was more than one victim, involving more than one gender, racial or ethnic background, or sexual orientation. In a couple of these instances, the public was designated the victim or "Unspecified" was the category used to describe the victim.**

SUMMARY

The Report Hate Web site invites individuals to report all acts of hate and discrimination. Such acts may include hate crimes and acts of intolerance, as well as acts of exclusion out of ignorance or a lack of sensitivity. Nonetheless, they all offend. Hate crimes have been defined as violent acts committed against a person or group motivated by differences in race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability or any other perceived difference which is not easily altered. The majority of incidents represented in this report reflect acts of intolerance or intolerant behavior, but have not been reported as violent bodily assaults. Still, words that wound, property damage, and psychological threats have just as much to do with feelings of despair and a climate where individuals do not feel accepted, safe or valued. Self-esteem, academic performance, and a lack of sense of community belonging are some of the negative results experienced when hate or intolerance exists in our academic setting.

This report reflects a significantly high number of acts of intolerance due to a victim's sexual orientation, and a significantly low number (none at all) due to a victim's disability. This could be viewed as more LGBT persons being discriminated against than in other groups and no persons with disabilities

being discriminated against. However, another view of this could be that LGBT persons are more organized and vocal, while persons with disabilities are less organized and less vocal about abuses they may have suffered. Race and ethnicity, however, had the highest number related to motives for intolerance. It is suspected that even this may be underrepresented.

According to statistical analysis, most acts of intolerance occurred on campus, early in the fall semester 2004, and between the hours of midnight and noon. With regards to motives behind acts of intolerance, race and ethnicity had the highest statistical count. Sexual orientation as a motive for acts of intolerance had the second highest statistical count. Most of the individuals who reported a bias incident were male students whose sexual orientation was LGBT. Most of the incidents reported were from Penn State's University Park campus.