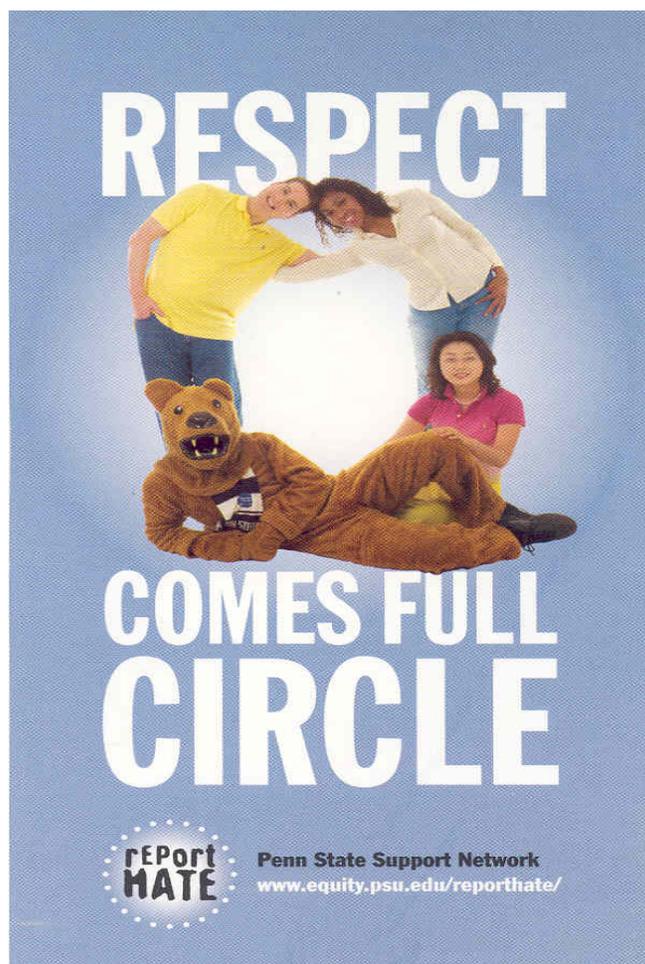


PENNSSTATE



Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity

BIAS

MOTIVATED

INCIDENTS

REPORT

Summer/Fall 2005

Prepared by
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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

BIAS MOTIVATED INCIDENTS REPORT SUMMER/FALL 2005

Start Date: May 16, 2005

Closing Date: December 16, 2005

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

Total Number of Reports (All Sources): 16

Report Hate Web site Reports: 8

- 3 from undergraduate students
- 2 from graduate students
- 1 from the LGBT Resource Center
- 1 from a parent
- 1 from an unspecified office

Reports to University Police: 8

- 2 from undergraduate students
- 1 from Housing Staff
- 5 from Residence Life RA's

Distribution of Campus Locations for Reports:

University Park 16

Statistical Breakdown for Bias Incidents Reported

Status of Targeted Persons:

Student = 15 (9 individuals; 3 pairs of roommates)

Public in general = 4

Gender of Targeted Persons:

Male = 12

Female = 3

Sexual Orientation of Targeted Persons:

Heterosexual = 10

LGBT = 2 (2 Gay)

Unknown = 3

Race/Ethnicity of Targeted Persons:

White = 7

Hispanic = 2

Black = 2

Asian = 1

Unknown = 4 (One person was counted as both Hispanic and Black)

Submitter's Status:

Student = 7

Staff = 8

Parent = 1

Submitter's Gender

Male = 9

Female = 6

Not specified = 1

Submitter's Sexual Orientation:

Heterosexual = 2

LGBT = 6 (1 Lesbian; 3 Gay; 2 Bisexual; 0 Transgender)

Unknown = 8

Submitter's Racial/Ethnic Identity:

White = 6

Hispanic = 1

Black = 2

Asian = 0

Unknown = 7

Identification of Perpetrators (most often unknown):

White Male Student = 2

White Male Student Suspected = 1

White Male = 1

Gender, Racial/Ethnic Identity and other Characteristics Unknown = 12

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

Sexual Orientation = 6

Race/Ethnicity/National Origin = 6

Ancestry = 1

Gender = 0

Age = 1

Sports/Political Views = 2

Religious/Spiritual Beliefs = 2

Retaliation out of Anger = 1

Unknown = 1

Type of Offense:

Harassment (verbal, written, phone) = 5
Physical (and other) Intimidation = 2
Verbal Comment = 5
Physical Assault = 1
Graffiti = 7
Vandalism = 4

Geographic Location:

On Campus = 15
Off Campus = 1

Month of Incident:

July = 1
August = 1
September = 5
October = 6
November = 3
December = 0

Day of Incident:

Sunday = 2
Monday = 2
Tuesday = 0
Wednesday = 3
Thursday = 1
Friday = 5
Saturday = 2
Day(s) Unknown = 1

Time of Incident:

8:00 a.m. to Noon = 0
Noon to 8:00 p.m. = 2
8:00 p.m. to Midnight = 2
Midnight to 8:00 a.m. = 3
Time Unknown = 9

Intoxicant Involved:

Yes = 1
No or Unknown = 15

Weapon Involved:

Yes = 1
No or Unknown = 15

Bias Motivated Incidents Report Discussion

- In addition to the seven report hate Web site incidents for the summer and fall 2005, eight bias incidents were reported through the University Police, and one bias incident reported directly to the diversity advocate from the parent of a student.
- 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 just 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. This may or may not always be accurate, but observation at the scene gives one a better idea of intent and motive.
- Some incidents were categorized under multiple “Targeted Issues,” i.e., one report was categorized under both age and sexual orientation; multiple “Type of Offense,” i.e., one report was categorized under both vandalism and graffiti; and multiple “Racial Identifiers,” i.e., Black and Hispanic.
- The words “Targeted Person(s)” were used in this report to replace the word “victim.” This designation empowers those who have experienced acts of intolerance or bias behavior against them.
- The primary target was the one recorded for statistical purposes. However, in three incidents reported, two persons were targeted in each report. Also, in four incidents reported, the public in general or the entire Penn State community was the designated target.
- All but one of the incidents represented in this report reflect acts of intolerance or bias behavior, but have not been reported as violent bodily assaults. Still, words that wound, property damage, and psychological threats or harassment have just as much to do with feelings of despair and a climate where individuals do not feel accepted, safe or valued. Lowered self-esteem, poor academic performance, and a lack of a sense of community belonging are some of the negative results experienced when hate, bias or intolerance exists on university campuses. This report reflects a significantly reduced number of acts of intolerance and bias behavior reported since spring semester 2005. The total number of reports decreased from sixty-two to sixteen. These reductions were most noticeable in the categories of sexual orientation (six incidents counted), as well as race, ethnicity, and national origin (six incidents counted) as motives for bias behaviors and acts of intolerance. It should be noted that *perceived* sexual orientation may still be a motive for bias behavior and acts of intolerance, even if the targeted person is not what they are perceived to be. This has been seen in at least two of the incidents in this report.

- **As reported, most acts of intolerance and bias behavior occurred or were known to have occurred on campus (as opposed to off campus), in the months of September and October, and between the hours of sundown and dawn.**
- **All of the incidents reported were from the University Park campus.**