

## **Sexual Misconduct Data Report** **September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017**

### **Introduction**

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](#) 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 sends an outreach email 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.](#)" One of the options that may be available to a person who may have experienced sexual misconduct is a University adjudication of whether a violation of the Policy on Sexual Misconduct occurred. Disciplinary action can be taken against any student, staff, or faculty member who is determined to have violated this policy. Northwestern uses the [Sexual Misconduct Complaint Resolution Process](#) to investigate and resolve complaints of sexual misconduct. This process is separate and distinct from any law enforcement investigation.

This report presents data on the number of sexual misconduct concerns reported to the University, the nature of those concerns, and the disposition of those reports during the academic year beginning September 1, 2016 and ending August 31, 2017.<sup>1</sup> During this time period, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Office/the Office of Equity<sup>2</sup> responded to all reports of sexual misconduct.<sup>3</sup> Reports filed with University or local police that are shared with the Office of Equity or the Office of Student Conduct are also included in this data.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the number of incidents in this report will not align with the numbers in [Northwestern's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#) made pursuant to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, as amended by the Violence Against Women Act ("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 includes all reports of sexual misconduct made to the Office of Equity, regardless of the location of the alleged conduct. Further, Clery Act data is limited to specific crimes, while this report includes all allegations of sexual misconduct, including non-criminal behavior.

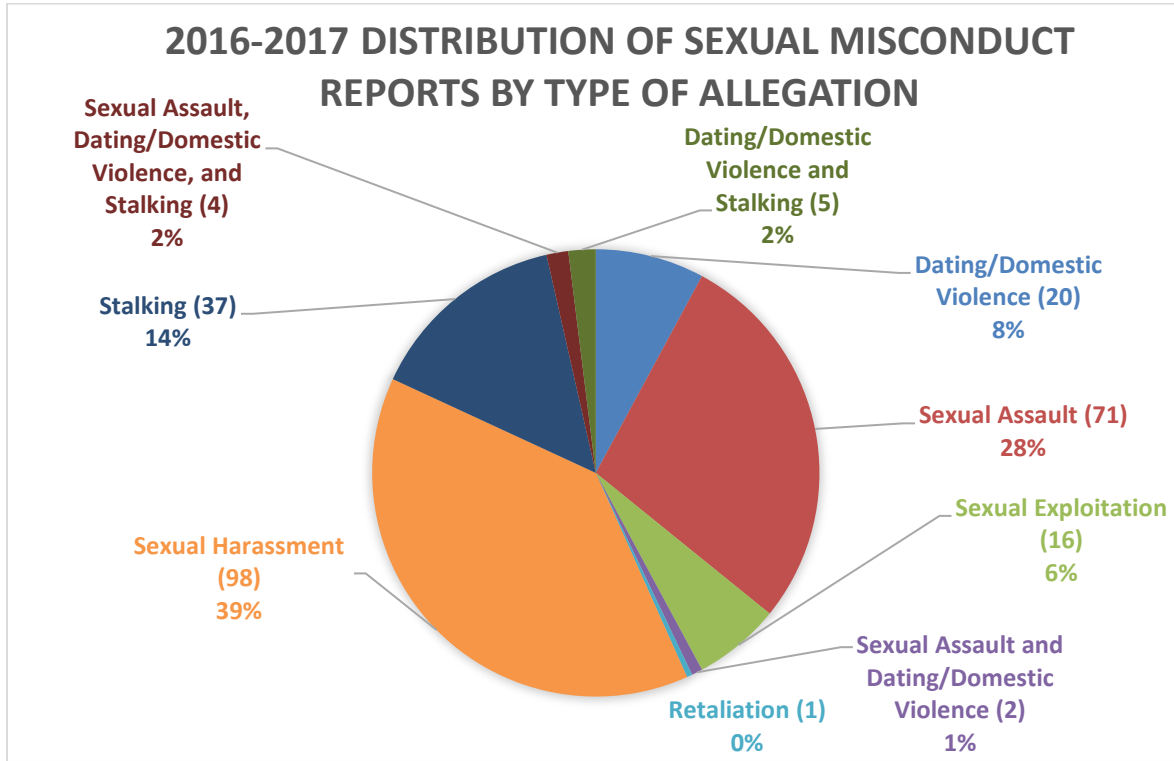
<sup>2</sup> In July 2017, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Office merged with the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access to become The Office of Equity.

<sup>3</sup> Complaints on the NU-Q campus were handled by the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for NU-Q in conjunction with the Office of Equity.

# Data

## 1. Distribution of All Reports by Type of Allegation

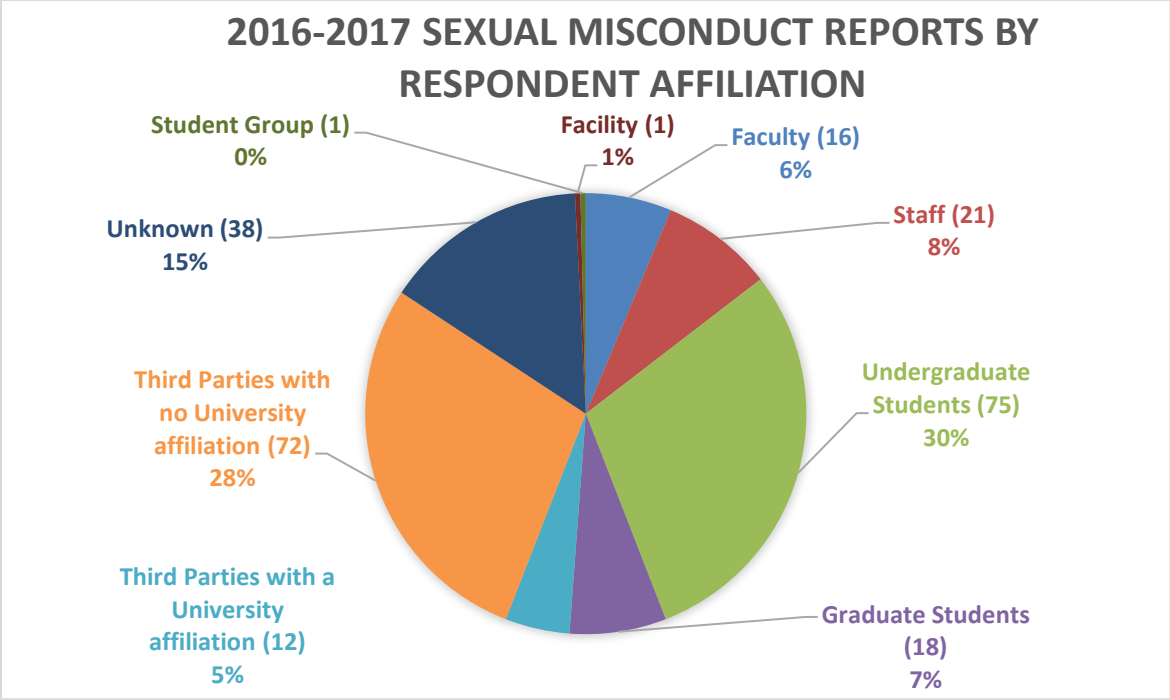
The following chart illustrates the distribution by type of sexual misconduct allegation of the 254 reports received by the University in the 2016-2017 academic year. Additional categories were added to reflect combined reports of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. When a report involved allegations of other combinations of sexual misconduct offenses (e.g. sexual assault and sexual harassment), it was categorized on the basis of the primary allegation.



## 2. Distribution of All Reports by Respondent Affiliation

This chart illustrates the distribution by respondent affiliation of the 254 sexual misconduct reports received by the University in the 2016-2017 academic year. The **respondent** is the person who is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct. It is important to note that 84 (43%) of the reports received were against people not affiliated with Northwestern or people whose identity was unknown. For example, this includes reports about behavior by unaffiliated dating/domestic partners as well as incidents occurring off campus by non-Northwestern community members.<sup>4</sup>

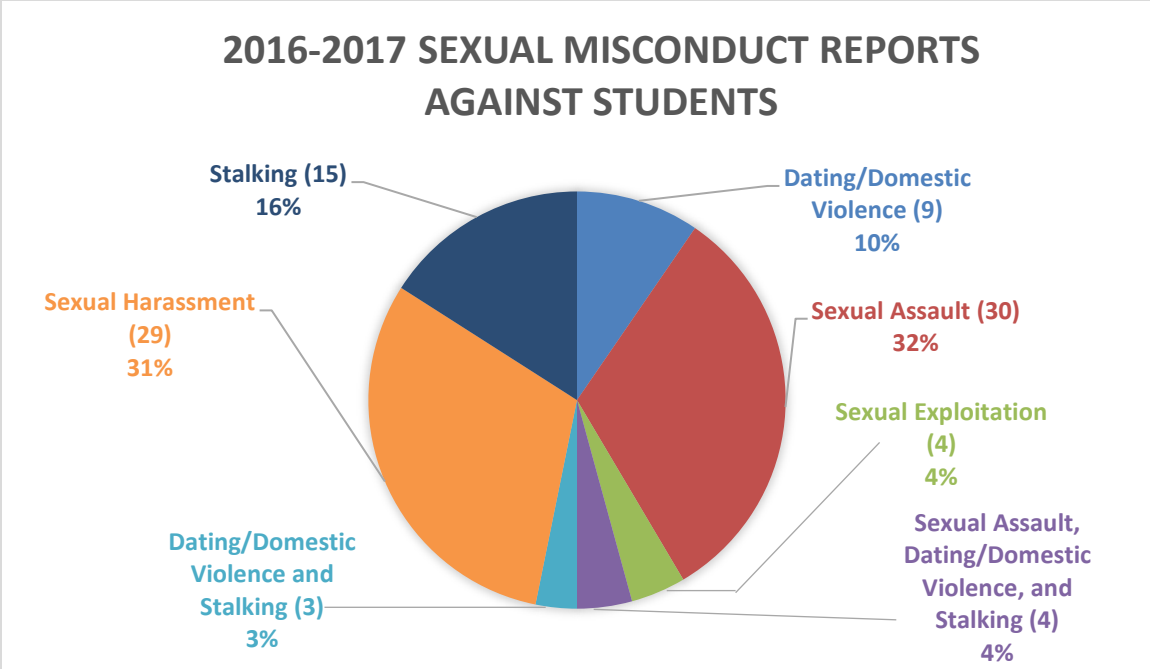
<sup>4</sup> When Northwestern receives reports alleging sexual misconduct by people not affiliated with the University (and not otherwise connected to a University program or activity), support and resources are offered to the impacted individual(s) and other measures that may be needed to secure the safety of the community are taken; however, the University will not conduct an investigation.



### 3. Reports Against Students

#### A. Distribution of Sexual Misconduct Reports Involving Student Respondents by Category of Violation Alleged

Between September 1, 2016, and August 31, 2017, Northwestern received 94 reports alleging that Northwestern students engaged in sexual misconduct. The following chart illustrates the types of violations that were reported. For the purposes of this chart, reports are categorized as sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, dating/domestic violence, sexual harassment, or combinations of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking.

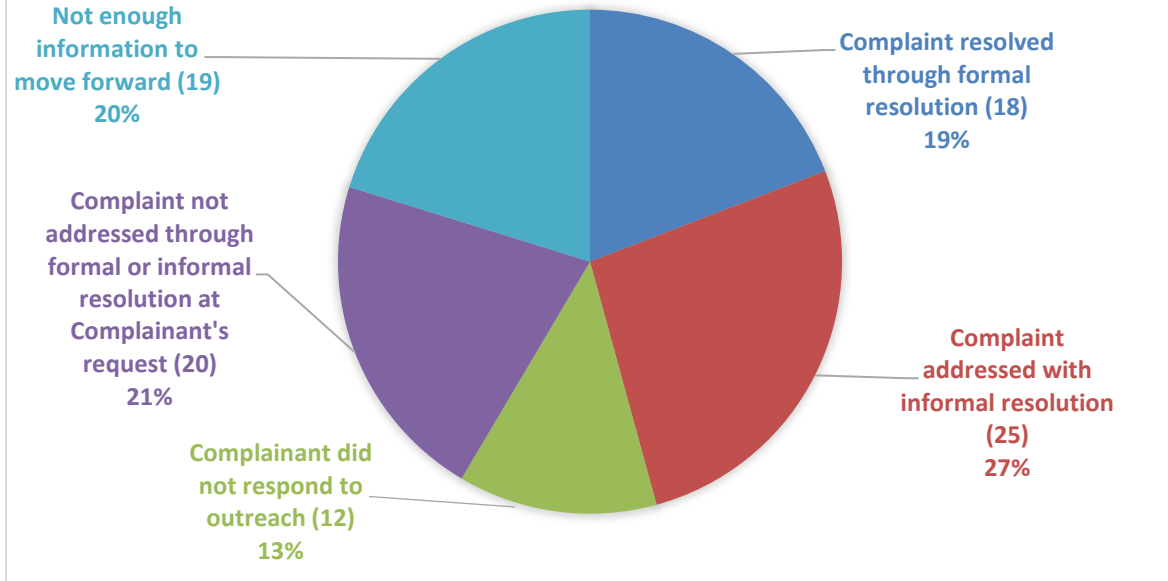


**B. How Complainants Elected to Proceed**

When a report is received from any source, including directly from impacted individuals and indirectly through others, the University reaches out to the individual(s) who may have experienced sexual misconduct to make them aware of the options and resources available to them. In cases where an individual reporting sexual misconduct requests anonymity or does not wish to proceed with an investigation, the University will attempt to honor that request but, in some cases, the Office of Equity may determine that the University needs to proceed with an investigation.

The following chart illustrates how the 94 reports of sexual misconduct against students were handled. In cases where a complainant wished to proceed with adjudication of a complaint against a student and there was reasonable information to suggest a policy violation may have occurred, the case was handled through **formal resolution**, which involved investigation and, in some cases, a panel hearing. In some cases where formal resolution was not desired by the complainant or when there was not enough information to proceed with formal resolution, **informal resolution** was used as a way to prevent the recurrence of sexual misconduct and remediate its impact. Informal resolution did not result in findings related to responsibility, or in sanctions. For example, informal resolution may have included no-contact directives or educational or advisory meetings with respondents.

## HOW 2016-2017 REPORTS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AGAINST STUDENTS WERE HANDLED



### C. Outcomes in Adjudicated Student Cases

In student matters, cases that do not have the potential to result in separation from the University are investigated and resolved through **administrative resolution**. Cases that have the potential to result in separation from the University, including suspension, exclusion<sup>5</sup>, or expulsion, are investigated and then resolved by **panel hearing**.

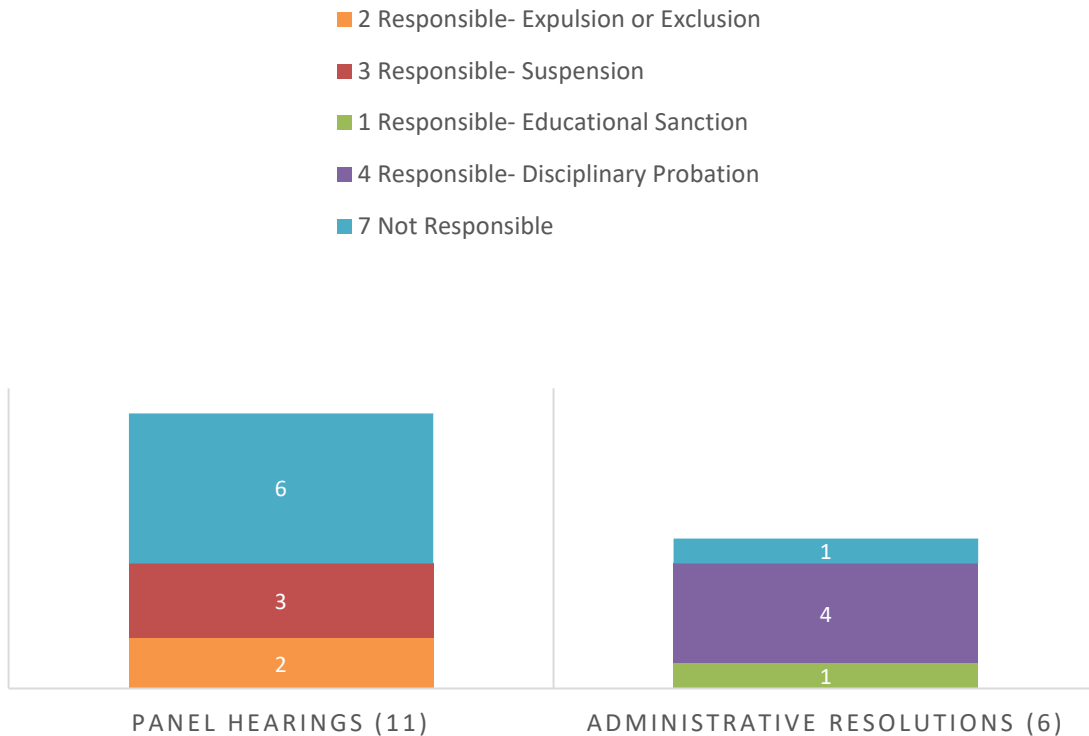
The following chart illustrates adjudication outcomes in the 17 student cases that proceeded through the formal resolution process during the 2016-2017 academic year. Note that some cases reported during the prior academic year (Sept. 1, 2015-Aug. 31, 2016) were resolved during the 2016-2017 academic year, and some cases reported in the 2016-2017 academic year were not resolved until the 2017-2018 academic year.

Some cases resulted in multiple sanctions for a respondent (e.g. probation and educational sanction). The most severe sanction each respondent received is reflected in this chart.

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<sup>5</sup> Exclusion and expulsion both mean that a student is removed from the University. Expulsion is a permanent removal, while exclusion is removal for a minimum of two years after which the student may re-apply to the University.

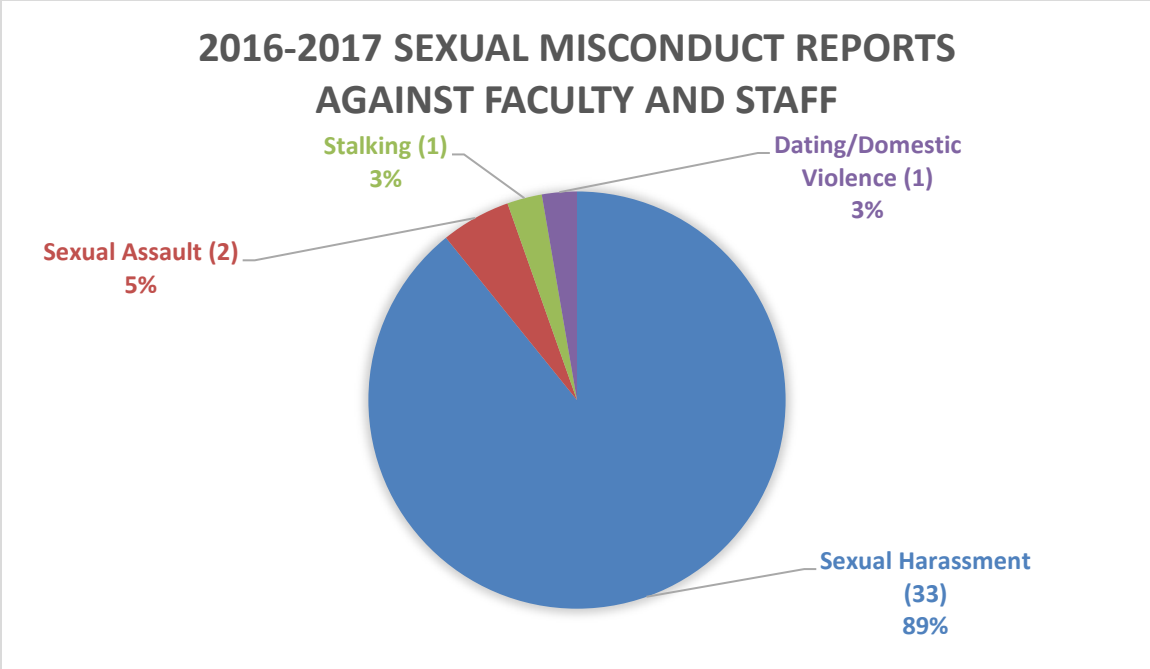
## 2016-2017 OUTCOMES OF STUDENT MATTERS THAT PROCEEDED THROUGH FORMAL RESOLUTION



### 4. Reports Against Faculty and Staff

#### D. Distribution of Sexual Misconduct Reports Involving Faculty and Staff Respondents by Category of Violation Alleged

During the 2016-2017 academic year, Northwestern received 37 reports alleging sexual misconduct by faculty or staff respondents. The following chart illustrates the types of violations that were reported.

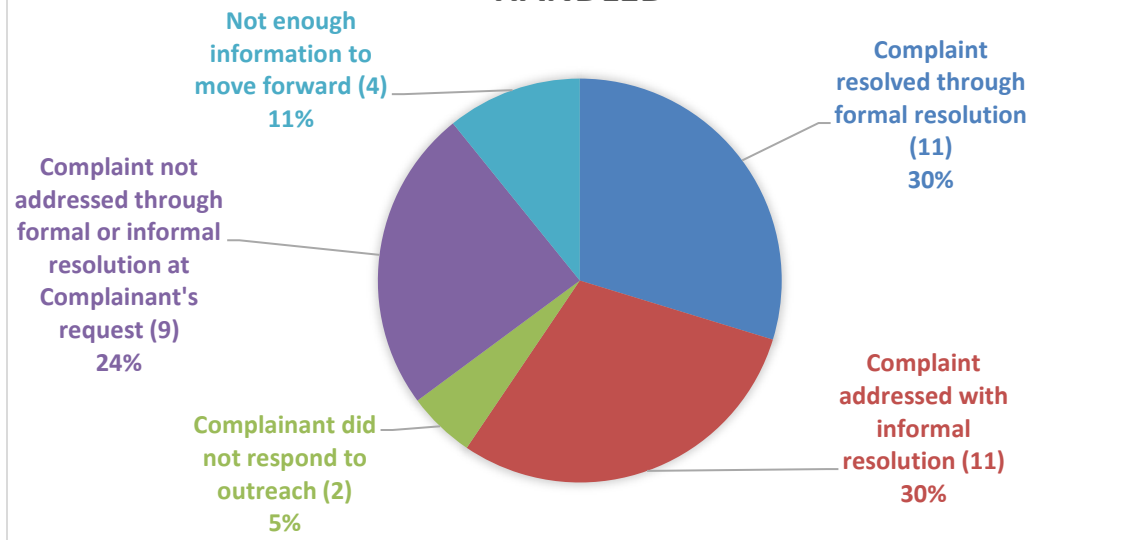


**E. How Complainants Elected to Proceed**

When a report is received from any source, including directly from impacted individuals and indirectly through others, the University reaches out to the individual(s) who may have experienced sexual misconduct to make them aware of their options and the resources that are available to them. In cases where an individual reporting sexual misconduct requests anonymity or does not wish to proceed with an investigation, the University will attempt to honor that request but, in some cases, the Office of Equity may determine that the University needs to proceed with an investigation.

The following chart illustrates how reports of sexual misconduct against faculty and staff were handled. In cases where a complainant wished to proceed with adjudication of a complaint against a student and there was reasonable information to suggest a policy violation may have occurred, the case was handled through **formal resolution**, which involved investigation and, in some cases, a panel hearing. In some cases where formal resolution was not desired by the complainant or when there was not enough information to proceed with formal resolution, **informal resolution** was used as a way to prevent the recurrence of sexual misconduct and remediate its impact. Informal resolution did not result in findings related to responsibility, or in sanctions. For example, informal resolution may have included no-contact directives or educational or advisory meetings with respondents.

## HOW 2016-2017 REPORTS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AGAINST FACULTY AND STAFF WERE HANDLED



### F. Outcomes in Adjudicated Faculty/Staff Cases

The following chart illustrates the outcomes of the 8 cases against faculty and staff that were formally resolved through investigation that concluded by August 31, 2017. Note that 3 cases reported in the 2016-2017 academic year were not resolved until the 2017-2018 academic year.



## 2016-2017 OUTCOMES OF FACULTY AND STAFF MATTERS THAT PROCEEDED THROUGH FORMAL RESOLUTION

- No policy violation found (4)
- Policy violation found- warning issued and training required (1)
- Policy violation found- Respondent separated from University (3)



## Conclusion

More information about Northwestern's ongoing efforts to prevent sexual misconduct and respond to reports can be found on the sexual misconduct website: [www.northwestern.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://www.northwestern.edu/sexual-misconduct).

Questions or comments about this report can be directed to:

The Office of Equity  
1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500  
Evanston, IL 60208  
<https://www.northwestern.edu/equity/>