

## St. Olaf College 2021 Sexual Assault Data Reported to the State of Minnesota

For the period January 1 – December 31, 2020

This report concerns incidents of sexual assault involving St. Olaf students or employees reported to the college during the 2020 calendar year. St. Olaf provided the data in this report to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education for its 2021 State of Minnesota Sexual Assault Data Report.

It is important to note that these statistics are about *reports* of sexual assault that St. Olaf has received. Reports of sexual assault, and the actual *incidence* of sexual assault, are two different things. On the one hand, some reports of sexual assault received by the college concern incidents with no connection to St. Olaf apart from the fact that the reporting party is a St. Olaf student or employee. A reported incident may involve a non-St. Olaf respondent and may have occurred away from campus when the college is not in session. Such reports are encouraged by the college and included in the numbers below. On the other hand, because research suggests that sexual assaults on college campuses are under-reported, it is likely that in any given year, the number of incidents that occurred at St. Olaf or on a St. Olaf-sponsored program is larger than the number of reports received. Still another complication is that the incidents referenced in some reports of sexual assault occurred during a previous academic or calendar year; it can take months, or even years, for a person to be ready to report their experience to the college. In short, what this report describes is the information the college received in 2020 about sexual assault experienced at some point in time by members of the St. Olaf community, and how the college responded to those reports.

Here is additional information about the content of this report:

- **Behaviors that constitute sexual assault:** These statistics include reports about multiple types of sexual assault, defined as follows in federal law:
  - *Rape* - The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim
  - *Fondling* - The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity
  - *Statutory Rape* - Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent
  - *Incest* –Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law
  
- **Incidents that are counted in this report:** Consistent with state law, an incident is included in this report if it has *any* of the following characteristics:
  - Either the reporting party (alleged victim-survivor) or responding party (alleged perpetrator) was a St. Olaf student or employee at the time of the incident; or
  - The incident occurred on the St. Olaf campus or other property owned by St. Olaf, irrespective of whether the parties involved were St. Olaf students or employees; or

- The incident occurred at an event sponsored by St. Olaf, again irrespective of whether the parties involved were St. Olaf students or employees.
- **How cases are classified and defined:** The St. Olaf data uses the categories and definitions prescribed by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, to facilitate comparisons between St. Olaf and the statewide data. The St. Olaf data also includes categories where there were no cases during the reporting period.
- **Completeness of data:** MnOHE’s policy is not to report precise statistics where there are fewer than 10 cases in a category, using instead the designation “<10.” This St. Olaf report provides complete information, including statistics not included in the MnOHE report. The college will provide precise statistics in future reports as well, unless doing so would jeopardize the privacy of any of the individuals involved.

As always, the college strongly encourages anyone who has experienced sexual assault or other form of prohibited conduct to [report](#) to the [Title IX Coordinator](#) or to any member of the [Title IX Team](#). Individuals may also report by using the [online reporting form](#), which may be completed anonymously.

### Reports of Sexual Assault Received by St. Olaf College – Calendar Year 2020

<i>Reports, investigations, and outcomes</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Additional information</i>
<i>Reported to St. Olaf</i>	28	This category includes any reported incident where a St. Olaf student or employee was a reporting party or a responding party, even if the other party was not a St. Olaf student or employee, and/or the reported incident was not connected to any college property or program. Some reported incidents occurred prior to 2020.
<i>Investigated</i>	1	The number of investigated incidents will generally be less than the number of reported incidents for a variety of reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some reporting parties prefer not to initiate the formal investigation process, and the college follows the wishes of the reporting party unless an alleged incident appears to pose an ongoing safety risk to the individual or to the St. Olaf community (which rarely happens).</li> <li>● Some incidents are reported by a third party (often a faculty or staff member, sometimes a student) rather than by the person who experienced the alleged misconduct. The college always contacts the affected individual to offer support, assistance, and the option of a formal investigation, but in some cases the affected individual does not respond.</li> <li>● Some incidents cannot be investigated because there is insufficient information to permit an investigation (e.g., the reporting party does not know, or chooses not to disclose, the identity of the responding party).</li> <li>● Some incidents cannot be investigated because the college has no authority to investigate (e.g., the other party has no connection to the college and the incident did not occur on St. Olaf property or in a St. Olaf program).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Olaf honors reporting parties' decisions about whether to pursue an investigation. Because reporting parties are free to change their mind about pursuing investigations, it is very possible that investigations reported in this column relate to incidents that were reported to the College in a previous calendar year.</li> <li>• In addition to investigations under St. Olaf's formal investigation process, some matters are also resolved through St. Olaf's informal resolution process. Those cases addressed through the informal resolution process are not reported here.</li> </ul>
<i>Referred for disciplinary process</i>	1	Investigated cases are referred to the disciplinary process as a matter of course. However, it is possible (albeit rare) that a case may not be referred to the disciplinary process in instances where the college has no ability to impose disciplinary action against an accused party.
<i>Reported to law enforcement</i>	2	The college encourages reporting to law enforcement and provides assistance in doing so. However, the college is not always notified when a reporting party has chosen to report to law enforcement, particularly if the reported incident occurred somewhere other than at St. Olaf. Therefore, there may be more reports to law enforcement than what is reflected in this statistic.
<i>Disciplinary process pending</i>	0	This refers to reported incidents during the previous calendar year that are still under investigation at the time the college submits its statistics to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.
<i>Responding Party found responsible</i>	0	This refers to cases where, through the formal investigation process, there was sufficient evidence to find the person accused of sexual assault responsible for violating college policy. It is important to note that the alternative outcome is not "not responsible," but rather "there was insufficient evidence to find the responding party responsible" for policy violation.
<i>Action greater than a warning</i>	0	This refers to the number of investigated incidents with a finding of responsibility in which St. Olaf took any disciplinary action beyond issuing a warning to the responding party.
<i>Closed without resolution (CWR)</i>	0	This refers to the number of investigated incidents that were closed without a decision indicating whether there was sufficient evidence to find the responding party responsible for violating college policy.
<i>--CWR because responding party withdrew</i>	0	This refers to the number of cases that were closed without resolution because the responding party withdrew from St. Olaf.
<i>--CWR because reporting party did not participate</i>	0	This refers to the number of cases that were closed without resolution because the reporting party chose not to participate in the formal investigation process after the process commenced.
<i>Reporting Party declined participating in St. Olaf's disciplinary process</i>	27	This includes incidents reported to St. Olaf by the victim but the victim chose not to participate in the investigation process. It also refers to incidents reported by a third party and the victim chose not to be involved in the report or investigation.
<i>Non-anonymous reports made through online reporting system</i>	6	This represents the number of non-anonymous reports made through St. Olaf's online reporting system during the 2020 calendar year.

Please contact [Kari Hohn](#), Title IX Coordinator, with any questions about the information in this report.