UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Annual Report 2025-2026

SGBV SUPPORT & EDUCATION CENTRE

IMPROVE LIFE.

Executive Summary

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Support & Education Centre (The Centre) continued to provide trauma-informed, survivor-centred support while expanding prevention, education, and institutional capacity. **161 students accessed SGBV support** services, compared with 167 in 2024–2025. While overall service use remained relatively stable, the number of returning students increased from 69 to 88 (27.5%), highlighting a growing need for ongoing case management, advocacy, system navigation, accommodations, and emotional support.

Reports and Resolution

There was increased engagement with institutional reporting and resolution processes**. In 2025–2026, 5 formal complaints and 4 alternate resolutions were pursued, for a total of 9 cases**, compared with 3 formal complaints and 2 alternate resolutions the previous year. The Centre continued developing its approach to respondent education and support, with five respondents receiving individualized education and support services during the year

Education, Training and Engagement

Education and prevention efforts expanded considerably in 2025–2026. The Centre and its partners delivered 27 educational initiatives engaging 3,526 students and 21 specialized trainings engaging 2,166 participants. **Training participation increased by 131% compared with the previous year, with 17 training sessions delivered within academic classrooms.** Programming focused on consent, healthy relationships, bystander intervention, survivor support, healthy masculinity, accountability, and violence prevention.

The SGBV CourseLink Awareness Module continued to provide broad-based education across the University community. In 2025–2026, **4,340 students completed the module**, compared with 4,409 in 2024–2025**. Among faculty and staff, 855 completed the module** in 2025–2026, compared with 919 in 2024–2025, demonstrating continued engagement with foundational SGBV education across both student and employee populations.

Evaluation results demonstrated high impact, with 91% of participants reporting increased knowledge of SGBV and 92% reporting an improved ability to promote a culture of consent. Digital education and outreach also expanded significantly, reaching 365,237 individuals through social media—a 70% increase over the previous year.

Key Priorities and Looking Ahead

Throughout 2025–2026, priorities focused on increasing access to support, strengthening education and training, and developing respondent education and support. The Centre increased appointment availability, including evening appointments, to provide more individualized support for safety planning, case management, system navigation, and academic considerations.

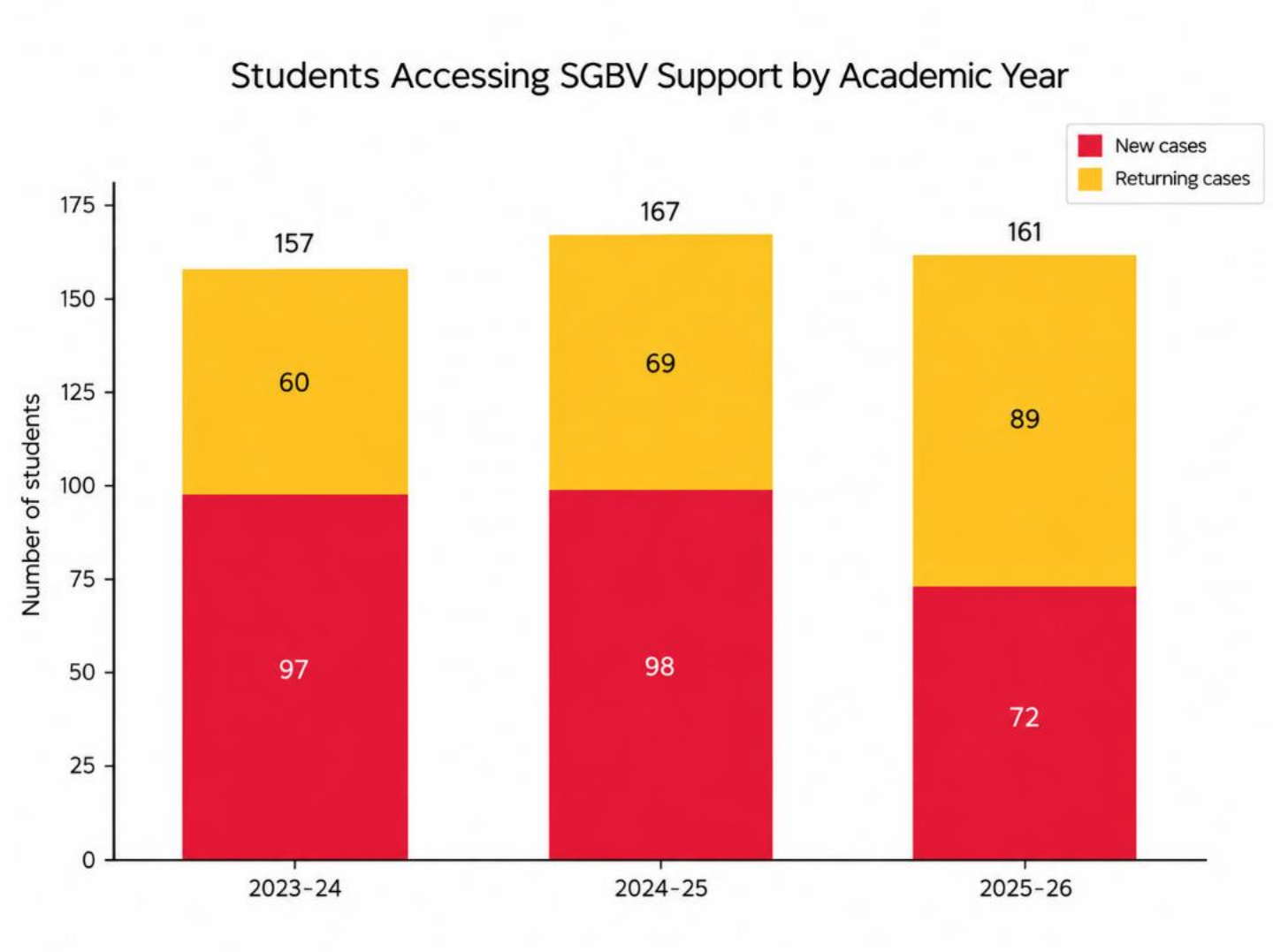
Looking ahead to 2026–2027, The Centre will focus on implementing the revised SGBV Policy and associated operational procedures, expanding education and professional development for faculty, staff, student leaders, and campus partners, introducing survivor group and peer-support opportunities, strengthening coordinated responses to faculty and staff disclosures, and expanding partnerships with Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis and Guelph General Hospital Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Services to enhance campus education and access to sexual violence nursing support and assessment.

Overall, 2025–2026 reflected a shift toward longer-term and more individualized survivor support alongside significant growth in education, training, prevention, and institutional response capacity.

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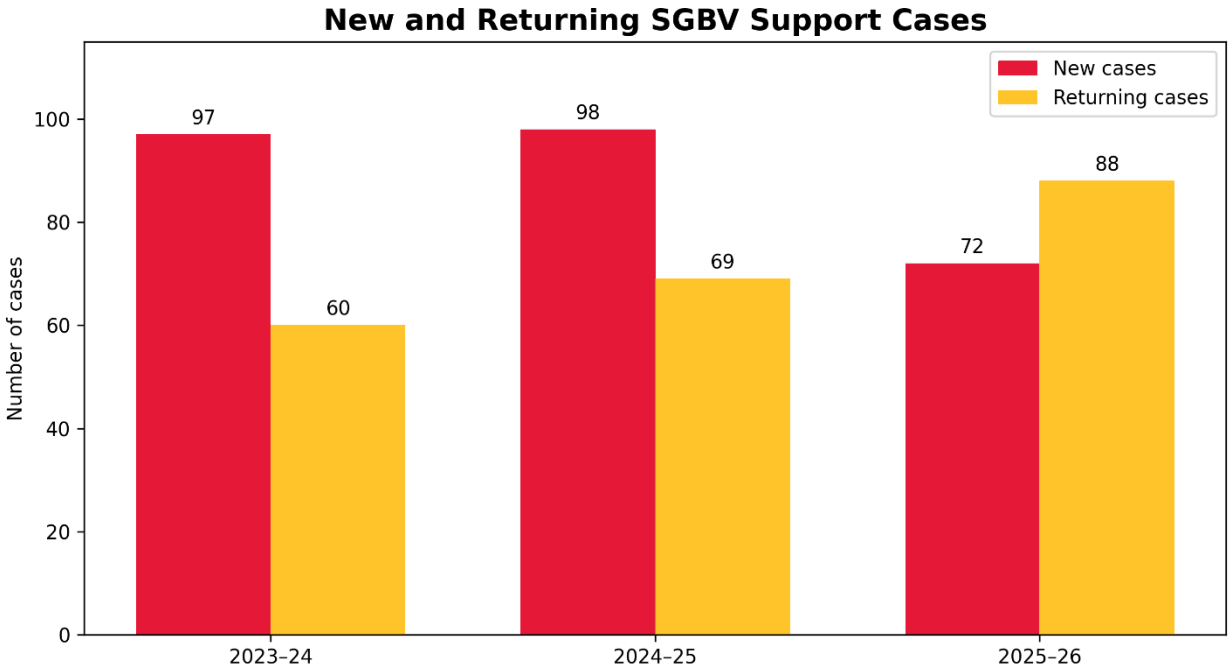
Support, Disclosures & Reports

In the 2025-2026 academic year, the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Support and Education Centre (The Centre) continued to offer comprehensive and trauma-informed survivor-centred support for students who experience sexual and gender-based violence.

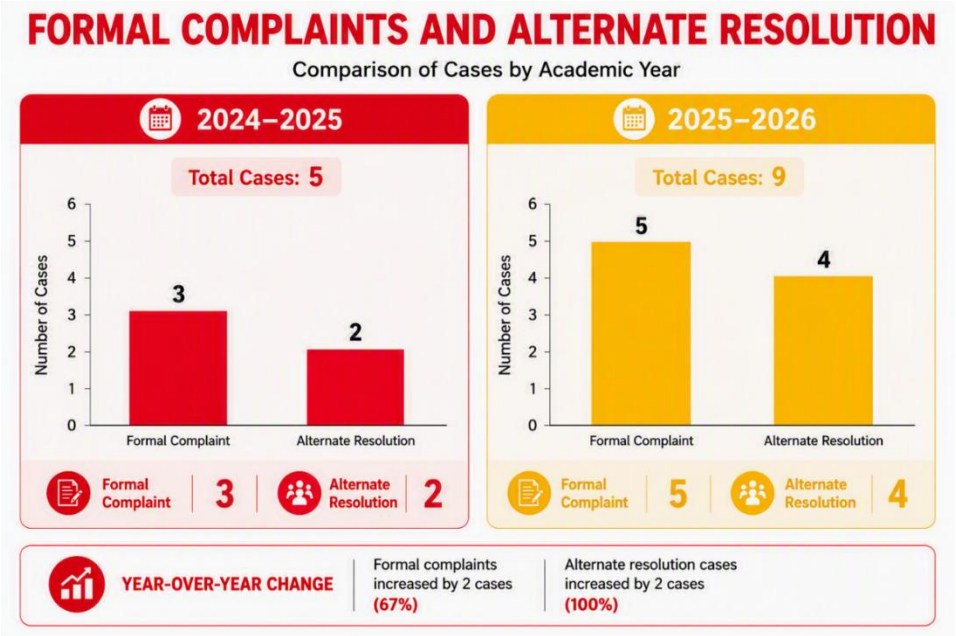


**** graph indicates students accessing support, it does not represent complaints made under the policy.**

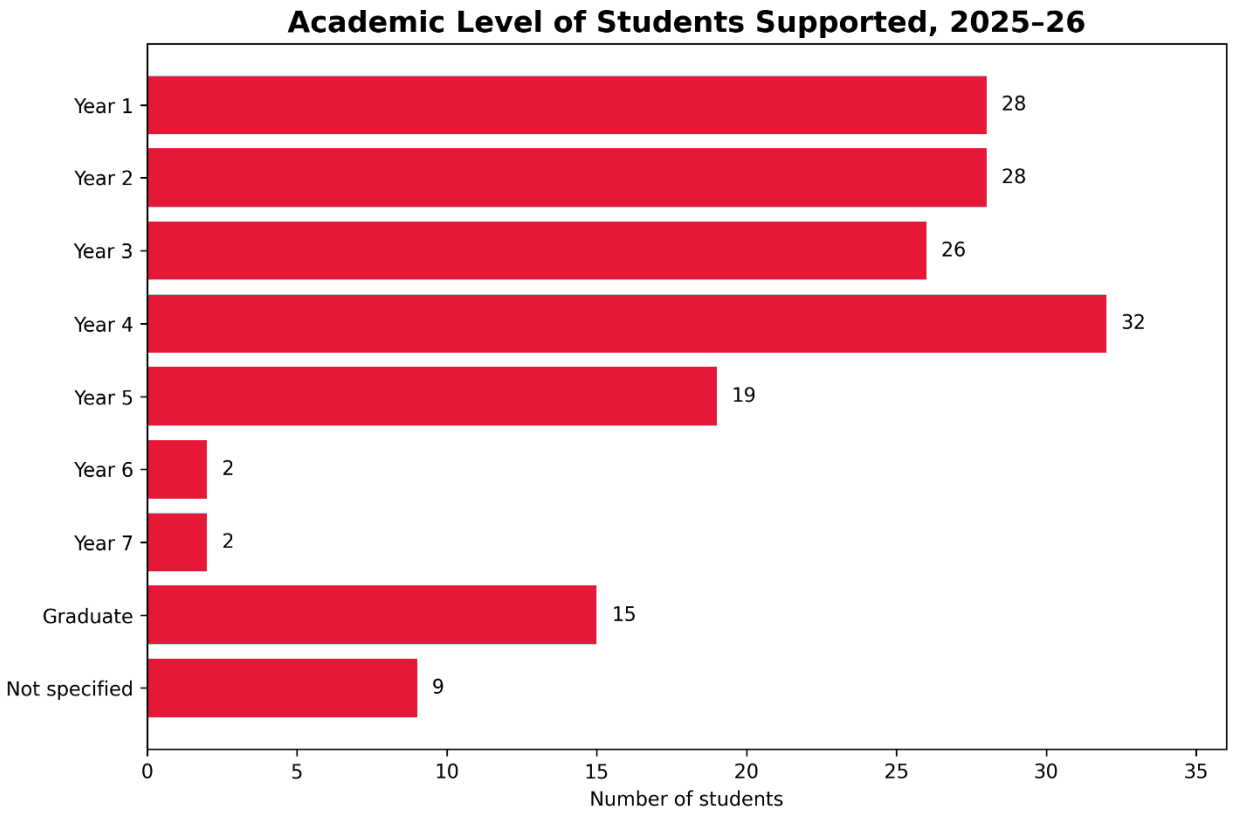
Throughout the 2025-2026 academic year, **161 students accessed support services** related to SGBV. This is a reduction from the 167 students who accessed services in 2024-2025. The caseload composition shifted significantly this year with the total number of returning students increasing from **69 to 88,** a **27.5%** rise and the total number of new referrals decreasing from **98 to 72.** This trend suggests that students are remaining connected to the Centre for longer periods, potentially reflecting an ongoing need for advocacy, system navigation, academic accommodations, and emotional support throughout their time at the university.

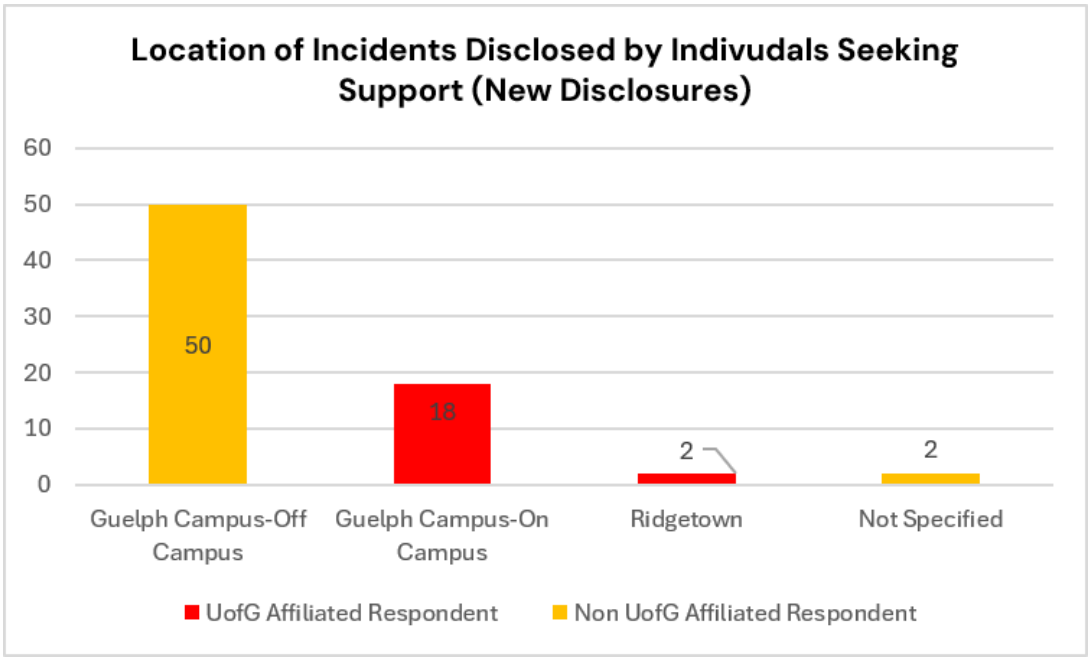


The increase in the number of returning students also underlines the need to maintain a support model where the process of recovery is not expected to be linear. Often students seek assistance from the Centre as their needs evolve, such as changes in academic requirements, involvement in institutional complaint procedure or criminal justice processes, and ongoing healing. This trend emphasizes the importance of flexible and individualized support.



Student Demographics



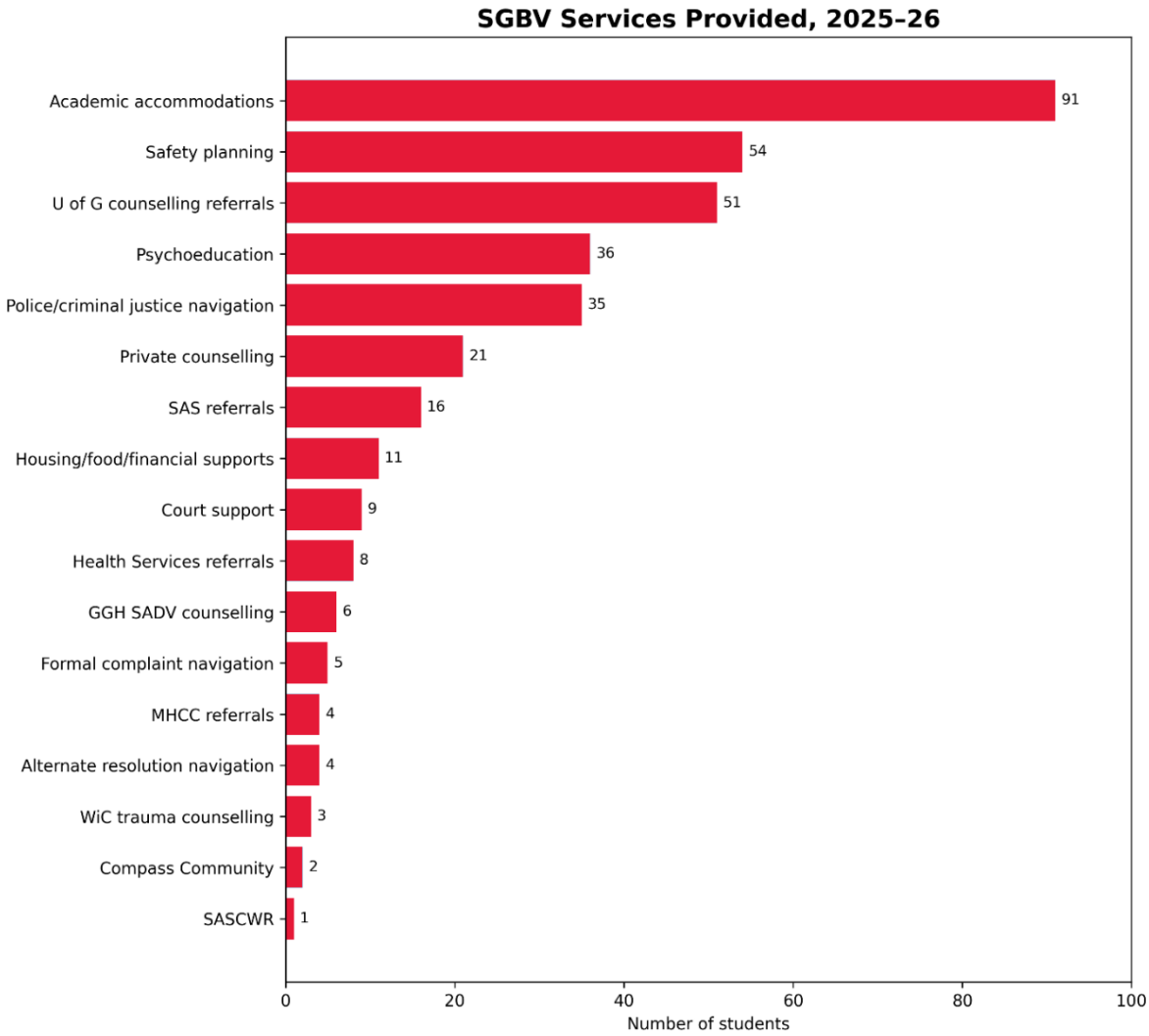


Referral Pathways

As in previous reporting periods, self-referrals were one of the primary routes for students to access services from The Centre. In addition, internal referrals from Student Wellness Services (SWS) including Counselling Services, Student Accessibility Services, and Student Health Services, and various other departments from across campus, continue to remain significant referral pathways.

Service Delivery

As in previous reporting periods, the most frequent type of support included academic accommodations, reflecting the significant impact that SGBV may have on academic engagement. In addition, safety planning remained an important component of support services provided by the Centre.



Emerging Trends

Some trends observed during the 2025–2026 school year will continue to influence service delivery in the future.

Firstly, the growing number of returning students suggests an increasing demand for longer-term support, advocacy, and case management beyond crisis interventions. As more students engage with Centre services over multiple semesters, ensuring sufficient resources to provide ongoing support is increasingly important. The growing complexity of cases also requires stronger collaboration with campus partners, including Faculty and Academic Staff Relations, Human Resources, Student Accessibility Services, Athletics, Residence Life, Campus Safety, in addition to other external community organizations, such as Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis, Guelph General Hospital, Victim Services, and Guelph Police. With the implementation of the new SGBV Policy, coordinated efforts across departments remain essential.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence Education

The 2025–2026 SGBV Education Plan was prepared after consultations with students, faculty, staff, and community partners to be responsive to current needs of the community. It was based on the principles of trauma-informed, survivor-centred, anti-oppressive, intersectional, and evidence-informed approaches.

2025–2026 Highlights

- Provided 27 S&GBV educational initiatives engaging **3,526 students,** including classroom talks, outreach events, resource fairs, awareness campaigns, and peer-led programming. Initiatives focused on consent, healthy relationships, healthy masculinity, bystander intervention, survivor support, and awareness of campus and community resources.
- The SGBV CourseLink module recorded **4,340 student** completions and **855** staff/faculty completions
- Conducted **21** specialized training programs involving **2,166** individuals, which is a **131% increase** compared to 2024–2025, with **17** training sessions held within academic classrooms.
- Organized **three** major initiatives where conversations regarding healthy masculinity, being allies, accountability, and violence prevention took place among male-identified students.
- Increased outreach through social media, involving **365,237** individuals, a **70% increase** compared to the previous year.

Program Impact

Programming focused on issues such as consent, healthy relationships, boundaries, bystander intervention, survivor support, healthy masculinity, and campus resources. While total attendance of events decreased, this was largely due to unusually low attendance of the O-Week keynote. Overall, programming was increased and diversified.

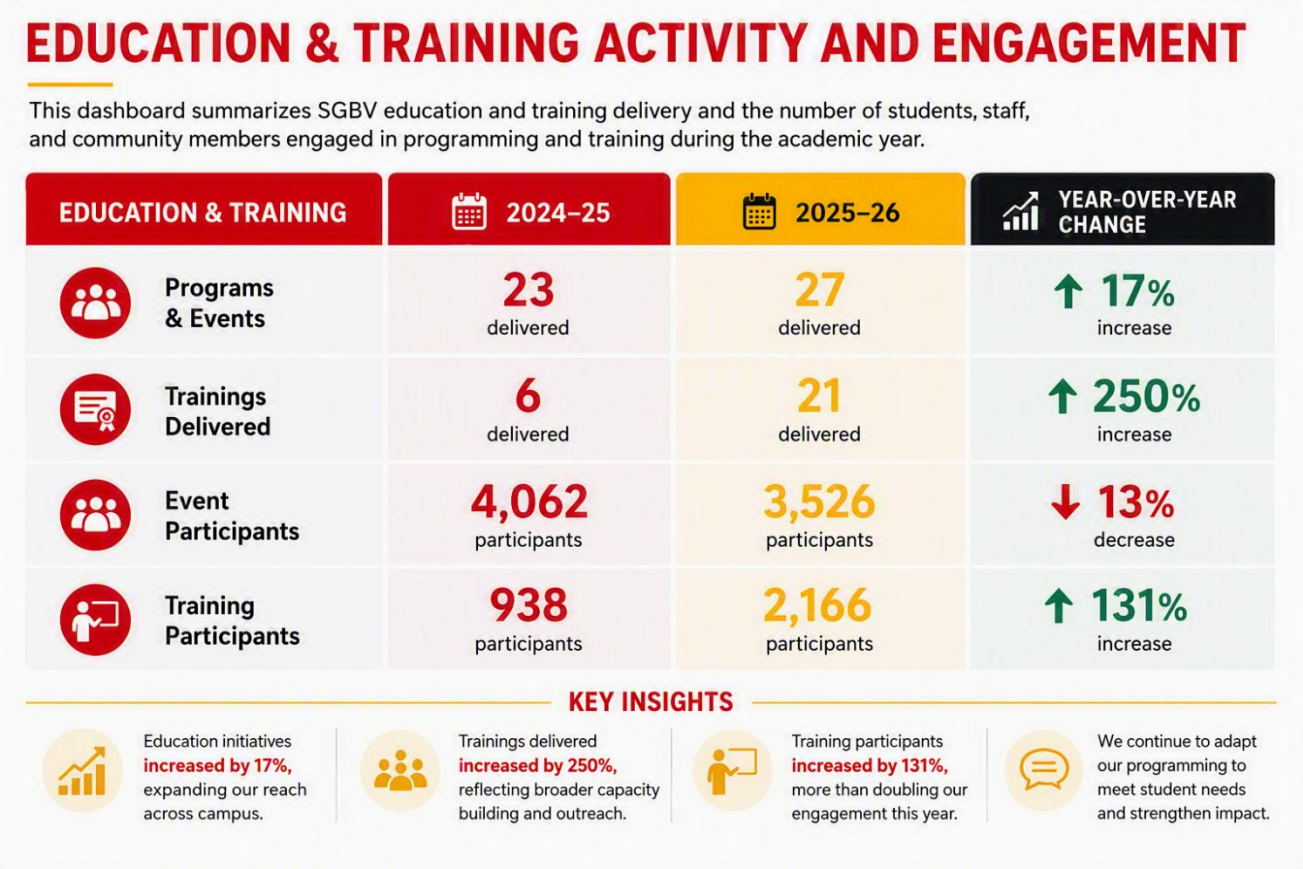
Program evaluation results showed strong evidence of program impacts:

- **91%** of the program participants gained more knowledge about sexual and gender-based violence.
- **92%** felt better able to foster a culture of consent.

Students reported that they found several initiatives to be extremely engaging, such as Exploring Masculinity and the Manosphere, Consent & Connections Resource Fair, What's the Tea on Consent, Healthy Relationships: Beyond Red Flags, and From Awareness to Action: Building a Culture of Consent. High-attendance outreach initiatives, such as Consent Carnival, Homecoming Safer Party Tabling, Consent & Connections Resource Fair,

and Frosty Mug, raised awareness about consent, available resources, bystander intervention, and making campuses safer.

Outreach & Educational Events



The Sexual Assault Free Environment (SAFE) Peer Team is a group of students who serve as student educators and help to facilitate SGBV prevention initiatives on the Guelph campus as part of the Wellness Education and Promotion Centre (WEPC). Using peer approaches, the SAFE team co-creates a diverse array of initiatives that educate students about their role in making the campus a safe and supportive community. The SAFE team had 8 members during the 2025/2026 academic year. Together with both on- and off-campus partners, the SAFE team ran initiatives that engaged students in meaningful discussions about consent, healthy relationships, bystander intervention, and survivor support. Most of the initiatives organized by the team were interactive SGBV outreach events, skill-building workshops, and social media campaigns. As a result, the reach of the SAFE initiatives increased by 70% in 2025/2026 compared to 2024/2025 with the total social media reach of 365, 237 individuals.

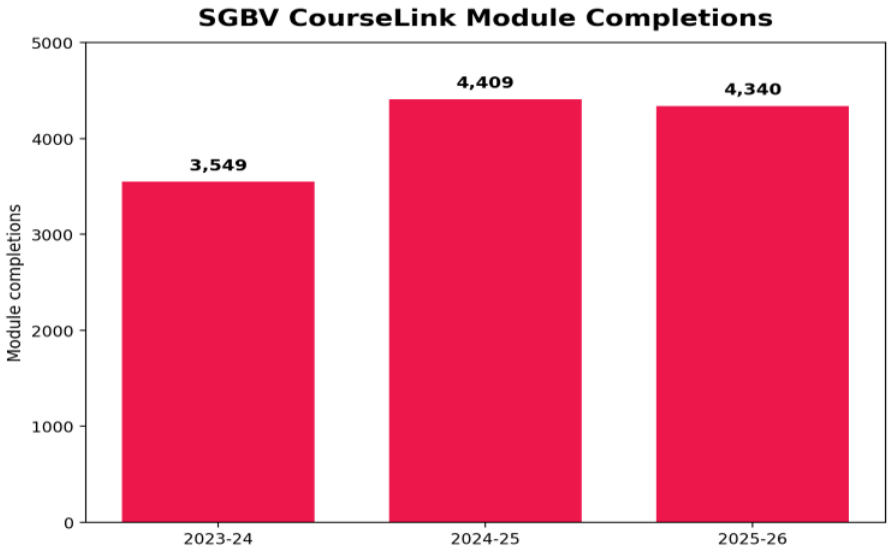
SAFE Team Programming

Type Of Programming	2024-2025		2025-2026	
	Total #	**#of Attendees**	**Total #**	**# of Attendees**
Outreach Events	14	2204	21	3138
Educational Events	9	1858	6	438
Social Media Posts	48	215, 047 post views	72	365,237 post views

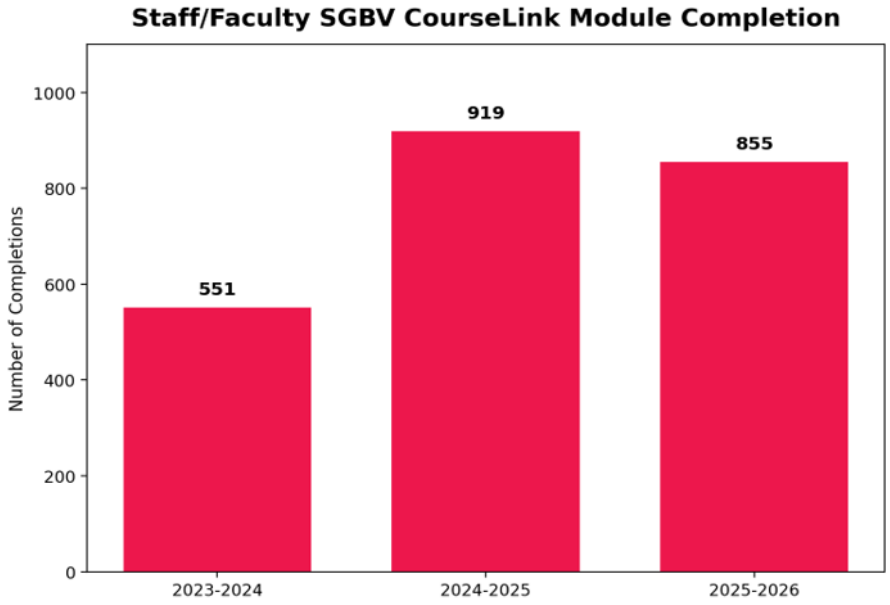
SGBV Courselink Modules

The SGBV Awareness Module provides essential knowledge about consent, understanding SGBV, managing disclosures, available support services, and staff/faculty responsibilities under the SGBV Policy. This module is compulsory or highly recommended for student staff and leaders in several departments across campus, including Residence Life, Student Affairs, Student Experience (Orientation Volunteers), varsity student-athletes, and students living in residence.

SGBV Courselink for Students: Module Completion Comparison

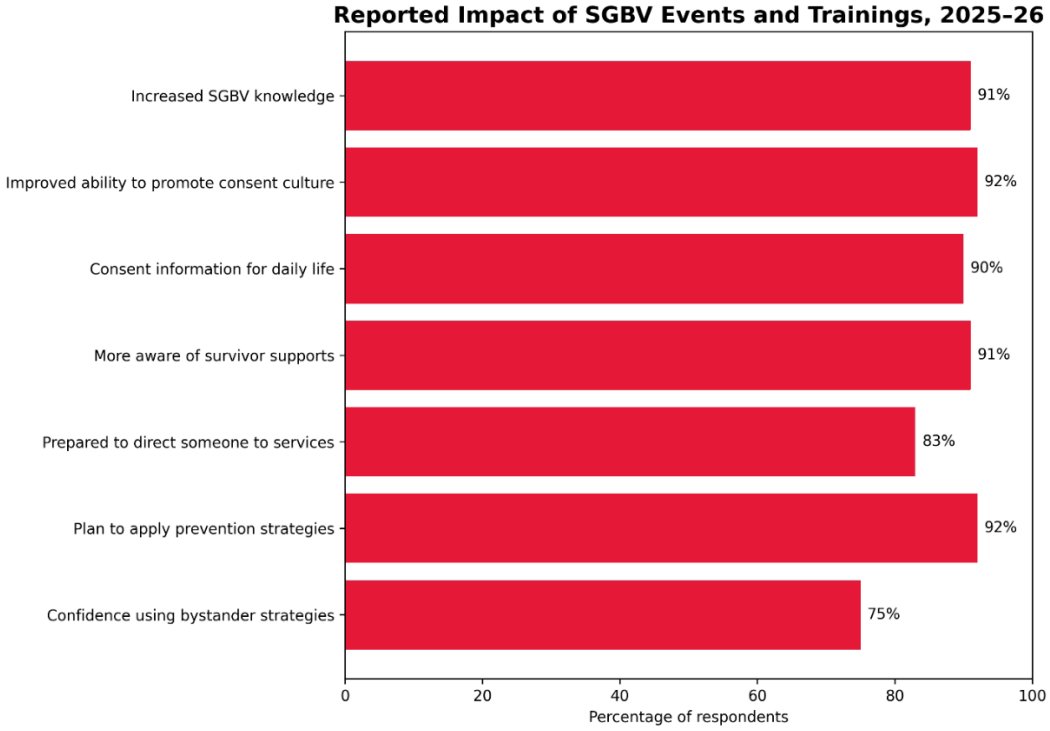


Staff/Faculty Courselink Module Completion



Evaluation

As part of the Student Wellness Services (SWS) evaluation strategy, the SGBV Support and Education department in conjunction with the Wellness Education and Promotion Centre conduct post event surveys to measure the effectiveness of SGBV initiatives and trainings.



Student Testimonials from SGBV Trainings

In addition to the quantitative data collected, there were several student testimonials about the impact of training and events, such as:

- "Fantastic and very informative presentation."
- "Great job! Thank you for sharing the information on the sexual health/violence clinic at GGH and all the available services on campus."
- "I thought this workshop would be very beneficial for me since I have witnessed cases of sexual based violence."

Testimonials from Students Attending the SGBV Awareness Sessions:

- "I got knowledge on what healthy masculinity means"
- "It enlightened me more on issues of consent and respecting boundaries"
- "Learned a new way of consenting"
- "[I gained] knowledge on how to differentiate between good and bad relationships"
- "[I learned] how to identify lack of consent"

Key Priorities Updates 2025-2026

Increasing Access to SGBV Support Services

Access to timely support was a priority in 2025–2026. Although a drop-in model was initially planned, student feedback indicated that more individualized support was required. In response, the Centre expanded appointment availability, including evening hours, and provided support for safety planning, case management, system navigation, academic considerations, case coordination, and accompaniment to relevant services and appointments.

Respondent Education and Support

The Centre worked towards the implementation of an enhanced education and support service for respondents aimed at promoting accountability and behavioural change. Five respondents received individualized education and support services during the year, marking an important step toward the continued development and implementation of the Respondent Education Program.

Student, Faculty and Staff Education and Training

In collaboration with WEPC, The Centre expanded targeted education and training across the University. In 2025–2026, it delivered 27 educational activities and 21 training activities, reaching 5,692 participants. These sessions strengthened the University community's capacity to respond to sexual and gender-based violence. Moreover, there were 84 trainings geared towards Staff and Faculty about sexual and gender-based violence as well as how to respond to disclosures.

Looking Ahead 2026-2027

In anticipation of the implementation of the updated SGBV Policy, The Centre will continue to strengthen coordinated institutional responses, enhance prevention and education initiatives, and build institutional capacity to support survivors of SGBV. Key priorities for 2026–2027 include:

- Implementation of the new SGBV Policy including campus communication, education, and revised operational procedures
- Increased Professional Development opportunities to support staff and faculty disclosures/reporting
- Expand education and training for faculty, staff, student leaders, and campus partners, through offering orientation to the new policy, one to one consultation, team/departmental workshops, drop-in sessions, and tailored unit support
- Student feedback highlighted the value of having S&GBV education available throughout the academic year. In response, the O-Week keynote shifted to an interactive Consent Carnival, which is embedded into Residence Life Staff schedules to encourage student participation and provide accessible opportunities for engagement. Programming will also continue to expand through classroom presentations and year-round educational opportunities
- Introduce group programming and peer support opportunities for survivors.
- Strengthen systems and coordinated response processes for faculty and staff disclosures.
- Collaborating with Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis to support campus education initiatives
- Expand access to specialized sexual violence supports on campus through our partnership with Guelph General Hospital Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care and Treatment Centre (SADV). This will include access to a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) as needed to provide on-site nursing support and assessment following an SGBV acute incident as well as a specially training therapist to provide ongoing trauma counselling.