



PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT: 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana is dedicated to providing evidenced based residential reentry services to clients through a safe and secure environment and meeting the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 at all of our program sites. This report is a summary of the Ohio & Indiana Residential Reentry Program's efforts in PREA compliance. By examining the collection and aggregation of agency data, Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana is dedicated to improving the effectiveness of sexual abuse detection, prevention, and response.

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Purpose

STANDARDS

In compliance with PREA national standards §115.88 and §115.89, this document serves to satisfy the reporting and publication of findings, to include:

1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually in order to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training, including:
 - a. Identifying problem areas
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis
 - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years. Provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
3. Publish the annual report on the Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana website for each facility, as well as for the agency as a whole.

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the publication of the annual report located on the Agency's website (www.voahin.org), the report is available through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections website.

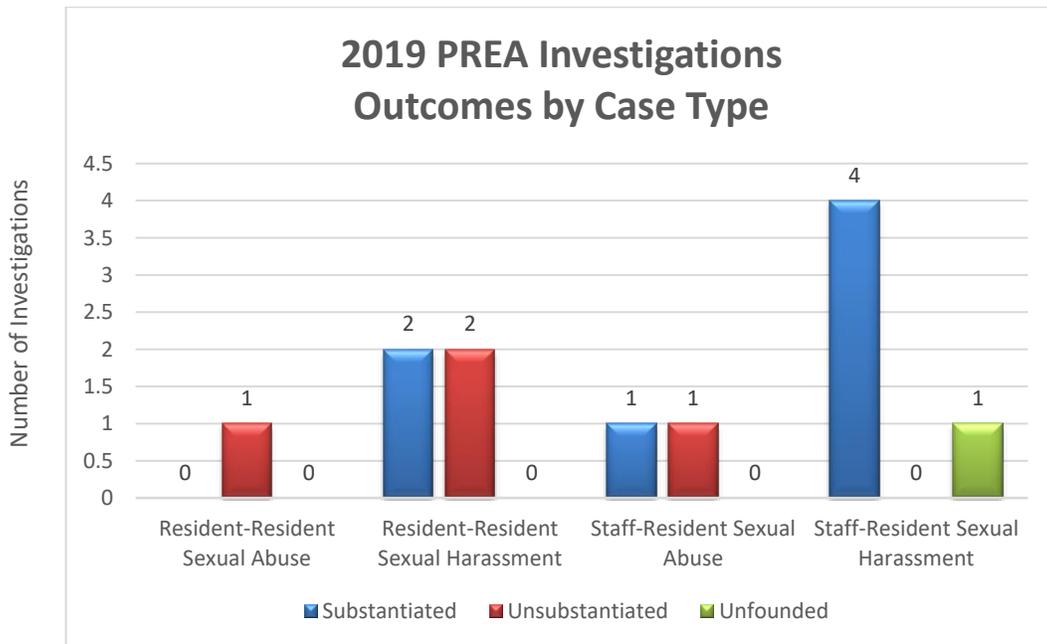
Aggregated Data

Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana collects data from the referrals for investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, both resident on resident and staff on resident incidents. The data in this report contains aggregated data pursuant to the *Survey of Sexual Violence* form.

All allegations are entered and tracked through a secure internal electronic database, the *PREA Incident Report Log*. For the purposes of this report, data collected will only be from calendar year (CY) 2019.

The following graph depicts the number of sexual abuse and sexual harassment cases of resident on resident and staff on resident incidents investigated. Data is from all six (6) reentry program sites across Ohio and Indiana. There were a total of eleven (12) reports. Of those, seven were substantiated (two resident-to-resident, sexual harassment and five staff-to-resident abuse or harassment cases).

Figure 1.1

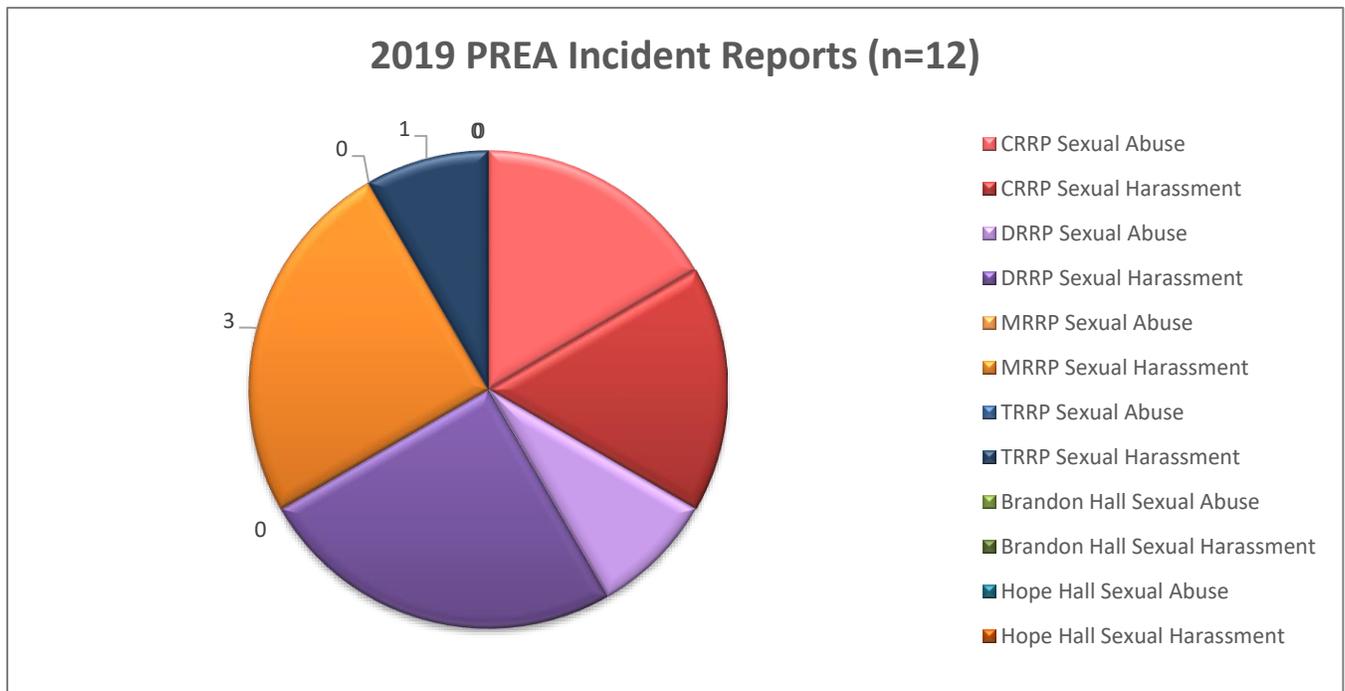


Comparative Data Analysis

The following graph (Figure 2.1) represents a comparison between our four reentry program sites in Ohio and two reentry programs in Indiana for CY 2019. The data includes all reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These are all the reports received regardless of disposition.

Based upon the reports, Cincinnati and Dayton Residential Reentry Programs each had four reports and investigations. Cincinnati had three substantiated cases and Dayton had two substantiated cases. The Mansfield program had three reports and two were substantiated. The Toledo program had one report and zero substantiated cases. The Indiana program sites had zero reports of sexual abuse or harassment during (CY) 2019.

Figure 2.1



Program Legend: CRRP – Cincinnati Residential Reentry Program
 DRRP – Dayton Residential Reentry Program
 MRRP – Mansfield Residential Reentry Program
 TRRP – Toledo Residential Reentry Program
 Hope Hall - Evansville, Indiana
 Brandon Hall – Indianapolis, Indiana

Problem Areas

Across all four Ohio residential reentry programs, Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana (VOAOHIN) served 2673 residents in CY2019. VOAHOIN served 413 more residents in Ohio during CY2019 than in CY2018, but had one less reported PREA incident. Indiana residential reentry programs served a total of 484 residents. Brandon Hall served 274 and Hope Hall served 210 in CY2019. The number of reported PREA incidents (n= 12) is not disproportionate to the number of residents served in a twelve-month period.

In review of the aggregated data from CY 2019, the majority of reports were of staff to resident incidents, a number of which were substantiated. Staff across programs would benefit from additional training related to interpersonal communication and boundaries with residents. Training should include all staff, and target specifically the staff who have the most consistent contact with the residents. Additional staff guidance is available and annual required trainings are assigned through Relias for all staff.

During this 2019 calendar year the Residential Reentry Programs in Evansville and Indianapolis completed their PREA Audits for year three of the audit cycle. Mansfield completed their PREA Audit for year one of Cycle 3. All staff received extensive training on all standards. All facilities that were audited were found compliant with all applicable standards for the audit cycle. Recommendations were made in Indiana to their initial PREA assessment, staffing plans and to increase PREA trainings for staff in specific areas. Additional recommendations were made for Hope Hall to increase line of sight in the dorm areas. Staff was able to rearrange dorm rooms accordingly and provide better line of sight with less blind spots. All recommendations were completed before the final PREA Audit reports were finalized. The Cincinnati program is scheduled for their next PREA audit in February of 2020.

Further training opportunities were offered for PREA investigators during CY2019 to combat staff turnover. Additional investigators were trained covering a larger area across the state. Also the agency gained additional neutral PREA Investigators for any staff related investigations. PREA Investigator training was completed in January of 2019 to ensure an adequate number of investigators available at or near each site and in both states. Continued PREA trainings for all staff will be offered in the upcoming year. Additional staff are scheduled to attend PREA Investigator training in January of 2020.

The agency has one PREA Coordinator serving both states. Additionally there are PREA managers at each residential reentry program.

Corrective Actions

Corrective actions to be taken at the agency level include:

- Continued annual review and revision of agency policy and procedure
- Selection and training of additional investigators and trainers, to cover all program site locations
- Selection and training of additional victim advocates at all locations
- Additional training for all staff on communication and boundaries via the Relias online training system
- Continued review of PREA Training modules assigned to all staff in the Relias online training system

Conclusion

The Volunteers of America of Ohio & Indiana is committed to a continual and progressive culture wherein clients are free from sexual abuse or assault and sexual harassment. By taking action to implement the changes identified, and meet the requirements of the PREA standards, Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana can maintain a safe environment for our clients.

Stacey Seif

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