



PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT: 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio 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 agency's efforts in PREA compliance. By examining the collection and aggregation of agency data, Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio 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 of Greater Ohio 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.voago.org), the report is available through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections website.

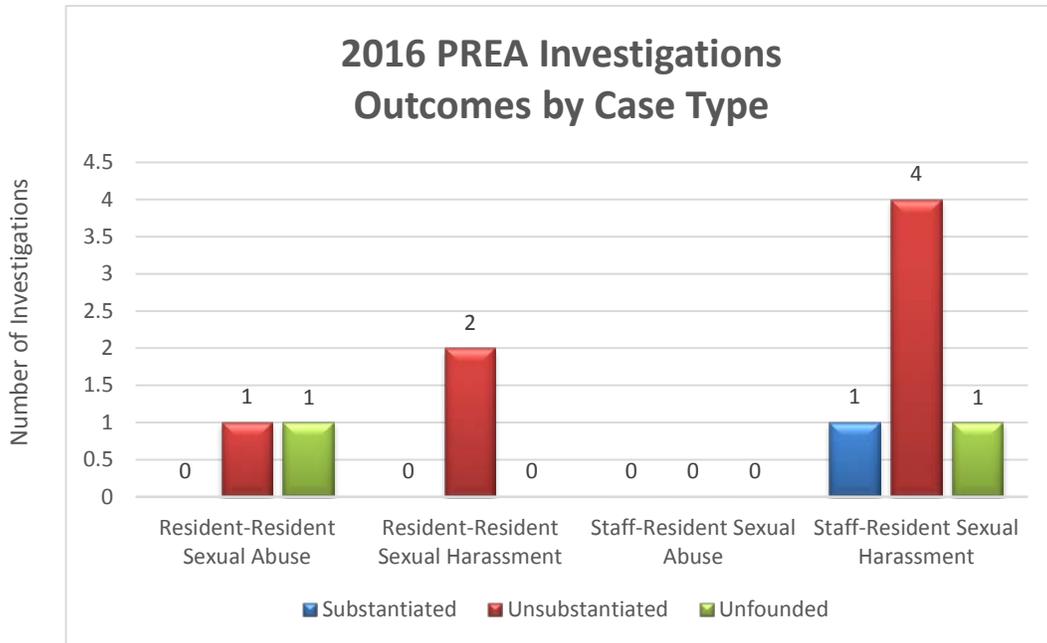
Aggregated Data

The Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio 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) 2016.

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 five (5) reentry program sites. There were a total of ten reports. Of those, one was substantiated (staff-to-resident, sexual harassment).

Figure 1.1

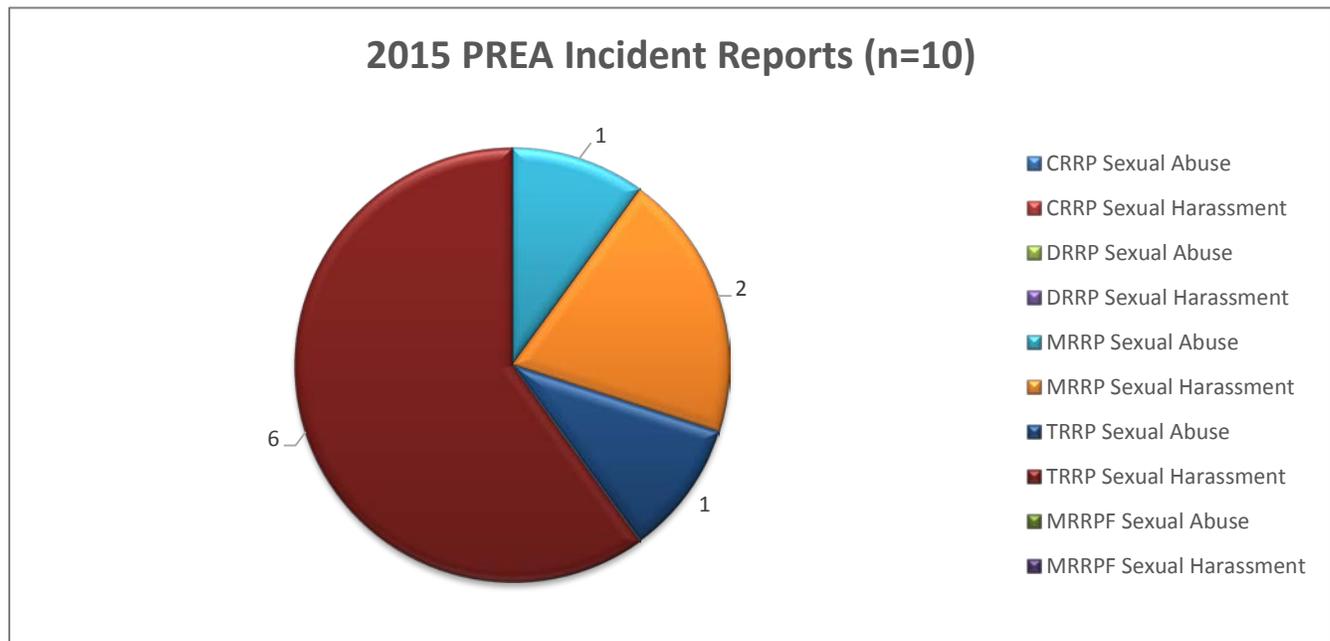


Comparative Data Analysis

The following graph (Figure 2.1) represents a comparison between our five reentry program sites for CY 2016 of reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These are all the reports received regardless of disposition.

Based upon the reports, Toledo Residential Reentry Program had the most reports and investigations, one of which was substantiated. The Cincinnati and Mansfield Male program sites each had the one report of sexual abuse during this reporting period, all of which were unsubstantiated. The Dayton and Mansfield Female program sites had no reports during 2016.

Figure 2.1



Legend: CRRP – Cincinnati Residential Reentry Program
DRRP – Dayton Residential Reentry Program
MRRP – Mansfield Residential Reentry Program
MRRPF – Mansfield Residential Reentry Program Female
TRRP – Toledo Residential Reentry Program

Problem Areas

Across all five residential reentry programs, Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio (VOAGO) served 2080 residents in CY2016. VOAGO served 660 more residents in CY2016 than in CY2015, but had 5 less reported PREA incidents. The number of reported PREA incidents (n= 10) is not disproportionate to the number of residents served in a twelve-month period. The Toledo program site had the majority of the reports and investigations which may indicate a cognizant vigilance to the detection prevention and response of sexual abuse or harassment. During this calendar year Toledo completed their PREA Audit and received extensive training on all standards.

The agency has a limited number of PREA investigators. This puts the burden of responsibility and time on to a select group of staff. Despite timely reporting of the incidents and safety of the residents secured, a trained investigator is not always available immediately. Thus there can be further delay in conducting the investigation and arriving at a disposition. Further training opportunities will need to be offered in the upcoming year.

Corrective Actions

- In review of the aggregated data from CY 2016, the majority of reports were of staff to resident incidents. Although only one of these was substantiated, staff across programs would benefit from additional training related to interpersonal communication and behaviors with residents. Training should include all staff, and target specifically the Resident Supervisor 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. Initial PREA training has also been added to the new hire training requirements so that all staff has training before any contact with residents.

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, to cover all program site locations
- Selection and training of additional victim advocates at all locations
- Additional training need for all staff/refresher training needed for current investigators.

Conclusion

The Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio 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 of Greater Ohio can maintain a safe environment for our clients.

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