



PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT: 2018 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.

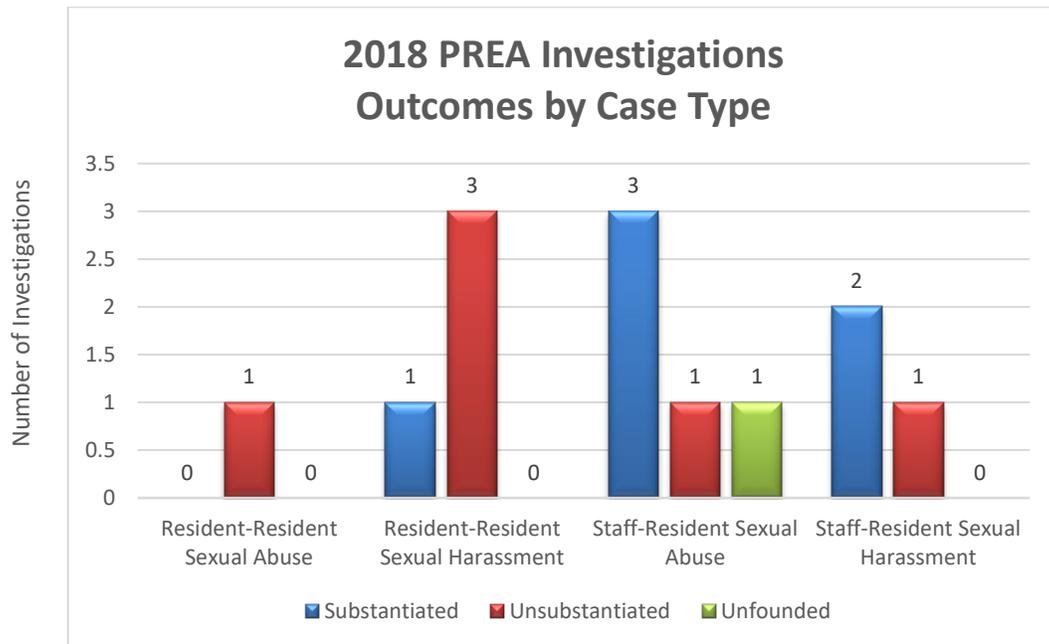
Aggregated Data

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) 2018.

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 thirteen reports. Of those, six were substantiated (one resident-to-resident, sexual harassment and five staff-to-resident abuse or harassment cases).

Figure 1.1

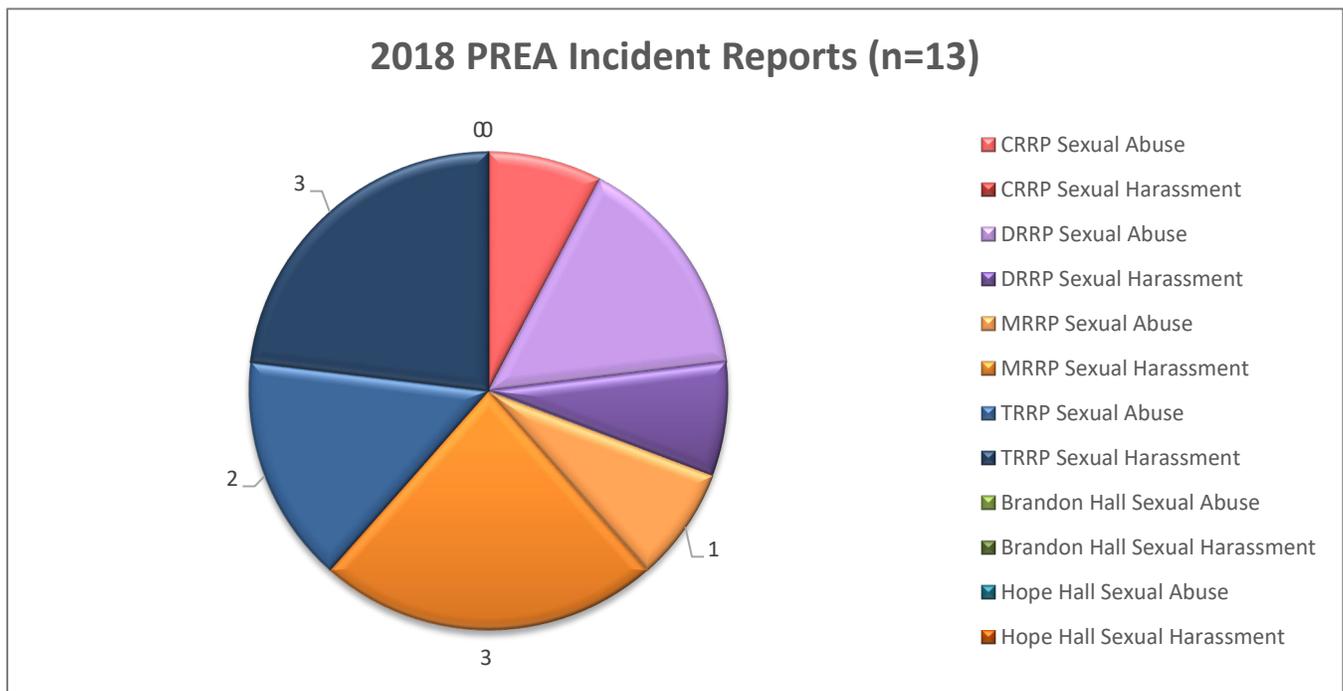


Comparative Data Analysis

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 2018. The data includes all 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. Two of the five cases were substantiated. The Cincinnati program had one report and it was substantiated. The Dayton program had three reports and two were substantiated. The Mansfield program site had four reports of sexual abuse or harassment during this reporting period and one was substantiated. There were zero allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in (CY) 2018 in our Indiana Residential Reentry Programs.

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 2260 residents in CY2018. VOA OHIN served 416 more residents in Ohio during CY2018 than in CY2017, but had the same number of reported PREA incidents. Indiana residential reentry programs served a total of 445 residents. Brandon Hall served 213 and Hope Hall served 232 in CY2018. The number of reported PREA incidents (n= 13) is not disproportionate to the number of residents served in a twelve-month period.

In review of the aggregated data from CY 2018, 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 calendar year the Residential Reentry Programs in Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo all completed their PREA Audits for year two and three of the audit cycle. All staff received extensive training on all standards. The facility was found compliant with all applicable standards for the audit cycle. Recommendations were made to staffing plans and to increase PREA trainings for staff in specific areas. All recommendations were completed before the final PREA Audit reports were finalized.

Despite timely reporting of the incidents and safety of the residents secured, a trained investigator was not always available immediately. Further training opportunities were offered for PREA investigators during CY2018 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. Another PREA Investigator training is scheduled in January of 2019 to ensure an adequate number of investigators are available at or near each site and in both states. Continued PREA trainings for all staff will be offered in the upcoming year.

The agency determined that there would be one PREA Coordinator serving both states and train additional staff in all locations to handle on site investigations and PREA compliance activities.

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, 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
- Refresher training for investigators last trained more than 2 years ago
- A review of PREA Training modules assigned to all staff in the online Relias 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.

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Company Information

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