



PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT: 2017 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

Purpose	1
Standards	1
Publications	1
Aggregated Data	2
Comparative Data Analysis	3
Problem Areas	4
Corrective Actions	5
Conclusion	6
Company Information	6

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.

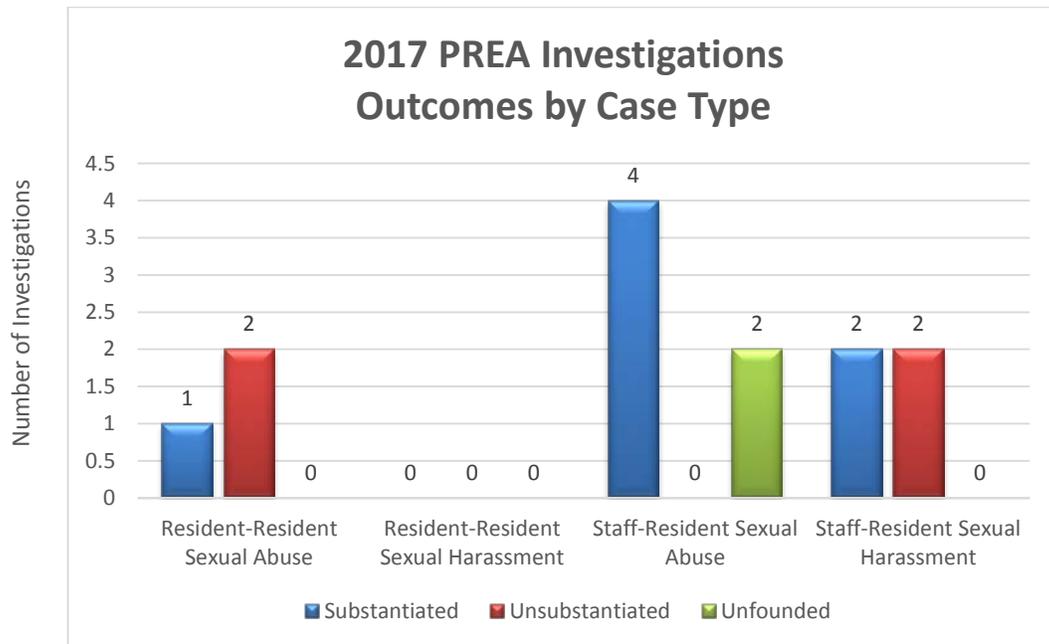
Aggregated Data

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) 2017.

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

Figure 1.1

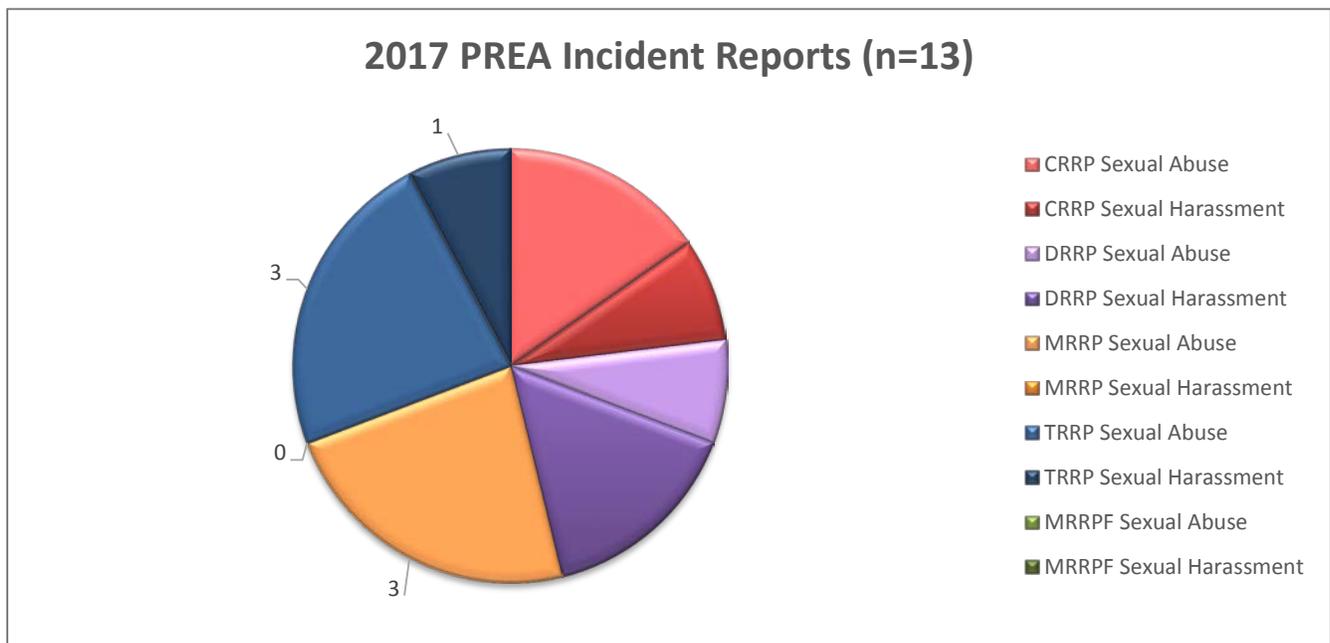


Comparative Data Analysis

The following graph (Figure 2.1) represents a comparison between our five reentry program sites for CY 2017 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. Two of the four cases were substantiated. The Cincinnati program had three reports and all three were substantiated. The Dayton program had three reports and one was substantiated. The Mansfield Male program site had the three reports of sexual abuse or harassment during this reporting period and one was substantiated. The Mansfield Female program site had no reports during 2017.

Figure 2.1



Program 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 1844 residents in CY2017. VOAGO served 236 less residents in CY2017 than in CY2016, but had 3 more reported PREA incidents. However, 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 2017, 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 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.

During this calendar year Mansfield RRP completed their PREA Audit and staff received extensive training on all standards. The facility was found compliant with all applicable standards for the audit cycle. Recommendations were made to update the SART form to include required information, update our agency application for employment, and increase PREA trainings for staff in specific areas. All recommendations were completed before the final PREA Audit report was finalized.

The agency had a limited number of PREA investigators in 2017. This put 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 was not always available immediately. Further training opportunities were offered at the end of the 2017 calendar year and an additional six investigators were trained covering a larger area across the state. Also the agency now has neutral PREA Investigators from our Human Resources and Quality Improvement Departments for any staff related investigations. Another PREA Investigator training is scheduled in January of 2018 to ensure an adequate number of investigators are available at or near each site. Continued PREA trainings for all staff will be offered in the upcoming year.

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

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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