



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual PREA Report

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Completed for the time period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Volunteers of America of Western New York, Inc. (VOA) is committed to meeting the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and ensuring the safety and security of residents/inmates and staff in our facilities. This report is a summary of our PREA compliance efforts throughout the fiscal year 2021-2022.

Following is a summary of the reports received during the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Inmate – on - Inmate Sexual Harassment Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
1	1	0	1

Inmate – on - Inmate Sexual Abuse Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	0	2	0

Staff, Volunteer, Contractor–on-Inmate Sexual Harassment Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	0	0	0

Staff, Volunteer, Contractor-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	0	0	0

There were five incidents reported during the time period. Four incidents were reported at VOA’s Residential Reentry Center (RRC) in Rochester, New York, and one incident was report at VOA’s Community-Based Residential Program (CBRP) for parolees in Binghamton. Two of the incidences were unfounded, one was unsubstantiated, one incident of sexual harassment was substantiated, and one incident is still under investigation.

All of the incidents involved inmates, and no allegations involved staff. The number of reported incidents (5 in total) is consistent with the number of reported incidents in the prior year, which was 4. It should be noted that that residents expressed knowledge of how to report and a comfort with reporting concerns to VOA staff. This information was obtained during incident investigations and by the certified PREA auditor who conducted the 2022 PREA audit of VOA’s Residential Reentry Center.



In analyzing the history of PREA incidents, the following trends have been noted:

- 1) The majority of reports are about possible sexual harassment, rather than sexual abuse. In most cases, residents report concerns about possible sexual advances or comments before a situation escalates, indicating an understanding of their rights and the process established to protect them, as well as trust in VOA staff. In addition, staff also report when they observe any behavior that is of concern, which helps to reduce sexual abuse. We attribute this to our focus on training, prevention efforts, and our zero-tolerance stance towards all forms of sexual abuse and harassment.
- 2) The majority of reports since 2019 have been unsubstantiated or unfounded. VOA has comprehensive policies and procedures in place to prevent sexual harassment and abuse, and we respond to reports/incidents immediately. Both staff and residents receive on-going education on how to identify sexual abuse and harassment and how to report suspected or observed incidents.

VOA will continue an ongoing monitoring of complaints and will ensure appropriate action is taken if any trends are identified.