



Calendar Year 2023 Annual PREA Report

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Reviewed and approved by: Dr. Junior Dillion, President & CEO

Completed for the time period of January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

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 calendar year of 2023.

Following is a summary of the reports received during the period of January 1 – December 31, 2023.

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

Inmate – on - Inmate Sexual Abuse Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	0	0	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 was one incident reported during the time period, which was reported at VOA’s Residential Reentry Center (RRC) in Rochester, New York. The incident at the RRC involved one allegation of sexual harassment, which was substantiated. No incidents were reported at VOA’s Community-Based Residential Program (CBRP) for parolees in Binghamton during this time period.

The one incident involved inmates, and no allegations involved staff. The number of reported allegations (1 in total) is less than the two prior years. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, there were 3 allegations and in the 2021-22 fiscal year, there were 5 allegations reported. It should be noted that that residents expressed knowledge of how to report a PREA allegation. 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 prevent/reduce sexual abuse/harassment. VOA attributes 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.
- 3) The sexual harassment allegation in 2023 was substantiated, and it was reported immediately after it occurred because the resident knew how to report and was comfortable reporting the situation to staff. As a result, it could be dealt with immediately and prevented a more serious situation from occurring.

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