

PREA Annual Report

2021



Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio

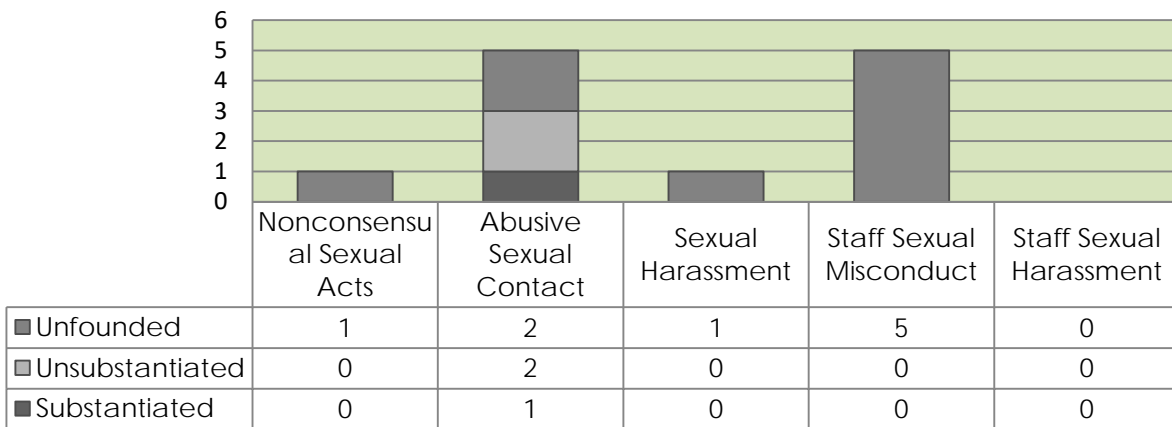
INTRODUCTION

In 2003, Congress passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act under the presidency of George W. Bush. Years of extensive research, analysis, and collaboration developed into the PREA standards set forth to implement change into prison and jail systems across the country. The Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio, more commonly known as CCNO, has been a proponent of this movement since its introduction. PREA §115.88 calls each agency to assess their internal processes regarding sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response. Essentially, it is up to each correctional operation to ensure their policies are effective in deterring and responding to instances of sexual abuse if and/or when they happen. Outlined in this report is CCNO's self-assessment on how to increase our effectiveness related to correctional sexual abuse.

DATA

Attached to this report, and also available on CCNO's website, are the PREA-related allegations and the outcomes of each investigation. CCNO saw a total of 12 reports in 2021: one (1) inmate non-consensual sexual act, five (5) inmate abusive sexual contact, one (1) inmate sexual harassment, and five (5) staff sexual misconduct. Although sexual harassment is included in the table, the focus of the annual report is on sexual abuse. As noted, there were 11 sexual abuse allegations in 2021; this number is down one allegation from 2020. Through investigations, it was found that eight were unfounded, two were unsubstantiated, and one was substantiated. The type of sexual abuse alleged more commonly involved inappropriate touching or voyeurism as opposed to non-consensual sexual acts, or rape as most easily understood.

2021 PREA Allegations by Type Reported & Investigation Outcome



The facility has undergone several surveillance upgrades to increase security throughout the years, and the use as well as review capability of the cameras has proven highly effective in deterring, detecting, and investigating PREA allegations. Security surveillance is consistently assessed for necessary additions at CCNO.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

After any sexual abuse investigation that is found to be either substantiated or unsubstantiated, PREA standards require an incident review meeting to discuss any corrective measures. A thorough evaluation of several aspects of each incident is conducted during these meetings. Upper level management as well as representatives from key departments are present to provide insight in their respective areas regarding each investigation.

The following is a list of specific corrective action measures adapted upon the incident review meetings:

- *No surveillance in the M Building bathroom areas.*

Corrective Action: Restroom sightline surveillance was added to other minimum dorms; however, M Building designs are set up differently and require more inquiry. CCNO leadership discussed this addition with the PREA auditors and counsel. With approval from both, CCNO will begin working on installation.

- *Need a clear understanding of SANE/SAFE procedures and protocols on notification.*

Corrective Action: The PREA Coordinator would provide refresher training for medical staff on what must occur if an inmate is sent out for a SANE/SAFE assessment.

The data reviewed for 2021 was of typical substance for CCNO historically. The number of allegations had decreased by five from the prior year and the investigations concluded that CCNO was compliant in response. Trends for reporting are difficult to predict, and 2021 data may not be indicative of what will emerge in 2022.

CONCLUSION

Mechanisms for consistency in responding, retaliation monitoring, and documenting that had been implemented with the change of PREA Coordinator in 2018 continue to prove helpful throughout 2021. Continued and


increased training for staff and contractors is recognized as a successful deterrent for sexual abuse and harassment as well as furthering education on detection and response to PREA-related events. CCNO is committed to perpetual evaluation of our processes in order to assess weaknesses, make improvements, and implement necessary changes to remain compliant with PREA standards.

SIGNATURE

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