



Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2020 Annual Report

Osceola County Corrections Department

James Kenney, PREA Coordinator

The Osceola County Corrections Department (OCCD) is committed to provide a safe, secure, and humane environment for the public, staff, and those requiring detention or supervision in Osceola County and meeting the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. This report is a summary of the agency's PREA compliance efforts.

Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2020 Annual Report

Purpose

Each year, an annual review is conducted to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training for the Osceola County Corrections Department, pursuant to §115.88 and §115.89 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the Department is required to:

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 to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas;
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis; and
 - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings.
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
3. Publish the annual report on the Osceola County website of its findings and corrective actions for the agency as a whole.

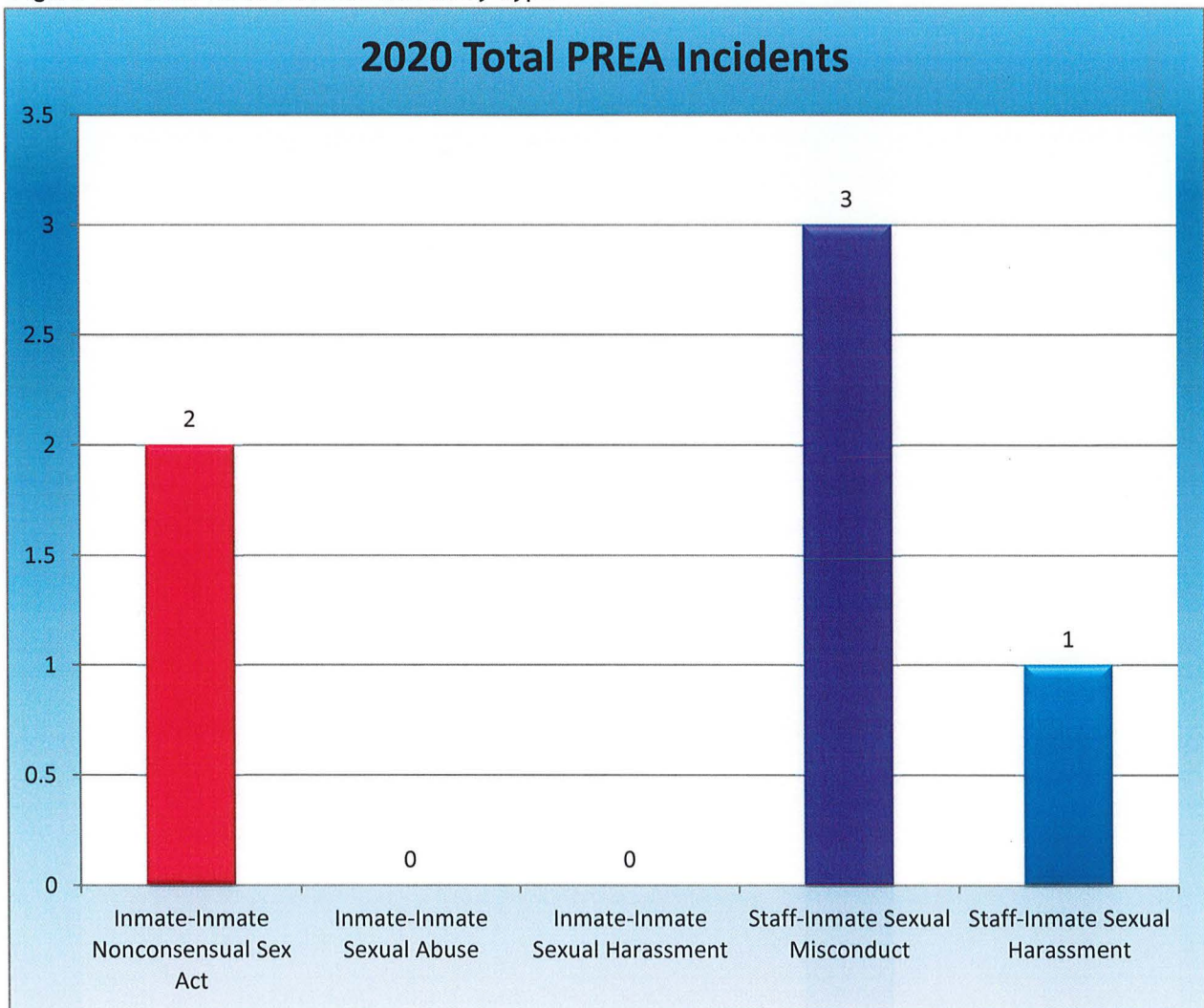
Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2020 Annual Report

Aggregate Data

The OCCD collects data from the referrals for investigation of sexual abuse/misconduct and sexual harassment; both inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate. This section contains the aggregate data for Calendar Year 2020.

The following graph depicts a breakdown of the 2020 sexual abuse/misconduct and sexual harassment data by type; referencing both inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate. This data includes all reported allegations at the facility in 2020. A total of six (6) allegations were reported during this time period. Five of those reported allegations were determined to be unfounded and one was determined to be not sustained.

Figure 1.1- 2020 PREA Case Breakdown by Type



Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2020 Annual Report

The two following graphs (Figure 2.1 & Figure 2.2) represent a comparison between Calendar Year 2019 and Calendar Year 2020 agency reports of sexual abuse/misconduct and sexual harassment. These totals include all of the reports received, irrespective of their case dispositions. In 2019, the total was eleven (11) while the total in 2020 was six (6).

Figure 2.1- 2019 Total PREA Reports (11)

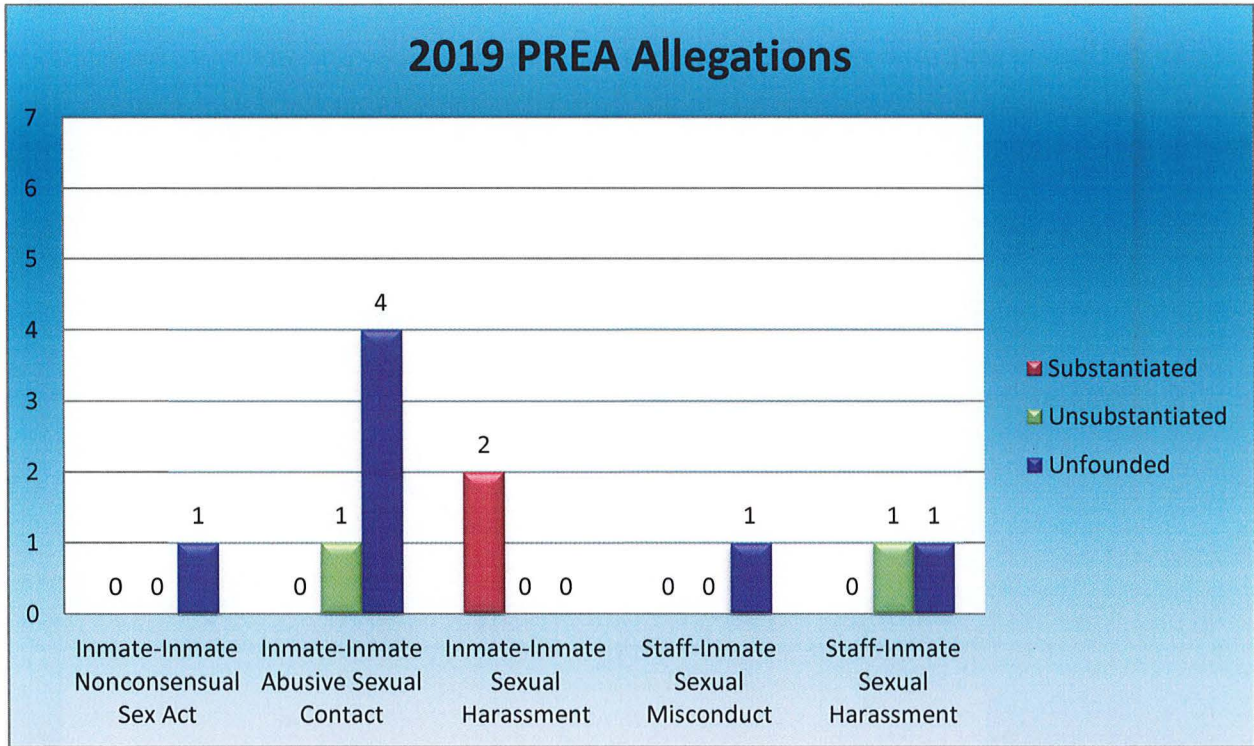
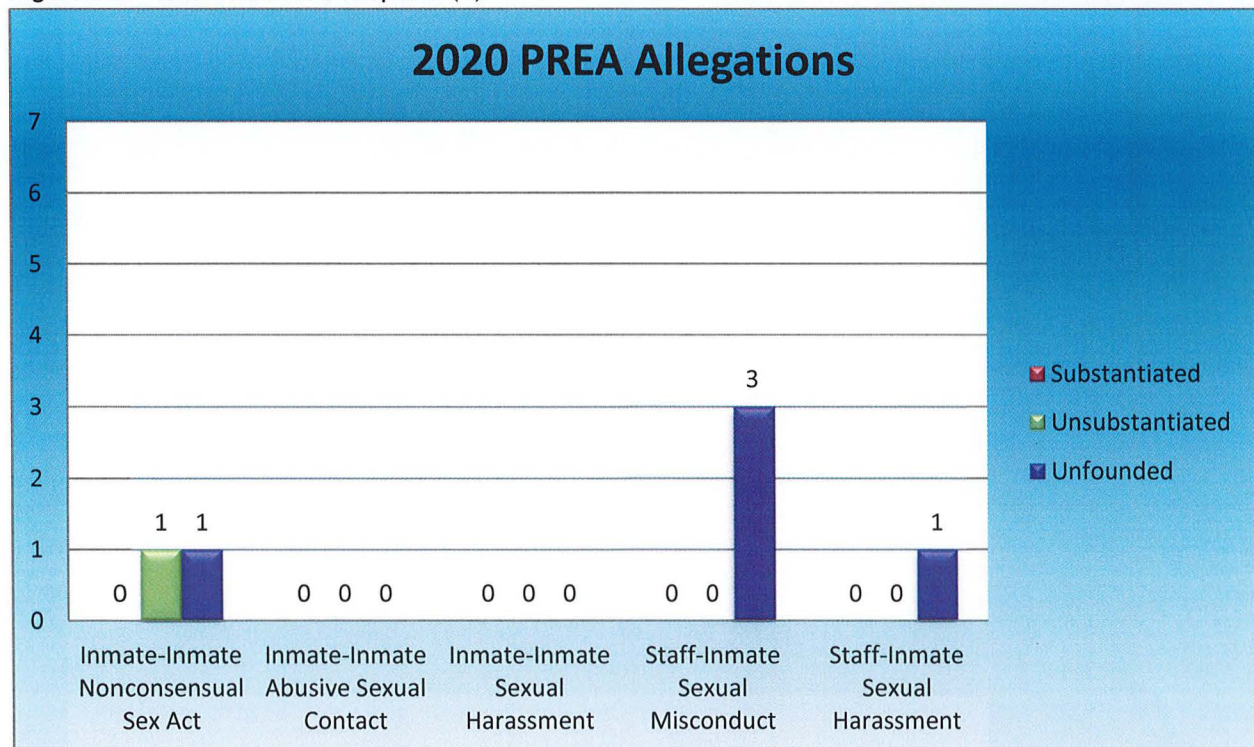


Figure 2.2- 2020 Total PREA Reports (6)

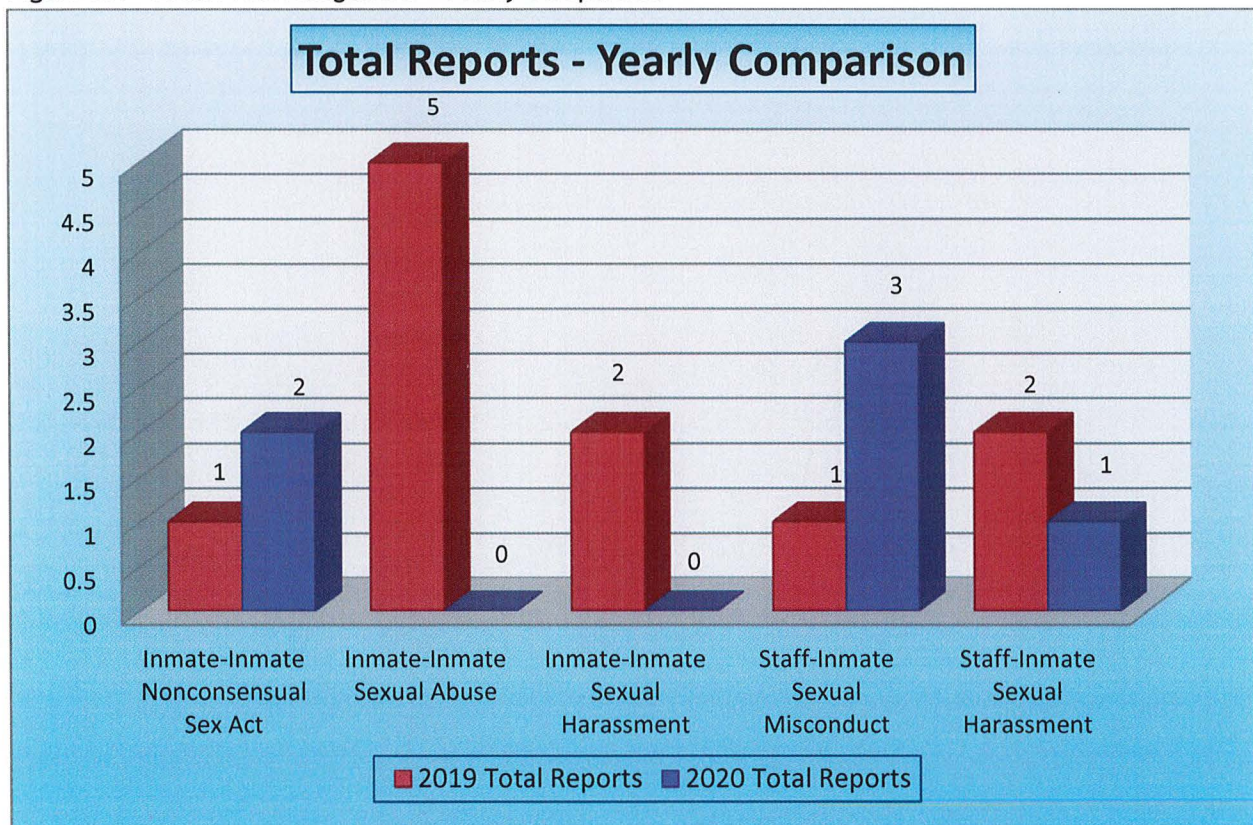


Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2020 Annual Report

Comparative Data Analysis

In 2020, the agency was required to make changes to our security operations in response to the national pandemic. These changes were necessary to limit the chances of infection of inmates and staff and to reduce the potential for spread of the virus once an inmate became infected. These changes required additional time locked inside the cell with less open dayroom time for the inmates. This being said, the agency was aware there was a potential for an increase in the number of sexual abuse allegations in 2020. However, as 2020 came to a close, the agency had realized a large reduction in the number of reported allegations from 2019. The chart below (Figure 3.1) compares the total number of allegations, in each category, over the two-year period, 2019 and 2020.

Figure 3.1- Total PREA Allegations - Yearly Comparison



The agency continues to see a significant number of the annual allegations that are investigated and determined to be unfounded. In 2019, seven (7) of the eleven (11) total reported allegations were unfounded. In 2020, five (5) of the six (6) total reported allegations were unfounded. This finding of unfounded requires one of two things; conclusive evidence that the allegation was false or that the inmate who submitted the allegation was being untruthful. The ability to clearly identify that the allegation is false is a credit to the investigative process and the work of our facility investigators. Notification to inmates regarding the outcome of the investigation helps to reinforce to the inmate population that the agency will not tolerate false allegations for manipulation purposes.

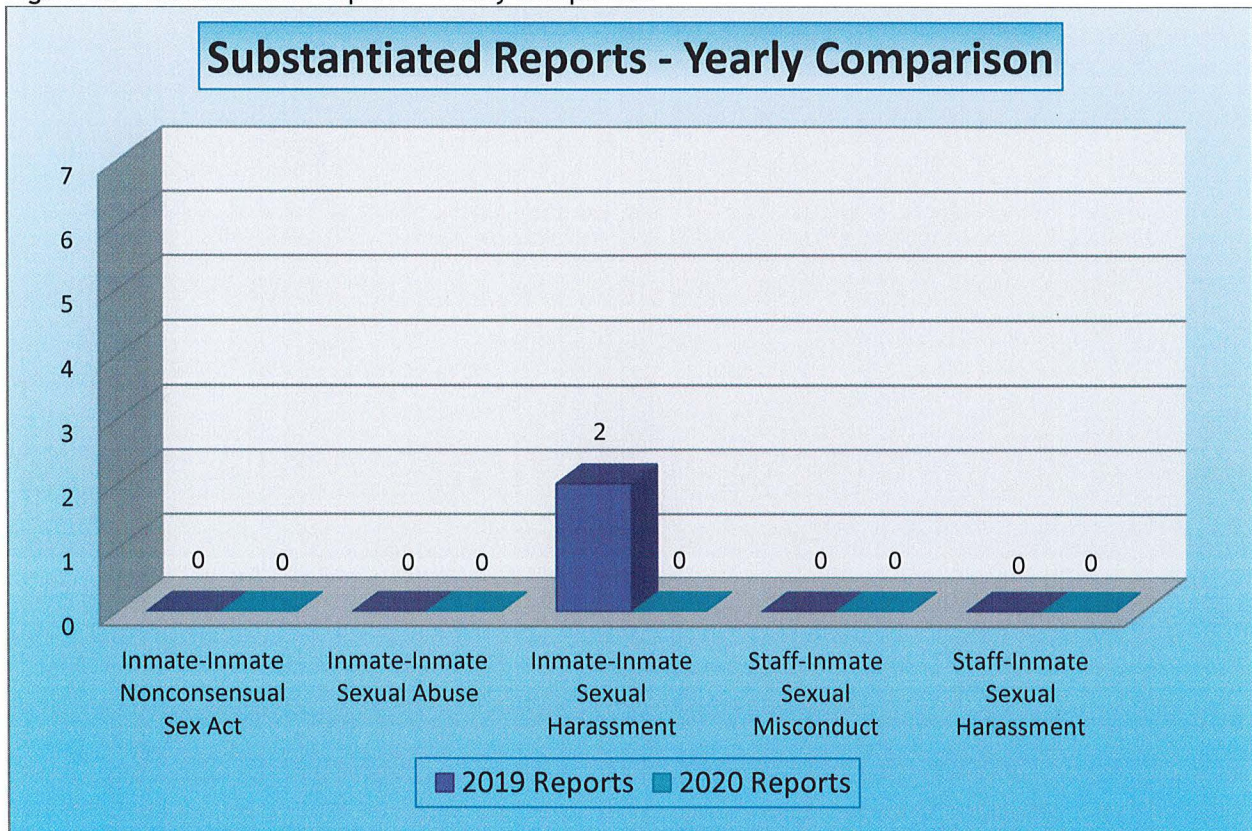
Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2020 Annual Report

It is often difficult for investigators to determine if an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment has merit, due to the lack of evidence. Many allegations of abuse are made by an individual when there are no available witnesses to either support or disprove the allegation. Also, the location of the allegation may be in an area where the facility does not have adequate camera coverage, such as inside a cell, a shower area or a restroom area. In either case, the lack of evidence could certainly cause an investigator to make a determination of not sustained if the alleged abuser denies the allegation.

If the investigation proves that an allegation of abuse or harassment has occurred, the allegation is determined to be substantiated. In 2020, there were zero allegations determined to be substantiated.

The chart below (Figure 3.2) illustrates the number of substantiated allegations over the two-year period, 2019 and 2020.

Figure 3.2- Substantiated Reports - Yearly Comparison



There were no indicators from the 2020 reported allegations of any abuse patterns that were specific to male or female inmates. Also, there were no indicators that abuse was occurring, or alleged to have occurred, in any specific areas. Therefore, the agency has not seen the need to make any changes to our current housing of inmates or deployment of staff and supervisors.

Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2020 Annual Report

Corrective Actions

The Osceola County Corrections Department continuously monitors the safety of inmates through the review of incidents by the Sexual Abuse Incident Review Team.

Each reported incident, regardless of the outcome, is reviewed by the team to determine:

- a. Whether the allegation indicates a need to change policy or practice;
- b. Whether the incident was motivated by a significant factor, such as race, gender, ethnicity, or gang affiliation;
- c. Whether physical barriers in the location where the incident occurred were a factor;
- d. Adequacy of staffing levels at the time of the incident; and
- e. Whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented in the area.

These reviews allow the agency to act and make any changes necessary to ensure the safety of all inmates. Facility leadership is dedicated to on-going monitoring and corrective action in order to sustain full PREA compliance.

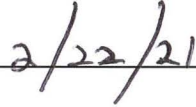
The agency has not identified any patterns of allegations or behavior based on the allegations of abuse in 2020. Therefore, no changes to our housing or staffing were indicated.

The agency continues to upgrade its substantial video monitoring system to provide the best opportunity to supplement the corrections officers' monitoring of inmates in the facility's housing units. Video monitoring enhances the safety for all inmates and staff. It will never replace the work of a corrections officer, but is another tool that can be utilized to enhance the safety and provide a greater level of sexual safety and allow for a prompt response of supervision and medical staff in the event of an emergency.

The agency will continue to provide annual training for all staff, volunteers and contractors to reinforce the agency's commitment to the prevention, detection, and response to allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.



Chief **Chief Bryan Holt**



Date