



Prison Rape Elimination Act: 2021 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.

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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.

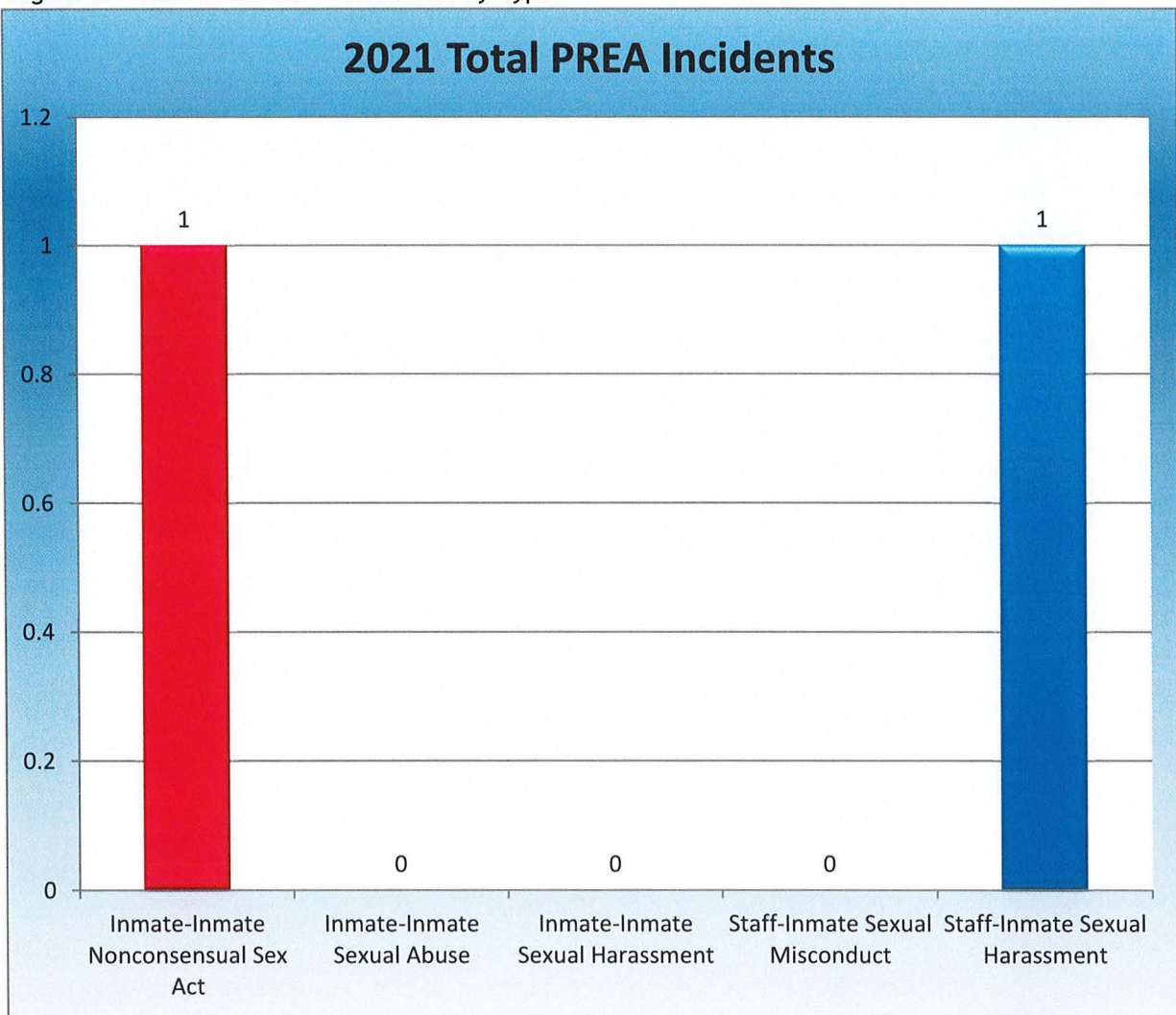
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Aggregate Data

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 2021.

The following graph depicts a breakdown of the 2021 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 2021. A total of two (2) allegations were reported during this time period. One of the reported allegations was determined to be unfounded and one was determined to be not sustained.

Figure 1.1- 2021 PREA Case Breakdown by Type



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The two following graphs (Figure 2.1 & Figure 2.2) represent a comparison between Calendar Year 2020 and Calendar Year 2021 agency reports of sexual abuse/misconduct and sexual harassment. These totals include all the reports received, irrespective of their case dispositions. In 2020, the total was six (6) while the total in 2021 was two (2).

Figure 2.1- 2020 Total PREA Reports (6)

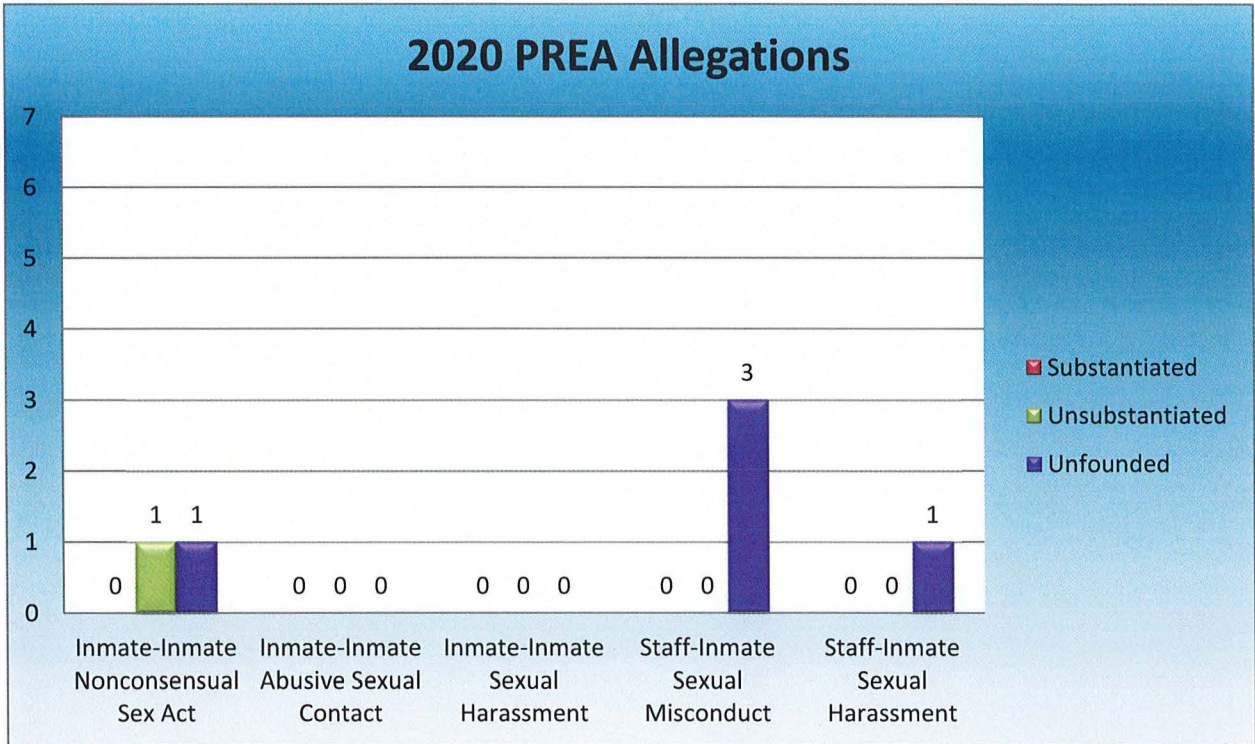
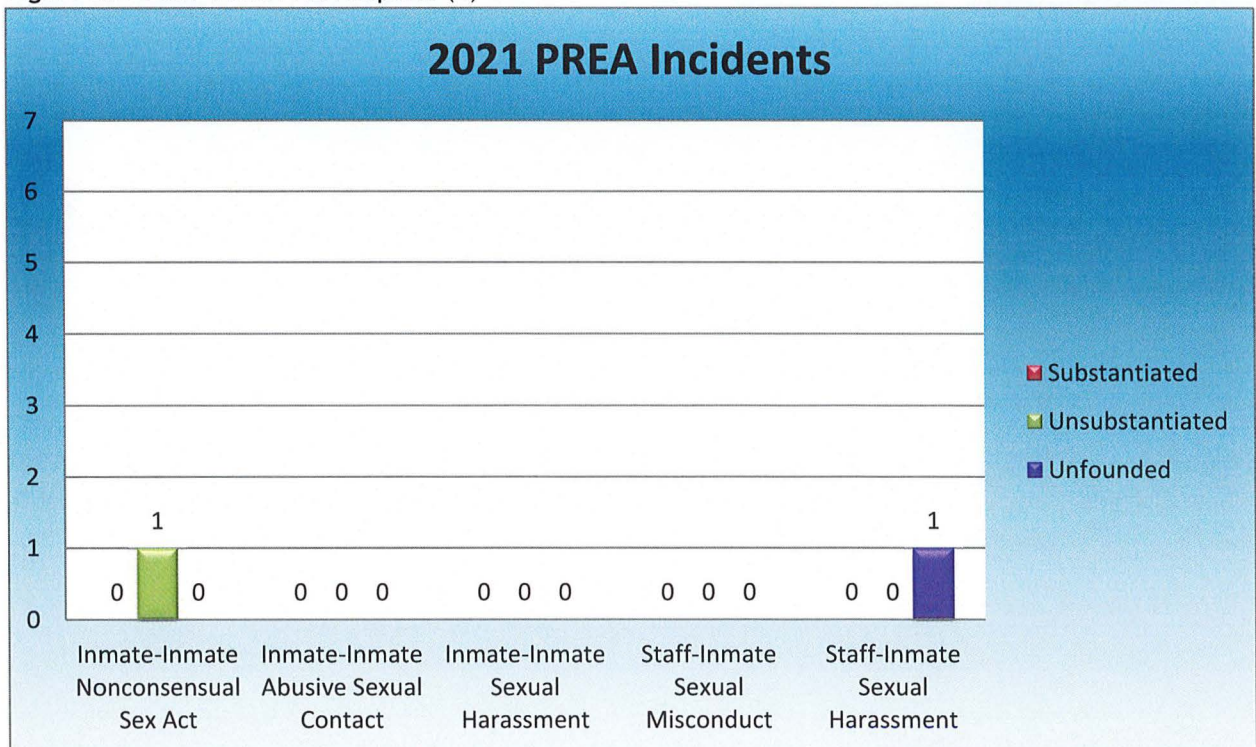


Figure 2.2- 2021 Total PREA Reports (2)

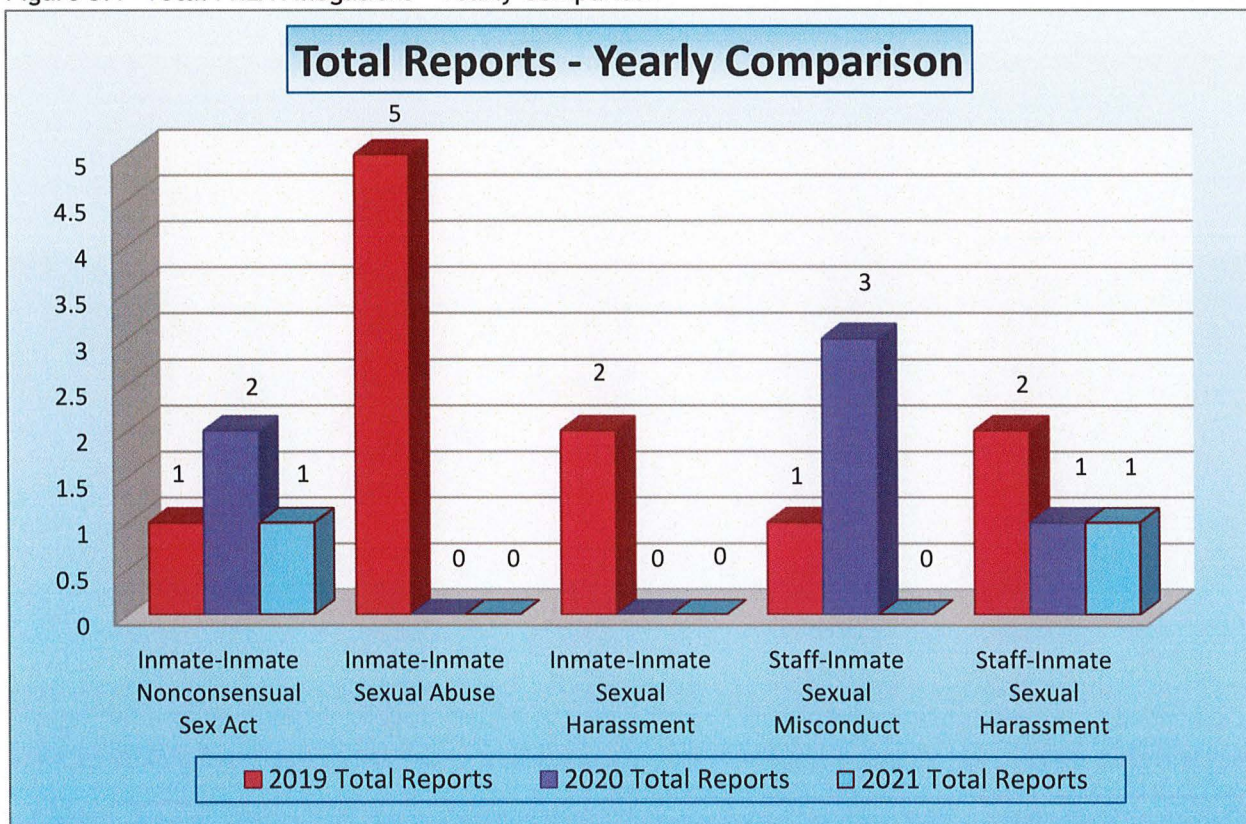


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Comparative Data Analysis

Due to the ongoing national pandemic, the agency continues to alter security operations in response to the overall health of the inmate population. As infection spreads throughout the facility, more housing units are placed on restrictive movement to attempt to halt the spread of the virus. Although changes have been made to the daily schedule to ensure that all inmates in every housing unit receive active dayroom time, inmates are still restricted in movement and confined in cells much longer than the agency would prefer. We are aware that this extended cell time could lead to a greater chance for sexual abuse inside cells, but thankfully, this increase has not been seen. In fact, the number of sexual abuse allegations in 2021 decreased again, an even greater reduction from 2019. The chart below (Figure 3.1) compares the total number of allegations, in each category, over the three-year period, 2019 through 2021.

Figure 3.1- Total PREA Allegations - Yearly Comparison



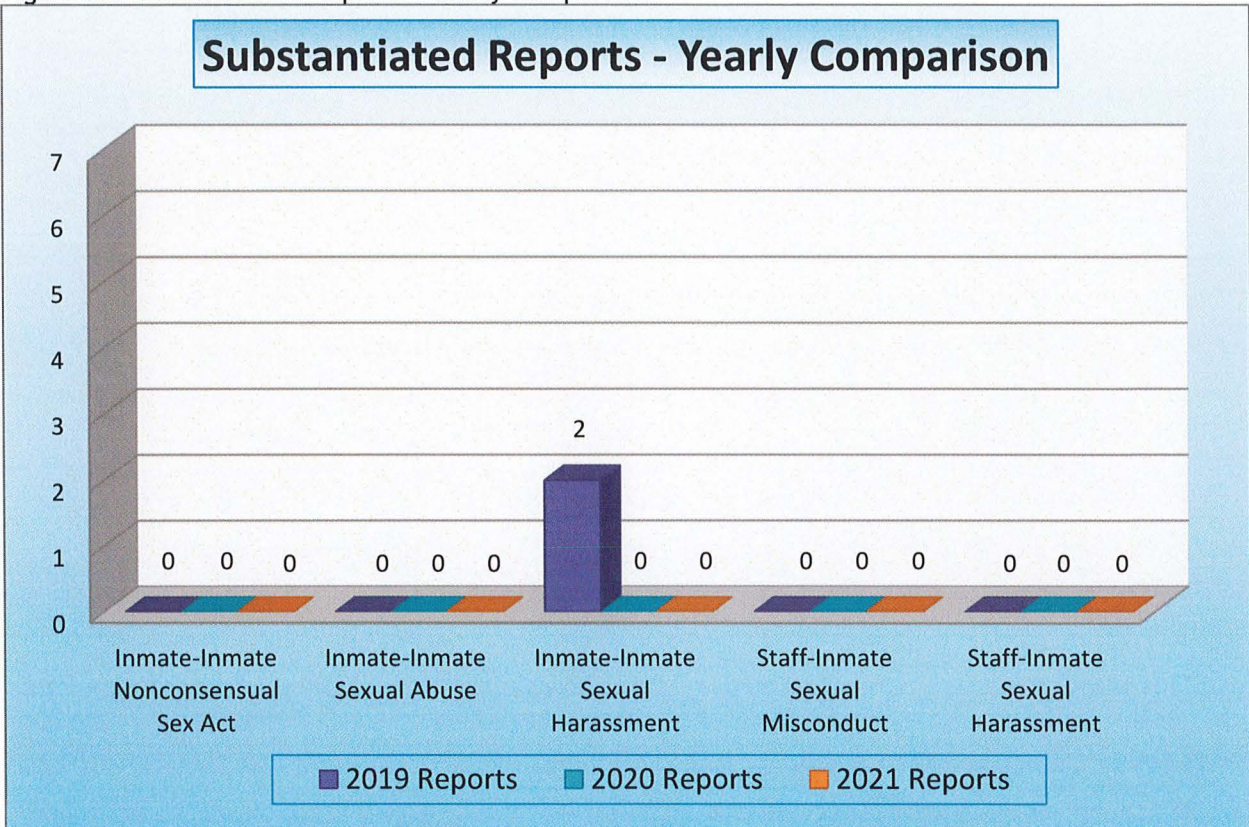
The agency continues to see a significant number of the annual allegations that are investigated and determined to be unfounded. In 2020, five (5) of the six (6) total reported allegations were unfounded. In 2021, one (1) of the two (2) allegations was determined to be unfounded. This finding of unfounded 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.

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If the investigation proves that an allegation of abuse or harassment has occurred, the allegation is determined to be substantiated. In 2021, there were zero allegations determined to be substantiated.

The chart below (Figure 3.2) illustrates the number of substantiated allegations over the three-year period, 2019 through 2021.

Figure 3.2- Substantiated Reports - Yearly Comparison



There are no indicators from the 2021 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.

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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.

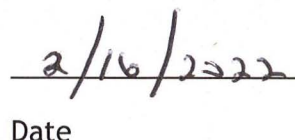
These reviews allow the agency to act and make any changes necessary to ensure the safety of all inmates. Facility leadership is dedicated to on-going monitoring and corrective action to sustain full PREA compliance.

The agency has not identified any patterns of allegations or behavior based on the allegations of abuse in 2021. 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. During 2021, over 100 digital cameras were installed throughout the facility. A strategic plan to add over 170 cameras in 2022 is in place.

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


Date