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NEW HAMPSHIRE
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Sununu Youth Services Center
Successful Youth ~ Strong Leaders ~ Safer Communities

**New Hampshire Sununu Youth Services Center
Prison Rape Elimination Act
2016 Annual Report**

The New Hampshire John H. Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC) has a zero tolerance policy for all acts of sexual abuse and harassment consistent with the Prison Rape Elimination Act Juvenile Facility Standards. These standards are established to prohibit and prevent sexual abuse and harassment and to detect, report, investigate, and address any allegation of abuse or harassment involving any youth in the custody of SYSC and its licensed or contracted residential program providers.

In 2003, President Bush signed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) into law. The Department of Justice (DOJ) developed national standards for implementation by federal, state, and local correctional organizations. The intended purpose of these standards was to provide comprehensive guidelines for preventing, detecting, and eliminating incidents of sexual abuse and harassment involving adult inmates and youth in detention and residential facilities. After public review and comment, the DOJ published final PREA Juvenile Facility Standards which became effective on August 20, 2012. According to the PREA standards and definitions, SYSC must comply with these standards.

SYSC is committed to providing safe and secure environments for youth. Extensive efforts are taken to comprehensively investigate all reported allegations of sexual abuse and harassment either administratively or criminally. Depending on the nature of an allegation, investigations may be conducted in conjunction with the Division of Children, Youth and Families Special Investigations Services Unit, the Department of Health and Human Services Ombudsman Office, the New Hampshire State Police and/or the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office. The SYSC Management team reviews all administrative or criminal investigations to determine the need for corrective actions, which may include, but is not limited to, policy revision, procedural review/modification, or disciplinary actions up to termination.

Pursuant to PREA Juvenile Facility Standards §115.387 and §115.388, the Department is mandated to collect data for each allegation of sexual abuse occurring in its facilities. This data includes, at a minimum, the data required to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Victimization published by the U.S. Department of Justice- Bureau of Justice Statistics. Additionally, the Department is required to obtain incident-based and aggregate data from contracted private providers; however, this is not currently applicable as there are no contracted private providers. The Department redacts specific material from publication such as personal identifying information and information that would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of the facility.

This report presents the DOJ Survey of Sexual Victimization data for calendar years 2014, 2015 and 2016. Data is categorized in the following areas.

- Youth-on-Youth Nonconsensual Sexual Acts
- Youth-on-Youth Abusive Sexual Contact
- Staff-on-Youth Sexual Misconduct
- Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment
- Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment (added by DOJ in 2013)

The DOJ Survey of Sexual Victimization defines four investigation outcomes.

- **Substantiated** – the event was investigated and determined to have occurred, based on a preponderance of the evidence (28 C.F.R. §115.72).
- **Unsubstantiated** – the investigation concluded that evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred.
- **Unfounded** – the investigation determined that the event did not occur.
- **Investigation Ongoing** – evidence is still being gathered, processed or evaluated, and a final determination has not yet been made.

SUNUNU YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

3 YEAR PREA SUMMARY

(Prison Rape Elimination Act)

2014-2016

In 2014, SYSC was refining the PREA reporting techniques for the facility. In 2015, as the staff became more familiar with the reporting process, and the youth were becoming more connected with the process of reporting and asserting their rights, the PREA allegation rate increased 4 fold. This can also be attributed somewhat to the staff erring on the side of caution, and over-reporting when unsure if an allegation met PREA guidelines or not. In 2016, even though the population increased by 40%, the PREA allegation rate dropped more than 50%, and the overall allegation numbers fell almost as much.

Recognizing that the PREA allegation rate will fluctuate depending on the dynamic of youth in the facility in any given year, SYSC Management Team understands that it has a responsibility to respond to the trend. While striving to accurately report all PREA allegations, staff are more aware of instances which could result in sexual harassment or sexual assault, and are able to act preemptively to create an atmosphere of prevention.

ALLEGATIONS BY YOUTH DAYS/1000	Number of Admissions	Number of Stays	Number of Youth	Average Length	Total Days	1000 Youth Days	PREA Allegations	Allegations Per 1000 Youth Days
2014	311	379	235	54.36	20601.6	20.6	26	1.26
2015	283	327	205	52.52	17174.8	17.2	92	5.35
2016	343	407	264	60.83	24795.4	24.8	56	2.26

Table 1

SYSC analyzes all PREA allegations by month. Over the last 3 years, the data indicates there are two periods of increased youth PREA harassment allegations; those two periods being January and February during the winter and June and July during the summer. This data coincides with seasonal and programmatic changes at the facility. As with most populations, change usually creates a period of increased stress and a decrease in frustration tolerance. This may be a transitional factor to the increase in PREA allegations.

Recognizing these seasonal influences, staffing patterns at SYSC are adjusted and programs are tailored to provide opportunities for youth to occupy their time in developmentally appropriate outlets.

ALLEGATIONS BY MONTH	HARRASSMENT						ASSAULT						TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT	
	Unfounded			Founded			Unfounded			Founded					
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016			
JAN	1	3	3	0	5	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	19	10.9%
FEB	2	4	5	0	5	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	20	11.5%
MAR	0	0	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5.7%
APR	3	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	6.9%
MAY	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4.0%
JUN	2	4	5	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	13.8%
JUL	0	9	1	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	12.1%
AUG	1	5	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	8.0%
SEP	0	7	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	7.5%
OCT	0	5	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7.5%
NOV	0	1	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6.3%
DEC	0	2	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5.7%
TOTAL	10	42	28	16	48	24	0	2	3	0	0	1	174		

Table 2

Over the 3 year period, reporting by males and females is almost identical. However, as SYSC populations tend to be more male than female, females are more over-represented in PREA allegations data. SYSC staff on female housing units recognize this and are extra vigilant to these types of behavior. Although the data does not show any trends whether or not gender plays a role on whether a PREA allegation tends to be founded or unfounded, SYSC continues to assess these factors.

ALLEGATIONS BY GENDER	HARRASSMENT						ASSAULT						TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT
	Unfounded			Founded			Unfounded			Founded				
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016		
FEMALE	1	27	12	7	26	9	0	2	2	0	0	0	86	49.4%
MALE	9	15	16	9	22	15	0	0	1	0	0	1	88	50.6%
TOTAL	10	42	28	16	48	24	0	2	3	0	0	1	174	

Table 3

This table shows PREA allegations can occur in any location. However, almost 50% of PREA allegations are reported in the residential areas, most likely because that is where youth spend the majority of their time and are able to socialize more freely and more frequently than in other areas of the facility. The Gym appears to be over-represented which may be accounted for by the language related to the competitive nature of activities in that area. SYSC staff make an effort to recognize and intervene in situations before sexual harassing behavior can occur.

ALLEGATIONS BY LOCATION OF VICTIM	HARRASSMENT						ASSAULT						TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT
	Unfounded			Founded			Unfounded			Founded				
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016		
RESIDENTIAL FLOOR	5	12	14	4	32	9	0	1	2	0	0	1	80	46.0%
SCHOOL	4	9	6	4	9	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	41	23.6%
DINING AREA	1	5	4	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	12.1%
GYM	0	13	3	3	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	24	13.8%
CHAPEL	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.7%
OTHER	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.9%
TOTAL	10	42	28	16	48	24	0	2	3	0	0	1	174	

Table 4

SYSC reviews PREA allegations by age. PREA allegations by age tend to mirror the population at large, not showing that younger youth are over-represented or other general trends. SYSC staff is always mindful of activities that could result in a PREA allegation and closely supervise interactions between various age groups.

ALLEGATIONS BY AGE OF VICTIM	HARRASSMENT						ASSAULT						TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT
	Unfounded			Founded			Unfounded			Founded				
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016		
13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.1%
14	0	4	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	6.9%
15	1	15	8	3	14	9	0	2	1	0	0	0	53	30.5%
16	7	10	8	10	22	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	68	39.1%
17	1	12	8	3	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	22.4%
TOTAL	10	42	28	16	48	24	0	2	3	0	0	1	174	

Table 5

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Division for Children, Youth and Families - Sununu Youth Services Center works tirelessly to reduce and eliminate sexual abuse and harassment within this facility. A critical part of eliminating sexual abuse and harassment is to implement each standard established by PREA. The PREA coordinator's responsibility is to oversee and audit the agency's compliance with the PREA standards including conducting mock audits throughout the year to accomplish the goals and objectives set out by the facility and the PREA standards.

SYSC has trained all 153 facility staff on PREA standards. This includes all direct care, educational and support staff. SYSC has implemented pre-interview screening process regarding PREA for all potential candidates based on the PREA standards. All staff undergo background checks for criminal and abusive histories. Upon hiring, all staff participate in an initial PREA orientation and sign an understanding statement. All staff participate in the initial certification during their "academy training" and all staff participate in annual-PREA re-certification.

SYSC ensures all volunteers and contractors participate in the appropriate screening process and PREA orientation/training.

SYSC has continuously improved and enhanced the admissions process for youth to include a comprehensive orientation to the prevention and reporting of sexual abuse and harassment. Education regarding PREA continues with youth as they progress through unit orientation during pre-classification, the classification process, treatment planning process and throughout the youth's stay in the facility. Each residential unit ensures PREA related information related to youth rights, protections, and reporting is posted on each floor and community room.

SYSC utilizes a comprehensive video surveillance system to assist with the detection and prevention of sexual abuse and harassment. Over the past year, SYSC has increased video surveillance on the Crisis Stabilization Unit to ensure that the most vulnerable youth receive additional supports regarding safety and compliance with PREA standards.

SYSC continues to build and maintain relationships with community victim resources to ensure youth have access to third-party advocacy services when requested. These relationships are fostered with ongoing conversations and memorandums of understanding.

Appendix A

The following information is provided to complete the information required by the latest version of the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics' Survey of Sexual Victimization – State Juvenile Systems Summary Form (SSV-5).

SYSC is the only secure detention and commitment facility in the State of New Hampshire for juveniles charged with criminal offenses. All juveniles at SYSC are under the age of 18. Between 1/1/2016 to 12/31/16, SYSC had 343 admissions (or change of status) by 228 individuals. There were also 341 discharges, by 227 individuals. SYSC records all allegations of youth-on-youth nonconsensual sexual acts, abusive sexual contact, and sexual harassment.

SYSC records all allegations of staff-on-youth sexual abuse. During 2016, there was 1 such allegation, the investigation is ongoing.

SYSC records all allegations of staff-on-youth sexual harassment. During 2016 there were no such allegations

The following table shows the total SYSC population on the last day of each calendar year from 2014 to 2016.

ANNUAL POPULATION	GENDER		
	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
12/31/2014	16	29	45
12/31/2015	21	43	64
12/31/2016	14	52	66