



# Prison Rape Elimination Act

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## 2021 Annual Report

### Hermitage House Youth Services

#### Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report

#### Findings and Corrective Actions – 2021

Jen Boyle, PREA Coordinator

Hermitage House Youth Services (HHYS), in its continuing effort to provide quality care to youth entrusted to the agency's treatment and therapeutic programming, is committed to the safety of all juvenile residents and to the compliance with the standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003. HHYS has a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of juveniles and is committed to the prevention, detection and response to this conduct.

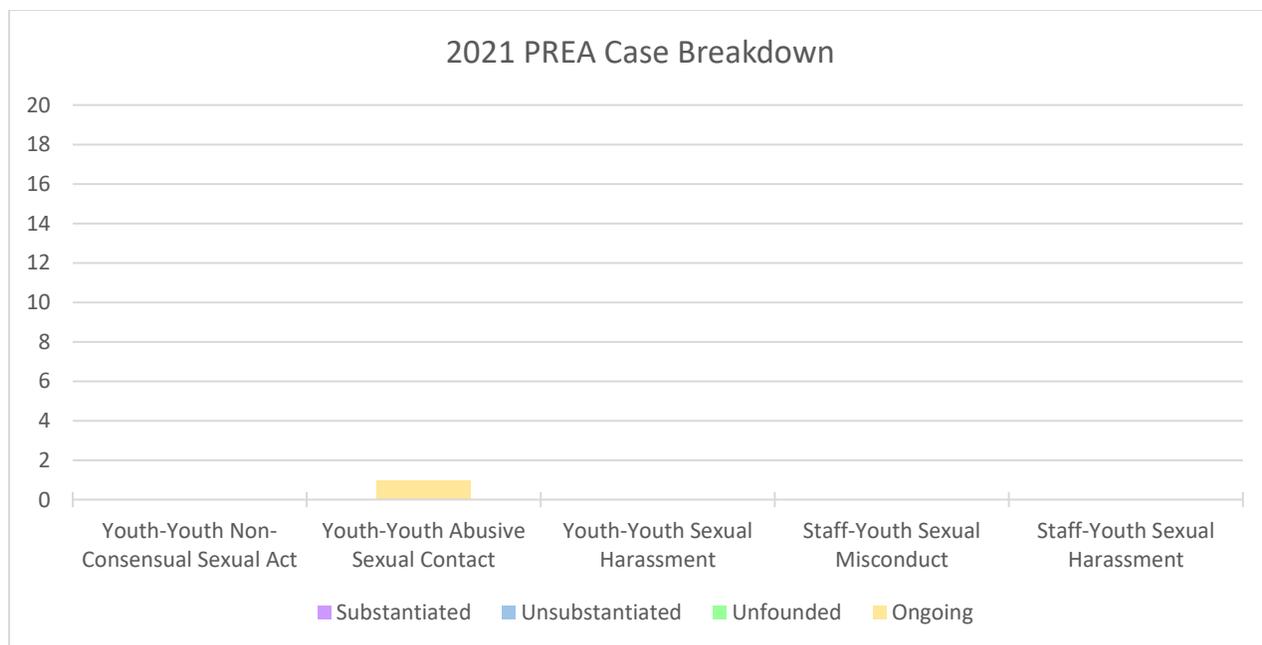
Hermitage House is dedicated to providing staff and residents with education, training, policies and procedures designed to promote the safety of all individuals. Additionally, HHYS employs an agency-level PREA Coordinator to develop, implement and oversee the agency's compliance with PREA standards.

HHYS continues to revise and implement all aspects of the PREA regulations to further comply with the PREA standards. Below is a summary of reported incidents from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, along with our findings and corrective action(s) taken pursuant to standard 115.387, which shall be considered our annual report and posted for the public on the HHYS website at: <https://www.hermitagehouse.org/accreditation>.

## Summary and Findings:

In 2021, Hermitage House Youth Services (HHYS) had the following PREA reports within its facilities:

Youth on Youth Non-Consensual Sexual Acts =	<b>0</b> Reports:	0 Substantiated 0 Unsubstantiated 0 Unfounded 0 Pending	<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><u>Substantiated:</u> <i>The event was determined to have occurred, based on a preponderance of the evidence</i></p> <p><u>Unsubstantiated:</u> <i>Evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred</i></p> <p><u>Unfounded:</u> <i>The investigation determined that the event did NOT occur</i></p> <p><u>Ongoing:</u> <i>Evidence is still being gathered and a final determination has not yet been made</i></p>
Youth on Youth Abusive Sexual Contact =	<b>1</b> Reports:	0 Substantiated 0 Unsubstantiated 0 Unfounded 1 Pending	
Youth on Youth Sexual Harassment =	<b>0</b> Reports:	0 Substantiated 0 Unsubstantiated 0 Unfounded 0 Pending	
Staff Sexual Misconduct with Youth =	<b>0</b> Reports:	0 Substantiated 0 Unsubstantiated 0 Unfounded 0 Pending	
Staff Sexual Harassment of Youth =	<b>0</b> Reports:	0 Substantiated 0 Unsubstantiated 0 Unfounded 0 Pending	

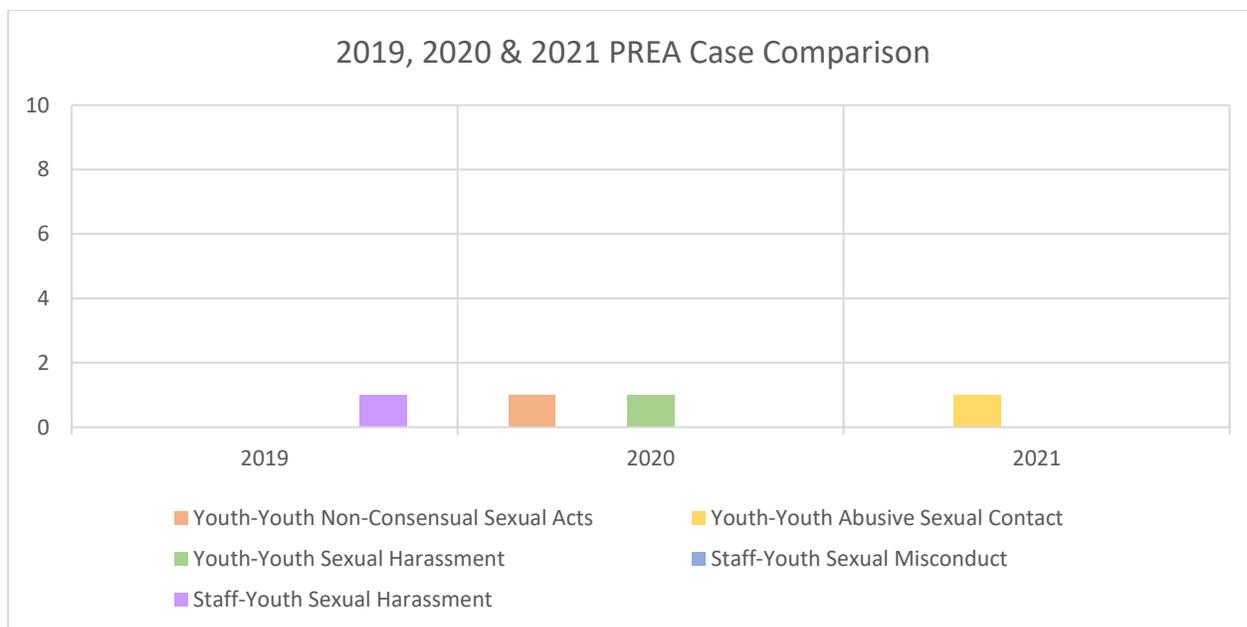


### Corrective Action Plans:

The following corrective actions were taken with regard to the received report:

Regarding the reported youth on youth abusive sexual contact, appropriate investigations were initiated and appropriate safety planning was developed and followed. Education and counseling were provided to each youth involved. A criminal investigation is still underway.

To provide an assessment of the agency’s progress in addressing sexual misconduct, the following is a comparison of the previous and current years’ data:



For the past several years, HHYS has been determined to update and increase video surveillance within agency buildings to further deter sexual misconduct and to improve investigative processes should an incident occur. HHYS has continued to upgrade its video surveillance system throughout the 2021 year. In 2020, video surveillance system upgrades and installation of additional cameras was completed in three living units and had begun in two more. Those two living units’ updates were completed as well as a full update/additional camera installation of a third living unit within the 2021 year. HHYS currently benefits from over 60 video surveillance cameras across its campus.

## PREA Compliance Audits:

HHYS facilities have been successfully audited in previous years. Hermitage House completed a PREA audit in 2017, during the second PREA Audit Cycle, and was deemed to be in full compliance. One of two facilities, HHYS Main Campus, was audited at that time. The other facility, South Campus, did not meet the criteria and requirements to necessitate a PREA audit. All facilities, however, are in full compliance.

HHYS's subsequent audit took place November 29-30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, completing audit requirements within the third PREA Audit Cycle. HHYS Main Campus was audited at that time. Prior to the audit, South Campus Girls program was integrated onto HHYS's Main Campus facility, leaving only Girls Transitional Living Program on the South Campus site. South Campus did not meet the criteria and requirements to necessitate a PREA audit. All facilities, however, continued to meet full compliance. Through the audit process, HHYS has implemented changes to further enhance its execution of PREA standards and promote safety for its residents. HHYS has applied additional PREA education for residents, additional supervisory checks of staff and residents, and amplified our reporting resources for the general public, including annual reports such as this.

Hermitage House continues to strive for excellence in providing safety and supervision within our programs, and is therefore committed to on-going growth, development and implementation of all PREA standards.

Completed By: Jennifer Boyle, PREA Coordinator



Approved By: Kristy Cole-Prenatt, Associate Executive Director

*Kristy Cole-Prenatt*