



## The Connection's Community Justice Service Area PREA Annual Report 2019

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### Background

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The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was unanimously passed in 2003 by the United States Congress and signed into federal law in September 2014. The purpose of the law is to provide a set of standards to prevent, detect, and eliminate sexual assault and sexual harassment of individuals in covered facilities. These standards apply to The Connection's community confinement facilities within the Community Justice Service Area. In response to these standards, The Connection developed core policy establishing zero-tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment and additional policies addressing the response to, and reporting of, all such allegations. These policies apply to the following programs: Sierra Center Pre-Trial, Sierra Center Work Release, Roger Sherman House, Cochegan House, Connection House, Eddy Center, and The January Center.

The PREA Coordinator works closely with the Department of Corrections, Community Supervision Support Services, and the Connecticut State Police to respond to all allegations involving client sexual abuse, client sexual harassment, staff sexual misconduct, and staff sexual harassment in our community confinement facilities. Staff and clients are educated on the agency's zero tolerance policy, the multiple avenues for reporting allegations, the appropriate response to allegations, and the agency's zero tolerance policy on retaliation. Additionally, these programs, with the exception of The January Center, have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence to provide services, support, advocacy, and counseling for clients who report that they have experienced sexual harassment or sexual abuse regardless of the outcome of any investigation. The services provided by the Alliance are free of charge to the client.

As an annual requirement, the PREA Coordinator reports all allegations and findings to the Department of Justice. Below you will find the definitions for the results of allegations. Additionally, the following pages include the Department of Justice's definitions of the allegation category with tables including totals of reported allegations by category.

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### Year in Review: 2019

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In 2019, there was 1 PREA Audit conducted at the Eddy Center. The final report has not been received by this agency.

In 2019, there were a total of thirteen (13) PREA allegations in the Community Justice Residential programs. Of those thirteen, eight (8) were at The January Center, two (2) were at Sierra Center Work Release, and two (2) were at the Roger Sherman House. The nature of the allegations and findings are summarized in the tables below.



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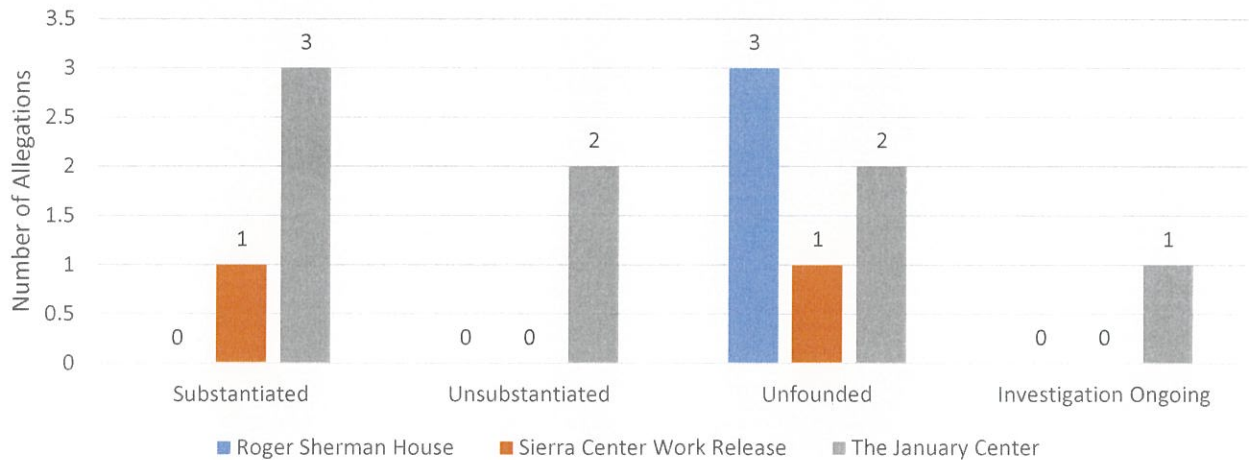
Total Allegations by Program 2019



**Outcome Definitions**

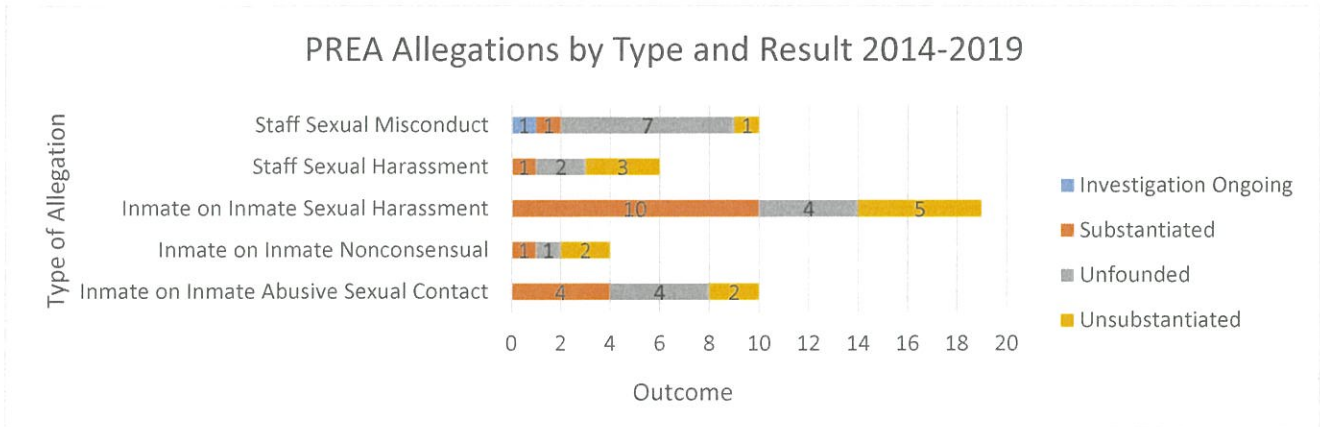
- **Substantiated allegation:** The allegation was determined to have occurred by a preponderance of evidence.
- **Unsubstantiated allegation:** The evidence was insufficient to make a final determination that the allegation was true or false.
- **Unfounded allegation:** The allegation was determined not to have occurred.

Allegations by Outcome per Program 2019

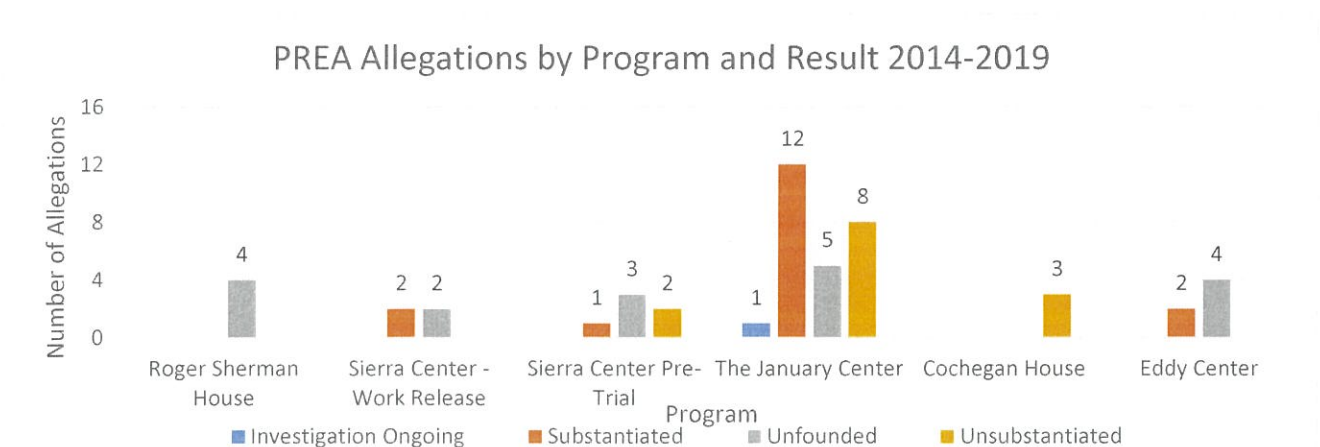
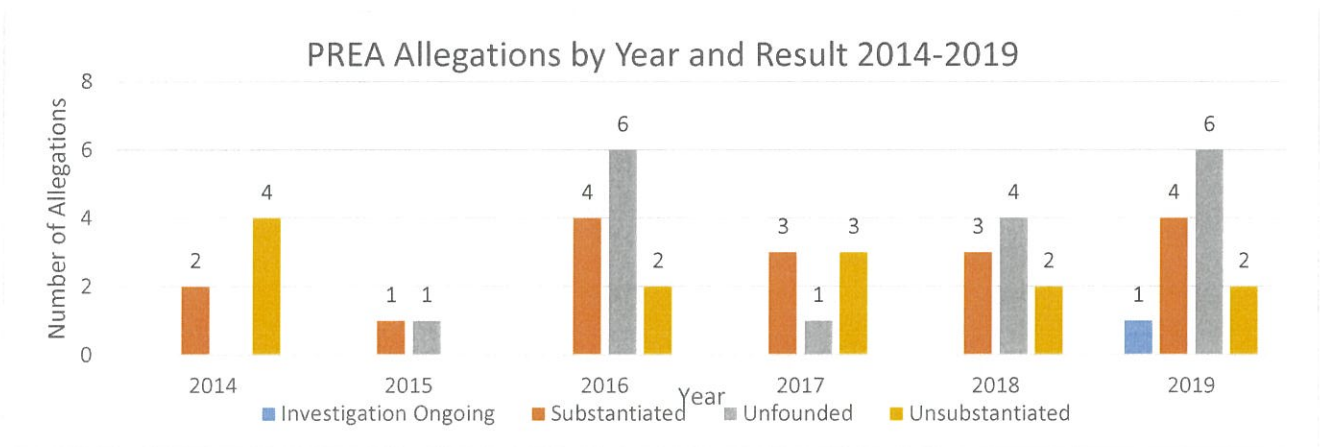


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**Total Allegations by Category and Result 2014-2019**



The 2019 allegations were split between client on client (8 allegations) and staff on client (5 allegations). One (1) staff on client allegation is still pending a CT State Police investigation. With continued staff training it is hoped that instances of staff on client sexual misconduct and staff on client sexual harassment will decrease and become a smaller percentage of all allegations.



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**Category Definitions**

- **Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Acts**

Sexual contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent AND contact between the penis and the vulva or penis and the anus including penetration, however slight OR contact between the mouth and penis, vulva, or anus OR penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument.

Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Acts							
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unsubstantiated	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Unfounded	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

- **Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact**

Sexual contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent AND intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person. Does not include any incident in which the sexual contact was incidental to a physical altercation.

Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact							
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Substantiated	1	1	1	1	0	0	4
Unsubstantiated	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Unfounded	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

- **Client on Client Sexual Harassment**

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one client directed toward another.

Client on Client Sexual Harassment							
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Substantiated	1	0	2	2	2	3	10
Unsubstantiated	3	0	1	0	0	2	6
Unfounded	0	1	2	0	0	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>

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- **Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct**

Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a client by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor or other agency representative (exclude family, friend, or other visitors). Consensual and nonconsensual sexual acts include - Intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire OR completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts OR occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy, or staff voyeurism for reasons unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.

Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct							
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Substantiated	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Unfounded	0	0	1	1	2	3	7
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>

- **Staff on Client Sexual Harassment**

Repeated verbal statements, comments, or gestures of a sexual nature to a client by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (exclude family, friends, or other visitors) Include - Demeaning references to gender; or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body of clothing OR repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

Staff on Client Sexual Harassment							
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unsubstantiated	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Unfounded	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

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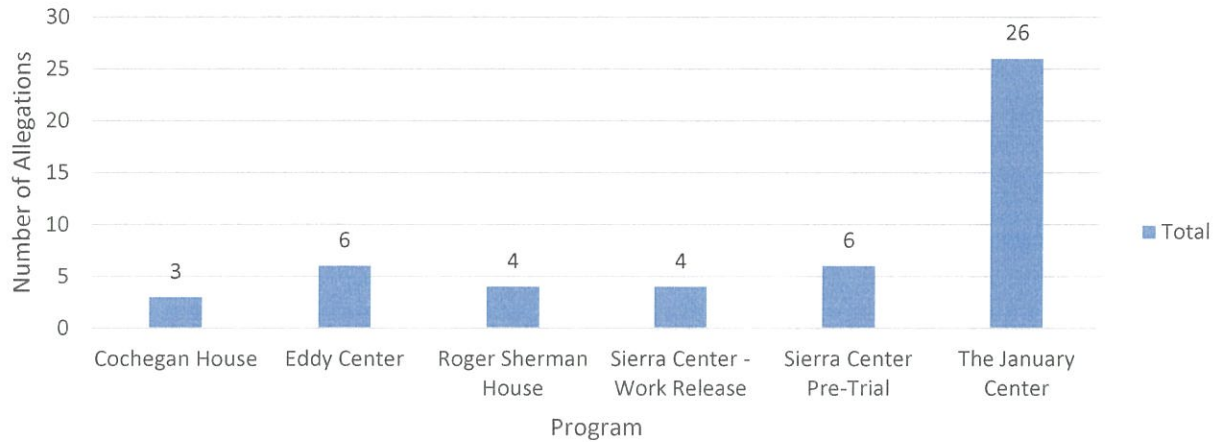
### Total Allegations by Program 2014-2019

It is not surprising that the majority of PREA allegations arise at the January Center, as that program is intended to serve only individuals who have been convicted of crimes of a sexual nature. The two programs tied with the second highest number of PREA allegations are Sierra Center DOC Mental Health unit and Eddy Center. The Sierra Center DOC Mental Health unit houses clients with very complicated psychiatric and criminal justice histories. Eddy Center, has a high turnover rate of clients as they are a Transitional Housing program. Overall, the fact that there have been PREA allegations at each of The Connection's community release programs is also indicative of the development of systems and processes that facilitate reporting.



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Total Allegations by Program 2014-2019



The January Center		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	2	2	1	0	1	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	2	1	3	2	1	6
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	1	1	2
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	2	1	3	2	1	3
	Unsubstantiated	2	0	1	2	1	2
	Unfounded	0	2	1	0	1	2
	Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	

Eddy Center		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	2	2	1	0	1	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	2	1	3	2	1	6
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	1	1	2
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	2	1	3	2	1	3
	Unsubstantiated	2	0	1	2	1	2
	Unfounded	0	2	1	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	



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Cochegan House		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Category	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0	1	0
Result	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	1	0	0	1	1	0
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1	0	0	1	1	0

Roger Sherman House		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Category	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	1	0	0	0	1	2
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Result	Substantiated	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	1	3
Total		1	0	0	0	1	3

Sierra Center Pre - Trial		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Category	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	2	0	1	0	1	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Result	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Unsubstantiated	2	0	1	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	1	3	0	0	0
Total		2	1	4	0	1	0

Sierra Center Work Release		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Category	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0	1	0
Result	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total		0	0	1	0	1	2



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Connection House		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Category	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Result	Substantiated	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Connection House was closed on January 2, 2018 as a male Substance Abuse Treatment Program and re-opened on February 1, 2018 as a female Work Release Program.</i>							


**Identified Problem Areas and Corrective Actions for 2018**

The PREA standards require a “Sexual Abuse Incident Review” to be conducted within 30 days of the determination of the outcome of all substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations. Of the thirteen (13) allegations in 2019, four (4) were substantiated and two (2) were unsubstantiated. Reviews of these six (6) incidents did not result in any corrective action plans. A few recommendations were made at the time of the review for January Center clients to include educating clients about inappropriate conversations, PREA guidelines, appropriate boundaries and the definition of sexual harassment and implementing groups for client’s to express issues with sexual misconduct and utilize exercises on boundaries.

**Assessment of Progress**

The PREA Coordinator will continue providing training at orientation for new staff and yearly refresher trainings for all staff working in this agency’s community confinement facilities. Additionally, staff will continue to adhere to the agency’s PREA Policies and Procedures and remain compliant with the PREA standards. Three (3) PREA Audits will be conducted in 2020 for the following programs: Connection House, Sierra Center Work Release, and Roger Sherman House. Cochegan House’s audit was scheduled to be completed in 2018, however, the program is currently in a temporary location. The funder and the PREA Auditor both approved delaying the Cochegan House audit until the program is in its permanent space.

  
 PREA Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ 1/20/2020  
 Date

  
 Chief Executive Officer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 1-14-20  
 Date