



***No Safe Place to Call Home – DRI’s October 29, 2018 Report on the Cycle of Abuse, Neglect, and Injury at the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center***

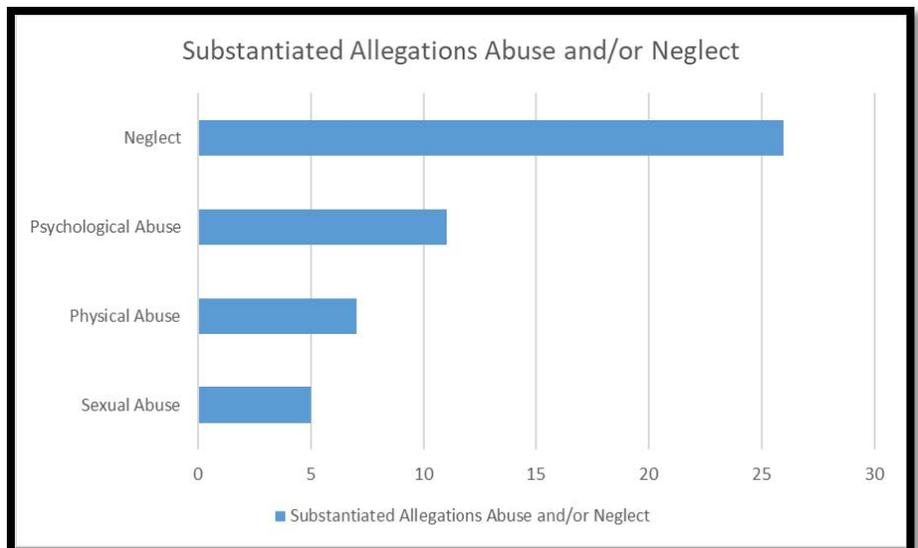
DRI is the designated protection and advocacy system for the State of Idaho and is a member of the National Disability Rights Network.

On October 29, 2018, DRI published a report on its investigation into abuse and neglect at the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC).

For more information or to access a copy of the report, please visit DRI’s website at: [disabilityrightsidaho.org/switc-report/](http://disabilityrightsidaho.org/switc-report/) or call (866)262-3462 toll free or (208) 336-5353 to request a copy of the report.

**WHAT ABUSE OR NEGLECT OCCURRED?**

- DRI reviewed seventy (70) investigations of abuse and/or neglect allegations committed by SWITC staff from January 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018. Investigations were conducted by either SWITC or Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) investigators. Twenty-five (25) allegations of abuse or neglect were confirmed. Those allegations were as follows:



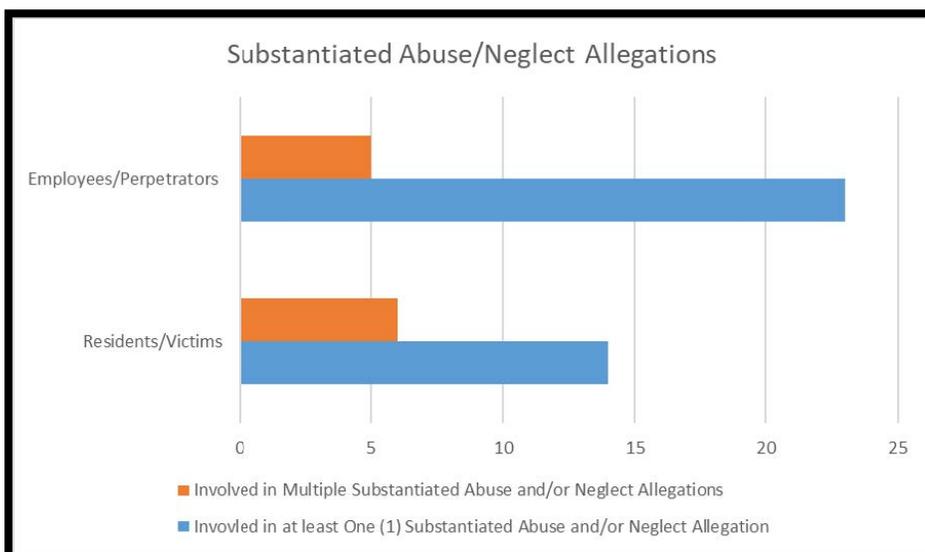
- **5** confirmed **acts of inappropriate, sexually oriented communication** in front of or directed at client (*then defined as sexual abuse*)
- **7** confirmed **acts of physical abuse**
- **11** confirmed **acts of psychological abuse**
- **26** confirmed **acts of neglect**

## WHAT DID THE ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY STAFF CONSIST OF?

- Multiple, sexually inappropriate comments directed to & in front of multiple residents, made comments of a sexual nature about a resident's mother, and, later, made comments about licking an animal's buttohole to another resident while viewing video footage of animals online;
- Bragging to co-workers about having to "[whoop] [a resident on] his ass when he got out of line;"
- Head-butting a resident multiple times while attempting a restraint;
- Throwing a resident to the ground and then placing their thumb on a pressure point at the corner of a resident's jaw, causing the resident's jaw to dislocate;
- Called a resident a "weirdo" & "dummy;"
- Telling two residents "I swear to God, you guys look like...burping, unhygienic, disgusting sacks of s\*#% I've ever been around;"
- Telling a resident: "You get involved with staff, you're going to get hurt. That's how it ends;"
- Failing to intervene while observing a resident hit their head seven (7) times against a hard surface;
- Failing to provide required prescription medication to a resident who was experiencing seizure-like activity;
- Failing to provide assistance to a resident with their toileting needs, resulting in fecal matter all over the resident's body, clothing, & bathroom;
- Multiple instances of staff observing co-workers committing acts of abuse or neglect & then failing to report such instances or to intervene to protect residents from harm as required by facility policy;

## WHO WAS INVOLVED?

In the twenty-five (25) investigations where abuse or neglect was confirmed, those involved were as follows:



- **14** of **25** residents were abused or neglected
- **23** staff committed the abuse or neglect
- **6** of **14** residents were subjected to abuse/neglect multiple times
- **5** staff were found to have committed multiple acts of abuse/neglect