

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation

2023
Prison Rape Elimination Act
Report

Purpose

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 was enacted to address sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in confinement facilities, with the goal of detecting and responding to this behavior to prevent it. The Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR) supports these efforts and offers victim support services to individuals as necessary. DOCCR began implementing the PREA Standards in 2012 when the standards were finalized.

This document serves as an annual review to monitor, assess, and improve the effectiveness of the sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response of the DOCCR to meet national PREA Standards 115.88 and 115.89. These standards require the department to:

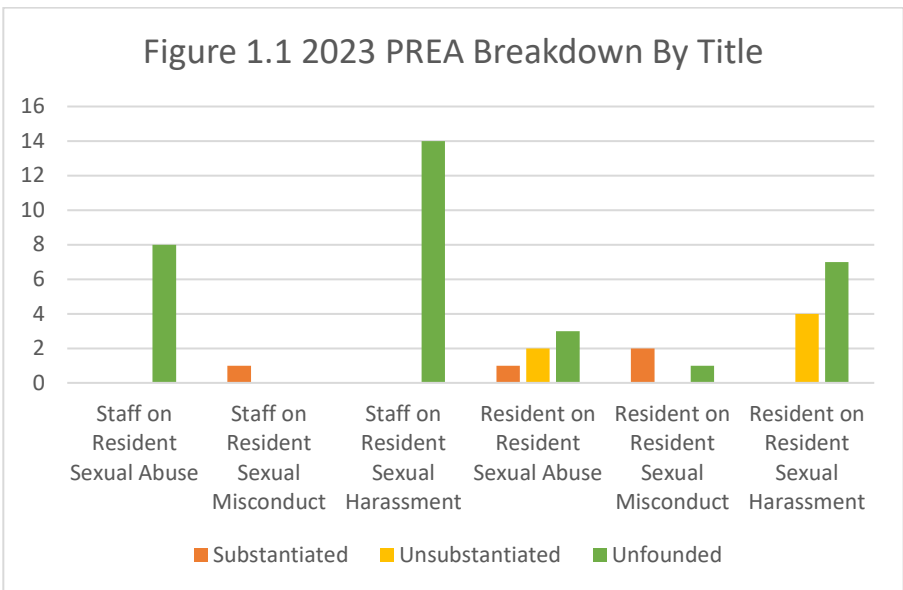
1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices, and training to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas.
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis.
 - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings.
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior year's and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
3. Publish the annual report on the DOCCR website with its findings and corrective actions for each facility and the agency.

Aggregate Data

The DOCCR collects data from referrals for investigation of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment; both offender-on-offender and staff on offender reported in our operated facilities. The data listed in this section contains aggregated data as well as a comparison of the number of incidents reported between 2013-2023.

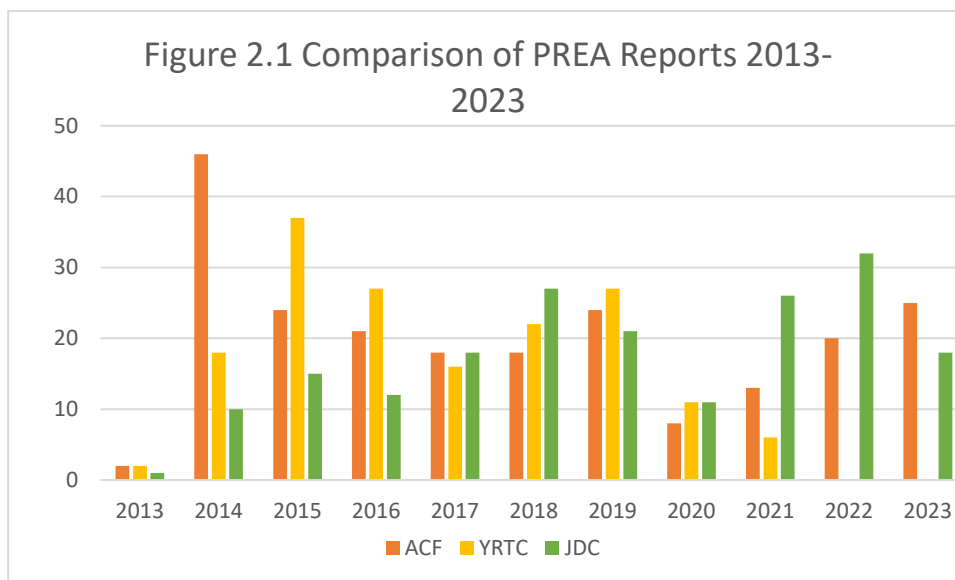
All allegations are entered and tracked through a secure electronic database by the DOCCR Office of Administrative Services-Professional Standards and Conduct (Investigations) Unit. The following graph shows a breakdown of the 2023 sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment data: staff-on-offender and offender-on-offender.

This report is comprised of data from both DOCCR facilities to include the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and the Adult Corrections Facility (ACF) (Figure 1.1).



Comparative Data

The following graph (Figure 2.1) represents a comparison agency reports of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment from 2013 through 2023. The agency had not fully centralized the Professional Standards and Conduct Unit (Investigation) in 2013, so the data gathered for that year is incomplete. The totals in the graph are reports received, regardless of their case dispositions. In 2023, there were 43 total reports, 33 were unfounded, two were substantiated and eight were unsubstantiated.



Since full implementation in 2014, the Professional Standards and Conduct Unit has continued to evolve and is viewed by both the staff and residents as a professional and impartial unit. All staff and residents are informed on what is reportable, the multiple methods of reporting, and timeliness of reporting. As a result, the PREA Program at both facilities is now embedded in the operation. Both staff and residents are comfortable communicating their concerns. In 2023, we saw an overall decline in reports with most of the reports being unfounded.

In 2023, DOCCR has embarked on a special project to audit and refresh the PREA processes at both the ACF and the JDC. The goal for this project is to improve reporting processes, update training and education materials and streamline policies and procedures. Through these changes, we will further our mission of prevention, identification and response to sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment in DOCCR facilities.

Corrective actions during last audit cycle

- Adult Corrections Facility: No Corrective Actions Identified
- Juvenile Detention Center: No Corrective Actions Identified

DOCCR Leadership is committed to the on-going monitoring and corrective action to ensure full PREA compliance. DOCCR has achieved full PREA compliance for four cycles in all our institutions: the Juvenile Detention Center: 2014, 2017, 2020, 2023; The Adult Corrections Facility: 2015, 2018 and 2021, 2023.

As an agency, DOCCR has created a culture of PREA department wide evidenced by our successful compliance record.

Catherine Johnson, Department Director

Date

Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation
300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

