

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

2021
Department of
Community
Corrections and
Rehabilitation
Annual 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 national PREA Standards 115.88 and 115.89. These standards require the department to:

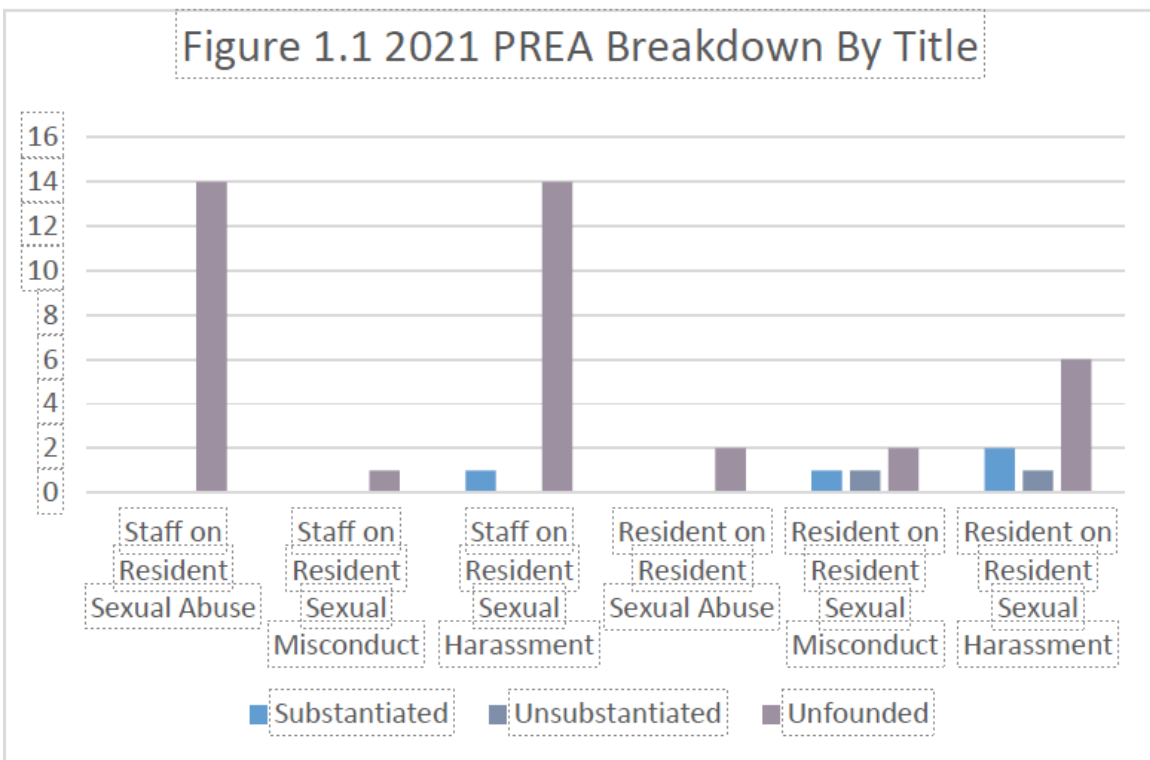
1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices, and training to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas.
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis.
 - c. Preparing an annual 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. The data listed in this section contains aggregated data as well as a comparison of the number of incidents reported between 2013-2021.

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 2021 sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment data: staff-on-offender and offender-on-offender.

This report is comprised of data from three DOCCR facilities to include: Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), Youth Residential Treatment Center (YRTC), and the Adult Corrections Facility (ACF) (Figure 1.1) This will be the last year the YRTC will be included in the report as the facility closed in December 2021.



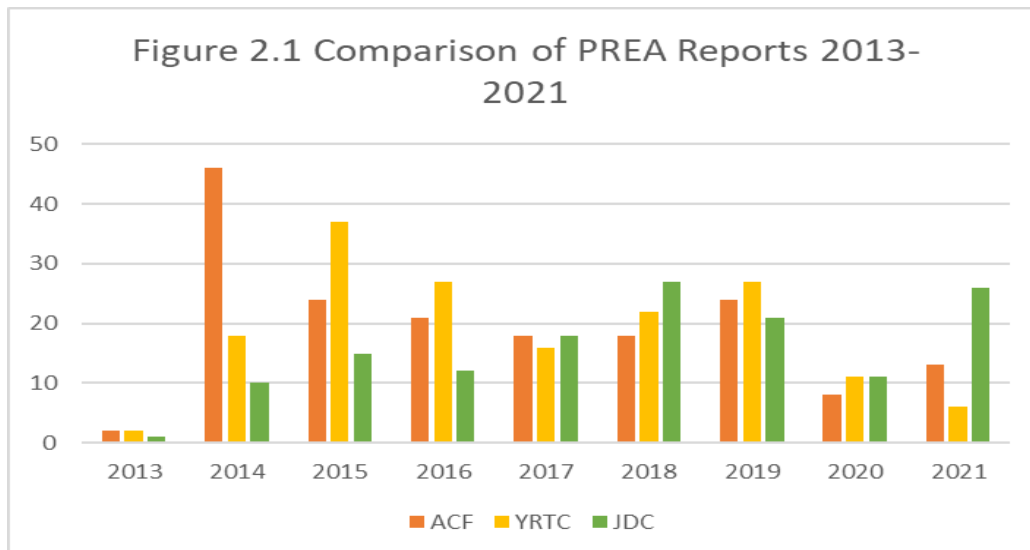
Comparative Data

The following graph (Figure 2.1) represents a comparison between CY 2013 through CY 2021 agency reports of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment. 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 2019, there were 72 total reports: 13 were unsubstantiated, 24 were unfounded, 13 were substantiated, 21 were either review only or no finding and one was exonerated.

In 2020, there were 32 total reports: 23 were unfounded, three were substantiated and three were unsubstantiated.

In 2021, there were 45 total reports: 39 were unfounded, four were substantiated and two 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 all facilities is now embedded in the operation. Both staff and residents are comfortable communicating their concerns.

The 2016, PREA data shows a decline in PREA incidents in each of the Institutions. Most of the incidents reported were offender-on-offender incidents most of which were designated as sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual harassment and unsubstantiated or unfounded. The offender-on-offender sexual abuse incidents designated as either substantiated or unsubstantiated incidents decreased slightly as compared with 2015 data. All staff-on-offender incidents reported were designated as unfounded, exonerated or information gathering only. Staff-on-offender incidents showed a decrease compared with 2015 data.

2017 PREA data shows a decline in the number of PREA incidents in two of the three Institutions. All the reported staff-on-offender' sexual abuse, sexual misconduct and sexual harassment incidents reviewed were determined to be unfounded. The majority of offender-on-offender sexual abuse or sexual misconduct incidents were designated as unfounded.

2018 shows a slight decline in sexual abuse and sexual misconduct incidents. Sexual harassment incidents reported at all three facilities increased compared with previous years. Most of these incidents were determined to be unfounded.

2019 shows a slight increase in reports at the ACF and the YRTC. Most of these incidents were unfounded or unsubstantiated.

2020 shows a decrease in all reporting. the population levels at each of the facilities decreased dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the second year of the pandemic, we see an increase in reports at the JDC and the ACF. A majority of these were unfounded. As mentioned, the YRTC closed in December of 2021 and stopped receiving new intakes in June of 2021, therefore, a decrease in population and PREA reporting.

The ACF and JDC continue to focus on the following strategies to prevent any incidents of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment.

1. Through policy and procedure changes, staff are more aware of their role to proactively take preventative measures on each shift to deter and spot potential PREA issues, and then respond swiftly and appropriately when allegations surface.
2. Staff and residents are better educated about the intent and application of PREA law. Individuals within our organization have a better understanding of performance expectations and their role regarding PREA law.
3. The DOCCR Office of Administrative Services-Professional Standards and Conduct Unit investigators promptly, thoroughly, and impartially investigate allegations and communicate verdicts to parties effected.
4. Residents fully understand that the facility swiftly enforces its zero-tolerance policy through the internal discipline process.

Corrective actions during last audit cycle

- Adult Corrections Facility: No Corrective Actions Identified
- Juvenile Detention Center: No Corrective Actions Identified
- Youth Residential Treatment 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 three cycles in all our institutions: the Juvenile Detention Center: 2014, 2017, 2020. The Adult Corrections Facility and the Youth Residential Treatment Center: 2015, 2018 and 2021. As an agency, DOCCR has created a culture of PREA department wide evidenced by our successful compliance record.



Catherine Johnson, Department Director

5/26/2022

Date

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