

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MINNESOTA

2022  
Department of  
Community  
Corrections and  
Rehabilitation  
Annual Prison Rape  
Elimination Act  
Report

## Purpose

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 was enacted to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. The Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR) began adhering to the Department of Justice (DOJ) PREA Standards in 2012 to comply with the act.

This document serves as the 2022 annual review required by PREA Standards 115.88 and 115.89 to:

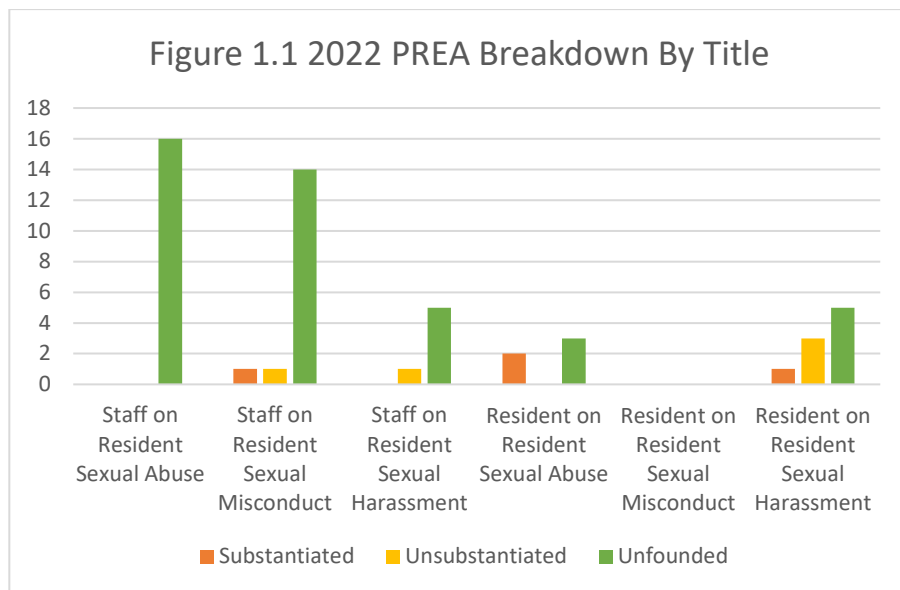
1. Review aggregate agency incident-based sexual abuse data.
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
3. Improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices, and training to include:
  - a. Identification of problem areas.
  - b. Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis.
  - c. Preparing an annual report of findings.
4. 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 at DOCCR facilities between 2013-2022.

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 2022 sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment reporting data: staff-on-offender and offender-on-offender.

PREA reporting/investigation data from DOCCR facilities; the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and the Adult Corrections Facility (ACF) (Figure 1.1)



## Comparative Data

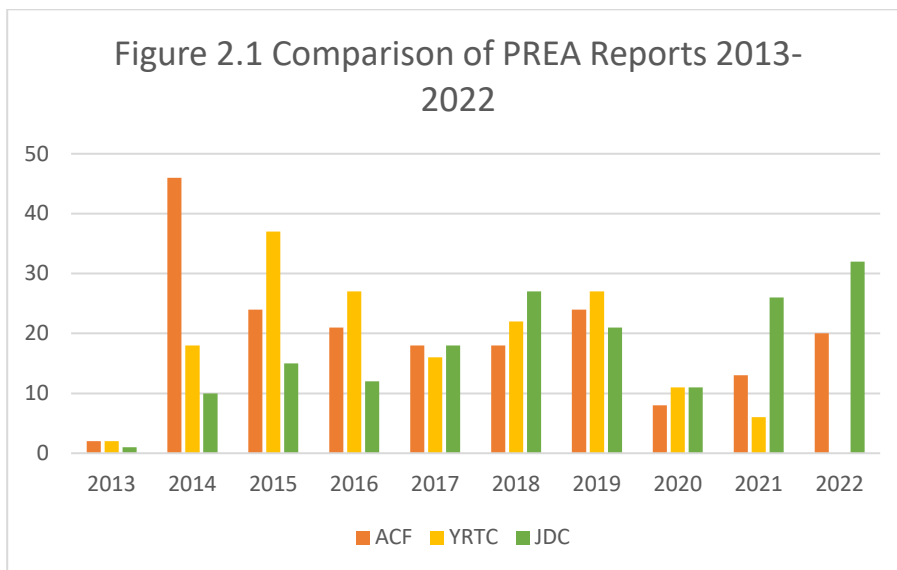
The following graph (Figure 2.1) represents a comparison between CY 2013 through CY 2022 agency reports of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment. The agency had not fully centralized the Professional Standards and Conduct (Investigations) Unit in 2013, so the data gathered for that year 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 1 was exonerated.

In 2020, there were 32 total reports: 23 were unfounded, 3 were substantiated and 3 were unsubstantiated.

In 2021, there were 45 total reports: 39 were unfounded, 4 were substantiated and 2 were unsubstantiated.

In 2022, there were 52 total reports, 43 were unfounded, 3 were substantiated and 5 were unsubstantiated.



The Professional Standards and Conduct (Investigations) Unit has evolved and is viewed by both the staff and residents as a professional and impartial unit. All staff and residents are educated on what is reportable and given multiple methods of reporting. As a result, the PREA Program at our

facilities is now embedded in the operation. The DOCCR has a zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse, assault, and harassment.

The 2020 data showed a 44% decrease from 2019 in all PREA reporting. This is likely the result of dramatic population decreases at all facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the second year of the pandemic, the DOCCR closed the Youth Residential Treatment Center (YRTC). In June of 2021, YRTC stopped receiving new intakes and the last resident was released in December. This resulted in a drop in population and PREA reporting at the YRTC. Reporting from the JDC and ACF increased from 2020. Most of these reports – 87% – were unfounded.

In 2022, the DOCCR continues to operate two facilities: the JDC and ACF. In 2022, there were 52 total reports; 83% were unfounded, 3 were substantiated and 5 were unsubstantiated.

A team of staff from each facility, including the PREA Coordinator and PREA Compliance Managers, are currently in a process of refreshing the DOCCR PREA Program to look for opportunities to improve the program and alignment with DOJ Standards.

The project team will focus on the following strategies:

1. Review policy, procedure, and technology changes, to assure all staff are aware of their role to proactively take measures to deter and identify potential PREA issues, respond swiftly and appropriately when allegations surface and practices to capture evidence and to detect incidents more accurately.
2. Review and update education for staff and residents about the intent and application of PREA law.
3. Review investigation referral process to assure prompt, thorough, and impartial investigations into allegations and good communication regarding verdicts to parties effected.
4. Ensure residents fully understand that the facility swiftly enforces its zero-tolerance.

## 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 ongoing 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 in years 2014, 2017, and 2020; the Adult Corrections Facility and the Youth Residential Treatment Center in years 2015, 2018 and 2021. As an agency, DOCCR has created a culture of zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse, assault, and harassment, evidenced by our successful compliance record. Our agencies next audit cycle begins in October of 2023.



Catherine Johnson, Department Director

Date 5/18/2023

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