



Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report 2023 / 2024

Heather Updike – DCJ's PREA Coordinator

Summary

This report represents an overview of the PREA data extracted from incident reports received from Multnomah County's Juvenile Detention Center, the in-house Juvenile Assessment & Evaluation Residential Program and parole/probation officers. Outcomes between last year and the previous year's reports are compared in order to evaluate effectiveness of existing prevention, detection and response protocols associated with sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations.

Background

PREA was established in 2003. The targeted intent has been to address alarming national statistics associated with the prevalence of sexual assaults within correctional facilities across the United States. Four sets of standards were established and finalized in August 2012 and are the foundation of governance for ensuring youth and adults held in secure custody or community confinement facilities are protected from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. As such, we participate in the mandated annual assessment of incident reports. Our timeframe spans September 1 through August 31 of each year.

The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) has completed two PREA audits -- one in June 2018 and one in August 2022. Out of 358 evaluation elements folded into the 43 PREA classification standards, there were two deficiencies for corrective action flagged in 2018 and four deficiencies cited in 2022. Following both audits, DCJ received 90-days to respond and demonstrate adjustments before receiving a final report. Both final reports deemed DCJ to be 100% compliant. To better understand the type of remedial actions involved, the following were addressed in 2022's audit: 1) Policy statement add-on addressing unannounced manager walk-throughs of detention units; 2) Policy expansion regarding retaliation prevention protocols; 3) PREA incident report checkbox that ensures investigative disposition is returned to the victim; and 4) Established record proving that an annual staffing plan review takes place.

Awareness and Incident Reporting

All DCJ Juvenile and Adult Services staff who work directly with youth / justice involved individuals are required to complete job-specific PREA training modules. Additionally, youth admitted to our secure detention and residential placement, receive an overview of PREA and a copy of our zero tolerance of abuse statement that is also posted throughout the facility. Youth are taught what to do if they witness or experience sexual harassment or abuse.

There are clear expectations for staff to immediately fill-out a PREA incident report once aware of a possible incident that involves sexual contact or harassment. Staff's report is then routed to the Department's PREA Compliance Manager and PREA Coordinator to determine subsequent law enforcement referrals and/or investigatory steps. Compiled interviews and surveillance video analysis guide the outcome summary which includes a finding of either substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.

Disposition Definitions

Substantiated: An allegation was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated: An allegation produced insufficient evidence to determine whether or not the incident occurred.

Unfounded: An allegation was investigated and determined **not** to have occurred.



Table 1: Number and type of alleged incidents for September 01, 2023 - August 31, 2024

Type of Allegation	Substantiated	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Total
Youth to Youth Sexual Abuse (<i>physical contact</i>)	--	--	--	0
Youth to Youth Sexual Harassment (twice repeated <i>verbal / gestures</i>)	--	--	--	0
Staff to Youth Sexual Abuse (<i>physical contact</i>)	--	--	--	0
Staff to Youth Sexual Harassment	--	1	1	2
Non-DCJ facility reports	ASD or JSD staff recorded details that are transferred to the external facility where an incident occurred.			ASD = 2 JSD = 0
Incident(s) determined not to be PREA	Alleged behavior did not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or harassment under PREA.			1
TOTAL Reports for the year				5

Table 2: Age, gender and location

Perpetrator	Female 60%	Male 40%	Nonbinary NA	Not identified / unknown 0	Average youth age 16 yrs
Victim	Female 40%	Male 60%	Nonbinary NA	Not identified / unknown 0	Average youth age 16 yrs
Location of incident	Unit commons space (2); Youth's rm (0); Intake (1); Non DCJ facility (2)				

Table 3 -- PREVIOUS YEAR'S DATA - September 01, 2022 - August 31, 2023

Type of Allegation	Substantiated	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Total
Youth to Youth Sexual Abuse (<i>physical contact</i>)	--	--	--	0
Youth to Youth Sexual Harassment (twice repeated <i>verbal / gestures</i>)	1	--	--	1
Staff to Youth Sexual Abuse (<i>physical contact</i>)	--	--	--	0
Staff to Youth Sexual Harassment	--	1	2	3
Non-DCJ facility reports	ASD or JSD staff recorded details that are transferred to the external facility where an incident occurred.			ASD = 3 JSD = 1
Incident(s) determined not to be PREA	Alleged behavior did not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or harassment under PREA.			3
TOTAL Reports for the year				11

Comparison of Last Two Years

Table 1 shows current year-in-review with five reports over the last 12 months. The previous year's tally totals 11 reports (Table 3). The comparison reflects a fifty-five percent drop in reported allegations.

Without being able to discern a definitive impact marker to explain the significant change, four detention managers were interviewed for their perspective. The below list represents potential contributors they believe may be involved with the reduced number of allegations:

- 1) Implementation of an updated PREA overview video that is shown to youth within 24 hours of their custody stay;
- 2) Hiring of a designated training manager who revamped the PREA curriculum so that it became an interactive classroom module for staff instead of a stationary online reading course;
- 3) Increase of unit visits by managers adhering to a new sign-off protocol related to existing room confinement forms;
- 4) 50% reduction in average daily population of detained girls;
- 5) Culture shift among detention youth -- having moved away from highly sexualized conversations to being fixated on how to get and conceal contraband.

Additionally, data and general conversations suggest that youth and adults moving through the criminal justice system have become familiar with what PREA is and what happens if you speak up or submit a grievance. For our facility, there appears to be a sense of confidence in safety measures and staff response.

In conclusion, both Juvenile and Adult Services staff have proven to be continuously mindful of detainees and their well-being. The Department's PREA Coordinator and PREA Compliance Manager extend gratitude to workforce members for their ongoing professionalism and due diligence in their commitment to safety and security.

This report is approved by the Department of Community Justice's Director, Denise Pena, and is accessible for review on the Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division's public website.

Next scheduled PREA incident report review: October 2025