
SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

PREA ANNUAL REPORT -
2023





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**South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report**

Date: October 9, 2024

To: Eden Hendrick – Executive Director

Through: Wanda Barr – Director
Office of Standards and Professional Development

From: Niaja Kennedy – Agency PREA Coordinator
Office of Standards and Professional Development

Subject: PREA Compliance Annual Report for Year 2023

Reference: (a) Sections 1560-09 of Title 42, United States Code (PREA)
(b) 28 CFR 115.6 Prison Rape Elimination Act-National Standards
(c) Section 44-23-1150; South Carolina Code of Laws
(d) SCDJJ Policy 321-Prevention of Sexual Offenses toward Youth; and Policy 336 - Application of the PREA Standards

Enclosure: 2023 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Finding and Corrective Actions

PREA Standards 115.388 and 115.389 require the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) to prepare a report that reflect our Agency's efforts to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response during the previous calendar year. Additionally, the standards require that the report be posted on our Agency's website for public access. This report meets the requirements of the PREA standards and is approved by the Office of Standards and Professional Development and the Office of the Executive Director by signature below.

S/ 
Wanda Barr, Director
Office of Standards and Professional Development

S/ 
Eden Hendrick, SCDJJ Executive Director



Message from the Agency PREA Coordinator

Background and Introduction

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into federal law by President George W. Bush in September 2003 to address sexual abuse and sexual harassment of persons in custody of U.S. correctional agencies. Major provisions of PREA include the development of standards for detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement settings. The Act applies to all public and private institutions that house youth and adult offenders. On August 20, 2012, the PREA standards final rule became effective.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice has a zero-tolerance policy prohibiting sexual abuse and sexual harassment involving youth. SCDJJ continues to work to ensure the sexual safety of youth in confinement by reviewing and updating its policies and procedures to prevent, detect, and respond to allegations of sexual abuse.

SCDJJ continuously strives to remain a safe place for youth, employees, contracted staff, and volunteers alike. SCDJJ will provide ongoing training, education, and have official audits conducted to ensure compliance with the PREA Standards. SCDJJ provides employees with education and resources to ensure employees are knowledgeable about how to respond to allegations of abuse. The Agency continues to assess and implement changes to the infrastructure, assess and implement changes to ensure youth privacy, assess and enhance digital monitoring technology, provide unimpeded access emotional support and trauma services, provide various reporting mechanisms for both youth and staff, and adhere to staffing patterns to illustrate its commitment to sexual safety.

Purpose

PREA requires that each facility collect and review data in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies and training.” (Standard 115.388a). This review is intended to:

- Identifying problem areas and take corrective action taken on an ongoing basis for each facility and the agency as a whole
- Compare the current year’s data and corrective actions with those from previous years
- Assess the agency’s progress in addressing sexual abuse

2023 Analysis/Corrective Action

This report summarizes data collected from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, received from state owned and operated and contracted residential facilities. During this time period, two SCDJJ facilities were audited, The Broad River Road Complex and Camp Aspen. Results provided by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) certified auditor found that both facilities were fully compliant with the audited standards and did not warrant any corrective action.

Challenges

Like many juvenile justice agencies across the country, the biggest obstacle to SCDJJ consistently achieving 100% compliance of secure facilities is the agency's inability to consistently meet the PREA security staff to youth ratio as indicated in Standard 115.313 due to physical plant deficiencies, staffing shortages and funding. The agency continues to work diligently to address this issue with special attention placed on recruiting and retention initiatives.

Analysis of Data

Analysis of the aggregated data collected illustrates the agency's commitment to sexual safety in our facilities and culture of zero-tolerance. The following pages of the report provided will reflect a detailed view of the PREA Allegation for the year 2023.

S/ *Niaja J Kennedy*

Niaja J. Kennedy, Agency PREA Coordinator



South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Year 2023
STATISTICAL DATA FOR PREA

Alleged Youth on Youth Sexual Abuse

Alleged Staff on Youth Sexual Abuse

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Allegations Reported	44	17	16	38	43		Allegations Reported	27	17	33	21	18
Substantiated	14	3	5	8	2		Substantiated	1	4	7	5	2
Unsubstantiated	12	12	10	13	15		Unsubstantiated	8	5	4	9	8
Unfounded	18	2	1	11	17		Unfounded	18	8	22	7	6
Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	2		Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	0
Non-PREA	0	0	0	6	7		Non-PREA	0	0	0	0	0

Alleged Youth on Youth Sexual Harassment

Alleged Staff on Youth Sexual Harassment

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Allegations Reported	12	2	0	6	10		Allegations Reported	8	2	1	3	2
Substantiated	4	0	0	1	2		Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	7	2	0	0	4		Unsubstantiated	8	0	1	3	1
Unfounded	1	0	0	5	2		Unfounded	0	2	0	0	1
Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	0		Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	0
Non-PREA	0	0	0	0	2		Non-PREA	0	0	0	0	0

Total Youth on Youth

Total Staff on Youth

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Allegations Reported	56	19	16	44	53		Total Allegations Reported	35	19	34	24	20
Substantiated	18	3	5	9	4		Substantiated	1	4	7	5	2
Unsubstantiated	19	14	10	13	19		Unsubstantiated	16	5	5	12	9
Unfounded	19	2	1	16	19		Unfounded	18	10	22	7	7
Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	2		Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	0
Non-PREA	0	0	0	6	9		Non-PREA	0	0	0	0	0

Definitions:

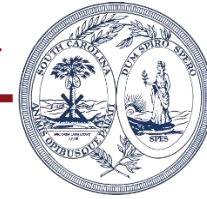
- 1) **Substantiated allegation** (means an allegation was investigated and was determined to have occurred).
- 2) **Unsubstantiated allegation** (means an allegation was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred).
- 3) **Unfounded allegation** (means an allegation was investigated and determined not to have occurred).
- 4) **Pending Outcome** means the allegation is currently being investigated and has not yet produced a result
- 5) **Non PREA** means an allegation was received and determined through investigation that the event reported did not meet the federal definitions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. The event was handled by an office or entity who could appropriately handle the allegation.



L. Eden Hendrick
Executive Director

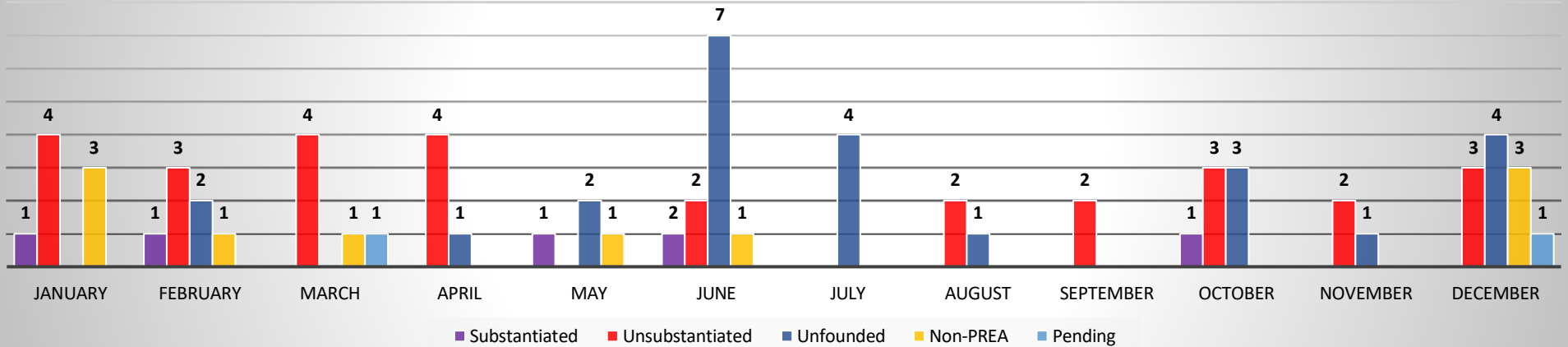
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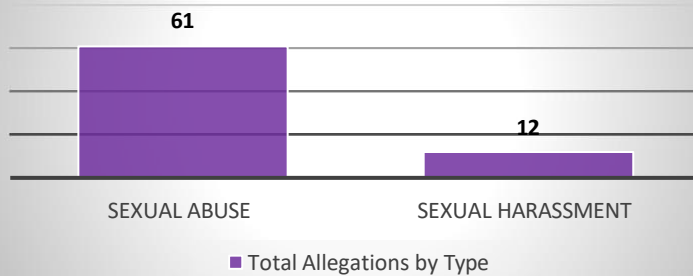


SCDJJ PREA DATA 2023

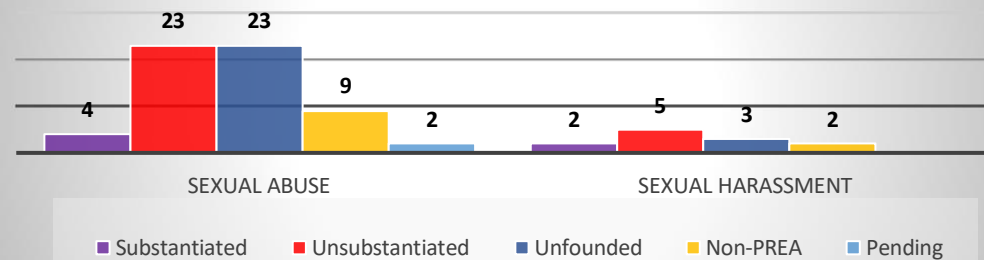
PREA Allegations by Month



Total Allegations by Type



Status of Allegations Types

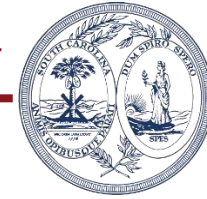




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SCDJJ PREA DATA 2023

Number of Allegations by Facility

