

# **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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**PREA ANNUAL REPORT -  
2024**





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

Date: December 5, 2025

To: Eden Hendrick – Executive Director

Through: Chenelle Doctor – Director  
Office of Continuous Quality Improvement

From: Niaja Kennedy – Agency PREA Coordinator  
Office of Continuous Quality Improvement

Subject: PREA Compliance Annual Report for Year 2024

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: 2024 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 reflects 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 Continuous Quality Improvement and the Office of the Executive Director by signature below.

S/

Chenelle Doctor, Director  
Office of Continuous Quality Improvement

S/

Eden Hendrick, SCDJJ Executive Director



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## 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 taking 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

### **2024 Analysis/Corrective Action**

This report summarizes data collected from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024, received from state owned and operated and contracted residential facilities. During this time, two SCDJJ secure facilities were audited, the Midlands Evaluation Center and the Juvenile Detention Center along with eight of the agency’s contracted residential facilities. All facilities have received their results which was provided by an U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) certified auditor.

## **Challenges**

Like many juvenile justice agencies across the country, the biggest obstacle to SCDJJ consistently achieving 100% compliance with 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 2024.

S/ Niaja J. Kennedy

Niaja J. Kennedy, Agency PREA Coordinator



South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice  
Year 2024

**Alleged Youth on Youth Sexual Abuse**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Allegations Reported	44	17	16	38	43	47
Substantiated	14	3	5	8	1	4
Unsubstantiated	12	12	10	13	17	18
Unfounded	18	2	1	11	18	11
Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	8	5
Non-PREA	0	0	0	6	7	5
Referred back to Facility	0	0	0	0	1	0

**Alleged Youth on Youth Sexual Harassment**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Allegations Reported	12	2	0	6	10	16
Substantiated	4	0	0	1	1	0
Unsubstantiated	7	2	0	0	5	6
Unfounded	1	0	0	5	2	2
Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	2	2
Non-PREA	0	0	0	0	2	3
Referred back to Facility	0	0	0	0	3	0

**Alleged Staff on Youth Sexual Abuse**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Allegations Reported	27	17	33	21	18	13
Substantiated	1	4	7	5	2	2
Unsubstantiated	8	5	4	9	8	5
Unfounded	18	8	22	7	6	4
Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	0	2
Non-PREA	0	0	0	0	0	2
Referred back to Facility	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Total Staff on Youth**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Allegations Reported	35	19	34	24	20	14
Substantiated	1	4	7	5	2	2
Unsubstantiated	16	5	12	9	5	5
Unfounded	18	10	22	7	7	5
Pending Outcome	0	0	0	0	2	1
Non-PREA	0	0	0	0	2	1
Referred back to Facility	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Definitions:**

- 1) **Substantiated allegation:** means an allegation was investigated and determined to have occurred
- 2) **Unsubstantiated allegation:** means an allegation was investigated and investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether the event occurred or not
- 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.
- 6) **Referred back to facility** an allegation was received and determined through investigation that the event reported did not meet the federal definitions of sexual abuse or harassment but did meet criteria for an SCDJJ Facility Rule Violation. (Applies only to Youth-on-Youth Allegations)



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Executive Director

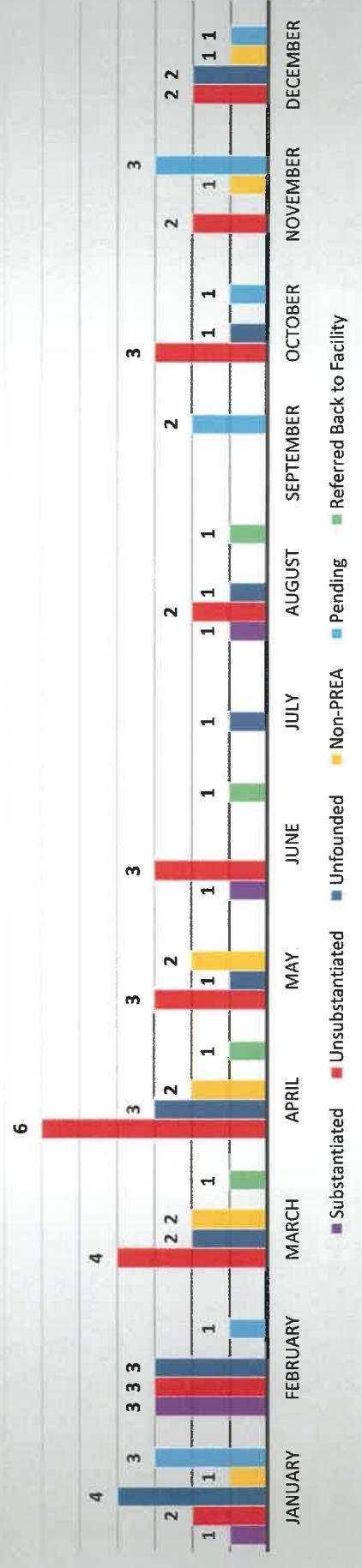
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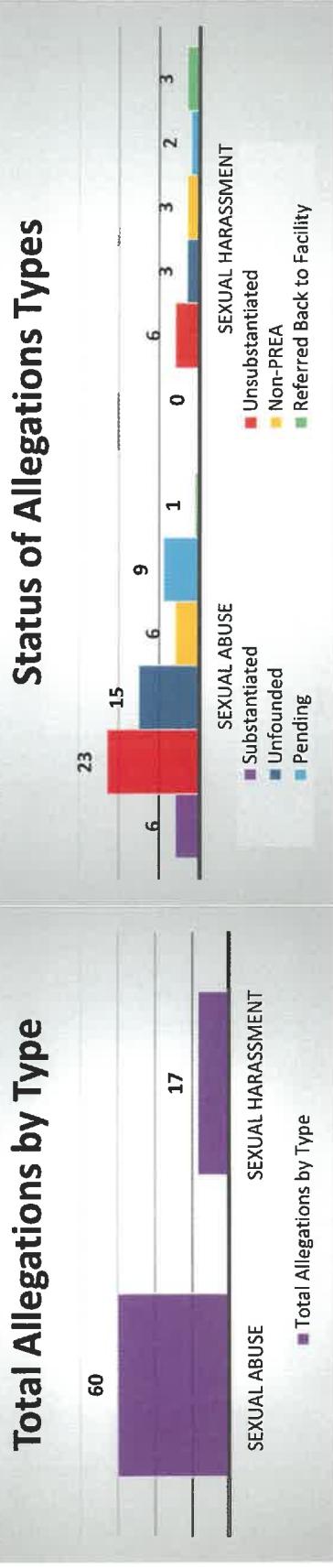
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## SCDJJ PREA DATA 2024

### PREA Allegations by Month



### Total Allegations by Type





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## SCDJJ PREA DATA 2024

### Number of Allegations by Facility

