



Jefferson County Youth Detention Center

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Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report: Review of 2023/2024 **Author: Juan Sepulveda - JCYD PREA Coordinator**

Summary

This report presents an overview of PREA incident data collected from Jefferson County Youth Detention and the in-house Assessment and Evaluation Program. This synopsis focuses on the outcomes from the current year and provides a comparison to the data from the previous year. The findings allow the Youth Detention Facility to evaluate the effectiveness of existing prevention, detection, and response protocols associated with sexual abuse and sexual harassment reports within PREA's "Juvenile Confinement" settings.

Background

PREA was established in 2003 to address alarming national statistics that indicated the prolific existence of sexual assaults within U.S. correctional facilities. 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, our annual assessment of incident reports spans the months of October 1st through September 30.

Incident Reports

All Youth Detention staff who work directly with justice-involved individuals receive varying levels of PREA training. Additionally, youth admitted to Youth Detention receive information about PREA and are instructed on what to do if they experience or witness sexual harassment or abuse. Within the workforce training provided, there is a clear expectation for staff to immediately complete a department PREA Incident Report once they become aware of (reported, witnessed, or suspected) sexual contact or harassment. The staff's report is routed to the department's PREA Coordinator and PREA Investigators for review and subsequent investigative steps. A compilation of facts ultimately guides the Youth Detention administration notifications and the outcome summary, which identifies whether the incident was declared substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded.



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Table 3: PREVIOUS YEAR'S DATA- October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

Type of Incident Reported	Substantiated	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Total
Youth to Youth Sexual Abuse (<i>physical contact</i>)	0	0	0	0
Youth to Youth Sexual Harassment (<i>verbal I gestures</i>)	0	1	0	1
Staff to Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff to Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Incident determined not to be PREA	<i>The alleged behavior did not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or harassment under PREA.</i>			1

TOTAL Reports for the previous year

1

As in the past, other facilities continue to report challenges with youth creating fictitious reports to remove an individual from a particular unit strategically. This has not been a theme or an ongoing issue for our facility. However, youth who experience extended stays at our facility (lasting more than a few weeks) are beginning to show their understanding that PREA's harassment definition requires more than one indecent verbal / gesture toward another individual to be deemed a PREA episode.

Closing Statement

In conclusion, it is essential to acknowledge the contributions of staff at the Jefferson County Youth Detention, who engage with youth daily, and from whom most of the department's PREA incident reports are generated. These staff are diligent, compassionate, and mindful about the work they do to help youth identify their strengths and seek healthier future paths. Their commitment to doing their jobs well allows for several youth caught in a temporary circumstance to gain their bearings and start a new trajectory.



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Disposition Definitions

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

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

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

Table 1: Number and type of alleged incidents for **October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024**

Type of Incident Reported	Substantiated	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Pending	Total
Youth to Youth Sexual Abuse (<i>physical contact</i>)	0	0	0	0	0
Youth to Youth Sexual Harassment (<i>verbal I gestures</i>)	1	5	0	0	6
Staff to Youth Sexual Abuse (physical contact)	0	0	0	0	0
Staff to Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Incident determined not to be PREA	<i>Alleged behavior did not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or harassment under PREA.</i>			0	5

TOTAL Reports for the current year

6

Table 2: Age, gender, and location

Perpetrator	Female 3	Male 3	Gender not identified / unknown 0	Average youth age 13
Victim	Female 3	Male 3	Gender not identified/ unknown 0	Average youth age 14.66
Location of incident	Unit area, unit hallway,			



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This report has been approved by the Jefferson County Youth Detention Director, Monique Grier, and is available for review upon request.

Next scheduled PREA Annual Report: October 2025