



Ramsey County Community Corrections Prison Rape
Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report

10/31/23



Ramsey County Community Corrections Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Reports for 2020-2022

PURPOSE

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that stresses zero tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment within correctional facilities. PREA promotes best practice for prevention, detection, and response to sexual misconduct within jails, prisons, juvenile facilities, and community confinement institutions.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires that our agency collects and analyzes data... “In order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training.” (Standard 115.88 and 115.89)

This report is completed to identify problem areas to take corrective action, compare data with proceeding years and to assess our progress in addressing sexual misconduct (Standard 115.88 and 115.89). The purpose of this report is to provide information and compare calendar year allegations and outcomes from 2017-2022.

PREA Mission Statement

To achieve compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) by developing guidelines and policies for preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual abuse and sexual harassment within the Ramsey County Community Corrections Department.

PREA Investigations

PREA Administrative Investigations are completed by certified trained Ramsey County PREA Coordinators and PREA Facility Managers. PREA Criminal Investigations for the Juvenile Detention Facility are referred to St. Paul Police Department and for the Ramsey County Correctional Facility they are referred to the Maplewood Police Department. The Ramsey County District Attorney’s office will be consulted and decide if it should be referred for prosecution.

Facilities

Ramsey County Correctional Facility

RCCF is a 556-bed minimum to medium security institution, housing adult male and female clients sentenced to a maximum of one year. RCCF provides over 30 educational and life improvement program opportunities to the clients. In addition to the staff, there are many volunteers that donate their time and skills to make a difference in their lives. The average daily population has greatly decreased from 335 residents in 2019 to 89 in 2022.



Juvenile Detention Center

The Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is a branch of the Ramsey County Juvenile Services Division. It is a 44-bed facility which provides secure detention and special programs, including St. Paul Public Education for juvenile residents. There are currently 24 volunteers and 10 contractors that provide a wide variety of programming for the residents. The current average daily population at JDC is 25.

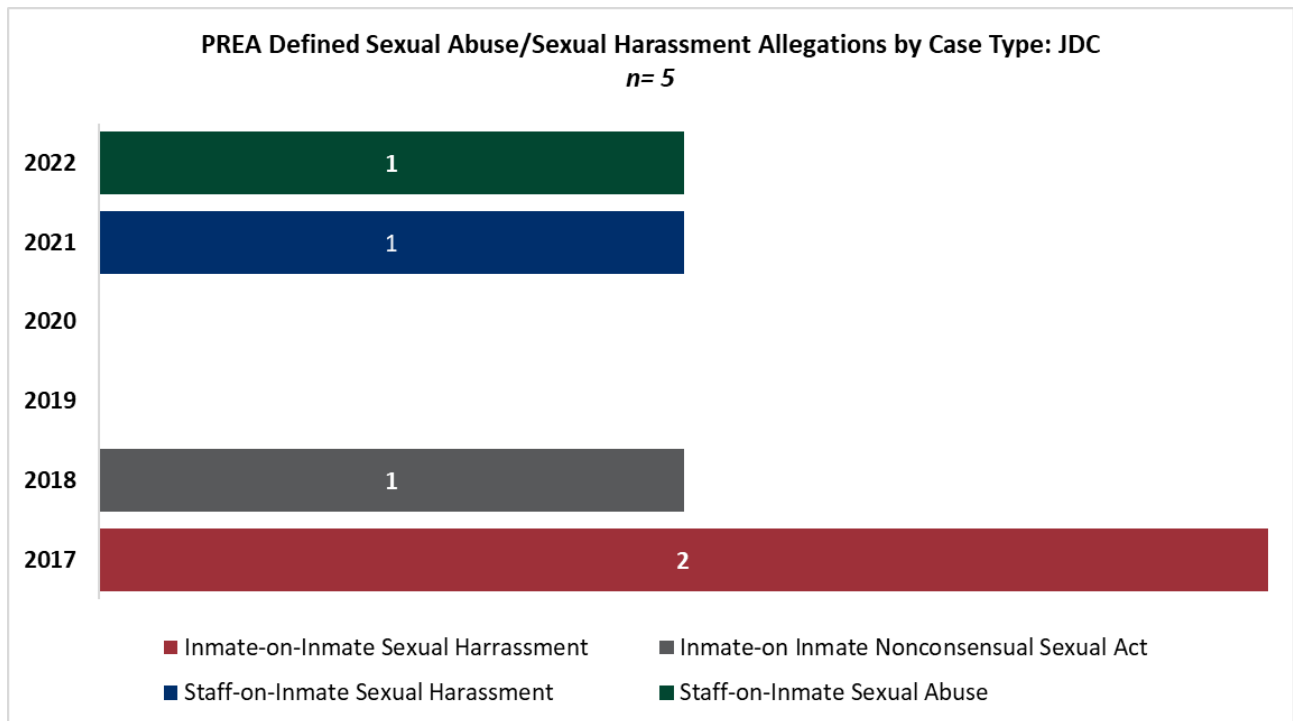
Agency Achievements from 2020-2022

- JDC PREA Audit completed in October 2020 without any corrective actions recommended by the auditor.
- RCCF PREA Audit completed in July 2020 without any corrective actions recommended by the auditor.
- Per PREA Standard 115.31 and 115.331, all Ramsey County Community Corrections fulltime, part-time, and intermittent employees received required annual PREA training 2020-2022.
- Per PREA Standard 115.31 and 115.331, all volunteers, interns, and contractors who may have contact with clients and residents also received the annual PREA training 2020-2022.
- Facilities continue to maintain compliance with all PREA standards according to federal law.
- Complete new camera upgrade at JDC with new servers, new digital cameras, and all blind spots covered. System included adding 5 new cameras to rooms in each of the pods for safety and security for the residents needing them.

JDC PREA Defined Sexual Abuse/Sexual Harassment Data comparison from 2017-2019 and 2020-2022.

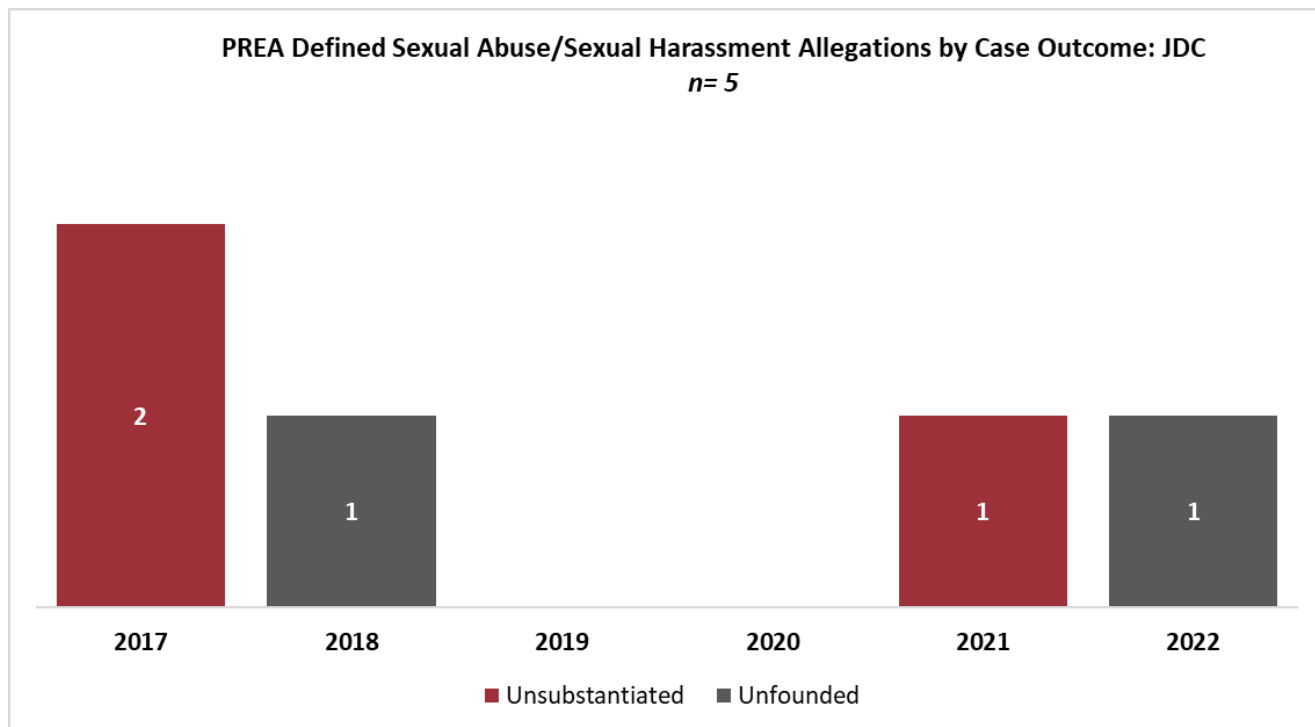
There were 3 allegations reported at JDC from 2017 to 2019. Two out of the three allegations were reported in 2017 and both of there were Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment cases. There were no allegations reported at JDC in 2019. From 2020-2022, there were no allegations reported in 2020. In 2021, there was one report of Staff-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment and one in 2022 of Staff-on-Inmate (Resident) Sexual Abuse (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1
PREA Defined Sexual Abuse/Sexual Harassment Allegations by Case Type:
JDC



Please see Figure 2 for the outcomes of each of the PREA allegations in Figure 1.

FIGURE 2
PREA Defined Sexual Abuse/Sexual Harassment Allegations by Case Outcomes: JDC



RCCF PREA Define Sexual Abuse/Sexual Harassment Data comparison from 2017-2019 and 2022-2022.

There were 26 allegations reported at RCCF from 2017 to 2019. A greater majority of allegations were reported in 2017 and most of them were Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment cases. In 2019, 86% of the allegations were Staff Sexual Harassment -on-Inmate and most of them were still open and the investigations carried into 2020. In 2020, there were 3 allegations reported and there were no allegations in 2021 and 2022. Please see Figure 3, for the types of allegations by case type and Figure 4 for the outcomes of all the allegations.

Figure 3
PREA Defined Sexual Abuse/Sexual Harassment Allegations by Case Type:
RCCF

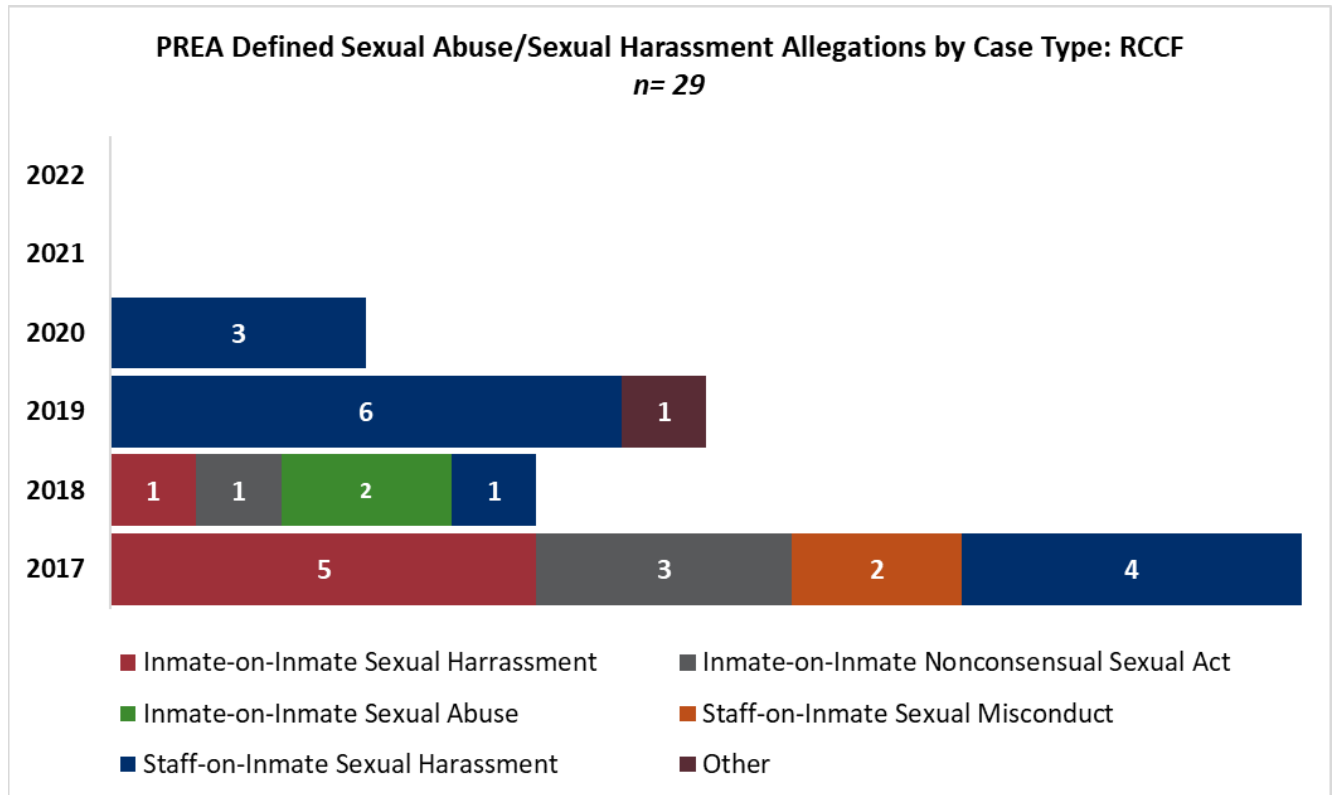
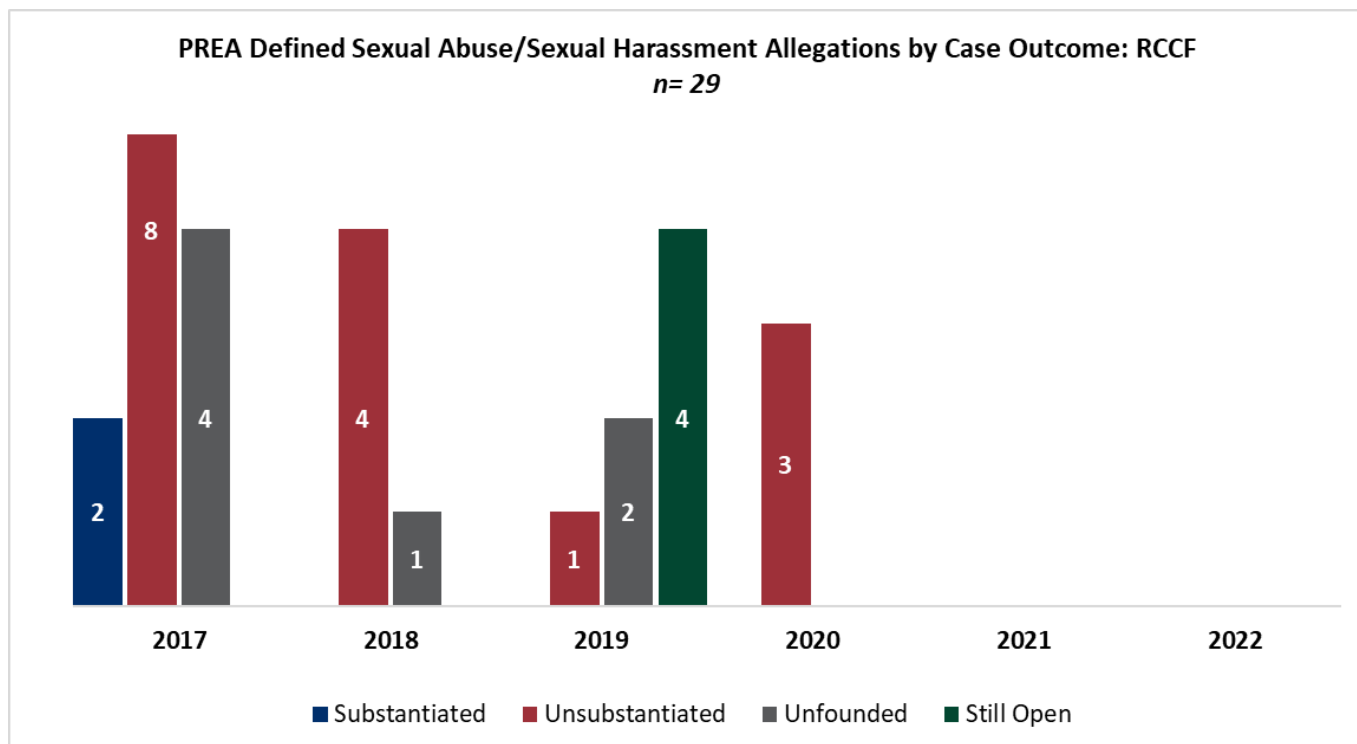


Figure 4
PREA Defined Sexual Abuse/Sexual Harassment Allegations by Case Outcome: RCCF



Corrective Actions

According to PREA Standard 115.88 (a)

The Agency must identify problem areas and take corrective action on an ongoing basis when looking at practices to better prevent, detect, and respond to sexual harassment and sexual abuse.

The following corrective actions were completed in 2017:

- Additional training on transgender/cross gender searches provided by JDC.
- Additional cameras added to the kitchen blind spots at RCCF for the



- purpose of sexual safety.
- Policy and procedure changes implemented regarding female residents at RCCF and hair braiding.

The following corrective actions were completed in 2018:

- Additional training on PREA policy and procedures throughout the facilities at JDC and RCCF

The following corrective actions were completed in 2019:

- Public Health nursing staff will have a Ramsey County Correctional Officer or second nurse when performing tasks off camera.

The following corrective actions were completed in 2020:

- Due to the pandemic, in person trainings were limited and online PREA training for policy and procedure training were offered for staff.

The following corrective actions were completed in 2021:

- Full camera replacement at JDC was started for safety and security purposes and was completed in 2022. All blind spots are now covered, and old analog cameras were replaced by digital cameras.

The following corrective actions were completed in 2022:

- All PREA policies and procedures were reviewed by both facilities and online training was sent out to all staff.

Definitions

Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse:

Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such an act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse:

- (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight.
- (2) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus.
- (3) Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and
- (4) Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation



Staff-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse:

Sexual Abuse of a resident/inmate by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer includes any of the following acts, with or without consent of the resident, inmate, or detainee:

- (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight.
- (2) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus.
- (3) Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire.
- (4) Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire.
- (5) Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire.
- (6) Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in #5 of this section.
- (7) Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee, or resident and
- (8) Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.

-Voyeurism Defines as: an invasion of privacy of a resident unrelated to official duties, such as peering at a resident using a toilet or requiring a resident to expose their genitals.

Sexual Harassment

- (1) Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one inmate, detainee, or resident directed toward another; and
- (2) Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.



Substantiated:

An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated:

An allegation that was investigated and produced insufficient evidence to make final determination as to whether the event occurred.

Unfounded:

An allegation that was investigated and determined to not have occurred.

Prepared by:

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10/31/2023

Date

Approvals

This report has been reviewed and is approved by:

Valeria deRusha
Agency PREA Coordinator
Assistant Division Director

Date

