



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report – 2024

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Introduction

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ), pursuant to the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape Under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) 28 C.F.R. Part 115 requires our agency to collect a defined set of data for every allegation of sexual abuse. Through what will be referred to in this report as “standards”, PREA further requires the Department of Corrections to aggregate and review that data in order to assess and improve our effectiveness as an agency at preventing, detecting and responding to PREA. Standards related to the collection of data include §115.87 Data Collection; §115.88 Data Review for Corrective Action; and §115.89 Data Storage, Publication, and Destruction. For reference purposes, they are included within this report.

Agency Overview 2022

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Not PREA	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	2	0	2
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0	1	0	1	2
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	0	1	2	1	4
Cases Pending Investigation	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	2	1	4

Percentage Breakdown

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Not PREA	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0%	25%	0%	25%	50%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	0%	25%	50%	25%	

Agency Overview 2023

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Not PREA	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	1	1
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	0	0	0	1	1
Cases Pending Investigation	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	1

Percentage Breakdown

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Not PREA	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	0%	0%	0%	100%	

Agency Overview 2024

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Not PREA	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	0	0	0	0	0
Cases Pending Investigation	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Percentage Breakdown

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Not PREA	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	0%	0%	0%	0%	

Trends

The overall population of returning citizens housed in this department's Corrections Institution has maintained near capacity levels after nearly two years of lower-than-average levels caused by the global pandemic (2020-2022). However, the national staffing shortage has continued to contribute to the reduced the ability of this department to offer supervised services and programs to the returning citizens, potentially creating less of a structured engagement at times. This department is made strides in maximizing hiring and retention efforts among staff in an attempt to mitigate the risk associated with limited staff.

In previous years, allegations made for retaliatory purposes were a majority of the allegations. However, reported PREA allegation cases have trended downward over the last three years. In fact, in 2022 our facility handled 4 total PREA investigations; in 2023, there was 1 PREA investigation handled by our facility; and in 2024, we had no PREA allegations reported. Thus, we have seen a significant percentage reduction in reported PREA incidents as well as false reports over the past three years.

To better comply with the definitions of staff on offender sexual abuse, more allegations made against staff members will be categorized as "staff on offender abuse" instead of "staff on offender harassment."

Returning citizens appear to have limited the use of the PREA hotline, not to report PREA incidents or allegations, but rather to hold or reserve the housing unit phones while waiting to make other personal calls, or to report an unrelated issue. Frequently, calls to the PREA hotline were being made with no formal report and no link to a specific returning citizen, but fortunately, this seems to have subsided.

All collected data is submitted to the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) to be included on their annual responses to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Survey of Sexual Violence (SSV).

ACC DOC SART Investigations Analysis

Total Number of Cases Investigated Per Year	2022	2023	2024	Annual Average
	4	1	0	1.67

Data indicates that the Athens-Clarke County Department of Corrections, with the support of the Georgia Department of Corrections, is effective in implementing and enforcing the standards in PREA.

Numerical Data submitted to GDC for annual BJS-SSV Report

Total number of substantiated cases per year	2022	2023	2024	Annual Average
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Identified Problem Areas and Corrective Action

PREA standards require a review of collected data in order to identify problem areas and establish plans of corrective action. Based upon statistical data alone, there are no obvious problem areas that are not already being addressed through our efforts to achieve compliance with PREA standards. This includes improved returning citizen education, data collection, and some modifications to the current building layout. Improvements to the camera systems are ongoing.

To continue effective data collection, the department will include all allegations, including any use of the PREA hotline, such as those phone calls which are immediately known to be made in bad-faith by the returning citizens. However, if the call to the PREA hotline is disconnected early in the call duration, the ability to connect the call to a returning citizen may not be possible. Annual reports, such as this document, will be prepared and posted on the Athens-Clarke County Department of Corrections website.

During their classification, returning citizens are questioned about their familiarity with PREA to include their awareness of their access to Victim's Advocacy services. That information is made consistently available in every returning citizen housing unit.

Regarding facility layout, the department has not made any major modifications to existing structures in 2024; however, minor, much-needed changes have been formulated, specifically at the Diversion Center, to address issues such as the obstructed view from control to the intake area as well as the potential for offenders mistakenly enter the staff restroom in the administrative hallway. Also, in 2022, a 10-run dog kennel was built and installed within the Corrections' campus. To support this new structure, two cameras were added to the interior and one camera was added to the exterior.

Corrective Actions

2022

The department added a custom-built dog kennel with an interior workplace and corridor inside the campus. With three additional security cameras installed to assist staff in monitoring this area, the Corrections Institution currently has 58 cameras. The Diversion/Transition Center continues to use an additional 16 cameras.

2023

The department has still been in consideration to further improve the camera systems in the Corrections Institution with updated software, and to overhaul the Diversion/Transition Center's camera system with a 100% increase in cameras throughout the facility to include staff areas and programs hallways. However, installation has still not been feasible due to various challenges.

2024

The Diversion Center installed property cages in the intake office with appropriate dimensions as to not obstruct view from Control Room to Intake area. Diversion Center also Identified the need for signage for the public restrooms and offender restroom in the administration hallway to prevent potential issues associated with mistakenly using the wrong restroom. The Diversion Center began receiving quotes to put one-way glass mirror to increase visibility from superintendent's office to classroom where a large number of volunteers and service providers interact with offenders oftentimes without direct officer supervision.

Assessment of the ACC DOC Progress in Addressing Offender Sexual Abuse

This department is fully committed to effectively preventing, detecting, and responding to Prison Rape as enforced by the Prison Rape Elimination Act. The Warden has designated the Interim Superintendent as the department's PREA Coordinator.* This role will routinely work with the other designated members of the Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) to enforce the department's zero-tolerance policy towards the sexual harassment, abuse, and assault of offenders.

It is the intention of this department to fully meet all PREA standards, and to demonstrate this compliance with required Federal audits. Improvements and assessments will be reported on future annual reports to be posted on the department's website.

*In relation to the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), the Athens-Clarke County Department of Corrections' PREA Coordinator will be recognized as the site's PREA Compliance Manager reporting to the GDC Statewide PREA Coordinator.

Comparison Year-to-Year

Note: All numbers reported on this page are SUBSTANTIATED.

YEAR	Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	Sexual Abusive Contacts	Sexual Harassment	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Staff Sexual Harassment	Total Substantiated Incidents
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Corrections Institution

YEAR	Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	Sexual Abusive Contacts	Sexual Harassment	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Staff Sexual Harassment	Total Substantiated Incidents
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Diversion/Transition Center

YEAR	Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	Sexual Abusive Contacts	Sexual Harassment	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Staff Sexual Harassment	Total Substantiated Incidents
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0