



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report – 2022

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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 2020

Category	Investigative Outcome			
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0	0	1	1
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	1	0	1
Total Cases	0	1	0	1
Cases Pending Investigation	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	0	1

Percentage Breakdown

Category	Investigative Outcome			
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0%	0%	100%	100%
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%	100%	0%	100%
Total Cases	0%	100%	100%	
Cases Pending Investigation	0%	0%	0%	
Total	0%	100%	100%	

Agency Overview 2021

Category	Investigative Outcome			
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	1	0	1
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	1	0	1
Total Cases	0	2	0	2
Cases Pending Investigation	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	0	2

Percentage Breakdown

Category	Investigative Outcome			
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	50%	0%	100%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	50%	0%	100%
Total Cases	0%	100%	0%	
Cases Pending Investigation	0%	0%	0%	
Total	0%	100%	0%	

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%	

Trends

The overall population of returning citizens housed in this department's Corrections Institution has returned to at or near capacity levels after nearly two years of lower than average levels caused by the global pandemic. However, the national staffing shortage has reduced the ability of this department to offer supervised services and programs to the returning citizens creating a lack of structured engagement.

No trends are visible from this year's allegations. In previous years, allegations made for retaliatory purposes were a majority of the allegations. With only one such allegation made against staff in 2022 (investigated and determined to not be a PREA allegation), this continues to not be as present as it was prior to the pandemic.

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 continue to appear to use 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 are made, but no formal report and no link to a specific returning citizen is available.

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	2020	2021	2022	Annual Average
	2	2	4	2.67

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	2020	2021	2022	Annual Average
Inmate-Inmate Nonconsensual Acts	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	1	0	0.34
Staff-Inmate Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	1	1	0	0.66
Total	1	2	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 modifications to existing structures 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

2020

The Diversion/Transition Center installed new partitions in the intake/shakedown area. These partitions replace the curtains that previously hung from the ceiling to approximately one foot above the floor. The curtains completely obstructed any view of the officer-conducted strip search of work release participants returning from any outing. The new partitions consist of solid walls from the floor and are approximately 60 inches in height. The layout prevents view of the strip search process while allowing enough visibility to prevent the issue of a single staff person occupying a limited space with a single offender (1:1 ratio).

2021

The department has received quotes to 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. Installation did not proceed due to technical compatibility issues not identified during the assessment.

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.

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 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
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	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
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	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
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0