



Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Overview

The D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC) is one of several agencies under the oversight of the Deputy City Administrator/ Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. The mission of the DOC is to ensure public safety for citizens of the District by providing an orderly, safe, secure and humane environment for the confinement of pre trial detainees and sentenced inmates, while providing meaningful opportunities for community reintegration.

DOC operates one of the largest municipal jail systems in the country with an average daily population of 1,452 inmates. Individuals in the custody of DOC include 96% males and 4% females. The DOC system is comprised of two primary correctional facilities—the Central Detention Facility (CDF), also known as the DC Jail, and the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). As of April 2020, DOC contracts with only one privately operated halfway house for community placement which offers a variety of educational opportunities and other programming services for female residents.

Reporting & Zero Tolerance

DOC takes all reports of sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment seriously. Inmates who are currently being sexually abused or sexually harassed are encouraged to report the incident immediately. The agency also accepts third-party reports regarding sexual harassment and sexual abuse of an inmate, arrestee, or resident in custody at any of its facilities. False reporting, however, will carry serious consequences leading to criminal prosecution. Third parties may call the confidential DC Victim Hotline at **1-844-4HELPDC** or **844-443-5732** or write a letter to the DOC PREA Coordinator at 1901 D. Street, SE, Washington DC 20003. The DOC has a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment involving any person who works, visits or is confined in its facilities and/or contracted entities. Prevention is a top priority for the Department. PREA is a federal law that seeks to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment and applies to all correctional facilities, including prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, military and Indian country facilities, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. DOC strictly prohibits sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual acts and sexual contact between inmates, arrestees, and residents to include that of a consensual nature.



Inside this issue

- Reporting & Zero Tolerance2
- Dedication to Safety & Security2
- PREA Moving Forward2
- Corrective Action2
- PREA Statistics3

Victim & Survivor Support Services at DOC

- Trauma-specific therapy
- Retaliation Monitoring
- Community-based referral & transition services

Inmates receive information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment through inmate orientation, posters, handbooks, 30-day reassessments, and ongoing communication.

Reporting & Zero Tolerance

Beyond institutional regulations, forced or coerced sexual behavior is a criminal offense, and the department takes every action possible to hold perpetrators accountable, including prosecution, resulting in additional imprisonment. It is against the law for staff to engage in any type of sexual activity with an inmate. By law, an incarcerated person is unable to legally consent to sexual activity of any kind with a staff member. This type of activity is referred to as staff sexual misconduct and is punishable up to and including loss of employment, civil penalties, or imprisonment. Any reports of such incidents will be investigated thoroughly, and the employee will be held accountable if found guilty.

Dedication to Safety & Security

DOC has maintained compliance with PREA since 2014. The agency is currently on track to complete PREA audits for its third PREA audit cycle. As part of DOC’s commitment to improve sexual safety and develop best practices to support those efforts for FY22 and beyond, DOC will focus on building and sustaining partnerships with community stakeholders to ensure victims of sexual abuse within its facilities receive services and support comparable to those services provided to victims of sexual abuse in the community. PREA standards set clear expectations that without the involvement of community partners, compliance would be incomplete. DOC will sustain its capacity to respond to sexual abuse in confinement by strengthening collaboration with essential stakeholders.

*If you or someone you know are experiencing sexual abuse or sexual harassment in one of our facilities and would like to receive help, call the **DC Victim Hotline**. A trained Victim Assistance Specialist will help you understand your options.*

DEFINITIONS

Substantiated— an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated-- an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded— an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

PREA MOVING FORWARD

In September 2021, DOC successfully completed the PREA audit of Fairview Halfway House, contract operated facility. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DOC was placed into a medical stay in place status and anticipated projects between the Office of the PREA Coordinator and essential community stakeholders were halted. As strict COVID-19 guidelines lifted, the agency collaborated with Just Detention International (JDI) to provide DOC inmates with encouraging greeting cards through the Words of Hope program. Through this program, every holiday season, JDI supporters send inspirational and supportive holiday messages to incarcerated individuals throughout the country, at no cost to facilities. The Words of Hope program was launched in 2009, and in 2020, JDI sent more than 20,000 Words of Hope messages, each one filled with warm greetings for the new year. While Words of Hope began with incarcerated survivors of sexual abuse, JDI received numerous cards that in recent years, they have expanded the project to include all incarcerated individuals throughout the nation.

CORRECTIVE ACTION CY2021

- Staff-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse , Substantiated — 0
- Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse Substantiated — 2
- Staff-on-Inmate Sexual Misconduct /Harassment — 0
- Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment — 2

The DOC has taken several disciplinary sanctions (disciplinary report, loss of privileges, separation orders, and housing reassignments) against inmates for violating the agency’s zero-tolerance policy against all forms of sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment. Staff was also sanctioned for negligence contributing acts of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

CY 2017 - 2021 PREA Statistics

