



# ZERO TOLERANCE

# PREA ANNUAL REPORT

## 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 pretrial 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 1,356 inmates. Individuals in the custody of DOC include 94% men and 6% women. The DOC system is comprised of two primary correctional facilities—the Central Detention Facility (CDF), also known as the D.C. 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.

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# REPORT



## REPORTING & ZERO TOLERANCE

Beyond institutional regulations, forced or coerced sexual behavior is a criminal offense, and the agency 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

## DEDICATION TO SAFETY & SECURITY

DOC has maintained compliance with PREA since 2014. The agency is currently on track to begin PREA audits for its fourth PREA audit cycle. As part of DOC's commitment to improve sexual safety and develop best practices to support those efforts for FY23 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.*

## PREA MOVING FORWARD

DOC successfully completed the Central Cellblock (CCB) PREA audit in September 2022 and the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) PREA audit in December 2022.

The PREA Coordinator and PREA Compliance Specialist attended the 4th Annual PREA Coordinators' Conference in New Orleans, LA. During the conference, DOC staff collaborated with other PREA Coordinators to unpack and implement complex standards, implement comprehensive incident response and investigations, create gender aligned placement best practices, host an effective PREA audit, and implement bystander intervention techniques.

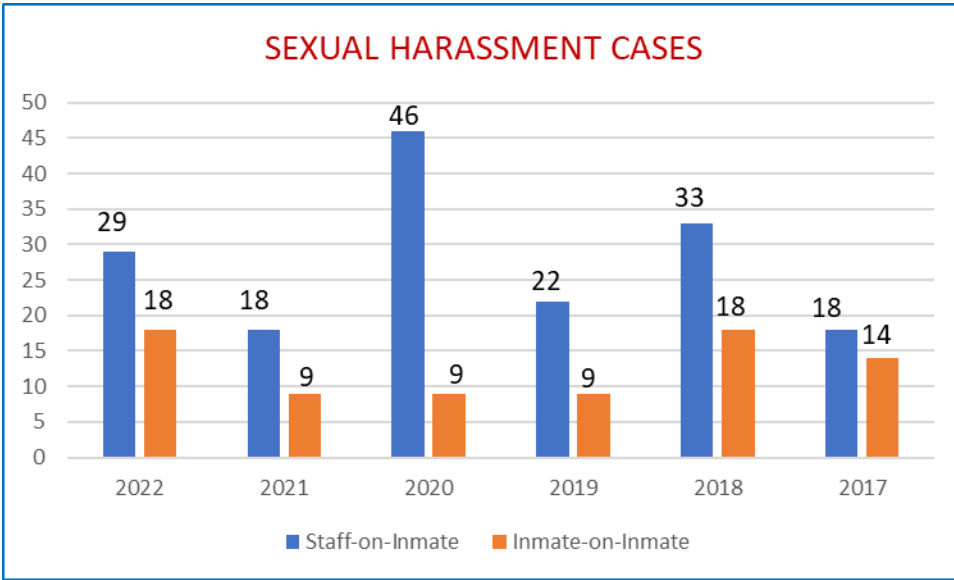
In December 2022, the PREA Coordinator participated in the Urban Institute's PREA Coordinators' Focus Group to inform the planning of a national service line for incarcerated survivors of sexual abuse, funded by the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The group discussions provided the Urban Institute the opportunity to learn from a PREA Coordinator's perspectives on the challenges correctional facilities face in implementing the PREA Standards on reporting and emotional support services and the challenges that incarcerated survivors of sexual abuse face in reporting and accessing emotional support services from outside advocates, and how a service line may help address those challenges.

Also, in December 2022, 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.

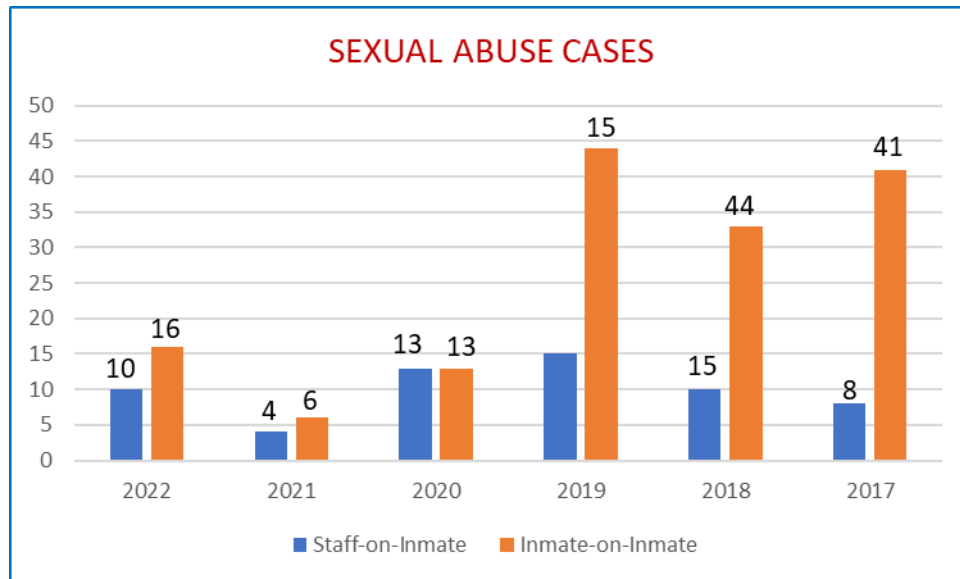


# PREA STATISTICS

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASES

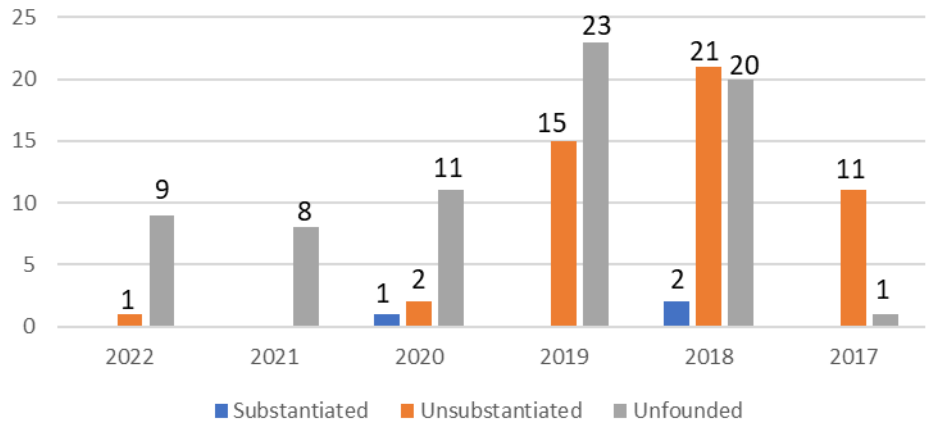


## SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

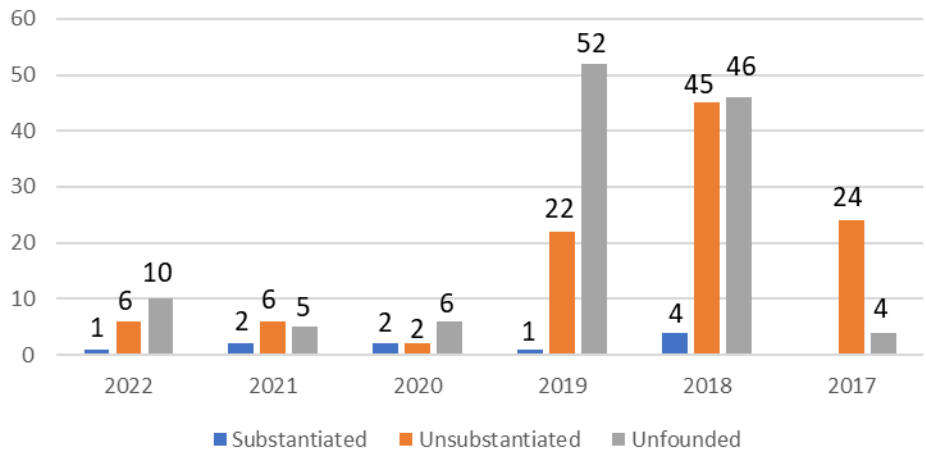


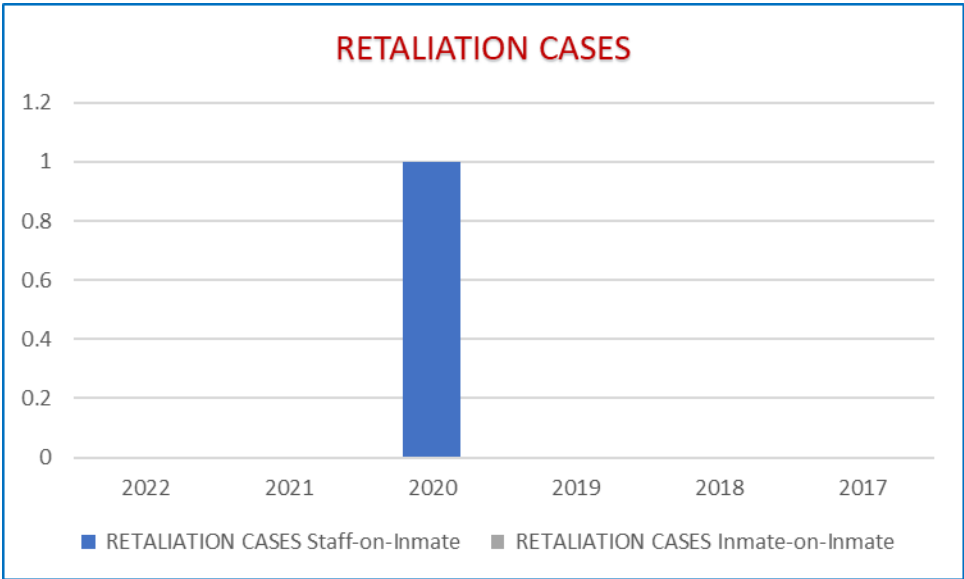
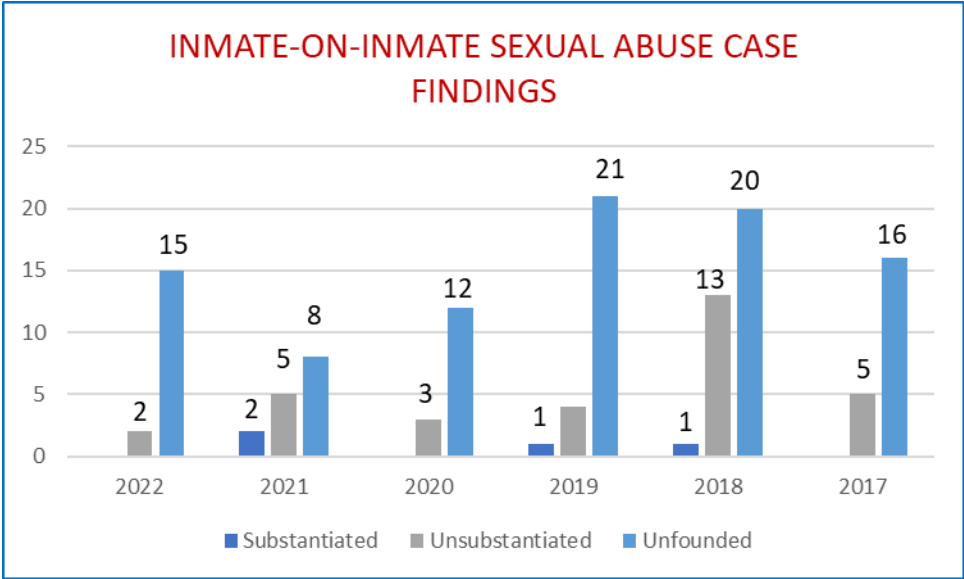
# PREA STATISTICS

**STAFF-ON-INMATE SEXUAL ABUSE CASE FINDINGS**



**INMATE-ON-INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE FINDINGS**





## CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Several corrective actions were taken to adequately respond to the increased number of staff-on-inmate sexual harassment/sexual abuse and inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment/sexual abuse complaints. Staff were additionally trained on the PREA standards in roll call. The Center for Professional Development reimplemented in-person mandatory training for all staff. Additional pocket guides were provided to staff for immediate PREA training and reference. Supervisory guidelines were developed and provided to mid-level operational supervisors. New PREA awareness and reporting banners were placed in several facilities. Newly developed brochures were provided to the inmate population during intake screenings and 30-day reassessments to ensure they receive ongoing comprehensive PREA education. Case Management staff implemented additional processes to ensure each inmate is adequately screened and re-screened within the first 30 days of their incarceration. For substantiated cases involving staff, sanctions such as additional training, administrative leave, and even termination were implemented. For substantiated cases amongst inmates, sanctions such as disciplinary reports, lost of privileges, and restrictive housing placements were implemented. DC DOC takes all PREA cases seriously and will continue to implement best practices to ensure the safety and security of all inmates