

# D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



## PREA 2019

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### AGENCY OVERVIEW

The District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC) is one of 16 agencies under the oversight of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. DOC operates one of the largest municipal jail systems in the United States with an average daily population of approximately 1,798 inmates. Approximately 93% males and 7% females are in the custody of DOC. The agency is comprised of two primary correctional facilities—the Central Detention Facility (CDF) also known as the DC Jail and the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). DOC contracts

with two privately operated halfway houses for the community placement of male and female residents. Comparable to the CDF and CTF, the halfway houses offer an array of programmatic services.

### PREA REPORTING

DOC prevents, detects, responds to, investigates and takes appropriate action on all reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Inmates who have been victimized as a result of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are

encouraged to make an immediate report. The agency accepts third-party reports on behalf of an inmate in its custody by using the following reporting methods:

- Call the confidential DC Victim Hotline at **1-844-4HELPDC** or **1-844-443-5732**.
- **Mail a letter to:** DC DOC PREA Coordinator at 1901 D. Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

False reporting has serious consequences and may lead to criminal prosecution.

### MISSION & VISION

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.

The vision of the DOC is to become a benchmark corrections agency. We will serve

with pride, professionalism, and passion in caring for human lives.



*Awareness is the gateway to acknowledging our imperfections. Breaking the chains, removing stigma, and speaking up will lead us to our ultimate goal.*

*~ Cicily Harrington*

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## PREA 2019

### INMATE PROFILE

D.C. Department of Corrections consists of adult males and females with maximum, medium and minimum security levels. All inmates within the agency's custody are either pre-trial offenders, sentenced misdemeanants, or convicted felons awaiting transfer to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) or short-term sentenced felons designated by the FBOP. Approximately 16% of the female population are pre-trial misdemeanants while approximately

22% of the female population are sentenced felons. Their average length of stay is about 103 days. Although the male population makes up the majority, only about 5% are pre-trial misdemeanants while approximately 10% are sentenced felons. The male population stays within the DOC on an average of approximately 205 days. While the Black population only makes up about 46% of the residents within the District of Columbia, almost 89% of

Black men and nearly 83% of Black women are incarcerated in the DOC. Hispanics or Latinos make up approximately 8%. Forty-six percent of the White residents live in the District of Columbia. Only about 4% of White men and about 11% of White women are incarcerated in the DOC. Pursuant to DC Code 22 section 4501, 46% of women and nearly 57% of men are charged with violent or dangerous offenses.

*Consent to any sexual act is **not** an option at DC DOC.*

*Freedom from sexual abuse & sexual harassment are basic human rights.*



Bridgett McCain, (Clinical Case Manager), Keisha Culbreth-Brooks (Victim Services Coordinator/Advocate) & Cicily Harrington (PREA Coordinator/PREA Auditor)

### PREA AT DC DOC

The DC DOC has a zero-tolerance policy regarding all forms of sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment involving any person who works, visits or is confined in its facilities and/or contract operated facilities. Prevention is a top priority for the DOC.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is a federal law that seeks to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates. DOC's rules strictly prohibit sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual acts and sexual contact be-

tween inmates (including arrestees, detained inmates, and halfway house residents) to include that of a consensual nature. Forced or coerced sexual behavior among the confined population violates agency rules and is a criminal offense. DOC takes action to prevent, detect, report, investigate and hold perpetrators accountable, including prosecution, which may result in additional imprisonment. DOC's rules and the law also strictly prohibit staff from any type of sexual activity with an inmate. By law, an incarcer-

ated 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 misconduct and is punishable up to and including loss of employment, civil penalties, or imprisonment. Any reports of such incidents are investigated thoroughly, and the employee is held accountable for substantiated findings. Inmates who are sexually abused or sexually harassed, by anyone, are encouraged to report the incident immediately.

### PREA MOVING FORWARD

DOC partnered with external stakeholders to develop a victim-centered safety plan to address individual coping skills and solutions as well as operational dilemmas such as housing reassignments and reclassification for victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. In 2019, DOC has addressed inmate service needs with evidence-based

trauma-informed treatment, trauma focused, and cognitive behavioral therapy with 190 inmate victims and inmate abusers/perpetrators of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. On April 24, 2019, PREA staff joined survivors, citizens and community partners with the Victim Services Branch of the MPD for their 3rd Annual Embrace Your

Voice Denim Day to support sexual assault awareness. In August 2019, the agency welcomed a new PREA Compliance Specialist. In September 2019, the PREA Coordinator and the PREA Victim Services Coordinator/Advocate attended the Trauma Training Institute, a two-day foundational training on trauma for professionals working with victims of crime, hosted by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.



## DEDICATION TO SAFETY AND SECURITY

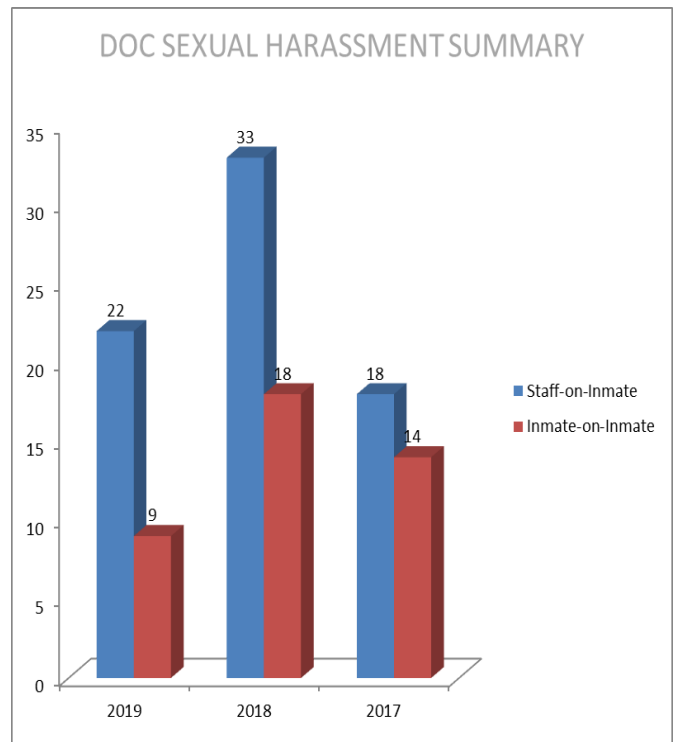
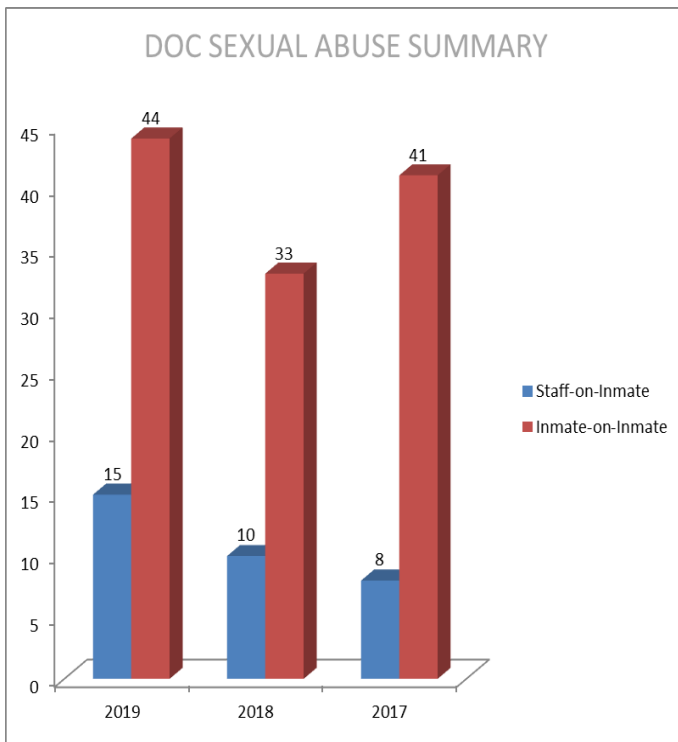
DOC has received certification of PREA compliance for its Central Detention Facility, Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), contracted Community Correctional Facilities (CCC) Fairview (female halfway house) and Hope Village (male halfway house) and the Central Cell Block (CCB). As part of DOC's commitment to improve sexual safety and develop best practices to support those efforts, DOC is building and sustaining partnerships with community stakeholders to ensure that victims of sexual abuse within its facilities

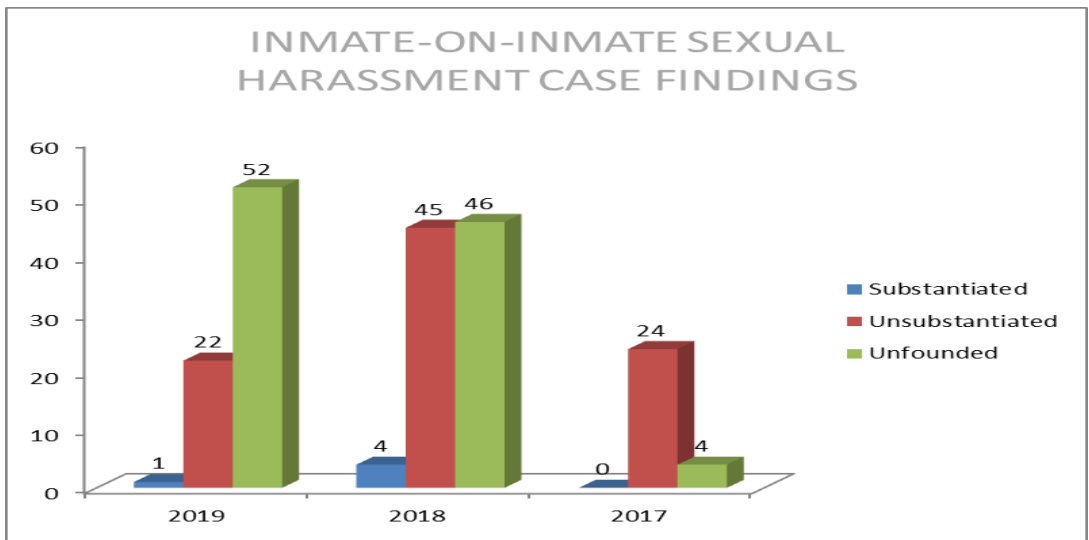
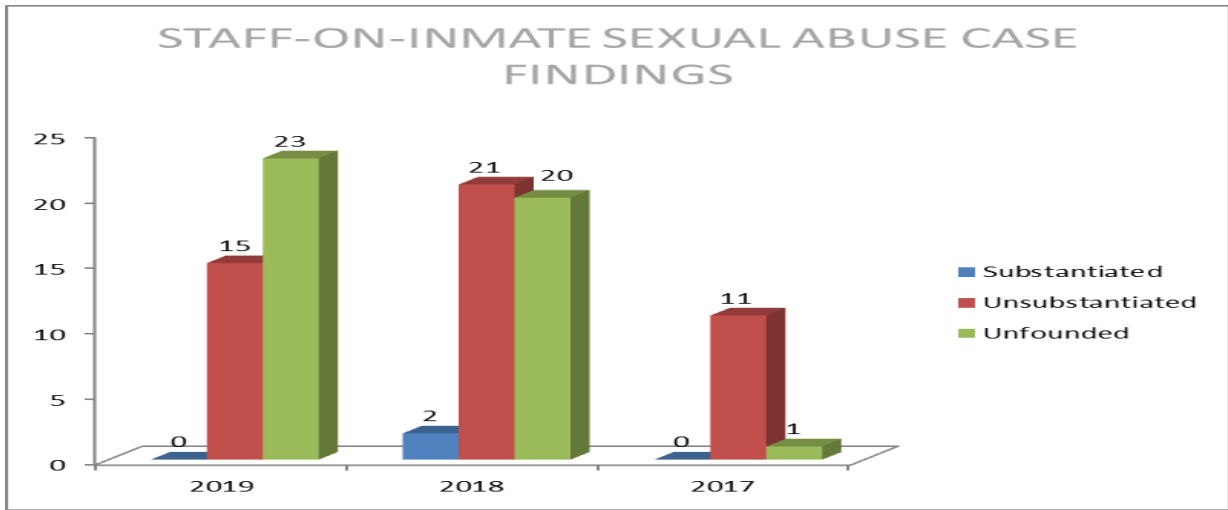
receive services and support comparable to those services provided to victims of sexual abuse in the community. The Department recognizes the importance of community stakeholders in providing services to victims of sexual abuse in confinement. PREA standards set clear expectations for involvement of community partners in order for compliance to be complete. PREA standards that specifically address the role of community stakeholders in providing services to victims of sexual abuse in-

clude: 1) inmates with mental & physical disabilities, 2) evidence protocol/forensic medical examinations, 3) outside confidential emotional support services, 4) MOU agreements with service providers, 5) inmate & third-party reporting. By strengthening the collaboration between DOC and essential stakeholders and leveraging untapped resources, DOC sustains its capacity to respond to the threat of sexual abuse in confinement.

# PREA AT A GLANCE

## DOC PREA SAFETY STATISTICS FROM CY 2017 - CY 2019





## CORRECTIVE ACTION

The Sexual Assault Incident Review Team (SAIRT) has reviewed a total of twenty-three (23) sexual abuse cases and reports the following findings:

Substantiated— 1

Unsubstantiated— 22

Inmates receive information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment through inmate orientation, posters, handbooks and ongoing com-

munication. Disciplinary actions were taken according to DOC's policy. Roll call announcements were conducted to reiterate current policies and procedures. Internal audits were administered to impose accountability measures. Policies and procedures were revised and implemented. Also, half-dome safety mirrors were installed to increase staff visibility and reduce blind spots. Other stipulations and repairs were put in place to address some posing issues in an effort to increase sexual

safety of the inmate population. The Department continues its efforts to ensure safety and security of all individuals who are in its custody.

