The D.C. Department of Corrections (DCDOC) is one of several agencies under the oversight of the Deputy City Administrator/Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. It currently operates with an average daily population of approximately 1,700 inmates. The DCDOC system is comprised of two primary correctional facilities—the Central Detention Facility (CDF) also known as the D.C. Jail and the privately operated Correctional Treatment Facility. In addition, DCDOC contracts with two privately operated halfway houses for the community placement of male/female offenders.

The offender population housed within DCDOC facilities includes both local and federal inmates classified as pre-trial detainees, sentenced misdemeanants, sentenced felons, and parole violators. Those in the custody of the DCDOC include males (93%) and females (7%). During Calendar Year 2015, there were 9,765 intakes and 10,035 releases processed by DCDOC.

The Department’s workforce is comprised of uniformed personnel and civilian staff. 73 percent of the 935 FTE positions are uniformed staff and the remaining are other non-uniformed staff. All officers participate in an intensive 10 week Basic Corrections Training course designed to prepare young men and women for their career in Corrections.
Mission and Vision:
The mission of DCDOC 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.

The vision of DCDOC is to become a benchmark corrections agency. To become a benchmark corrections agency, we will serve with pride, professionalism, and passion in caring for human lives.

PREA Reporting:
DCDOC takes all reports of sexual abuse and sexual assault seriously. Inmates who are currently being sexually abused or harassed are encouraged to report the incident immediately. The agency also accepts third-party reports regarding sexual assault and sexual abuse of an inmate/detainee in custody at any of its facilities. False reporting, however, will carry serious consequences leading to criminal prosecution.

Third parties may use the following reporting methods:
- Calling the Office of the Inspector General’s confidential hot line at 202-724-8477 or 800-521-1639
- Sending a letter to the OIG at 717 14th Street, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005
- Sending a letter to the DCDOC PREA Coordinator, 1901 D. Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

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Inmate Profile
The inmate population of the D.C. Department of Corrections is made up of males, females, and juveniles adjudicated as adults. Of those inmates, only males are housed in the D.C. Jail. The D.C. Jail houses maximum, medium, and minimum security inmates, and all inmates are either pre-trial offenders, sentenced misdemeanants or convicted felons awaiting transfer to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The movement of offenders through the District’s system involves collaboration with federal partner agencies including the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the U.S. Parole Commission, the U.S. Marshals Service and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP). Most District inmates with felony convictions are transferred to facilities operated by the FBOP.

Approximately 48% of the inmates have a felony legal matter pending and 8% are sentenced felons. Roughly 8% are sentenced misdemeanants and 7% are inmates with misdemeanor legal matters pending. The remainder are Parole Violators (25%) or Writs or Holds (5%).

Ninety-three (93) percent of the inmates housed within DCDOC are male, while female inmates only account for 7% of the inmate population. All female inmates are housed in the Correctional Treatment Facility, operated by the Corrections Corporation of America (under contract with the District of Columbia until 2017).

The median age of male inmates is 32.14 years, with a majority falling in the range between 21 and 30 years of age. The median age of female inmates is 36.70 years, with a majority falling between 31 and 40 years of age.

About 60% of the male inmates have self-declared completion of their GED or having received a High School Diploma. About 50% of female inmates declared having a GED or High School Diploma.
The DCDOC 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 contracted entities. Prevention is a top priority for the Department.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) is a federal law that seeks to eliminate sexual abuse and harassment and applies to all correctional facilities, including prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, military and Indian country facilities, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. New standards were published May 2012.

DCDOC strictly prohibits sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual acts and sexual contact between inmates, arrestees, and residents to include that of a consensual nature. Beyond rules, 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. Inmates who are currently being sexually abused or harassed, by anyone, are encouraged to report the incident immediately.

Dedication to Safety and Security
The DCDOC has received PREA compliance for its CDF and its Community Correctional Facilities (CCC) Fairview- Female Halfway House and Hope Village-Male Halfway House. The agency is currently on track to complete PREA audits for its remaining facilities, Central Cell Block (CCB) and the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) before the end of the 2016 PREA audit cycle.

As part of DCDOC’s commitment to improve sexual safety and develop best practices to support those efforts for FY16 and beyond, DCDOC will focus on building and sustaining partnerships with community stakeholders to ensure that victims of sexual abuse within its facilities receive services and support comparable to those provided to victims of sexual abuse in the community. The importance of community stakeholders in providing services to victims of sexual abuse in confinement cannot be overstated. PREA standards set clear expectations that without the involvement of community partners would be incomplete.

PREA standards that specifically address the role of community stakeholders in providing services to victims of sexual abuse include:
- Inmates with disabilities or who are limited English Proficient require access to all aspects of PREA efforts
- Evidence Protocol and forensic medical examinations
- Facilities shall try to make a victim advocate from a rape crisis center available to provide confidential support services to a victim
- Inmate access to outside confidential support services
- MOU Agreements with community service providers
- Inmate Reporting
- Third Party Reporting

By strengthening the collaboration between DCDOC and the essential stakeholders and leveraging untapped resources, DCDOC will build its’ capacity to respond to sexual abuse in confinement and will be better able to successfully implement PREA throughout the District of Columbia.
Findings Summary for CY 2015

The SAIRT has reviewed a total of eleven (11) sexual assault cases and reports the following findings:

- Substantiated-4
- Unfounded-7

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

Corrective Action Summary for CY2015

- Substantiated- details were supported and member(s) involved were subjected to DCDOC’s zero tolerance policy 3350.2F, Elimination of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Misconduct, section 21. Employee Discipline (a,e).
- Unfounded- the allegation is false, could not have happened, and/or is without a reasonable basis, members were either referred for mental health services and medical evaluation or administrative sanctions.

The DCDOC takes all reports of sexual abuse and sexual assault seriously. False reporting, however, will carry serious consequences and potential criminal prosecution.