PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)

AGENCY 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. DOC currently operates one of the largest municipal jail systems in the country with an average daily population of approximately 2,100 inmates. Those in the custody of DOC include males 93% and females 7%. The DOC system is comprised of two primary correctional facilities—the Central Detention Facility (CDF) also known as the DC Jail and Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). In addition, DOC contracts with two privately operated halfway houses for the community placement of male/female residents that offer a variety of educational opportunities and other programming services.

PREA REPORTING

DC DOC responds, investigates and takes appropriate action on all reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Inmates who are sexually abused or sexually harassed are encouraged to report incidents immediately. The agency also accepts third-party reports regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment of an inmate/arrestee in custody at any of its facilities. Third parties may use the following reporting methods: (1) Call the confidential DC Victim Hotline at 1-844-4HELPDC or 1-844-443-5732, or (2) Send a letter to the DC DOC PREA Coordinator, 1901 D. Street, SE, Washington DC 20003. False reporting has serious consequences and may lead to criminal prosecution.
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 D.C. Department of Corrections.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is a federal law that seeks to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates. It applies to all correctional facilities, including prisons, jails, juvenile, military, Indian Country and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. The final rule became effective August 20, 2012.

DC DOC rules strictly prohibit sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual acts and sexual contact between inmates (including arrestees, detained inmates, and halfway house residents) to include that of a consensual nature. Forced or coerced sexual behavior among the detained population violates agency rules and is a criminal offense. The Department takes action to prevent, detect, report, investigate and hold perpetrators accountable, including prosecution, which may result in additional imprisonment.

DC DOC rules and the law also strictly prohibit staff from 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 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.

“Sexual Abuse is a Choice and is not tolerated at D.C. Department of Corrections.”
PREA MOVING FORWARD

DC DOC hosted several Community Stakeholder Focus Groups culminating in a PREA Symposium, facilitated by the Moss Group, in April of 2018 in an effort to continue strengthening valuable community support services from outside agencies throughout the District of Columbia.

4th Annual Paving the Way Conference

In addition to the 2018 PREA Stakeholder Symposium, PREA staff endeavored in the commitment toward sustainable strategies of community collaboration by participating in many informative and rewarding events and opportunities. PREA kicked off the year by taking part in the 4th Annual Paving the Way Conference, sponsored by Common Justice. The event took place at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York and focused on Channeling Resilience for young men of color and their communities who have been harmed by violence.
VICTIM SERVICES

After a much anticipated arrival, the Department hired a Victim Services Coordinator to develop, implement and oversee DC DOC’s plan pursuant to the national PREA standards to address inmate support service needs with victim-centered, trauma-informed and culturally competent therapy to victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Forty-nine inmate victims were served under the DC DOC Victim Services Program between May – December 2018.

In April, PREA staff joined survivors, citizens and community partners with the Victim Services Branch of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department for their Embrace Your Voice Annual Denim Day to support sexual assault awareness.

In May 2018, PREA hosted U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics for a DC DOC tour to provide further insight into the practical application of prevention, detection, and responding to sexual abuse in confinement settings.

In September 2018, DOC PREA staff partnered with the Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services which hosted a trauma training facilitated by community partner and Executive Director of the DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC), Indira Henard, who examined the anti-oppression, survivor-centered mutual healing of violence against women.

In November 2018, to ensure continued efforts of compliance and advocacy, PREA staff completed training as Human Rights Liaisons with the DC Office of Human Rights on policies and practices of federal and local human rights laws.

DEDICATION TO SAFETY AND SECURITY

The DC DOC has received certification of PREA compliance for its Central Detention Facility, Community Correctional Facilities (CCC) Fairview (Female Halfway House) and Hope Village (Male Halfway House) and the Central Cell Block (CCB). The agency is completing PREA audits for its second PREA certification for its facilities and for the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) by the end of 2019.

As part of DC DOC’s commitment to improve sexual safety and develop best practices to support those efforts, DC 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 include:

1. Inmates with disabilities or who are limited English Proficient require access to all aspects of PREA efforts;
2. Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations;
3. Facilities make a victim advocate from a rape crisis center available to provide confidential support services to a victim;
4. Inmate access to outside confidential support services;
5. MOU Agreements with community service providers;
6. Inmate Reporting;
7. Third-Party Reporting.

By strengthening the collaboration between DCDOC and the essential stakeholders and leveraging untapped resources, DC DOC sustains its capacity to respond to the threat of sexual abuse in confinement.

**PREA SAFETY STATISTICS CY18**

![Graph showing DOC Sexual Harassment & Sexual Abuse Summary by Facility](image)
CORRECTIVE ACTION

PREA Findings Summary for CY 2018

The Sexual Assault Incident Review Team (SAIRT) has reviewed a total of nineteen (19) sexual abuse cases and reports the following findings:

Substantiated—1
Unsubstantiated—18

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

PREA Corrective Action Summary for CY2018

Substantiated— an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced sufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event 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.

The DCDOC investigates and when substantiated, takes appropriate action on all reports of sexual abuse and sexual assault. False reporting, however, will carry serious consequences and may result in criminal prosecution.