

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 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 1328 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.



ZERO
TOLERANCE
FOR SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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Victim & Survivor Support Services at DOC

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

Inmate Education

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. DOC has maintained compliance with PREA since

Dedication to Safety & Security

2014. The agency is currently on track to complete 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 FY24 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 April of 2023, PREA staff participated in the Metropolitan Police Department's Annual Denim Day of wearing jeans to raise awareness and solidarity to victims of sexual assault and the legislative push to reduce domestic partner sex abuse nationwide. In July of 2023 PREA staff participated in the 5th Annual PREA Coordinator's Conference in Washington, DC at the U.S. Department of Justice where over 150 PREA Coordinators and PREA Compliance Specialists from across the country convened to discuss best practices on the spectrum of prevention, detection and response. The PREA staff look forward to participating in the 2024 PREA Coordinator's Conference in Buffalo, NY to continue participation in PREA Coordinator Working Groups and expanding partnerships with stakeholders. We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of PREA at the Congressional Briefing which took place at the U.S. Capitol and was hosted by Just Detention International (JDI). In August 2023, DOC conducted the PREA audit of The Central Detention Facility. In 2023, the Office of the PREA Coordinator collaborated with 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.



CY 2023 PREA Statistics

