

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 was enacted to address sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in confinement youth centers. The goal of PREA is to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities.

On August 12, 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) published mandatory standards for the detection, prevention, and punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The four sets of standards correspond to different types of confinement facilities: 1) Adult prisons and jails, 2) lockups, 3) Community confinement centers, and 4) Juvenile facilities. Since, the Rutherford County Juvenile Detention Center (RCJDC), has made efforts to comply with the PREA Act by implementing policies and procedures, training employees, contractors, and volunteers, and educating youth.

Reporting Data

PREA standard 115.387 requires data be collected and aggregated on sexual abuse and sexual harassment incidents in RCJDC. PREA standard 115.388 requires RCJDC to review data collected and produce an annual report. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) requires confinement facilities to collect, and report detailed information regarding sexual victimization of residents. Factors such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gang affiliation, group dynamics and other possible contributing elements are reported when available. This report contains information provided through the Survey of Sexual Victimization for 2022. This report also includes comparisons from 2017 to 2022. Any personally identifying information has been redacted for this report.

Investigation Findings

Allegations of sexual abuse are reported to Children's Protective Services (CPS). If there is a suspicion a crime was committed, local law enforcement is also notified. When allegations are made, RCJDC, will complete an internal inquiry that does not duplicate or interfere with CPS or law enforcement investigation. The internal inquiry results in a finding may include evidence/information discovered by an external agency.

Scope of Report

This report provides a review of program specific and aggregate data collected for the year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.

Category I: Youth on Youth Non-Consensual Sex Acts

In 2022, two allegations were reported. Both reported allegations were found to be unsubstantiated. The related circumstances were systematically processed. As a result of this distillation process, the facts of the actions involved did not meet the PREA standard definitions of sexual assault / sexual harassment and were therefore, unsubstantiated accordingly. As a result of this finding no corrective actions were required. Juvenile names are the only information redacted in these reports.

Category II: Staff Sexual Harassment

In 2022, two allegations were reported. Both reported allegations were found to be unsubstantiated. The related circumstances were systematically processed. As a result of this distillation process, the facts of the actions involved did not meet the PREA standard definitions of sexual harassment / sexual assault and were therefore, unsubstantiated accordingly. As a result of this finding no corrective actions were required. Juvenile names are the only information redacted in these reports.

Comparisons

Rutherford County Juvenile Detention Center																						
Survey of Sexual Violence Summary																						
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 1, 2021																						
Date	Time	Location	Residents Name	Gender	Race	Age	Yth/Yth Nonconsen. Sexual Act				Yth/Yth Abuse Sexual Contact				Staff Sexual Misconduct				Staff Sexual Harassment			
							Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong	Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong	Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong	Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong
Oct 23, 2021	8:00am	Housing	Redacted	Male	Black	17													X			
Total							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		

* No corrective actions needed at this time due to unfounded allegations.
 * Juveniles names are the only items that may be redacted.

Rutherford County Juvenile Detention Center																						
Survey of Sexual Violence Summary																						
January 2022 to December 31, 2022																						
Date	Time	Location	Residents Name	Gender	Race	Age	Yth/Yth Nonconsen. Sexual Act				Yth/Yth Abuse Sexual Contact				Staff Sexual Misconduct				Staff Sexual Harassment			
							Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong	Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong	Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong	Subs	Unsubs	Unfound	Int Ong
9/5/2022	5:00am	Housing	Redacted	Male	Black	18			X													
11/17/2022	8:00pm	Housing	Redacted	Male	Black	18													X			
12/4/2022	10:45pm	Housing	Redacted	Male	Black	16													X			
12/12/2022	9:00pm	Housing	Redacted	Male	Black	16			X													
Total							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

* No corrective actions needed at this time due to unfounded allegations.
 * Juveniles names are the only items that may be redacted.

Corrective Actions

The PREA Manager continues to update Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Prevention trainings that are mandatory for all new employees and annually to all employees, contractors and volunteers as applicable to PREA standards. The curriculum includes mandatory reporting requirements, accurate data entry / collection, scenario training, youth education and the potential personnel, legal consequences of violating PREA standards.

Conclusions

RCJDC will continue to place a high priority on sexual abuse and sexual harassment through training and holding youth and employees accountable that engage in sexual abuse and unhealthy boundaries and will maintain relationships with community stakeholders to share pertinent information with outside investigation entities. Data collected during 2022 will continue to be reviewed by the PREA Manager throughout the year to identify agency and youth specific themes requiring corrective action, policy updates and/or training needs.

SymDuke