

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 at 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 2023. This report also includes comparisons from 2017 to 2023. 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 suspicion a crime was committed, local law enforcement is also notified. When allegations are made, RCJDC, will complete an internal inquiry that does not interfere with CPS or law enforcement investigations. 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, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023.

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.

In 2023, no reports alleging sexual assault/sexual harassment were filed.

Category II: Staff Sexual Harassment

updates and/or training needs. All required PREA related data/reports can be found on the RCJDC webpage, under PREA Annual Reports.