

Pasco County Corrections Department (BOCC)
Prison Rape Elimination Act
Annual Data Review Report



2022

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Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) establishes a Zero-Tolerance standard towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of incarcerated persons. It is Public Law 108-79, signed in September 2003 by President Bush.

PREA sets a standard that protects the Eight Amendment rights of Federal, State, and local prisons, making the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment a top priority. The major provisions of the PREA Standards include:

- ✓ Adherence to a zero-tolerance policy
- ✓ Development of standards for detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of prison rape
- ✓ Collection and dissemination of information on the incident of prison rape

The goals of PREA align with the mission of the Pasco County Corrections Department, in that we are committed to operating a safe, secure correctional facility delivering quality programs and services while maintaining the dignity and respect of those we serve. We are committed to a Zero-Tolerance standard for the detection, reduction and punishment of sexual abuse of inmates, to address the safety and treatment of inmates who have been victim of a sexual act, and to discipline and prosecute those who perpetrate these acts upon inmates.

Purpose

Pursuant to the Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards, this report serves as an annual review required to assess and improve the effectiveness of the Pasco County Corrections Department policies, procedures, and training as it relates to sexual abuse prevention, detection, and responses. The Pasco County Corrections Department investigates all reported cases of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

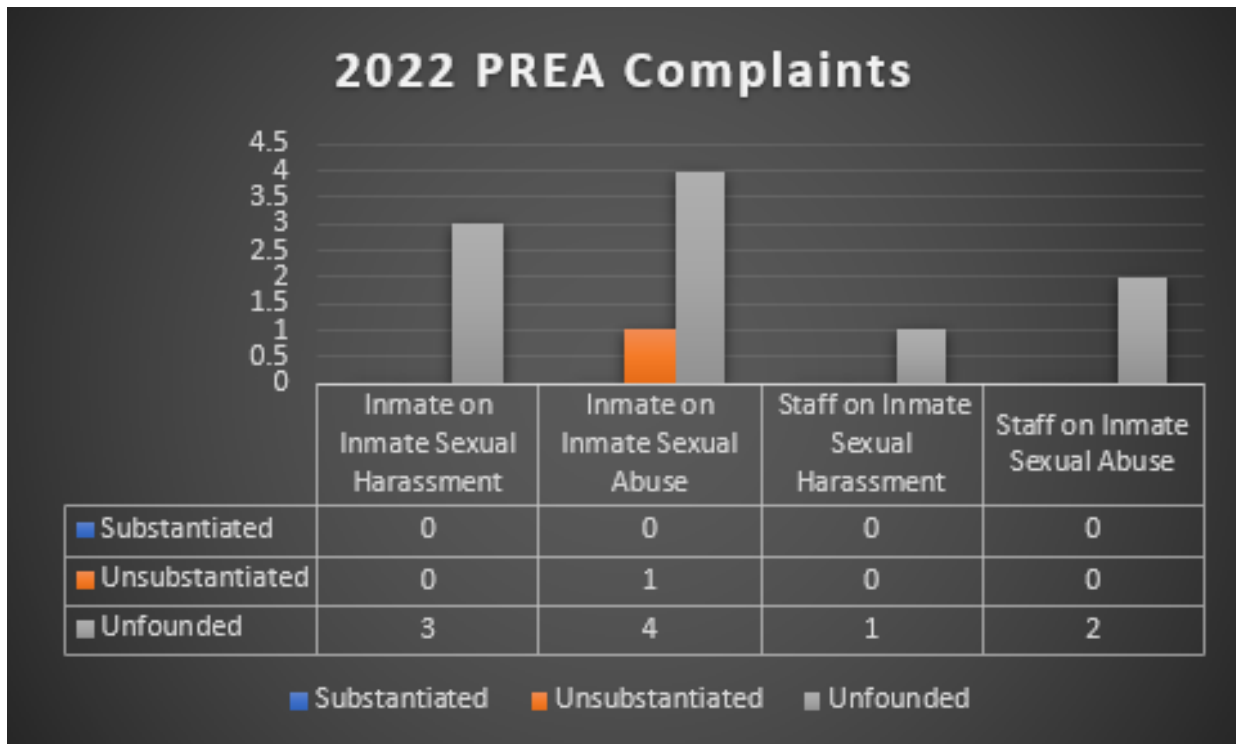
115.88 Data Review for Corrective Action

- To ensure that required sexual abuse data is used to identify problem areas, and to take ongoing corrective action to improve the prevention, detection, and response policies and practices of the facility and agency.
- To require the agency to prepare an annual report for each facility and for the agency as a whole on the prevalence of sexual abuse and to provide this report to the public through the agency website or other means thus ensuring transparency. Comparing the current year's data with data from prior years and providing an assessment of the agency's progress promotes agency accountability.

- a) The agency shall review data collected and aggregated pursuant to 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including by:
 - 1) Identifying problem areas;
 - 2) Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and
 - 3) Preparing and annual report of its finding and corrective actions for each facility, as well as a whole.
- b) Such report shall include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
- c) The agency's report shall be approved by the agency heads and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.
- d) The agency may redact specific material from the reports when publication would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of a facility but must indicate the nature of the material redacted.

Collected Data

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022



Comparison of Reported Incidents

No data from 2021

Investigative Findings

Based on the evidence collected through the course of the investigation, a finding is determined based on the following PREA categories:

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 - The allegation was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Open - The investigation has not been completed.

2022 Substantiated Incidents

There were no substantiated incidents in 2022.

2022 Unsubstantiated Incidents

One (1) Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment allegation was unsubstantiated due to conflicting statements and no additional evidence.

2022 Unfounded

Two (2) Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment allegations were unfounded because they were not covered under the tenets of the national PREA standards. Three (3) Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse allegations and two (2) Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse allegations were unfounded after review of video evidence. One (1) Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse allegation was unfounded due to a third-party reporting and the alleged victim refuting any incident took place. One (1) Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment Allegation, one (1) Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse allegation, and one (1) Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment allegation were unfounded due to inconsistent statements.

Ongoing Efforts

Sexual Abuse Incident Reviews

The Pasco County Corrections Department conducts Sexual Abuse Incident Reviews on all allegations of sexual abuse (inmate on inmate) or staff sexual

misconduct that are either substantiated or unsubstantiated, as required by PREA Standards (115.86). These reviews are conducted by a review team comprised of the PREA Coordinator, Standards and Conduct Sergeant, Administrative Lieutenant, on-duty Shift Commander, Professional Development staff, Medical and Mental Health staff, and Division Captains. This review team evaluates the circumstances of each incident and provides recommendations for policy or procedural changes in order to better prevent, detect or respond to sexual abuse. The team also evaluates staffing levels, determines if an incident was motivated by a particular group dynamic, assesses the adequacy of monitoring technology in use, and determines if physical barriers enabled the abuse.

Training and Education

Training and education are critical components to the prevention of sexual abuse. Mandatory computer-based training on PREA is provided annually to all staff and includes the department's zero tolerance policy and staff's responsibilities regarding the prevention, detection, reporting and response to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. All new members receive PREA training during New Member Orientation, and all volunteers, contracted employees and vendors receive PREA training prior to assignment.

Risk Screening and Assessment

Inmates complete a risk screening and assessment during the intake process. The screening and assessments are completed by intake/release, classification and medical staff in order to identify potential victims and predators. The information gathered assists with providing additional resources to inmates, such as mental health counseling, and housing assignments to ensure inmates at high risk of being sexually victimized are kept separate from inmates at high risk of being sexually abusive.

Conclusion

The Pasco County Corrections Department remains firmly committed to adhering to PREA Standards and making necessary adjustments on an on-going basis in order to maintain compliance. The Pasco County Corrections staff are committed to operating a safe and secure facility ensuring the safety and well-being of all incarcerated inmates.