

2024

**Miami-Dade Corrections and
Rehabilitation Department
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report**



Sherea Green, Director



History

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was established in 2003 by the United States Congress to address the problem of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. PREA applies to all public and private institutions, including community-based agencies, which house adult or juvenile offenders. It addresses both inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse/harassment and staff sexual misconduct/harassment.

The goals of PREA align with the mission of the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR) which is *to serve the community by providing safe, secure, and humane detention of individuals in our custody while preparing them for a successful return to the community*. As such, MDCR has continued its long-established “zero tolerance” policy relating to sexual violence in custody and recognizes inmates who are sexually harassed or abused as victims of a serious crime. MDCR responds to allegations, fully investigates all reported incidents, pursues disciplinary action, and refers those who perpetrate such conduct for investigation and prosecution. MDCR continuously seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for all individuals in our custody.

MDCR and Corrections Health Services (CHS), the inmate medical provider, are dedicated to preventing and detecting PREA-related occurrences using a multi-faceted strategy. This strategy comprises a PREA committee assessment, training, suitable personnel numbers, rules and procedures, and surveillance technologies to detect problem areas and implement appropriate corrective measures to make essential adjustments.

Training and education are essential components in the prevention of sexual abuse. In addition to rules and procedures, MDCR guarantees that all inmates, MDCR and CHS personnel, contractors, and volunteers are trained on PREA. Training covers how to recognize, prevent, and respond to situations of sexual harassment, abuse, and improper interactions between staff and inmates. Newly arrested inmates receive initial education during the intake process; however, inmates who are held after their first court appearance receive comprehensive education within 30 days about their right to be free of sexual abuse and harassment, how to report any incidents, and how to protect themselves while incarcerated.

Current Efforts

In August 2024, the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center (TGKCC) successfully underwent a PREA audit and was determined to be in full compliance with all applicable standards. The audit identified five areas of concern, which included issues such as inmate camera pixelation and the provision of advocacy services for inmates housed in the Mental Health Treatment Center (MHTC). Additional concerns involved enhancements to retaliation prevention measures and the refinement of implementation procedures.

Through collaborative efforts and innovative solutions developed by the Office of Compliance, Detention Facilities Division, Food Services Bureau, and Facilities



Management Bureau, each area of concern was effectively addressed and brought into compliance.

MDCR remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of its inmate population. The Department recognizes that the prevention of sexual abuse and non-consensual sexual acts is an essential component of this commitment. In preparation for the audit, MDCR undertook the following initiatives departmentwide:

- Updated the PREA video and documentation to ensure the most up-to-date information is provided.
- Updated and replaced 800+ PREA postings throughout all facilities.
- Conducted the Bi-Annual Transgender/Intersex Assessment and Treatment Plan.
- Retrofitting PTDC with new shower curtains that provide added privacy throughout the facility.
- Increased video surveillance to provide enhanced video monitoring coverage throughout all detention facilities, along with an implementation plan to install additional surveillance equipment.

PREA Investigations

The Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) Special Victims Bureau (SVB) is responsible for investigating all suspected PREA violations in MDCR facilities.

SVB conducts formal criminal investigations on-site and determines the legitimacy of the alleged PREA violation, and if it constitutes criminal conduct.

MDCR provides mandated data to the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) annually via the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV) as part of BJS' National Prison Rape Statistics Program. The data includes the incidence and prevalence of sexual victimization in MDCR's detention facilities and based on allegations of sexual victimization by other inmates or staff that are reported.

Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Victimization

The SSV utilizes the definition of "sexual abuse" as provided by 28 C.F.R. §115.6 in the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. For purposes of the SSV, sexual abuse is disaggregated into two (2) categories of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization.

These categories are:

1. SEXUAL ABUSE



Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse:

- Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and
- Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.

2. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one inmate, detainee, or resident directed toward another.

Staff-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse

The SSV utilizes the definition of "sexual abuse" by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer as provided by 28 C.F.R. §115.6 in the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. For purposes of the SSV, sexual abuse is disaggregated into two (2) categories of staff-on-inmate sexual abuse.

These categories are:

1. STAFF SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer includes any of the following acts, with or without consent of the inmate, detainee, or resident:

- Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;
- Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger,



object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;

- Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
- Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in paragraphs (1)– (5) of this section;
- Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee, or resident; and
- Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.

2. STAFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

The outcomes of a sexual abuse investigation (disposition) are categorized as follows:

Substantiated

The event was investigated and determined to have occurred, based on a preponderance of the evidence (28 C.F.R. §115.72).

Unsubstantiated

The investigation concluded that evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded

The allegation was determined to have most likely not occurred.

Investigation Ongoing

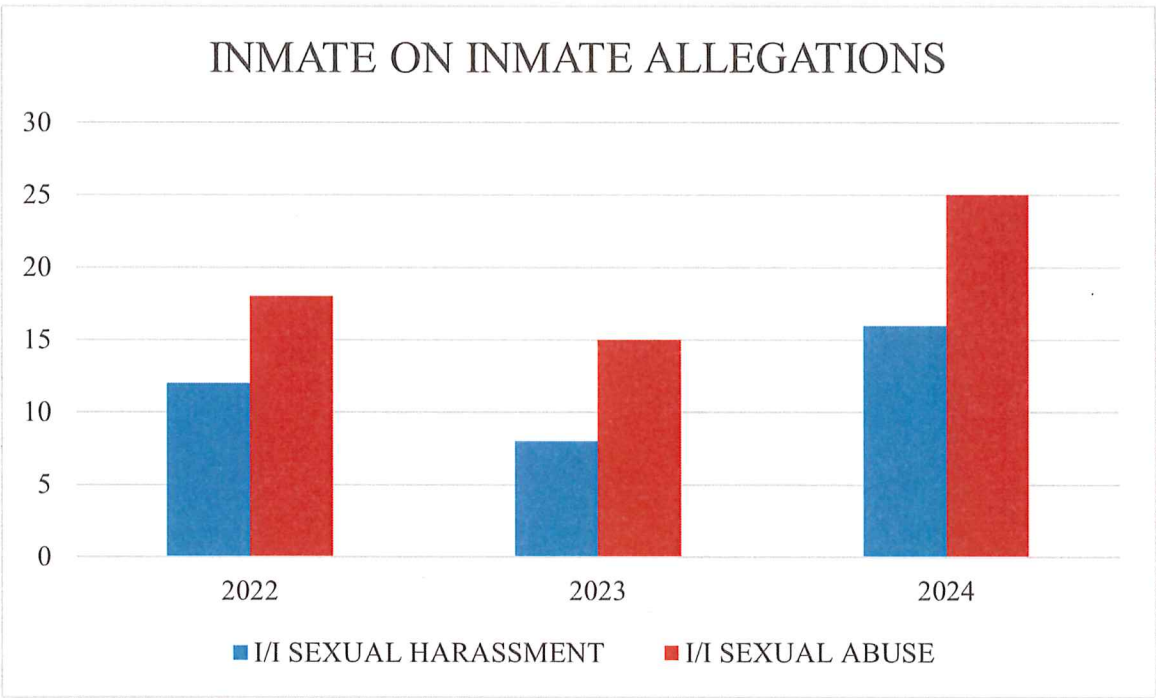
Evidence is still being gathered, processed, or evaluated, and a final determination has not yet been made.

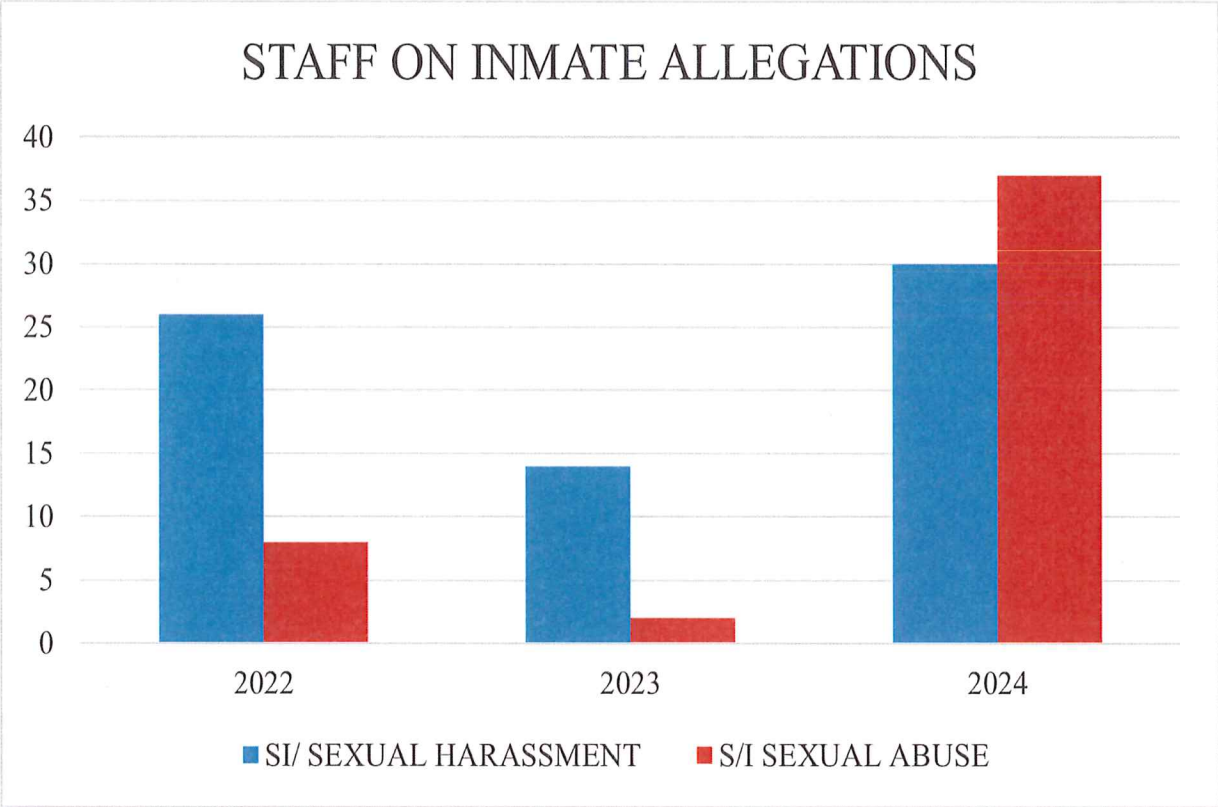


Comparative Data Analysis

2022,2023,2024 Victimization Survey of Sexual Violence and Survey of Sexual Victimization

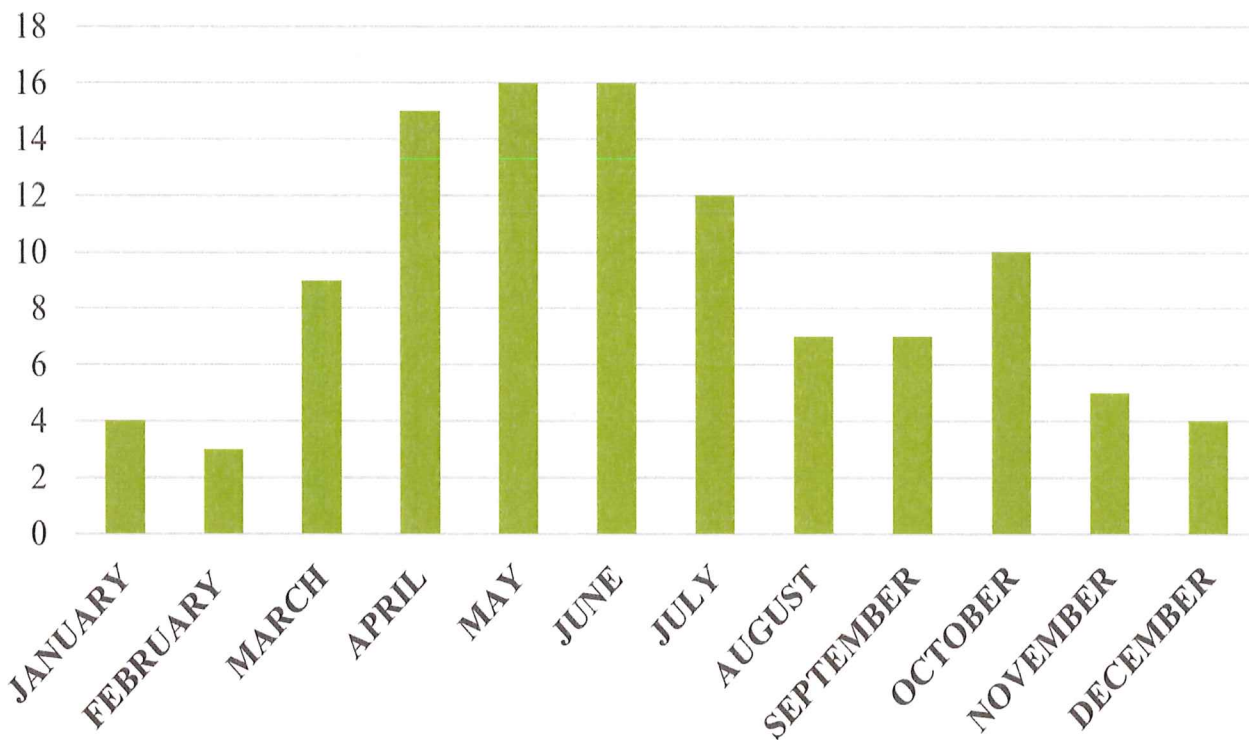
The graphs below represent a comparison of all reported incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment between the years 2022, 2023, and 2024.







2024 PREA ALLEGATIONS BY MONTH



- The outcome of the cases reported in 2022 is as follows: 30 inmate-on-inmate PREA cases resulted in 19 unsubstantiated, 9 unfounded, and 2 investigations ongoing. The outcome of 34 staff-on-inmate resulted in 3 substantiated, 13 unsubstantiated, 15 unfounded, and 3 investigations ongoing.
- The outcome of the cases reported in 2023 are as follows: 23 inmate-on-inmate PREA cases resulted in 3 substantiated, 12 unsubstantiated, 6 Unfounded, and 2 investigations ongoing. The outcome of the 16 staff-on-inmate resulted in 0 substantiated, 6 unsubstantiated, 10 unfounded, and 0 investigations ongoing.

To date, BJS has not distributed the 2024 SSV to correctional agencies. However, as of October 2025, MDCR's case dispositions for 2024 are as follows:

- The outcome of the cases reported in 2024 is as follows: 41 inmate-on-inmate PREA cases resulted in 5 substantiated, 27 unsubstantiated, 9 unfounded, and 0 investigations are ongoing. The outcome of the 67 staff-on-inmate cases resulted in 2 substantiated, 48 unsubstantiated, 17 unfounded, and 0 investigations ongoing.



Ongoing Efforts

MDCR continues to apply the PREA standards and best practices to address claims of sexual abuse and harassment of inmates. MDCR is committed to continual monitoring and the implementation of remedial actions to ensure complete PREA compliance and, most importantly, to optimize safety in MDCR detention facilities.

This continuous self-improvement will result in systemic improvements that completely integrate the intent of the PREA standards and provide the greatest degree of safety.

MDCR and CHS continue to:

- Ensure all staff complete and acknowledge PREA training upon hire and annually thereafter.
- Provide ongoing education for both staff and inmates to reinforce PREA standards, reporting mechanisms, and zero-tolerance policies.
- Require annual PREA surveys for all staff to assess understanding, identify training needs, and evaluate program effectiveness.
- Ensure CHS educators deliver comprehensive PREA training for medical staff, including pre- and post-testing to measure knowledge retention and competency.
- Enhance specialized training for investigative and medical professionals to improve response, evidence collection, and trauma-informed care.
- Support advanced PREA training opportunities for the PREA Coordinator (e.g., AJA and PREA conferences) and the 5 PREA Compliance Managers.
- Review and update existing policies and procedures to strengthen PREA compliance and align with best practices.
- Uphold CHS's strategic plan to ensure all staff receive prior authorization before entering facilities or engaging with the inmate population.
- Provide PREA response cards to all new staff, volunteers, and contractors as quick-reference tools for reporting procedures.
- Ensure response cards are available in Spanish and Creole as needed.
- Enhance/modify the objective risk screening tool to more accurately identify inmates vulnerable to sexual victimization or at risk of perpetration when necessary.
- Offer private counseling services for inmates who have experienced current or prior sexual assault, in collaboration with local victim advocacy groups and CHS staff, as needed.
- Install additional cameras to improve video quality, reduce blind spots, and ensure recordings are securely stored in a digital, virtual environment.
- Prepare thoroughly for the upcoming Pre-Trial Detention Center (PTDC) PREA audit, ensuring full compliance with all standards, and corrective action as necessary.

Conclusion

MDCR, in collaboration with CHS, continues steadfast in its commitment to incorporating best practices, improving PREA standards implementation, and making ongoing modifications to guarantee PREA compliance. Furthermore, MDCR is committed to providing safe, secure, and humane accommodations for incarcerated people in MDCR



facilities.

Following consultation, the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR) updated its reporting and incident documentation practices to strengthen compliance with federal PREA standards. These updates ensure that all allegations and disclosures are consistently identified, documented, and reviewed.

As a result of these improved practices, MDCR has seen an increase in reported incidents. This increase reflects enhanced reporting accuracy, greater staff awareness, and a commitment to transparency—not an increase in the occurrence of misconduct.

These reporting practices remain ongoing and are a critical part of MDCR's efforts to promote accountability, protect individuals in custody, and maintain public trust.



Sherea Green, Director

12/19/2025
Date