

Alaska Department of Corrections
Annual PREA Report for 2023





Mission & Vision

The Alaska Department of Corrections (AKDOC) provides secure confinement, reformative programs, and a process of supervised community reintegration to enhance the safety of our communities.

We are trained professionals committed to a safe, open and respectful organization. We are dedicated to public safety and will always respect the rights and dignity of victims of crime. Offenders in our charge will be treated in a safe and humane manner and will be expected to enhance their ability to reform every day.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires that each facility collect and review data pursuant to 28 C.F.R §115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training. This review is intended to:

- Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from the previous years;
- Identify problem areas and corrective action(s) taken;
- Report incident-based and aggregated data from facilities the department contracts for the confinement of its inmates; and
- Asses the Department's progress in addressing sexual abuse.

Approved by,
Jen Winkelman
Commissioner

Background:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into federal law in September 2003, with the final standards being published on June 20, 2012, becoming effective on August 20, 2012. The goal of PREA is to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment within confinement setting by establishing a zero-tolerance policy for such acts.

The final rule and standards were published in the federal register on June 20, 2012 and became effective on August 20, 2012. The Federal Standards require annual audits of one-third of the facilities under the agency's jurisdiction as well as Annual Governor Certification of Compliance in all facilities under the operational control of the state's executive branch, and all private facilities operated on behalf of the executive branch to house incarcerated individuals. Failure to annually certify compliance with standards results in a 5-percent reduction in Department of Justice (DOJ) identified grant funds for the following federal fiscal year.

AKDOC has zero tolerance for all forms of sexual misconduct and will impose disciplinary sanctions for such misconduct, up to and including dismissal for staff and serious infractions for offenders who victimize other offenders. Incidents of sexual misconduct will be referred to law enforcement when applicable. DOC policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all offenders, employees, contract staff, volunteers and any other person providing services in Department facilities or offices. Retaliation against any person because of his/her involvement in the reporting or investigation of a PREA claim is prohibited and will be investigated.



The federal standards in **28 CFR §115.6** defines the following:

Offender-on-Offender Sexual Abuse-- 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 and the 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.

Offender-on-Offender Sexual Harassment— The AKDOC defines Sexual Harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of an offensive sexual nature by one prisoner directed towards another prisoner. To include demeaning references to gender, gender preference, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about an offender's body and clothing or obscene language or gestures.

Other Allegation-- An allegation that the AKDOC defines as being investigated and determined to not meet the federal definitions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

Staff-on-Offender Sexual Abuse-- Sexual Abuse of an offender, detainee or resident by a staff member, contractor or volunteer including any of the following acts, with or without consent of the offender, detainee or resident:

- Contact between the mouth and 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 above;
- 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.

Staff-on-Offender Sexual Harassment- The AKDOC defines Sexual Harassment as verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a prisoner, probationer or parolee by a Department employee, contractor or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing or obscene language or gestures.

Substantiated Allegation—An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unfounded Allegation-- An allegation that was investigated and determined to not have occurred.

Unsubstantiated Allegation— An allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Voyeurism—Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor or volunteer means an invasion of privacy of an inmate, detainee or resident by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties, such as peering at an inmate using a toilet in his or her cell to perform bodily functions; requiring an inmate to expose his or her buttocks, genitals or breasts or taking images of all or part of an inmate’s naked body or an inmate performing bodily functions.

The federal defined definitions are mirrored in the Alaska Department of Corrections policies and application. The exception being with the Sexual Harassment definitions. Federal definitions utilize the parameters of **repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to define Sexual Harassment. The Alaska Department of Corrections definition does not rely on the repeated occurrences of verbal comments or gestures to constitute sexual harassment.*



Department’s Sexual Abuse Data:

I-I: Inmate on Inmate
S-I: Staff on Inmate

The following data is an aggregated representation of all the reported incidents to the Alaska Department of Corrections.

Year	Substantiated		Unsubstantiated		Unfounded	
	I-I	S-I	I-I	S-I	I-I	S-I
2015	4	0	21	6	4	3
2016	1	0	16	5	5	1
2017	2	0	12	1	3	3
2018	2	0	5	2	2	2
2019	4	1	11	1	2	2
2020	2	0	13	1	9	3
2021	2	0	9	2	11	7
2022	1	0	11	0	4	4
2023	2	2	13	0	3	5

Department’s Sexual Harassment Data:

I-I: Inmate on Inmate
S-I: Staff on Inmate

Year	Substantiated		Unsubstantiated		Unfounded	
	I-I	S-I	I-I	S-I	I-I	S-I
2015	3	1	9	4	3	2
2016	1	1	12	3	2	7
2017	1	2	8	2	0	2
2018	5	1	9	3	4	2
2019	6	3	21	5	3	5
2020	9	1	9	2	3	6
2021	6	0	10	6	0	7
2022	2	0	16	3	7	4
2023	3	1	18	1	9	2

2023 Breakdown of Facilities by Incident Type:

The following aggregated data represents all cases that were reported to the Alaska Department of Corrections through multiple methods of reporting to include, PREA hotline, requests for interviews, self-reports, 3rd party reports, email and friends and family.

I-I SA—Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse
I-I SH—Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment
S-I SA—Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse
S-I SH—Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment

Legend:

ACC— Anchorage Correctional Complex
 AMCC— Anvil Mountain Correctional Center
 FCC— Fairbanks Correctional Center
 GCCC-- Goose Creek Correctional Center
 HMCC-- Hiland Mountain Correctional Center
 KCC— Ketchikan Correctional Center
 LCCC— Lemon Creek Correctional Center
 MSPT— Mat-Su Pretrial Facility
 PCC --- Palmer Correctional Center
 PMCF— Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm
 SCCC— Spring Creek Correctional Center
 WWCC— Wildwood Correctional Center
 YKCC— Yukon Kuskokwim Correctional Center

Facility	Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
ACC	I-I SA	0	3	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	1	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
AMCC	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	2	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
FCC	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
GCCC	I-I SA	0	4	0
	I-I SH	0	9	8
	S-I SA	0	0	1
	S-I SH	1	0	1

2023 Breakdown of Facilities by Incident Type cont.

Facility	Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
HMCC	I-I SA	0	4	1
	I-I SH	1	3	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	1	0
KCC	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	1
	S-I SH	0	0	0
LCCC	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
MSPT	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	1	1
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
PCC	I-I SA	1	0	0
	I-I SH	1	1	0
	S-I SA	1	0	1
	S-I SH	0	0	0
PMCF	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
SCCC	I-I SA	0	1	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
WWCC	I-I SA	0	1	1
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
YKCC	I-I SA	1	0	1
	I-I SH	1	2	0
	S-I SA	0	0	2
	S-I SH	0	0	0
PREA Coordinator	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	1

Other Data:

In the above data tables, the below information was not included. This was due to ongoing investigations or the result of an investigation revealing that the reported incident was not a PREA matter, due to the failure of an incident to meet the federally defined definitions.

Facility	Open Cases	Not PREA related
ACC	8	21
AMCC	0	2
FCC	4	2
GCCC	4	16
HMCC	10	14
KCC	0	0
LCCC	2	0
MSPT	1	2
PCC	2	3
PMCF	0	0
SCCC	2	6
WWCC	2	2
YKCC	0	7
PREA Coord.	0	1

Summary of Aggregated Data:

During calendar year 2023, the Alaska Department of Corrections processed a total of 178 PREA related cases, of which 8 cases were substantiated to have occurred with 35 cases, remaining open. Comparatively, in calendar year 2022, a total of 135 cases were processed with 3 cases being substantiated with 41 cases open. As of the writing of this report, the calendar year 2022 statistics indicate there are 15 cases that remain open.

Problem Areas:

In 2019, the Alaska Department of Corrections began reviewing sexual abuse cases that resulted in unsubstantiated or substantiated findings. These case reviews meet the requirements of the federal standards in 115.86. The following is a list of 2023 corrective actions for each facility and the Department as a whole.

Facility	Corrective Action/s
ACC	Camera upgrade to include increased storage
AMCC	No recommendations at this time
FCC	No recommendations at this time
GCCC	Juliet and Kilo module camera upgrade

Problem Areas Cont.

Facility	Corrective Action/s
HMCC	Blind spot mitigation (6 identified areas)
KCC	No recommendations at this time
LCCC	Blind spot mitigation (2 identified areas)
MSPT	Blind spot mitigation (3 identified areas)
PMFC	No recommendations at this time
SCCC	No recommendations at this time
WWCC	Camera upgrade, increase to staffing
YKCC	No recommendations at this time
AKDOC	Budgeting for travel for compliance requirements, improved inmate education programing

Corrective Actions:

Problem areas within the AKDOC were identified through sexual abuse reviews and the PREA Compliance Managers recommendations for improvements. An overwhelming recommendation for sexual safety within our facilities was made, regarding camera upgrades and blind spot mitigation.

During the 2021 annual report, it was determined the inmate PREA education program would need standardization throughout the department. In 2023, a standardized program was utilized. However, as a corrective action, it has been determined that the standardized program needs more specifics for the Department and individual facilities. This individualization will continue to be addressed in 2024.



Contracted Agencies:

The AKDOC contracts with 15 Alaskan jails for the confinement of pretrial inmates and with 7 private entities for the housing of residents in Community Residential Centers. All agencies that the AKDOC contracts are required to be compliant with the PREA standards as they apply to either the Prison and Jail standards or to the Community Confinement standards.

2023 Breakdown of Contracted Facilities by Incident Type:

The following aggregated data represents all cases that were reported to the Alaska Department of Corrections through multiple methods of reporting to include, the contracted facility, PREA hotline, requests for interviews, self-reports, 3rd party reports, email and friends and family.

I-I SA—Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse
I-I SH—Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment
S-I SA—Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse
S-I SH—Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment

Facility	Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
Barrow	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Cordova	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Craig	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0

2023 Breakdown of Contracted Jails by Incident Type Cont.

Facility	Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
Dillingham	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Haines	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Homer	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
King Salmon	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Kodiak	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Kotzebue	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Petersburg	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Seward	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Sitka	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
UnAlaska	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Valdez	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Wrangell	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0



2023 Breakdown of Contracted Residential Centers by Incident Type:

Facility	Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
Cordova Center	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	1	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Midtown Center	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Glacier Manor	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
NorthStar Center	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	1	1	0
	S-I SA	0	0	1
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Parkview Center	I-I SA	0	1	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Seaside Center	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	0	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0
Tundra Center	I-I SA	0	0	0
	I-I SH	3	0	0
	S-I SA	0	0	0
	S-I SH	0	0	0

Other Data:

In the above data tables, the below information was not included. This was due to ongoing investigations or the result of an investigation revealing that the reported incident wasn't a PREA matter, due to the failure of an incident to meet the federally defined definitions.

Facility	Open Cases	Not PREA related
Kotzebue Jail	0	1
Cordova Center	3	2
Glacier Manor	0	0
Midtown Center	1	0
Parkview Center	1	0
Seaside Center	0	0
Tundra Center	2	0
NorthStar Center	1	1

Summary of Aggregated Data:

During Calendar year 2023, the Alaska Department of Corrections contracted agencies processed a total of 20 PREA related cases. Out of these reported cases, 4 cases were found to be substantiated with 8 cases remaining open. Comparatively in 2022, the contracted agencies processed a total of 15 PREA related cases, with 1 case being substantiated and 12 cases remaining open. As of the writing of this report, the calendar year 2022 statistics indicate there is 1 case that remains open.

Problem Areas Related to Contracted Facilities:

Corrective actions for the contracted facilities have been compiled into a chart as required by the federal standards to identify corrective actions per facility. A common issue was present for all the contracted jails and residential centers as outlined in the chart.

Contracted Jails	Corrective Action
Barrow	Contracted jails will begin working on compliance with staff trainings and policy development.
Cordova	“
Craig	“
Dillingham	“
Haines	“
Homer	“
King Salmon	“
Kodiak	“

Problem Areas Related to Contracted Facilities Cont.:

Contracted Jails	Corrective Action
Kotzebue	“
Petersburg	“
Seward	“
Sitka	“
Unalaska	“
Valdez	“
Wrangel	“

Residential Centers	Corrective Action
Cordova Center	Work with the residential centers on continuing to perform audits
Midtown Center	“
Glacier Manor	Work with the residential center to have investigators trained in compliance with 115.234, 115.271-115.273
North Starr Center	Work with the residential centers on continuing to perform audits
Parkview Center	“
Seaside Center	“
Tundra Center	“

Progress and Summary of the AKDOC:



During 2023, the Alaska Department of Corrections made improvements to our abilities in order to detect and respond to prison rape. The following is a summary of those improvements:

- Monthly training topics for PREA compliance managers
- Development of contractor and vendor training
- Development of contract jail staff training
- Standardized inmate education

The Alaska Department of Corrections continues to address the requirements to become fully PREA compliant and has made progress in this endeavor. This commitment to the requirements of the federal standards ensures sexual safety within the AKDOC facilities and its contracted facilities. It is this commitment that increases our physical safety within our facilities for inmates and for staff.

