



Doug Burgum, Governor
Leann K. Bertsch, Director

2018 Annual PREA Report

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The North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) is committed to maintaining the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 and enhancing the safety and security for DOCR residents. The DOCR began our second set of PREA audits September 2016. By February 20, 2017, the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center (YCC), the Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC), the North Dakota State Penitentiary (NDSP), and the James River Correctional Center (JRCC) all achieved full compliance with the PREA standards.

This report is a summary of the agency's efforts in PREA compliance from 2018. The DOCR examines all collected agency data in an effort to continually improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse detection, prevention, and response.

Purpose:

This document serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, response policies, practices, and training in the DOCR pursuant to §115.88 and §115.89 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the DOCR is required to:

1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually in order to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas;
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis;
 - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings.
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
3. Publish an annual report on the DOCR website of its findings and corrective actions for each facility as well as for the agency as a whole.

Aggregated Data:

The DOCR collects data from the referrals of investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; both resident on resident and staff/contractor/volunteer on resident. The data in this section contains the aggregated data as well a comparison between CY 2017 and CY 2018.

Figure 1.1
2017

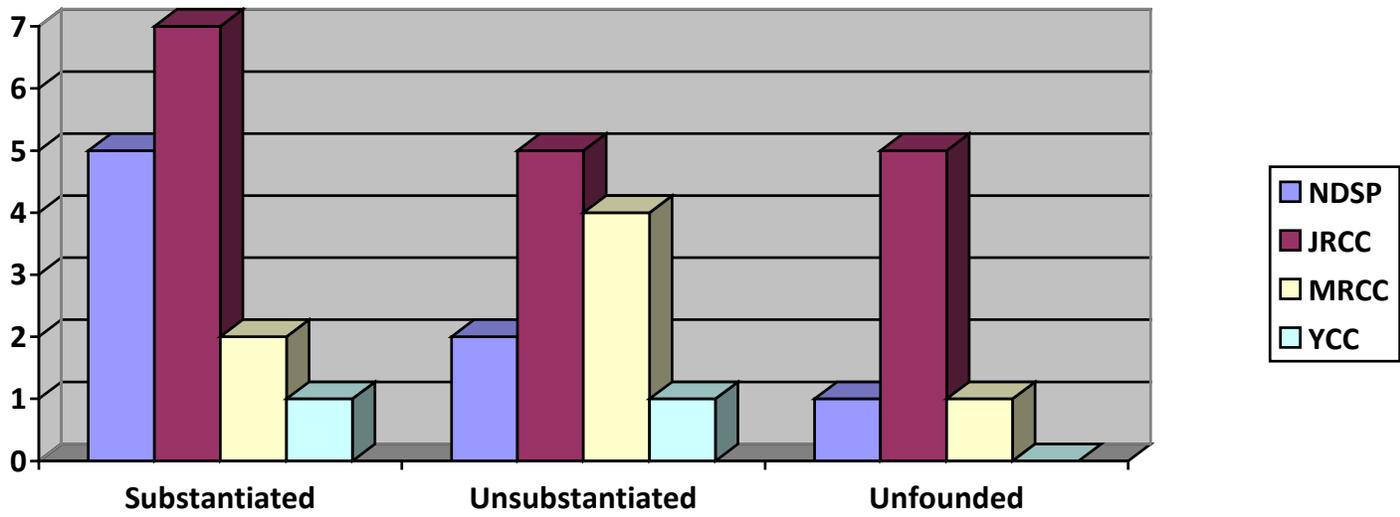
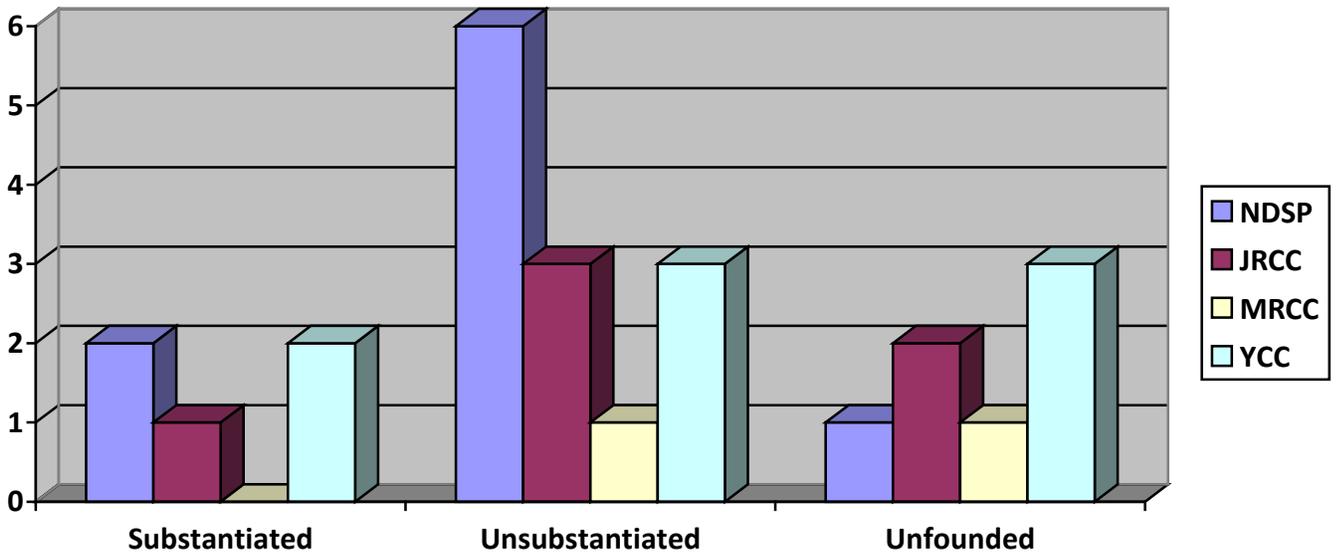


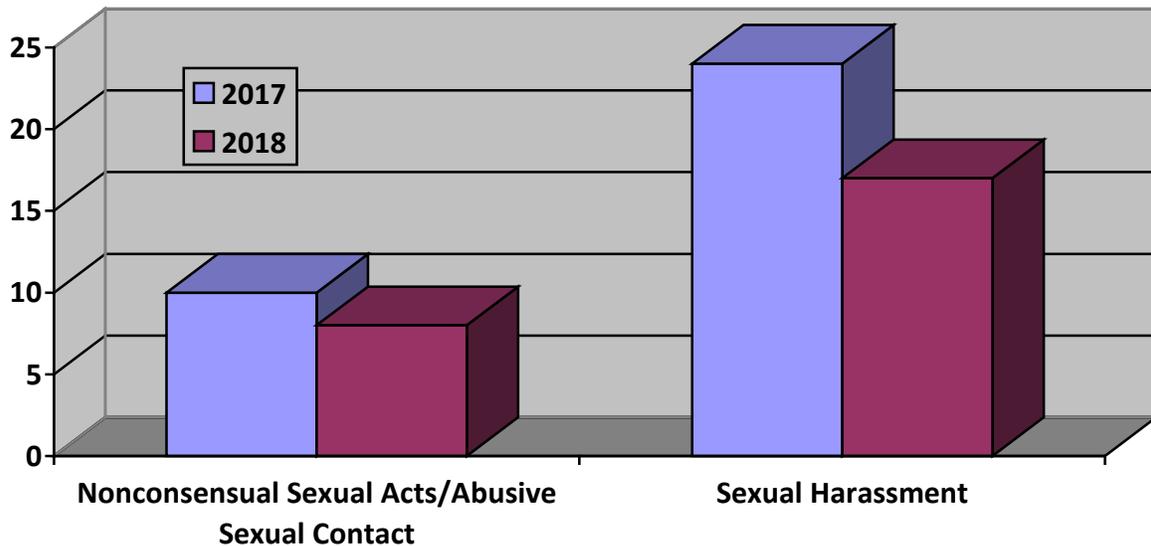
Figure 1.2
2018



Comparative Data Analysis:

The following graph (Figure 2.1) represents a comparison between CY 2017 and CY 2018 agency reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These totals are all reports received, regardless of their dispositions. In CY 2017, the agency-wide total was thirty-four. The agency-wide total in CY 2018 was twenty-five.

Figure 2.1



Problem Areas/Corrective Action:

The DOCR continues to implement best practice and the requirements of the PREA standards in order to address allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents. The leadership of the DOCR is dedicated to on-going monitoring and corrective action in order to maintain full PREA compliance and, most importantly, to maximize the sexual safety of the residents in North Dakota correctional facilities.

The DOCR has implemented systemic change to include integrating the PREA standards into all policies and procedures. The DOCR continues to strive for the highest level of sexual safety for the residents in our care.

The following are corrective actions/new processes/updates completed at the agency level:

1. Revised and updated DOCR PREA policy.
2. Completed PREA audits at all DOCR facilities resulting in full compliance with the standards.
3. Continue to enhance training for staff, residents, contractors, and volunteers to ensure the information being relayed is clear and up to date with the new guidance from the PREA Resource Center.
4. Continue to train additional PREA Investigators utilizing the training provided by The Moss Group.
5. Revised the objective screening tool utilized in the facilities based on information received from facility case management, the audit results, and guidance from the PREA Resource Center.
6. Trained female correctional officers to conduct clothed and unclothed body searches of our transgender female residents.

New Processes/Updates:

The North Dakota State Penitentiary has expanded their camera system to assist in monitoring and for utilization as a forensic tool when allegations are reported.

The North Dakota Youth Correctional Center made three significant changes during 2018 to bolster their ability to better protect their residents. In July 2018, stalls were installed in the girl's locker room at the gym. This will enable youth on Specialized Housing or "Single Shower" status to shower in private but still provide for efficiency. In December 2018, two additional cameras were installed in the gym. Finally, staff at ND YCC met with the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) staff and expanded their current coordinated response protocol. The PREA Compliance Manager, or designee, will be accompanying a resident to the CAC when there is an allegation for the purpose of being present for the out briefing. This will allow the facility to respond in an appropriate and timely manner.

Conclusion:

It is the goal of the DOCR to provide the highest possible level of safety to those in our care in all ways. We remain committed to the continuous demonstration of full compliance with all requirements of the PREA standards. In doing so, we feel we will provide our residents a safe, secure environment where they can work towards change and successful transition into the community.