

2019 Annual PREA Report

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02/11/2020

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 third audit cycle began in August 2019. All facilities within the department are working to schedule and complete their PREA audits for the new three-year cycle. NDSP and MRCC's onsite portions of the audit are during March 2020. JRCC's onsite portion of the audit is in April 2020. DWCR's onsite portion of the audit is May 2020. NDYCC will be having an audit during the summer of 2020.

This report is a summary of the agency's efforts in PREA compliance from 2019. The DOCR examines all collected agency data in an effort to continually improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse detection, prevention, and response.

Purpose:

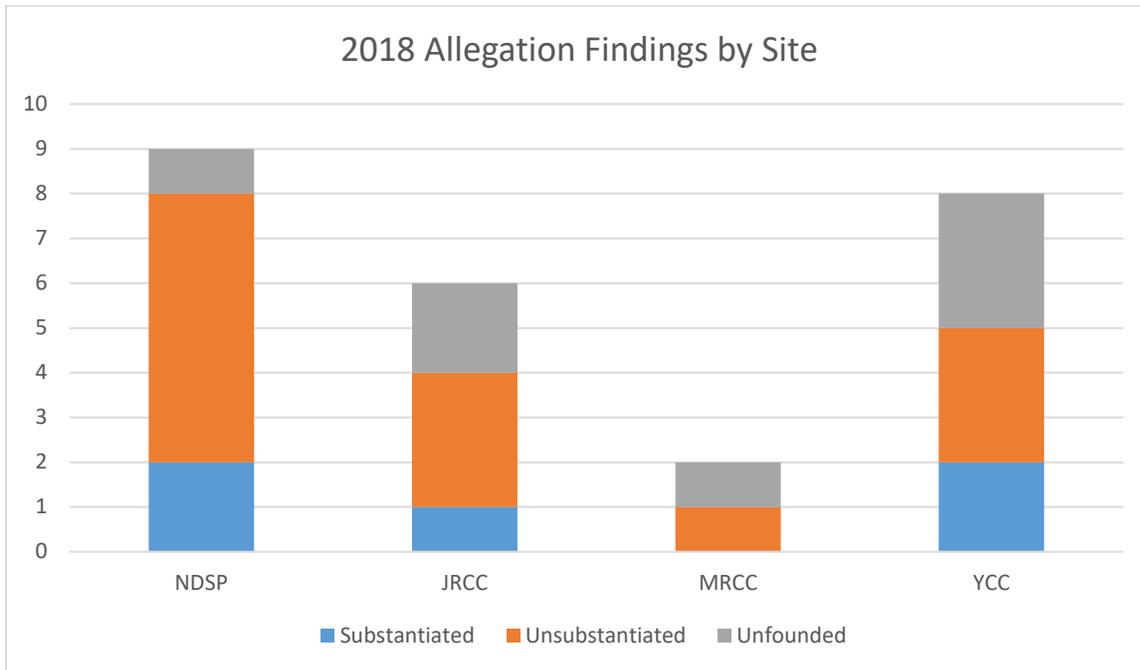
This document serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, response policies, practices, and training in the DOCR pursuant to §115.88 and §115.89 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the DOCR is required to:

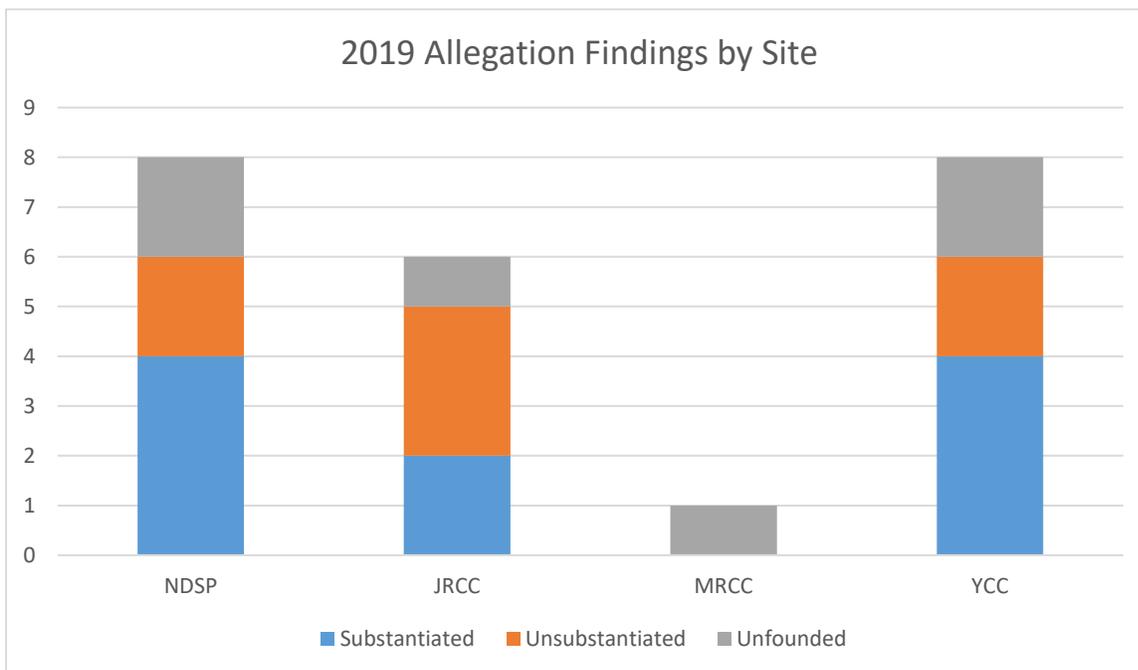
1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually in order to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas;
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis;
 - c. Preparing 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 2018 and CY 2019.

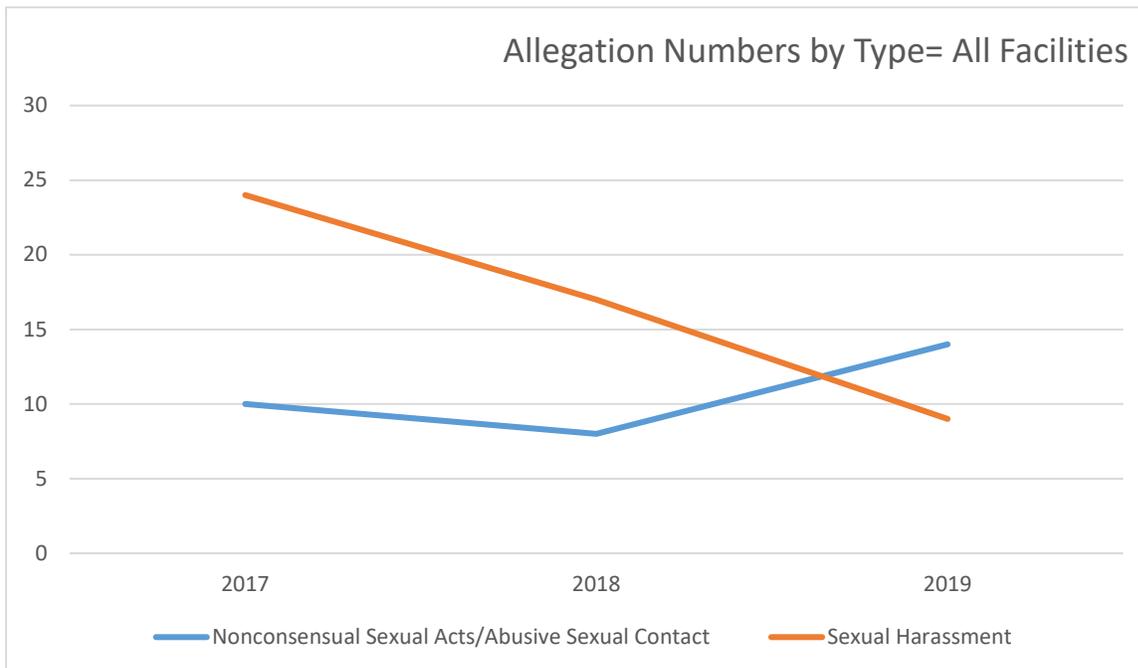




Comparative Data Analysis:

The following graph represents a comparison between reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These totals are all reports received, regardless of their dispositions. We have continued to see a downward trend in sexual harassment allegations as an agency. During 2019, there was an increase in sexual abuse allegations. In looking at the specific facility information for the 14 sexual abuse allegations, five allegations were substantiated, four allegations were unsubstantiated, and five allegations were unfounded.





Problem Areas/Corrective Action:

The DOCR continues to implement best practices 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 and training curricula.
2. 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.
3. Continue to train additional PREA Investigators utilizing the training provided by The Moss Group.



4. 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.
5. Partnered with the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico to increase staff understanding of the transgender population and their needs.

New Processes/Updates:

- 1) Updated policy 3C-4 on the adult side so the PREA Coordinator is responsible for the tracking of notifications to other facilities when a resident alleges past abuse.
- 2) A new PREA Compliance Manager was named at the NDYCC.
- 3) A new PREA Compliance Manager was named at the MRCC.

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.

