

2021 Annual PREA Report

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The North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (ND DOCR) is committed to maintaining the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 and enhancing the safety and security for ND DOCR residents.

The third audit cycle began in August 2019. The North Dakota Youth Correctional Center (NDYCC) completed their audit in 2020. James River Correctional Center (JRCC) and Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC) completed their audits in 2021 and the North Dakota State Penitentiary (NDSP) completed their audit in 2022. The ND DOCR opened a women's correctional facility in 2021; Heart River Correctional Center (HRCC) will be audited for PREA compliance in the Spring of 2022.

Purpose:

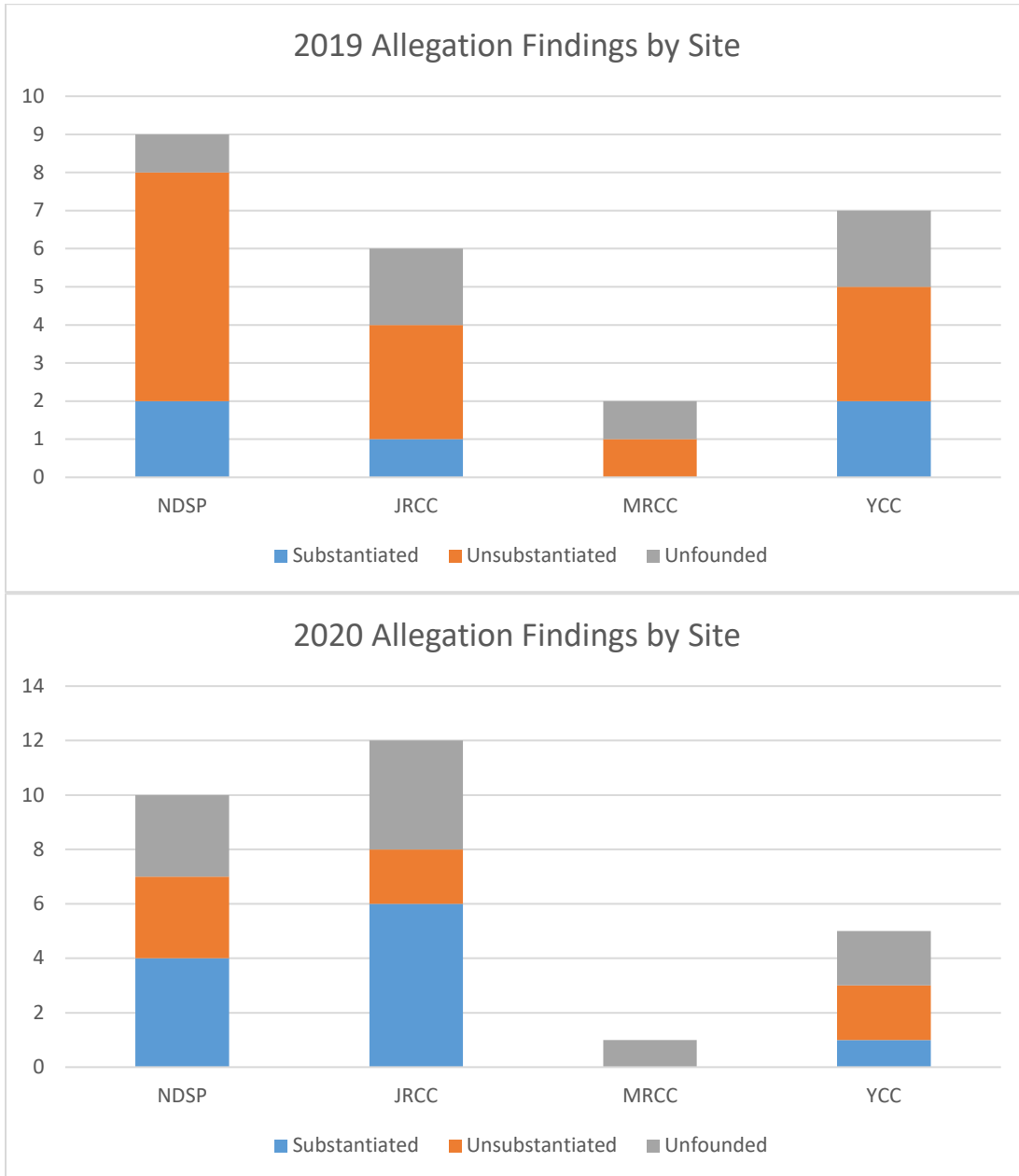
This document serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, response policies, practices and training in the ND DOCR pursuant to §115.88 and §115.89 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the ND DOCR is required to:

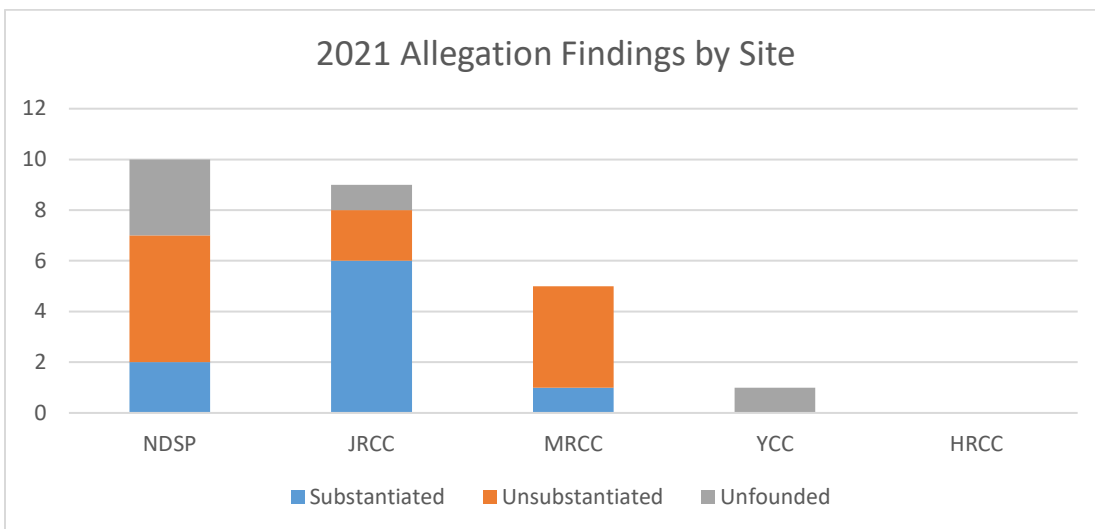
1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas;
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis;
 - c. Preparing an annual 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 ND DOCR website of its findings and corrective actions for each facility as well as for the entire agency.



Aggregated Data:

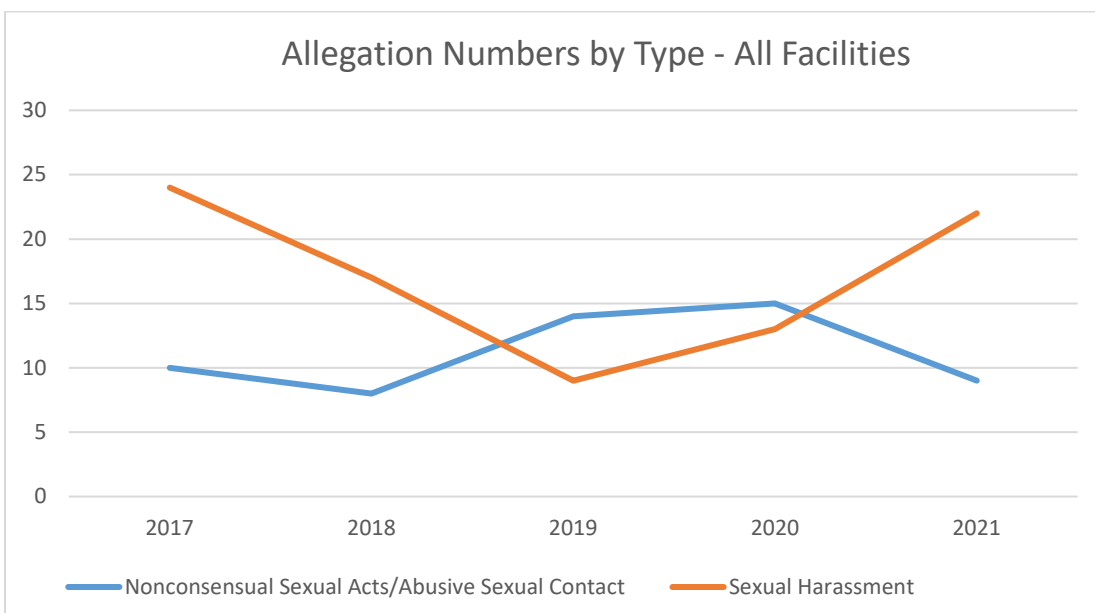
The ND DOCR collects data from the referrals of investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; both resident-on-resident and staff/contractor/volunteer-on-resident. In this section, the data contains the aggregated data as well as a comparison.





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 had an upward trend in sexual harassment and sexual harassment allegations. In looking at the specific facility information for the nine sexual abuse allegations, two allegations were substantiated, six allegations were unsubstantiated and one allegation was unfounded.



Problem Areas/Corrective Action:

The ND DOCR continues to implement best practices and the requirements of the PREA standards to address allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents. The leadership of the ND DOCR is dedicated to ongoing 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 ND DOCR has implemented systemic change to include integrating the PREA standards into all policies and procedures; this was completed in the Summer of 2021. The ND DOCR continues to strive for the highest level of sexual safety for the residents in our care.

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

1. 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.
2. Continue to train additional PREA Investigators utilizing the training provided by The Moss Group. There will be a new training in 2022 that will be recorded with the anticipation that we can train more investigators on an ongoing basis.
3. All current active contractors and volunteers were reviewed and those who no longer need access to the facilities were deactivated.

The following are corrective actions, new processes and updates completed at the facility level:

- 1) NDSP West Unit shower underwent remodeling during 2021 to ensure the residents are not able to be viewed from the lobby area of the West Unit; this effort brought NDSP into full compliance.
- 2) The new women's prison, HRCC, has fully implemented policies and practices around PREA and is currently preparing for their audit.

Conclusion:

It is the goal of the ND 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 and secure environment where they can work towards rehabilitative change and successful transition into the community.

