

# 2023 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 safety and security for ND DOCR residents.

North Dakota maintained its steadfast adherence to the Prison Rape Elimination Act throughout 2023. The state's commitment to compliance was affirmed through comprehensive audits conducted within the first year of the fourth cycle. The North Dakota State Penitentiary, Missouri River Correctional Center and the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center all received official validation of their compliance in early 2024.

As we look ahead to the summer of 2024, the auditing of the newly established Heart River Correctional Center and the James River Correctional Center will be conducted. North Dakota remains dedicated to upholding the standards set forth by the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

## **Purpose:**

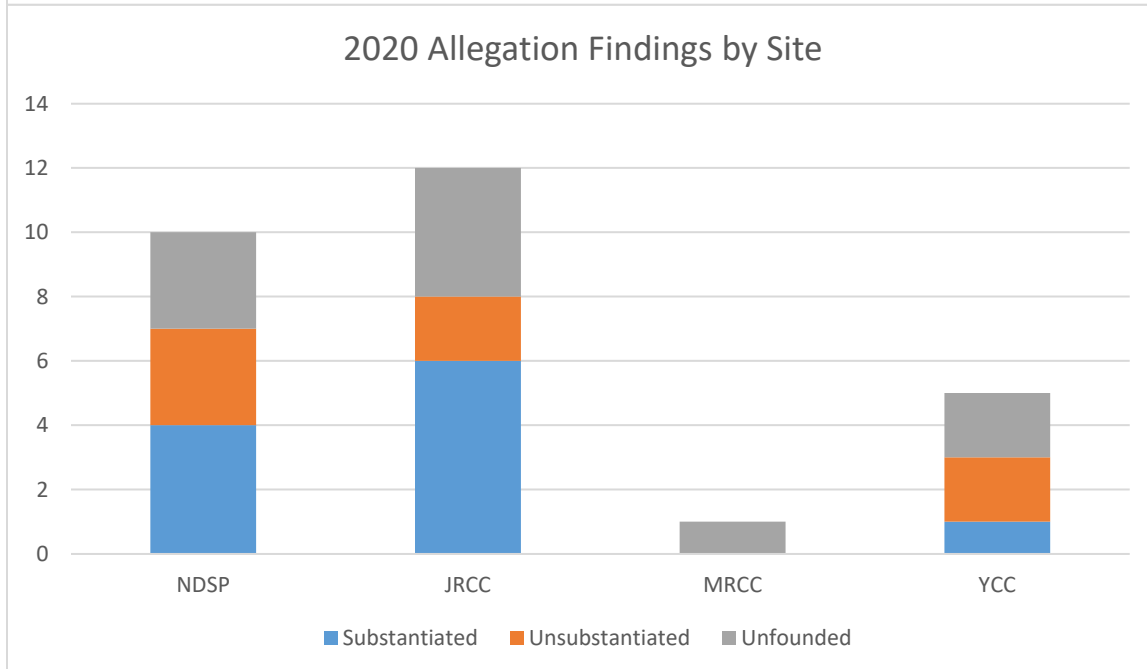
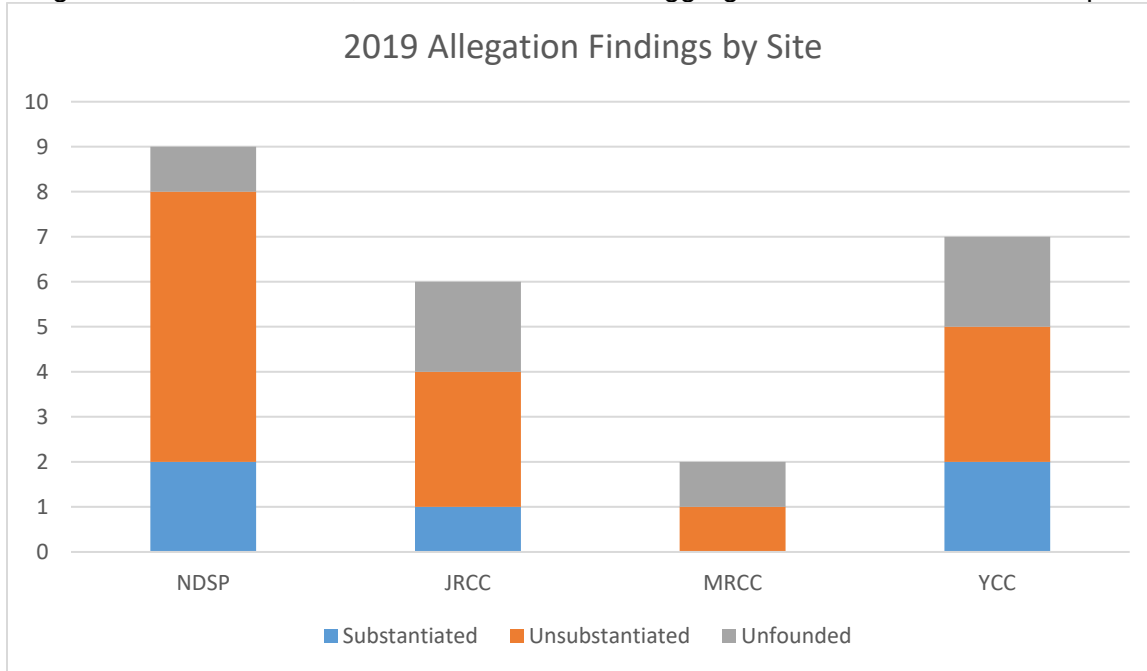
This document serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, response policies, practices and training in the ND DOCR pursuant to §115.88 and §115.89 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the ND DOCR is required to:

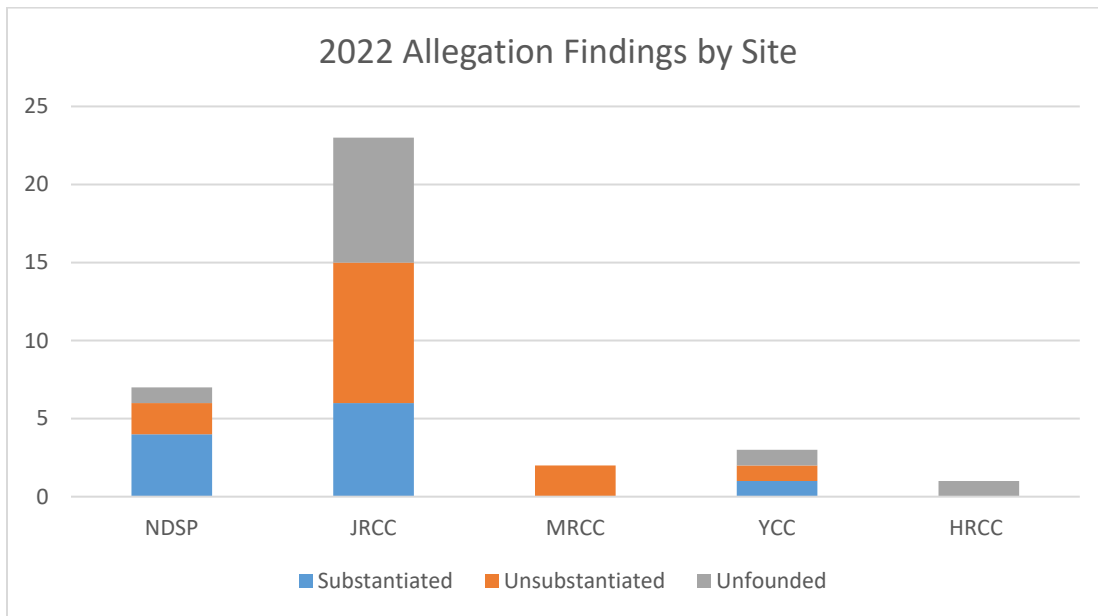
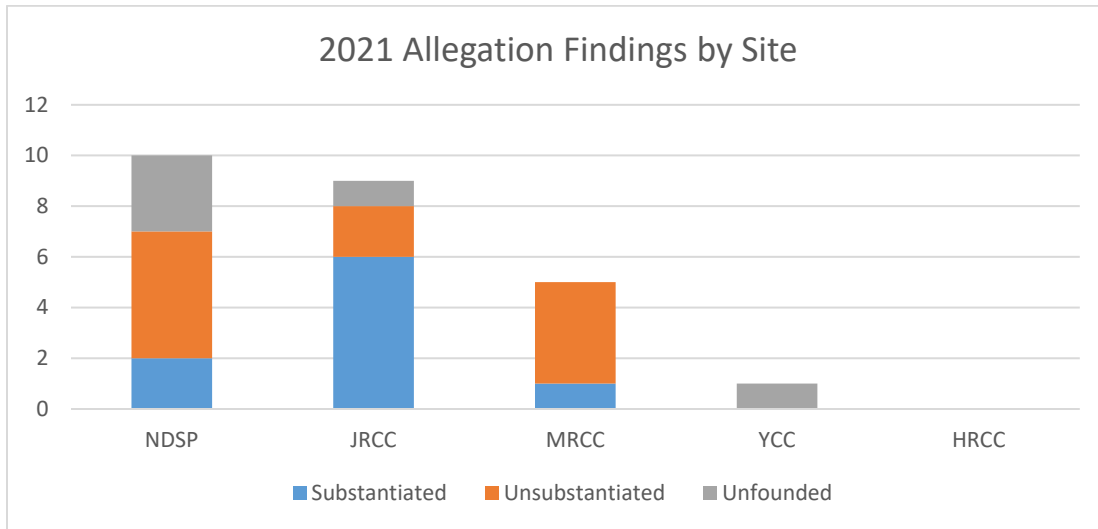
1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training to include:
  - a. Identifying problem areas;
  - b. Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and
  - c. Preparing an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

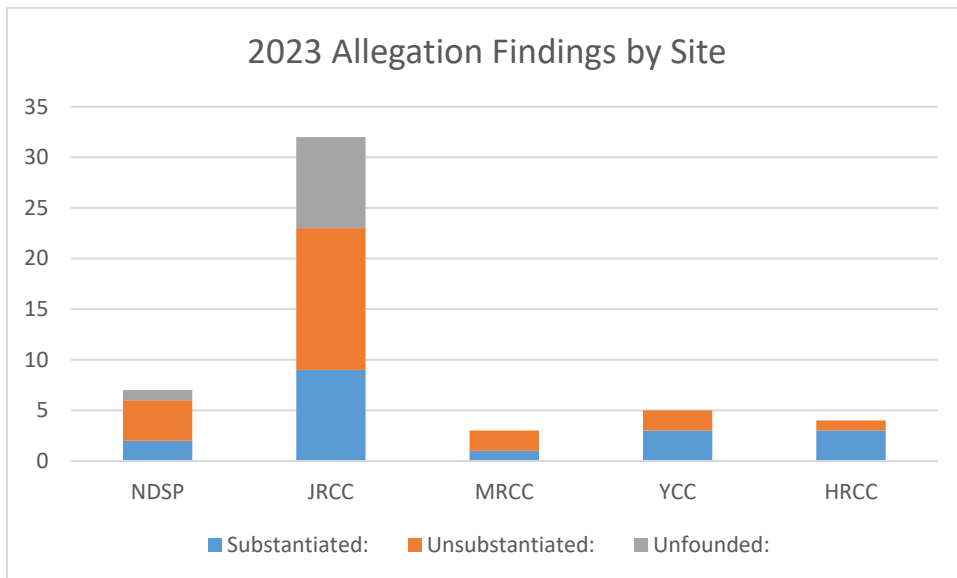


**Aggregated Data:**

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



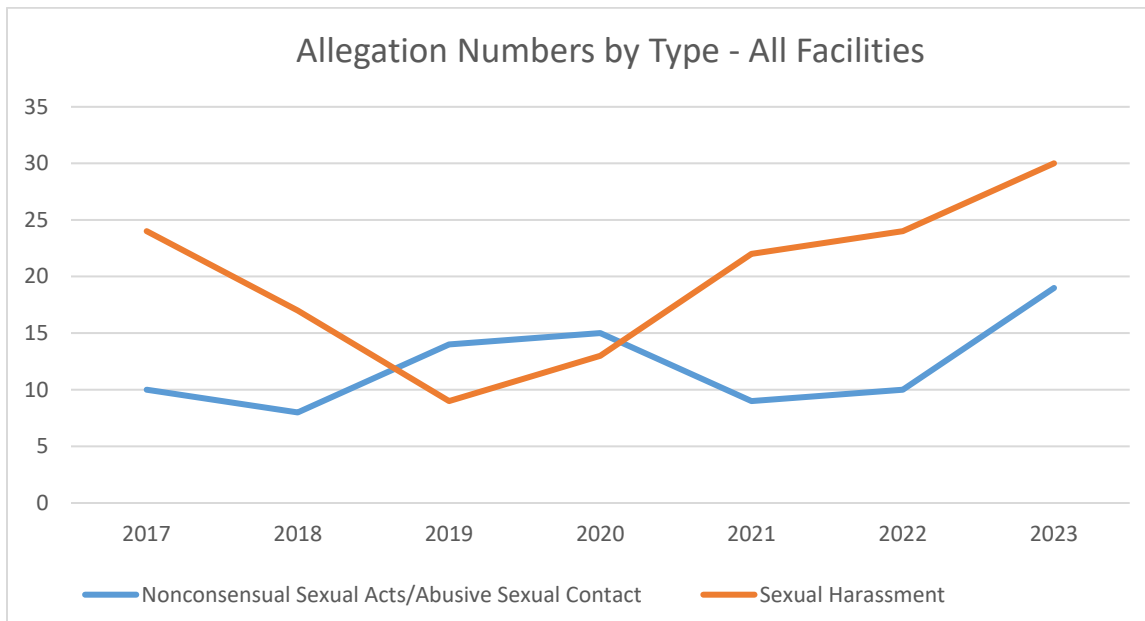




**Comparative Data Analysis:**

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 abuse and sexual harassment allegations; eighteen of the incidents were substantiated. Of those eighteen, two were for sexual abuse, which continues to be a downward trend. However, the number of substantiated instances of sexual harassment has gone up.





**Problem Areas/Corrective Action:**

The ND DOCR remains steadfast in its commitment to implementing best practices and adhering to the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards to address allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents. Under the dedicated leadership of the ND DOCR, ongoing monitoring and corrective action are prioritized to ensure full PREA compliance and, most importantly, to maximize the sexual safety of residents in North Dakota correctional facilities.

Since the summer of 2021, the ND DOCR has undertaken systemic changes by integrating PREA standards into all policies and procedures. Following the three audits conducted in 2023, several revisions and updates were implemented based on auditor recommendations.

**Agency-Level Corrective Actions, New Processes and Updates:**

1. Emphasis on training new PREA compliance managers and investigators due to promotions and turnover.
2. Revision of the screening tool for inter-agency transfers by incorporating additional questions as per auditor recommendations.
3. Update of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for victim advocacy services.

**Facility-Level Corrective Actions, New Processes and Updates:**

**MRCC:**

- Installation of additional cameras in the kitchen, dining room and THU housing unit.



- Developed a 14-day follow-up process to ensure sessions are occurring and being properly documented by mental health staff and that the 30-day reassessment is completed by case management.
- Added additional PREA signage throughout the facility.

**NDSP:**

- Provision of additional access for inmate reporting.
- Implementation of physical plant changes in the shower area.
- Staff training initiatives.

**NDYCC:**

- Developed training programs for staff and students.
- Developed a comprehensive staffing plan.
- Enhanced reassessment frequency for youth.

**Audit Schedule for Remaining Facilities:**

1. Heart River Correctional Center - July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024
2. James River Correctional Center - July 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Conclusion:**

The ND DOCR's overarching goal is to ensure the highest possible level of safety for those under its care. Through continuous demonstration of full compliance with PREA standards, we strive to provide residents with a safe and secure environment conducive to their journey towards rehabilitative change and successful reintegration into the community.

