

2025 Annual PREA Report

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Executive Summary

The North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (ND DOCR) remains fully committed to compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and to ensuring the safety and security of individuals in its custody.

During the most recent audit cycle, all ND DOCR facilities successfully completed PREA audits and corrective action requirements, achieving full compliance. The agency continues to prioritize prevention, detection, and response efforts through policy refinement, staff training, facility modifications, and ongoing data analysis.

Purpose

Pursuant to §§115.88 and 115.89 of the national PREA standards, this report provides an annual review of incident-based sexual abuse and sexual harassment data. The purpose of this review is to:

- Assess the effectiveness of prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training;
 - Identify problem areas and implement corrective actions;
 - Compare current data to prior years to evaluate progress; and
 - Publish findings and corrective actions for each facility and the agency.
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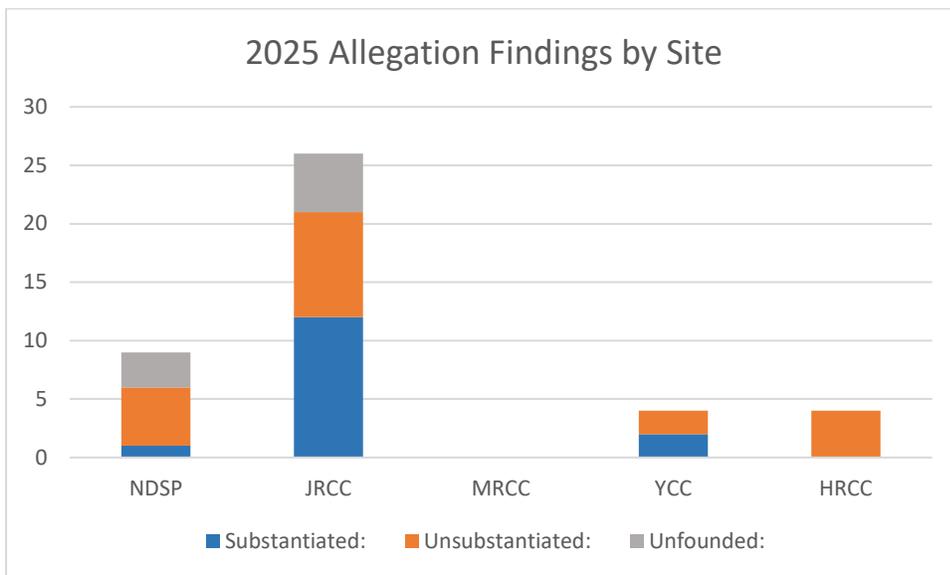


Data Overview and Trends

The ND DOCR collects and aggregates data related to all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including:

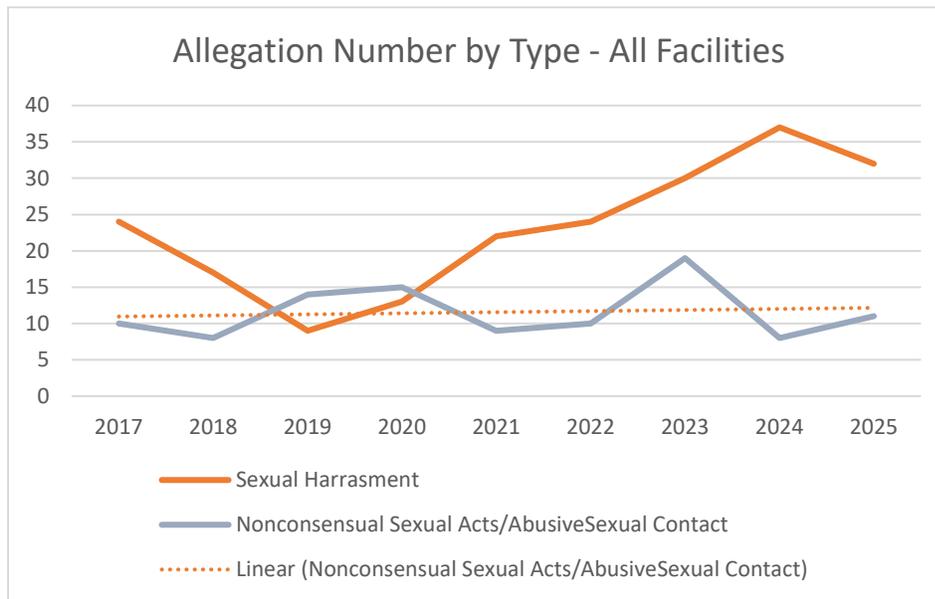
- Resident-on-resident allegations; and
- Staff/contractor/volunteer-on-resident allegations.

From 2023 to 2024, substantiated allegations decreased slightly and remained consistent in 2025.



While overall reporting trends reflect an increase in sexual harassment allegations, substantiated cases continue to decline (four substantiated cases in 2025 compared to nine in 2024 and sixteen in 2023). Allegations of non-consensual sexual acts have remained relatively flat since 2017.





These trends indicate continued improvement in investigative practices, prevention strategies, and institutional safeguards.

Agency-Wide Corrective Actions and Improvements

The ND DOCR has implemented sustained systemic improvements since 2021 by integrating PREA standards into agency policies and operational procedures.

Following audits conducted in 2023 and 2024, the agency implemented auditor-recommended revisions and agency-wide improvements. All facilities completed their audits and corrective actions within the three-year audit cycle and achieved full compliance.

Ongoing agency level initiatives include:

- Continued training and development of PREA compliance managers and investigators to address turnover and promotional transitions.
- Implementation of body-worn cameras in adult facilities to strengthen investigations and deter misconduct; and
- Preparation for two facility audits scheduled for spring 2026.



Facility-Level Updates

All ND DOCR facilities successfully completed PREA audits and corrective action requirements. Key improvements included:

Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC)

- Installation of additional camera coverage in identified areas;
- Implementation of a structured 14-day follow-up process and 30-day reassessment protocol;
- Expanded PREA signage throughout the facility.

North Dakota State Penitentiary (NDSP)

- Expanded inmate reporting access;
- Physical plant modifications to increase privacy and safety;
- Enhanced staff training initiatives.

North Dakota Youth Correctional Center (NDYCC)

- Development of staff and student training programs;
- Implementation of a comprehensive staffing plan;
- Increased reassessment frequency for youth.

Heart River Correctional Center (HRCC)

- Completed audit (July 22–24, 2024) and achieved full compliance following implementation of agency-aligned corrective actions.

James River Correctional Center (JRCC)

- Completed audit (July 25–27, 2024);
- Implemented requested physical plant modifications, including installation of windows in group dormitories;
- Achieved full compliance.



Conclusion

All facilities have completed audits within the current three-year cycle and are in full PREA compliance. The Governor’s certification of compliance has been submitted, and auditors have been secured for HRCC and NDYCC for spring 2026.

The ND DOCR remains committed to continuous improvement and sustained compliance with PREA standards. Through data-driven analysis, proactive corrective action, and ongoing staff development, the agency strives to maintain the highest level of safety and accountability while fostering an environment that supports rehabilitation and successful reintegration.

Previous years data

