

2024 ANNUAL PREA REPORT

An Internal Analysis of CY-2024

Sexual Abuse and Sexual

Harassment Data



Illinois Dept. of Corrections

Latoya Hughes, Director

Illinois Department of Corrections 2024 Annual PREA Report

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 with unanimous support from both parties in Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003. The purpose of the Act was to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape”.

The Department maintains a strict “**Zero Tolerance**” policy towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; and provides guidelines for the prevention, detection, response, investigation, and tracking of all allegations. All allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment are taken seriously, investigated, and when applicable, referred for prosecution. While incarcerated within the Illinois Department of Corrections, the safety of the individuals in our custody is a primary concern; and that safety includes the right to be free from sexual abuse, harassment, and retaliation.

This Annual PREA Report is prepared and published in accordance with PREA Standard §115.88.

This report, and previous Annual PREA Reports, may be found on the Illinois Department of Corrections’ webpage: <https://idoc.illinois.gov/programs/prisonrapeeliminationactof2003.html>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department made many notable accomplishments in 2024. Most significant was the enhancements made to our delivery of comprehensive PREA education during facility orientation. Each time an individual in custody arrives at a new facility, they are provided with a thorough module on PREA explaining the Department’s zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and how to report incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; as well as their right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment and to be free from retaliation for reporting such incidents.

PREA education ‘scripts’ were created to ensure thorough and consistent PREA information is provided at each facility orientation, regardless of who is delivering the information – staff presenters, peer educators, etc. Additionally, when technology allows, facilities will often pair the PREA script with videos created by the National PREA Resource Center which provide an informative alternative to just listening to information being read aloud. The videos are all sub-titled (closed captioned) and also presented in Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL).

Individuals in custody with intellectual and developmental disabilities often experience information and communication barriers which makes them particularly vulnerable to victimization, but also hinders their ability to process and retain information provided during facility orientation. To ensure this population has access to PREA information in a format they can understand, the Department developed ‘*plain language*’ PREA handouts which utilize simplified terminology and illustrations to present the information in basic easy to understand format.

The Department continues to cultivate new and existing partnerships with community stakeholders. Groups such as the International Association of Forensic Nurses Illinois Chapter and the Illinois Attorney General’s Violence Prevention and Crime Victim Services Division allow collaboration and cooperation to make our processes safer, more efficient, and provide a greater level of care to victims. Additionally, the Department

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is now represented on the Illinois Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force and is able to provide input and collaborate with a diverse group of Agencies, Advocates, Commissions, and Community care-holders to effect systems change, establish best practices and innovations in sexual violence prevention, and support and review implementation of public policy, regulations, and requirements related to sexual violence prevention.

With the tremendous help and guidance from the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (“ICASA”), and to expand on the existing partnerships with rape crisis centers across the State the Department has implemented a direct-dial hotline to allow individuals in custody to contact rape crisis advocates. Using the hotline, individuals in custody may confidentially call the crisis center’s public-facing hotline to have immediate access to confidential support services and victim advocacy related to sexual abuse.

The Department remains diligent to ensure the sexual safety of all individuals under the care and control of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Employee training, specifically in the area of prevention, detection, and response of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, has been a primary focus. In addition to training new security and non-security staff, the Staff Development & Training unit continues to provide an advanced comprehensive training module on the Department’s Sexual Abuse and Harassment Prevention and Intervention Program.

The ‘*PREA-Advanced*’ module is available to all staff, and a prerequisite for any staff appointed as a facility PREA Compliance Manager or facility backup PREA Compliance Manager. The training, which is provided regionally to provide easier access, was provided to almost 100 attendees in 2024.

Targeted training which highlights PREA compliance for managers is also provided. The session, presented by the Department’s Agency PREA Coordinator, is provided to all new facility administrators, as well as any staff who will act as Duty Administrative Officers. The training emphasizes PREA compliance issues facility and agency leadership encounter, as well as best-practices on how to overcome compliance-related issues and difficulties. This training module is typically offered multiple times throughout the year to ensure timely access to the content.

The Department continues to provide training to staff regarding populations with unique or special needs. All security staff who attend the 8-week Training Academy also receive specialized training specific to supervising incarcerated women. The Gender-Responsive and Trauma-Informed training educates staff of the unique needs of incarcerated women, including how past victimization in the community and in a corrections environment influences current behavior; effective strategies for communicating with women in custody; as well as how to appropriately respond to potential victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Also, security staff assigned to the Women’s Division are also provided *CR/2 – Creating Regulation and Resilience* training. CR/2 is a communication model that provides corrections professionals with the skills they need to communicate with individuals in custody more effectively, de-escalate problem situations and create safer and more productive facilities. CR/2 empowers staff with the knowledge and skills they need to implement effective responses, thus increasing staff satisfaction and retention. The Department continues to mandate annual training for all staff regarding transgender and non-binary individuals in correctional settings. The training highlights the differences between Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation, as well as the unique needs of the transgender incarcerated population.

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The Department strives to ensure an objective and impartial investigation is conducted to ensure the integrity of every sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigation. Completing PREA investigations timely has been a perpetual concern. To eliminate the backlog of pending investigations and increase the speed at which future investigations can be concluded, the Department conducted training for an additional 84 internal affairs and intel staff in April 2024. The 40-hour *Institutional Investigator* training, which uses a mix of Department subject matter experts, as well as experts from outside law enforcement and government agencies, covers topics such as, but not limited to, techniques for interviewing sexual abuse victims, proper use of *Miranda* and *Garrity* warnings, sexual abuse evidence collection in confinement settings, and the criteria and evidence required to substantiate a case for administrative action or prosecutorial referral.

The Department continues to encourage staff to participate in the National Institute of Corrections' (NIC) PREA Online Learning curriculum which provides frequently updated targeted PREA training specific to the employee's position (*e.g.* Investigations, Healthcare, Mental Health, Facility PREA Compliance Manager, etc.). The training is offered at no cost and provides a great supplement to the multitude of PREA training opportunities offered by the Department.

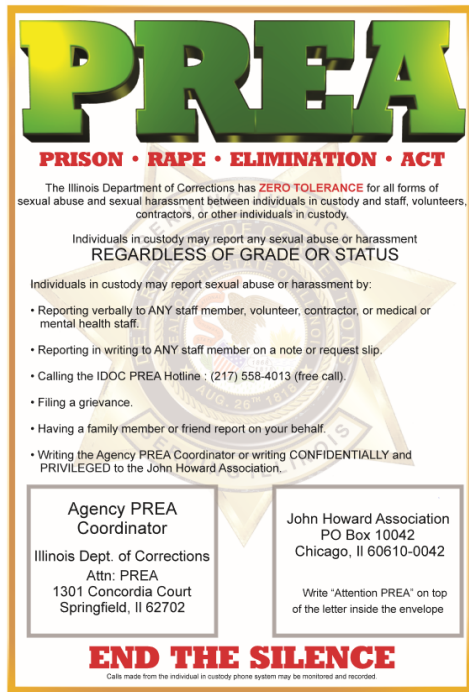
In addition to staff training, the Department continues to place substantial emphasis on education for individuals in custody. Ensuring all individuals in custody know how to report an allegation of abuse, and knowing those reports may be made confidentially and without fear of retaliation, is paramount. All are provided with information regarding the Department's Zero Tolerance policy at intake. PREA information is provided to each individual in custody throughout their incarceration through staff and peer PREA educators, placement of over 2,500 bilingual permanent signs, information offered on the facility's dedicated TV channel, the facility's *Handbook for Individuals in Custody*, printed brochures, and even more creative ways like painted murals throughout some facilities.

To ensure each individual in custody is able to comprehend and retain the information about the Department's Zero Tolerance policy, emphasis is placed on the methods education is provided, to ensure the information is provided in a format the individual in custody can understand. Care is taken to ensure individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, or who speak limited English are provided the information in the format best suited for their disability or spoken language.

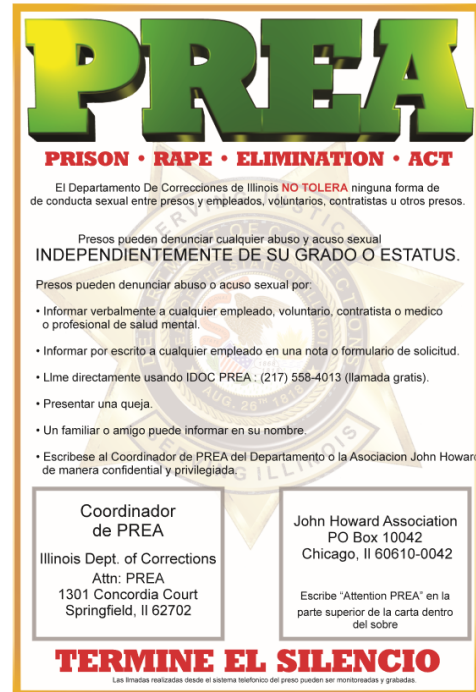
In 2024, with the help of the individuals in custody assigned to the Illinois Correctional Industries Graphics Design Shop at Danville Correctional Center, the Department began deploying new PREA informational signs. To make them easier to see, the signs are significantly larger than the existing signs and have vibrant dark text on a light background. Furthermore, the signs provide additional information including how to contact the Department's Agency PREA Coordinator as well as the John Howard Association. The signs, posted in both English and Spanish, are shown below:

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***New* PREA Signs Designed & Manufactured by Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI)**



PREA Informational Sign (English)



PREA Informational Sign (Spanish)

The Department partners and continues to keep an open line of communication with the John Howard Association, which is an independent monitor of correctional facilities and advocate for individuals in custody. Through a memorandum of understanding (MOU), the Illinois Department of Corrections and the John Howard Association continues to ensure individuals in custody have a mechanism to report allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment directly to a confidential third-party who is completely independent of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Anonymous reports and reports on someone's behalf are also accepted.

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Facility PREA Audits

During calendar year 2024, the Department completed the second year and began the third year of the fourth 3-year audit cycle of facility PREA audits in accordance with PREA Standard §115.401. The Department, utilizing an independent outside contractor certified by the US Department of Justice, completed 14 facility audits of correctional centers, as well as three Adult Transition Centers (community correctional center).

The following facilities were audited during calendar year 2024:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ Hill Correctional Center* | ▪ Stateville Correctional Center* |
| ▪ Crossroads Adult Transition Center* | ▪ Joliet Treatment Center* |
| ▪ North Lawndale Adult Transition Center* | ▪ Graham Correctional Center* |
| ▪ Pontiac Correctional Center* | ▪ Vandalia Correctional Center* |
| ▪ Dixon Correctional Center* | ▪ Lincoln Correctional Center* |
| ▪ Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center* | ▪ Logan Correctional Center* |
| ▪ Centralia Correctional Center* | ▪ Kewanee Life Skills Reentry Center* |
| ▪ Lawrence Correctional Center* | ▪ Peoria Adult Transition Center |
| ▪ Western Illinois Correctional Center* | |

* Denotes Corrective Action required by the PREA Auditor

In accordance with PREA Standard §115.401, the Department makes every effort to ensure one-third of its facilities are audited each year. While having 17 facility audits conducted in 2024 makes it appear the Department is not maintaining this schedule, the differences between a calendar year and a PREA audit year provides the impression of non-compliance. Audits conducted in Year 2 of the Audit Cycle started later in the audit year, pushing many of the audits into calendar year 2024; while audits conducted in Year 3 started timely – increasing the total number of audits completed in 2024, but staying within the guidelines enumerated in §115.401.

The final reports from each completed PREA audit are published on the Department's website at <https://idoc.illinois.gov/programs/preaauditreports.html>

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Facility Accomplishments and Corrective Action Implemented:

Hill Correctional Center

- Installed mirrors and modified storage practices to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender staff viewing by providing additional privacy barriers and modifications, while balancing safety, to toilets and shower areas.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including opposite-gender announcements, access to rape crisis center victim advocates, risk screenings, placement and programming decisions, privileged mail procedures, retaliation monitoring, mental health follow-up for known abusers, etc.
- Updated risk screening tool to better predict likelihood for victimization or perpetration.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings throughout the facility.
- Improved Sexual Abuse Incident Review process to ensure greater impact.

Crossroads Adult Transition Center

- Installed cameras and mirrors in the food prep area to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including resources available for those individuals who are limited English proficient or disabled, access to rape crisis victim advocates, first responder duties, privileged mail procedures, etc.
- Enhanced the background investigation process for subcontractors hired by Safer Foundation.

North Lawndale Adult Transition Center

- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including searches of transgender individuals in custody, resources available for those individuals who are limited English proficient or disabled, access to rape crisis victim advocates, first responder duties, privileged mail procedures, evidence protocol and investigative responsibility, retaliation monitoring, etc.
- Enhanced the background investigation process for subcontractors hired by Safer Foundation.
- Strengthened facility orientation procedures to ensure individuals in custody received timely and comprehensive PREA education.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings throughout the facility.
- Improved intake risk screening process, including identifying a more private and confidential location to conduct the screenings.
- Enhanced the grievance collection and processing procedure.
- Improved Resident Handbooks to include information regarding reporting procedures as well as information regarding confidential support services.

Pontiac Correctional Center

- Installed mirrors and modified storage practices to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender staff viewing by providing greater privacy, while balancing safety, in open-bar cells, crisis observation cells, and intake areas.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including requirements for opposite-gender announcements, securing doors of unoccupied offices and storage areas, resources available for those individuals who are limited English proficient or disabled, risk screenings processes, first responder duties, mental health follow-ups, mental health follow-up for known abusers, privileged mail procedures, retaliation monitoring, etc.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings throughout the facility.
- Expanded facility orientation procedures to ensure individuals in custody received timely and comprehensive PREA education.
- Ensured timely and robust risk screenings to ensure appropriate placement and programming; ensured timely reassessment after a reported incident of sexual abuse; and provided targeted training and resources regarding mental health follow-up for individuals reporting prior victimization/perpetration during the screening process.

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- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.
- Improved Sexual Abuse Incident Review process to ensure greater impact.

Dixon Correctional Center

- Installed mirrors and modified storage practices to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in laundry rooms, stairwells, warehouse, dietary, and commissary.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to healthcare observation cells to provide additional privacy while balancing safety and security.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings throughout the facility.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including access to rape crisis victim advocates, housing and program assignments for high-risk individuals in custody, privileged mail procedures, etc.
- Ensured timely and robust risk screenings to ensure appropriate placement and programming; and provided targeted training and resources regarding mental health follow-up for individuals reporting prior victimization/perpetration during the screening process.
- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.
- Enhanced Facility Orientation to better provide for all individuals in custody, especially those who are limited English proficient or who have disabilities; and ensured Orientation is provided timely and documented.
- Enhanced the process to report sexual abuse using the grievance process.

Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center

- Installed mirrors to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in the warehouse, dietary and programing room.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to the search area in restrictive housing and the healthcare unit exam rooms.
- Enhanced Facility Orientation to better provide for individuals in custody who are limited English proficient or who have disabilities; and ensured Orientation is provided timely and documented.
- Identified a more private and confidential location to conduct intake risk screenings.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including access to victim advocacy services, file reviews for risk screenings, informed consent, privileged mail procedures, mental health follow-up, etc.
- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.

Centralia Correctional Center

- Installed mirrors to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in the warehouse, healthcare laundry, and maintenance.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to the observation cells in the healthcare unit.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including opposite-gender announcements, securing doors of unoccupied offices and storage areas, resources available for those individuals who are limited English proficient or disabled, access to victim advocacy services, housing and program assignments for high-risk individuals in custody, credibility assessments for investigations, etc.
- Improved Sexual Abuse Incident Review process to ensure greater impact.

Lawrence Correctional Center

- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to the showers in the housing units and exam rooms in the healthcare unit.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including opposite-gender announcements, access to victim advocacy services, resources available for those individuals who are limited English proficient or disabled, housing and program assignments for high-risk individuals in custody, privileged mail

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procedures, mental health follow-ups from risk screenings, informed consent, mental health follow-up for known abusers etc.

- Enhanced the grievance collection and processing procedure.
- Strengthened facility orientation procedures to ensure individuals in custody received timely and comprehensive PREA education.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings throughout the facility.
- Identified a more private and confidential location to conduct intake risk screenings.

Western Illinois Correctional Center

- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to the top-tier dayroom toilets in each housing unit.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including post-allegation protective custody, access to victim advocacy services, mental health follow-ups, etc.
- Enhanced risk screening process by ensuring each assessment includes a file review.
- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.

Stateville Correctional Center

- Provided targeted training with the facility's PREA Compliance Managers and Backup PREA Compliance Managers.
- Installed mirrors to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in the warehouse and facility laundry.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including opposite-gender announcements, securing doors of unoccupied offices and storage areas, resources available for those individuals who are limited English proficient or disabled, risk screenings processes, first responder duties, mental health follow-ups, mental health follow-up for known abusers, housing determinations for high-risk individuals, privileged mail procedures, retaliation monitoring, etc.
- Enhanced the process for documenting unannounced rounds by supervisory staff.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to the cells in the healthcare unit infirmary.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings throughout the facility including areas where visitors would have access.
- Enhanced Facility Orientation to better provide for individuals in custody who are limited English proficient or who have disabilities; and ensured Orientation is provided timely and documented.
- Digitized the risk screening process to ensure the process is completed timely.
- Improved Facility Handbooks to include information about reporting sexual abuse using the grievance process and access to confidential support services.
- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.

Joliet Treatment Center

- Provided targeted training with the facility's PREA Compliance Manager and Backup PREA Compliance Manager.
- Installed mirrors to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in the warehouse and facility maintenance.
- Enhanced the process for documenting unannounced rounds by supervisory staff.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to the observation windows in the Inpatient Treatment Center, showers, healthcare unit exam rooms, and search rooms.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings throughout the facility.
- Strengthened facility orientation procedures to ensure individuals in custody received timely and comprehensive PREA education, including the use of illustrated plain-language handouts for individuals with low cognitive function.

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- Improved Resident Handbooks to include information regarding local rape crisis centers and how to contact them.
- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including opposite-gender announcements, securing doors of unoccupied offices and storage areas, searches of transgender and intersex residents, response to 3rd party allegation reports, reporting to other confinement facilities, resources available for those individuals who are limited English proficient or disabled, risk screenings processes, first responder duties, mental health follow-ups, mental health follow-up for known abusers, housing determinations for high-risk individuals, privileged mail procedures, retaliation monitoring, informed consent, etc.

Graham Correctional Center

- Provided targeted training with the facility's PREA Compliance Manager.
- Installed mirrors to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in the warehouse, chapel, and healthcare laundry room.
- Alleviated potential cross-gender viewing concerns by making modifications to the Restrictive Housing Unit and search area.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including opposite-gender announcements, access to victim advocacy services, privileged mail handling, grievance procedures, etc.
- Enhanced Facility Orientation to better provide for individuals in custody who are limited English proficient or who have disabilities; and ensured Orientation is provided timely and documented.
- Enhanced and increased PREA postings in the facility entrance, Reception & Classification Center and Restrictive Housing Unit.
- Enhanced the grievance collection and processing procedure in the Reception & Classification Center and Restrictive Housing Unit.
- Improved Resident Handbooks to include information regarding reporting procedures as well as information regarding confidential support services.
- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.

Vandalia Correctional Center

- Provided targeted training with the facility's PREA Compliance Manager.
- Installed mirrors to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in the warehouse, facility laundry, dietary, and gymnasium.
- Alleviated cross-gender staff viewing by providing greater privacy, while balancing safety, in open-bar cells in the Restrictive Housing Unit and in the showers.
- Enhanced Facility Orientation to better provide for individuals in custody who are limited English proficient or who have disabilities; and ensured Orientation is provided timely and documented.
- Improved Resident Handbooks to include information regarding reporting procedures as well as information regarding confidential support services.
- Improved Sexual Abuse Incident Review process to ensure greater impact.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including mental health follow-ups for known abusers, risk screening mental health follow-ups, access to victim advocacy services, etc.

Lincoln Correctional Center

- Strengthened investigations to include credibility assessments, appropriate evidentiary standards are applied, and ensured investigations are completed promptly and thoroughly.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on informed consent.

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Logan Correctional Center

- Installed mirrors or made physical modifications to eliminate blind spots for greater safety and security in the warehouse, housing unit laundry rooms, ice room, and maintenance.
- Alleviated cross-gender staff viewing by providing greater privacy by repositioning crisis cell monitors.
- Strengthened facility orientation procedures to ensure individuals in custody received timely and comprehensive PREA education including the Department's zero-tolerance policy, reporting methods, and confidential support services.
- Ensured all individuals in custody who arrived prior to 2013 had documented PREA education and risk assessments.
- Provided targeted refresher training and resources on topics including gender-specific posts, access to confidential support services, reassessments due to incidents of reported sexual abuse, informed consent, retaliation monitoring, mental health assessments for known abusers, etc.

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PREA ALLEGATION STATISTICS & TRENDS

DEFINITIONS:

Substantiated allegation (Sub): an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated allegation (Uns): an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded allegation (Unf): an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Ongoing Investigation (Ong): an investigation into an allegation that was initiated but has not yet concluded.

STATISTICAL DATA

The following tables (Tables 1-A through 4-A) were developed from data provided by each facility, based on the number of allegations, type of allegation, and outcome of the investigation; and aggregated to provide Department-wide totals. The total number of PREA allegations by year and type is shown in Chart 1-A.

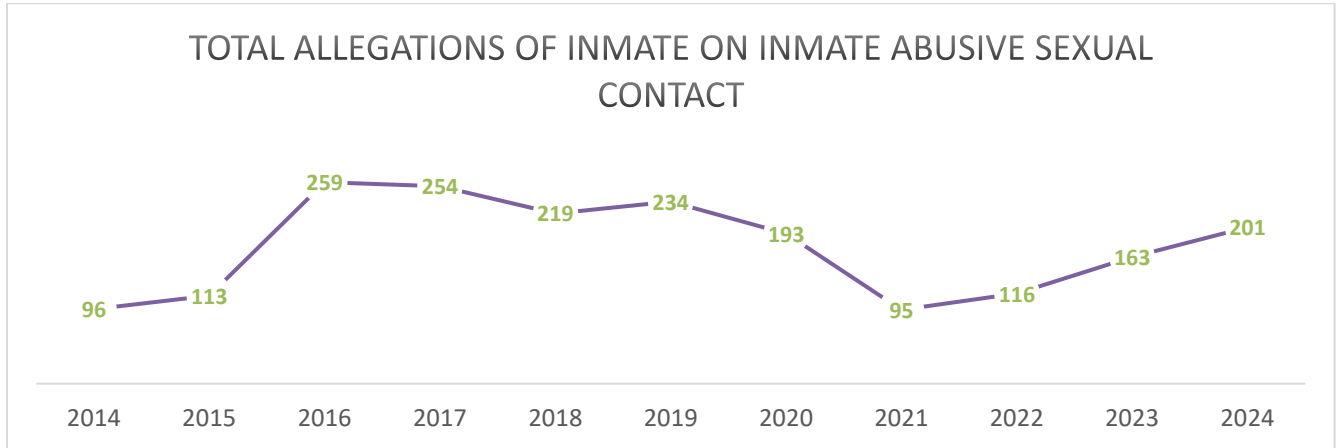
* Data for abusive sexual contact and harassment in 2015 was combined. Consequently, only the total number of cases is reported for 2015.

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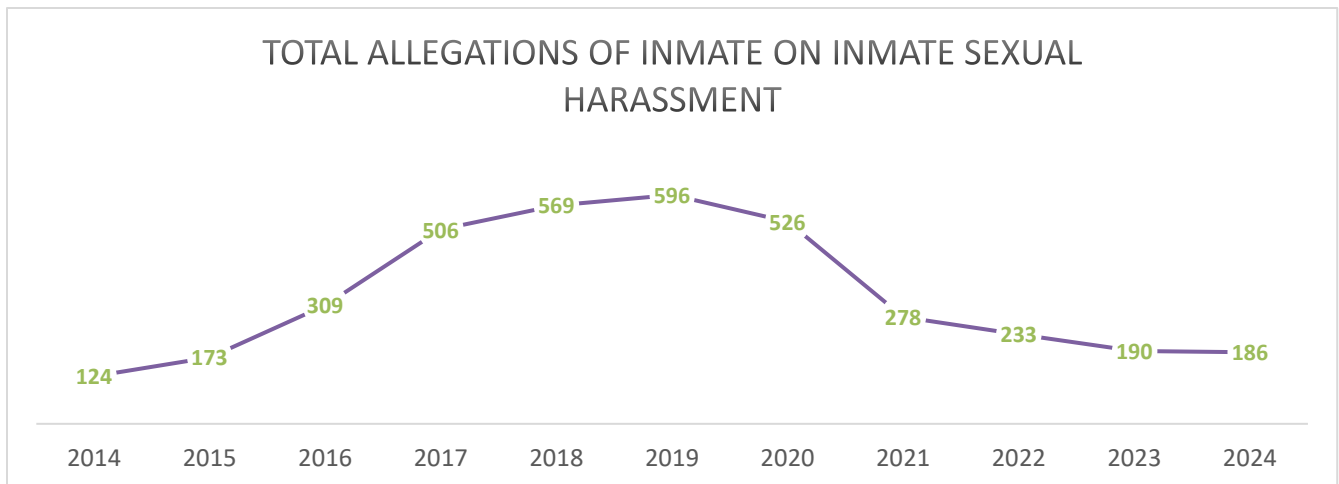
Inmate on Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact (TABLE 1-A)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Substantiated	4	*	21	21	14	13	3	7	9	7	10
Unsubstantiated	56	*	158	165	163	164	153	68	77	121	138
Unfounded	29	*	75	57	22	43	25	6	16	20	25
Ongoing	7	*	5	11	20	14	12	14	14	15	28
TOTAL	96	113	259	254	219	234	193	95	116	163	201



Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment (TABLE 2-A)

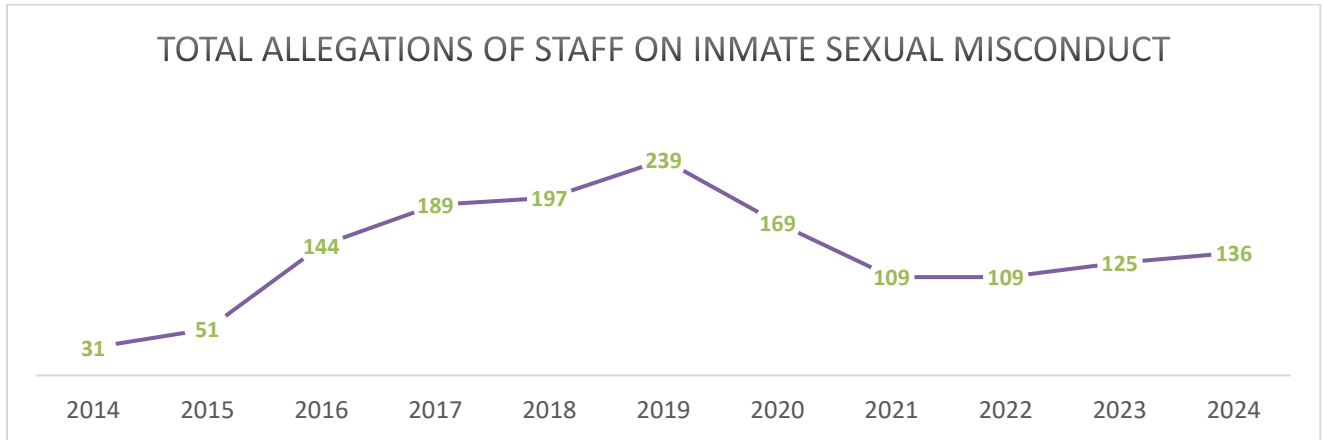
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Substantiated	6	*	35	50	75	57	28	16	19	15	21
Unsubstantiated	86	*	191	352	410	471	426	183	165	158	153
Unfounded	32	*	81	89	70	57	56	23	26	10	5
Ongoing	0	*	2	15	14	11	16	56	23	7	7
TOTAL	124	173	309	506	569	596	526	278	233	190	186



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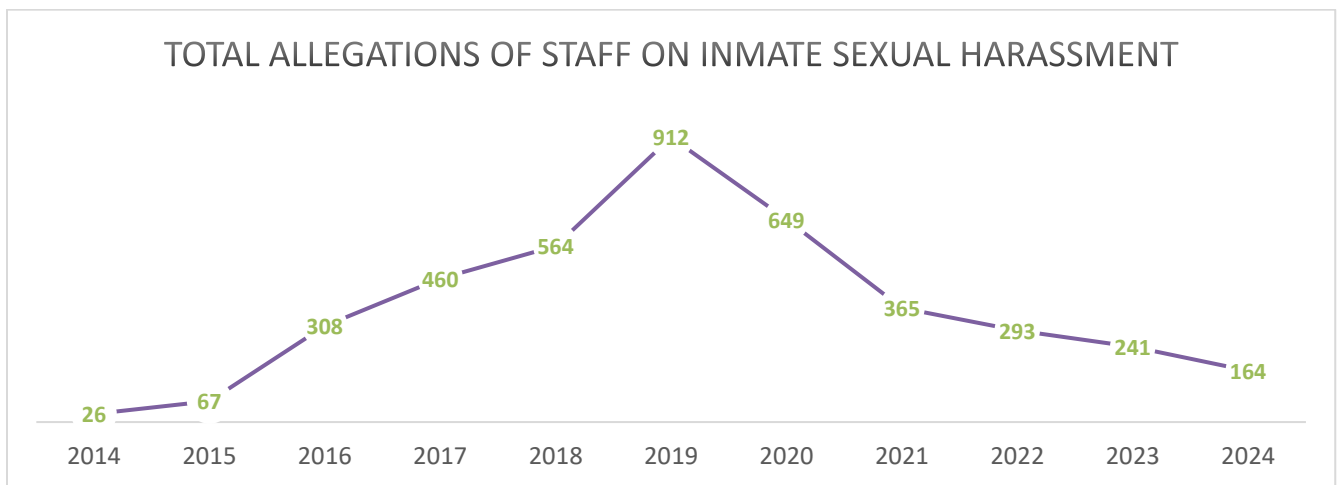
Staff on Inmate Sexual Misconduct (TABLE 3-A)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Substantiated	5	*	3	0	2	1	1	0	5	0	4
Unsubstantiated	19	*	91	134	138	183	116	59	73	101	98
Unfounded	7	*	38	40	27	37	37	23	12	7	15
Ongoing	0	*	12	15	30	18	15	27	19	17	19
TOTAL	31	51	144	189	197	239	169	109	109	125	136



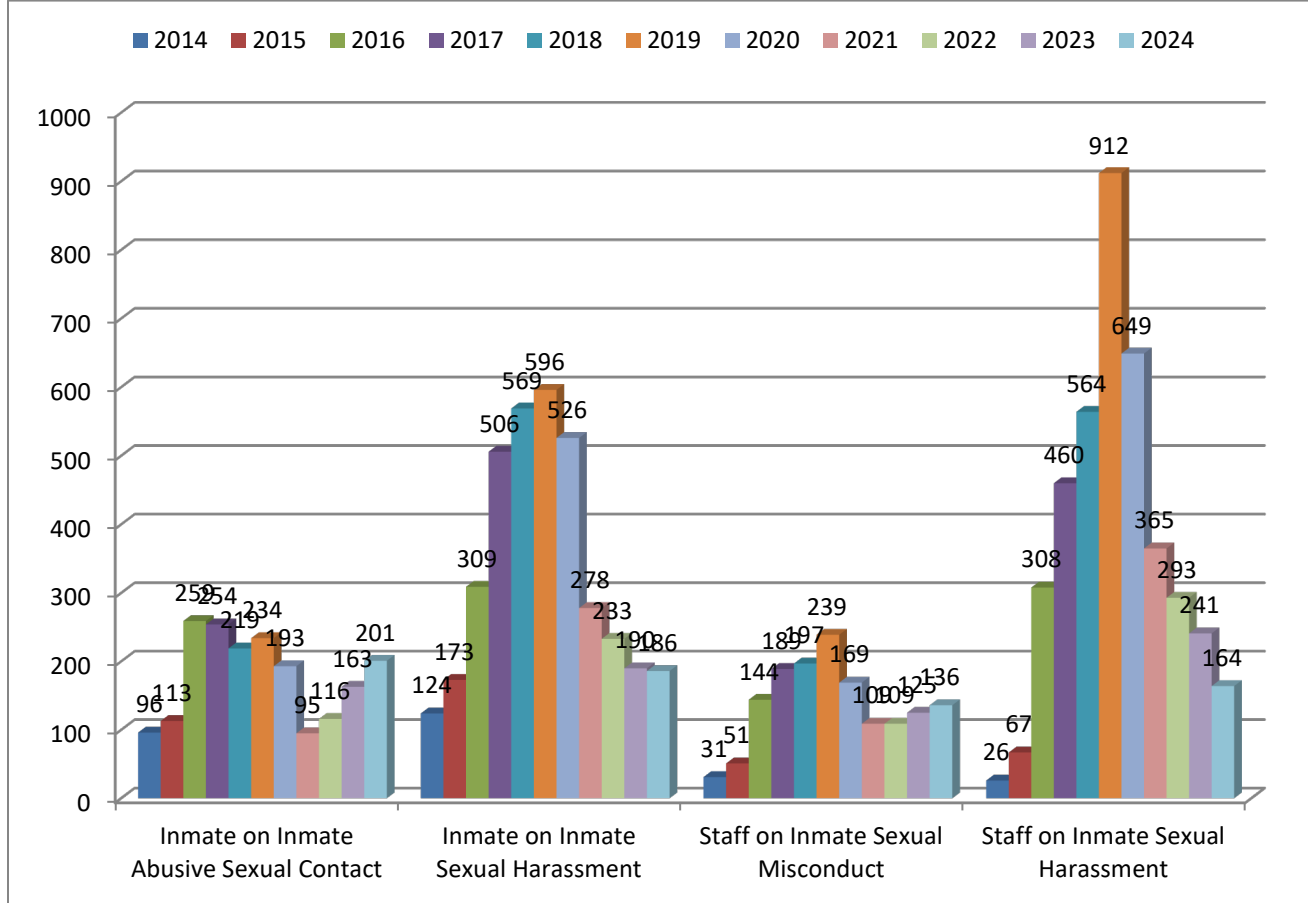
Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment (TABLE 4-A)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Substantiated	3	*	8	5	5	1	12	1	1	3	5
Unsubstantiated	21	*	180	350	447	692	497	263	240	200	138
Unfounded	2	*	92	67	64	86	42	21	29	14	14
Ongoing	0	*	28	38	48	133	98	80	23	24	7
TOTAL	26	67	308	460	564	912	649	365	293	241	164



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Total Number of all PREA Allegations by Year and Type (Chart 1-A)



Comparing the total number of allegations from 2014 to 2024, a dramatic stairstep increase in allegations early in the reporting period (2014 – 2017) is clearly shown. The increase is likely the result of the creation and implementation of the PREA Standards, and the large-scale comprehensive training and emphasis placed on staff response to allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment which immediately followed. Similarly, the increase is likely a byproduct of the cultural shift which occurred in facilities across the country where PREA was incorporated into incarcerated life because of the saturation of PREA-related education-initiatives targeting individuals in custody.

In 2020, the Department partnered with The Moss Group utilizing an IDOC-initiated request for technical assistance from the National PREA Resource Center, to provide very focused training for staff regarding properly identifying allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. A review of the Department's allegations found many of the allegations which resulted in the PREA protocol being initiated did not meet the definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment; and were therefore inaccurately identified and erroneously reported as PREA allegations.

Mislabeling or misidentifying allegations as "PREA" which do not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment has significant consequences. The inaccurate reporting skews data reported nationally to clearinghouses such as the Bureau of Justice Statistics which compiles the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV); but more importantly, encourages a culture of not reporting true victimization for fear

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of the allegation not being taken seriously. Accurately classifying what allegations warrant the PREA protocol response ensures allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment are responded to promptly and ensures thorough and comprehensive investigations are completed timely.

The “***Is it PREA?***” training module was launched Departmentwide in January 2021 and continues to be mandated training for those staff in the roll of Shift Supervisor; and highly recommended for any staff directly involved in the facility’s PREA protocol. Through awareness and staff training and development, the Department has shown a downward trend in the number of allegations, primarily with sexual harassment allegations, since only those reports which meet the definitions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are being identified as ‘PREA allegations’.

Those allegations previously misidentified as PREA (staff conduct, insolence, etc.) may now be appropriately investigated and responded to in a timely manner without sacrificing the resources required by utilizing the PREA protocol response. As expected, allegation totals began to level-off after the training was fully implemented and the proper classification of allegations became standard practice. Sexual harassment allegations remained unchanged for alleged individual in custody perpetrated harassment as the year prior; staff allegations of harassment saw a 30% decrease.

Sexual abuse allegations; however, trend differently than harassment. Abuse allegations had the same sharp increase after the PREA Standards were put into effect – again, likely due to education and a cultural shift; but there was then a sharp decline in 2020 and 2021. This decline may likely be a result of the rapid drop in overall individual in custody population, and more frequent use of single-cell placements during the pandemic. Calendar year 2024 saw increases for both types of abuse – an almost 19% increase for individual in custody perpetration and a marginal increase in alleged staff perpetration. After analyzing the allegation trends, no clear reasoning to explain the increase can be identified.

The following tables were developed from data provided by each individual facility and represent cases that were alleged to have occurred during calendar year 2024. Table 1-B represents statistical data regarding allegations made involving inmate on inmate sexual abuse and harassment. Table 2-B represents data regarding allegations made involving staff on inmate sexual misconduct and harassment.

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2024 Inmate on Inmate Abuse & Harassment by Facility (TABLE 1-B)

	Abusive Sexual Contact					Sexual Harassment					Facility Total
Facility	Sub	Uns	Unf	Ong	TOT	Sub	Uns	Unf	Ong	TOT	
Big Muddy River	0	7	0	1	8	0	10	0	0	10	18
Centralia	0	7	1	2	10	1	9	0	0	10	20
Danville	0	2	0	1	3	0	1	0	2	3	6
Decatur	0	2	1	0	3	0	5	0	0	5	8
Dixon	3	14	3	1	21	1	32	1	0	34	55
East Moline	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	4
Graham	0	10	2	3	15	2	5	0	0	7	22
Hill	0	6	9	1	16	0	5	0	1	6	22
Illinois River	2	1	1	6	10	1	12	1	4	18	28
Jacksonville	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Joliet Treatment Ctr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kewanee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lawrence	0	2	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	4
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	7	7
Logan	3	13	5	0	21	3	9	2	0	14	35
Menard	0	26	0	1	27	0	7	1	0	8	35
Pinckneyville	0	10	0	3	13	0	2	0	0	2	15
Pontiac	1	6	0	1	8	4	32	0	0	36	44
Robinson	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Shawnee	1	7	0	6	14	1	2	0	0	3	17
Sheridan	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	5
Southwestern Illinois	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stateville	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Stateville NRC	0	6	0	1	7	0	3	0	0	3	10
Taylorville	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	4
Vandalia	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Vienna	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	3
Western Illinois	0	8	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	1	9
Crossroads ATC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fox Valley ATC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lawndale ATC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peoria ATC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	138	25	28	201	21	153	5	7	186	387

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2024 Staff on Inmate Sexual Misconduct & Harassment by Facility (TABLE 2-B)

	Sexual Misconduct					Sexual Harassment					Facility Total
Facility	Sub	Uns	Unf	Ong	TOT	Sub	Uns	Unf	Ong	TOT	
Big Muddy River	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Centralia	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	4
Danville	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	3
Decatur	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	6
Dixon	0	13	4	5	22	0	29	3	0	32	54
East Moline	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Graham	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	4
Hill	0	3	3	1	7	0	5	2	0	7	14
Illinois River	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Jacksonville	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
Joliet Treatment Ctr.	0	2	1	0	3	0	3	1	0	4	7
Kewanee	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Lawrence	0	9	0	6	15	0	3	0	1	4	19
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	4
Logan	3	20	3	0	26	1	7	0	0	8	34
Menard	1	10	1	4	16	0	3	0	0	3	19
Pinckneyville	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2
Pontiac	0	13	1	0	14	0	34	0	4	38	52
Robinson	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	7	7
Shawnee	0	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	3	6
Sheridan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwestern Illinois	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stateville	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	4
Stateville NRC	0	13	1	0	14	0	22	0	0	22	36
Taylorville	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vandalia	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	4
Vienna	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Western Illinois	0	3	1	0	4	0	5	3	0	8	12
Crossroads ATC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fox Valley ATC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lawndale ATC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peoria ATC	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	4	98	15	19	136	5	138	14	7	164	300

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A review of the data of the individual facilities provides some conclusions based on the uniqueness of the population housed at the facility. Facilities housing higher security individuals: Dixon (Multi-level), Pontiac (Maximum security), Logan (Multi-level), Menard (Maximum security), and Stateville NRC (Reception & Classification) represent the highest number of allegations. In fact, these five facilities make up almost 50% of the total allegations against other individuals in custody and 65% of the total allegations against staff for the entire Department. These types of facilities often house a population with unique management needs, and in some cases, these individuals attempt to manipulate the PREA reporting process.

Facilities demonstrating the fewest number of allegations, for all types of allegations, are typically lower security classification facilities or adult transition centers (work release). Facilities with targeted mental health populations (Joliet Treatment Center, Joliet Inpatient Treatment Center, Pontiac, and Dixon) represent a significant number of total PREA allegations. Considering the small populations examined, these facilities, based on per capita calculations, account for a significant portion of the Department's total PREA allegations.

A review of specific cases demonstrates that a very small population of individuals in custody account for a substantial number of total allegations. For example, six individuals in custody at Pontiac accounted for almost 25% of the facility's allegations – Over 3% of the entire Department's allegations. Similarly, five individuals at Dixon accounted for over 20% of the facility's allegations – Almost 4% of the entire Department's allegations. While individuals in custody abusing the PREA process through repeated unfounded reports made in “*bad faith*” may be culpable, the Department recognizes that certain individuals may be targeted for abuse; and therefore, the Department investigates all allegations regardless of the individual's record or previous history of reporting allegations.

Although often unavoidable, the number of ongoing/pending investigations continues to give rise to concern. While the number of ongoing investigations is higher than desired, the number of pending investigations is significantly lower than in recent years' past. The Department continues to make significant progress in completing PREA investigations and the number of outstanding investigations continues to trend downward due to the addition of additional staff who have received the specialized training to perform investigations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The total number of ongoing allegations reported in 2022 was less than half of what was reported during the comparable reporting period in 2021. In 2023, that decreasing trend continued with a 20% drop in pending cases from the same reporting period in 2022. The number of pending cases between 2023 and 2024 continued the downward trend with a slight decrease. The causes remain primarily due to waiting on physical evidence processing at the crime labs, outside law enforcement involvement, and other operational factors.

The Department continues to require quarterly reporting to ensure an accurate account of all investigations is maintained. As the data presents, some facilities have significantly higher numbers of allegations to investigate, therefore potentially creating a backlog of cases to conclude. Allegations against staff often require the facility to refer the case to external investigators which characteristically increases the time to conclude a case. Emphasis will continue to be placed on ensuring allegations are promptly and thoroughly investigated to ensure cases are concluded timely, but without sacrificing the integrity of the investigation.

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CONCLUSION

During calendar year 2025, the Department will continue its compliance with PREA. Beginning in the early fall of 2025, utilizing independent contracted PREA auditors certified by the Department of Justice, the Department will be auditing 11 facilities to begin the first year of the fifth 3-year audit cycle. The audits provide an independent evaluation of the policies and procedures that the Department has implemented and provides for an opportunity to identify areas for further improvement at the individual facilities, as well as on a Department-wide scale.

The Department will continue to make upgrades to the technology it utilizes in its correctional facilities to deter and investigate sexual abuse. This will be done through our IDOC State-wide Security Camera contract; and utilizing PREA grant funding, when available. Staffing plans will also be consistently reviewed to ensure the most efficient allocation of staff to reduce the likelihood or opportunity for sexual abuse to be committed in our facilities.

Additionally, training and policy will continue to be reviewed and updated as necessary to provide the most up to date knowledge and best practices to the employees of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Annual training will continue to be provided to all employees, volunteers and contractors who have contact with individuals in custody to ensure staff is prepared to respond to an allegation of sexual abuse as well as preventing incidents of sexual abuse. The Department will also continue to explore all avenues of external resources, training, and technical assistance provided by and in consultation with the Department of Justice's PREA Management Office.

The Illinois Department of Corrections will continue to take all allegations of sexual abuse and harassment seriously throughout our agency. The Department's commitment to maintaining a "**Zero Tolerance**" approach to sexual abuse and sexual harassment will continue to be demonstrated through its full compliance of the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

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APPROVED:



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6/27/2025

Date