

Prison

Rape

Elimination

2023

Act

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This report has been prepared in accordance with Prison Rape Elimination Act Standard 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, response policies and training.

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**PREA Coordinator**

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The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that prohibits sexual misconduct in correctional settings such as prisons, jails, lockups, community confinements, and juvenile facilities. Sexual misconduct under the law includes:

- Client–on–Client sexual abuse and sexual harassment
- Staff–on–Client sexual abuse, sexual harassment and any sexual misconduct (undue familiarity)

Sedgwick County Department of Corrections (SCDOC) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for staff and clients. The department shall promptly investigate and enforce laws and policies of “zero tolerance” relating to illegal sexual acts, sexual harassment, sexual abuse or misconduct in all of its facilities. The department provides a comprehensive PREA prevention and intervention program which includes: education, prevention, prompt intervention and discipline/prosecution of assailants and appropriate treatment for victims. The department refers all allegations of a criminal nature to the Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office.

This report will summarize the efforts by the SCDOC to achieve compliance with the federal standards of PREA.

## **Definitions:**

**Substantiated** – An allegation was investigated and determined to have occurred.

**Undue Familiarity** – Conversations, personal or business dealings between a staff member and a client which is unnecessary, not a part of the staff member’s duties and related to a personal relationship or purpose rather than a legitimate correctional purpose. Undue familiarity includes horseplay, betting, trading, dealing, socializing, family contact unrelated to the staff’s duties, sharing or giving food, delivering or intending to deliver contraband, personal conversation, exchanging correspondence, including social networking via the internet. It also includes conversation or correspondence that demonstrates or suggests a romantic or intimate relationship between a client and the staff, sexual misconduct, or in any other manner developing a relationship with a client.

**Unsubstantiated** – An allegation was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

**Unfounded** – An allegation was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

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## Policy Development

SCDOC has enacted several new policies, specifically related to PREA, over the last ten years. In addition to the new policies; several existing policies have been updated to enhance, prevent and eliminate sexual misconduct. The PREA policies are located on the Department of Corrections intranet site under SCDOC Administrative policies; however, specific program policies are available upon request.

- ✓ The following policies were reviewed and/or revised in 2023:
  - 1.300 – Internal Investigations
  - 1.300.1 – Investigation Summary
  - 1.300.2 – PREA Investigations Summary
  - 1.300.3 – SCDOC Statement of Rights (Kalkines Warning)
  - 1.301 – PREA – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention
  - 1.301.1a – PREA Client Acknowledgement Form
  - 1.301.1b – PREA Client Acknowledgement Form (Spanish)
  - 1.301.1c – PREA Client Acknowledgement Form (Field Services)
  - 1.301.2 – PREA Acknowledgement Form
  - 1.301.3a – PREA Protocol Form
  - 1.301.3b – PREA Investigator Checklist
  - 1.301.4 – PREA Retaliation Monitoring
  - 1.301.5a – PREA Investigations Flowchart
  - 1.301.5b – PREA Processing Map
  - 1.301.6 – Disclosure of PREA Employment Standards Violation
  - 1.301.7 – PREA Unannounced Rounds
  - 1.301.8 – PREA Quiz for SCDOC
  - 1.301.9a – Medical Behavioral Health Admission Screening HA-2.0 (Replaced JS Screening for Victimization and Abusiveness)
  - 1.301.9b – ARES Screening for Victimization and Abusiveness
  - 1.301.10 – Sexual Abuse Review Board (SARB) Incident Review Form
  - 1.301.11 – PREA Institutional Reference Form

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## Training

All SCDOC employees, contractors and volunteers received annual PREA training and policy review. The training includes:

- ✓ PREA standards and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment;
- ✓ Understanding and addressing Undue Familiarity;
- ✓ First responder (secure and non-secure) expectations;
- ✓ LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex) and victimization;
- ✓ Recognizing the physical, behavioral and emotional signs of sexual assault.

The Internal Investigations policy, 1.300, requires all supervisors to complete the *National Institute of Corrections (NIC): PREA Investigating Sexual Abuse in a Confinement Setting* and the department's *Conducting Internal Investigations* training within one year of being hired or promoted. Both requirements must be fulfilled before a supervisor can be assigned to conduct an internal or PREA investigation. The department held two, in-person, *Conducting Internal Investigations* trainings on March 22, 2023, and October 18, 2023.

It is a practice that all SCDOC Mental Health Professionals and the contracted healthcare provider for the Juvenile Residential Facility (JRF) and Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) complete the *NIC: PREA Medical Health Care for Sexual Assault Victims in a Confinement Setting*.

PREA Refresher training handouts were developed for JRF, JDF and the Adult Residential and Work Release (ARES/WR) program in 2019 and continue to be an educational resource for staff. These handouts are aimed at building staff capacity to fulfill their duties under the PREA standards. Each handout covers a specific topic related to prevention, intervention and response. There are 13 PREA Refresher handouts that have been reviewed at JRF, JDF, and ARES/WR on monthly basis with direct care staff and their supervisors.

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Performance Measures	2023 Actual
Number / percentage of clients that received PREA training	950 / 100%
Number / percentage of staff that received PREA training	316 / 100%
Number / percentage of volunteers and contractors that received PREA training	138 / 100%
Number / percentage of licensed facilities with a PREA audit and full compliance with standards	0 / 3
Number of allegations reported and reviewed	6
Number of substantiated violations	0

## **Sexual Abuse Review Board (SARB)**

The director established and selected the SARB on July 24, 2015 in accordance with the PREA standard 115.386 and SCDOC PREA policy 1.301. The board consists of three members, serving a one-year term, which may be reappointed by the director. The board appointment begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup> of the next year.

The SARB reviews all PREA allegations within 30 days of the conclusion of the investigation. The board considers whether allegations or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect or respond to sexual abuse. There are several areas of consideration for the board to review which include motivators for the allegation, physical barriers, staffing levels and technology.

In 2023, the SARB committee reviewed 6 allegations of which none was unfounded, 6 were unsubstantiated and none were substantiated. All 6 allegations were reviewed by the SARB committee and feedback was provided to the PREA Compliance Managers (PCM) and/or the Primary PREA Investigator. All PCMs and/or Primary Investigators responded to the feedback within 5 business days and provided satisfactory corrective action. There is currently one on-going PREA investigation with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office from 2023. The SARB committee will review this investigation once law enforcement has closed the case.

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## **Client Education**

In all the SCDOC facilities, all clients are educated by staff within 10 days of intake on their rights to be free from sexual abuse, sexual harassment and to be free from retaliation for reporting such incidents.

The training includes:

- ✓ PREA standards and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment;
- ✓ Education and awareness on PREA;
- ✓ Recognizing the physical, behavioral and emotional signs of sexual assault;
- ✓ Rules and expectations regarding inappropriate sexual behaviors;
- ✓ How to report incidents of sexual abuse/harassment and their responsibility.

The Language Line and UBI-DUO are available to assist clients with PREA education. The Language Line is a phone service that provides translation in more than 240 languages. The UBI-DUO is an American Disability Act (ADA) approved communication device for the hearing impaired, that removes communication barriers and allows clients to hold a conversation in real-time. All clients have access to PREA information pamphlets (English and Spanish), posters (English and Spanish), videos, handbooks, Kansas Protection Report Center (hotline), website, management and the PREA Coordinator telephone number for contact and assistance.

## **Screening Tool**

The department has adopted two objective screening instruments (adult & juvenile) that are completed within 72 hours of the client's arrival at the facility and periodically throughout a client's confinement. The screening instruments are used to measure the client's risk of sexual abuse victimization and/or sexual abusiveness toward other clients. The results of the screening tool are used to make housing, bed, program, education, and level assignments; with the ultimate goal of keeping all clients safe and free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The department uses the instrument to identify clients as having a vulnerability of victimization (VV) and/or sexually aggressive (SA). These categories help ensure clients are not housed together and that staff are more vigilant in their daily observations of clients. The PREA Compliance Manager shall determine housing and programming assignments on a case-by-case basis for all transgender and intersex clients. All transgender / intersex housing assignments must be documented on the screening tool to show if the client was housed by

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their gender identity or if the client presented safety and security concerns that prevented the assignment from being approved.

- ✓ JDF / JRF facilities use the Medical Behavioral Health Admission Screening HA-2.0, 1.301.9a, developed alongside Mental Health contractor VitalCore. This replaced the SCDOC Juvenile Services Screening for Victimization and Abusiveness in 2023.
- ✓ The ARES/WR facility uses the ARES Screening for Victimization and Abusiveness, 1.301.9b. (Developed in partnership with a PREA Resource Center subject matter expert in 2019)

## **Cooperative Agreements and Contracts**

SCDOC has entered into several agreements / contracts with other agencies in order to provide the best services to our clients.

- ✓ Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center
- ✓ COMCARE
- ✓ Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department
- ✓ Ascension Via Christi at St. Joseph Hospital (SANE/SAFE exams)
- ✓ VitalCore

A memorandum of agreement between the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC), Ascension Via Christi at St. Joseph Hospital and SCDOC was signed in 2021. This agreement outlines the methodical process and services offered to clients that have been sexually abused; to include advocacy services, forensic medical examination, tests for sexually transmitted infections, timely access to emergency contraception, and follow-up services at no cost to the victim.

An agreement with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office and SCDOC was signed in February 2020. The purpose of the agreement is to collaborate with the Sheriff to provide investigative services in the event that an allegation of sexual abuse occurs at any SCDOC facility. The agreement outlines the rights of the victim to have an advocate present during the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews. It also states that

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communication between SCDOC and the Sheriff's Office shall occur monthly regarding updates in order to create an SCDOC case record retention file.

COMCARE signed a Letter of Support that shows their support for the department so that they may improve the quality of life for those affected by trauma and to show their support to being a PREA resource for the clients we serve. The letter of support was signed by COMCARE on June 4, 2021.

## **Statistics**

SCDOC has 2 licensed juvenile facilities and 1 adult community confinement facility, which are the following:

- ✓ Juvenile Detention Facility at 700 South Hydraulic in Wichita, KS. The detention facility houses youth age 10 to 17 with a bed capacity of 108.
- ✓ Juvenile Residential Facility at 881 South Minnesota in Wichita, KS. The non-secure residential facility houses any youth age 10 to 18 with a bed capacity of 16. This program was temporarily suspended due to staffing concerns on April 29, 2022, but reopened on May 8, 2023.
- ✓ Adult Residential and Work Release at 623 East Elm in Wichita, KS. In 2023, an additional female dorm was constructed to bring the total capacity to 178.



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### Adult Residential and Work Release

PREA Allegations of Staff-on-Client	2020	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	1	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	1	2	0	1
Unfounded	0	0	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

PREA Allegations of Client-on-Client	2020	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	1	0	3
Unfounded	0	0	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

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### Juvenile Detention Facility

PREA Allegations of Staff-on-Client	2020	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	2	0	0	2
Unfounded	0	0	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

PREA Allegations of Client-on-Client	2020	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	1	0
Unfounded	0	0	1	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

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### Juvenile Residential Facility

PREA Allegations of Staff-on-Client	2020	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	0	1	0	0
Unsubstantiated	1	0	1	0
Unfounded	1	0	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

PREA Allegations of Client-on-Client	2020	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	1	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	1	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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## **Staffing Plan**

All juvenile SCDOC facilities comply with 115.313 the federal and state licensing requirements for staffing ratios of a minimum of 1:8 during client waking hours and 1:14 during client sleeping hours. SCDOC facilities complete Annual Staffing Plan reviews to ensure PREA and staffing concerns are addressed and any deviations from the staffing plans are documented.

## **Monitoring Technology**

All SCDOC facilities have camera video and recording capabilities. Some audio capabilities are available at various locations.

JDF upgraded the Com-tec equipment and cameras in December 2020, which included adding cameras with audio capabilities. The audio feature is not functional at this time and has been submitted as a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for 2024. JDF also began a pilot program in May 2023 where all supervisors and assistant supervisors were AXON body cameras. This pilot program was fully implemented into policy on October 31, 2023.

ARES/WR installed a new camera system in 2019, which includes new monitoring features and audio in select locations. In 2021, a camera was installed in a newly constructed client lobby and two additional cameras were installed in the East emergency exit hall to increase client supervision. Additionally, five cameras were upgraded in the North Lobby, North Control Check-In, Kitchen, Janitor's Room and Medication/Property Room. In 2023, additional cameras were added to the system for increased overall coverage and there are now 63 total cameras to monitor the interior and exterior of the facility and administrative offices.

The JRF camera system was upgraded in October 2018. This system has audio and video capabilities for 13 facility cameras and two cameras in the gym. Overall, the new system has 31 cameras to monitor the interior and exterior of the facility and is a significant improvement over the old analog camera system.

All SCDOC facilities utilize the Department of Children and Families Kansas Protection Report Center abuse hotline for clients to make private and anonymous reports of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct.

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## Summary

There were a total of 7 reported allegations / investigations in 2023; 6 incidents were unsubstantiated, none were unfounded, none were substantiated, and 1 is ongoing.

SCDOC reviewed/revised all PREA policies in 2023. Policy and practices are reviewed at a minimum of once annually, as well as continuous updates to monitoring technology and staff / client education to focus on the reduction of sexual abuse in SCDOC facilities. Monitoring technology at all locations has been significantly improved and allows for audio in select locations. Audio upgrades will be a top priority for all DOC facilities in the coming years.

The PREA Sexual Abuse Review Board (SARB) was established in 2015 and appointments serve for one-year terms. The review board conducts a review of every sexual misconduct investigation. The board meets within 30 days of the conclusion of every internal investigation and makes recommendations within the guidelines of the PREA standard 115.386. Any staff involved in sexual misconduct with substantiated findings may be terminated from employment and are not eligible for rehire in our department. All PREA investigations were reviewed within 30 days by the SARB and PCMs / Primary Investigators provided satisfactory corrective action in 2023.

Informational brochures and posters (English and Spanish) continue to be distributed to all the SCDOC facilities for clients, families, volunteers and contractors on reporting sexual abuse and sexual misconduct. The Sedgwick County Department of Corrections [website](#) contains PREA Annual Reports, PREA resources and the [Online PREA Training for Volunteers and Contractors](#). PREA Refresher templates were developed for all SCDOC facilities in 2019 and continue to be an educational resource for staff.

The department held two, in-person, *Conducting Internal Investigations* trainings on March 22, 2023, and October 18, 2023. It is a practice that all SCDOC Mental Health Professionals and the contracted healthcare provider for the Juvenile Residential Facility (JRF) and Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) complete the *NIC: PREA Medical Health Care for Sexual Assault Victims in a Confinement Setting*.