



Floyd County Corrections
2020
PREA Annual Report

In 2020, Floyd County Corrections (FCC) continued the established Zero Tolerance standard for sexual abuse and sexual harassment of offenders in our custody. Our commitment to a Zero Tolerance standard is the foundation upon which all efforts have been built.

Training and education have continued to be critical components in our efforts to prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Approximately fifteen (15) new staff members have undergone our comprehensive training requirement that has been a key in the agency's mission and commitment to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards. This training is provided through the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), and the training focuses on staff members' duties in responding to PREA allegations, as well as effective communication with offenders who identify as gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming. The agency also expanded the training for supervision staff, with four (4) line staff who serve as a back-up to their shift supervisor, two (corporals), five (5) Sergeants, and three (3) Lieutenants completing the specialized training course for Investigation of Sexual Abuse in a Confinement Setting provided by the NIC. This training has helped to reinforce the understanding of the importance of a measured response to PREA allegations and the affect such a response can have on the investigative process. The Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) investigators and the PREA Coordinator also completed specialized training in Advanced Investigations of Sexual Abuse in Confinement Settings course provided by the NIC. In addition to the expansion in staff training, the agency continued a more rigorous approach in our offender training. The refocused training provided a better representation of the required training outlined in the National PREA Standards. Care and Treatment staff began the new training with offenders in early 2019, and there was a marked decrease in non-PREA related issues being filed as PREA allegations.

We continue to take our responsibility to respect and uphold the rights and welfare of inmates in our care, understanding that the detection, prevention, and response to sexual abuse and sexual harassment are a critical component of all our efforts.

Michael Long, Warden

Scope of the 2020 Annual Report

This report is compiled in accordance with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) National Standards published in August of 2012. DOJ standards 115.87 and 115.88 provide specific direction for the collection, review, and assessment of collected data to improve the effectiveness of policies, practices, and training for the prevention, detection, and response to sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

This report provides a review of incident-based and aggregated data for calendar year 2020 and a comparison of aggregated data for calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Investigations

In all instances of alleged PREA violations, Floyd County Corrections (FCC) provides for an expedient investigative response while working closely with the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC). As necessary, FCC provides full access to GDC agents assigned to carry out all official criminal investigation on-site. FCC's Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) will also complete a full administrative investigation in conjunction with all criminal investigations. Our SART investigators also serve as P.O.S.T. mandated law enforcement officers. Following all investigations, the incident will be determined to have been either:

Substantiated- An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred;

Unsubstantiated- An allegation that was investigated and determined to have insufficient evidence to make a determination as to whether the incident occurred; or

Unfounded- An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

All substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment result in the appropriate disciplinary actions taken against the staff member, contractor, volunteer, or inmate; and where appropriate a referral for criminal prosecution.

Data Collection

Floyd County Corrections records and tracks all PREA Incidents from the initial report through the investigative and review process.

Tables are provided below of aggregated data for years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

2020 PREA Allegations				
Type of Allegation	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Total
Staff to Offender Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff to Offender Harassment	0	0	0	0
Offender to Offender Abuse	0	0	0	0
Offender to Offender Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

2018 – 2020 Incident Comparison			
Substantiated	2018	2019	2020
Staff to Offender Abuse	0	0	0
Staff to Offender Harassment	0	0	0
Offender to Offender Abuse	0	0	0
Offender to Offender Harassment	0	0	0
Sub-Total	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	2018	2019	2020
Staff to Offender Abuse	0	0	0
Staff to Offender Harassment	1	0	0
Offender to Offender Abuse	0	0	0
Offender to Offender Harassment	0	0	0
Sub-Total	1	0	0
Unfounded	2018	2019	2020
Staff to Offender Abuse	2	1	0
Staff to Offender Harassment	1	1	0
Offender to Offender Abuse	2	0	0
Offender to Offender Harassment	0	0	0
Sub-Total	6	2	0
Total Incidents	6	2	0

Substantiated Incidents	2019	2020	% Increase
Staff to Offender Abuse	0	0	0%
Staff to Offender Harassment	0	0	0%
Offender to Offender Abuse	0	0	0%
Offender to Offender Harassment	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0%

Assessment

2020 was the third year in a row with no substantiated incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Facility staff and the offender population have shown their continued dedication to the institutionalization of the PREA Standards. Two allegations were filed in 2019 and both were able to be investigated and closed as unfounded. In both investigations, facility body cameras and fixed surveillance cameras were critical in making our determinations. In 2020, there were no allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. The facility successfully completed our second cycle PREA Audit in May of 2019. Staff and offenders alike were responsible for the facility meeting all of the audited Standards and exceeding seven of those Standards. In 2020, the facility continued working towards implementing innovative approaches to meeting the Standards and began preparations for our third PREA audit to take place in the Spring of 2021.