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PREA Annual Report - 2024

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Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 with unanimous support from both parties in Congress. 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." (Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2003). In addition to creating a mandate for significant research from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and through the National Institute of Justice, funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections

supported major efforts in many state correctional, juvenile detention, community corrections, and jail systems.

The act also created the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and charged it with developing draft standards for the elimination of prison rape. Those standards were published in June 2009, and were turned over to the Department of Justice for review and passage as a final rule. That final rule became effective August 20, 2012.

Alabama Department of Youth Services PREA Policy

In compliance with Sections 115.311 and 115.322 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards, the Alabama Department of Youth Services (ADYS) has established a zero tolerance for incidents of juvenile sexual assault, rape or sexual harassment in any ADYS facility. The ADYS has implemented policies and procedures to ensure that the PREA Standards are upheld in all ADYS and private contract service provider facilities. All allegations of sexual assault/harassment are referred for investigations. Annual reports do not include personal identifying information.

DYS reviews data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.387 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, response policies, practices, and training. DYS conducts a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every sexual abuse investigation, including where the allegation has not been substantiated; unless the allegation has been determined to be unfounded.

Corrective action is taken on an ongoing basis. However, no corrective action has been required and no problem areas have been identified.

Corrective Actions

- One-on-One Supervision
- Programming Adjustments
- School Schedule Adjustments
- Staff Refresher Training
- Youth Refresher Education

Department of Justice Survey of Sexual Victimization, State Juvenile Systems Summary Form (SSV-5) Reports

2023 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	2 allegations	1 Substantiated 1 Unsubstantiated	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Abusive Sexual Contact	0 allegations	0 Substantiated 0	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca

		Unsubstantiated 0 Unfounded	
Sexual Harassment	2 allegations	2 Substantiated	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	1 allegation	1 Unsubstantiated	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Staff Sexual Harassment	0 allegations		

2022 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	3 allegations	3 Unsubstantiated	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Abusive Sexual Contact	7 allegations	0 Substantiated 3 Unsubstantiated 4 Unfounded	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Sexual Harassment	3 allegations	0 Substantiated 2 Unsubstantiated 1 Unfounded	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0 allegations		
Staff Sexual Harassment	0 allegations		

2021 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	1 allegation	Unfounded	Vacca
Abusive Sexual Contact	3 allegations	0 Substantiated 1 Unsubstantiated 2 Unfounded	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Sexual Harassment	5 allegations	3 Substantiated 1 Unsubstantiated 1 Unfounded	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0 allegations		
Staff Sexual Harassment	0 allegations		

2020 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	1 allegation	Unsubstantiated	Mt. Meigs
Abusive Sexual Contact	8 allegations	3 Substantiated 3 Unsubstantiated	Mt. Meigs/ Vacca

		2 Unfounded	
Sexual Harassment	2 allegations	1 Substantiated 1 Unfounded	Mt. Meigs
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0 allegations		
Staff Sexual Harassment	0 allegations		

2019 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	0 allegations		
Abusive Sexual Contact	3 allegations	1 Substantiated 1 Unsubstantiated 1 Unfounded	Mt. Meigs
Sexual Harassment	5 allegations	3 Substantiated 2 Unsubstantiated	Mt. Meigs
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0 allegations		
Staff Sexual Harassment	2 allegations	1 Substantiated 1 Unfounded	Mt. Meigs

2018 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	0		
Abusive Sexual Contact	0		
Sexual Harassment	0		
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0		
Staff Sexual Harassment	0		

2017 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	0		
Abusive Sexual Contact	0		
Sexual Harassment	0		
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0		
Staff Sexual Harassment	0		

2016 Report

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization			
Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	2 allegations	all substantiated	Mt. Meigs
Abusive Sexual Contact	5 allegations	all	Mt. Meigs

		substantiated	
Sexual Harassment	2 allegations	all substantiated	Mt. Meigs/Vacca
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse			
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0 allegations		
Staff Sexual Harassment	0 allegations		

Definitions

Youth-on-Youth Sexual Victimization

The survey utilizes the definition of "sexual abuse" as provided by 28 C.F.R. §115.6 in the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape (under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003). For purposes of SSV, sexual abuse is disaggregated into three categories of youth-on-youth sexual victimization. These categories are:

Nonconsensual Sexual Acts (more severe)

Sexual Contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and

- Sexual Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; or
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; or
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, or other instrument.

Abusive Sexual Contact (less severe)

Sexual Contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and

- Intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person.
- Exclude incidents in which the contact was incidental to a physical altercation.

Sexual Harassment

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one youth directed toward another.

Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse

The survey utilizes the definition of "sexual abuse" by a staff member, contractor or volunteer as provided by 28 C.F.R. §115.6 in the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape (under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003). For purposes of SSV, sexual abuse is disaggregated into two categories of staff-on-youth sexual abuse. These categories are:

Staff Sexual Misconduct

Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor or other agency representative (excludes family, friends or other visitors.)

Sexual relationships of a romantic nature between staff and youth are included in this definition. Consensual or nonconsensual sexual acts include:

- Intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; or
- Completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts; or
- Occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy, or staff voyeurism for reasons unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.

Staff Sexual Harassment

Repeated verbal statements, comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (exclude family, friends, or other visitors). Includes—

- Demeaning references to gender; or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or
- Repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

PREA Certification & Standards Assurance for Audit Cycle 4

Audit Year One

Facilities Audited {August 20, 2025 - August 19, 2026}

Alabama Department of Youth Services Facility

Autauga Campus – Scheduled for 2026, PREA Compliant May 12, 2023

Private Providers Contracting with DYS

- Working on Womanhood Facility – Scheduled for 2026, PREA Compliant August 7, 2023
- King's Home – Scheduled for 2026, PREA Compliant July 14, 2023
- J. Walter Wood Treatment Facility (Rite of Passage) - Scheduled for 2026, PREA Compliant August 9, 2023
- Pathway Group Home – Scheduled for 2026, PREA Compliant August 9, 2023

Schedules for Years Two and Three of the Fifth Audit Cycle

Audit Year Two

Facilities Audited (August 20, 2026 - August 19, 2027)

Alabama Department of Youth Services Facility

Vacca Campus – Scheduled 2027, PREA Compliant May 16, 2024

Private Providers Contracting with DYS

- Lee County Youth Development Center – Scheduled for 2027, PREA Compliant June 21, 2024

Audit Year Three

Facilities Audited (August 20, 2027- August 19, 2028)

Alabama Department of Youth Services Facility

Mt. Meigs Campus – Scheduled for 2028, PREA Compliant August 20, 2025

Private Providers Contracting with DYS

Pathway IDI- Scheduled for 2028, PREA Compliant August 14, 2025

Steven P. Lafreniere, Executive Director

Date

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Date