

# Hall County Department of Corrections



## 2023 PREA Report

# Hall County Department of Corrections Prison Rape Elimination Act(PREA) Annual Report 2023

## PREA Background:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into Federal Law in 2003 by President George W. Bush. It was created to address the problem of sexual misconduct in all confinement facilities. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice released national PREA standards to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. To be compliant with the PREA Act all federal, state, and local corrections agencies must have a zero-tolerance policy regarding rape in prison, jails, police lock-ups, and community confinement facilities.

Hall County Jail has a zero-tolerance policy relative to sexual misconduct. Hall County Jail complies with federal and state laws as they pertain to PREA, sexual violence and sexual misconduct.

## Definitions:

- Substantiated - A substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- Unsubstantiated - An unsubstantiated allegation means 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 - An unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.
- Ongoing - The investigation has not been completed.

## Annual Report:

The Hall County Department of Corrections participated in their first Compliance Audit in December of 2015. Since that audit HCDC has made numerous personnel changes to include Director, Assistant Director and PREA Coordinator. Hall County benefitted greatly from the 2015 audit and corrective action phase. It is clear that in part due to the previous audit experience HCDC was able to achieve full compliance during the 2020 audit. In addition, HCDC staff were able to make improved changes since the last audit to policies, procedures and facility practices that further helped to achieve compliance for this current audit.

The Hall County Department of Corrections (HCDC) has policy # 3C-21 - **Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention Program** and policy # 3C-21(a) **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)** in place mandating a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These policies detail the HCDC approach to preventing, detecting and responding to sexual abuse and harassment.

There is a system in place to collect data on incidents of a sexual nature. Hall County Jail staff collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse under its direct control. The facility PREA Coordinator compiles incident based sexual abuse data annually. The following table illustrates data collected between (*January 1, 2023*) and (*December 31, 2023*).

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The following chart reflects aggregated data absent any events investigated that did not constitute a PREA violation:

	Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Ongoing Investigation	Total Results
Detainee on Detainee Non-Consensual sexual acts	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Detainee on Detainee abusive sexual contact	<b>1</b>	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Detainee on Detainee Sexual Harassment	<b>2</b>	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
Staff on Detainee sexual misconduct	<b>16</b>	0	6	10	0	<b>16</b>
Staff on Detainee Sexual harassment	<b>4</b>	0	4	0	0	<b>4</b>
Staff on Detainee abusive sexual contact	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	13	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>

#### General Information

Number of Detainees admitted into facility in the past 12 months.

Total 4382

Average Detainee Daily Population for the past 12 months.

Total 267

Average length of stay in facility.

Total 15 days

A review of the statistical data demonstrated shows that there were (1) Allegations of Detainee on Detainee Abusive Sexual Contact, (2) Allegations of Detainee on Detainee Sexual Harassment during the current reporting period that were unsubstantiated. The Hall County Jail strives to train and educate at all levels of the facility towards the goal of prevention, detection, and response to incidents of sexual abuse and harassment inside its facility. The names of the individuals involved have been excluded from this report in order to ensure confidentiality.

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#### Identified Problem Areas and Corrective Action

PREA standards require a review of collected data in order to identify problem areas and establish plans of corrective action. Based upon statistical data alone, the rate of incidents within the facility is extremely low. Based on PREA Incident Reviews, it is determined that staff need to be aware of their surroundings and look for red flags during well-being checks. The Hall County Jail continues to review, enhance and improve its current policies and procedures in an effort to not only continue to meet the PREA Standards, but to exceed them.

#### Resolved Problem Areas from 2023

The Hall County Jail was found to be compliant during our 2020 PREA Audit. The Department created new brochures that are handed out to all Detainees at intake that contains all PREA information and the Department's zero tolerance policy for all sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Female and Male staff are reminded to make an announcement when they enter a male living unit. ALL Employee PREA training is completed through online courses that track and record an employee's training for a calendar year. Notifications are sent out when training segments near the set expiration date preventing staff from lapsing in current training for key areas, including PREA. The Department has also developed a new policy Titled: LGBTQIP2SA population. This policy will help guide staff and supervisors in appropriately managing the LGBTQIP2SA population.