King County

Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention 2025 PREA Annual Report

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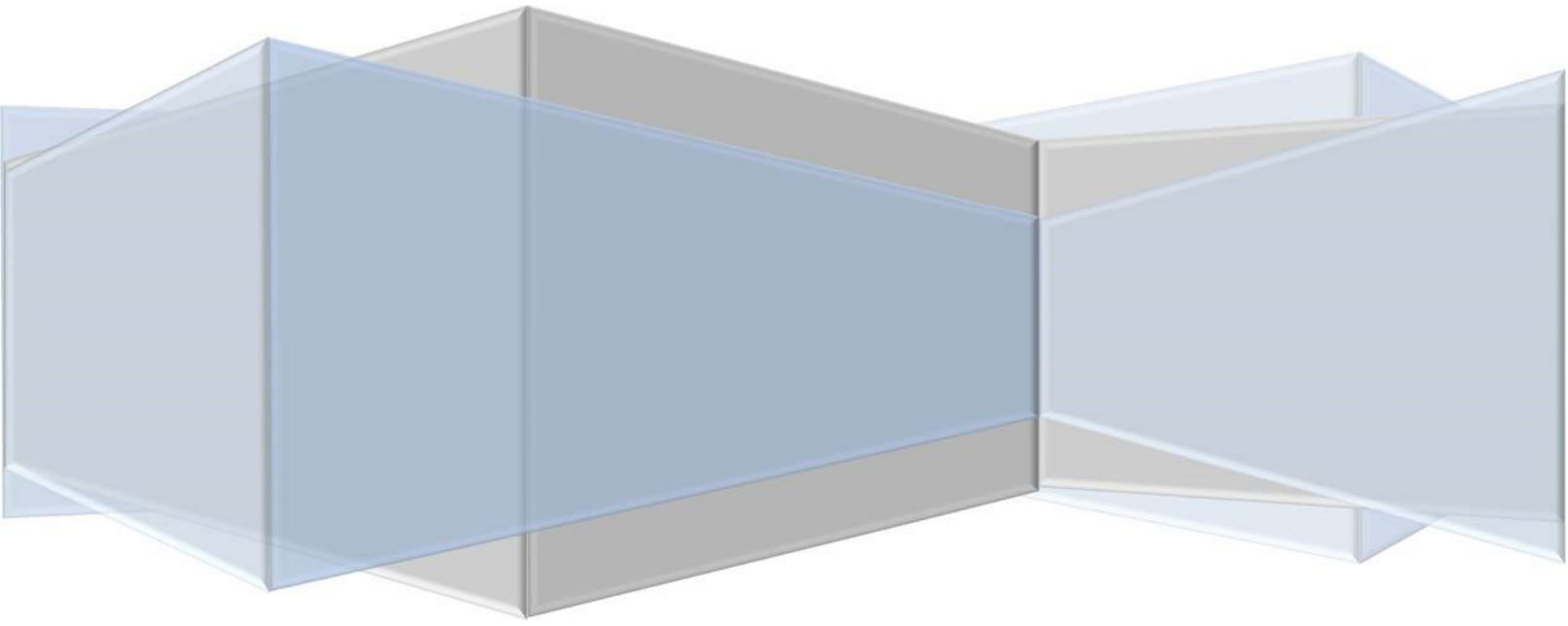

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PREA Intent, Purpose and Background

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal regulation enacted by the United States Congress in 2003 to address sexual abuse and sexual harassment of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. Major provisions of PREA include the development of standards to detect, prevent, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment of individuals while in secure custody.[1] King County's Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) has adopted a zero-tolerance policy on conduct pertaining to sexual abuse and sexual harassment involving residents and is working continuously to implement new policies, training requirements for staff and residents, and standards in support of that goal.

PREA regulations 115.87 and 115.88 direct the content of this annual report:

- 115.87 (a) The agency shall collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions.
- 115.87 (b) The agency shall aggregate the incident-based sexual abuse data at least annually.
- 115.87 (c) The incident-based data collected shall include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice.
- 115.87 (d) The agency shall maintain, review, and collect data as needed from all available incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews.
- 115.87 (e) The agency also shall obtain incident-based and aggregated data from every private facility with which it contracts for the confinement of its inmates.
- 115.88 (a) The agency shall review data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, by: (1) identifying problem areas; (2) taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and (3) preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency as a whole.
- 115.88 (b) Such report shall include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.

This report contains data on incarcerated resident and youth allegations received in 2025. It includes associated investigation information and results available as of May 2026. Annual reports are posted online at Reports and audits - Adult and Juvenile Detention - King County, Washington.

Definitions and Acronyms

Abusive sexual contact*: Includes intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person. Incidents in which the contact was incidental to a physical altercation are excluded. [DOJ BJS Survey of Sexual Victimization]*

ADP: *Average Daily Population*

[1] Department of Justice, 28 CFR Part 115. https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/part-115

Allegation: *A claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong, typically one made without, or prior to proof.*

BJS: *Bureau of Justice Statistics. The United States' primary source for criminal justice statistics that cover a wide range of topics.*

CCFJC: *The Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center (CCFJC) is a facility that houses Juvenile Court, Juvenile Detention, and a variety of related programs.*

DOJ: *United States Department of Justice*

KCCF: *King County Correctional Facility (an adult jail, where the facility is operated by a Division of DAJD)*

KPD: *Kent Police Department*

MRJC: *Maleng Regional Justice Center (an adult jail, where the facility is operated by a Division of DAJD)*

PREA: *Prison Rape Elimination Act*

PREA Case: *A situation or set of incidents that may involve the same victims and suspects on particular incident date(s). Each PREA case is a set of alleged actions linked together by virtue of the same incident date and suspect(s), or different dates involving the same victim and suspect over time.*

Resident: *A detainee or person in custody*

Resident Abusive Sexual Contact: *Sexual contact by a person in custody 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. [DOJ BJS Survey of Sexual Victimization]*

Nonconsensual Sexual Act: *This is the most serious victimization and includes: contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight; contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument. [DOJ BJS Survey of Sexual Victimization]*

Resident Sexual Abuse: *Any of the following acts between residents, detainees, or residents if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse: contact between genitals, between mouth and genitals, penetration of genital or anal opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument. [PREA 28 CFR Part 115]*

Sexual Harassment: *Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature directed toward a resident. [PREA 28 CFR Part 115] [DOJ BJS Survey of Sexual Victimization]*

SPD: *Seattle Police Department*

Staff Sexual Harassment: *Repeated and unwelcome verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually*

suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures. [PREA 28 CFR Part 115] [DOJ BJS Survey of Sexual Victimization]

Staff Sexual Misconduct/Abuse: *[paraphrased from PREA 28 CFR Part 115] Any of the following acts toward a resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer with or without consent: contact between genitals, between mouth and genitals, penetration of genital or anal opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; intentional touching/contact, either directly or through clothing of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; any attempt, threat or request by a staff member, contractor or volunteer to engage in the activities above; display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of a resident and voyeurism by a staff member, contractor or volunteer. [PREA 28 CFR Part 115] [DOJ BJS Survey of Sexual Victimization]*

Substantiated Allegation: *Allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred. [PREA 28 CFR Part 115.5]*

Unfounded: *Allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred. [PREA 28 CFR Part 115.5]*

Undetermined: *Allegation whose investigation is not yet closed (i.e., the investigation is open, underway).*

Unsubstantiated Allegation: *Allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether the event occurred. [PREA 28 CFR Part 115.5]*

Summary of Action and Progress

Every year DAJD undergoes new work to improve safety in our facilities. Actions can come from recommendations made by the agency level sexual abuse incident review committee (SAIRC) who review every unsubstantiated and substantiated case. It may also come from efforts by the PREA Coordinator and PREA Facility Compliance Managers as they monitor compliance during and between regular external audits, or from adopting best practices recommended by the external PREA auditors whom DAJD invites to review compliance roughly every three years for each facility.

During 2025, DAJD initiated several changes to improve practices to prevent, detect, and respond to incidents. Select efforts are listed below.

KCCF and MRJC Adult Detention Facilities

- Completed and passed a facility PREA audit in 2025, a federal review process in which DAJD regularly participates.
- Expanded coverage of cameras and implemented a regular review to ensure compliance with DAJD policies.
- Expanded investigator training to include mandatory victim advocate training.
- DAJD added notices that residents will see at process points asking residents if their PREA Risk Assessment (PRA) information has changed, to ensure multiple opportunities to provide risk information.

CCFJC Juvenile Detention Facility

- Completed and passed a facility PREA audit in 2025, a federal review process in which DAJD regularly participates.
- Expanded investigator training to include mandatory victim advocate training.
- Expanded the areas where Supervisors conduct regular unannounced rounds to enhance in-person monitoring outside of living halls.

Sexual Abuse Incident Review Committee

The Sexual Abuse Incident Review Committee (SAIRC) was formed by DAJD in February 2013 to comply with PREA Standards 115.86 (Adult), and 115.386 (Juvenile). According to these standards, DAJD must conduct a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of each sexual abuse investigation except when the allegation is determined as unfounded. While not required under PREA, DAJD additionally conducts leadership review for unsubstantiated sexual abuse cases, and both substantiated and unsubstantiated sexual harassment cases as well. These reviews typically occur within 30 days of the conclusion of a PREA case investigation. The review team includes the Major or Chief from the relevant facility, the facility classification manager, the facility medical and mental health representative, the agency PREA Coordinator, and the captain of the agency investigation unit. The agency Director and Deputy Director receive minutes from each review meeting. For each investigation, per 115.86, SAIRC will:

1. Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse.

2. Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; or gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility.
3. Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse.
4. Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts.
5. Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff.
6. Review for reportable and actionable events disclosed during the course of the investigation and confirm action (e.g. corrected JMS subject or PREA risk assessment answers, reported other allegations, grievances, infractions, neglect/retaliation, duty to report).

PREA Cases and Allegations/Reports

This section presents data on PREA allegations, the nature of the allegation, and the findings of a thorough investigation into each allegation. DAJD provides multiple reporting methods to encourage reporting. DAJD tracks all allegations reported as potential sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

The reporting methodology in this report follows the methodology developed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), counting one allegation for each victim and suspect pair in a case. When the suspect is not specified or the number of suspects is not known (e.g., “everyone”), the investigation is treated as one allegation until a more specific number of suspects can be identified. Should a case allege both sexual harassment and sexual abuse by a person, then there is a separate finding for each allegation by type. For example, if a resident alleged two other residents made sexually harassing comments and then both sexually abused them, that case would be counted as having four total allegations and would determine four separate findings.

Detailed findings will include only allegations of events that occurred in DAJD facilities. DAJD may receive an allegation that a resident was sexually abused while confined at another facility. In these cases, DAJD ensures that the head of the facility or appropriate office of the agency where the alleged abuse occurred is notified to take appropriate action.

There are zero open (or undetermined) cases as of the date of this report. When past year’s case findings are received, the findings are updated in the DAJD dataset and included in past year’s data within the next annual report. Three cases open from the prior year’s report have since been closed as unfounded.

PREA Allegations by Facility

This section provides the number of referrals or requests for investigation that DAJD received. It also includes context on the facility population of people in custody.

In 2025, there were 64 PREA allegations investigated by DAJD. In addition, substantiated findings decreased from prior years (Figure 1). KCCF had the higher number of allegations by facility. Figure 2 shows that substantiated allegations decreased for KCCF and were low and remained low for the MRJC and the CCFJC.

Facilities house a different number of people, and the number present can vary over time. The KCCF facility has historically housed the largest population. KCCF still retains residents with greater service needs, to include residents with higher security classification and greater medical and mental health needs. The juvenile division facility (CCFJC), in contrast, houses a relatively small population with more variation in size year over year. Context on facility population can help to consider whether the number of allegations is relatively proportional to the population in the facility at the time. The next section goes into further detail on the individual findings from allegations.

Figure 1. 2015-2025 PREA Allegation Findings, all DAJD Facilities

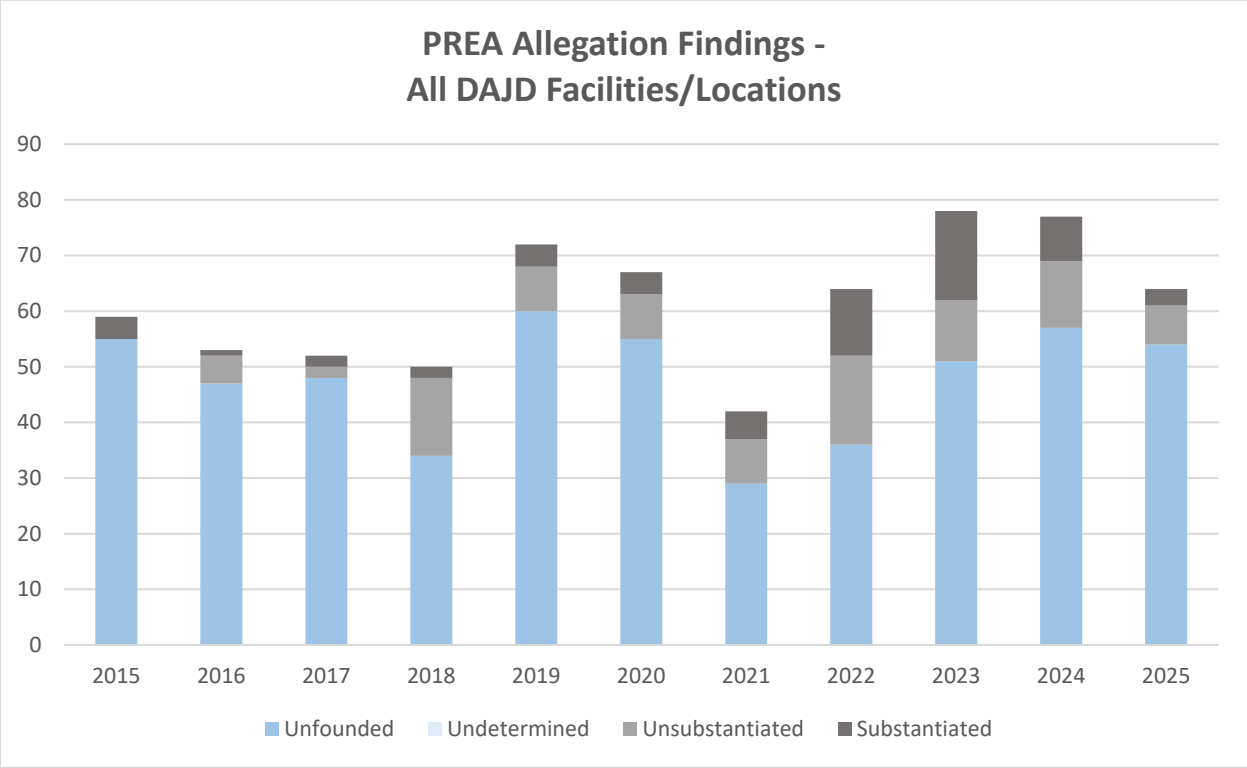
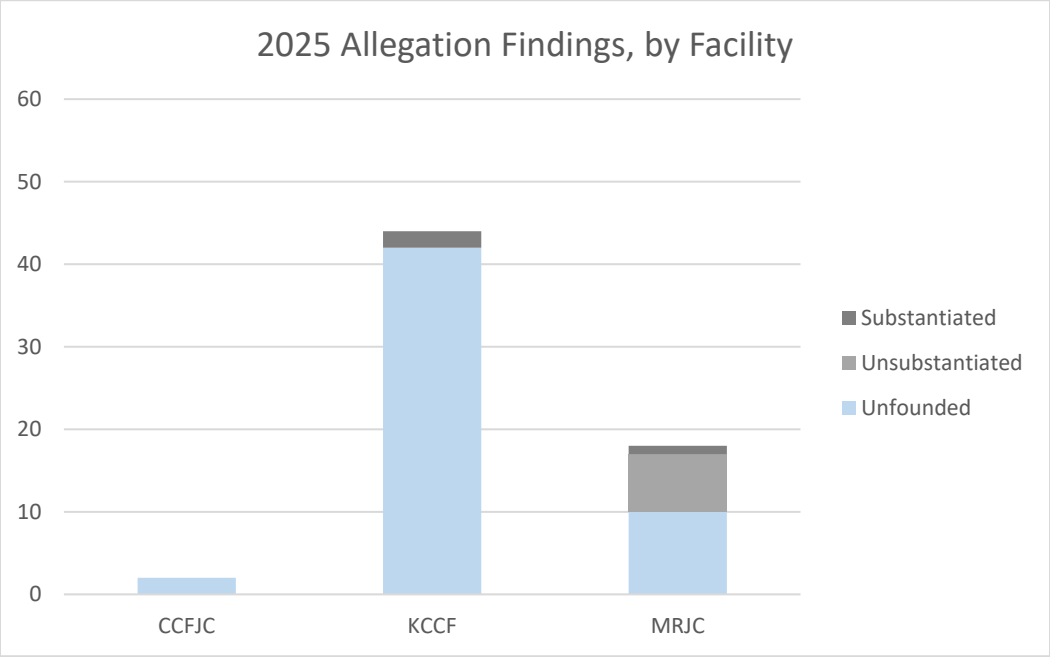


Table 1. 2025 PREA Allegation Findings, by DAJD Facility

	All Allegations	Unfounded Allegations	Undetermined Allegations	Unsubstantiated Allegations	Substantiated Allegations
All DAJD Facilities	**64**	54	0	7	3
KCCF	**44**	42	0	0	2
MRJC	**18**	10	0	7	1
CCFJC	**2**	2	0	0	0

Figure 2. 2025 and 2024 PREA Allegation Findings, by DAJD Facility



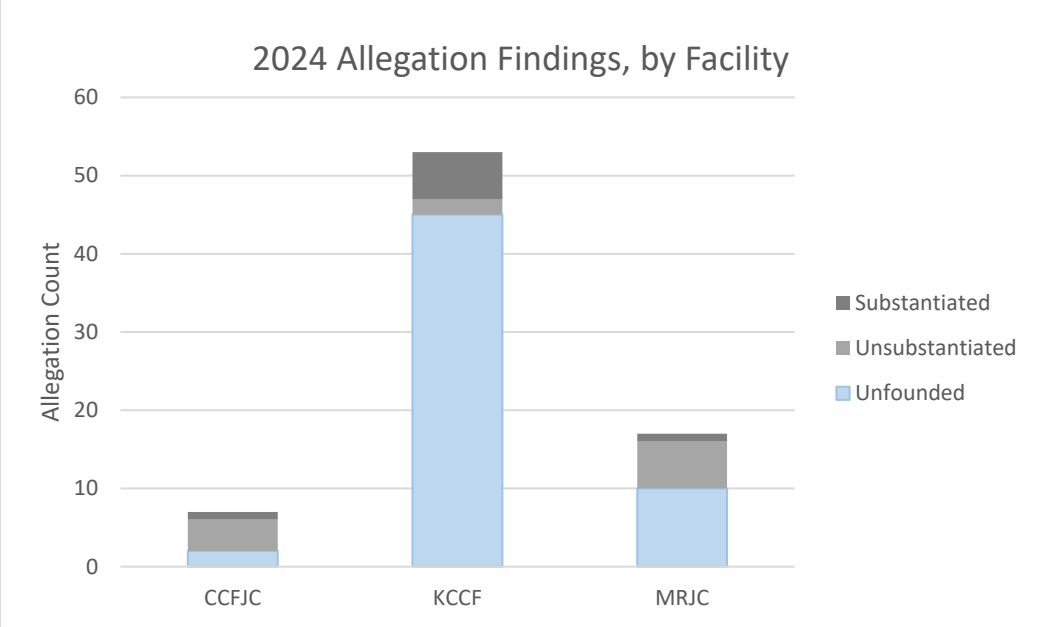


Table 2. Facility Average Daily Population

Facility	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
KCCF	746	1146	935	789	790
MRJC	570	351	470	619	621
CCFJC	22	34	43	55	55

Findings of Allegation Investigations

DAJD ensures that an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. An administrative investigation is conducted by the agency. A criminal investigation is conducted by the police. Whenever there is a potentially criminal allegation, the case is referred to the police for investigation. If the police decline to investigate, then at a minimum an administrative investigation must be completed by the agency.

An investigation may close with a finding that the allegation is substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded. It may be undetermined (open) at the time of this report. An investigator may also determine that the allegation submitted does not allege an act that meets the PREA definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. PREA regulations direct the agency to include in this report only those allegations that meet the definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. This section of the report provides a breakdown of investigations into allegations that meet the PREA regulatory definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

It is worth noting that DAJD investigates every allegation that might be submitted as "PREA," even if the person in good faith had mislabeled the act they want to report. A trained investigator must review and determine that the allegation submitted, if it occurred as described, does not allege an act that meets the PREA definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. The investigator documents this preliminary investigation and determination, and it may be routed to another appropriate response that better applies. Of those whose alleged act met the definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in 2025, the findings include:

- Zero (0) allegations are open (undetermined). An undetermined finding indicates that the allegation is still open and under investigation. Cases are most often open longer when referred to SPD/KPD for further investigation.
- Fifty-four (54) allegations were closed as unfounded. An investigation with a finding of unfounded means that an allegation was determined not to have occurred.
- Seven (7) allegations were closed as unsubstantiated. Allegations closed as unsubstantiated are determined to lack evidence to make a final determination as to whether the event occurred. The reasons for an unsubstantiated finding may include an inability to provide names, dates, and/or locations to support gathering evidence. The DOJ reports a national trend of more unsubstantiated findings than substantiated findings.
- Three (3) allegations were closed as substantiated. Allegations that are substantiated meet the definition of sexual abuse or harassment and are determined to have occurred based on a preponderance of evidence.

Allegations closed as substantiated and unsubstantiated are subject to further Sexual Abuse Incident Review Committee (SAIRC) review, as discussed in the next section. The purpose of a SAIRC review is to

ensure proper processes were followed for each case and to identify organizational changes to policy or procedure that could improve performance in the future.

PREA Allegations by Investigation Determination

DAJD follows BJS definitions to report types of sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations in Table 3. PREA defines two types of allegations, sexual abuse and sexual harassment. BJS uses slightly different definitions by breaking out sexual abuse into two further subtypes that indicate severity, being either a nonconsensual sexual act or abusive sexual contact. BJS provided definitions are adopted in Table 3 as advised in PREA regulations. DAJD adds the term resident or staff to further clarify the suspect that was involved. See the definitions section for a description of the allegation types.

Table 3. PREA Allegations in DAJD Facilities, by Investigation Determination

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Allegations	53	52	50	72	67	42	64	78	77	64
Unfounded Allegations	47	48	34	60	55	29	36	51	57	54
PREA Allegations: Unsubstantiated, Substantiated	**6**	**4**	**16**	**12**	**12**	**13**	**28**	**27**	**20**	**10**
PREA Allegations: Undetermined	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Inmate and Inmate										
Inmate Nonconsensual Sexual Act										
Substantiated	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	2	1	6	5	4	0	2	1	2	1
Undetermined (open)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate Abusive Contact										
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Unsubstantiated	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1
Undetermined (open)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate Sexual Harassment										
Substantiated	1	2	2	1	4	5	9	15	7	3
Unsubstantiated	1	0	2	1	1	5	11	9	6	2
Undetermined (open)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff and Inmate										
Staff Sexual Misconduct										
Substantiated	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
Undetermined (open)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Sexual Harassment										
Substantiated	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Undetermined (open)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

References

- Data sources:
  - DAJD Statistics and DAR Reports: https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dajd/courts-jails-legal-system/data-reports/population-information
  - DAJD Director's PREA Log/Spreadsheet
  - Individual case files in JMS and IIU/SIU archive
- PREA regulation information sources:
  - PREA Resource Center: https://www.prearesourcecenter.org

Appendix A - PREA Annual Report Methodology

This appendix provides an overview of the general method used to gather, assess, and report sexual abuse and sexual harassment trends. This section notes changes in data gathering practices over time. DAJD continues to strive for the most accurate and relevant information, including efforts to remain compliant with dynamic PREA standards. As a result, some aspects of the methodology change over time.

The DAJD methodology adheres to directives in PREA § 115.87 Data collection, § 115.88 Data review for corrective action, and § 115.89 Data storage, publication, and destruction. DAJD meets the PREA requirement to include data necessary to respond to the most recent version(s) of the DOJ Survey of Sexual Violence, which has since been renamed to the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV).

The DOJ SSV methodology can change slightly over time and varies between youth and adult collections. In 2005, BJS began gathering information on substantiated incidents of sexual victimization and in 2013, they began collecting data on resident-on-resident sexual harassment. DOJ Survey of Sexual Violence data are collected on counts of sexual violence allegations for each year. For any substantiated allegations, further information is collected.

DAJD data on the resident population is already shared with the public. Additional information regarding average daily population (ADP) data such as gender, age, race/ethnicity, and new admissions is located on the DAJD website here:

- Population information - Adult and Juvenile Detention - King County, Washington

PREA annual reports provide findings and corrective actions for each facility. Data is reported by calendar year, according to the date DAJD received the allegation. Data includes all reported allegations of acts and attempted acts, for both DAJD and non-DAJD facilities. DAJD recently adopted the BJS practice of disaggregating the PREA approved definition of “sexual abuse” into “nonconsensual acts” and “abusive sexual contact” when reporting data. Annual reports from prior years can be retrieved online at:

- Reports and audits - Adult and Juvenile Detention - King County, Washington

DAJD provides multiple avenues of reporting, records all reported acts and attempted acts, and tracks the departmental response. DAJD retains records of the full incident report and case history to allow SAIRC review for substantiated and unsubstantiated cases, and to enable retrospective review. Such case details are sufficient to complete the DOJ Substantiated Incident Form (Adult) on substantiated incidents of sexual victimization.