



2024 PREA Annual Report

Missoula County Detention Facility

Year in Review: Aggregated Data

Allegations

- 30 total allegations reported
- 3 total allegations substantiated; 2 inmate/inmate and 1 staff/inmate
- 4 allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual abuse (3 unfounded, one substantiated); 5 allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual harassment(all unfounded)
- 21 total allegations of inmate-on-inmate sexual misconduct (harassment & abuse)

Investigations

- Facility investigators are specially trained through the National Institute of Corrections.
- Criminal allegations are investigated by the Missoula County Sheriff's Office.
- Non-criminal allegations are investigated by MCDF administrative investigators.

Breakdown

- 19 allegations of sexual harassment (1 substantiated)
- 0 allegations of voyeurism
- 0 allegations of rape
- 11 allegations of sexual abuse (1 substantiated)
- 2 total allegations that occurred in other facilities and reported to MCDF staff; one is unknown due to not disclosing information about it
- 0 allegations that required emergency medical attention
- 1 allegation of abuse at MCDF that was reported to other facilities, it was unfounded.

Missoula County PREA Goals and Values

Prevention

Training & Culture:

MCDF is committed to training all staff on PREA policies and practices and promoting a zero-tolerance culture. We strive to provide safety and support to our population.

Screening:

MCDF uses a screening instrument to identify both risk of victimization and risk of aggression factors and screens everyone at defined intervals.

Policies and Practices

Policies:

MCDF has a facility policy that supports the compliance of federal PREA standards.

Practices:

MCDF leadership implements internal practices to support a zero-tolerance culture and takes all reports of sexual victimization seriously.

Investigation and Response

Pursuing Criminal Charges:

We investigate all allegations of sexual abuse, harassment, misconduct, and assault. All criminal violations are investigated by local law enforcement, and we do our due diligence to seek prosecution for violators.

Reporting:

MCDF promotes an environment where inmates can report incidents free of retaliation and retribution. MCDF takes all PREA reports seriously and swiftly responds.

Missoula County's commitment to values

Culture and Community

Providing a PREA compliant facility ensures our population better trusts staff, enabling people to come to staff with incidents and concerns. MCDF promotes a collaborative environment, in which the facility dedicates itself to being a part of our community and providing essential community services for both our inmates and the greater public's safety.

Inmate Support

MCDF values being supportive.
We assess all inmates regularly for safety and utilize evidence-based mental health and behavioral health interventions. We want our inmates to be successful and recognize many may have a need for additional support services, which we either provide internally or refer to partnering agencies in the community.

Better Practices

MCDF strives to perform efficiently and compassionately through good practices. We promote compliance with PREA standards and best security practices.

We regularly complete Department of Justice audits of our policies and practices and encourage the use of best practices in all fields throughout the facility.

Analysis

Comparisons

- In 2023 there were 31 total allegations, 30 of them were inmate-on-inmate sexual misconduct. One allegation of staff-on-inmate sexual abuse was unfounded. There were 3 total allegations of sexual harassment that were substantiated. There were 0 allegations of voyeurism, misconduct, or rape. Seven allegations of sexual abuse were reported, none were substantiated. We had 0 allegations that required emergency medical attention. Five allegations that occurred in other facilities were reported to MCDF. Zero allegations of abuse at MCDF were reported to other facilities.

Progress Made

- In 2023, our federal PREA audit determined MCDF is in full compliance with PREA standards and that no corrective action was needed.
- In 2023, MCDF hired a full-time person as the designated agency PREA Coordinator. This position is solely responsible for ensuring continued agency compliance with best practices in the field of carceral sexual victimization prevention, detection, and response.
- MCDF's relationship with community providers has continued, renewing contracts with both First Step Resource Center, and the YWCA of Missoula to provide external services to confined victims of sexual abuse.
- MCDF has employed a Sexual Abuse Incident Review Team to meet on PREA cases to determine agency needs for improvement.

Analysis

- MCDF's leadership team will use this aggregated data to continue compliance with PREA standards.
- MCDF takes all allegations of sexual abuse in confinement seriously.
- PREA training is mandatory for all MCDF new hires, volunteers, and contractors, and is included in MCDF's employee training handbook.
- MCDF ensures each inmate is provided comprehensive education on their rights to safety under PREA standards.
- MCDF will continue to collect agency-wide PREA data and publish annually.



Impact

Final Thoughts: From Our Population

“[Missoula County] feels safe, and the guards are all very nice—not like other places.”

“We have good guards—they want to help and volunteer to do so.”

“It’s a lot safer here than other jails.”

“I reported abuse at another facility and Missoula provided me with an advocate and resources.”

“They are superior in how they treat us—in every way, even when I’m sideways.”

“They treat us well here. It’s night and day from what I’m used to.”

“There is a lot of trust with the guards.”

“Staff have been very kind and polite.”

“The Missoula jail is probably the best about PREA stuff. Professional.”

“They keep a close eye on us and do a good job.”

“We advocated for athletics and the next day we had a new basketball!”

Resources

National PREA Resource Center (www.prearesourcecenter.org)

National Institute of Corrections (www.nicic.gov)

American Jail Association (www.americanjail.org)

American Correctional Association (www.aca.org)

Just Detention International (www.justdetention.org)

The Vera Institute of Justice (www.vera.org)

2024 Annual PREA Report approved by:

Commander Sheryl Ziegler *Sheryl Ziegler* 03/13/2025