

**Atlantic Youth Center
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report - 2020**

The Atlantic Youth Center (AYC) continues its efforts to implement best practices and promote zero tolerance for sexual victimization of its residents. Significant education related to PREA has led to a higher awareness by AYC residents and staff, leading to greater reporting and accountability.

Atlantic County is responsible for providing secure detention services for those requiring pre-adjudication detention and provides those services through a contract with the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJJ). All alleged incidents of sexual assault are investigated by the JJJ Office of Investigations (OOI). Upon completion of the OOI investigation, all substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents are referred to the JJJ PREA Incident Review Committee (PIRC) to conduct comprehensive sexual abuse/assault incident reviews.

Summary of 2020 Findings

In 2020, the average daily population of residents at AYC was 17.4 and over the course of the year, AYC served 203 youth. During 2020, there were two allegations of sexual abuse reported. This translates into a rate of less than one allegation per 100 youth served over the year.

Findings¹:

- In 2020, two instances of alleged sexual abuse were reported and documented. One case was determined to be unfounded, and the second case was substantiated. The substantiated case was between two residents. AYC undertook immediate corrective action to address the issue, which included, among other things, the immediate separation of the residents and providing counseling services to the individuals.

¹ An unfounded allegation is an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

A substantiated allegation is an allegation that was investigated, and sufficient evidence was put forth to support finding that the abuse occurred.

An unsubstantiated allegation is an allegation that was investigated, and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Reports of Sexual Abuse	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
2	1	0	1

Ongoing System Review

AYC publishes this annual report regarding PREA-related incidents and continues to improve the agency's prevention, detection, and response efforts on an ongoing-basis. In conjunction with the JJC, sexual abuse incident reviews are regularly conducted to determine if changes to, or improvements in, environmental, procedural, staffing, and monitoring technology are appropriate.