

**Atlantic Youth Center
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report - 2021**

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 JJC Office of Investigations (OOI). Upon completion of the OOI investigation, all substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents are referred to the JJC PREA Incident Review Committee (PIRC) to conduct comprehensive sexual abuse/assault incident reviews.

Summary of 2021 Findings

In 2021, the average daily population of residents at AYC was 19.6, and over the course of the year, AYC served 146 youth. During 2021, there were three allegations of sexual abuse reported. This translates into a rate of slightly more than two allegations per 100 youth served over the year.

Findings¹:

- In 2021, three instances of alleged sexual abuse were reported. One incident that was reported to authorities in 2021 took place in 2019 and another took place in 2001. The third was reported soon after the alleged incident took place. In accordance with JJC policy and PREA guidelines, these cases have been referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency and the investigations of these incidents are ongoing.

Reports of Sexual Abuse	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Open
3	0	0	0	3

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.

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.