



TEXAS  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT

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Thru: Terri Dollar, Director of Monitoring and Inspection Division

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Subject: TJJD PREA Year in Review - CY 2024

Date: December 30, 2025

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This report has been prepared in accordance with §115.388 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to evaluate and strengthen the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's (TJJD's) policies, practices, and training related to the prevention, detection, and response to sexual abuse.

As of August 19, 2025, TJJD has completed four rounds of PREA audits with all TJJD operated facilities reviewed by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor. TJJD is currently in its fifth cycle of PREA audits. All final PREA audit reports are publicly available on the TJJD website under the PREA section of the Agency Oversight tab.

The tables below present data collected by the agency on all allegations of sexual abuse occurring in state-operated and contracted facilities during Calendar Year (CY) 2024. This report also includes comparative data from previous assessments for CY 2023 and CY 2024. All data compiled by the PREA Compliance Department has been categorized according to definitions outlined in §§ 115.5 and 115.6 of the PREA Standards, including but not limited to the following:

**Substantiated allegation:** an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

**Unsubstantiated allegation:** 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 allegation:** an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

<b>YOUTH-ON-YOUTH SEXUAL ABUSE</b>	<b>CY 2023</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>Change</b>
TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS	174	<b>210</b>	+36
Substantiated	26	<b>14</b>	-12
Unsubstantiated	89	<b>130</b>	+41
Unfounded	45	<b>49</b>	+4
Open Investigations	14	<b>17</b>	+3

<b>YOUTH-ON-YOUTH SEXUAL HARASSMENT</b>	<b>CY 2023</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>Change</b>
TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS	393	<b>498</b>	+105
Substantiated	6	<b>13</b>	+7
Unsubstantiated	285	<b>273</b>	-12
Unfounded	78	<b>189</b>	+111
Open Investigations	24	<b>23</b>	-1

<b>STAFF-ON-YOUTH SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/ ABUSE</b>	<b>CY 2023</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>Change</b>
TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS	178	<b>170</b>	-8
Substantiated	0	<b>0</b>	0
Unsubstantiated	38	<b>20</b>	-18
Unfounded	135	<b>141</b>	+6
Open Investigations	5	<b>9</b>	+4

<b>STAFF-ON-YOUTH SEXUAL HARASSMENT</b>	<b>CY 2023</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>Change</b>
TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS	151	<b>80</b>	-71
Substantiated	1	<b>0</b>	-1
Unsubstantiated	16	<b>8</b>	-8
Unfounded	127	<b>59</b>	-68
Open Investigations	7	<b>13</b>	+6

To strengthen efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, TJJJ facilities and the PREA Compliance Department will implement the following actions:

#### **Prevention Planning**

- Continue efforts towards PREA compliance for the agency by seeking to have 1/3 of all TJJJ facilities audited each year in accordance with the Department of Justice (DOJ) 3-year PREA audit cycle.
- **Maintain and strengthen our partnership with Praesidium to ensure an accurate, objective assessment of agency policies and practices related to youth sexual safety. Through this collaboration, TJJJ will continue to access valuable resources and training designed to promote best practices and align with national safety standards.**

- Continue to maintain four PREA Compliance Analyst positions to support the PREA Coordinator in analyzing data, identifying trends, and informing best practices for preventing, detecting, and responding to incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment involving youth.
- Maintain the recently upgraded camera system at TJJJ institutions, which transitioned from stationary cameras to the advanced Orchid Fusion platform. This upgrade enhances video monitoring through expanded visual coverage, improved high-definition quality, and integrated audio capabilities.
- Continue utilizing Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) for all direct care staff — including juvenile correctional officers (JCOs), teachers, cooks, and other personnel — at each high-restriction facility and halfway house. This practice enhances transparency and accountability in interactions between staff and youth.
- Continue the practice of utilizing data to identify staff for PREA-focused BWC monitoring in order to help detect and prevent incidents of staff-on-youth sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Continue to conduct focused reviews of BWC footage to identify potential vulnerabilities for youth sexual abuse or sexual harassment within facilities.
- Continue to utilize “safety” and “boundary” plans for vulnerable and/or predatory youth to enhance supervision and monitor behavior.
- Continue to the practice of monthly PREA unannounced housing unit visits by facility supervisors, managers, PREA compliance managers, and administrators on all shifts in order to identify and deter sexual abuse and sexual harassment within our facilities.
- Continue to limit cross-gender supervision by ensuring that there are barriers in place to prevent staff of the opposite gender from being able to view the breasts, buttocks, and genitalia of youth during shower and restroom routines, or during clothing changes while in a state of undress.
- Continue the practice of determining shower rotations based on the physical plant design and dorm layout. For example, youth will shower one at a time in group/community shower designs and two at a time in facilities with individual shower stalls.
- Continue assigning designated seating for youth in transportation vans during both on-campus and off-campus transports to deter incidents of sexual abuse.
- Continue to ensure that the Zero Tolerance and Break the Silence posters are displayed and visible throughout the facilities.
- Continue to ensure that any deviations from the PREA-mandated staff-to-youth ratios of 1:8 or 1:16, or from a facility’s specific staffing plan, are documented with appropriate justifications.
- Continue to ensure JCOs maintain direct line of sight supervision of the youth at all times during waking hours.
- Continue to ensure that each youth is in their appropriately assigned room at bedtime.
- Continue to ensure “face-to-name headcounts” are being conducted consistently during every major movement and in accordance with agency policy.

- Continue implementation of electronic tracking for routine room checks for youth with the use of the Guardian System.
- Continue the practice of conducting criminal history background record checks and Child Abuse Registry checks on all potential new employees, volunteers, and contractors as well as annual background checks for all employees around the anniversary of their hire date with the agency.
- Continue to ensure staff of the opposite gender announce their presence when entering a dorm or sleeping area of a youth of the opposite gender.
- Continue to utilize surveillance video (live and archival) to conduct and document weekly supervisory reviews.
- Continue to seek potential resources to install additional cameras in facilities where “blind spots” have been identified.
- Complete additional lighting installation outside facilities and halfway houses as identified through the Vulnerability Assessment Report (RMT 151).

### **Training and Education**

- Continue to ensure that all agency staff are trained in PREA annually.
- Ensure that the required PREA training is updated when necessary to provide relevant information to help staff, volunteers, and contractors promote a sexually safe environment within our facilities.
- Continue to provide comprehensive PREA education by ensuring TJJD youth view the “Safeguarding Your Sexual Safety” DVD, are provided with the PREA script, and receive instructions on how to report any sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct allegations in various ways including calling the hotline; telling a trusted adult, staff, volunteer, parent, or third party; writing a grievance; and contacting the Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO).
- Ensure through appropriate steps that all youth — including youth with cognitive and physical abilities as well as those with limited English proficiency (LEP) — are afforded the same opportunities to benefit from the agency’s reporting mechanisms.
- Ensure that staff and youth are educated regarding resources available through the local rape crisis centers for victims of sexual abuse.
- Continue to utilize town hall and staff meetings for regular discussions on PREA-related topics.
- Ensure that all medical and mental health specialists complete required PREA specialized training.
- Ensure that all staff designated to serve in the capacity as a facility PREA investigator are adequately trained to fulfill the requirements of that role, including receipt of PREA investigation training provided by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as well as a required PREA specialized training E-course provided by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC).

- Continue to conduct monthly meetings with Youth Safety Managers (YSM) who are the designated PREA Compliance Managers for each institution to provide relevant PREA training and information to support these individuals in their role overseeing PREA compliance for their respective facilities.
- Continue to conduct quarterly meetings with the Asst. Superintendents for the halfway houses, who are the designated PREA Compliance Managers for these facilities in order to support them in their efforts to oversee PREA compliance for their respective halfway houses.
- Continue including the TJJJ PREA Coordinator on the OIG Training Advisory Board to ensure PREA remains a priority in the department's training initiatives.

### **Screening for Risk of Sexual Victimization and Abusiveness**

- Continue the completion and implementation of the Intake Screening Tool and Safe Housing Assessment along with periodic reassessments to improve the identification of vulnerable populations and help develop appropriate safety measures to mitigate sexual victimization and abusiveness.
- Continue utilizing Safe Housing Assessments and periodic reassessments for each youth, taking into account key dynamics to determine appropriate housing and programming placements.
- Continue to conduct quarterly and annual Facility Vulnerability Assessments and implement recommendations and corrective actions to address any identified deficiencies.
- Continue utilizing available data systems to identify the top 5% of youth most prone to sexual victimization or abusiveness, based on PREA allegation incident data. This analysis will help recognize trends and develop strategies to mitigate the risk of sexual abuse among vulnerable youth.

### **Official Response Following a Resident Report**

- Continue to implement PREA protocols and exhaust all relevant prevention measures in response to allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.
- Execute all applicable PREA first responder duties to include the physical separation of victims from alleged perpetrators, the preservation of any forensic evidence, and the completion of all required reporting notifications.
- Continue to ensure that youth receive all required medical and mental health assessments and resources based upon the nature of the incident reported.
- For at least 90 days after an allegation is received, continue to monitor youth victims and/or reporters of sexual abuse or sexual harassment, both staff and youth as warranted, in order to deter any adverse and disparate treatment of those individuals and protect them from retaliation.

- Continue to increase youths' willingness to report abuse by supporting a positive reporting environment with multiple internal and external reporting methods and prompts, including conducting thorough investigations.
- Continue to conduct Sexual Abuse Review Boards (SARB) for all substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse, as well as substantiated cases of sexual harassment. These reviews will focus on identifying systemic vulnerabilities and ensuring that recommendations to prevent, detect, and respond to such incidents are referred to facility and agency leadership for action and implementation.
- Continue to report and investigate all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

### **Medical and Mental Care**

- Continue to provide medical and mental health follow-up services within 14 days of intake for youth who report a prior victimization or abusiveness for sexual abuse that may have occurred in another facility or in a community setting.
- Continue to ensure that all victims of sexual abuse are offered and/or provided trauma counseling services by the facility's mental health professionals as well as through an outside local rape crisis center or advocacy agency.
- Ensure that victims of sexual abuse are provided appropriate medical treatment, testing, and resources, as needed.

As outlined above, the PREA Compliance Program is committed to fostering a culture that prioritizes the safety of the youth we serve. The program continues to invest resources in educating youth, selecting and training staff, refining procedures, and upgrading physical facilities to support the prevention, detection, reporting, and investigation of all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.