



**COUNTY OF ESSEX JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**  
**Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report: 2018**

**SUMMARY**

This report captures an overview of incident data collection from Essex County Juvenile Detention Center. This report focuses on the outcomes from 2018 and provides a comparison of the previous 2017's data. The findings allow the Juvenile Justice Commission to evaluate effectiveness of existing prevention, detection and response protocols pertaining to sexual abuse and misconduct, and to make policy and/ or structural adjustments as needed.

This report has been reviewed and approved By Director Dennis Hughes and Superintendent Gina Saunders. 2018 report is available for review on the Essex County website under Dept of Citizen Services / Juvenile Detention Center.

**BACKGROUND**

PREA was established 2003 to address alarming national stats of sexual assaults occurring within U.S correctional facilities. Four sets of standards were established and finalized in August 2012 and are the foundation of governance from sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

**INCIDENT REPORTS**

All ECJDC staff and visitors who work directly or visit with justice-involved juvenile throughout the facility must receive a PREA training / orientation. Likewise, juveniles admitted to the facility receive information about PREA following a formal orientation session upon entering the orientation/ classification unit. Juveniles are instructed on what to do if they experience or witness sexual misconduct, harassment or abuse.

Once staff becomes aware of suspected or witnessed sexual contact or misconduct, staff is trained to immediately complete an incident report. Initial report is forward to Internal Affairs and to Administration for the assignment of investigatory steps that unfold into a compilation of facts and an outcome summary.

**Table 1: Number and type of alleged incidents for January 2017 - December 2017**

<b>Type of Incident reported</b>	<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>Total</b>
Youth to youth sexual misconduct	<b>2</b> <i>Indecent Exposure</i>	x	x	<b>2</b>
Youth to youth sexual harassment	x	x	x	<b>4</b>
<b>Youth to Staff sexual misconduct</b>	x	x	x	<b>0</b>
Staff to youth sexual misconduct	x	x	x	<b>0</b>
Staff to youth sexual harassment	x	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Incidents reported to/from other facilities	x	x	x	<b>0</b>
				<b>9</b>

- Alleged behavior was found to not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or harassment under PREA.

**Table 2: Number and type of alleged incidents for January 2018 – December 2018**

<b>Type of Incident reported</b>	<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>Total</b>
Youth to youth sexual misconduct	x	x	x	<b>0</b>
Youth to youth sexual harassment	x	x	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Youth to staff sexual misconduct</i></b>	x	x	<b>3</b> <b><i>Indecent Exposure</i></b>	<b>3</b>
Staff to youth sexual misconduct	x	x	x	<b>0</b>
Staff to youth sexual harassment	x	x	<b>4</b> <b><i>False Allegations</i></b>	<b>4</b>
Outside incidents reported to / from other facilities	x	x	x	<b>0</b>
				<b>12</b>

Alleged reported incidents were determined to not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or harassment under PREA.

**Comparison of the last two (2) years**

***The most recent year's data (Table 2) for 2018 show there were 12 incoming reports, and the previous year's data (Table 1) for 2017 show there were 9 incoming reports. An increase has been attributed to two (2) primary influences:***

- 1) Increased staff education about PREA as a whole, but particularly around the unacceptable practice of subjectively dismissing frivolous complaints without capturing the account in an incident report; and
- 2) Increased youth education about PREA and how to submit a concern/ grievance related to PREA.

**End of report**