

# PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT  
OF CORRECTIONS



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## PREA ANNUAL REPORT 2024

### 2024 PREA ANNUAL REPORT

The Arkansas Department of Corrections (ARDOC) is committed to providing a safe environment for those in our facilities. Incarcerated individuals have the right to be free from sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and retaliation. The agency maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. All allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment are entered into the electronic offender management information system (eOMIS) and investigated. The number of PREA allegations received in 2024 and the results of the investigations into them are described below.

Pursuant to 28 CFR 115.87, Data Collection, the ARDOC is required to collect and maintain certain information related sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The following is a summary of the agency's incident-based sexual abuse and sexual harassment data:

In 2024, the ARDOC received 604 total PREA allegations, a 14% decrease from the previous year. Of the allegations, 506 were unfounded, while 48 were unsubstantiated and 50 were substantiated (see Table 1). The most commonly occurring incidents were Staff-on-Offender Sexual Misconduct (23). The remaining 27 substantiated incidents were Offender-on-Offender Nonconsensual Sexual Acts (4), Offender-on-Offender Abusive Sexual Contact (4), Offender-on-Offender Sexual Harassment (18), and Staff-on-Offender Sexual Harassment (1). Disciplinary action was initiated on all substantiated allegations regarding active staff.

**Table 1 - Allegation Type and Investigative Outcome**

Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Total
<b>Offender-on-Offender Nonconsensual Sexual Acts</b>	4	5	42	51
<b>Offender-on-Offender Abusive Sexual Contact</b>	4	4	15	23
<b>Offender-on-Offender Sexual Harassment</b>	18	21	176	215
<b>Staff-on-Offender Sexual Misconduct</b>	23	10	69	102
<b>Staff-on-Offender Sexual Harassment</b>	1	8	204	213
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	48	506	604

Note - All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

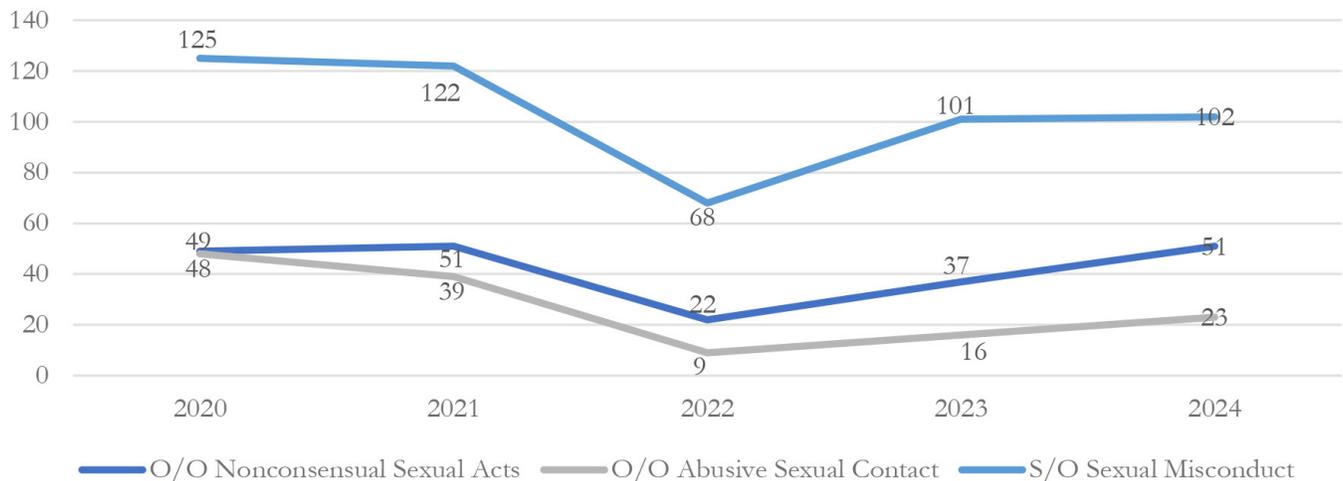
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### PREA ALLEGATIONS 2020 TO 2024

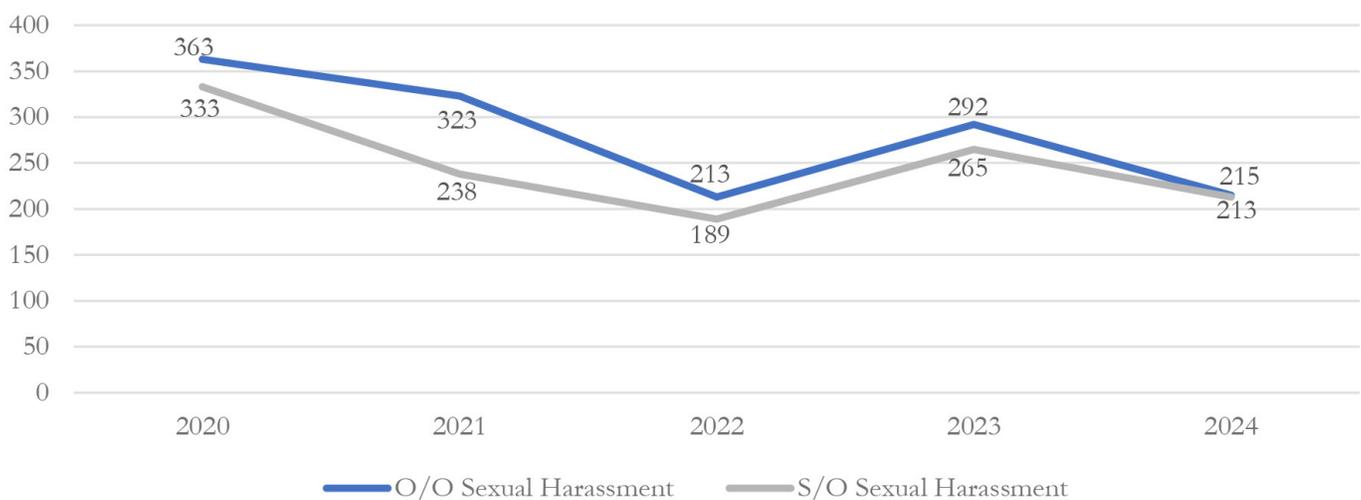
Since 2020, the most alleged sexual abuse\* violation has been Staff-on-Offender Sexual Misconduct, followed by Offender-on-Offender Nonconsensual Sexual Acts. Offender-on-Offender Abusive Sexual Contact was the least reported allegations for this period. (Figure 1).

**Figure 1 - Sexual Abuse Allegations for 2020 through 2024**



The allegations of sexual harassment were also consistent with four previous years (Figure 2). That is, more allegations of Offender-on-Offender Sexual Harassment were made than those on Staff-on-Offender Sexual Harassment in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

**Figure 2 - Sexual Harassment Allegations for 2020 through 2024**



\* Sexual abuse is classified as Offender-on-Offender Nonconsensual Sexual Acts, Offender-on-Offender Abusive Sexual Contact, and Staff-on-Offender Sexual Misconduct. Sexual harassment is classified as Offender-on-Offender Sexual Harassment, and Staff-on-Offender Sexual Harassment.

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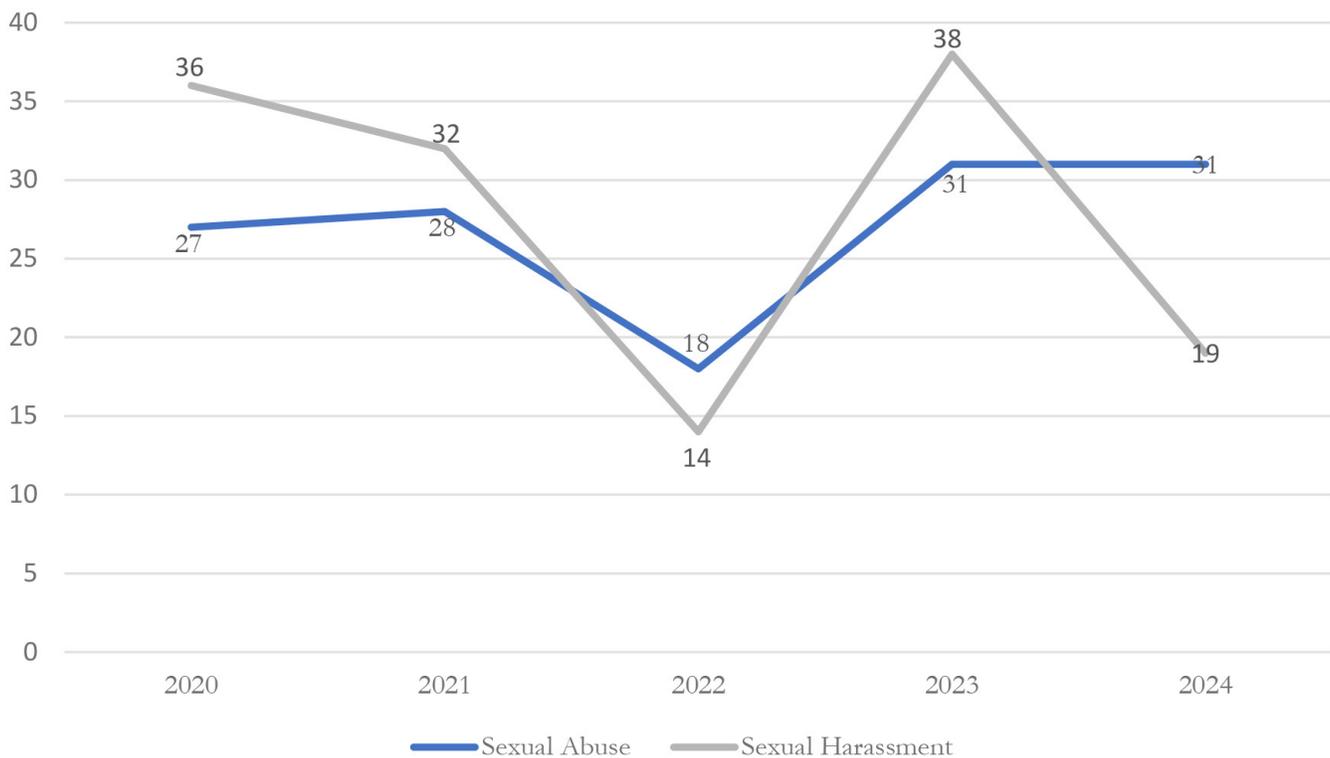
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### 2024 SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENTS

Of the 50 total substantiated incidents found in 2024 (Table 1), four were Offender-on-Offender Nonconsensual Sexual Acts, four were Offender-on-Offender Abusive Sexual Contact, 18 were Offender-on-Offender Sexual Harassment, 23 were Staff-on-Offender Sexual Misconduct, and one was Staff-on-Offender Sexual Harassment.

Figure 3 compares the substantiated sexual abuse and sexual harassment incidents from 2020 through 2024. In 2020, 2021, and 2023, allegations of sexual harassment were more substantiated than those of sexual abuse; however, in 2022 and 2024, allegations of sexual abuse were substantiated more than those of sexual harassment.

**Figure 3 - Substantiated Allegations from 2020 through 2024**



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### **2024 CORRECTIVE ACTION**

Pursuant to 28 CFR 115.88, Data Review for Corrective Action and PREA Standards 115.87, 115.88, and 115.89, the ARDOC collects accurate, uniform data for allegations of sexual abuse and harassment from prisons and community confinement facilities under the governor's direct control. Below is a summary of the significant enhancements to PREA compliance made in 2024.

Significant progress has been made to enhance compliance with the PREA. Over 50 victim advocates and more than 100 sexual abuse investigators have received specialized training, strengthening institutional capacity to prevent and respond to sexual abuse. Onsite PREA audits were successfully completed at 11 facilities, providing critical evaluations to ensure adherence to federal standards. Contracts were restructured to embed PREA compliance requirements, ensuring accountability across the Act 309 program and the reentry program. Human resource procedures were improved to align with PREA Standards related to employment and promotions. Policy updates were implemented to reflect current PREA guidelines, promoting consistency across operational protocols. Additionally, multiple facilities underwent construction upgrades focused on enhancing camera systems, significantly improving the monitoring and sexual safety of incarcerated individuals.

Building on the progress already achieved, there are opportunities to further strengthen compliance with the PREA Standards. Enhancing offender education programs will help ensure that all individuals in custody are fully informed of their rights, understand the reporting process, and can access available support resources related to sexual safety. Streamlining the PREA screening process will promote greater consistency, accuracy, and timely identification of risk and vulnerability. Ongoing audits of the remaining facilities will continue to reinforce accountability and transparency. Additionally, streamlining partnerships to provide professional translation and interpretation services will ensure individuals with limited English proficiency have equitable access to vital PREA-related information and protections.

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### APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

#### **Offender-on-Offender Abusive Sexual Contact**

Non-penetrative touching by an offender, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of another offender.

#### **Offender-on-Offender Nonconsensual Sexual Acts**

Penetration by an offender of another Offender in which the offender is coerced into sexually abusive penetration by threats of violence or is otherwise unable to refuse.

#### **Offender-on-Offender Sexual Harassment**

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one offender directed toward another.

#### **Staff-on-Offender Sexual Harassment**

A staff member's verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an offender. This includes demeaning references to gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about an offender's body or clothing and repeated profane or obscene language and/or gestures.

#### **Staff-on-Offender Sexual Misconduct**

Sexual abuse that includes but is not limited to penetration, kissing, hugging, massaging, writing, or exchanging letters, pictures, phone calls, etc. of a romantic or sexual nature between staff and offenders.

#### **Substantiated**

The event was investigated and determined to have occurred.

#### **Unfounded**

The event was determined not to have occurred, or, if the event occurred, the conduct was nonetheless within policy and the alleged perpetrator exonerated.

#### **Unsubstantiated**

The evidence was insufficient to make a final determination that the event occurred.

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### APPENDIX B: FACILITIES

FACILITY <sup>1</sup>	Reported Allegations					Substantiated					Unsubstantiated					Unfounded				
	Total	O/O Abuse	O/O Sexual Harassment	S/O Abuse	S/O Sexual Harassment	Total	O/O Abuse	O/O Sexual Harassment	S/O Abuse	S/O Sexual Harassment	Total	O/O Abuse	O/O Sexual Harassment	S/O Abuse	S/O Sexual Harassment	Total	O/O Abuse	O/O Sexual Harassment	S/O Abuse	S/O Sexual Harassment
Barbara Ester Unit	10	2	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	8	1	4	1	2
Benton Unit	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Central Arkansas Community Corrections	3	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cummins Unit	31	12	6	9	4	3	0	0	3	0	4	2	0	1	1	24	10	6	5	3
Delta Regional Unit	14	2	1	3	8	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	11	1	0	2	8
East Arkansas Regional Unit	93	7	45	11	30	1	1	0	0	0	7	1	3	1	2	85	5	42	10	28
Grimes Unit	67	9	16	16	26	7	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	59	8	15	10	26
J. Aaron Hawkins Unit	5	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	1	0
Larry B. Norris Unit	64	1	29	1	33	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	60	0	27	1	32
McPherson Unit	35	4	14	14	3	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	30	3	12	12	3
Mississippi County Work Release	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Central Unit	30	2	13	3	12	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	26	1	10	3	12
Omega Supervision Sanction Center	11	2	4	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	4	1	2	1	0	5	1	0	2	2
Ouachita River Correctional Unit	66	9	26	4	27	1	0	1	0	0	4	1	2	1	0	61	8	23	3	27
Pine Bluff Unit	11	3	1	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	9	2	1	3	3
Randall L. Williams Correctional Facility	9	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	2	1	1
Southwest Arkansas Community Correction Center	16	0	11	3	2	7	0	6	1	0	4	0	3	0	1	5	0	2	2	1
Tucker Unit	19	2	10	5	2	5	0	1	4	0	4	1	2	1	0	10	1	7	0	2
Tucker Work Release	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Varner Unit	79	8	22	3	46	3	0	2	1	0	3	0	2	0	1	73	8	18	2	45
Wrightsville Unit	36	6	7	14	9	5	1	0	4	0	3	0	2	1	0	28	5	5	9	9

\* The following facilities reported zero PREA allegations for CY 2024: Covenant Recovery, East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center, In His Wings, Northeast Arkansas Community Correction Center, Northwest Arkansas Work Release, Pine Bluff Work Release, Prosperity Hands, Renu Life at Hidden Creek, Safe Haven, Texarkana Regional Correctional Center, White River Correctional Facility, and Wings to Recover.