

Annual PREA Assessment – 2025

Introduction

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law in 2003 and represents the first federal legislation specifically addressing sexual abuse in correctional settings. The final PREA standards were signed in May 2012 and became effective in August 2012. These standards establish requirements related to the prevention, detection, reporting, and response to sexual abuse and sexual harassment within correctional environments.

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) maintains a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and retaliation involving incarcerated individuals, staff members, volunteers, contractors, or visitors within all NDCS facilities.

NDCS provides education and training to incarcerated individuals and staff regarding the prevention, detection, reporting, and response requirements. All team members are required to report allegations, suspicions, or knowledge of incidents involving sexual misconduct or retaliation.

Incarcerated individuals may report allegations through multiple channels, including direct verbal or written reports to staff, the PREA hotline, grievance procedures, inmate interview request forms, written correspondence, or through third-party reporting.

All newly admitted incarcerated individuals receive orientation within 30 days of intake. Staff members, volunteers, and contractors receive training during pre-service orientation and annual in-service training.

Assessment of NDCS compliance with Federal PREA standards

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services continues to participate in the required three-year PREA audit cycle to ensure compliance with federal PREA standards. Facilities found to be in compliance continue ongoing monitoring and review efforts, while facilities in corrective action status work collaboratively with auditors and compliance staff to address identified areas for improvement.

Facility	Last Completed Audit	Current Status	Next Scheduled Audit
Work Ethic Camp	February 19-20, 2024	In Compliance	Became WECDF on September 30, 2026
Work Ethic Camp Detention Facility	N/A	N/A	Upon auditor selection
Nebraska Correctional Center for Women	February 12–14, 2025	In Compliance	October 4–5, 2027
Reception and Treatment Center	November 3–6, 2025	In Compliance	Upon contract renewal
Community Correctional Center – Lincoln	February 13–16, 2024	In Compliance	September 28–29, 2026
Nebraska State Penitentiary	February 13–16, 2024	In Compliance	September 30–October 2, 2026
Omaha Correctional Center	February 9–11, 2025	In Compliance	September 30–October 1, 2027
Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility	October 28–29, 2025	In Compliance	Closed June 29, 2026
Community Correctional Center – Omaha	October 29–30, 2025	In Compliance	Upon contract renewal
Tecumseh State Correctional Institution	February 17–19, 2025	In Compliance	September 27–29, 2027

PREA-related information remains publicly accessible through the NDCS website.

NDCS remains committed to providing ongoing education, policy review, investigative training, and collaboration with external stakeholders to enhance institutional safety and compliance.

Victim Advocacy

NDCS recognizes the importance of providing access to confidential emotional support services for survivors of sexual abuse. NDCS has previously entered into memoranda of understanding with advocacy organizations. NDCS continues efforts to establish partnerships with community-based service providers.

Supervision and Monitoring

NDCS facilities maintain staffing plans and monitoring practices designed to provide adequate supervision. The criteria for the staffing plan consists of:

- Generally accepted correctional and detention practices;
- Any judicial findings related to deficiencies or inadequacies;
- Findings of inadequacy identified by federal investigative agencies;
- Findings or recommendations issued by internal or external oversight bodies;
- The physical layout and operational design of the facility, including areas with limited visibility or locations where staff or incarcerated individuals may become isolated;
- The composition and characteristics of the incarcerated population;
- The number, placement, and supervision responsibilities of supervisory staff;
- Programs, activities, and operational demands occurring during specific shifts;
- Applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, standards, or requirements;
- Trends and prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse;
- Any additional factors relevant to institutional safety, security, and PREA compliance protection for incarcerated individuals.

Investigation Tracking and Data Analysis

During 2025, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) developed an investigation tracking system. The tracker follows each investigation from the initial allegation through final case disposition, such as investigative deadlines, approved extensions, required notifications, and case outcomes. The information collected through the investigation tracker will allow NDCS to evaluate investigative performance and recognize opportunities for improvement.

The Agency PREA Coordinator also developed a dashboard that provides analysis of investigations across all NDCS facilities. The dashboard summarizes investigation activity by facility, allegation type, investigative outcome, and case closure rates.

The Goal of initiating the investigation tracker and dashboard is to improve NDCS's ability to monitor investigations and enhance investigative oversight. and strengthen the agency's response to allegations of sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

2025 investigation Executive Summary

data is as of December 31, 2025

A total of 113 investigations were recorded during the reporting period. Of these, 89 investigations were completed. 24 remained open at year-end, yielding an overall 78.8% closure rate.

Investigation Outcomes

Outcome	Cases	Percent of Total	Allegation Type	Cases	Percent
Substantiated	11	10%	Inmate-on-inmate allegations	82	73%
Unsubstantiated	67	59%	Staff-on-inmate allegations	31	27%
Unfounded	11	10%	Total	113	100%
Open/Active	24	21%			
Total	113	100%			

Substantiated allegations represented less than 10% of all reported cases. Unsubstantiated cases accounted for the largest share of completed investigations. Inmate-on-inmate allegations continued to represent the predominant category, comprising nearly three-quarters of all reported PREA cases.

Of the 11 cases that were substantiated

Allegation	Cases	Percent of Total
*Staff perpetrated Sexual Assault	0	0%
Staff perpetrated Sexual Harassment	1	9%
Inmate Perpetrated Sexual Abuse	4	36%
Inmate Perpetrated Sexual Harassment	6	55%
Total	11	100%

*There are 2 staff on inmate sexual assault cases that were referred to the county attorney for prosecution by NDCS Criminal investigators, currently opened for administrative investigation.

Facility Performance Summary

Facility	Total Cases	Open	Closed	Closure Rate
CCC-L	9	4	5	56%
CCC-O	1	1	0	0%
NCCW	19	1	18	95%
NCYF	1	0	1	100%
NSP	11	2	9	82%
OCC	20	4	16	80%
RTC	41	11	30	73%
TSCI	8	1	7	88%
WECDF	3	0	3	100%

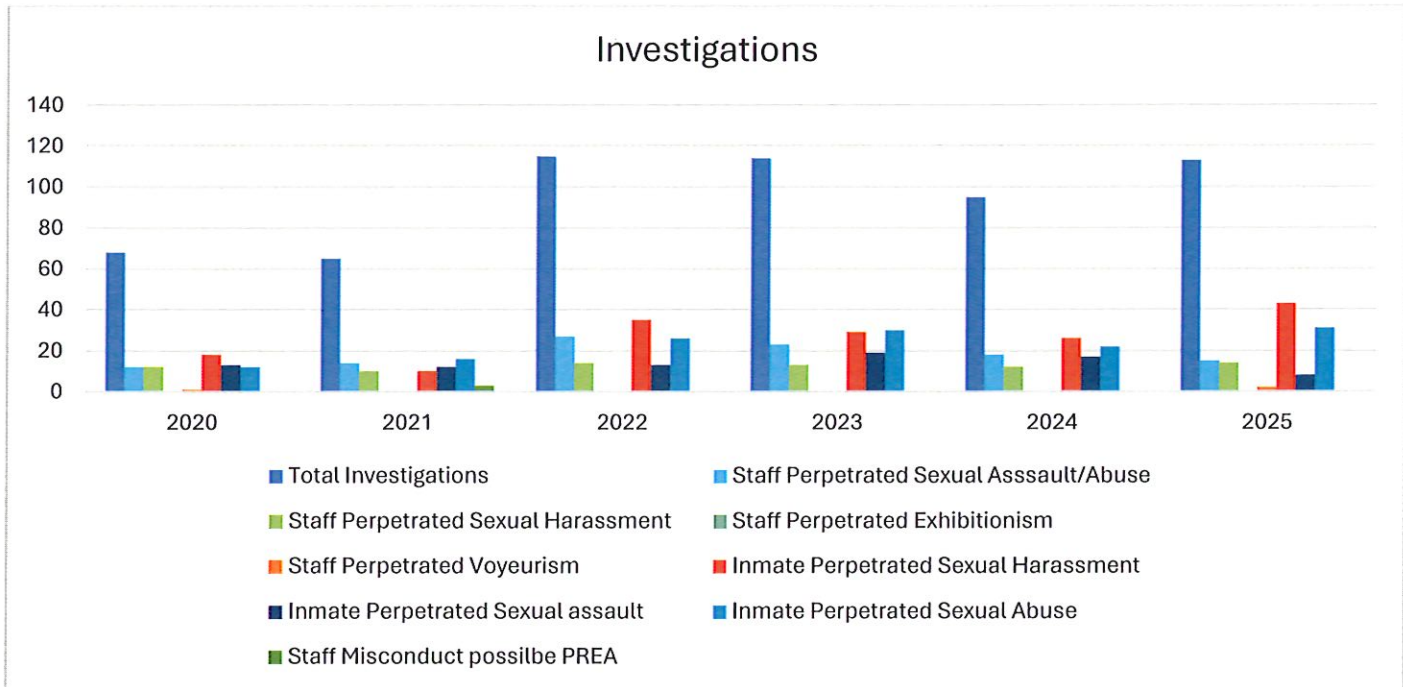
RTC reported the highest volume of allegations (41 cases, ~36% of all cases) and also had the largest number of open investigations (11). OCC (20) and NCCW (19) were the next-highest-volume facilities.

NCCW demonstrated a 95% closure rate despite a comparatively high caseload, while NCYF and WECDF achieved 100% closure rates for all reported cases during the period.

Quarter	Cases Reported
Q1	29
Q2	20
Q3	32
Q4	30
Total**	111

Q3 recorded the highest number of allegations, followed closely by Q4. **Quarterly totals may vary slightly from the annual total due to reporting. The 2 remaining cases were reported at the end of December of 2024 and opened in January of 2025.

All data is submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice through the Survey for Sexual Victimization



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Additional information is located in the institutional specific 2025 PREA Assessment.