



DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Melody M. Maddox



2023 PREA CASES

The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office (DKSO) maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual activity amongst approximately 1,500 inmates housed daily at this facility. DKSO has implemented a PREA policy to further strengthen the agency's efforts to prevent all forms of abuse and harassment, by implementing key provisions of the U.S. Department of Justice's standards for the prevention, detection, and response to sexual abuse in confinement facilities, in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). Policy requires an Annual PREA Report to provide public notification of statistical data related to the PREA outcries, investigation statistics, and documentation of the specific actions taken by our staff to assist inmates in our custody.

DKSO staff members are trained to respond to, investigate, and support the prosecution of sexual abuse according to our correctional procedures. Through continuous education of staff and inmates, DKSO has increased awareness of safe reporting and provided services to victims, thereby creating a culture that discourages sexual abuse. Through housing and classification assignments, DKSO identifies, separates, and monitors sexual predatory inmates and vulnerable inmates to reduce incidents of sexual abuse within our facility. In 2023, the Sheriff's Office received seventeen (17) reports of alleged abuse. These outcries were processed per policy and procedures. All victims were offered and provided medical assistance. DKSO ensured direct contact with DeKalb County Police Department to assist each inmate in filing a formal criminal complaint. Inmates were transported to Grady Memorial Hospital for additional resources and care. Below is a general overview of the case activities and outcomes. *Note: Inmate's personal information is deleted due to confidentiality and protection of the parties involved.*

DKSO policies stress the agency's zero-tolerance policy and provides guidelines to address prohibited and/or illegal sexually abusive behavior which involves inmate perpetrators against staff victims, inmate perpetrators against inmate victims and staff perpetrators against inmate victims. Our officers, vendors, and volunteers are trained to detect incidents, perpetrators, and inmate victims of sexually abusive behavior and how to seek assistance. DKSO staff are educated on how to intervene properly and in a timely manner by documenting, reporting, and investigating all reported incidents. The training teaches our staff how to collect evidence to assist DeKalb Criminal Investigation Division (CID) in prosecuting perpetrators.

The protection and safety of our inmates is a top priority. The Sheriff's Office recognizes that addressing inappropriate sexual behavior by inmates and/or staff furthers the objectives of PREA by increasing the overall security and safety of institutions. DKSO maintains a partnership with local law enforcement and victim services within DeKalb County to formally prosecute cases. All outcries of sexual assault generated a report of the case, even if the incident occurred prior to arrest, while in custody at the DeKalb County Jail.

The Office of Professional Standards works hand in hand with the agency's PREA Coordinator, medical staff, Jail Commanders, inmates with community resources to monitor the outcries of abuse, ensures the staff properly responds and provides the inmates the same resources that would be available to any DeKalb County citizen. The annual review of reported incidents provides specific comparison data to track issues or concerns while ensuring the officers follow specific policies and procedures.



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2023			
Total PREA Reports Received by DKSO	17		
In custody incidents reported	17		
Incidents reported occurred prior to arrest	0		
Inmate/ Inmate alleged sexual assaults	17		
Officer/ Inmate alleged sexual assaults	0		
Inmate/ Inmate alleged sexual harassment	0		
Officer / Inmate alleged sexual harassment	0		
Inmate received medical assistance/ Grady	16		
Rape Kit performed	12		
Forwarded to DKPD for criminal investigation	15		
Incident criminally prosecuted	1		
Method of reporting allegations:			
Reported to Officers	14		
Reported to Medical staff	3		
Reported by third party to OPS	0		
Reported by outside law enforcement agency	0		
Investigative Outcome of allegations:			
Sustained / prosecuted	1		
Not sustained	3		
Unfounded/ lack of evidence	2		
Inmate refused to cooperate	0		
Comparison Data:			
	2021	2022	2023
Total # of PREA Complaints	23	18	17
# of incidents occurred prior to arrest	4	0	0
# of incidents while in custody	19	17	17
Victim Services			
# of victim received medical assistance	22 – 1 refused services	18	16- (1) refused
# of victims provided access to rape kit & evidence collection (at no cost to victim)	8	8	12
Investigations/ Prosecution			
# of incidents investigated by outside law enforcement agency	21	16	17
# of incidents investigated internally	1	2	0
# of incident prosecuted	1	0	1
# of incidents referred to other local law enforcement agencies for internal investigation	2	7	0
Internal Review of DKSO Custody Incidents			
# of incident internally sustained	1	0	0
# of incidents internally not sustained	3	2	1
# of incident internally unfounded	6	9	1
# of allegations against DKSO vendor or contractor	0	2 - Unfounded	0
# of allegations against DKSO officers/deputies	1 - Unfounded	1 - Unfounded	0



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The Office of Professional Standards performs reviews of all PREA case files to ensure DKSO staff followed proper procedures. In 2023, DKSO continued to focus on creating multiple means of reporting abuse by allowing the inmate to report the incident to a confidential hotline or directly to our medical staff by submitting a medical grievance via the inmate kiosk located in each housing unit. These methods will allow the inmates to report incidents without directly having to report to a sworn officer, and in a private manner, which may not be overheard by other inmates. The PREA data showed three (3) of the seventeen (17) allegations were reported directly to DKSO staff and/ or medical vendors verbally. Fourteen (14) reports were made to officers. Inmates receive orientation about the facility procedures, rules, regulations, and methods of reporting issues. The Sheriff's Office has created a PREA presentation that will provide information to all inmates within the first 48 hours of arrest and prior to the classification of a housing unit. The orientation involves verbal communication with an officer who is specifically trained to handle any concerns presented by the inmate. The data showed that while confidential methods are provided, the inmates felt confident the officers would act accordingly if an allegation was reported.

The number of reported incidents involving inmates in custody showed a slight decrease between 2022 (18) and 2023 (17). A review of case investigative files has confirmed that staff members immediately notified supervisors, separated the inmates for safety, and attempted to preserve evidence. All inmates in custody were taken to our medical infirmary for evaluation and/or treatment. If applicable, these inmates were transported to Grady Memorial Hospital for additional treatment and a rape kit at no cost to the inmate. Grady Memorial Hospital employs certified forensic nursing staff to properly obtain evidence, provide assistance, and address the needs of the victims. DKSO is in contract with Grady Memorial Hospital to assist in the processing of the rape kits, address medical concerns, and provide additional resources for our inmates.

In 2018, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office successfully completed the Bureau of Justice (BOJ) Prison Rape Elimination Grant Safeguard: "Establishing Zero Tolerance for Sexual Assault." The grant provided the agency with \$150,000 of federal funding directed towards our PREA compliance efforts. The project included the development of PREA related policy and protocol review, provided education to staff and inmates, and established clear mandatory reporting procedures for inmates who make allegations. DKSO used project funds to contract with expert advisors that reviewed our new policy and classification procedures surrounding PREA to make suggestions for implementation of the new standards. The outside sources of evaluation were essential in providing an unbiased critique of our procedures. The BOJ allotted our PREA staff the ability to attend a National Conference for training and networking opportunities, which permitted our agency to learn best practices from agencies throughout the United States. The grant project successfully completed all seven goals that were set for the project and completed the required federal documentation prior to the deadline. Our goals provided a clear path to ensuring DKSO utilized the allocated funds in ways that benefited our inmates, staff, and the community in which we serve.

The Sheriff's Office appreciates the collaborative efforts from our community partners, fellow law enforcement agencies, and our contracted medical and mental health vendors. We work together to increase safety for the most vulnerable inmates in our facility while strengthening the foundation of safety for all inmates and staff members.





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Case#	Received Treatment	Grady Preformed Rape Kit	Forwarded to DKPD	Prosecutions	Location of Incident
ASA23-001	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	4NW402
ASA23-002	YES	YES	YES	UNFOUNDED	7NW400
ASA23-003	YES	YES	YES	SUSTAINED	3SW500
ASA23-004	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	7NE203
ASA23-005	YES	YES	YES	CLOSED	6SE300
ASA23-006	YES	NO	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	5NE200
ASA23-007	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	3SW300
ASA23-008	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	5NE200
ASA23-009	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	5NE600
ASA23-010	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	7SE600



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ASA23-011	NO	NO	NO	NOT SUSTAINED	7SW300
ASA23-012	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	6SW600
ASA23-013	YES	NO	NO	UNFOUNDED	7SW200
ASA23-014	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	2SE500
ASA23-015	YES	YES	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	3SW200
ASA23-016	YES	NO	YES	PENDING GBI RESULTS	5NE200
ASA23-017	YES	NO	YES	NOT SUSTAINED	8NW400