



2023 Annual PREA Report

Knox County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division

This is the Knox County Sheriff's Office annual report of data collected and aggregated pursuant to Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standard 115.88-PREA Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to assess and improve the effectiveness of the agency's sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. Facilities included in this data collection are the Knox County Jail, Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility, and the Knox County Work Release Center.

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KCSO FACILITIES: All Knox County Facilities have maintained compliance with all PREA standards to prevent, detect, and eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates in our custody. The agency's third PREA audit, initially scheduled for November 2020, was delayed due to the pandemic and conducted in June 2021. The three-day comprehensive assessment included site reviews of all facilities, interviews with staff and inmates, and documentation review. Auditors found that all KCSO facilities met or exceeded all National PREA Standards for Prisons and Jails.

STAFF: Through continual education of staff, volunteers, and contractors, the Knox County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division has established and maintained a zero-tolerance culture of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. All staff members have trained annually on the zero-tolerance policy.

INMATES: Continued mandatory PREA training for all inmates provided increased awareness of safe reporting mechanisms and counseling services. Inmates may anonymously and confidentially report incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment internally to KCSO Staff or externally to the Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed into law in 2003 by President George W. Bush. The act mandated zero tolerance of sexual abuse inside correctional facilities and developed standards to detect and prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment of those incarcerated. This report serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training within the Knox County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division under §115.88 and §115.89 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the Knox County Sheriff's Office will:

1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas;
 - b. Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis, and
 - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings.
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and assess the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
3. Publish the annual report of its findings and corrective actions on the Knox County Sheriff's Office website.

PREA DEFINITIONS:

Sexual Abuse of an Inmate by Another Inmate: Any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such action by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse:

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
2. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;

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3. Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or another instrument; and
4. Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation

Sexual Harassment by another Inmate Includes any of the following acts:

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

and

2. Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate by an employee, contractor, or civilian, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures

Sexual Abuse of an Inmate by an Employee or Civilian: Any of the following acts, with or without consent of the inmate, detainee, or resident:

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
2. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;
3. Contact between the mouth and any body part where the employee, contractor, or civilian has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
4. Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or another instrument that is unrelated to official duties or where the employee, contractor, or civilian has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
5. Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the employee, contractor, or civilian has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
6. Any attempt, threat, or request by an employee, contractor, or civilian to engage in the activities outlined above in 1-5 of this section;
7. Any display by an employee, contractor, or civilian of their uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee, or resident; and;
8. Voyeurism by an employee, contractor, or civilian

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Staff sexual misconduct includes any consensual or nonconsensual behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward an inmate by staff, including romantic relationships. Such acts include—

1. intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
2. completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts
3. occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy, or staff voyeurism for reasons unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.

Staff sexual harassment includes repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate by staff. Such statements include—

1. demeaning references to an inmate's sex or derogatory comments about their body or clothing
2. repeated profane or obscene language or gesture

PREA INCIDENT DISPOSITIONS:

Substantiated: Investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated: Investigated; however, there is not enough evidence to determine an incident had occurred.

Unfounded: An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Ongoing: Investigation has not been completed.

INVESTIGATIONS:

Every allegation made is investigated. If an allegation of sexual abuse is substantiated, the perpetrator will be charged with a criminal act, and KCSO will work closely with prosecutors to ensure prosecution. Any reports made in bad faith will also be referred to prosecutors, and criminal and/or disciplinary charges will be pursued.

INMATES AND INCIDENTS INCLUDED IN DATA COLLECTION:

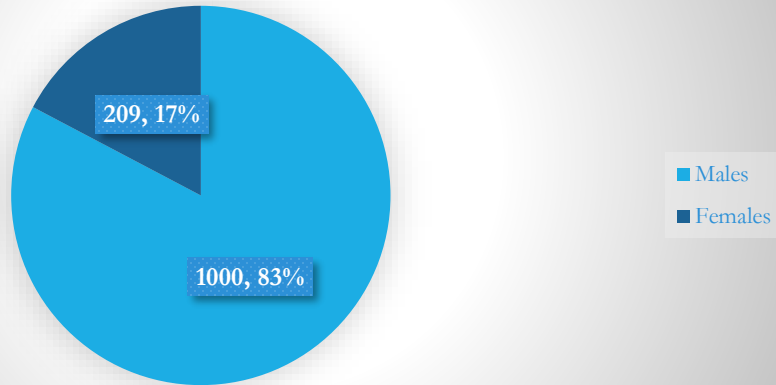
Inmates housed in any KCSO Correctional Facility between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

Any incident of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, or sexual abuse involving inmate-on-inmate or staff-on-inmate

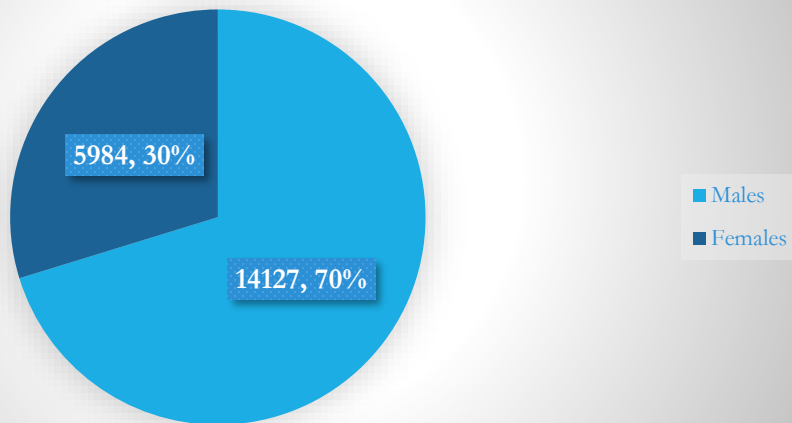
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General Information:

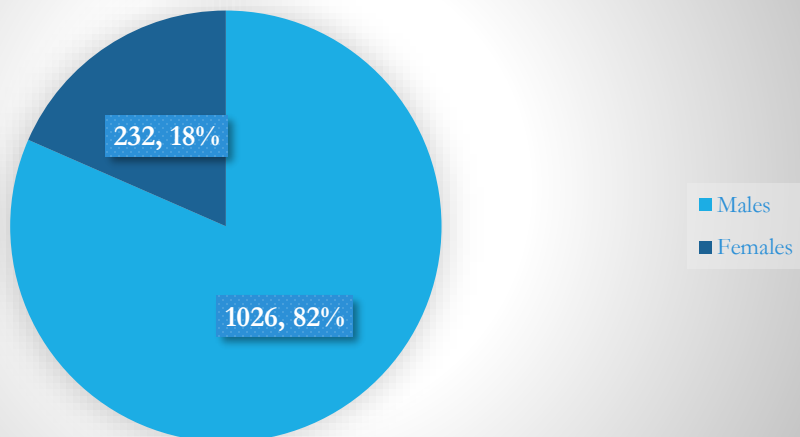
Inmate Population December 31, 2023



Inmate Admitted to KCSO Facilities 2023



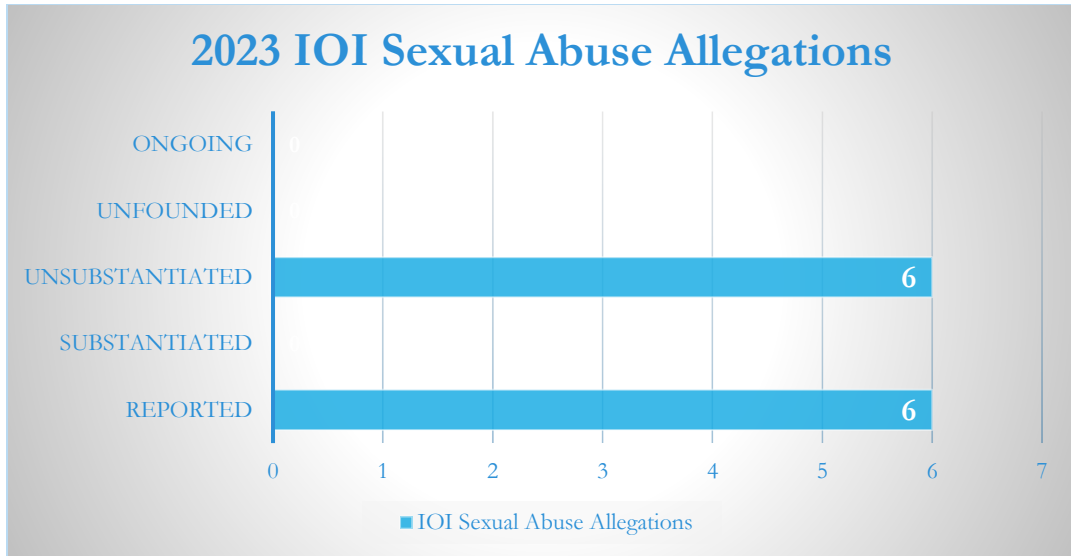
Inmate Average Daily Population 2023



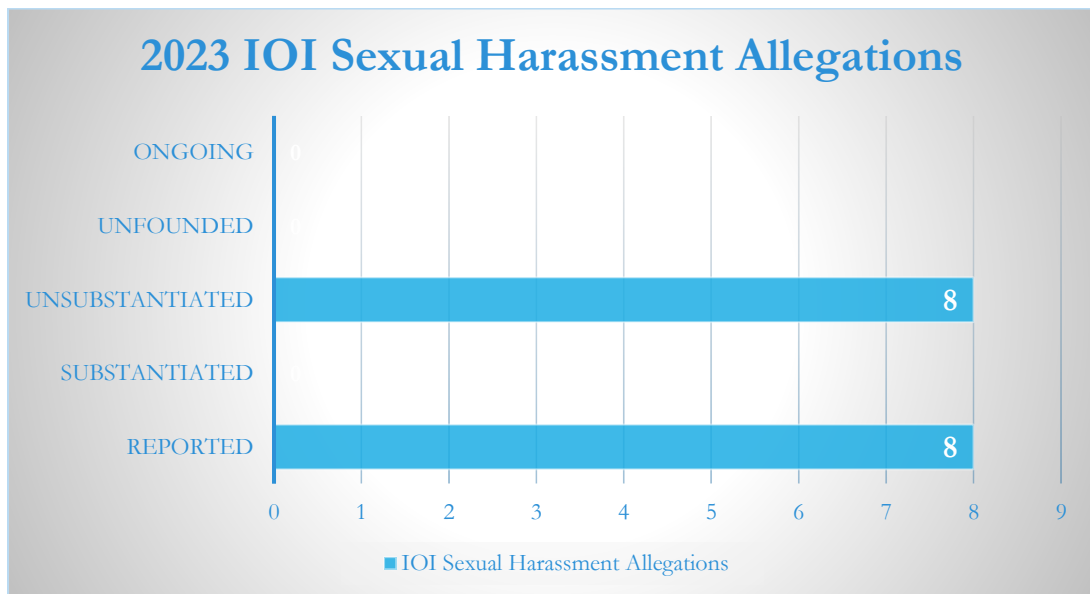
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ALLEGATIONS

Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023



Inmate on-inmate Sexual Harassment between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023

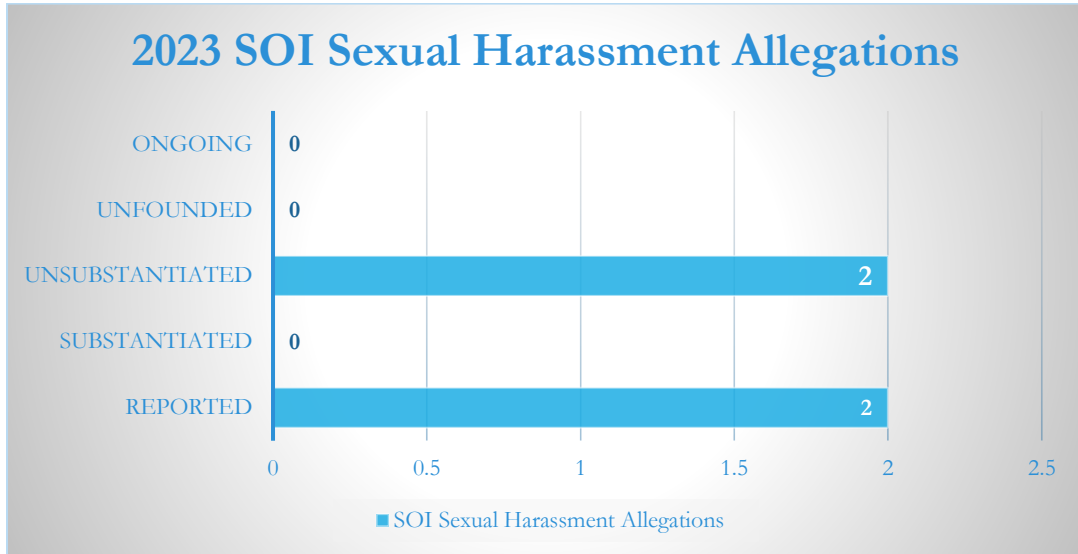


Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023

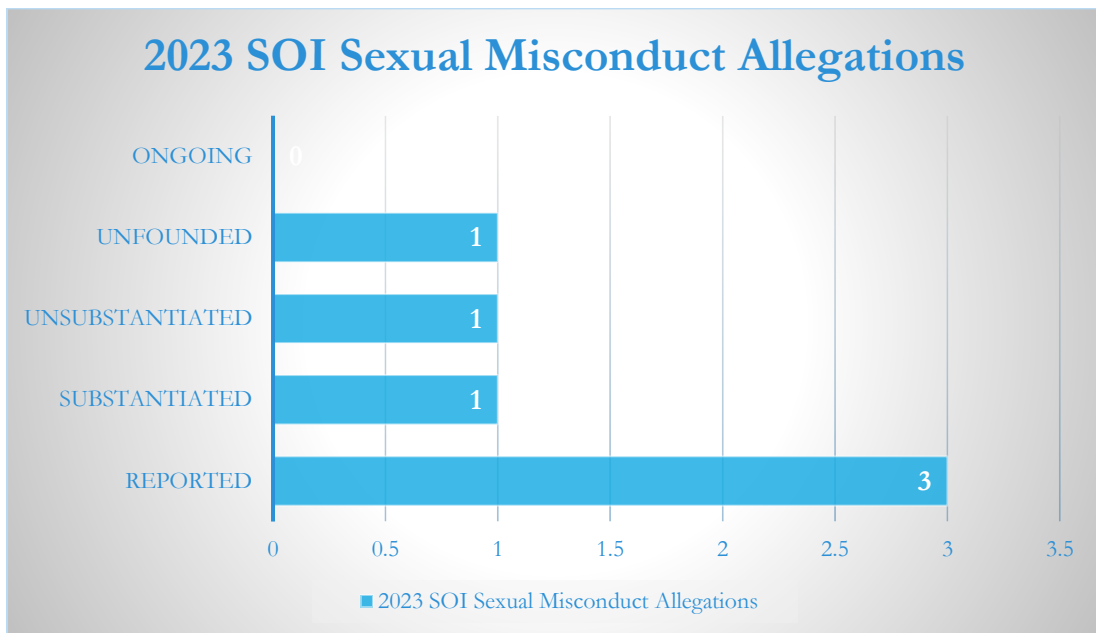
There were no allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual abuse in 2023.

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Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023

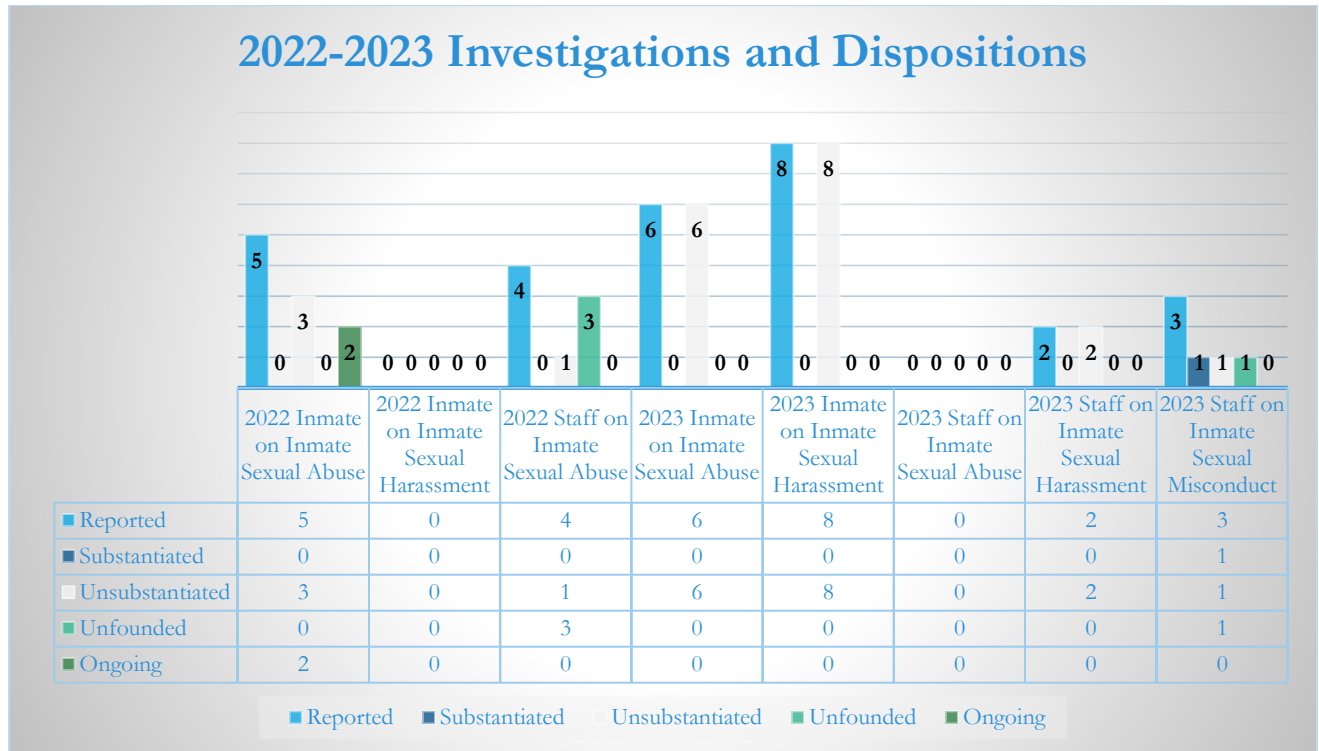


Staff on Inmate Sexual Misconduct between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023



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The following graph depicts a breakdown of the 2022 and 2023 sexual abuse and sexual harassment data: staff-on-inmate and Inmate-on-Inmate. Data from all Knox County Correctional Facilities comprise this data.



INCIDENT REVIEW:

PREA standard 115.86 requires an incident review of each alleged sexual abuse incident unless the incident was unfounded. The review must consist of the following individuals: line supervision, upper management, medical/mental health care staff, and an investigator. After reviewing an incident, the team recommends corrective action and monitors to ensure compliance with their recommendations. Based on a review of the 2023 investigations:

- The review team considered whether the allegations or investigations indicated a need to change policy or practice to better respond to sexual abuse and determined no changes to policy or practice were indicated.
- The review team considered whether the incidents or allegations were motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; or gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility; It was determined that the primary motivating factors in a significant number of Inmate on Inmate allegations include:
 1. **Protection:** An inmate may falsely accuse their cellmate to get them moved to a different cell. This could be to avoid harm, escape bullying, or seek safety.

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2. **Conflict and Personality Clashes:** Disagreements can arise between cellmates due to differences in personalities, habits, and communication styles. These conflicts may escalate, leading to complaints in hopes of a change in housing assignment.
 3. **Safety Concerns:** Safety is a significant issue in prison. If an inmate feels threatened or unsafe
 4. **Retaliation:** Inmates may use false allegations as revenge for perceived slights, disputes, or rivalries.
 5. **Distraction:** Falsely accusing a cellmate can divert attention from the accuser's own vulnerabilities or actions.
- The review team examined the areas in the facility where the incidents allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse and found no physical barriers were a factor. The inmate-on-inmate alleged incidents occurred in cells that are out of camera view but monitored by staff during routine security checks.
 - The review team assessed the adequacy of staffing levels in areas where alleged incidents occurred and found no inadequacy in staffing or deviations in required security checks in those areas.
 - The review team assessed whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff and determined that monitoring technology was not a factor in any 2023 reported incidents. The agency will, however, be upgrading existing cameras with 360-degree panoramic views in inmate housing areas to eliminate any blind spots and enhance overall security.