

Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
2025 Annual PREA Report

PREA Audit:

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) successfully completed its PREA re-accreditation audit on November 7, 2025. The audit evaluated the Main Detention Center and West Detention Center separately. All forty-five standards were in full compliance, with three standards noted as "exceeded" for demonstrating practices and performance that surpass the requirements and reflect a higher level of professional implementation.

Exceeded Compliance: 115.13 Specialized Training: Medical and Mental Health Care 115.65 Coordinated response 115.71 Criminal and Administrative Agency Investigations

PBSO remains committed to maintaining compliance with all PREA standards year-round, ensuring the ongoing protection of all inmates from sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Staff Education:

All staff, contractors, medical/mental health, food service, commissary, public defender interviewers, facility maintenance employees, pretrial services employees, and volunteers continue to receive their initial PREA orientation during Security Orientation Training throughout the calendar year of 2025.

Annual PREA Training for contractors and volunteers continues to be done electronically on a yearly basis. All PBSO employees receive annual PREA Training in Power DMS and training bulletins.

Printed educational material remain available at both sites for all employees, contractors, and volunteers.

PBSO COP 934.00 (Sexual Offenders and Victims) and COP 920.01 (Transgender Housing) were reviewed in the Command Staff Annual Review Process with no recommended changes. All staff were notified by PowerDMS and acknowledgments signed.

Inmate Education:

Inmates receive initial education on sexual safety during intake, with information also provided in the Inmate Handbook and accessible electronically via the inmate kiosk system.

The Inmate Orientation video continues to be played daily at both sites. The PREA DVD is provided by the PREA Resource Center.

Posters, listing the methods of reporting allegations of sexual assaults or harassment, are posted in all inmate housing areas.

Continued Progress:

The Sexual Assault Tracker has been modified for improved data analysis and reporting.

All PREA allegations are actively monitored for retaliation and reviewed monthly by the multi-disciplinary team, which includes representatives from security, mental health, medical, and program services.

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Inmates are given a Victim Services resource brochure following any PREA allegation to ensure advocacy, safety, and available resources for sexual assault. The inmate handbook also reflects these services.

The National PREA Resource Center website is frequently monitored for updates, classes, webinars, and FAQs.

The PREA Coordinator, PREA Compliance Manager, and the Accreditation Team attends the biannual American Correctional Association conferences for PREA updates and developments.

After Incident Review Meetings continue to be in-person as well as virtual ZOOM Meetings for those who cannot physically attend.

The annual Survey of Sexual Victimization has been completed and submitted to the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2025.

PREA Knock and Announce placards are maintained at the entrance of each dorm.

Signage (posters, placards, etc.) is checked during all monthly inspections. Damaged signage is replaced as soon as possible.

Privacy film remains on cell doors in areas such as intake, infirmaries, and court holding cells to ensure inmate privacy.

MDC continues the camera project for enhanced surveillance throughout the jail. MDC has completed the renovation of the East Tower. Renovation work on the West Tower is presently underway.

All inmate education is maintained in English, Spanish and Creole. The Language Line is available for translation beyond these three languages as needed.

Comparison of Annual Reports (2024 and 2025):

A review of the previous reporting year identified that some allegations were included in the PREA totals even though they did not meet PREA definitions or reporting criteria. This resulted in a higher reported number of PREA incidents than the number which actually occurred.

To improve the accuracy and reliability of PREA reporting, the facility has implemented several corrective actions during the current reporting year. These include enhanced tracking and review procedures, refresher training for staff on PREA definitions and reporting requirements, and the establishment of a separate "Non PREA" tracking log to properly document allegations outside the scope of PREA. All allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment continue to be thoroughly monitored and investigated by trained personnel in full compliance with PREA standards.

As a result of these improvements, the current year's PREA data reflects more precise classification and reporting. Differences between last year's and this year's totals should be interpreted as the outcome of improved data accuracy and classification processes, rather than a change in the actual prevalence of incidents.

In addition, the "After Incident Review" for each substantiated and unsubstantiated case, did not indicate any patterns of abuse, staffing challenges, physical barriers, or monitoring technology

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deficiencies. PBSO will continue to evaluate findings and implement recommendations as needed to enhance safety and maintain compliance.

2024 PREA CASES

2024 Main Detention Center	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	OPEN
Inmate Sexual Assault	0	0	15	0
Inmate Sexual Harassment	1	1	5	0
Staff Sexual Assault	0	1	11	0
Staff Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
MDC Total	1	2	31	1

2024 West Detention Center	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	OPEN
Inmate Sexual Assault	0	0	3	0
Inmate Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0
Staff Sexual Assault	0	0	6	0
Staff Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0
WDC Total	1	0	10	0

2025 PREA CASES

2025 Main Detention Center	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	OPEN
Inmate Sexual Assault	1	1	10	0
Inmate Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0
Staff Sexual Assault	0	0	5	0
Staff Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
MDC Total	2	1	15	3

2025 West Detention Center	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	OPEN
Inmate Sexual Assault	1	1	1	0
Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff Sexual Assault	0	0	3	0
Staff Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
WDC Total	1	1	4	0

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Summary of PREA Cases (2024-2025):

2024

- Main Detention Center (MDC): A total of 35 cases were reported, including 1 substantiated, 2 unsubstantiated, 31 unfounded, and 1 open case. The majority involved unfounded allegations, primarily inmate sexual assault.
- West Detention Center (WDC): A total of 11 cases were reported, with 1 substantiated and 10 unfounded cases. No unsubstantiated or open cases were reported.

2025

- Main Detention Center (MDC): A total of 21 cases were reported, including 2 substantiated, 1 unsubstantiated, 15 unfounded, and 3 open cases. Substantiated cases involved inmate sexual assault and inmate sexual harassment.
- West Detention Center (WDC): A total of 6 cases were reported, with 1 substantiated, 1 unsubstantiated, and 4 unfounded cases. No open cases were reported.

Overall Trend

- Both facilities show a predominance of unfounded allegations across both years.
- The number of total cases decreased in 2025 compared to 2024 at both MDC and WDC.
- Substantiated cases remained low at both facilities, with a slight increase at MDC in 2025.

Conclusion:

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and retaliation, ensuring the protection of all incarcerated individuals. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place to uphold the highest standards of compliance and to promote a safe and secure environment. The agency remains committed to continuous improvement through enhancing screening processes, maintaining effective reporting mechanisms, conducting thorough investigations, implementing advancements in monitoring technology, providing ongoing prevention training, and strengthening tracking practices.