



## Office of Children and Family Services

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Governor

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Acting Commissioner

# DJJOY PREA Annual Report Findings and Corrective Actions 2013

ISSUED:

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), in its continuing effort to provide quality, therapeutic treatment to the juveniles entrusted to our care, has fully embraced the principles associated with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Prior to the creation of PREA, OCFS has a long history of proactive policies and procedures as well as training for employees and youth on measures to keep youth safe as well as methods to report sexual misconduct and abuse. After the Federal PREA Standards were implemented, OCFS immediately appointed an Agency level PREA Coordinator to develop, implement and oversee Agency efforts towards compliance with the PREA standards. Additionally, each OCFS Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunity for Youth (DJJOY) facility has a designated and trained PREA Compliance Manager that oversees their individual facility's efforts at compliance with the PREA standards.

OCFS has implemented several changes within its facilities to ensure compliance with the PREA standards. The creation of a risk assessment tool to identify youth who may be vulnerable to victimization and youth who may exhibit predatory behaviors, along with enhanced training for all staff, youth, and volunteers, have been essential in working toward our safety goals.

OCFS operates 12 state juvenile facilities, which service more than 350 youth. In our continuing effort to provide a safe and therapeutic environment, OCFS is committed to continuing our improvement in the area of the PREA standards, training, and compliance. Below is a summary of reported incidents, along with our findings and corrective action(s) taken pursuant to section 115.387, which shall be considered our Annual Report and [posted for the public on the OCFS/PREA website](#).

## **Summary and Findings**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services had the following Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) reports within its twelve facilities operated by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY):

Youth on Youth Non-Consensual Sexual Acts	=	0 Reports
Staff Sexual Misconduct with Youth	=	0 Reports
Youth on Youth Abusive Sexual Contact	=	4 (2 Substantiated, 1 Unfounded, 1 remains under investigation)
Youth on Youth Sexual Harassment	=	6 (5 Substantiated, 1 Unsubstantiated)
Staff Sexual Harassment of Youth	=	2 (2 Substantiated)

## **Corrective Actions**

The following corrective actions were taken with regard to substantiated reports:

Disciplinary actions were taken against the staff involved in the two substantiated reports of Staff Sexual Harassment of Youth. Criminal charges and Administrative Disciplinary Action were taken on the youth involved in the two substantiated reports of Youth on Youth Abusive Sexual Contact. Education and counseling was provided to those youth involved in the five substantiated reports of Youth on Youth Sexual Harassment.

Additionally, six facilities have received upgrades to their video surveillance systems. All of the above reports of abusive sexual contact were captured on the respective facility's video surveillance systems.

## **PREA Compliance Audits**

Four of the 12 OCFS operated facilities have been audited. Two (Highland Residential Center and Columbia Girls Secure Center) were in full compliance. Industry Residential Center and MacCormick Secure Center have minor non-compliance findings for which action plans have been developed. In 2015, four more OCFS facilities will be scheduled for audits. Training for all employees, youth and volunteers will continue to be conducted.