

# PREA ANNUAL REPORT

**CY  
20**



# PREACH OUTREACH



WE ARE  
WASHINGTON  
**DC** GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**



# INTRODUCTION

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003<sup>1</sup> was signed into federal law with the purpose of providing for the analysis of incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape. In 2012, the Bureau of Prisons published standardized guidelines promulgated by the Attorney General of the United States. PREA applies to all public and private institutions that house adult or juvenile offenders.

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) maintains a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and harassment within the agency's one detention center and one treatment facility.

All sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations are investigated. Each case is documented on an incident report and entered into DYRS's juvenile management system (FamCare). Allegations are administratively and/or criminally investigated depending on the nature of the alleged incident. Upon completion of each investigation, appropriate disciplinary action is taken against the perpetrator. Where criminal intent is discovered, the case is presented to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for investigation and prosecution. Case files of PREA allegations are maintained for a period of at least seven (7) years upon completion of the investigation.

It is important to note that DYRS continually seeks to improve the reporting and investigation methods to ensure the highest level of compliance, as well as swift corrective action when needed. The agency's zero-tolerance policy aims to protect all youth under DYRS jurisdiction from sexual harassment and abuse, but also protects anyone who reports or cooperates with an on-going investigation from retaliation.

This report summarizes allegations by the calendar year (CY) and includes CY18, 19 and 20 with CY20 being the focus.

DYRS compiles and investigates PREA allegations in four (4) major categories: 1) Staff-to-Youth Abuse; 2) Staff-to-Youth Harassment; 3) Youth-to-Youth Abuse, and 4) Youth-to-Youth Harassment.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Survey and Sexual Victimization (SSV) defines four investigation outcomes. Upon completion of the investigation, all allegations will be deemed one of the four dispositions:

1. Substantiated: the event was investigated and determined to have occurred, based on a preponderance of the evidence (28 C.F.R. § 115.72);
2. Unsubstantiated: the investigation concluded that evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred; (28 C.F.R. § 115.72)

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<sup>1</sup> Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, 45 U.S.C. §§ 15601-15609 (2003).

3. Unfounded: the investigation determined the event did not occur; and
4. Investigation Open: evidence is still being gathered, processed, or evaluated, and a final determination has not yet been made

## AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) is the District of Columbia's cabinet-level juvenile justice agency. DYRS administers detention, commitment, and aftercare services for youth held under its care in its facilities or residing in the DC community. DYRS is actively involved in several innovative programming models, collaborating with locally and nationally recognized juvenile justice centers in the following types of programs: juvenile justice, a continuum of care, alternative sentencing, supervised citation release, and supportive living.

The DYRS' secure program workforce is comprised of over 300 direct care personnel and over 100 non-secured staff, which includes medical, mental health, and food service.

## MISSION

The mission of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) is to provide court-involved youth the opportunity to become more productive citizens by building on the strengths of youths and their families in the least restrictive, most homelike environment consistent with public safety.


## VISION

DYRS' vision is to provide the nation's best continuum of care for court-involved youth and their families through a wide range of programs that emphasize individual strengths, personal accountability, public safety, skill development, family involvement, and community support.

# DATA

**Figure 1: Demographics.**

The below collective data shows the basic demographics for the populations served in each facility on the final day of the Calendar Year (CY) as well as annual admissions and discharges for each placement for the full CY.

	CY18				CY19				CY 20			
	YSC	NB	HOPE HOUSE	TOTAL	YSC	NB	HOPE HOUSE	TOTAL	YSC	NB	HOPE HOUSE	TOTAL
TOTAL CENSUS DECEMBER 31	54	43	4	101	51	36	0	87	57	41	0	98
MALE	45	0	2	47	45	36	0	6	52	41	0	93
FEMALE	9	43	2	54	6	0	0	6	5	0	0	5
AGE 17 AND UNDER	51	30	4	85	48	22	0	72	40	36	0	76
AGE 18-20	3	13	0	16	3	14	0	17	17	5	0	22
AGE 21 AND OVER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANNUAL TOTAL ADMISSIONS	3,229	118	95	3,442	2,998	73	91	3,162	1,594	57	0	1,651
ANNUAL TOTAL DISCHARGES	3,227	111	94	3,432	2,992	79	95	3,166	1,590	52	0	1,642
ANNUAL TOTAL UNIQUE YOUTH ADMITTED	1,355	97	53	1,361	1,319	62	57	1,322	740	55	0	795
ANNUAL TOTAL UNIQUE YOUTH DISCHARGED	1,369	86	54	1,384	1,323	69	59	1,348	742	52	0	794

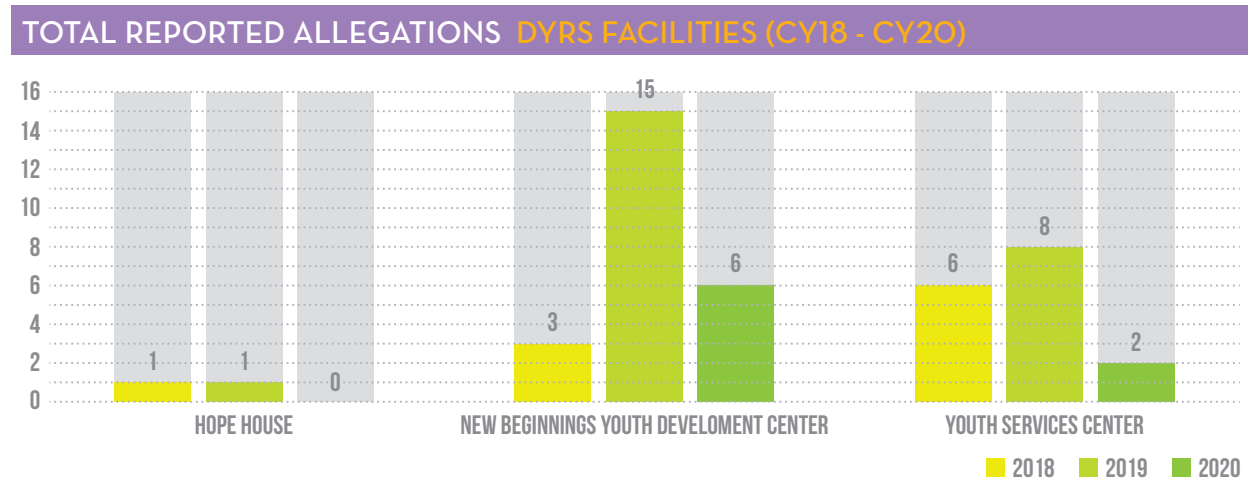
**Admissions:** The start of a new enrollment

**Discharges:** The end of an enrollment

**Unique Youth:** A count of the total youth as opposed to counting a youth each time they entered/left the facility

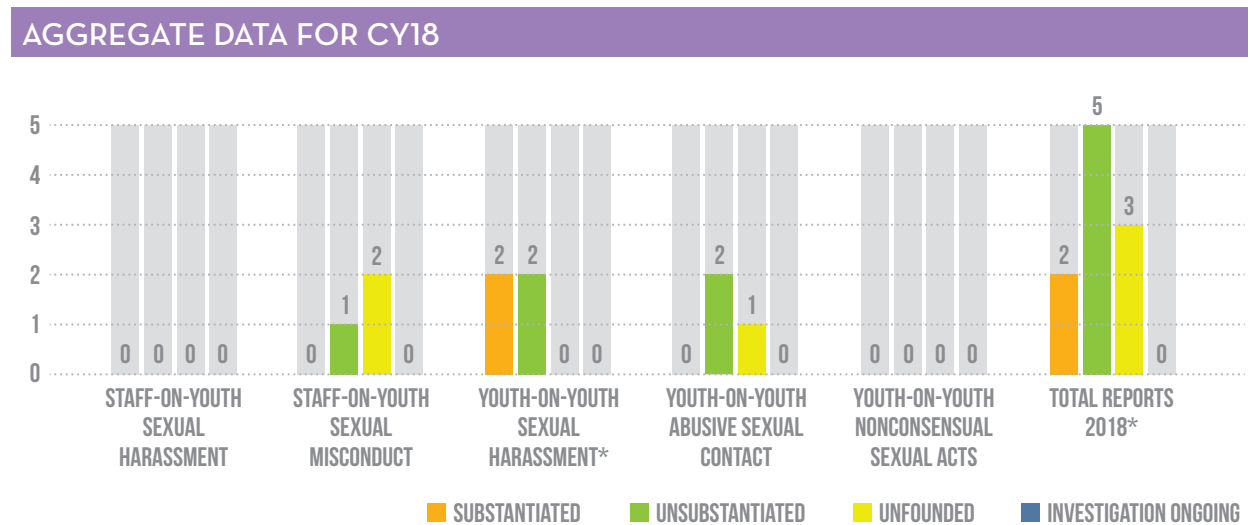
**Figure 2: Total allegations CY18 - CY20 by placement.**

Between January 2018 and December 2020, there have been a total of 42 reported allegations in DYRS operated facilities and placements including Youth Services Center (YSC), New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) and Hope House. In CY20, New Beginnings had the most allegations with a total of 6 claims.



**Figure 3: Aggregate data for CY18 by category.**

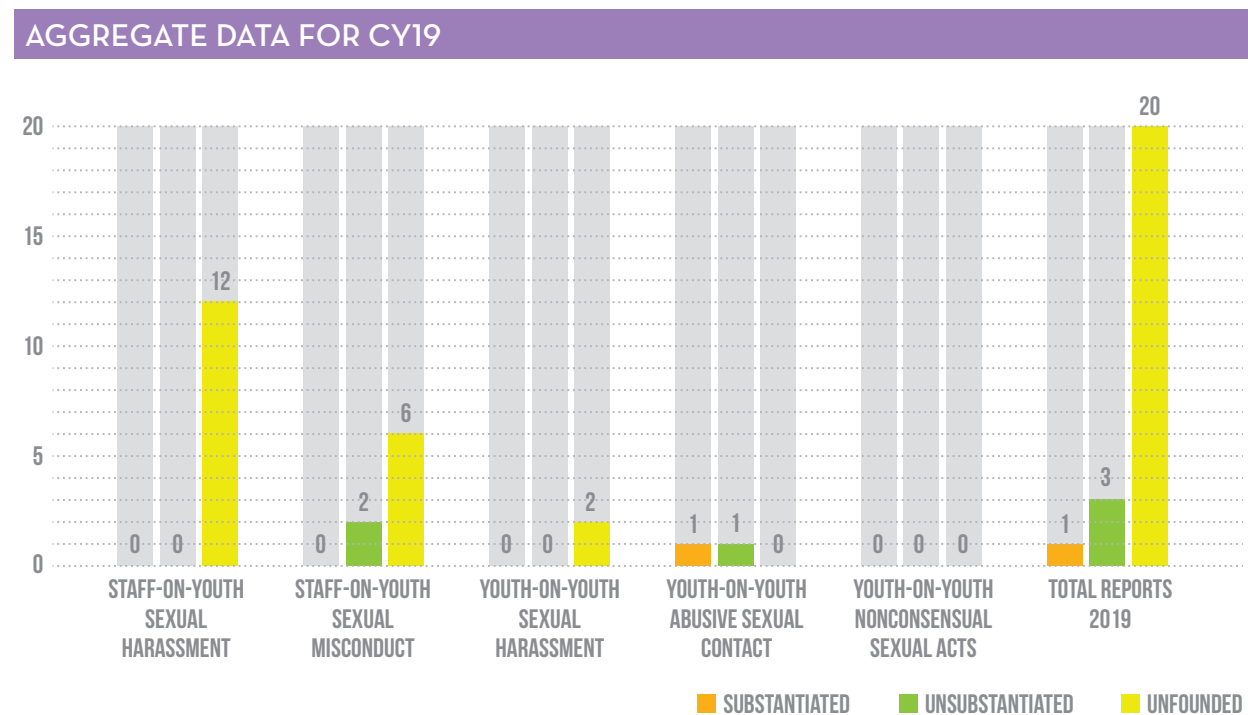
In CY18, DYRS had a total of nine allegations in the agency operated placements. Two allegations of Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment were substantiated. In one case of Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment in CY18, there were two alleged perpetrators resulting in two different findings for the same case.



\*The 2018 Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment category includes two findings for one case, involving two perpetrators, (1<sup>st</sup> alleged perpetrator - substantiated, 2<sup>nd</sup> alleged perpetrator - unsubstantiated). Therefore, in totality there were nine actual reports.

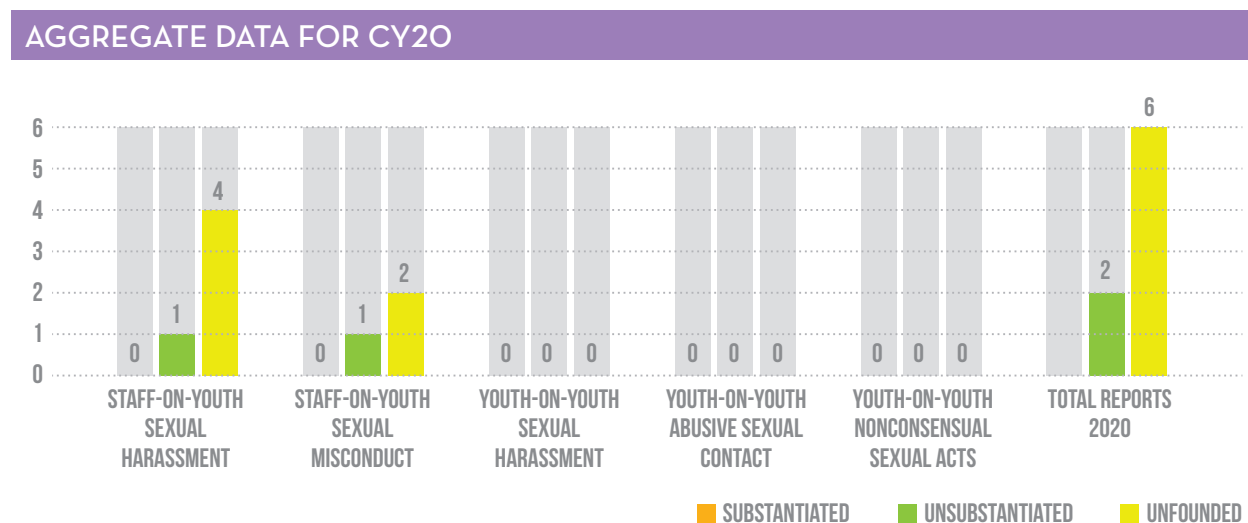
**Figure 4: Aggregate data for CY19 by category.**

In CY19, there were a total of 24 allegations in agency-operated placements. Of those, one case of Youth-on-Youth Abusive Sexual Contact was substantiated.



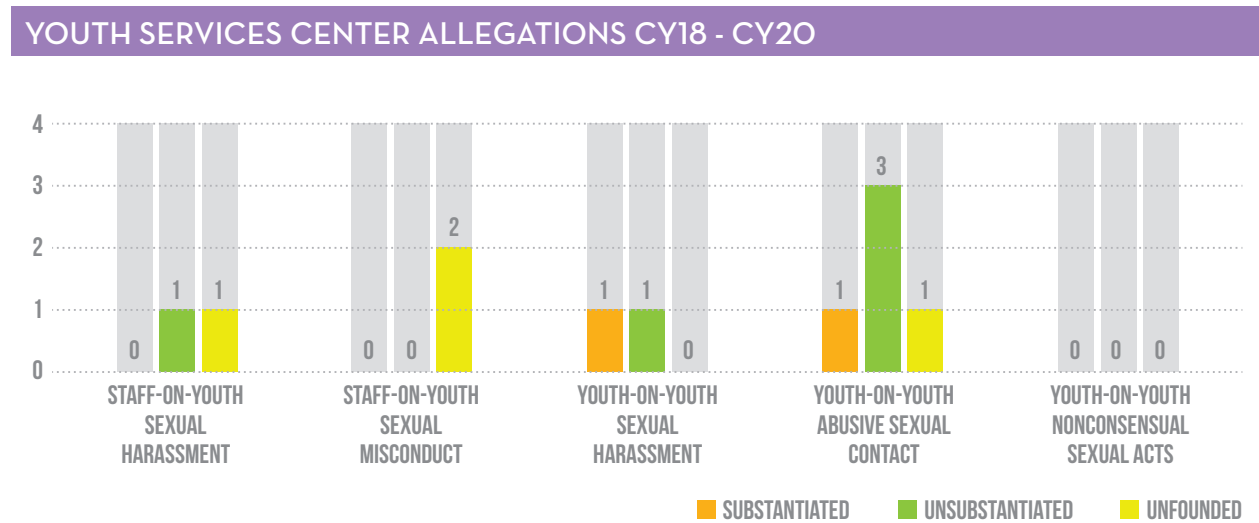
**Figure 5: Aggregate data for CY20 by category.**

In CY20, DYRS had a total of eight allegations in the agency operated placements. Of those eight, six were unfounded and two were unsubstantiated.



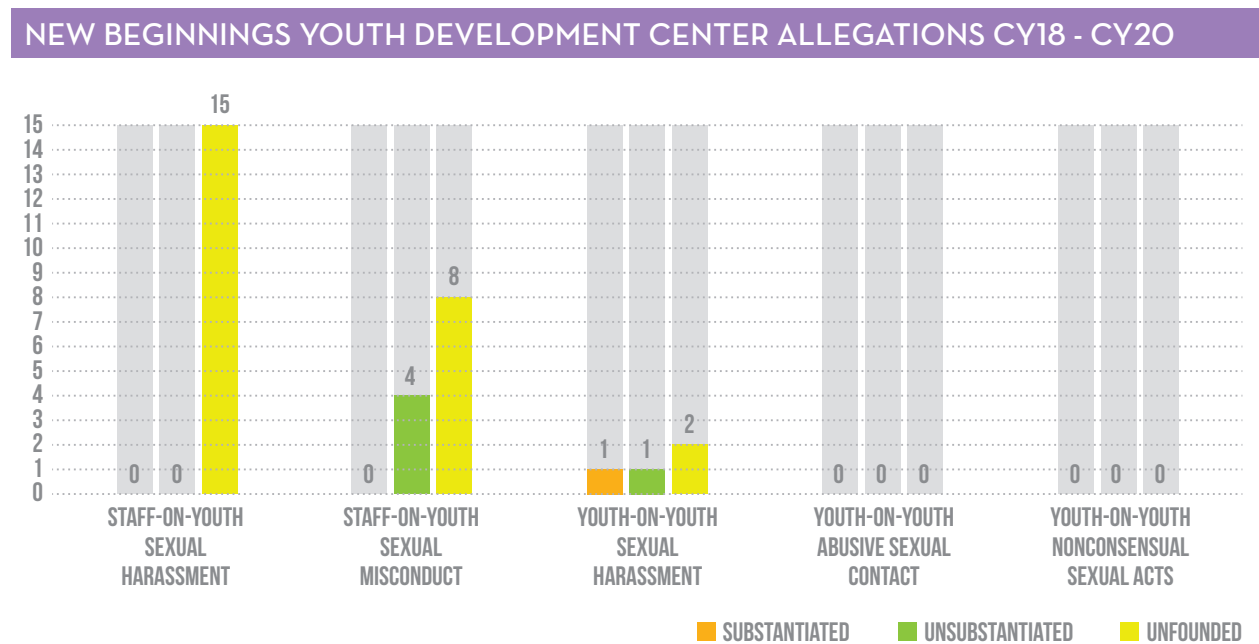
**Figure 6: Allegations at YSC CY18 - CY20.**

Since CY18, there have been two (2) substantiated claims at YSC.



**Figure 7: Allegations at NB CY18 - CY20.**

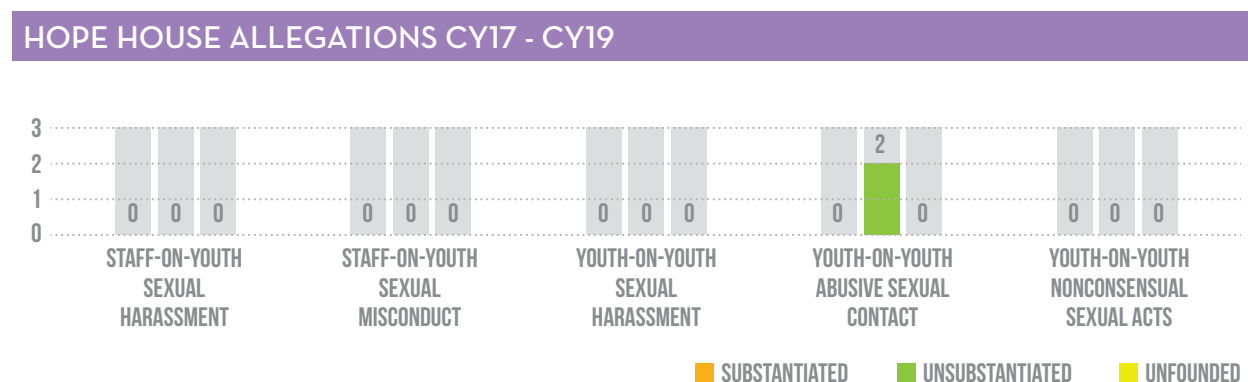
Since CY18, there has been one (1) substantiated allegation at NB.





**Figure 8: Allegations at Hope House CY18 - CY20.**

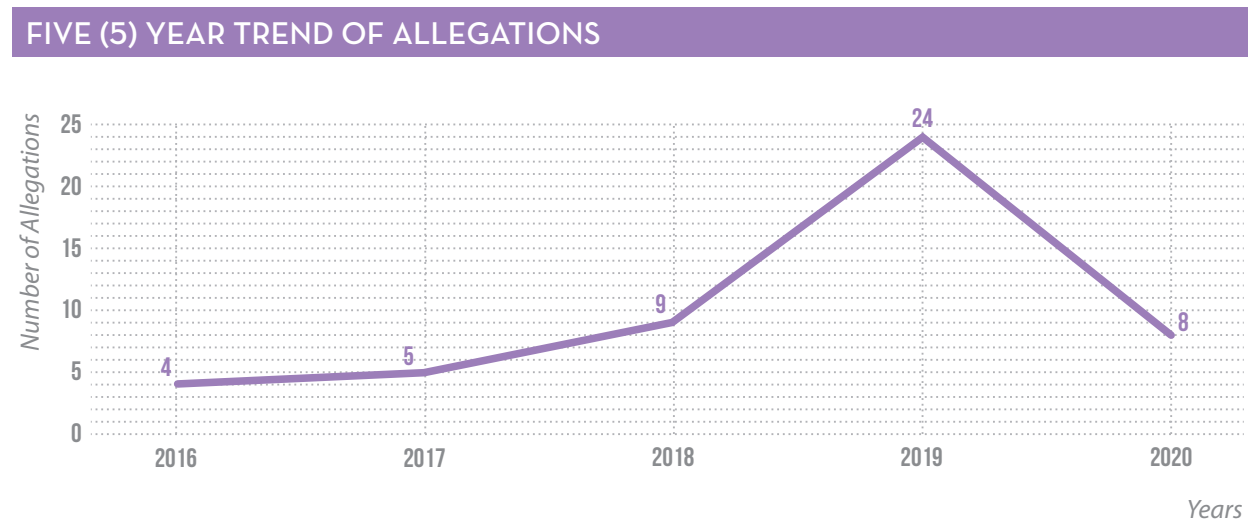
Since CY17, there have been zero (0) substantiated allegations at Hope House



**Figure 9: Total Reported Allegations- Five (5) Year Trend.**

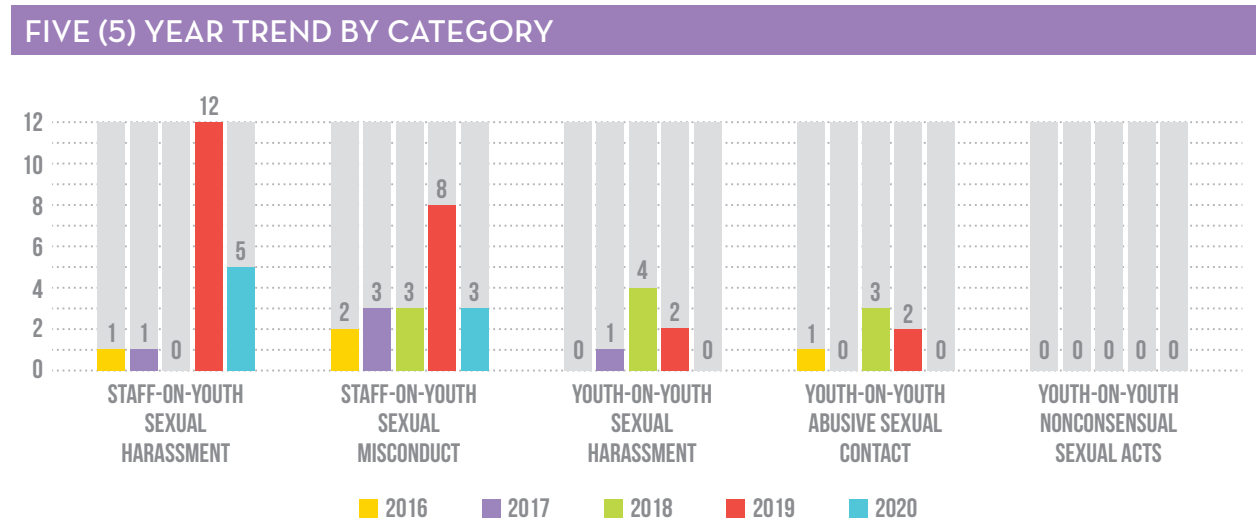
Since CY16, total allegations have risen due to increased youth educational groups, clear reporting processes for youth and staff, and additional reporting mechanisms for youth.

Total allegations have since dropped from CY19 to CY20.



**Figure 10: Total Reported Allegations-Five (5) Year Trend by Category.**

In CY20, there was a decrease in the total number of allegations. In CY20 there were five Staff on Youth Sexual Harassment allegations and three Staff on Youth Sexual Misconduct allegations.



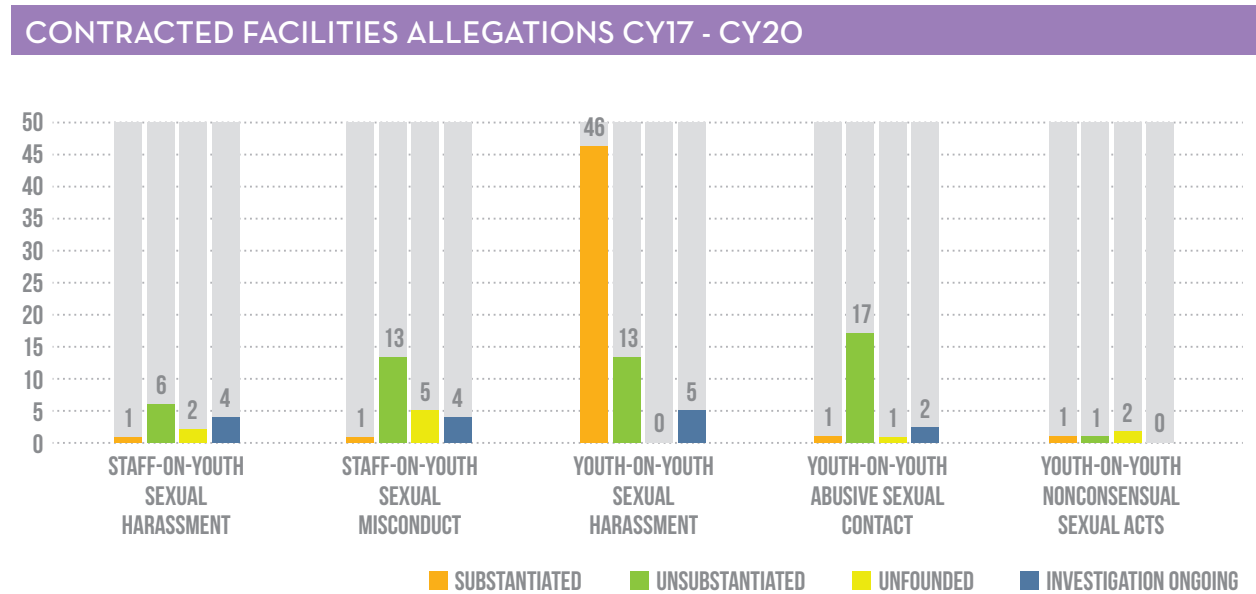
**Figure 11: Contracted Facilities Demographics.**

DYRS requested data from contracted secure facilities. At the time of this report, DYRS had received data from four (4) facilities. The below demographics represent the total population served by those facilities, not just DYRS youth.

	CY18	CY19	CY20
TOTAL CENSUS DECEMBER 31	401	384	1,309
MALE	400	369	1,063
FEMALE	67	15	246
AGE 17 AND UNDER	364	306	1,182
AGE 18-20	70	78	125
AGE 21 AND OVER	0	0	2
ANNUAL TOTAL ADMISSIONS	774	1,129	949
ANNUAL TOTAL DISCHARGES	875	1,182	1,004

**Figure 12: Contracted Facilities Allegations CY17 - CY20**

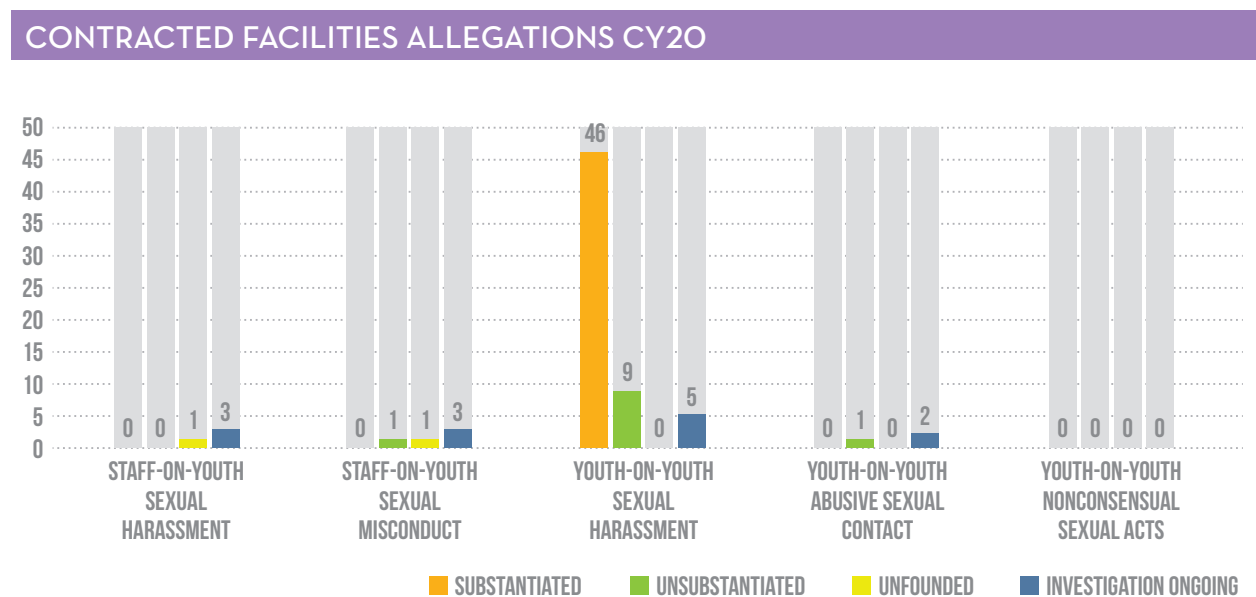
There was a total of 125 allegations over the course of four years for the facilities that DYRS contracts with. These numbers reflect all young people, not just DYRS youth. Of those 125, 50 have been substantiated.



\*Staff-on-Youth Sexual Misconduct includes an unfounded Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse allegation.

**Figure 13: Contracted Facilities Allegations CY20**

In CY20, there were 72 allegations collectively, of which 46 were substantiated.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the 2020 calendar year, DYRS completed the following PREA related initiatives:

- Awarded approximately 62k from OVSJG-BYRNE for PREA compliance initiatives.
- Awarded approximately 79k from DOJ protecting inmates and safeguarding communities discretionary grant program.

## PHYSICAL PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

In response to how DYRS responded to COVID safeguards, the agency felt it was necessary to include COVID safety measures within DYRS's facilities.

- **Plasma Air Filtration** - Much like sunlight does in the atmosphere, Plasma Air technology produces a natural bio-climate rich in positive and negative oxygen ions. The negative ions contain an extra electron while the positive ions are missing an electron resulting in an unstable condition. In an effort to re-stabilize, these bipolar ions seek out atoms and molecules in the air to trade electrons with, effectively neutralizing particulate matter, bacteria and virus cells, odorous gases and aerosols, and VOCs.
- **Electronic Entry Screening** – A screening system that record temperatures and asks a series of questions related to COVID-19 that all employees and visitors are required to complete upon entry into any DYRS location. These electronic health screening kiosks will minimize contact with others. Each kiosk location are supplied with wipes, hand sanitizer, and a small trash can.

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services will continue its commitment to provide for the safety and well-being of the youth we serve. We continue to invest resources in educating our youth, train our staff, modify our operation procedures, and upgrade our physical plants to support the prevention, detection, reporting, and investigation of all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.



# PREACH OUTREACH

## OUR TEAM

### **PREA Coordinator**

Nancy Fisher, *PREA Coordinator*

### **New Beginnings Youth Development Center PREA Compliance Manager**

Ernest Waiters, *Supervisory Youth Development Representative*

### **Youth Services Center PREA Compliance Manager**

Kiana Richardson, *Supervisory Youth Development Representative*

### **PREA Training Facilitator**

Monica Hill, *Youth Development Representative*

### **PREA Training Facilitator**

Karen Maple, *Youth Development Representative*

For additional information, please contact us at [dys.prea@dc.gov](mailto:dys.prea@dc.gov)



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DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH  
REHABILITATION SERVICES

 **GOVERNMENT OF THE  
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