

Abraxas Youth & Family Services (AYFS)

2024 Annual PREA Report

REPORTING PERIOD

As required by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Pub. L. No. 108-79 (2003), AYFS has collected and reviewed data on allegations reported from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. AYFS produced this report in compliance with 28 C.F.R. Part §§115.87-89.

In 2024, 44 allegations met the definitions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. This report reflects the status of 2024 allegations.

POLICY SUMMARY

AYFS mandates zero tolerance towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in all of its facilities. AYFS has a policy that outlines how sexual conduct between employees, volunteers, or contractors and detainees/residents, regardless of consensual status, is prohibited and subject to administrative, criminal, and disciplinary sanctions. Personal identifiers were omitted from this report to ensure the safety and security of staff and individuals placed in our facilities.

2022 PREA RECERTIFICATION AUDITS

One (1) facility completed a PREA recertification audit in 2024: Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center. The facility was in full compliance with all PREA standards and “**exceeded**” four (4) standards:

1. 115.313 - Supervision and monitoring
2. 115.331 - Employee training
3. 115.342 - Placement of residents
4. 115.378 - Interventions and disciplinary sanctions for residents

AYFS FACILITIES COVERED IN THIS REPORT (7 FACILITIES)

This report contains PREA data collected from all AYFS facilities covered by DOJ PREA Standards. This report includes a comparison of 2023 and 2024 data as required by PREA Standard §115.88. The seven (7) facilities are Abraxas-I (PA), Abraxas Academy (PA), Abraxas Youth Center (PA), Leadership Development Program (PA), Abraxas Ohio (OH), Camp Aspen (SC), and Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center (CO).

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

- **Contractor:** a person who provides services on a recurring basis pursuant to a contractual agreement with the agency.
- **Detainee:** any person detained in a lockup, regardless of adjudication status.
- **Employee:** a person who works directly for the agency or facility.
- **On-going (OG):** investigation has not been completed.
- **Inmate, Detainee, or Resident:** any person confined or detained in a juvenile facility or in a community confinement facility.
- **Staff:** employees.

- **Substantiated (SUB):** an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- **Unfounded (UF):** an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.
- **Unsubstantiated (UNSUB):** an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.
- **Volunteer:** an individual who donates time and effort on a recurring basis to enhance the activities and programs of the agency.

DEFINITIONS RELATED TO SEXUAL ABUSE & SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual Abuse

1. Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident; and
2. Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.

Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act 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;
3. Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and
4. Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.

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

Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer means an invasion of privacy of an inmate, detainee, or resident by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties, such as peering at an inmate who is using a toilet in his or her cell to perform bodily functions; requiring an inmate to expose his or her

buttocks, genitals, or breasts; or taking images of all or part of an inmate’s naked body or of an inmate performing bodily functions.

Sexual Harassment

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, detainee, or resident directed toward another; and
2. Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

INCIDENT TYPE ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are used by AYFS to track reported allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment:

- RRSA – Resident-on-Resident Sexual Abuse
- RRSB – Resident-on-Resident Sexual Harassment
- SRSA – Staff-on-Resident Sexual Abuse
- SRSB – Staff-on-Resident Sexual Harassment

EVIDENTIARY STANDARD

The agency shall impose no standard higher than a preponderance of the evidence in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated.

Comparison of 2023 vs 2024 PREA Allegations for All Seven (7) Facilities

Total PREA Allegations 2023 vs 2024		
Year	Total	Change
2023	45	-1 (2% Decrease)
2024	44	

Resident-on-Resident Sexual Abuse (RRSA) PREA Allegations 2023 vs 2024		
Year	Total	Change
2023	28	-12 (43% Decrease)
2024	16	

Resident-on-Resident Sexual Harassment (RRSH) PREA Allegations 2023 vs 2024		
Year	Total	Change
2023	2	+ 1 (50% Increase)
2024	3	

Staff-on-Resident Sexual Abuse (SRSA) PREA Allegations 2023 vs 2024		
Year	Total	Change
2023	12	+12 (100% Increase)
2024	24	

Staff-on-Resident Sexual Harassment (SRSH) PREA Allegations 2023 vs 2024		
Year	Total	Change
2023	3	-2 (67% Decrease)
2024	1	

For Closed Cases, Substantiated PREA Allegations 2023 vs 2024		
Year	Total	Change
2023	1	+4 (400% Increase)
2024	5	

Comparison of 2023 vs 2024 PREA Allegations by Facility

Total PREA Allegations			
Facility	2023	2024	Change
Abraxas Academy, PA	9	6	-3 (33% Decrease)
Abraxas-I, PA	13	17	+4 (31% Increase)
Abraxas Youth Center, PA	0	0	No Change
Leadership Development Program, PA	2	2	No Change
Abraxas Ohio, OH	6	6	No Change
Camp Aspen, SC	0	0	No Change
Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center, CO	15	13	-2 (13% Decrease)
Total	45	44	-5 (11% Decrease)

Resident-on-Resident Sexual Abuse (RRSA) PREA Allegations			
Facility	2023	2024	Change
Abraxas Academy, PA	2	0	-2 (100% Decrease)
Abraxas-I, PA	7	3	-4 (57% Decrease)
Abraxas Youth Center, PA	0	0	No Change
Leadership Development Program, PA	2	2	No Change
Abraxas Ohio, OH	5	2	- 3 (60% Decrease)
Camp Aspen, SC	0	0	No Change
Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center, CO	12	9	-3 (25% Decrease)
Total	28	16	-12 (43% Decrease)

Resident-on-Resident Sexual Harassment (RRSH) PREA Allegations			
Facility	2023	2024	Change
Abraxas Academy, PA	1	0	-1 (100% Decrease)
Abraxas-I, PA	1	2	+1 (100% Increase)
Abraxas Youth Center, PA	0	0	No Change
Leadership Development Program, PA	0	0	No Change
Abraxas Ohio, OH	0	0	No Change
Camp Aspen, SC	0	0	No Change
Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center, CO	0	1	-1 (100% Increase_
Total	2	3	+1 (50% Increase)

Staff-on-Resident Sexual Abuse (SRSA) PREA Allegations			
Facility	2023	2024	Change
Abraxas Academy, PA	6	5	-1 (17% Decrease)
Abraxas-I, PA	2	12	+10 (500% Increase)
Abraxas Youth Center, PA	0	0	No Change
Leadership Development Program, PA	0	0	No Change
Abraxas Ohio, OH	1	4	+3 (300% Increase)
Camp Aspen, SC	0	0	No Change
Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center, CO	3	3	No Change
Total	12	24	+12 (100% Increase)

Staff-on-Resident Sexual Harassment (SRSH) PREA Allegations			
Facility	2023	2024	Change
Abraxas Academy, PA	0	1	+1 (100% Increase)
Abraxas-I, PA	3	0	-3 (100% Decrease)
Abraxas Youth Center, PA	0	0	No Change
Leadership Development Program, PA	0	0	No Change
Abraxas Ohio, OH	0	0	No Change
Camp Aspen, SC	0	0	No Change
Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center, CO	0	0	No Change_
Total	3	1	-2 (67% Decrease)

For Closed Cases, Substantiated PREA Allegations 2023 vs 2024			
Facility	2023	2024	Change
Abraxas Academy, PA	0	0	No Change
Abraxas-I, PA	1	3	+2 (200% Increase)
Abraxas Youth Center, PA	0	0	No Change
Leadership Development Program, PA	0	1	+1 (100% Increase)
Abraxas Ohio, OH	0	1	+1 (100% Increase)
Camp Aspen, SC	0	0	No Change
Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center, CO	0	0	No Change_
Total	1	5	+4 (400% Increase)

Substantiated PREA Allegations

- **2023 = 1**
 - SRSA
- **2024 = 5**
 - 4 SRSA: Abraxas-I (3), Abraxas Ohio (1)
 - 1 RRSA: Leadership Development Program

Actions in 2024 to Enhance the PREA Program Across All Facilities

PREA Policies

- In 2023, all of the PREA policies were reviewed. No revisions to the policies were needed.

PREA Training

- In 2023, all PREA trainings were reviewed. No revisions to the trainings were needed.

Annual PREA Facility Assessments

- All facilities completed the Annual PREA Facility Assessments. Some of the facilities identified physical plant areas to enhance (e.g., add cameras, add windows to internal doors replace older cameras, ensure PREA shower curtains are being used).

Monthly Call with Executive Directors and PCMs

- Started September 5, 2024

DSAH – PREA Agenda Item for Leadership and Supervisor Meetings

- All programs added DSAH – PREA to their Leadership and Supervisor meetings. On September 5, 2024, agendas for September – December 2024 were provided to programs.

PREA Unannounced Rounds: Employee and Resident Interviews

- Beginning September 2024, programs started to complete the resident and employee interviews when completing PREA Unannounced Rounds.
- The site-specific policy that has PREA Unannounced Rounds was updated to include the resident and employee questions.

Additional Employee and Resident Interviews

- Beginning September 2024, PREA/DSAH Compliance Manager starting completing additional employee and resident interviews.

Professional Employee-Client Relationships Training

- In October 2024, the training was revised.
- All programs are completing this training in New Hire Orientation and annually thereafter.

Additional PREA Training for New Residents

- In October 2024, a new PREA training, Grooming Behaviors by Employees was developed.
- This training is provided to all new residents upon intake.

Train Additional PREA Investigators

- In October 2024, facility HR Partners started to complete the training.

Youth Safety Guide

- In November 2024, the Youth Safety Guide was revised with new and current information (e.g., references).

Third-Party Reporting Posters

- In November 2024, the Third-Party Reporting Posters were revised with new number due to Pittsburgh Office line/phones canceled.

Plan for 2025 to Enhance PREA Program Across All Facilities

- Develop Monthly Employee PREA Refresher Trainings
- Develop Quarterly PREA Resident Education Series