

Ware Youth Center
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PREA ANNUAL REPORT

2025

This report was written in accordance with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standard 115.388 Data review for corrective action.

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PREA Standard 115.388

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was established to address sexual abuse and sexual harassment of persons confined to correctional facilities. Standard 115.388 Data Review for Corrective Action of PREA, requires that all public and private institutions that house adult or juvenile offenders review data collected and aggregated on an annual basis in order to assess and enhance the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training, including identifying problem areas; taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility as well as the agency as a whole.

Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential Program contracts with the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice for 24 beds for females in need of intensive residential placement.

Key Terms and Definitions

NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS – unwanted contact with another youth or any contact with staff that involve contact with the penis and the vagina or anus; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; penetration of the anal or vaginal opening of another person by a hand, finger or other object; and rubbing of another persons' penis or vagina by a hand.

ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT – Unwanted contact with another youth or any contact with staff that involved touching of the youth's buttocks, thighs, penis, breast or vagina in a sexual way.

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

STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT – All incidents of willing and unwilling sexual contact with facility staff, and all incidents of sexual activity that involved oral, anal or vaginal penetration.

STAFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT – Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth by a staff member, contractor or volunteer including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

2024-2025 Comparison of PREA Allegations

This report includes a comparison of calendar years 2024 and 2025 data on sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations and provides an assessment of Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential's progress in preventing sexual abuse and sexual harassment of its youth. This review included a review of data from all available incident reports, grievances and investigations.

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REPORTING CRITERIA	2024	2025
Number of <i>males</i> present on December 31 st	0	0
Number of <i>males</i> admitted during the target year	0	0
Number of <i>females</i> present on December 31 st	8	22
Number of <i>females</i> admitted during the target year	8	38
Number of <i>alleged</i> youth-on-youth NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS	0	1
Number of <i>substantiated</i> youth-on-youth NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS	0	0
Number of <i>alleged</i> youth-on-youth ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT	0	1
Number of <i>substantiated</i> youth-on-youth ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT	0	1
Number of <i>alleged</i> youth-on-youth SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0
Number of <i>substantiated</i> youth-on-youth SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0
Number of <i>alleged</i> staff-on-youth STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT	0	0
Number <i>substantiated</i> staff-on-youth STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT	0	0
Number of <i>alleged</i> staff-on-youth STAFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0
Number of <i>substantiated</i> staff-on-youth STAFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0

Comparative Analysis

Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential experienced two changes in the categories of reported PREA allegations from 2024 to 2025. Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential will continue its efforts in ensuring that youth, staff, volunteers and contractors are educated in the agency's Zero Tolerance policy, as well as the several methods of reporting allegations. Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential is committed to ensuring continued compliance with PREA Standards as well as the health and safety of the youth in our care. A comparative analysis of 2024 and 2025 data indicates the following:

- In 2025, there was **one** change in the number of reported allegations of youth-on-youth nonconsensual acts which was determined to be unsubstantiated. This is compared to 2024, where there were **zero** reported allegations of youth-on-youth nonconsensual acts.
- In 2025, there was **one** change in the number of reported allegations of youth-on-youth abusive sexual contact. This incident was found to be substantiated. This is compared to 2024, where there were **zero** reported allegations of youth-on-youth abusive sexual contact.
- In 2025, there were **no changes** in the number of reported allegations of youth-on-youth sexual harassment. This is compared to 2024, where there were also **zero** reported incidents of youth-on-youth sexual harassment.
- In 2025, there were **no changes** in the number of reported allegations of staff-on-youth sexual misconduct. This is compared to 2024, where there were also **zero** reported incidents of staff-on-youth sexual misconduct.
- In 2025, there were **no changes** in the number of reported allegations of staff-on-youth sexual harassment. This is compared to 2024, where there were also **zero** reported incidents of staff-on-youth sexual harassment.

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2025 Corrective Actions

In 2025, there were no reported incidents of staff-on-youth sexual misconduct, staff-on-youth sexual harassment, or youth-on-youth sexual harassment. The facility experienced an increase in the allegations of youth-on-youth nonconsensual acts and youth-on-youth abusive sexual contact during 2025. In 2025, Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential implemented the following actions:

- The facility will continue administering the Diana Screen to all potential new hires.
- The facility will continue to conduct pre-hire psychological evaluations on all potential new hires before a formal offer of employment.
- The facility contracted with Guardian Alarm Systems to replace all existing security cameras to include audio.
- All facility staff were equipped with Axon Body Cameras with unlimited storage capabilities.
- Staff received training on the facility's Zero Tolerance policy on sexual harassment and sexual abuse.
- All staff were required to complete online Mandated Reporter Training through the Department of Children and Family Services online portal.
- All staff were required to complete online Ethics training through the Louisiana Ethics Board.
- All staff received training on proper supervision techniques of all youth.
- The facility continued to contract with Missouri Youth Services Institute to provide training and coaching to staff which included topics such as supervision, underlying causes of youth behavior and human dignity.

2024 Corrective Actions

In 2024, there were no reported incidents of staff-on-youth sexual misconduct, staff-on-youth sexual harassment, youth-on-youth nonconsensual acts, youth-on-youth sexual harassment or youth-on-youth abusive sexual contact. The facility was closed from September 2023 until December 2024. In 2024, Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential implemented the following actions:

- Staff received training on the facility's Zero Tolerance policy on sexual harassment and sexual abuse.
- All staff were required to complete online Mandated Reporter Training through the Department of Children and Family Services online portal.
- All staff were required to complete online Ethics training through the Louisiana Ethics Board.
- All staff received training on proper supervision techniques of all youth.
- The facility contracted with Missouri Youth Services Institute to provide training and coaching to staff which included topics such as supervision, underlying causes of youth behavior and human dignity.

APPROVED BY:

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Date Annual Report Approved: 1/02/2026