

# PREA AUDIT: AUDITOR'S SUMMARY REPORT

## ADULT PRISONS & JAILS

Interim     Final Report

### Auditor Information

**Auditor name:** Katherine Brown

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**Telephone number:** 727-470-4123

**Date of facility visit:** January 19-20-2016

**Date report submitted:** January 22, 2016

### Facility Information

**Name of facility:** Valdosta State Prison

**Physical address:** 3259 Val Tech Rd., Buford GA 31603

**Telephone number:**

<b>Valdosta State Prison is:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private for profit	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private not for profit		

<b>Facility Type:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prison
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<b>Name of facility's Chief Executive Officer:</b> Marty C. Allen	<b>Title:</b>	Warden
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**Number of staff assigned to Valdosta State Prison in the last 12 months:** 446

**Designed facility capacity:** 1184

**Current population of facility:** 1042

**Facility security levels/inmate custody levels:** Close

**Age range of the population:** 18-68

<b>Name of PREA Compliance Manager:</b> Monica Wynn	<b>Title:</b>	Counselor
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<b>Email address:</b> monica.wynn@gdc.ga.gov	<b>Telephone #</b>	229-245-6450
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### Agency Information

**Name of agency:** Georgia Department of Corrections

**Governing authority or parent agency:** Georgia Department of Corrections

**Physical address:** 300 Patrol Road, Forsyth, GA 31029

**Mailing address:** N/A

**Telephone number:** 478-992-5211

### Agency Chief Executive Officer

<b>Name:</b> Homer Bryson	<b>Title:</b>	Commissioner
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<b>Email address:</b> Homer.Bryson@gdc.ga.gov	<b>Telephone number:</b>
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### Agency-Wide PREA Coordinator

<b>Name:</b> Sharon Shaver	<b>Title:</b>	Agency PREA Coordinator
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# AUDIT FINDINGS

## **NARRATIVE:**

The audit of Valdosta State Prison was conducted on January 19-20, 2016 by Katherine Brown, Certified PREA auditor. The areas toured were a total of 14 housing units and six mental health units in Valdosta State Prison and annex, plus the kitchen, laundry, programs area, and work areas.

An entrance meeting was held with facility staff. The following people were in attendance: Marty C. Allen, Warden; Shaunda Woods Deputy Warden of Care and Treatment; Len Gibson, Deputy Warden of Administration; Kiley Johnson, Captain; Monica Wynn, Compliance Manager; Aaron Pinerio, SART Leader; Beth Fields, SART Medical; Carlos Jones, SART Mental Health; Kimberly Brooks, Human Resource; Towanda Zackery, Lieutenant; Melvin Butts, Assistant Statewide PREA Coordinator and Jimmy Knowles, Operations Analyst.

Following the entrance meeting I toured Valdosta State Prison and Annex from 0900 to 1100. On the tour with me was Marty C. Allen, Warden; Shaunda Woods Deputy Director of Care and Treatment; Melvin Butts, Assistant Statewide PREA Coordinator and Aaron Pinerio SART Leader.

I asked for an alpha listing of all inmates housed at Valdosta State Prison and randomly selected 39 inmates to interview as well as any inmates who were limited English speaking or had hearing/vision impairment to be interviewed. There were no hearing/vision impairment inmates there, I did interview one limited English speaking inmate. I also asked for any inmate who was transgender/intersex, I interviewed 3 transgender inmates. I also interviewed one inmate who was a victim of a sexual assault; and two inmates who identified as being gay at the time of intake. I also interviewed one inmate who was identified at intake as being a potential for victimization. I asked for a shift roster and randomly selected staff to interview.

There were 169 sexual assault/harassment allegation cases, all relatively recent (within the past year) 80 had been unfounded; 3 substantiated; 86 unsubstantiated. The high number of allegations is attributed to the large mental health population at this facility.

## **DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS:**

Valdosta State Prison is a Tier 1 & 2 facility currently housing 1029 male inmates. The inmate population at Valdosta State Prison is made up of adult males who are serving felony prison sentences. The physical layout of Valdosta State Prison consists of 10 dorms that house 50 per dorm, six Mental Health units with 264 beds, 25 Isolation beds plus 12 Acute Care Unit beds and four Crisis Stabilization Unit beds. Valdosta State Prison Annex has four (4) open dorms, two dorms consist of 50 parolees each and two dorms consist of 64 inmates. The Annex contains 554 General Population beds. Of those beds, 100 are designated as Residential Substance Abuse Center beds.

The Mission of Valdosta State Prison is "To protect the public by maintaining custody of close security offenders while providing academic and vocational education, mental health and mental retardation services and specialized evidence-based counseling programs. The Annex protects

the public by maintaining custody of medium and minimum security offenders while providing outside work details to the community.”

**SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS:**

Number of standards exceeded: 1

Number of standards met: 40

Number of standards not met:

Number of standards not applicable: 2

**§115.11 Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A.1; Georgia Organizational Chart and Organizational Chart. Based on interviews with PREA Coordinator and PREA compliance manager.

Georgia Department of Corrections has a written policy mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and outlines Georgia Department of Corrections’ approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct.

Georgia Department of Corrections employs or designates an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards.

Georgia Department of Corrections operates more than one facility; each facility has designated a PREA compliance manager with sufficient time and authority to coordinate Valdosta State Prison’s efforts to comply with the PREA standards

**§115.12 Contracting with other agencies for confinement of inmates**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A.2

Based on interview with agency's contract compliance manager

All contracts include the entity's obligation to adopt and comply with the PREA standards.

Any new contract or contract renewal provides for agency contract monitoring to ensure that the contractor is complying with the PREA standards.

### **§115.13 Supervision and monitoring**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

#### **Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A. 3; SOP II. A. 07-0012; Staffing Plan; Unannounced rounds. Based on interview with Warden: PREA Compliance Manager and PREA Coordinator

Georgia Department of Corrections has developed, documented, and made its best efforts to comply on a regular basis with a staffing plan that provides for adequate levels of staffing and uses video monitoring, to protect inmates against sexual abuse.

In circumstances where the staffing plan was not complied with, Valdosta State Prison documented and justified all deviations from the plan.

Georgia Department of Corrections completes an annual review, in consultation with the PREA coordinator required by § 115.11, to assess, determine, and document whether adjustments are needed.

### **§115.14 Youthful inmates**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Not applicable

#### **Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A. 4. (a-c). Valdosta SP does not have youthful inmates.

### **§115.15 Limits to cross gender viewing and searches**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A. 5. (a-g) and SOP II. B. 01-0013 and Training Log.

Valdosta State Prison does not conduct cross-gender strip searches or cross-gender visual body cavity searches (meaning a search of the anal or genital opening) except in exigent. In the event a cross gender search is done Valdosta State Prison documents all cross-gender strip searches and cross-gender visual body cavity searches.

Valdosta State Prison has policies and procedures that enable inmates to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without nonmedical staff of the opposite gender viewing their breasts, buttocks, or genitalia, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine cell checks. Such policies and procedures require staff of the opposite gender to announce their presence when entering an inmate housing unit.

Valdosta State Prison does not search or physically examine a transgender or intersex inmate for the sole purpose of determining the inmate's genital status. If the inmate's genital status is unknown, it is determined during conversations with the inmate, by reviewing medical records, or, if necessary, by learning that information as part of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner.

Georgia Department of Corrections trains security staff in how to conduct cross-gender pat-down searches, and searches of transgender and intersex inmates, in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs.

<b>§115.16</b>	<b>Inmates with disabilities and limited English speaking</b>
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Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A. 6 (a & b); Language Line contract and PREA Pamphlet. Based on random inmate and staff interviews and based on interview with limited English speaking inmates.

Georgia Department of Corrections takes appropriate steps to ensure inmates with disabilities (including, for example, inmates who are deaf or hard of hearing, those who are blind or have low vision, or those who have intellectual, psychiatric, or speech disabilities), have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of Georgia Department of Corrections' efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including steps

to provide interpreters who can interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary.

Georgia Department of Corrections does not rely on inmate interpreters, inmate readers, or other types of inmate assistants except in limited circumstances where an extended delay in obtaining an effective interpreter could compromise the inmate's safety. None have been used or required.

#### **§115.17 Hiring and promotion decisions**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

#### **Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A. 7 (a-d); SOP IV. O. 03-0012 and SOP IV. O. 05-0001. Based on interview with Human Resource Director Review of personnel files.

Georgia Department of Corrections does not hire or promote anyone who may have contact with inmates, and does not enlist the services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates, who has engaged in sexual abuse in any criminal justice facility, has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse; or has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described above.

Georgia Department of Corrections considers any incidents of sexual harassment in determining whether to hire or promote anyone, or to enlist the services of any contractor, who may have contact with inmates.

Georgia Department of Corrections performs a criminal background records check before enlisting the services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates and performs a records check annually on all current employees, contractors and volunteers who may have contact with inmates. Reviewed annual background check. Based on the annual review of all staff, volunteers and contractors I find Valdosta State Prison exceeds in this standard.

#### **§115.18 Upgrades to facilities and technology**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

#### **Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV A. 8. Based on interview of agency head and warden.

When installing or updating a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, Georgia Department of Corrections considers how such technology may enhance Georgia Department of Corrections' ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse. There have been no substantial improvements or modifications to existing facilities.

**§115.21 Evidence protocol and forensic medical exams**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV B. 1 (a-f); SOP IK01-0006; SANE Callout; NIC Certificate for PREA-Behavioral Healthcare for Sexual Assault Victims in Confinement; Sexual Abuse Response Checklist; Nursing Assessment Form for Alleged Sexual Assault; Procedure for SANE evaluation; Victim Assistance Training On Line Certificate from Office for Victims of Crime Training & Technical Assistance Center. Based on interview with SANE/SAFE staff and PREA compliance manager.

To the extent Georgia Department of Corrections is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse; Georgia Department of Corrections follows a uniform evidence protocol that maximizes the potential for obtaining usable physical evidence for administrative proceedings and criminal prosecutions

Georgia Department of Corrections offers all victims of sexual abuse access to forensic medical examinations, at Valdosta State Prison, without financial cost, where evidentiary or medically appropriate. Such examinations are performed by Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) from Satilla.

Georgia Department of Corrections makes available to the victim a mental health staff member who has been trained as a victim advocate. Valdosta State Prison does not have a rape crisis center available to provide victim advocate services.

As requested by the victim, a qualified agency staff member, accompanies and supports the victim through the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews and provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals.

**§115.22 Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV B. 1 and SOP IK01-0005. Based on interview with agency head and investigative staff.

Georgia Department of Corrections ensures that an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Georgia Department of Corrections Internal Affairs investigator investigates all administrative and criminal investigations.

Georgia Department of Corrections has a policy that ensures allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are referred for investigation to an agency with the legal authority to conduct criminal investigations, unless the allegation does not involve potentially criminal behavior. Georgia Department of Corrections publishes such policy on its website [www.dcor.state.ga.us](http://www.dcor.state.ga.us) Georgia Department of Corrections documents all such referrals.

### **§115.31 Employee training**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

#### **Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV C. 2; In Service Training Records; Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct Acknowledgement Statement; Employee Guide Pamphlet; PREA card and Training Roster – Sign in Sheet. Based on interview with random staff.

Georgia Department of Corrections trains all employees who have contact with inmates on:

- (1) Its zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- (2) How to fulfill their responsibilities under agency sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, reporting, and response policies and procedures;
- (3) Inmates' right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- (4) The right of inmates and employees to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- (5) The dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement;
- (6) The common reactions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment victims;
- (7) How to detect and respond to signs of threatened and actual sexual abuse;
- (8) How to avoid inappropriate relationships with inmates;
- (9) How to communicate effectively and professionally with inmates, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming inmates; and
- (10) How to comply with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting of sexual abuse to outside authorities.

The training is tailored to the gender of the inmates at Valdosta State Prison. The employees receive additional training if the employee is reassigned from a facility that houses only male inmates to a facility that houses only female inmates, or vice versa.

Georgia Department of Corrections documents, through employee signature, those employees understand the training they have received.

**§115.32 Volunteer and contractors training**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV C. 3 (a-c) and reviewed Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct Acknowledgement Statement for Supervised Visitors and Volunteer Training Sign in Roster. Based on interview with volunteer and contractors.

Georgia Department of Corrections ensures all volunteers and contractors who have contact with inmates have been trained on their responsibilities under Georgia Department of Corrections' sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, and response policies and procedures.

The level and type of training provided to volunteers and contractors is based on the services they provide and level of contact they have with inmates, but all volunteers and contractors who have contact with inmates are notified of Georgia Department of Corrections' zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and informed how to report such incidents.

Georgia Department of Corrections has documentation confirming that volunteers and contractors understand the training they have received.

**§115.33 Inmate education**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV C.4; SOP II B18-0001; Sexual Abuse Review Checklist; PREA Sexual Victimization/Aggressor classification Screening; Sexual Abuse Review Checklist; Inmate Handbook and PREA Pamphlet. Based on interview with random inmates and intake staff.

During the intake process, inmates receive information explaining Georgia Department of Corrections' zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and how to report incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

Within 30 days of intake, Georgia Department of Corrections provides a comprehensive education to inmates either in person or through video regarding their rights to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment and to be free from retaliation for reporting such incidents, and regarding agency policies and procedures for responding to such incidents.

Georgia Department of Corrections provides inmate education in formats accessible to all inmates, including those who are limited English proficient, deaf, visually impaired, or otherwise disabled, as well as to inmates who have limited reading skills. There is documentation of inmate participation in these education sessions.

**§115.34 Specialized training: Investigators**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV C. 5; In Service Training Records; NIC Certificate; GDC Internal Investigations Unit; Compliance Manager Training and PowerPoint Lesson Plan. Based on interview with investigative staff.

In addition to the general training provided to all employees Georgia Department of Corrections ensures that the in house investigators have received training in conducting investigations in confinement settings.

Specialized training includes techniques for interviewing sexual abuse victims, proper use of Miranda and Garrity warnings, sexual abuse evidence collection in confinement settings, and the criteria and evidence required to substantiate a case for administrative action or prosecution referral. Georgia Department of Corrections maintains documentation that agency investigators have completed the required specialized training in conducting sexual abuse investigations.

Any State entity or Department of Justice component that investigates sexual abuse in confinement settings provides such training to its agents and investigators who conduct such investigations.

**§115.35 Specialized training: Medical and mental health care**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC 208.06 IV C.6; NIC Certificate – PREA Medical Health Care and Lesson Plan PREA Compliance Manager.

Georgia Department of Corrections ensures that all full and part-time medical and mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities have been trained in how to: detect and assess signs of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; preserve physical evidence of sexual abuse; respond effectively and professionally to victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment;

and how and to whom to report allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Georgia Department of Corrections maintains documentation that medical and mental health practitioners have received the training.

Medical and mental health care practitioners also receive the training mandated for employees, contractors and volunteers.

<b>§115.41      Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness</b>
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Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV D. 1 (a-h); Victim/Aggressor Classification Rating; PREA Sexual Victim/Sexual Aggressor Classification Screening and Classification form. Based on interview with random inmates and intake staff responsible for screening. Only limited staff has access to the risk screening form only Medical, Mental Health and Warden as well as PREA Manager.

All inmates are assessed during an intake screening and upon transfer to another facility for risk of being sexually abused by other inmates or sexually abusive toward other inmates.

Intake screenings take place usually that same day but at least within 72 hours of arrival at Valdosta State Prison.

Valdosta State Prison uses an objective screening instrument.

The intake screening considers, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization:

- (1) Whether the inmate has a mental, physical, or developmental disability;
- (2) The age of the inmate;
- (3) The physical build of the inmate;
- (4) Whether the inmate has previously been incarcerated;
- (5) Whether the inmate's criminal history is exclusively nonviolent;
- (6) Whether the inmate has prior convictions for sex offenses against an adult or child;
- (7) Whether the inmate is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming;
- (8) Whether the inmate has previously experienced sexual victimization;
- (9) The inmate's own perception of vulnerability; and
- (10) Whether the inmate is detained solely for civil immigration purposes.

The initial screening considers prior acts of sexual abuse, prior convictions for violent offenses, and history of prior institutional violence or sexual abuse, as known to Georgia Department of Corrections, in assessing inmates for risk of being sexually abusive.

Within 30 days from the inmate's arrival at Valdosta State Prison, Valdosta State Prison reassesses the inmate's risk of victimization or abusiveness based upon any additional, relevant information received by Valdosta State Prison since the intake screening.

An inmate's risk level is reassessed when warranted due to a referral, request, incident of sexual abuse, or receipt of additional information that bears on the inmate's risk of sexual victimization or abusiveness.

Inmates are not disciplined for refusing to answer, or for not disclosing complete information in response to, questions asked.

Georgia Department of Corrections implements appropriate controls on the dissemination within Valdosta State Prison of responses to questions asked pursuant to this standard in order to ensure that sensitive information is not exploited to the inmate's detriment by staff or other inmates.

<b>§115.42</b>	<b>Use of screening information</b>
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Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV D. 2 (a-d); 90 day Offender Sexual Abuse Review Checklist; Acknowledgement Statement for Supervised Visitors/Contractors/Volunteers. Based on interview with PREA compliance manager and staff responsible for risk screening.

Georgia Department of Corrections uses information from the risk screening to decide housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments with the goal of keeping separate those inmates at high risk of being sexually victimized from those at high risk of being sexually abusive.

Georgia Department of Corrections makes individualized determinations about how to ensure the safety of each inmate.

In deciding whether to assign a transgender or intersex inmate to a facility for male or female inmates, and in making other housing and programming assignments, Georgia Department of Corrections considers on a case-by-case basis whether a placement would ensure the inmate's health and safety, and whether the placement would present management or security problems.

Placement and programming assignments for each transgender or intersex inmate is reassessed at least twice each year to review any threats to safety experienced by the inmate.

A transgender or intersex inmate's own views with respect to his or her own safety are given serious consideration.

Transgender and intersex inmates are given the opportunity to shower separately from other inmates.

Georgia Department of Corrections does not place lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex inmates in dedicated facilities, units, or wings solely on the basis of such identification

or status, unless such placement is in a dedicated facility, unit, or wing established in connection with a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgment for the purpose of protecting such inmates.

I think the staff would benefit from a sensitivity training program in regards to dealing with transgender inmates. During the interviews with the transgender inmates they all voiced a concern about the way staff treat them. The staff use derogatory terms when referencing them and do not let them be themselves. While they all admit they are not being discriminated against in housing and programs they feel emotionally they are not being treated fairly.

<b>§115.43</b>	<b>Protective custody</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV D. 3. (a-d). Based on interview with warden.

No inmates have been placed in involuntary segregation housing.

Inmates at high risk for sexual victimization are not placed in involuntary segregated housing unless an assessment of all available alternatives has been made, and a determination has been made that there is no available alternative means of separation from likely abusers.

Inmates placed in segregated housing for this purpose have access to programs, privileges, education, and work opportunities to the extent possible. If Valdosta State Prison restricts access to programs, privileges, education, or work opportunities, Valdosta State Prison documents the opportunities that have been limited, the duration of the limitation; and the reasons for such limitations.

Valdosta State Prison assigns such inmates to involuntary segregated housing only until an alternative means of separation from likely abusers can be arranged, and such an assignment does not ordinarily exceed a period of 30 days. If involuntary segregated housing assignment is made Valdosta State Prison clearly documents the basis for Valdosta State Prison's concern for the inmate's safety; and the reason why no alternative means of separation can be arranged. Every 30 days a review is performed to determine whether there is a continuing need for separation from the general population.

<b>§115.51</b>	<b>Inmate reporting</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV E. 1. (a-e) Inmate Handbook; Staff PREA Information Pamphlet and PREA Card. Based on interviews with random staff and inmates

Georgia Department of Corrections provides multiple internal ways for inmates to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment, retaliation by other inmates or staff for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to such incidents.

Georgia Department of Corrections provides at least one way for inmates to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of Georgia Department of Corrections, and that is able to receive and immediately forward inmate reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the inmate to remain anonymous upon request.

Staff accepts reports made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties and promptly document any verbal reports.

Georgia Department of Corrections provides a method for staff to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates.

<b>§115.52</b>	<b>Exhaustion of administrative remedies</b>
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Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDC 208.06 IV. E. 1.2. and SOP IIB05-0001.

Georgia Department of Corrections does not impose a time limit on when an inmate may submit a grievance regarding an allegation of sexual abuse.

Georgia Department of Corrections does not require an inmate to use any informal grievance process, or to otherwise attempt to resolve with staff, an alleged incident of sexual abuse.

Georgia Department of Corrections ensures that an inmate who alleges sexual abuse may submit a grievance without submitting it to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint, and such grievance is not referred to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint.

Georgia Department of Corrections issues a final agency decision on the merits of any portion of a grievance alleging sexual abuse within 90 days of the initial filing of the grievance.

Third parties, including fellow inmates, staff members, family members, attorneys, and outside advocates, are permitted to assist inmates in filing requests for administrative remedies relating to allegations of sexual abuse, and are also be permitted to file such requests on behalf of inmates.

Georgia Department of Corrections has established procedures for the filing of an emergency grievance when the inmate is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse.

After receiving an emergency grievance alleging a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, Georgia Department of Corrections immediately forwards the grievance (or any portion thereof that alleges the substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse) to a level of review at which immediate corrective action is taken, and provides an initial response within 48 hours, and issues a final agency decision within 5 calendar days. The initial response and final agency decision documents Georgia Department of Corrections' determination whether the inmate is in substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse and the action taken in response to the emergency grievance.

Georgia Department of Corrections may discipline an inmate for filing a grievance related to alleged sexual abuse only where Georgia Department of Corrections demonstrates that the inmate filed the grievance in bad faith.

**§115.53 Inmate access to outside confidential support services**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Based on interview with random inmates and inmates who reported sexual assault

Valdosta State Prison provides inmates with access to a staff trained victim advocate for emotional support services related to sexual abuse. There are currently no victim advocate services available in the community.

Valdosta State Prison informs inmates, prior to giving them access, of the extent to which such communications will be monitored and the extent to which reports of abuse will be forwarded to authorities in accordance with mandatory reporting laws.

Georgia Department of Corrections is attempting to find a victim advocate service for the inmates.

**§115.54 Third party reporting**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV E. 4 and PREA Pamphlet.

Georgia Department of Corrections has a method to receive third-party reports of sexual abuse/harassment and distributes publicly, information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment on behalf of an inmate. Visitors can go to [www.dcor.state.ga.us](http://www.dcor.state.ga.us)

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV F. 1. (g-i); PREA brochure. Based on interviews with random staff; warden and medical/mental health staff.

Georgia Department of Corrections requires all staff to report immediately and according to agency policy any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurred in a facility, whether or not it is part of Georgia Department of Corrections; retaliation against inmates or staff who reported such an incident; and any staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to an incident or retaliation.

Apart from reporting to designated supervisors or officials, staff does not reveal any information related to a sexual abuse report to anyone other than to the extent necessary, as specified in agency policy, to make treatment, investigation, and other security and management decisions.

If the alleged victim is considered a vulnerable adult under a State or local vulnerable person's statute, Georgia Department of Corrections reports the allegation to the designated State or local services agency under applicable mandatory reporting laws.

Valdosta State Prison reports all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including third-party and anonymous reports, to Valdosta State Prison's designated investigators.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

GDOC 208.06 IV.F.2 and Sexual Allegation Report Form. Based on interviews with random staff, and warden.

Immediate action is taken to protect inmates when Georgia Department of Corrections learns that an inmate is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV F. 3 (a-d). Based on interview with agency head and warden.

Upon receiving an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused while confined at another facility, the head of Valdosta State Prison that received the allegation notifies the head of Valdosta State Prison or appropriate office of Georgia Department of Corrections where the alleged abuse occurred. Such notification is provided as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving the allegation, and all actions are thoroughly documented.

§115.64	<b>Staff first responder duties</b>
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Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

X Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV F. 4; Coordinated Response Plan. Based on interview with security staff who are first responders, random staff and inmates who reported sexual abuse.

Upon learning of an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused, the first security staff member to respond separates the alleged victim and abuser; preserves and protects any crime scene until appropriate steps can be taken to collect any evidence; and if the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating; and if the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, ensure that the alleged abuser does not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating.

If the first staff responder is not a security staff member, the responder request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, and then notify security staff.

§115.65	<b>Coordinated response</b>
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Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

X Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV F.5. and Coordinated Response Plan. Based on interview with warden.

Valdosta State Prison has a written institutional plan to coordinate actions taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse, among staff first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators, and facility leadership.

**§115.66 Preservation of ability to protect inmates from contact with abusers**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)
- Not applicable

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Based on interview with agency head Georgia Department of Corrections does not have Collective Bargaining.

**§115.67 Agency protection against retaliation**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV F. 6 (a-e). Based on interview with agency head, warden, and designated staff member with monitoring retaliation.

Georgia Department of Corrections has a policy to protect all inmates and staff who report sexual abuse or sexual harassment or cooperate with sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigations from retaliation by other inmates or staff, and designate which staff members or departments are charged with monitoring retaliation.

Georgia Department of Corrections has multiple protection measures, such as housing changes or transfers for inmate victims or abusers, removal of alleged staff or inmate abusers from contact with victims, and emotional support services for inmates or staff that fear retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment or for cooperating with investigations.

For at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, Georgia Department of Corrections monitors the conduct and treatment of inmates or staff who reported the sexual abuse and of inmates who were reported to have suffered sexual abuse to see if there are changes that may suggest possible retaliation by inmates or staff, and act promptly to remedy any such retaliation. There is periodic status checks performed. Items Georgia Department of Corrections should monitor include any inmate disciplinary reports, housing, or program changes, or negative performance reviews or reassignments of staff. Georgia Department of Corrections continues such monitoring beyond 90 days if the initial monitoring indicates a continuing need.

If any other individual who cooperates with an investigation expresses a fear of retaliation, Georgia Department of Corrections takes appropriate measures to protect that individual against retaliation.

**§115.68 Post allegation protective custody**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Based on interview with warden.

Any use of segregated housing to protect an inmate who is alleged to have suffered sexual abuse receives all the same rights and privileges as general population inmates.

**§115.71 Criminal and administrative agency investigation**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV G. 3; Staff Training Roster; NIC Certificate and In Service Training Record. Based on interview with investigative staff.

When Georgia Department of Corrections conducts its own investigations into allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, it does so promptly, thoroughly, and objectively for all allegations, including third-party and anonymous reports.

Where sexual abuse is alleged, Georgia Department of Corrections uses investigators who have received special training in sexual abuse investigations.

Investigators gather and preserve direct and circumstantial evidence, including any available physical and DNA evidence and any available electronic monitoring data; interview alleged victims, suspected perpetrators, and witnesses; and review prior complaints and reports of sexual abuse involving the suspected perpetrator.

When the quality of evidence appears to support criminal prosecution, Georgia Department of Corrections conducts compelled interviews only after consulting with prosecutors as to whether compelled interviews may be an obstacle for subsequent criminal prosecution.

The credibility of an alleged victim, suspect, or witness is assessed on an individual basis and is not determined by the person's status as inmate or staff. No agency requires an inmate who

alleges sexual abuse to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an allegation.

Administrative investigations include efforts to determine whether staff actions or failures to act contributed to the abuse; and are documented in written reports that contain a thorough description of physical, testimonial, and documentary evidence, the reasoning behind credibility assessments, and investigative facts and findings, and attaches copies of all documentary evidence where feasible.

Substantiated allegations of conduct that appears to be criminal are referred to Georgia Department of Corrections Internal Affairs for prosecution.

Georgia Department of Corrections retains all written reports for as long as the alleged abuser is incarcerated or employed by Georgia Department of Corrections, plus five years.

The departure of the alleged abuser or victim from the employment or control of Valdosta State Prison or agency does not provide a basis for terminating an investigation.

§115.72	<b>Evidentiary standard for administrative investigation</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV G. 14. Based on interview with investigative staff.

Georgia Department of Corrections imposes no standard higher than a preponderance of the evidence in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated.

§115.73	<b>Reporting to inmates</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV G. 15; PREA Allegation Notification Letter. Based on interview with warden; investigative staff; inmate who reported sexual assault.

Following an investigation into an inmate's allegation that they suffered sexual abuse in an agency facility, Georgia Department of Corrections informs the inmate as to whether the allegation has been determined to be substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded.

If Georgia Department of Corrections did not conduct the investigation, it requests the relevant information from the investigative agency in order to inform the inmate.

Following an inmate's allegation that a staff member has committed sexual abuse against the inmate, Georgia Department of Corrections subsequently informs the inmate (unless Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that the allegation is unfounded) whenever the staff member is no longer posted within the inmate's unit; the staff member is no longer employed at Valdosta State Prison; Georgia Department of Corrections learns that the staff member has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within Valdosta State Prison; or Georgia Department of Corrections learns that the staff member has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within Valdosta State Prison.

Following an inmate's allegation that they had been sexually abused by another inmate, Georgia Department of Corrections subsequently informs the alleged victim whenever Georgia Department of Corrections learns that the alleged abuser has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within Valdosta State Prison; or Georgia Department of Corrections learns that the alleged abuser has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within Valdosta State Prison.

All such notifications or attempted notifications are documented.

An agency's obligation to report under this standard is terminated if the inmate is released from Georgia Department of Corrections' custody.

§115.76	<b>Disciplinary sanctions for staff</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV H. Reviewed Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct Acknowledgment Statement.

Staff is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination for violating agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies. Termination is the presumptive disciplinary sanction for staff who has engaged in sexual abuse.

Disciplinary sanctions for violations of agency policies relating to sexual abuse or sexual harassment (other than actually engaging in sexual abuse) are commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the acts committed, the staff member's disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other staff with similar histories.

All terminations for violations of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies, or resignations by staff who would have been terminated if not for their resignation, are reported to law enforcement agencies, unless the activity was clearly not criminal, and to any relevant licensing bodies.

§115.77	<b>Corrective action for contractors and volunteers</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV H. 2; Sexual Assault/ sexual Misconduct Acknowledgement Statement. Based on interview with warden.

Any contractor or volunteer who engages in sexual abuse is prohibited from contact with inmates and are reported to law enforcement agencies, unless the activity was clearly not criminal, and to relevant licensing bodies.

Valdosta State Prison takes appropriate remedial measures, and considers whether to prohibit further contact with inmates, in the case of any other violation of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies by a contractor or volunteer.

§115.78	<b>Disciplinary sanctions for inmates</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV H.3. and SOP II. B 02-0001 Based on interview with medical/mental health staff.

Inmates are subject to disciplinary sanctions pursuant to a formal disciplinary process following an administrative finding that the inmate engaged in inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse or following a criminal finding of guilt for inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse.

Sanctions are commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the abuse committed, the inmate’s disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other inmates with similar histories.

The disciplinary process considers whether an inmate’s mental disabilities or mental illness contributed to his behavior when determining what type of sanction, if any, should be imposed.

Valdosta State Prison offers Trauma Group therapy for the victims and offers the perpetrators Sex Offender Prevention Programs designed to address and correct underlying reasons or motivations for the abuse.

Georgia Department of Corrections disciplines an inmate for sexual contact with staff only upon a finding that the staff member did not consent to such contact.

A report of sexual abuse made in good faith based upon a reasonable belief that the alleged conduct occurred does not constitute falsely reporting an incident or lying, even if an investigation does not establish evidence sufficient to substantiate the allegation.

Georgia Department of Corrections prohibits all sexual activity between inmates and may discipline inmates for such activity.

§115.81

**Medical and Mental health screening; history of sexual abuse**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV. I. Based on interview with staff responsible for risk screening and medical/mental health staff

If the screening indicates that an inmate has experienced prior sexual victimization, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, staff ensure that the inmate is offered a follow-up meeting with a medical or mental health practitioner within 14 days of the intake screening.

If the screening indicates that an inmate has previously perpetrated sexual abuse/prior sexual victimization, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, staff ensure that the inmate is offered a follow-up meeting with a mental health practitioner within 14 days of the intake screening.

Any information related to sexual victimization or abusiveness that occurred in an institutional setting is strictly limited to medical and mental health practitioners and other staff, as necessary, to inform treatment plans and security and management decisions, including housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments, or as otherwise required by Federal, State, or local law.

Medical and mental health practitioners obtain informed consent from inmates before reporting information about prior sexual victimization that did not occur in an institutional setting.

§115.82

**Access to emergency medical and mental health services**

Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed SOP IIA21-0001. Reviewed SANE nurse Call Roster from Satilla. Based on interview with medical and mental health staff and inmates who reported sexual abuse.

Inmate victims of sexual abuse receive timely, unimpeded access to emergency medical treatment and crisis intervention services, the nature and scope of which are determined by medical and mental health practitioners according to their professional judgment.

If no qualified medical or mental health practitioners are on duty at the time a report of recent abuse is made, security staff first responders take preliminary steps to protect the victim and immediately notify the appropriate medical and mental health practitioners.

Inmate victims of sexual abuse while incarcerated are offered timely information about and timely access to emergency contraception and sexually transmitted infections prophylaxis, in accordance with professionally accepted standards of care, where medically appropriate.

Treatment services are provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident.

§115.83

**Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed Medical PREA Log. Based on interview with medical/mental health staff and inmates who reported sexual assault.

Valdosta State Prison offers medical and mental health evaluation and, as appropriate, treatment to all inmates who have been victimized by sexual abuse in any prison, jail, lockup, or juvenile facility.

The evaluation and treatment of such victims include, as appropriate, follow-up services, treatment plans, and, when necessary, referrals for continued care following their transfer to, or placement in, other facilities, or their release from custody.

Valdosta State Prison provides such victims with medical and mental health services consistent with the community level of care.

Inmate victims of sexual abuse while incarcerated are offered tests for sexually transmitted infections as medically appropriate.

Treatment services are provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident.

§115.86

**Sexual abuse incident reviews**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Reviewed GDOC SOP 208.06 IV J. and Incident Report. Based on interview with warden, PREA compliance manager; incident review team.

Valdosta State Prison conducts a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every sexual abuse investigation, including where the allegation has not been substantiated, unless the allegation has been determined to be unfounded. This review occurs within 30 days of the conclusion of the investigation. The review team includes upper-level management officials, with input from line supervisors, investigators, and medical or mental health practitioners.

The review team considers whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse; whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; or gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at Valdosta State Prison; and they examine the area in Valdosta State Prison where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse; assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts; assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff.

§115.87	<b>Data collection</b>
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Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)

X Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Georgia Department of Corrections collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions, and aggregates the incident-based sexual abuse data at least annually.

The incident-based data collected is based on the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice.

Georgia Department of Corrections maintains, reviews, and collects data as needed from all available incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews.

Georgia Department of Corrections obtains incident-based and aggregated data from every private facility with which it contracts for the confinement of its inmates.

Upon request, Georgia Department of Corrections provides all such data from the previous calendar year to the Department of Justice no later than June 30.

§115.88	<b>Data review for corrective action</b>
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- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Based on interview with PREA coordinator.

Georgia Department of Corrections reviews data collected to assess and improve 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 Georgia Department of Corrections as a whole.

Such reports includes a comparison of the current year’s data and corrective actions with those from prior years and provide an assessment of Georgia Department of Corrections’ progress in addressing sexual abuse.

Georgia Department of Corrections’ report is approved by Georgia Department of Corrections head and made readily available to the public through its website [www.dcor.state.ga.us/pdf/GDC-Annual-PREA-Report-CY2015.pdf](http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/pdf/GDC-Annual-PREA-Report-CY2015.pdf)

§115.89      **Data storage, publication and destruction**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor comments, including corrective actions needed if does not meet standard**

Georgia Department of Corrections makes all aggregated sexual abuse data, from facilities under its direct control and private facilities with which it contracts, readily available to the public at least annually through its website or [www.dcor.state.ga.us/pdf/GDC-Annual-PREA-Report-CY2015.pdf](http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/pdf/GDC-Annual-PREA-Report-CY2015.pdf)

All reports are securely retained and maintained for at least 10 years after the date of the initial collection unless Federal, State, or local law requires.

**AUDITOR CERTIFICATION:**

The auditor certifies that the contents of the report are accurate to the best of her knowledge and no conflict of interest exists with respect to his or her ability to conduct an audit of Georgia Department of Corrections under review.

*Katherine Brown*

January 22, 2016

Auditor Signature

Date