



# Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

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Date: February 15, 2019  
To: Mark Essick, Sheriff via Chain of Command  
From: Dave House, Detention Division Administrative Lieutenant  
Subject: PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires all law enforcement agencies with detention facilities of any kind to create an annual report of all sexual assaults and sexual harassment committed within its facilities. This report must be completed, submitted to the agency head, and made public via the agency's internet website.

Each agency shall review data collected in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. This will include identifying problem areas and taking corrective action on an ongoing basis. This report must include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions along with those from prior years.

A toll free "hot line" has been provided enabling inmates at both facilities to confidentially report sexual assault or harassment, as well as seek outside advocacy and counseling. This outside agency is Verity Sonoma County Rape Crisis Center. Procedures are in place to effectively forward inmate reports and ensure a quick response

In 2016, our PREA policy and applicable procedures were audited and found in compliance with the standards. In addition booking intake forms were revised and the inmate handbook was completed. Educational material is provided to inmates during the booking process to include notification of our zero tolerance policy and information on how to report any incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Our mental health and medical staff have also updated their processes to comply with the PREA standards. Information is accessible to all inmates in a variety of different ways to ensure all inmates understand what resources are available to them. Posters are located throughout the facilities and brochures are included in the inmate orientation handbook.

In 2018, we installed additional monitoring technology in areas of the Main Adult Detention Facility which will enhance our ability to respond to PREA allegations and reported incidents.

Training for all staff continues agency wide. This training includes instructing staff on proper documentation to enable effective reviews of incidents. Our agency will provide each employee with refresher training every two years to ensure that all employees know the agency's current

sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures. In addition, in the years in which an employee does not receive refresher training, our agency shall provide refresher information on current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero tolerance policy and is dedicated to evaluating and improving as needed our agency's policies, practices and training about sexual abuse prevention, detection and response.

Annual Statistics

Sexual Harassment, Non-Consensual Sexual Acts and Abusive Sexual Contact are all defined as PREA related incidents involving inmates. Staff Sexual Harassment and Staff Sexual Misconduct are defined as PREA related incidents involving staff. During the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, there were 33 PREA related incidents reported in our detention facilities. Of the 33 reports, 19 reports were inmate vs inmate. 14 reports listed the inmate as the victim and staff as the suspect. A review of all reports determined all cases were investigated properly and in accordance with the S.C.S.O. policy and PREA. A breakdown of those incidents is listed below: (All personal identifiers have been redacted from this report).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCIDENT TYPE</u>	<u>VICTIM</u>	<u>SUSPECT</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
1/10/18	Nonconsensual	Inmate	Inmate	Unfounded
1/7/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
1/16/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
1/22/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
1/29/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
2/9/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
2/22/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
3/13/18	Abusive Contact	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
4/1/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
4/17/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
4/23/18	Abusive Contact	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
5/2/18	Abusive Contact	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
5/5/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
5/6/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
6/6/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
6/28/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
7/17/18	Nonconsensual	Inmate	Inmate	Unfounded
7/25/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
8/2/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Substantiated
8/3/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
8/4/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
8/3/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded

8/5/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
8/8/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
9/18/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
9/18/18	Sexual Harassment	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
9/19/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
9/26/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
10/1/18	Nonconsensual	Inmate	Inmate	Unfounded
10/3/18	Nonconsensual	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
10/24/18	Sexual Misconduct	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
11/3/18	Abusive Contact	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
11/11/18	Nonconsensual	Inmate	Inmate	Unfounded

The Department of Justice defines the dispositions of the above cases as the following:

- Unfounded – The investigation determined that the event did NOT occur
- Unsubstantiated – The investigation concluded that evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred
- Substantiated – The event was investigated and determined to have occurred, based on a preponderance of the evidence

Of the 33 reported incidents in 2018, eight incidents were substantiated (outlined in the chart below). A comparison of substantiated incidents over the last 3 years is listed below:

Comparison Chart of Substantiated Incidents:

2018	Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	Abusive Sexual Contact	Sexual Harassment	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Staff Sexual Harassment
<b>Dorm</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cell</b>	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Common Area</b>	0	0	4	1	0
<b>Booking</b>	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Kitchen</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>	0	1	0	0	0

<b>2017</b>	<b>Nonconsensual Sexual Acts</b>	<b>Abusive Sexual Contact</b>	<b>Sexual Harassment</b>	<b>Staff Sexual Misconduct</b>	<b>Staff Sexual Harassment</b>
<b>Dorm</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cell</b>	1	0	3	1	0
<b>Common Area</b>	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Booking</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kitchen</b>	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0

<b>2016</b>	<b>Nonconsensual Sexual Acts</b>	<b>Abusive Sexual Contact</b>	<b>Sexual Harassment</b>	<b>Staff Sexual Misconduct</b>	<b>Staff Sexual Harassment</b>
<b>Dorm</b>	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Cell</b>	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Common Area</b>	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Booking</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kitchen</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0

In reviewing all of the reports, inmates are generally victimized by other inmates and these incidents primarily take place inside the inmate housing areas. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office conducts at a minimum two rounds per hour on all inmates. Rounds are documented on paper or recorded into the Rounds Automated System. Our staff is committed to providing a secure, safe, and humane environment for inmates and staff. In accordance with PREA and its standards, we mandate zero tolerance and commit to maintaining a program of education, prevention, detection, investigation, criminal and administrative sanctions against perpetrators, data collection, treatment and support for any inmate who is a victim of sexual abuse.

Our two facilities do not house juveniles. Should a juvenile be transported to court via our Main Adult Detention court tunnels, a designated area of the facility is placed on lockdown during the juvenile's escort ensuring the juvenile has no contact with any adult inmate. The juvenile is not out of the sight of transporting Deputies at any time throughout the escort.

An independent PREA Audit was conducted in 2015/2016 in which we were found in full compliance with PREA standards. A second independent PREA Audit will be scheduled this year.

We continue to evaluate best practices in supervising/monitoring the inmate population in an effort to further reduce incidents of sexual victimization within our facilities.