



# Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

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Date: June 22, 2015  
To: Steve Freitas, Sheriff via Chain of Command  
From: Angela Rizzo, Administrative Lieutenant  
Subject: PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

*SF*  
*10/17/16*

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 alleged 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.

Over the past several years, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) in accordance with PREA began implementing additional PREA procedures, revising current policies, providing training to staff, and providing educational and informational material to inmates. The current policy and inmate handbook began revision to include information from the national standards established by the PREA Commission.

Staff developed and implemented a PREA training curriculum and presented it agency wide. Our agency will provide each employee with a refresher training every two years to ensure that all employees understand the agency's current PREA policy and procedures. In addition, our agency will provide ongoing information involving PREA updates, training, and training material. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero tolerance policy and is dedicated to evaluating and improving our agency's policies, practices and training about sexual abuse prevention, detection and response.

In 2013, there were a total of 15 reports alleging sexual assault or harassment at our Main Adult and our North County Detention Facilities. A breakdown of the reports are listed below:

<u>VICTIM</u>	<u>ACCUSED</u>	<u>COMPLAINT</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
Staff	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Convicted
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Battery	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Crime Report Taken
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Battery	Crime Report Taken
Inmate	Staff	Rape	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Harassment	Unsubstantiated
Inmate	Staff	Sexual Battery	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Unsubstantiated
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Crime Report Taken
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Crime Report Taken
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Battery	Unfounded
Inmate	Staff	Rape	Unfounded
Inmate	Civilian	Sexual Battery	Unfounded

A review of all reports determined all cases were investigated properly and in accordance with the SCSO policy and PREA. Two cases were filed by the District Attorney's Office resulting in one conviction and one acquittal after a jury trial. Three additional cases were not filed. Two incidents were unsubstantiated and all subjects declined to press charges. The remaining eight incidents were unfounded.

In 2012, there were eleven incidents reported. One was an out of custody incident and was referred to the appropriate agency for investigation. There were two incidents of sexual battery, and in both incidents the inmates did not press charges and stated it was consensual. Three incidents of sexual battery, one oral copulation, and one sexual harassment were not filed. Three incidents were unfounded.

In the past two years, there were a total of nine (9) confirmed reports of sexual assault or sexual harassment. Eight reports listed the victim as an inmate and one victim was a civilian contract employee. Five incidents involved indecent exposure, two involved sexual battery, one oral copulation, and one sexual harassment. One incident occurred in a module dayroom, six occurred in the inmate's housing unit cell, one in a sobering cell, and one in a non-contact visiting booth.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office currently contracts with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office for inmate confinement. We presently house approximately 35 inmates in Alameda County. Alameda County maintains a zero tolerance policy towards sexual abuse and sexual harassment of any kind. They are compliant with PREA standards.

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.

In reviewing all of the reports, most allegations were made against other inmates and these incidents primarily take place inside the inmate housing cells. 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 inmates who have been a victim of sexual abuse.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office is in the process of furthering inmate education, developing and implementing new intake screening tools, revising policies and the inmate handbook and providing additional training for all of its staff. These efforts are focused on reducing and eliminating incidents involving sexual assault or sexual harassment in our facilities.