



# 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 2014

*SK*  
*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.

This year, 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.

During 2014, our PREA policy and applicable procedures were revised and submitted 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 incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Our mental health and medical staff have also updated their processes to comply with PREA standards. Information is accessible to inmates in a variety of ways to ensure they understand what resources are available to them. Posters are located throughout the facilities and brochures are included in the inmate orientation handbook. Additional resources are planned for the future.

Training updates shall continue to be provided to personnel agency wide. This training includes instructing staff on proper documentation to enable effective reviews of incidents. Our agency will provide employees a refresher training every two years to ensure that all employees understand the PREA policy and procedures. In addition our agency will provide ongoing information involving PREA updates, training, and training material. We have requested an upgrade to our facilities video equipment. This would include the capability to play videos in the housing units and provide inmates with information regarding PREA. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) 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 2014, there were a total of 16 reports filed alleging sexual assault or sexual harassment at our Main Adult and our North County Detention Facilities. 14 reports were made at the Main Adult Detention Facility and 2 reports at the North County Detention Facility. A breakdown of the reports are listed below to include a comparison to prior years excluding unfounded incidents:

<u>VICTIM</u>	<u>ACCUSED</u>	<u>COMPLAINT</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Unsubstantiated
Inmate	Staff	Rape	Unfounded
Inmate	Staff	Rape	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Unsubstantiated
Inmate	Staff	Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Abuse	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Indecent Exposure	Unsubstantiated
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Abuse	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Battery	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Abuse	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Abuse	Unfounded
Inmate	Staff	Rape	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Battery	Unsubstantiated
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Harassment	Unsubstantiated
Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Harassment	Unfounded

<b>2014</b>	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Battery	Indecent Exposure	Sexual Assault	Oral Copulation
Dorm	1	0	0	0	0
Cell	0	1	3	0	0
Common Area	0	0	0	0	0
Booking	0	0	0	0	0
Kitchen	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0

2012-2013	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Battery	Indecent Exposure	Sexual Assault	Oral Copulation
Dorm	0	0	0	0	0
Cell	0	1	4	0	0
Common Area	0	1	0	0	0
Booking	1	0	0	0	1
Kitchen	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	2	0	0

A review of all reports determined all cases were investigated properly and in accordance with the SCSO policy and PREA. Eleven incidents investigated were unfounded. Five incidents were investigated and a Patrol Deputy responded. No inmate wished to press charges and all five were found to be unsubstantiated resulting in informational reports only. One unsubstantiated incident was reported by a third party inmate, and both inmates identified denied any sexual harassment and the third party had no further information.

Of the 16 reports, 12 reports were inmate vs inmate. Four reports listed the inmate as the victim and correctional staff as the suspect. All of the cases were thoroughly investigated and all four alleging staff were unfounded. Excluding the unfounded reports, one incident took place in a unit dorm area at the North County Detention Facility and four took place in a module cell at the Main Adult Detention Facility.

In the past three years only two of the alleged incidents were reported from our North County Detention Facility (NCDF) with the remainder at the Main Adult Detention Facility (MADF). The primary location in which incidents took place were inside a cell. The NCDF has one unit with 8 cells while the remaining units having dorms. Neither of the two reports from the NCDF took place in the unit with cells. Based on the above information it appears incidents primarily occur in a cell where visibility to staff can be limited.

In 2012-2013, 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 and its 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, a majority of the 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.

Our staff is doing an outstanding job of managing a secure, safe, and humane environment for our inmates. Under direct supervision they interact with inmates daily. Due to mandatory overtime and the shortage of staff, maintaining minimum staffing levels can at times be a challenge for supervisors. We are hiring new recruits on a regular basis and as these recruits complete their training, staffing levels should improve.

In 2008, budget reductions resulted in the loss of allocated Detention staff. Grave shift staffing at the MADF no longer includes a Deputy posted in each module for the full shift. On grave shift there is generally one Deputy assigned to two modules at a time. These assignments require the Deputy to go back and forth leaving modules unstaffed regularly throughout the night. New acquired positions would enable staffing to increase on grave shift allowing additional supervision for inmates during the night.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office is in the process of furthering inmate education and updating our website. We will continue to evaluate and update our procedures to ensure compliance with PREA. These efforts are focused on reducing and eliminating incidents involving sexual assault or sexual harassment in our facilities.