



Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

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Date: October 26, 2016
To: Steve Freitas, Sheriff via Chain of Command
From: Heidi Flint, Compliance Deputy
Subject: PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

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.

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 2014-2015, 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 the 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.

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 with refresher training every year 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 surveillance equipment. 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, Nonconsensual Sexual Acts, Consensual Sexual Acts and Abusive Sexual Contact are all defined as PREA related incidents involving inmates. Staff Sexual Misconduct and Staff Sexual Harassment are defined as PREA related incidents involving Staff. During the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, there were 24 PREA related complaints filed by inmates incarcerated in our facilities. Each allegation was investigated. Below is a breakdown of those allegations. The comparison excludes unfounded allegations;

2015 Reporting

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>INCIDENT TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>VICTIM</u>	<u>SUSPECT</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
1/26/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
2/18/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Dayroom	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
3/18/2015	MADF	NonConsensual Sexual Act	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unfounded
4/6/2015	MADF	Abusive Sexual Contact	Kitchen	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
4/7/2015	MADF	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Module Cell	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
4/15/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
4/15/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Dayroom	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
4/17/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Booking	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
4/30/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
5/24/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
5/29/2015	MADF	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Module Cell	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
7/24/2015	MADF	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Module Cell	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
7/31/2015	MADF	Sexual Assault	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unfounded
9/7/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
9/12/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
9/21/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
9/21/2015	NCDF	Sexual Harassment	Module Cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unsubstantiated
10/6/2015	MADF	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Module Cell	Inmate	Staff	Unsubstantiated
10/7/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module cell	Inmate	Inmate	Unfounded
10/15/2015	MADF	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Out of County Report	Inmate	Staff	Unfounded
10/29/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
12/9/2015	MADF	Sexual Harassment	Module	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated
7/20/2015	NCDF	Sexual Harassment	Module	Inmate	Inmate	Substantiated

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

- **Unfounded** refers to an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.
- **Unsubstantiated** refers to an allegation that was investigated and concluded the evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred.
- **Substantiated** refers to an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced sufficient evidence to make a final determination that the event occurred.

2015	Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	Abusive Sexual Contact	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Misconduct	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Staff Sexual Harassment
Dorm	0	0	4	0	0	0
Cell	0	0	1	0	0	0
Common Area	0	0	1	0	0	0
Booking	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kitchen	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0
2014	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	

Of the 24 reports, 19 reports were inmate vs inmate. Five reports listed the inmate as the victim and correctional staff as the suspect. All of the cases were thoroughly investigated and all five alleging staff were unfounded/unsubstantiated. A review of all reports determined all cases were investigated properly and in accordance with Sonoma County Sheriff's Office policy and the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. In reviewing each of the reports, since tracking began, excluding those

determined to be unfounded, we have found that inmates typically victimize other inmates. It can be determined that the reporting of PREA crimes was higher for 2015 due to the increase of PREA related education.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office currently contracts with the Alameda and Solano County Sheriff's Office for inmate confinement. We only contract with agencies that are in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

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.

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 August, we participated in a PREA audit of both MADF & NCDF and expect to receive full PREA certification by the end of 2016, pending minimal updates.

While continuous jail planning, staffing and construction are in progress, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office will continue to provide inmate safety and overall security in our facilities. In the next 12 month period, we will continue to educate both staff and inmates about PREA, document any reports of sexual victimization and appropriately investigate any allegations of sexual assault, abuse and harassment. We strive to seek better ways to monitor, both physically and electronically, areas that may not be readily visible to staff in an effort to reduce incidents of sexual victimization.