



SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

EDDIE ENGRAM
Sheriff-Coroner

JAMES NAUGLE
Assistant Sheriff
Law Enforcement Division

MICHAEL MERCHEN
Assistant Sheriff
Detention Division

HEIDI KEITH
Chief of Financial and
Administrative Services

Date: February 9, 2023

To: Sheriff Eddie Engram, via Chain of Command *JRE*

From: Lieutenant Jason Squires

Subject: North County Detention Facility Prison Rape Elimination Act Annual Report 2022

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, approved by 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, response policies, practices, and training. This will include 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 the agency as a whole. The report must include a comparison of the current year's data, any corrective actions taken from prior years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in assessing sexual abuse.

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

In 2016, 2019 and 2022, the Sheriff's Office PREA policy and applicable procedures were audited by an independent auditor and found in compliance with the standards. In addition, booking intake forms were revised and the incarcerated persons handbook was completed to better support PREA. Educational materials are provided to incarcerated persons 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 contractor also updated their processes to comply with PREA standards. Information is accessible to all incarcerated persons in a variety of different formats to ensure all incarcerated persons understand what resources are available to them. For example, posters are located throughout the facilities and information is included in the incarcerated person orientation handbook.

PREA training is completed for all Detention Division employees. This training includes instructing staff on proper documentation to enable effective reviews of incidents. The Sheriff’s Office will provide each Detention employee with 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 the employee 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 the 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 incarcerated persons. Staff Sexual Harassment and Staff Sexual Misconduct are defined as PREA related incidents involving staff. On November 19, 2020, all incarcerated persons and staff from the North County Detention Facility were transferred to the Main Adult Detention Facility due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This allowed the Detention Division to be able to social distance incarcerated persons, instead of housing them in dormitory housing units. The North County Detention Facility remains accessible for civilians who are required to enroll in the Electronic Monitoring Program. The Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office continues to review the incarcerated person population and develop housing plans in the event that the incarcerated person population increases and requires North County Detention Facility to house incarcerated persons.

Due to the North County Facility not housing incarcerated persons since November 19, 2020, there are no PREA incidents that occurred in the facility in 2022. In 2020, the North County Detention Facility had one unsubstantiated PREA claim.

2/17/2020	NCDF	Incarcerated Person	Incarcerated Person	Sexual Harassment	Unsubstantiated
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In 2022, the North County Detention Facility currently installed mirrors in the kitchen and Unit 501 to increase visibility and prevent PREA related instances in its facility.

The Sheriff's Office two adult detention facilities do not house juveniles.

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