

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

2015 Annual Report

PREA Background:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into Federal law in 2003 by President George W. Bush. It was created to address the problem of sexual misconduct in all confinement facilities. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice released national PREA standards to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. The Act requires all federal, state, and local corrections agencies to have a zero-tolerance policy regarding rape in prisons, jails, police lock-ups, and community confinement facilities.

The Iowa County Sheriff's Office and its Jail has a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual misconduct of any kind within its facility. The Iowa County Jail is in compliance with all federal and state laws as they pertain to PREA, sexual violence, and sexual misconduct.

Definitions:

- Substantiated – A substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- Unsubstantiated – An unsubstantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.
- Unfounded – An unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Annual report

Since the beginning of 2015, the Iowa County Sheriff's Office has undertaken the responsibility of becoming 100% compliant under all PREA rules and guidelines. A PREA Coordinator was designated and multiple policies were written. A training curriculum was developed and multiple agencies in addition to our own were trained in PREA policies and procedures. Every person booked into the Iowa County Jail is given information on PREA in multiple formats, including how to report incidents. The public is also made aware of our policies through posters and a video presentation. Current policies as well as the physical layout of the jail were considered and some changes were made in order to become PREA compliant.

There is a system in place to collect data of any possible sexual misconduct at the Iowa County Jail. Every allegation of sexual misconduct is recorded in an accurate, uniform method and is then reviewed for possible criminal prosecution. The PREA Coordinator then aggregates all data collected annually. For 2015, there were zero allegations of Inmate on Inmate nonconsensual sexual acts, zero allegations of Inmate on Inmate Abusive Sexual Contacts, and zero allegations of Staff on Inmate sexual misconduct or harassment.

The Iowa County Jail was audited by an independent, Department of Justice certified, PREA auditor on December 1st, 2015 and are currently awaiting the results of the audit, with full expectations of becoming 100% compliant. The Iowa County Jail is committed to continuously revising and improving our policies and procedures to improve the prevention, detection, and response to incidents of sexual misconduct in our facility.