

THE PROGRAM for Offenders

Prison Rape Elimination Act Annual Report for 2020

Introduction

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress in 2003 to establish national standards for the detection, prevention and reduction of sexual assault in confinement settings. It establishes a zero-tolerance culture for institutional sexual assault and makes prevention a priority in the US prison and jail system.

To comply with PREA standards, THE PROGRAM for Offenders provides a safe, secure and humane environment for offenders, which includes the right to be free from all forms of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. The facility has a zero-tolerance policy for offender-on-offender sexual assault, staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment. All allegations of sexual abuse will be investigated. Investigations which reveal criminal conduct will be referred to law enforcement for further investigation and prosecution. The agency also recognizes the right of staff and offenders to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual misconduct.

Purpose

The Prison Rape Elimination Act requires that each agency collect data for every allegation of sexual abuse and aggregate the data at least annually. This report is a summary of THE PROGRAM's activities regarding PREA compliance in 2020. This document serves as an annual review to assess the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention/detection procedures and to initiate process improvement where needed.

PREA Activities in 2020

- Staff training on PREA requirements continued. PREA training was provided to all newly hired employees so that they would be aware of PREA requirements before they were assigned to a duty post. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, large group trainings were replaced by smaller limited-size group instruction.
- Institutional response plans were reviewed. The response plans meet the requirements of the PREA federal rule. No changes were made to the response plans.
- Intake specialists continue to provide a PREA orientation to all new residents. All residents receive a PREA orientation within five days of reception.

- Intake specialists continue to assess all new residents using PREA assessment tools to determine potential predatory behavior and potential victimization. All residents are assessed for predatory behavior/victimization within five days of reception and again after 20 days. They are also reassessed any time a resident is out of the facility overnight (for example, out to court) and returns.
- THE PROGRAM for Offenders website was updated to include additional PREA information. A copy of the 2019 agency PREA annual report was uploaded to the site.
- Data collection continued. Audit files were updated with 2020 data as necessary. Monthly data reports regarding PREA activities in ACTA and the West Homestead facility were recorded.

2020 PREA Data

Resident on Resident Allegations			
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
Sexual Contact	0	0	0
Nonconsensual Sex Acts	0	0	0
Sexual Harassment	0	0	0
Staff Sexual Misconduct			
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
Sexual Contact	0	0	0
Nonconsensual Sex Acts	0	0	0
Sexual Harassment	0	0	0

Comparative Analysis 2019-2020

THE PROGRAM had one unfounded incident of staff sexual harassment toward a resident in 2019. In 2020, the agency had no resident on resident PREA allegations and no allegations of staff sexual misconduct or harassment. Given the degree of understanding that residents have of their rights regarding PREA and their knowledge of how to report PREA violations, there is no statistical indication of increased resident on resident sexual activity or of increased staff sexual misconduct. It should be noted that due to Covid-19 mitigation efforts, the overall population of PROGRAM for Offenders facilities was greatly reduced throughout most of 2020. Consequently, the pool of potential perpetrators/victims was significantly reduced as well.

PREA Deficit Analysis/2021 Goals

THE PROGRAM has established the following goals regarding PREA for 2021:


- Provide PREA training to all employees during 2021.
- Continue to provide internal training as well as seek external sources for training regarding transgender and LGBTI issues.
- Ensure that employees meet 100% of PREA training requirements for 2021. It is hoped that Covid-19 vaccination/treatment mitigation efforts will permit the resumption of large group training in 2021.
- Ensure that all residents receive PREA orientation within the prescribed time frames.
- Ensure that all residents are screened for potential predatory behavior and victimization within the prescribed time frames.
- Have additional individuals trained as certified PREA investigators.
- Have an additional individual(s) trained as PREA coordinator.
- Prepare for a PREA audit in the last quarter of 2021.
- Continue to collect data/documentation to update PREA standard files in preparation for the next PREA audit.

- Periodically review PREA audit files to ensure continued compliance with PREA standards.

Conclusions

THE PROGRAM had no PREA complaints during 2020. Consequently, there is no indication of increased predatory sexual behavior or staff sexual misconduct at THE PROGRAM for Offenders. Both staff and residents continue to be trained regarding the requirements of the PREA policy, how to report PREA violations and how to respond to PREA violations.

Through continued staff/resident education and the advancement of a zero-tolerance culture, it is hoped that THE PROGRAM for Offenders will improve its ability to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse in its facilities.

Approved by:  Executive Director