

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report 2018

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 prison rape in prisons, jails, police lock-ups and community confinement facilities.

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office has a zero-tolerance policy relative to sexual misconduct. All facilities/programs comply with 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.

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Since 2012, when the final PREA standards came into effect, the Imperial County Sheriff's Office has made every attempt to maintain policies and procedures to guide our staff, volunteers and contractors with regard to incidents of sexual abuse and harassment. A Correctional Lieutenant is assigned as the PREA Compliance Manager, and is assigned to maintain that all Imperial County Jail facilities meet the standards as set forth in the PREA standards. It is the policy of the Imperial County Sheriff's Office to provide training to all staff, volunteers, contractors, and inmates to prevent sexual misconduct and to fully investigate and prosecute those involved in such conduct.

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office has a system in place to collect data on incidents of a sexual nature in all of the Imperial County Jail facilities. Each facility collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. The following table includes data from January 2018 to December 2018.

	Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Ongoing Investigation	Total Results
Inmate on Inmate Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	3	0	2	0	1	3
Inmate on Inmate Abusive Sexual Contacts	1	0	0	1	0	1
Staff on Inmate Sexual Misconduct and Harassment	2	1	0	1	0	2
Totals	6	1	2	2	1	6

There were 3 unsubstantiated, 2 unfounded and 1 substantiated allegations of sexual abuse in the Imperial County Jail facilities in the reporting period.

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office PREA Compliance Manager oversees that all facilities comply with PREA standards.

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office continues to make great efforts to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute all instances of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.