

2023 PREA ANNUAL REPORT

ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BACKGROUND

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003 to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse that occurs in confinement settings. On June 20, 2012, the Department of Justice (DOJ) published national standards for helping to reduce prison rapes that were developed by the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission. PREA applies to adult prisons and jails, juvenile confinement facilities, lockups, and community confinement facilities.

Implementation of these PREA standards to combat sexual abuse in confinement facilities will be contingent upon effective agency and facility leadership, and the development of an agency's principles prioritizing efforts to combat sexual abuse. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office (ASO) has a zero tolerance for any incidence of rape, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct.

PURPOSE

Pursuant to PREA standard §115.87 data must be collected, aggregated, and reviewed regarding reports of sexual abuse incidents. The standard requires each agency to report and publish their data annually. The purpose of this report is to assess and improve the effectiveness of the agency's sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. This report presents data collection findings for the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, Alexandria, Virginia. This report has been approved by Sheriff Sean Casey and is available on our website: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Sheriff>

GENERAL JAIL INFORMATION

Facility:	William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center
Address:	2001 Mill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Designated Capacity:	340
Average Daily Population:	293; 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023
Age Range of Population:	18 – 60+
Facility Custody Levels:	Minimum, medium, and maximum
Number of Staff:	205

ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office has a policy of zero tolerance for sexual misconduct against persons in its custody within all facilities and operations under the control of the Sheriff. Sexual conduct between inmates and staff, volunteers, or contract personnel and between inmates, regardless of consensual status, is prohibited and subject to administrative disciplinary action and criminal prosecution. Staff members who are made aware of allegations of sexual misconduct by staff against inmates or inmates against other inmates will immediately report the incident to a supervisor, regardless if the offense occurred in our facility or another correctional institution. It

is further the policy of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office that all allegations of staff on inmate and inmate on inmate sexual misconduct be immediately reported and investigated.

In line with the PREA standards the Alexandria Sheriff's Office requires all ASO staff, contractors and volunteers to attend mandatory PREA training specific to zero tolerance, prevention, detection and reporting. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office efforts include but are not limited to:

- Continued revision of ASO General Order ADM 20 Prison Rape Elimination Act
- Mandatory, annual and refresher trainings for all ASO staff, contractors and volunteers
- Jail management system was updated to track ASO inmate's 30-day PREA reassessments, identify limited English proficient inmates (LEP) and inmates identified as potential sexual assault victim risk
- Utilized inmate tablet system to reinforce inmate education by uploading all signage and comprehensive PREA video to the tablets
- Orientation materials translated into Chinese, Russian, Arabic and French
- Implementation of the ASO PREA screening form for contractors
- English and Spanish comprehensive PREA videos with American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and closed captioning in English and Spanish
- Updated zero tolerance signage throughout the facility
- Maintaining Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Emergency and Customer Communications as an external reporting mechanism independent of the ASO for inmates to report incidents of sexual abuse
- PREA training overview with DECC staff
- Implementation of the ASO Gender Identity and Search Request form
- Maintaining Memorandum of Understanding with the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Sexual Assault Hotline for emotional support and advocacy services
- Contracted Systematic Audits, LLC for a mock audit in preparation for our actual audit scheduled for June 2024

DEFINITIONS

Once a report of sexual abuse has been initiated and investigated, the incident is assigned a number and entered into a database maintained by the PREA coordinator. The incident will be classified using one of the following findings:

- **SUBSTANTIATED** – An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- **UNSUBSTANTIATED** – An allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether the event occurred.
- **UNFOUNDED** – An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

PREA Standard §115.6 specifically defines sexual abuse in terms of inmate-on-inmate, staff-on-inmate, along with sexual harassment and voyeurism. The Alexandria Sheriffs' Office utilizes the PREA definitions:

- **INMATE-ON-INMATE** – sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse: (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight; (2) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; (3) Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and (4) Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.
- **STAFF-ON-INMATE** – sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer includes any of the following acts, with or without consent of the inmate, detainee, or resident: (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight; (2) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; (3) Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; (4) Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; (5) Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; (6) Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this definition; (7) Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee, or resident, and (8) Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.
- **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** – includes (1) Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one inmate, detainee, or resident directed toward another; and (2) Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.
- **VOYEURISM** – means an invasion of privacy of an inmate, detainee, or resident by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties, such as peering at an inmate who is using a toilet in his or her cell to perform bodily functions; requiring an inmate to expose his or her buttocks, genitals, or breasts; or taking images of all or part of an inmate's naked body or of an inmate performing bodily functions.

SEXUAL ABUSE REPORTING

Inmates have multiple internal ways to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment, retaliation by other inmates or staff for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to such incidents. An inmate may report such incidents to any employee, including chaplains, medical, mental health or counseling staff, security staff or command staff. Staff shall accept reports made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties and shall promptly document any verbal reports.

Inmates may also report sexual abuse or sexual harassment by calling the Department of Emergency and Customer Communications at 703.746.4444, or by calling the Alexandria Sheriff's Office Investigations, Policy, and Oversight Section at 703.746.5008, or in writing using an inmate request form or grievance. The Department of Emergency and Customer Communications is not part of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.

The following PREA data captures reported allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2023.

PREA STATISTICS

Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	0	2	3
Unsubstantiated	3	3	5
Unfounded	3	3	2
Total	6	8	10

Staff-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment	2021	2022	2023
Substantiated	1*	0	4*
Unsubstantiated	0	1	1
Unfounded	10	13	13
Total	11	14	18

* These incidents were classified as sexual harassment and were handled pursuant to PREA standard §115.76.

Thorough and systematic investigations of sexual victimization are always conducted by the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Investigations that are determined to be substantiated or unsubstantiated are subject to an incident review which incorporates incident review criteria pursuant with PREA standard §115.86 to include:

1. Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse.
2. Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; or gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics within the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.
3. Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse.
4. Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts.
5. Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff; and
6. Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations made pursuant to this section, and any recommendations for improvement and submit such report to the Sheriff.

Pursuant with §115.76 disciplinary sanctions for violations of agency policies relating to sexual abuse or sexual harassment (other than actually engaging in sexual abuse) shall be commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the acts committed, the staff member's disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other staff with similar histories.

For all sexual abuse allegations from 2021 through 2023, no change in policy or practice was required, no physical barriers were identified and there were adequate staffing levels. We continue to use our sexual abuse incident review team (SAIRT), composed of upper-level management, front line supervisors, investigators, and medical and mental health practitioners. All sexual abuse investigations comply with PREA standard §115.86. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office will continue to make appropriate changes where necessary to ensure a safe, secure environment for inmates, staff, and the community.