

Sonoma County Probation Department
Institutions Branch, Juvenile Division
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report 2024

BACKGROUND

In 2003, the Federal Prison Elimination Act passed, and following the development of Juvenile Facility Standards in June of 2009, the act became effective on August 20, 2012. The act is intended to "...provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in federal, state, and local institutions..." (Prison Rape elimination Act, 2003).

PREA STANDARDS

The Sonoma County Probation Department is dedicated to maintaining a culture that promotes and supports the rights of detained youth to be free of sexual abuse and/or sexual misconduct. The Department has a policy mandating a zero tolerance for any form of sexual activity between staff, contractors, or volunteers with residents, or any sexual activity between residents regardless of consent status. Disciplinary actions for violations of the Department policies related to sexual misconduct will be commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the acts committed, ranging from administrative sanctions to criminal prosecution.

The Sonoma County Probation Department has designated the Juvenile Division's Deputy Chief Probation Office as the PREA Coordinator, and the Juvenile Hall and Probation Camp Directors as PREA Compliance Managers for their respective facilities. These managers work together to coordinate efforts to comply with PREA standards and show that the standards are integrated and followed in both detention facilities.

The Sonoma County Probation Department has a Staffing Plan that complies with the mandated staffing ratios specified by the California Board of State Community Corrections. The plan includes enhanced use of video monitoring to protect residents against sexual abuse. The Staffing Plan is reviewed annually to assess whether plan modifications including added technology and/or policy changes are necessary to enhance prevention of sexual abuse in the detention facilities. During this review, PREA Compliance Managers review staffing patterns, assess reports of misconduct, and evaluate the effectiveness of the facility's video monitoring system.

In 2018, following the annual Security Review, both facilities made significant enhancements to their video monitoring systems. The Juvenile Hall upgraded cameras on all housing units and added an additional camera on each unit to eliminate blind spots and capture the entire living area. In addition, cameras were added to the dormitory unit that houses the Boys and Girls Club, where youth engage in a variety of activities in multiple rooms. At Probation Camp, the DVR was replaced to comply with State video record preservation requirements, and new cameras were added to enhance video monitoring in areas of frequent use, including the television room, the kitchen, the greenhouse, and down the main corridor.

In the 2019, the Juvenile Hall installed a body scanner as a tool to assist in the detection and prevention of weapons, contraband, and prohibited items that would compromise the safety and security of the facility. Use of the scanner has yet to be fully implemented but select staff have been trained.

Throughout 2021, several policies were reviewed and modified to address opposite gender staff notifications, improve intake and classification procedures for transgender youth, and enhance the Department PREA policy.

In January 2021, Probation Camp was unoccupied due to the ongoing decline of youth on probation and the sharp decline in youth in custody. Probation Camp staff transitioned into Juvenile Hall in January 2021, and therefore there is no data or PREA related updates pertaining to Probation Camp.

In October of 2021, the department installed new computers throughout Juvenile Hall, and subsequently updated the software for the Avigilon video program utilized throughout the facility.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

During the intake process at the Juvenile Hall, youth are assessed for risk of sexual victimization and/or for potential abuse of others. In 2019, this assessment was modified to include gender nonconforming appearance or manner to better identify potentially vulnerable youth. Juvenile Correctional Counselors use this information, along with the resident's history of delinquency and past victimization, to determine the best possible housing assignment within the facility. When booked into the Hall, and prior to their transfer to a housing unit, residents are informed of the facility's zero tolerance of sexual misconduct and their rights to be free of sexual abuse. Residents are educated about the many ways to report an allegation of sexual misconduct/abuse, which can be communicated to staff, through a third party, directly to law enforcement, or to the Sonoma County Rape Crisis line. In 2017, PREA pamphlets, written in both English and Spanish, were developed for both detention facilities, and clarify the resident's right to be free from sexual abuse. The pamphlets also provide guidance in how to avoid being a victim, and the mechanisms to report abuse.

All detention staff receive an initial PREA training during New Employee Orientation and a comprehensive PREA training within one year of employment. The PREA training covers response protocols, prevention and detection strategies, and guidance on maintaining respectful and professional relationships. In 2019, all institutional staff received comprehensive PREA training based on a modified version of the curriculum available from the National PREA Resource Center. In addition, all juvenile probation staff who enter the detention facilities were provided training in detection, responding and reporting of PREA violations, and relevant department policies. Per policy, the department provides all staff with PREA refresher training every two years; however, due to limitations related to COVID 19, PREA training was not facilitated in 2021. Juvenile Hall administration and PREA trainers created an online PREA training which can be completed virtually by staff, volunteers, and providers. Both virtual and in-person PREA training was conducted in 2024.

Non-sworn staff from partner agencies who work in Sonoma County detention facilities, including teachers from Sonoma County Office of Education, employees of Sonoma County Health Services, contract service providers, and volunteers are provided training on the Department's zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse, the requirement for mandatory reporting of suspicion or allegation of sexual abuse, and resident and staff behaviors often associated with sexual abuse. Since 2018, all volunteers and contractors entering the facilities have been provided PREA training in compliance with 28 CFR 332. The department conducts volunteer/contractor training twice per

year to ensure those working with our youth understand the zero-tolerance policy, and their obligations under PREA.

RESPONSE PLANNING

To ensure uniform investigative protocols, allegations of sexual abuse at both the Juvenile Hall and Camp are conducted by the Santa Rosa Police Department (Juvenile Hall) and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office (Probation Camp when re-occupied). These agencies are members of the Sonoma County Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) and their roles and responsibilities are defined in a Memorandum of Understanding between Sonoma County Law Enforcement agencies and Public Health Special Clinical Services. Responding law enforcement have been trained through the California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center (CCFMTC) and medical exams are conducted by Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiners (SANE) at the Redwood Children's Center (RCC). The County's SART response includes victim advocacy through Verity, a local non-profit which provides support and counseling services to victims of sexual abuse.

PREA DEFINITIONS

- A. **Sexual Harassment:** (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.
- B. **Sexual Misconduct:** Behavior or sexual act directed toward a justice-involved individual by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or agency representative. Misconduct includes romantic or sexual relationships including:
 - i. Intentional touching of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire.
 - ii. Completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts.
 - iii. Occurrences of indecent exposure.
 - iv. Staff voyeurism.
- C. **Sexual Abuse:** Where the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent to or refuse:
 - i. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight.
 - ii. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus.
 - iii. Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument.
 - iv. Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.
 - v. Additionally, regarding staff, contractors, or volunteers as the perpetrators:
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Following an investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse, the results are reported using the following findings:

Sustained: The investigation finds that by a preponderance of evidence the act did occur and constitutes specific act in violation of law, regulation, or policy of the Department or County.

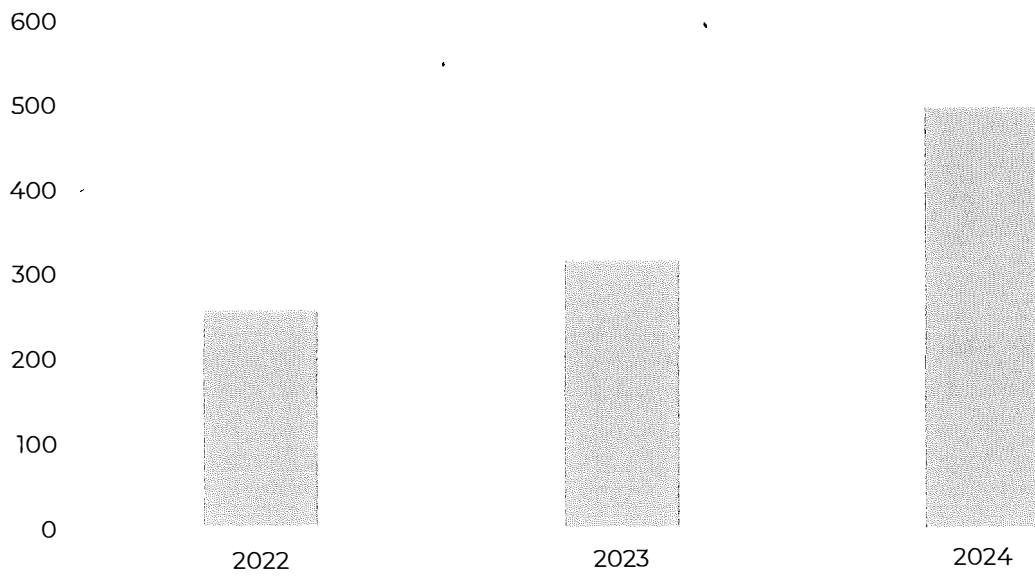
Not Sustained: The investigation cannot prove or disprove the allegations by a preponderance of the evidence.

Unfounded: The investigation clearly established that the allegation is not true.

REPORTS (Juvenile Hall and Probation Camp)			
Youth on Youth Incidents of Sexual Abuse	2022	2023	2024
Sustained	2	2	0
Not Sustained	2	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0
Still Under Investigation	0	0	0
Staff Misconduct	2022	2023	2024
Sustained	0	0	0
Not Sustained	0	1	0
Unfounded	0	0	0
Still Under Investigation	0	0	0

YEAR TOTAL AND AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION			
Juvenile Hall	2022	2023	2024
Youth Admitted	255	315	496
Average Daily Population - Male	25	48	51
Average Daily Population - Female	3	7	9
Average Daily Population - Total	29	54	59
Probation Camp	2022	2023	2024
Youth Admitted	0	0	0
Average Daily Population - Male	0	0	0
Average Daily Population - Total	0	0	0

Juvenile Hall Total Youth Admitted 2022-2024



Juvenile Hall Average Daily Population (ADP) 2022-2024

