



Bossier Parish Corrections Division 2021 Annual PREA Report

BACKGROUND

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress in 2003 to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse that occurs in confinement settings. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed national standards for reducing prison rape, which became final on June 20, 2012, when they were published by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Federal Register.

The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office has long supported the principles associated with the Prison Rape Elimination Act by strictly enforcing a zero tolerance policy on sexual misconduct and establishing procedures designed to combat sexual assaults within our facilities.

APPROACH

As a Law Enforcement Agency, our primary mission is to ensure that all allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment are investigated and prosecuted in accordance with federal and state laws.

Since the new PREA guidelines were established, the Bossier Parish Corrections Division has updated departmental policies and implemented new ones in an effort to maintain compliance with all aspects of the federal standards.

Some of the new changes include:

- Required annual mandatory training to all staff and volunteers, specific to the prevention, identification, reporting, and responding to allegations of sexual assault.
- Revised policies and procedures relating to sexual abuse and misconduct;
- The creation of a PREA Coordinator position to further develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the new PREA standards.
- Implemented an external 24-Hour Hotline as an independent outlet for inmates and staff to report incidents of sexual abuse and receive advocacy support that is equal to that available to the community.

DEFINITIONS

Once a report of sexual abuse has been investigated, the incident will be assigned a number and the disposition will be documented on a Bossier Parish Corrections Division Sex Offense Report and classified using one of the following findings:

Substantiated allegation: An allegation that was investigated and the investigation determined the incident to have occurred.

Unfounded allegation: An allegation that was investigated and the investigation determined that the incident did not occur.

Unsubstantiated allegation: An allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the incident occurred.

PREA ACTIVITY REPORT

Inmates may confidentially report sexual abuse and sexual harassment to any staff member, either verbally or in writing or by calling the 24-hour Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline from any of the phones located in the inmate housing units. This process allows for confidential reporting by inmates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Administrative investigations shall be completed no later than 90 days of the initial filing of a complaint or grievance; or within 5 days of filing an emergency grievance.

Overall PREA Reports by Facility

Re-Entry Facilities:

Sexual harassment: 0 incidents reported

Sexual Assaults: 0 incidents reported

Medium Security Facility:

Sexual harassment: 6 reported incidents (3 Unsubstantiated / 1 Substantiated / 2 Unfounded)

Sexual Assaults: 0 incidents reported

Maximum Security Facility:

Sexual harassment: 1 reported incident (1 Unsubstantiated)

Sexual Assaults: 6 reported incidents (2 Unsubstantiated / 1 Substantiated / 3 Unfounded)

Total PREA Incidents Reported in 2021: 13

ASSESSMENT

After reviewing the PREA incident reports for 2020, in comparison with the previous year's data, it was determined that there was no change of policies or procedures needed. Furthermore, there were no physical barriers identified and staffing levels were determined to be adequate.

Going forward, the Bossier Parish Corrections Division shall focus on maintaining and improving our efforts to prevent, detect and respond to incidents involving sexual abuse and sexual harassment within each facility through training and educating others on prevent sexual abuse.

The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office will continue to make appropriate changes where necessary to ensure the safe, secure and orderly operation of each BSO detention facility.

BREAK THE SILENCE!

To Report Sexual Abuse contact:

The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office (318) 965-2203

OR

Project Celebration Sexual Assault Crisis Center

24-hour Hotline (318) 227-7900

2900 Hearne Avenue

Shreveport, LA 71103

NATIONAL
PREA
RESOURCE
CENTER

www.prearesourcecenter.org