

Pima County Adult Detention Complex (PCADC)

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

What is PREA?

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) establishes a zero-tolerance standard against sexual assault and sexual misconduct of incarcerated persons. It is Public Law 108-79, signed in September 2003 by President Bush. In 2012, the PREA standards expanded to include allegations of sexual harassment.

PREA sets a standard that protects the Eighth Amendment rights of Federal, State, and local prisoners – making the prevention of sexual assault a top priority. These standards focus on three key areas: prevention, investigation, and reporting.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) supports this initiative and over the years has developed uniform guidelines and procedures to reduce the risk of in-custody sexual assault and sexual activity. The sheriff's Department is committed to a zero-tolerance standard for sexual misconduct and sexual assault in all of our facilities.

As a preventative measure the PCADC provides bi-annual training to all PCADC staff, internal contractors and volunteers and provides written prevention and reporting procedures to the inmate population.

To aid in the investigative process, the PCADC relies on witness statements, video surveillance cameras, criminal investigation efforts by PCSD Criminal Investigations Division (CID), the PCSD Office of Special Investigations, and other local law enforcement agencies.

The PCADC has also expanded reporting mechanisms for inmates to report violations. Allegations may be reported to any staff member verbally, in writing, or through a toll-free reporting telephone hotline. Reports will be accepted by third party and in the form of anonymous complaints. All allegations, regardless of the reporting method, are recorded statistically and investigated.

PREA Statistics for PCADC

For the reporting period of January 1st, 2013 through December 31st, 2013, the PCADC received and investigated 31 allegations meeting the PREA reporting criteria. 12 of the reported cases alleged Nonconsensual Sexual Acts; 3 cases alleged Abusive Sexual Contact; 16 cases alleged sexual harassment or other misconduct.

Outcome of the Investigation

11 allegations were made against a staff member. All 11 cases were investigated. 2 allegations of staff Sexual Misconduct were substantiated. The other 9 complaints were either unfounded or unsubstantiated.

The remaining 20 complaints were against other inmates. Complaints ranged from unwanted touching to inappropriate sexual propositions being made. Of the 20 complaints, internal investigations concluded 13 of the allegations were unfounded or unsubstantiated, and 7 cases were substantiated. Of the 7 substantiated cases, 2 cases were allegations of Nonconsensual Sexual Acts; 1 case alleging Abusive Sexual Contact; and 4 cases alleging Sexual Harassment.