

Marquette County Jail 2023 Annual PREA Report

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that was established in 2003 to help with the elimination, reduction, and prevention of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment in all correctional facilities.

The Marquette County Jail has established a zero-tolerance policy for the incidence of any type of sexual misconduct involving inmates or staff in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The Marquette County Jail policy and rules prohibit sexual intercourse, contact, or conduct between inmates. Violations will result in disciplinary sanctions. Inmate-on-Inmate sexual assaults will also be prosecuted according to Wisconsin State Statutes. In addition, any sexual acts between staff and inmates are ALWAYS prohibited and are a violation of Marquette County Jail policy, jail rules and Wisconsin Law. Violators are subject to departmental discipline as well as prosecution punishable by prison sentences and fines. It is also inappropriate and against the rules for an inmate to approach a staff member for the purpose of sexual activity. The Marquette County Sheriff's Office thoroughly investigates all reported incidents of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault and sexual harassment, to determine the merits and validity of the allegations under scrutiny. After the investigation, all cases have been assigned a result of either substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.

Definitions

Substantiated - The event was investigated and determined to have occurred, based on a preponderance of the evidence.

Unsubstantiated - The investigation concluded that evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded - The investigation determined that the event did NOT occur.

In compliance with PREA standards, here is the published data for January 1-December 31, 2023

Male inmates on December 31, 2023= 27

Female inmates on December 31, 2023= 3

Male ADP from January 1- December 31, 2023= 25

Female ADP from January 1- December 31, 2023= 6

Inmate on inmate sexual acts=0

Inmate on inmate sexual abuse=0

Inmate on inmate sexual harassment=1

Staff, contractor or volunteer sexual abuse=0

Staff, contractor or volunteer sexual harassment=0

The 1 investigation reports of staff sexual harassment were **UNSUBSTANTIATED**.

2022-2023 Comparison

In 2021, we had 2 reports of staff, contractor or volunteer sexual harassment that were unfounded. In 2022, we received 1 complaint of unsubstantiated inmate to inmate sexual harassment. In 2022, our

facility housed inmates from Marathon and Brown County jails. We will continue to improve inmate orientation, education, as well as staff education.

2024 Goals to continue to provide for PREA

- Continued education and training for ALL staff, volunteers, and contractors.
- Facility updates and improvements.
- Reviewing policies and procedures.
- Continue staff education
- Continue inmate education.
- A variety of inmate reporting options.
- PREA screening at intake, with classification within the first 72 hours, and with classification within 30 days.
- Medical and mental health screening and services for inmates.

The following were improved and implemented

- The PREA "Report it" poster and PREA video were added to all inmate iPods.
- A new ADA cell was put in place and is being utilized for additional housing options
- The staffing plan was reviewed.

- Policies & Procedures/Staff Training - Facility policies and procedures continue to be reviewed and adjusted for clarity and to increase and maintain compliance. In addition, required staff training on PREA related items was expanded this year to include inmate search policy and procedure review.

- The Marquette County Jail Custody Manual (Lexipol) continued with manual review and updates. Staff complete daily training bulletins (DTB) each month of the year. The Marquette County Sheriff's Office was awarded the Gold award from Lexipol for Excellence in Correction Policy Management for 2023.

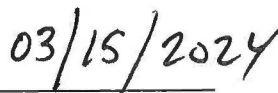
- In November 2022, our PREA posters were reviewed and updated. The posters were reposted in the facility and public lobby. The updates include PREA posters in Spanish.

- On August 2022, Nancy Thelen of WOJD conducted an onsite jail inspection. Noted in the Summary of Operational Changes and Initiatives was the motivation to work towards PREA compliance in the future. The 2022 jail inspection yielded no violations of Administrative Code during the onsite review.

Report Approved



Sheriff Joseph R. Konrath



Date