



















President George W. Bush passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) into law in 2003. The act mandated zero tolerance of sexual abuse inside correctional facilities and developed standards to detect and prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment of those incarcerated. This report serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center, in accordance with the national PREA standards 115.88 and 115.89.

## Following these standards, the SACDC will:

- 1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually in order to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training to include:
  - a. Identifying problem areas;
  - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis; and
  - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings.
- 2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior year's and provide assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
- 3. Publish the annual report of its findings and corrective actions on the Charleston County Sheriff's Office website.

## 2016 to 2024 Comparisons:

In 2016, the first PREA audit was completed at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center. This audit indicated where our shortcomings were and what areas we needed to focus on to implement better policies and procedures to prevent, detect, and eliminate sexual harassment and abuse. We had 16 PREA allegations in 2016 due to lack of training on how to report incidents and lack of awareness of PREA. In, 2017, the number of PREA allegations jumped to 39. This was a result of implementing training for both inmates and staff on preventing, detecting, and reporting sexual abuse and harassment to comply with the PREA standards as well as for the safety of all at the facility. Since 2017, our number of PREA allegations have been declining. In 2022, the number of PREA allegations have increased due to the sensitivity to the issue, better reporting and an increased number of mental health inmates. During 2023 it is evident the PREA allegations have decreased, this decrease is based on a better understanding by the inmates. In calendar year 2024, there were 76 PREA allegations reported at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center. Of those allegations, 35 were unsubstantiated, 35 were unfounded, 3 were substantiated, 3 were founded, and none are pending investigation. The allegations have increased significantly compared to last year due to several factors:

Switching to an online PREA training course for new staff, several new deputies, an increase in confidence inmates have in reporting, an increase in mental health inmates and an increased understanding in the definitions of what does and does not meet the definition of PREA.

All PREA complaints are accurately investigated in a timely manner. The SACDC is constantly monitoring and improving to ensure we protect all inmates from sexual harassment and sexual abuse. With continued training, as well as continued vigilance, we work to maintain a culture of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and harassment within the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center.